

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Friday, May 21, 2021 | 10 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 104



www.pencitycurrent.com

EMS services bill passes

AMBULANCE: Bill would allow county to designate service essential

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A bill to make EMS services essential services under Iowa law was passed in the late evening hours Wednesday night, the last day of the 2021 legislative session.

The bill could allow, but doesn't require, Iowa counties to put a ballot measure in front of voters that could generate a levy to help pay for the costs of Lee County's newly acquired EMS Ambulance service.

Lee County is taking over the operations of Lee County Ambulance EMS Inc, effective July 1 of this year.

The bill was on it's way to being passed during the last

session, but was pulled from a vote at the last hour and was brought up again this year with heavy pressure from rural Iowa counties who were having trouble with private and public EMS services making ends meet.

Lee County Supervisors Chairman Matt Pflug called the measure "a game changer". The bill allows for county supervisors to pass a resolution making the service an essential service under Iowa code, but doesn't require a tax piece.

However, Iowa counties that pass a resolution categorizing EMS services as essential, would be required to form a council to assess the county's financial needs associated with

See EMS, page 10

LEGISLATURE

Reynolds touts success of 2021 session

DES MOINES - Wednesday, Gov. Reynolds released the following statements on the conclusion of the 2021 legislative session:

"This legislative session, I charged the House and Senate to work together to further advance Iowa's strong recovery from COVID-19 and promote policies that strengthen our families, communities, schools, workforce and economy. I'm proud that we delivered on the promises made to the people of Iowa.

"Our fiscally responsible budget practices and balanced approach to managing the pandemic, put Iowa in a position to cut taxes and invest in foundational priorities that ensure we remain competitive in the 21st century.

"More than \$400 million dollars in tax cuts mean Iowans will keep more of their hard-earned money. The phase out of the inheritance tax will lessen the burden of passing on family farms and businesses. And by eliminating a \$100 million property tax levy, the responsibility for funding Iowa's mental health system comes off the backs of homeowners and into the hands of the state which can provide the stable, sustainable funding to ensure access to care for every Iowan who needs it.

"Iowa's historic \$100 million investment in broadband will transform our technology infrastructure into a powerful network that enables fast, high-quality connectivity to empower every community across our state, from our urban centers to our small towns.

"This legislative session, we continued our investment in K-12 education and put more control of our children's education into the hands of their parents. We supported law enforcement, strengthened our elections, protected our 2nd Amendment rights, and upheld the sanctity of life.

"Over the last year, Iowa has been recognized nationally as the #1 state for opportunity and for having one of the



REYNOLDS

2021 State Track Meet



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Fort Madison senior Reyna Lampe gets over the second hurdle in the shuttle hurdle relay Thursday morning at the IHSAA/IGHS AU Co-Ed High School State Track and Field Championships. More photos inside.

Blue oval slows down Bloodhounds, Hawks on Day 1

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DES MOINES – The blue oval of Drake Stadium, a track that sees some of the world's fastest runners and times, was unkind to state qualifiers from Fort Madison and

Central Lee Thursday.

At the opening session of the IHSAA/IGHS AU Co-Ed State High School Track and Field Championships Thursday, four events saw Fort Madison Bloodhound runners turn in slower times than their qualification times.

The day on the track started with Fort Madison's girls shuttle hurdle relay team. Members of the team were three of the four that qualified for state in 2019. The state meet was canceled in 2020 due to the COVID

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WEATHER

FRI 21 May..... Rain, 72° F/ 65° F
SAT 22 May..... Light Rain, 75° F/ 61° F
SUN 23 May..... Light Rain, 82° F/ 61° F

OpenWeatherMap

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 05/19..... 5 18 34 38 42, Star Ball: 10, All Star Bonus: 2
PICK 3 05/19 MIDDAY..... 4 0 3
PICK 3 05/19 EVENING..... 3 7 2
PICK 4 05/19 MIDDAY..... 0 7 6 2
PICK 4 05/19 EVENING..... 6 5 5 7
POWERBALL 05/19..... 11 13 55 56 69, Powerball: 4, Power Play: 2

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Current-Lee

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Party on the Patio

Lee County Bank and Merschman Seeds sponsoring the music and Scott's Miracle Gro Co. is the premiere patio sponsor for the first Party on the Patio of the year at Baxter Sports Complex on Thursday, June 17 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Proceeds from the event go to the Fort Madison Beautification Foundation. Rob Hogan will be performing on the patio.

Soroptomist Par-Tea

Fort Madison Soroptomists are holding a Par-Tea fundraiser. Those interested in donating can contact Lauri Wondra at 371-7743. The Par-Tea will continue 2 to 4 days and comes with party planners name, phone number and how to share the fun with friends. The donation will include tea cups displayed in community members yards.

