

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's **Black & White** and **Read** all over

Monday, February 8, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 35



www.pencitycurrent.com

Shots fired downtown early Sunday

SUSPECT IN CUSTODY: Des Moines County deputies make arrest

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A suspect is in custody this morning after shots were reportedly fired downtown early Sunday.

According to a release from Fort Madison Police Chief Mark Rohloff, at 2:53 a.m., there was a report of shots being fired in the 800 block of Avenue G.

Officers had been there at a disturbance call approximately a half hour earlier and were still in the near vicinity at the time. The involved parties had fled the scene prior to officers' arrival. The block was closed for a period to facilitate interviews and collection of evidence. There were no reports of injuries.

Rohloff said casings were recovered at the scene.

At present, a suspect has been taken into custody by Des Moines County Sheriff deputies after a brief pursuit. The matter is still in the initial stages of investigation and no further details are available.

According to one resident who lives in the area, eight to 10 shots were allegedly heard fired. Police had cordoned off the street and had red light evidence markers out in the middle of the block.

Rohloff said he believes the incident to be isolated between individuals and the public is not in any further danger.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Stocking the 'pantry'

Volunteers with Doherty Baseball Academy and Brickhouse Salon donated close to 500 lbs. of food to the Fort Madison Food Pantry, according to the food pantry's President Lin Cramer.



We have to choose to be informed

Fort Madison at-large City Councilman Kevin Rink said at Tuesday's council meeting that he's been fielding calls from people who don't have the Internet, and don't get the newspaper.

They're concerned they're not getting enough information about what's happening in their city.

Sitting in my chair, socially distanced in City Hall, I looked around the room for a reaction to that comment. I didn't see much, but there were a few tilted heads and some low murmuring.

I wanted to get out of my chair and jump up and down. But we journalists are taught to not become part of the news, so I just flopped my hands palms up on my outstretched legs. WTH?

These same people must be opening their cupboards on Sunday morning to stocked shelves, then stomp into the living room, plop down in the easy chair with folded arms... because there's nothing to eat.

I don't get it.

There is no time in history when staying engaged and informed has been more important. We're facing a pandemic and a worldwide effort to get it under control. That story is fluid and changes daily, if not hourly.

And we're suffering a different kind of social flu. The kind that results in the people of one nation turning against one another physically in what is nothing more than a political debate spanning centuries.

But now, for some reason, we just think we can ignore the result and terrorize the institution.

Get informed of that! But where? What to trust? On a national scale, I can't be that voice of reason. Anymore I just stick with the national brands, CBS/ABC/NBC. These are the organizations that are at least still

THURSDAY ACCIDENT

First responders minimize damage from pile-up

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A Thursday afternoon pile up on Hwy. 218/27 sent one man to the hospital with serious injuries, but Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said quick and committed action of county first responders saved many lives.

The pileup started as a result of near white-out conditions on the stretch of 218 north of Hwy. 2.

More than nine semi trailers jack-



WEBER

knifed on slick roadways where visibility was very low as a winter storm dumped rain on the area in the morning and switched over to sleet and snow as temperatures dropped and the wind started howling from the north at up to 40 mph.

Weber said quick action from a large contingent of first responders including sheriff's deputies, Lee County EMS, Donnellson Fire & Rescue, Iowa State

Patrol, West Point/Donnellson Police and Iowa Dept. of Transportation crews helped prevent a more tragic outcome.

"I stopped counting jack-knifed trailers at nine," Weber said. "In 25 years of law enforcement that was one of the worst pileups I've ever seen."