Florida of Iowa Golf Outing

LEE COUNTY – After being canceled due to COVID in 2020, the annual Jack Morris Memorial Florida of Iowa Golf Outing is set for June 11. Sponsorships are available and registrations are being taken by contacting the Chamber at 319-372-5471 or by email at chamber@fortmadison.com.

FMCH Foundation Golf Classic

LEE COUNTY – The Fort Madison Foundation golf outing will be held Friday, June 18 at Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course with morning and afternoon flights. Sponsorship and Team opportunities are now available. All money raised benefits Fort Madison Community Hospital. Contact Carrie at 319-376-2747 or cgreen@fmchosp.com for more information.

Fort Madison Farmer's Market

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The summer markets start again on June 7, each Monday. New vendors are being sought. Call 319-371-5471 for more information. Check out Facebook page at @FMFarmersMarket.

Baxter Sports Complex Golf Outing

The first ever event will be held July 17, 2021 with a 12 p.m shotgun start at Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course. Live and silent auctions will be held and the event will feature 8" cups. Dinner and drinks will take place at Baxter Sports Complex after the event starting at 6:30 p.m. Teams are \$400 and hole sponsorships are \$150 each. For more information contact Jeff Woodside at 372-2932 or baxtersports-director@gmail.com.

Adopt-A-Garden

The Fort Madison Parks & Recreation Department is looking for volunteers to help maintain flower beds located in city parks. There are 13 flower beds available. Contact the city at 319-372-7700 ext 201 or email jcullen@fortmadison-ia.com for more information.

Pollinator Walk Series

Lee County Extension and Lee County Conservation are hosting a three-day series exploring flowering plants and their role in pollination. The walks are free with an RSVP requested at 835-5116 and will be from 10 a.m. to 11:30 June 26, and Aug. 28.

Green Team Fundraiser

The Fort Madison Green Team is soliciting funds for One Tree Planted, a non-profit whose mission is to plant trees in every corner of the world. To make a donation, click on the link provided: <https://www.bonfire.com/the-green-team-fundraiser/>.

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Read Across Iowa

WEST POINT – Preschool story time through the Iowa State University Extension is being held on Mondays in March beginning at 10 a.m. at the West Point Public Library. This year's theme is agriculture.

Fort Madison Library

All Booked Up! is held Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. This week discussion will focus on the Underground Railroad. At 3:30 each Thursday is Thursday Crafternoons at the library. Facemasks are required.

Baxter Co-ed softball leagues

6 on 6 and 4-on-4 leagues are being organized now. Spring, summer and fall seasons. Registration is \$150 for 6-on-6 and \$125 for 4-on-4 per team. Call the Baxter Sports Complex at 319-372-2932 or email BaxterSportsDirector@gmail.com.

Summer Downtown Markets

This years downtown markets will be held June 10th, July 8th and Aug. 19th in historic downtown Fort Madison. Food, beer, wine, donuts, boutiques, home decor, signs, fresh garden plants, music and more from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m starting at 7th and Avenue G. Be a vendor by contacting darlarae71@yahoo.com.

WP to begin Farmer's Markets

The West Point Community Club will be hosting a series of farmer's markets this summer in the town square. The markets will be held once a month featuring homemade goods, local produce, crafts and food vendors. The markets will take place from 8 a.m. to noon in June, July and August with the first market set for June 12. If interested in becoming a vendor contact Nike Fraise at nikifraise@gmail.com.

**Lee County Health Department
Drive-thru COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic**

**Tuesday, May 18
4:00pm-7:00pm
First Christian Church
3476 Main Street, Keokuk**

**Saturday, May 22
8:00am-Noon
Lee County Health Department
#3, John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison**

For more information visit www.leecountyhd.org
or the LCHD Facebook page.

**Lee County Health Department
(319)372-5225 ~ (800)458-6672**

No appointment necessary

Moderna & Johnson and Johnson vaccine will be available

The vaccine is **FREE** to anyone 18 years and older.

Paperwork is located on LCHD website (www.leecountyhd.org). Everyone is encouraged to have paperwork filled out prior to arriving at the clinic.

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PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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Education News/Scene Around the Area



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The foundation of the new Lee County Conservation Center storage shop is curing on the property at Heron Bend just north of the conservation center. The building will replace the current storage shed and should be completed by the fall.

Locals win Great River scholarships

WEST BURLINGTON – Great River Friends recently awarded \$12,500 in scholarships to students pursuing health care careers.