Lee County Deputy Jacob Riley was first on the scene and was rendering aid to a victim of an initial collision. Weber said Riley then witnessed another accident involving a Lincoln Navigator

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WEATHER

MON 08 Feb.....Bitter Cold and Snowy, 10° F/ -1° F
TUE 09 Feb.....Bitter Cold, 9° F/ -7° F
WED 10 Feb.....Bitter Cold with Light Snow, 11° F/ 6° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 02/06.....13 16 28 44 51, Star Ball: 9, All Star Bonus: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE 02/04.....3 9 13 24 40, Lucky Ball: 16
MEGA MILLIONS 02/05.....14 17 28 29 44, Mega Ball: 2 Megaplier: 4
PICK 3 02/04, 02/05, 02/06 MIDDAY.....418, 319, 025
PICK 3 02/04, 02/05, 02/06 EVENING.....870, 114, 870
PICK 4 02/04, 02/05, 02/06 MIDDAY.....9693, 4729, 3313
PICK 4 02/04, 02/05, 02/06 EVENING.....8758, 8929, 4500
POWERBALL 02/06.....116 48 49 65, Powerball: 8, Power Play: 2

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Area News/From the Front

Hancock County ATV accident sends two to area hospitals

BY PCC STAFF

HANCOCK COUNTY – According to a report out of Hancock County, two men were transported to area hospitals after an ATV rolled near Hwy. 96 Saturday afternoon.

Hancock County Sheriff Scott Bentzinger reported at approximately 1:59 pm the Hancock County Sheriff's Office responded to an ATV accident on North County Road 1200 approximately 1/2 mile east of State Highway 96.

The ATV was traveling eastbound on 1200 North when it departed the roadway to the south and overturned in a field. There were three occupants on the ATV. Two passengers (Male 30 and Male 31) were transported by EMS to local hospitals.

The driver, Keaton R. Simons, 31, of Hamilton was arrested and charged with operating an ATV on the roadway, reckless driving, and driving under the influence of alcohol. Keaton posted the required bond and was released from the Hancock County Jail.

The Hamilton Police Department, Hancock County EMS, Nauvoo Fire Protection District EMS, Warsaw First Responders, and the Hamilton Fire Department assisted with the incident.

All subjects are to be considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Lee County deputy suffers minor injuries during mishap

CRASH - Continued from Page 1

that had struck a vehicle trying to come to a stop, and was then hit from behind by another vehicle.

Weber said Riley went back to his vehicle to grab a first aid kit, when he saw a semi barreling down on his cruiser, which was struck before he could get completely clear.

"He got out of his car bloodied up a bit and ran over to the Lincoln where that man was seriously hurt and began tending to him," Weber said.

Weber said the collision wiped out Riley's radio system so he then began communicating with his cellphone to other deputies, as Donnellson Fire & Rescue worked toward the scene.

Firefighters then went to work with Jaws of Life to get the man extricated from the vehicle.

"Donnellson rescue did a hell of a job yesterday. I'd be surprised if every one of those guys don't have frostbite right now. They were not giving up and there were focused on saving that man. There's no question in my mind that that man is alive today because of those firefighters."

Weber said traffic had to be stopped miles to the north and south of the pileup.

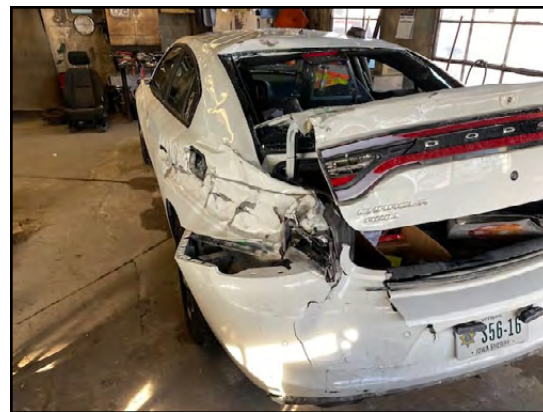
"If we hadn't stopped traffic where we did, this would have been so much worse. The deputies and troopers doing that work also saved lives. This was horrible. It was like out of a movie."

Riley was treated for minor injuries and was back at work Friday. Aside from the man taken to Fort Madison Community Hospital, Weber was unaware of any other injuries.

"There were quite a few collisions, but everybody just drove away after we got traffic moving again. There were other semis with minor damage and they just didn't report it. They just pulled away," he said.

Several off-duty Lee County deputies also responded to the scene to help with traffic control.

"I just want to give a huge shout out to all the agencies. They really put a lot of effort in and when they have the pancake breakfasts and things like that, people need to support those. Those fireman worked their butts off out there."