Six \$1,000 scholarships were given to these high school seniors:

Lydia Fisher, Wapello Community High School, pre-medicine/biology, University of Iowa
 Karley Harvey, Central Lee High School, nursing, University of Iowa

Hannah Hentzel, Burlington Community High School, pre-medicine/biology, University of Iowa

Anthony Hoffman, Notre Dame High school, pre-medicine/biology, Cornell College

Jessica Kendell – Burlington Community High School, biochemistry, Truman State University or Augustana College

Reagan Spence, West Central High School, pre-medicine, Loras College

Six \$1,000 continuing-education scholarships were given to these students:

Elena AbouAssaly, pre-medicine, University of Iowa
 Rachel Crooks, anesthesia, Missouri State University

Abigail Crowner, pharmacy, University of Iowa
 Isabel Hase, pre-medicine/biology, Southeastern Community College

Vidya Mullangi, neurobiology, Georgetown University

Kassidy Rashid, pre-dentistry, Creighton University

A \$500 continuing-education scholarship was awarded to Lauren Galvin for her final semester of speech/language pathology study at the University of Northern Iowa.

FMCH announces local scholarship recipients

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison Community Hospital Foundation and the FMCH Auxiliary award annual scholarships to area students who are pursuing healthcare careers. This year they provided a combined total of \$10,000 to area students. The following students are recipients of this year's FMCH scholarships.

Kathleen Canella Family Scholarship
 The Kathleen Canella Family, in coordination with the Fort Madison Community Hospital Foundation, provides scholarships to high school seniors, or recent high school graduates, of area high schools within the FMCH market area pursuing a career in a medical field. It is also available to non-traditional college students. Scholarship recipients were chosen based on grades, leadership, character, community activity and financial need. This scholarship was established in memory of Kathleen Canella, a longtime volunteer and member of the

FMCH Auxiliary.

The 2021 recipients are:
 • Ava Peitz, HTC-attending the University of Iowa, Nursing.

• Maria Rauembuehler, HTC – attending St. Ambrose University, Nursing.

• Kendall Beebe, FMHS – attending Southeastern Community College, Radiology.

• Nadia Boeding, FMHS – attending the University of Iowa, Physical Therapy/Biology.

• Maille Sheerin - attending St. Ambrose University, Social Work.

• Hannah Torgler - attending the University of Northern Iowa, Social Work.

• Carla Yoder - attending Indian Hills Community College, Occupational Therapy Assistant.

FMCH Auxiliary Scholarship

The FMCH Auxiliary Scholarship is awarded to students graduating from any area high school within the FMCH market area. Non-traditional students

were also considered. Scholarships were given to students pursuing a degree in a medical profession. Points for consideration included grades, leadership, character, community activity and financial need.

The 2021 recipients are:
 • Ava Peitz, HTC-attending the University of Iowa, Nursing.

• Claire Wills, CLHS – attending Southeastern Community College, Nursing.
 • Karley Harvey, CLHS – attending University of Iowa, Nursing.

Tracey Howe Scholarship:

The Tracey Howe Scholarship is awarded to nursing students attending Southeastern Community College in Keokuk or West Burlington. The FMCH Foundation provides up to two \$1,000 awards for scholarship assistance to new or continuing nursing students. This scholarship was established in memory of Tracey Howe who worked as a registered nurse at FMCH.

The 2021 recipients are:

• Annabelle Scheetz, HTC – attending Southeastern Community College, Nursing.

• Claire Wills, CLHS – attending Southeastern Community College, Nursing.

The FMCH Foundation and the FMCH Auxiliary offer these scholarships annually. Information and applications can be found at www.fmchosp.com.

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From the Front

Broadband, tax relief, child care lead 2021 session

SESSION - Continued from Page 1

fastest and strongest pandemic recoveries... and Iowans deserve the credit. Together, there's nothing we can't accomplish."

Lt. Governor Gregg released the following statement:

"Governor Reynolds led the charge to make Iowa an even better place to live, work, and raise a family. The tax compromise brokered by the governor makes progress on longstanding challenges faced by the state.

"By speeding up the historic 2018 income tax cuts, incentivizing workforce housing development, and lowering property taxes, this tax reform makes Iowa an even better place to start a family, career, or business.

"With unprecedented investment in broadband, new incentives to spark housing development, and increased funding for Empower Rural Iowa programs, this session was a real success for rural Iowa.

"I look forward to seeing the positive impact these changes will have, and exploring further improvement in policy and practice to ensure opportunity and prosperity are present in all corners of our state."

Key legislative priorities that passed during the 2020 Legislative Session:

Tax Relief for Hardworking Iowans

Reducing taxes benefits Iowa families and makes our state more competitive.
 \$300 million income tax cut by removing triggers for hardworking Iowans (SF619)
 \$100 million property tax relief by fully removing the mental health levy (SF619)

Putting Students First, Supporting Parental Choice, Investing in Education

A high-quality education system that offers innovative learning opportunities and empowers parents to choose the best path for their children is the foundation of a strong state.

Ensured every child and family in Iowa had the opportunity to attend school 100% in-person during the pandemic beginning in Feb. 2021 (SF160)

Allows parents to make health care decisions for their children by prohibiting schools from requiring masks (HF847)

Expands charter schools, giving parents and students greater options and flexibility while also allowing for innovation to occur within the classroom (HF813)

Allows parents to make educational decisions for their children by expanding open enrollment opportunities for families (HF847)

Protects free speech rights of all students in the classroom (HF744)

Bans instruction that teaches that America is inherently racist (HF802)

Invests a record \$3.418 billion for PreK-12 education, a 2.4% increase (SF269)

Increases Transportation Equity to buy down cost of transportation for 218 Iowa school districts (SF269)

Further reduces per pupil equity gap to \$145 (SF269)

Ensuring Universal Broadband Access

High-speed internet is as vital to our communities as running water and electricity – this became abundantly clear during the pandemic.

Invests \$100 million in broadband to transform our infrastructure into a powerful network, enabling fast, high quality connectivity across the entire state and resulting in one of the most significant broadband build-outs in the nation (HF867)

Leverages millions more in private dollars to establish a three-tiered grant program that incentivizes providers to prioritize broadband deserts where high-speed internet is rarely offered (HF848)

Creating Affordable Housing

Creative solutions that address pent-up demand for affordable housing will encourage families to move where opportunities exist and help our communities thrive.

Invests in attainable housing by increasing funding to the State Housing Trust Fund at \$7 million a year (SF619)

Builds high quality homes in rural and urban Iowa by increasing the Workforce Housing Tax Credit to \$40 million for FY22 and then \$35 million going forward (SF619)

Extends and expands the Brownfield and Grayfield Tax Credits to help rebuild blighted and abandoned properties (SF619)

Creates a Disaster Recovery Housing Assistance Fund to help Iowans who lost their homes due to a natural disaster (SF619)

Providing High-quality Affordable Child Care

Iowa has the third highest percentage of households with both (or the only) parents working. Improving access to child care will allow parents to nurture their children while remaining in the workforce.

Increases eligibility for the Early Childhood and Dependent Tax Credits from \$45,000 to \$90,000 so families are not penalized for hard work and upward mobility (SF619)

Allows an additional school-aged child in a child care home to increase access for child care across the state and flexibility on days when school is cancelled (HF260)

Establishes a gradual phase-out for child care assistance so families can pursue higher wages without immediately losing assistance (HF302)

Prioritizes High Quality Jobs applicants who propose to provide onsite child care options for employees (SF619)

Growing a 21st Century Economy

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Sports/Education News

Knipe takes 4th in girls' regional tennis action

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison's Molly Knipe captured 4th place at the Class 1A girls regional Singles and Doubles tennis meet on Wednesday in Fairfield.

Knipe opened the tourney with a quick 6-0, 6-2 win over Keokuk senior Jasmine Saunders, but a second round match with Mt. Pleasant's Savanna Walls, went a little longer.

Knipe needed a 7-3 first set tiebreaker to win 7-6 in the first set against the Panther junior. Walls then took the second set 6-4 from Knipe, before the Bloodhound rebounded for a nice 6-3 win in the third set in the best two of three.

The win moved Knipe into the semis where she ran up against eventual champion Tess Paton of Fairfield. The junior Trojan swept the first set 6-0. Knipe was able to take a game from the champion in the second set, but was moved to the 3rd place match with a 1-6 loss.

Davis County senior Morgan Klaus proved too much for Knipe to secure the alternate spot at state as she won 6-1, 6-1 eliminating Knipe from the tourney. Knipe played at No. 1 singles and No. 1 doubles for the Lady Hounds all year. In Iowa players must choose between singles or doubles for post season play.

Klaus also ended senior Rachel Hellman's season in the first round with a 6-0, 6-1 win.

In doubles action, Nauda Ruston and Lauren Otte were knocked out early by Maharishi's Quesavedo-Valls sisters, but not before the Lady Hounds made the Pioneers go to seven games in the second set before falling 7-5.

Kayla Kruse and Elizabeth Stuekerjuergen also were ousted in the first round with a 0-6, 0-6 loss to Keokuk's Emma Evans and Kayleigh Hall.

Fairfield 2019 state singles champion Yana Gaskell teamed up with Penelope Higdon to win the doubles title outright over Assumption's Mary Rolfstad and Ella Dillulio 6-1, 6-4.

Hall and Evans finished 3rd and will serve as the alternate to the state tournament.