This is the damage done to Lee County Sheriff's deputy Jacob Riley's cruiser in Thursday's pile-up during white out conditions on Hwy. 218 near Donnellson. Riley was treated for minor injuries sustained in the accident.

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Charles Vandenberg, Editor

(319).371.1670

editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager

(319).371.4125

sales@pencitycurrent.com

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PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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Opinion/Iowa News

Curt's 2021 nerdy word list

Being a writer with my little ole undergraduate Degree in English from Iowa State, I pay closer attention to words than maybe most people. My one class in linguistics (I didn't even know what "linguistics" was) taught that language is fluid, and constantly changing to reflect times and needs, i.e., "evolving." I enjoy hearing words pop up that are sort of strange, and then all-of-a-sudden, usually through politics and the media, everyone is using them like they've been around forever.

A good example is "herd immunity." The term was so unfamiliar that then President Trump flubbed and called it, "herd mentality." Thinking about "herd immunity," I visualize a herd of zebras or buffalo that have become resistant to a certain disease through exposure, increased numbers, death and survival through built up resistance. Now the term "herd immunity" is being applied to humans. Fair enough, we are herd animals. Just get me the dang vaccination, please.

Or "granular." All the talking heads are "granular" this and "granular" that. "A more 'granular' report that shows daily rather than weekly bla, bla, bla." The word "detailed" would work just fine and be less confusing. Dr. Deborah Birx, the "Scarf Lady," was a big fan of "granular."

When COVID 19 first reared its ugly head, it was called the "Novel Coronavirus." Anything called "novel," I have a hard time taking serious. I think of "novel" as a work of fiction on a Best Seller List. I don't hear the term "Novel Coronavirus" being used much anymore since "variants" have arrived. "Variants" is just a pretty word for "mutations" which is much more scary sounding, therefore not to be used. Once again, just get me the vaccination.

"Metrics" jumped on the bandwagon immediately, and everyone was running around talking about the "metrics" like they had been using the word everyday for most of their life. Really. I think of "metric" as the "metric system," as in meters and kilometers. Should I run a 5K this morning or sleep in? I'll sleep in.

Quick on the heels of "metrics" was "efficacy," which sent people, me included, scrambling to Google or Alexa. So popular has "efficacy" become that Dr. Fauci might use it three or four times in one briefing. "Effectiveness" would fill the bill just as well, but doesn't sound near as important.

On the political front we have "bifurcate," "equity," "tribalism," "reconciliation," "robust," "heterodoxy," "K-shape recovery," "nuclear option," "extra legal," and "circle back," to select just a few. Both "bifurcate" and "equity" cross over into the pandemic world. (BTW: The Spanish Influenza of 1918, that killed

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



more people than WW I, was called an "epidemic." It wasn't promoted to the status of "pandemic" until recently.) "Bifurcate" could be "divide" just as easily. The political party "divided." The virus "divided." Why scare people with "bifurcate"?

When I think of "equity" I think of the cash value of my home. When I hear "viral equity" or "racial equity," my first reaction is, "Huh?" I think "equity" is being confused with "equality," as in "viral equality" or "racial equality." Just saying.

When I hear "tribalism," I think of African tribes warring against each other—spears, arrows and blow guns. To use "tribalism" as describing political parties? Well, come to think of it, maybe "tribalism" is being used correctly, after all.

"Reconciliation:" I think of a husband and wife reconciling their differences, or getting back together. To use "reconciliation" to indicate that the political party in power is going to push a bill through without the agreement of the other party is a complete misuse of the term, as far as I'm concerned. It should be called "non-reconciliation" or the "go-it-alone" bill.

"Robust:" I think of my morning coffee or the economy as being "robust," not a political discussion. "Robust" just means the two parties didn't kill each other.

"Heterodoxy:" Good grief! Come on people, just say "unorthodox."

"K-Shape Recovery:" This is economists' lingo for, "Different parts of the economy are going in different directions," or a "K" shape. I had to study this a bit. "Helter skelter" might be a better way of expressing the "K-Shaped Recovery."

"Nuclear Option:" You've got to be kidding me. To compare a senate procedure to the atomic bomb. Give me a break. Who is trying to impress whom?

"Extra Legal:" They don't want to say it, but "extra legal" really means, "illegal."

"Circle Back:" This is one of Press Secretary, Jen Psaki's, favorite escape clauses when she doesn't know the answer to something. It's caught on and now everyone is using it.

So, this is my Nerd Word List for 2021. When more nerdy words come out, which might be tomorrow, I'll circle back to you.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com or visit his website at www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com.

Reynolds relaxes public health restrictions

DES MOINES - Friday, Gov. Reynolds signed a new Public Health Disaster proclamation that relaxes existing public health measures effective Sunday, February 7th, 2021 while continuing critical regulatory relief to those on the frontlines of COVID19 recovery for an additional 30 days.

The proclamation strongly encourages

Iowans, businesses, and organizations to take reasonable public health measures consistent with guidance from the Iowa Department of Public Health.

The proclamation is also modified to reflect changes due to the passage of Senate File 160 and extends the waiver on transportation restrictions for overweight loads.

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Sports

Fort Madison girls get first conference title in 23 years

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WASHINGTON – It's been almost a quarter of a century since the Fort Madison girls basketball accomplished what it did Friday night.

The Lady Hounds won the Southeast Conference title for the first time since 1998 with a 48-18 win over Washington on the road,

Saturday morning head coach Tony Sargent said he wasn't 100% sure of the feat, but said from what he's heard his Lady Hounds had won the conference title in just his second year steering the program.

Fairfield is 6-2 on the year and Fort Madison is 8-1 in conference play. The Hounds have one game left with Burlington on Senior Night at the Hound Dome next Friday. Fairfield has games left with Keokuk and Mt. Pleasant.

If Fairfield wins out right and the Hounds would stumble against Burlington, the two would be tied at 8-2 with the Hounds winning both conference games with Fairfield giving Fort Madison the tiebreaker.

Fort Madison Activities Director Jeremy Swink said he hasn't looked at the tiebreaker language in detail, but said he believes the Hounds have the conference title.

Sargent said he told the girls when he took the post in 2019, things were going to change.

"I said to the girls two years ago, 'You gotta be kidding me – you only have two conference titles since the beginning of time?' That's gonna change," Sargent said. "I don't think they believed me."

The Lady Hounds moved to 15-1 overall and are just one point from being perfect on the year when they opened conference play with a 62-61 OT loss to Mt. Pleasant on Dec. 4.



Camille Kruse led the Hounds Friday with 12 points. Malarie Ross had 10 for Fort Madison who held Washington to just 18 total points, the lowest amount allowed all year. They held Central Lee to 22 back on Jan. 9.

The game was a very low scoring affair in the first half. The Hounds held Washington to just a 3-pointer in the first quarter and another in the second for a total of six points in the half.

"We did a little bit of everything last night 2-3 zones and we played man a lot and pressed a bit which was the first time in a while last night," Sargent said.

"But we were struggling offensively, too. It wasn't pretty, but when you're out of school all day it seems to make the girls a little sluggish. I told the girls after the game if we play like that on Saturday we may not even score."

Sargent was referring to Saturday's game added at Iowa City West earlier this year. The Women of Troy are rated 6th in the state in Class 5A. The Bloodhounds have not yet been ranked by the Iowa High School Girls Athletic Union, despite their almost perfect record.

The Hounds broke things open in the second half going on a 13-5 run behind a couple of 3-balls from Nadia

Boeding. Boeding had eight points on the night, all in the 3rd period.

Washington wouldn't get closer than 18 the rest of the night.

The Hound will certainly face stiffer tests prior to the post season with the additions of Iowa City West and Monroe City.

Sargent said Iowa City West should clearly be the toughest matchup of the year for the Hounds.

"I think it's a big test. I mean they've been ranked in 5A most of the year and have a historic program up there. The way I look at it, we need to play some of these tougher teams to get ready for the post season," Sargent said.

Sargent also agreed to a game with Missouri's Monroe City for next Saturday in Fort Madison. Monroe Center City is currently ranked No. 1 in Class 3 in Missouri.

Sargent said the Panthers reached out to him for a game.

"They've been getting some publicity and we've been getting some and they wanted to reach out and see who's best. It's nice when good people want to come and play ya."