FM schools announces summer meal plans

Ft. Madison Community School District is participating in the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided to all children without charge and are the same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Meals will be provided, at a first come, first serve basis, at the sites and times as follows:

FREE Meals for children 1-18 from June 7th – August 13th (no meals July 5th)

Meals (Breakfast & Lunch) will be distributed on Mondays & Thursdays (multiple meals each day) at the following site locations:

Curbside Service – 11:00 to 11:30

Ft. Madison High School (2001 Ave B, Ft. Madison)

Victory Park (23rd St & Ave G, Ft. Madison)

Curbside Service – 11:30 to 12:00

Ft. Madison Middle School (502 - 48th St, Ft. Madison)

Curbside Service – 12:00 to 12:30

Lincoln Elementary School (1326 Ave E, Ft. Madison)

Richardson Elementary School (3301 Ave L, Ft. Madison)

Adult meals: Breakfast & Lunch - \$6.00

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-

3027) found online at:

http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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From the Front

Rainy weather affects local efforts at state meet

STATE - Continued from Page 1

pandemic.

Senior Reyna Lampe ran the first leg of the event with Taylor Barnes picking up the second leg. Freshman Aija Jenkins ran the third and Raquel Schneider ran the anchor. The Hounds qualified with a time of 1:11.43 last week at districts in Mt. Pleasant.

But the foursome lost about a second and a half off their district pace finishing with a 1:13.08 failing to make the finals on Saturday.

"I was kind of scared and felt like I was jumping over them really high at first, but I was able to reach the first hurdle along with the girl next to me," Lampe said.

Jenkins said the water got in her head early, as a cool mist fell on the event for most of the early session.

"I was scared at first because it was wet and looked slick, and then I kind of stutter-stepped at the first hurdle, but I did okay, I guess," she said.

Barnes and Schneider said they both were concerned about the wet track. Barnes said she slipped a little out of the box, and Schneider said she had to get a couple hurdles in before gaining confidence in her footing.

"I was scared because of the water thinking I would slip, and when I got to the second hurdle and realized the water wasn't going to effect me, I got back into the race," Schneider said.

Lampe said missing last year hurt them a little, but said everyone went through the same thing.

"I'm not trying to use it as an excuse, but it would have helped to have that extra year to work," she said.

Central Lee sophomore Tommy Eschman was



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Central Lee sophomore Tommy Eschman takes off in the long-jump during the boys Class 2A competition Thursday morning at Drake Stadium in Des Moines.

busy jumping in the sand at the 2A long jump. Seeded 24th, Eschman got the first leap of the day and set a good mark with a 20-0.75". The 2A field

could be the strongest at the meet with Cooper Dejean clearing 23 7.5".

Eschman, who said he doesn't like jumping off the wood board vs the painted lines, said that got into his head as did the misty weather. Eschman jumped 18-8.75" on his second jump and then would have surpassed 20-5" on his third jump but got a red flag for faulting. He finished 16th after being seeded 24th, an improvement of eight spots.

"I definitely would have done better had it been good weather, but I don't want to pin it all on that. It was little bit of nerves and that kind of thing," Eschman said.

The sophomore is jumping for the first time ever and said he wants to continue to work on the event.

"I'm definitely going to work on this over the summer. If I'm going to go anywhere it will be in this," Eschman said.

Central Lee's Chance Hocker ran in the 200-meter dash coming seeded lowest in the field at 24, and put up a 23.82 which was good for 22nd surpassing two in the field.

"I had confidence coming into the run that I could compete, but these guys are pretty fast. I'm just glad I made it up here to be able to do this," he said.

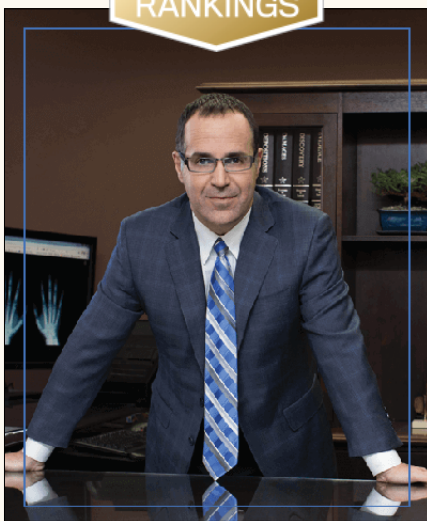
Fort Madison's Tate Johnson lost a bit of pace in both the 100- and 200-meter dash. Johnson ran a 23.31 in the 200 good enough for 17th overall, but .34 seconds off the finals qualifying time of 22.97.

Johnson said the track felt different, but it doesn't matter to him what surface he runs on.

"It's not really like the rock tracks were used to running on. It's more spongy than I'm used to

See HOUNDS, page 5

Pothitakis Law Firm Recognized for Professional Excellence



Firms included in the 2021 Edition of U.S. News-Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms" are recognized for professional excellence with consistently impressive ratings from clients and peers. To be eligible for a ranking, a firm must first have a lawyer recognized in The Best Lawyers in America, which recognizes the top 5% of private practicing lawyers in the United States. Achieving a tiered ranking signals a unique combination of quality law practice and breadth of legal expertise. Mr. Pothitakis has been named to The Best Lawyers in America in 2020 and again in 2021.



320 North 3rd Street, Suite 100,
Burlington, Iowa 52601-0337
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www.PothitakisLaw.com

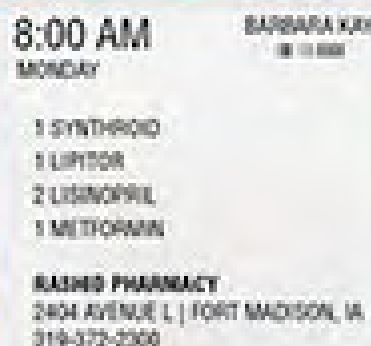


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Sports

Hawks, Hounds try to place Saturday

HOUNDS - Continued from Page 4

but it doesn't really matter to me. I'm just happy I made it here."

Johnson ran in the 100-meter dash about two hours later and marked at 11.69, .30 seconds slower than his district qualifying pace and .29 seconds out of Saturday's final.

Dayton Davis ran for Fort Madison in the 400-meter dash and fell behind his qualifying mark of 51.71 with a 52.10. He would have needed a 50.53 to qualify for Saturday's final.

"This is different, totally different feel," Davis said. "The environment here is different and the competition is way different. I felt pretty confident going in, but when I started running it all started hitting me."

Back on the girls side of things, Jenkins, who qualified in the high jump as well, cleared the first two bars at 4-8" and 4-10" just missed clearing the 5-0" mark on her second try and failed to advance missing on her other two attempts as well. She tied for 19th in the event.

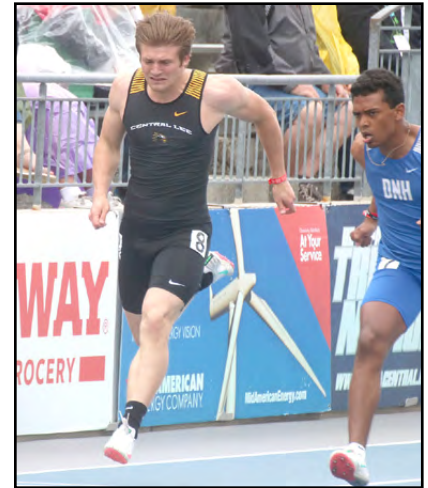
On Friday, the Hounds' Jakob McGowan and Mikey DiPrima will start the day with the long jump. Then the 4x200 team of Brock Califf, McGowan, Andrew Shaefer, and Garrett Hannum will try and place in that relay. Schneider and Central Lee's Abby Wellman will go to work in the 400 hurdles at about 11:30, and the Hounds 4x400 relay team will wrap up the day with at around 2:15 p.m.

If the 4x400 team finishes top 8, they will run again in the finals of that event on Saturday in the last event of the meet. All the other events for Fort Madison and Central Lee will be finals on Friday.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Above, Bloodhound junior Tate Johnson motors to the finish line in the Class 3A boys 200 meter dash Thursday morning at the Co-Ed State High School Track and Field Championship in Des Moines. Below left, Aija Jenkins clears the high jump bar, and at lower left, Central Lee's Chance Hocker breaks the finish line in the Class 2A 200-meter dash.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING MINUTES

April 26, 2021

The Lee County Board of Supervisors met at the Lee County Office Building, on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Matt Pflug, Ron Fedler and Garry Seyb. Present electronically was Rich Harlow.

All votes are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

The Board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Public Input-Harlow received an email from a concerned citizen regarding trash along X32 leading to the landfill.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Fedler, to approve giving a recruitment bonus of \$5,000.00 to full-time paramedics. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve a recruitment bonus policy and agreement for the EMS Department. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve Resolution #2021-66. Roll call: Fedler-aye, Seyb-aye, Harlow-aye and Pflug-aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 2021-66

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING A PROPOSED RATE HIKE BY LIBERTY UTILITIES

WHEREAS, Liberty Utilities has indicated it intends to request that the Iowa Utilities Board allow it to increase rates for citizens in Keokuk,

Montrose and South Lee County, and

WHEREAS, said rate increases include a proposed increase of 11.45% for Residential, and

WHEREAS, said rate increases include a proposed increase of 10.20% for Commercial, and

WHEREAS, said rate increases include a proposed increase of a 2.95% for Industrial, and

WHEREAS, the proposed rate hike would have an adverse effect on families, businesses, school districts, and potential economic development in Lee County, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Lee County Board of Supervisors goes on record as opposing the rate hike requested by Liberty Utilities.

Dated this the 26th day of April, 2021.

/s/ Matt Pflug, Chairman. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, County Auditor.