BCMoores has the Hounds 31st in the state in Class 4A, just one spot above Fairfield. The data driven system has Fort Madison as the fourth best defense in the state in 4A, but ranks their strength of schedule at 47th out of 48 teams.

"It's going to be interesting that's for sure," Sargent said of the upcoming games. "It's different and gets these kids a taste of something different so we can be more prepared for the tournament."

Brackets for 4A and 5A girls regional play will be released next week. Classes 1A through 3A were released this week.

Got a news tip?
Call Chuck (319)371.1670

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Morrison has 17 in Hawks' Shootout win

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DONNELSON – The gym just seemed a little flat at Central Lee on a typical bustling Friday night with the Hawks in town.

But that didn't seem to phase the Central Lee girls basketball team as three players scored in double figures and the Hawks ran away from Wapello in the Southeast Iowa Superconference Shootout, 59-48.

The Shootout pits the teams from the SEISC North and South division against each other according to standings, and the Hawks and Arrows were seeded 4th in the annual add-on.

Central Lee's Makayla Morrison

opened the scoring for the Hawks with a bucket just 34 seconds into the game, but it was a string of 3-pointers about a minute and half into the second half that stood out as a turning point.

With Central Lee holding a 34-27 lead, Morrison would hit back-to-back 3-balls from the wing and right baseline to give the Hawks a 13-point lead.

The Hawks kept feeding the hot hand, and Morrison's attempt at three in a row rimmed out. In the meantime, the Arrows' senior Sammy Ewart would miss four straight from the field. Morrison would hit another three on the Hawk's next possession for a 16-point lead at 43-27.

Morrison finished with a sea-

son-high 17 points on the night. Senior Mya Merschman led the Hawks with 22. Alivia Myhre had 13.

Wapello tied the game at 8 in the first quarter, but Myhre would score eight unanswered including a three-point play with about two minutes left in the first to give the Lady Hawks a healthy cushion

Central Lee would then hold consistent double digit leads throughout the game.

Head Coach Jay Baldwin said Morrison's play showed a different dimension to the Hawks.

"Central Lee plays host to WACO on Monday night for Senior Night. The game was originally scheduled to be played in WACO but has been moved to Donnellson.

Pothitakis Law Firm Recognized for Professional Excellence

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County Board of Supervisors Meeting
Mon, Feb 8, 2021
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM (CST)
AGENDA

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/755541997>

You can also dial in using your phone.

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Access Code: 755-541-997

If you would like to pose a question to the Board, please use the Chat feature and wait for the Chairman to address you. If you are participating by phone, please wait until everyone is done speaking before addressing the Board. Please keep your microphone muted to cut down on background noise. If you are participating by phone, press #6, this will mute your phone.

Pledge of Allegiance
 Approve Agenda

Consider Approval of February 1, 2021 Board Minutes

Consider Approval of Claims

Public Input

Discuss and Consider Offer to Purchase Buildings, Contents, Durable and Disposable Medical Equipment and One Ambulance from Lee County EMS

Discussion of Resolution Passed by 911 Board Pledging \$600,000 Towards Communication Equipment

Consider Approval of Second Reading of Pioneer Cemetery Ordinance

Consider Approval of Conflict Waiver Agreement with Lynch Dallas on Mutual Aid Agreement Between Lee and Des Moines Counties For Snow Emergency Services

Consider Approval of Resolution Setting Public Hearing to Enter

Into Loan Agreement To Borrow Money and Issue Not to Exceed \$3,200,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Combining Debt)

Consider Approval of Class B Native Wine Permit for Speers Farm Finds and Gift Boutique, West Point

Consider Approval of Class B Beer Permit for Izaak Walton League, Fort Madison

Consider Approval of Class C Beer Permit for Dollar General, Montrose

Consider Approval of HR Contract with Lynch Dallas

Consider Approval of Lease Agreement with Leroy Whittman for Property in Croton

Consider Approval of Agreement with Great River Waste Authority for Recycling Trailers

Receive and File Publication of 2020 Wages

Consider Approval of Tax Abatement Resolutions (2)

Personnel Actions:

A. New Hire-Health Department

B. Step Increases (2)- Sheriffs Office

C. Step Increase-Health Department Reports:

A. Treasurer's Report of Fees Collected

B. Auditor's Report of Fees Collected

Commission or Committee Reports Adjourn

Budget Workshop to follow

Workshop to Follow

PUBLIC MEETING
CITIZENS WELCOME

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www.leecounty.org

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County
Conservation Board

Agenda
February 9, 2021
4:00 p.m.