Moved by Harlow, seconded by Fedler, to approve the Monday, April 19, 2021 Board minutes. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Fedler, to approve the payment of claims. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve a seasonal employee for Conservation-Robert Glasgow, Conservation Aide, \$14.00/hr., effective 4/27/21. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Fedler reported on an Employee Safety Committee meeting. Seyb reported that interviews for the Ambulance Service were conducted last week. He also had an Economic Development Board meeting. Pflug reported

on the Safety Committee meeting. Health Department Director Michele Ross gave the Board an update on the Covid-19 numbers for Lee County. The County is 25% vaccinated.

At 9:30 a.m. a motion was made by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to adjourn. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 3, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Matt Pflug, Chairman
Attest: Denise Fraise,
Lee County Auditor

Claims paid March 26, 2021

AC Cntrctng, svcs	15500.00
Alliant, svcs	1214.31
Bates Snttn, svcs	75.00
Buford Dzng, svcs	4500.00
CenturyLink, svcs	1.40
Commerce Bank	
Adobe, sftw	370.55
Amazon, splys	1041.33
APCO Intl, reg	299.00
Asphalt pvng, edu	150.00
Bnd tree med, splys	141.27
BP, fuel	46.26
CASEYS, fuel	238.62
CDW GOVT, splys	343.89
Centurylink, svcs	2838.26
Cvrt Trck Grp, svcs	340.27
Crescent prts, splys	469.80
DLX, splys	330.00
Dollar Gen, splys	92.60
DOMINOS, fd	111.72
DnnlSn Tire, svcs	63.45
Chld Abs Prv, reg	108.09
Emrgncy Rpr, svcs	1000.00
Equiparts, parts	762.93
Eurmax Cnpy, splys	199.95
Facebk, svcs	98.57
Fire Hose Drct, splys	
	303.80

Gdyear Auto, svcs	113.50
Hncck Co Jrnl, publ	1420.98
Holiday Inn, htl	89.27
Homefront, edu	95.00
Huffmans, splys	1010.49
HYVEE, fd	267.45
IADpt Pub Sfty, svcs	45.00
ISSDA, reg	125.00
J Baier, parts	96.83
Jimmy Jhns, mls	26.93
Kempkers, splys	703.91
Farm/Home, parts	174.96
LOGMEIN, fees	144.00
Lnghm Stk, mls	49.69
Liberty Utlts, gas	368.83
Mailfinance, svcs	892.80
Mediacom, svcs	4800.00
Mcfarlands, splys	2298.87
Menards, splys	340.45
Mcrsft Str, splys	267.49
MW Alarm, svcs	326.25
Murphy, fuel	67.00
Neopost, svcs	344.91
Officemax, splys	640.42
Oreilly Auto, parts	167.42
PILOT, fuel	10.00
Pitney bowes, splys	344.96
Pstv Promo, splys	170.67
PRO Mtrspts, svcs	26.97
Rathbun, wtr	149.60
Red Lbstr, mls	66.14
Shrwn Wlms, splys	37.57
Shottenkirk, svcs	58.45
SIPPIS, mls	53.34
Armstrng Trctr, parts	173.04
Anml Hse Pet, splys	45.05
Subway, fd	174.75
Tims Rpr shp, svcs	197.97
Trophy Ottl, svcs	66.00
Turbo Wsh, svcs	28.00
USCC, svcs	217.51
USPS, pstg	177.75
VAN Mtr, splys	17.03
VERIZON, svcs	1820.69
VIDEX, equip	445.72
WALMART, splys	1251.54

Wndstrm, svcs	32.59
Zmmrmn Trlr, parts	475.00
ZOOM.US, svcs	320.79
Crescent Prts, svcs	195.12
Cullen Cnst, svcs	2100.00
DM Register, publ	2800.00
LDettmers, exps	26.10
Family Res, svcs	2519.10
Footers Auto, svcs	14360.25
FM Wter, svcs	3675.78
D Fraise, exps	40.00
Gabel RI Est, rent	370.00
N Granaman, svcs	1307.78
Heffron Svcs, svcs	13601.28
Hldy Terr Apt, rent	185.00
Hffmn Wldng, svcs	307.80
Invstgtns/JD, svcs	101.00
J&S Elec Bus, splys	161.65
Jet Gas, fuel	8411.20
JW Mdcl, equip	7464.00
Karl Chvrlt, veh	38383.00
Keo Med Equip, splys	3240.23
Keo Hsng Athr, svcs	8405.06
Keo Water, svcs	1513.19
G Knisley, exps	143.10
LCL Farms, splys	288.00
Lrning Tree, svcs	945.00
LeeCo Atty, exps	499.75
LeeCo Adtr, trfs	4470.41
LeeCo Hlth, svcs	8732.08
LeeCo Treas, costs	6764.66
Liberty Util, gas	72.29
MidAm Enrgy, gas	676.70
Molyneaux Ins, svcs	1500.00
G Morgan, exps	41.40
OMG MW, svcs	28106.34
Pen Cty Crrmt, publ	624.99
Penn Cty Assc, dues	300.00
Rainbo Oil, oil	633.52