Conservation Meeting
Tue, Feb 9, 2021
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM (CST)

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1. Call To Order
 2. Approval of Minutes from January 12, 2020
 3. Public Input

This is the time of the meeting that a citizen may address the Board on any matters pertaining to the Lee County Conservation Board. The Board cannot take formal action at the meeting on matters not included on the regular agenda, but may ask the staff to research the matter or have the matter placed on a subsequent agenda.

4. Approval of Bills
 5. Approval of Financial Report
 6. Island Project Update - Jim Noll
 7. Pollmiller Trail Project
 8. Shelter House Rates
 9. Staff Reports
 10. Board Members/ Director Reports
 11. Adjournment

-WORKSHOP TO FOLLOW-

Next regular meeting will be March 9, 2021

Hearing and vision assistance available upon request.

Citizens are welcome to all LCCB meetings.

PUBLIC NOTICE
CENTRAL LEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
DONNELLSON, IOWA 52625
LOCATION: HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

TENTATIVE AGENDA
FEBRUARY 8, 2021

5:30 P.M. - WORK SESSION

1. Call to Order
 2. High School Team Report
 3. Counselor Presentation
 4. Technology Presentation
 5. Adjourn

6:30 P.M. - REGULAR MEETING

1. Roll Call
 2. Approve agenda
 3. Receive Visitors:
 a) Visitors to speak about items not on the agenda
 4. Superintendent's Report:
 a) Set Building Walk-through Date
 b) Finance Update (FY 22 Budget Update)
 c) Legislative Update
 d) March Board Meeting - 3/8/2021 at 7:00 p.m. (Finance workshop@ 5:00)

e) COVID Update
 f) IASB Future Workshops/Webinars:
 1. February 25, 2021 - Employee Vaccinations, Your Questions Answered
 2. March 11, 2021 - Civil Discourse, Shaping a Shared Future
 3. April 1, 2021 - Rapid Fire for Legal Eagles
 4. April 29, 2021 - 2021 Legislative Roundup
 g) Vacancies

5. CONSENT AGENDA: Motion (Exhibit I)

a) Approve minutes
 b) Approve Financial Reports: General and Schoolhouse funds, Clearing account, Hot Lunch account
 c) Approve prepaid bills
 d) Approve monthly bills
 e) Approve Overnight Trips:

1) Central Lee Girls' State Basketball Tournament: 3/1/2021 - 3/6/2021
 2) Central Lee Boys' State Basketball Tournament: 3/8/2021 - 3/12/2021

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Introduce Board Policies 300 Series
 2. Second Reading Board Policy No. 106 - Discrimination and Harassment Based on Sex Prohibited (Motion) (Exhibit II)
 3. Second Reading Board Policies: (Motion) (Exhibit III)
 a) 409.2 - Employee Leaves of Absence
 b) 503.1 - Student Conduct
 c) 503.5 - Corporal Punishment, Mechanical Restraint and Prone Restraint
 d) 503.6 - Physical Restraint and Seclusion of Students

e) 503.6R1 - Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion with Students
 f) 503.6E1 - Use of Physical Restraint and/or Seclusion Documentation Form

g) 503.6E2 - Debriefing Letter to Guardian of Student Involved in an Occurrence Where Physical Restraint and/or Seclusion was Used

h) 503.6E3 - Debriefing Meeting Document

4. Construction Update/ Approve Change Orders: (Motion) (Exhibit IV)

a) COR 43 - Music/ Band Room AV Additions for Added Sound Equipment

b) COR 47 - Add Access Control to District Office Door

c) COR 49 - Extend Locker Room Walls to Ceiling

5. Board Representation for Collective Bargaining w/ Central Lee Education Association

6. Volunteer Coach Approvals: (Motion)

Office Assistant Wanted

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 • Patient relations

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

a) Paul Kropf - High School Boys/Girls Golf
 b) Tony Arrowood - High School/Middle School Track
 c) Paul Weirather - High School/Middle School Baseball
 d) Jerry Simmons - High School/Middle School Baseball/Softball
 e) Manny Sandoval - High School/Middle School Baseball/Softball
 f) Kent Brisby - High School/Middle School Baseball/Softball
 g) Mark Hulsebus - High School Baseball
 h) Keith Helling - High School/Middle School Track
 7. Transfers 2020-2021: (Motion)
 a) Ashlee Boatwright - Regular Bus Driver to Sub Bus Driver (Effective 2/1/2021)
 b) Laura Ellingboe - Preschool 1 :1 Associate - 4 days per week to 5 days per week
 c) Scott Weirather - Substitute Bus Driver to Regular Bus Driver

(Effective 2/1/2021)
 8. Resignations (Effective End of 2020-2021): (Motion)
 a) Abbey Lochmoeller- 6-12 Band Director
 b) Geoff Overton - Spanish Instructor
 c) Lindsey Hamm - Dance Team Sponsor
 9. Contract Approvals: (Motion)
 a) Kristina Rudd - Pre-school 1: 1 Special Needs Associate - 4 days per week
 b) Tyler Bryant - Middle School Boys' Track Coach
 c) Tiffany Woodruff - 1 :1 Special Needs Associate - 3 days per week
 10. Board Reports.
 11. Adjourn (Motion)

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDINGS FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL January 27, 2021

The Fort Madison City Council met in an informal work session on Wednesday, January 27, 2021, at

4:00 P.M. at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison. Mayor Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Bowker, Amandus, Rink, Andrews, Schulz, Lair and Cangas present.

City Manager David Varley presented the revised budget for FY 2020/21 and the proposed FY 2021/22 budget.

The meeting adjourned at 5:43 P.M.

/s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor
 ATTEST:
 /s/ Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE ORDINANCE NO. D-073

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 10 "ZONING" OF THE FORT MADISON MUNICIPAL CODE BY CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY FROM R-1 SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING DISTRICT TO I-2,

GENERAL INDUSTRIAL

Be it enacted by the City Council of the City of Fort Madison, Iowa:

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Fort Madison does hereby amend Title 10 "Zoning" of the Fort Madison Municipal Code by changing the zoning district designation on property at 2110 - 303rd Avenue, from R-1, Single Family Dwelling District, to I-2, General Industrial (see attached Exhibit A).

SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. If any section, provision, or part of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole or any section, provision, or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall be in effect after its final passage, approval, and publication as provided by law.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council this 2nd day of February, 2021.

/s/Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor
 City of Fort Madison, Iowa

ATTEST:
 /s/Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk

EXHIBIT "A"

THE LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY IS:

BEING A PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 33, TOWNSHIP 68 NORTH, RANGE 4 WEST OF THE 5th P.M., LEE COUNTY, IOWA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING, AS A POINT OF REFERENCE, AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 33; THENCE SOUTH (ASSUMED BEARING FOR THIS DESCRIPTION) 738.47 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID NORTHEAST QUARTER TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED TRACT OF LAND; THENCE NORTH

89° 25' 12" WEST 341.76 FEET TO A POINT ON THE CENTERLINE OF ROUTE X-32 AS NOW ESTABLISHED; THENCE SOUTH 05° 12' 45" WEST 525.03 FEET ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF SAID ROUTE X-32; THENCE SOUTH 84° 47' 15" EAST 102.31 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EXISTING RIGHT OF WAY LINE, SAID POINT BEING 122 FEET NORTHERLY OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 1 IN WEST'S SUBDIVISION TO THE CITY OF FORT MADISON; THENCE SOUTH 36° 12' 25" EAST 134.50 FEET TO A POINT ON THE NORTHERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 1, SAID POINT BEING 132 FEET EASTERLY OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 1; THENCE NORTH 89° 18' 52" EAST 208.12 FEET ALONG AN EXISTING PROPERTY LINE FENCE TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF SAID NORTHEAST QUARTER; THENCE NORTH 534.73 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 5.06 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, INCLUDING 0.81 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LYING WITHIN THE EXISTING PUBLIC ROAD EASEMENT, AND BEING SUBJECT TO EASEMENTS OF RECORD.