RicohUSA, rent	1399.62
Rck Vily PT, svcs	130.00
P Settles, exps	171.19
SIACC, svcs	1019.23
SIADSA, svcs	5666.55
Solutions, svcs	28.75
Spectra Bld, svcs	69392.57
P Tripp, exps	402.30
US Cell, svcs	677.62
VB Co Hosp, svcs	10515.80
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Sports/From the Front

Last-minute legislative vote holds essential services bill

EMS - Continued from Page 1

EMS services, and make a recommendation as to whether or not a levy is required and what that levy would be set at.

The county already has a steering committee overseeing the transition from the private service to the public county-owned service.

Then following public hearings on the issue, the levy would have to be put in front of voters and would need a supermajority approval of 60%.

“It’s a game changer. We’ve gotta make this work and now we can try to levy for it if we have to, but it has to go through a vote,” Pflug said.

“I think people understand the importance of an ambulance service in Lee County. I didn’t get one call from anyone about what we are trying to do.”

Pflug said he heard there was a lot of other things thrown into the bill in the last session and that had something to do with it not being put up for a vote in the Senate.

State Sen. Jeff Reichman (R-Montrose) said he had concerns that the bill wouldn’t make it out of the session again.

“With every action there’s a reac-

tion. EMS, Hey you need to make it essential – fantastic. But there were other things in it,” Reichman said.

“It had the impact of an EMT having the same scope of practice as a nurse. So a nurse takes two or three years to get through school and get a license, and then an EMT with less training could have gone into a hospital, the way it was written, and go to work taking jobs from nurses.”

But he said he was happy that deliberations resulted in the passage of the bill at about 10 p.m. Wednesday night.

State Rep. Joe Mitchell (R-Wayland) said he thought it was the most historical piece of legislation to come out of the session in 2021.

“We finally got it done this year,” Mitchell said.

“Honestly, I don’t think it would have happened if House Republicans hadn’t made that a top priority right down to the end of the session. We did everything we could in our power to make sure that was in there because of how important it is to rural Iowans.”

Mitchell said there is a 15-year sunset on the law and it will have

to be brought back up at that point.

Reichman said he hopes rural ambulance services can make it a go without raising taxes, but he’s happy they have this option going forward.

Dennis Cosby, Lee County EMS Ambulance director said any forward movement to support EMS services is good.

“While no one wants to see more tax increase, EMS remains a safety net from everyone. If we can’t fund them we will eventually lose our safety net,” he said.

“It’s a great step in the right direction for Iowa.”

Rep. Martin Graber (R-Fort Madison) said this is a nice way to do it in his opinion because it gives the people of the county a voice in whether they want to support a levy for the service.

“They’ve been working on this for decades from what I’m being told and we were finally able to get it done,” Graber said.

“In Lee County we’re in the process of going to a county run system. And from what I’m hearing if they continue billing the amount the private service did, they may not need to raise a tax.”

Bass fishing heating up at local lakes

Big Hollow Lake

Water level is up with all the rain and is still working its way out of the lake. Water temperatures are 62 degrees. Water clarity is 26 inches. Black Crappie - Fair: Mostly small fish in shallow; bigger fish are out amongst the trees in about 10 feet of water. Largemouth Bass - Good: Work the shallows on the north side for the feeding bass on a nice sunny day. Males are moving in shallow to set up nesting territories. Bluegill - Fair: Some decent fish are moving into the shallows to set up nests. They are around the islands and where trees are hanging down into the water.

Lake Belva Deer

Water temperature was 61 degrees on May 19. Water clarity is 8 feet. Curly leaf pondweed is coming in thick this year. Largemouth Bass - Good: Males are building nests and are showing signs of wear to the fins. Black Crappie - Slow: A few small fish are in shallow, but most have moved back out to deeper water. Bluegill - Fair: Some spawning beds are active.

Lake Darling

The water temperature is 61 degrees. The water clarity is fair at 39 inches. Largemouth Bass - Good: More bass are moving in shallow. Males are starting to show signs of nesting (worn fins). Black Crappie - Slow: Immature fish and some males are in shallow. Everyone else has moved back out to 8-10 feet of water. Bluegill - Good: Lots of nice 8-inch fish (mostly males) have moved in shallow to the spawning beds.

Lost Grove Lake

Largemouth Bass - Good: Bass have moved in shallow to spawn. Look for males to be on the beds near stumps and rock piles in shallow water. Black Crappie - Fair: Mostly small fish in shallow. Everybody else is back out to deeper water. Bluegill - Good: Bluegills are making their nests. Find males in shallow staking out territories and building nests.

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