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From the Front

Public notices are expensive, but important information

NEWS - Continued from Page 1

fighting to be as objective as possible.

Any cable news network is runnin' to the money. True news can't care about the money. That's an extremely tough row to hoe and needs to be appreciated.

But there is really no excuse for not knowing what's happening locally. There are two viable new agencies in this town and a couple television crews that have been hanging out lately.

Regressive exchanges of information via social media are a weight around our ankles. I stopped to talk to my neighbors about the

marina because I heard one say something about dredging. They were boat enthusiasts who said they've been reading about the marina. They were excited... and they were very informed.

We're still seeing people post they want the city to build new schools rather than the proposed 5-star marina.

Wealthier towns with high property valuations have nicer schools. But it's from money culled from the tax base through school district property tax structures, and state education funding formulas - certainly not the

decisions of city officials, and certainly not city funds. That conversation has to stop.

People still complain about the city using waste water treatment interest reimbursements on new parking lots. That's because those lots are built with permeable pavers that allow storm water to run through the surface, and into the ground reducing the amount that goes back into the storm sewer system. That money had to be spent on storm water remediation.

You probably could have

replaced three blocks of a street, but it had to focus on storm water mitigation. You couldn't use it to repair Avenue F, or build a bowling alley. And that conversation has to stop.

Not knowing what's happening in your neighborhood and at your City Hall is on you.

Get a newspaper. Subscribe to Pen City Current. Do we get it all?... of course not. Do we get a lot?... yep.

Let's talk the south side parking ban on Avenue E. It's unbelievable how many people were upset they didn't know anything about it. PCC only wrote on that issue about 10 times. You weren't looking. It was in the Democrat both editorially and legally. You weren't looking.

The state mandates that municipalities inform people through public notices because throughout time it has been the "best" way to reach all the people. Read public notices in Pen City Current to see how much the city spends on public notices in the paper of record. Now that's good reading.

We run them for free. And that day is coming when all the city will have to do is post it on a dedicated site where everyone can check daily for new information.

The Internet already is akin to a utility and eventually that's where municipalities will publish notices

legally. Right now they are still required by law to be posted in newspapers. Pen City Current is not the paper of record, because we don't use the postal service for our products. Feel free to connect dots.

The push back is that local newspapers, which are critical to a functioning society, stand to lose millions across just this state alone, when public notices are no longer required to be published.

I see a day when the city's website has a Public Notices link and everyone with the Internet can check them 24/7 (which you can do at www.pencitycurrent.com now). It's certainly more efficient, especially if the Internet is truly a utility that everyone will have access to. The move will possibly result in a few more streets getting repaired, or city debt retired quicker, or lower property taxes.

Elderly having trouble functioning in this geekie world is understandable. I hate it when Facebook changes abruptly, or our host site updates and things change. I get it.

But there are resources out there. Governor Kim Reynolds said last week that she's reaching out to the state's agencies on aging to help those who don't have access to the Internet stay informed about COVID vaccines. Those agencies can also help you stay connected to your commu-

nities.

I think one of the biggest weapons we have in the fight to keep our community viable is information. Those that don't have it, choose not to follow it, or just ignore it, are a weight on the progress.

You're literally choosing to ignore daily options to stay informed, and then complaining that you weren't informed. It's the biggest dichotomy of a socialized world - those that choose to be informed and those who complain that they aren't.

Get a paper, get a laptop, hell, get a friend and have an eight-cent cup of coffee at your kitchen table. Get to living - and get to knowing.

Take a breath and commit to at least being open minded to the good things that are happening right now in your community.

Speaking of good things, the Governor is making national news by relaxing all restrictions for masking in the state with COVID numbers declining. It is a good thing that businesses can open fully again. We need to get back to life, but proceed with caution.

You'll still see me behind a KN95 and a sunflower - not just for me, but for you, too... but that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is editor/co-owner at Pen City Current and can be reached at editor@pencitycurrent.com.



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