

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Wednesday, September 15, 2021 | 13 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 167



www.pencitycurrent.com

From Rodeo to Fiesta



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

The 100th Mexican Fiesta gets underway on Thursday. Crews from Next Generation Shows were on site Tuesday afternoon, getting ready to set up the carnival. Bluzallion kicks off the music entertainment with the carnival, and food vendors Thursday night in the village.

BROADBAND

State awards \$3.5 million to county project

Danville Telecom plan to build fiber optic line in county gets funding

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A \$5.5 million expansion of broadband fiber optics in rural Lee County targeting low and no service areas was awarded \$3.55 million in state funding Tuesday.

The grant was awarded to Danville Telecom for a project to bring a new fiber optic backbone up the west side of the county and across the Hwy. 16 to Hwy. 61. The money comes from the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant program.

The Lee County Board of Supervisors last week approved appropriating 30% of it's America Rescue Plan Act funding to the project which amounted to \$1.95

See **INTERNET**, page 10

VICTORY PARK

Group wants to convert park tennis courts to pickleball

Early estimates show replacing courts properly could run close to \$130,000

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A move is underway to convert the tennis courts at Victory Park in Fort Madison into six pickleball courts.

Fort Madison City Councilwoman Donna Amandus is part of a group spearheading the effort. She said preliminary estimates indicate the work will cost about \$130,000 and the committee is looking for donations.

"Pickleball has become very popular. You always have to wait for the court at the YMCA," Amandus said. She said she tried the game Friday and enjoyed it.

A tour of the Fort Madison Park Board earlier this year through Victory Park started the conversation about the transition.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

A group of ladies has formed a committee to raise funds to replace the tennis courts at Victory Park with six pickleball courts.

The courts are the only courts in town with lighting for night play and are centrally located. However, Fort Madison does have 10 other tennis courts, six at Fort Madison High School and four at Holy Trinity Catholic that are available to

See **COURTS**, page 10

US DISTRICT COURT

Federal judge blocks ban on mask mandates

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DAVENPORT – A federal judge Monday issued a temporary restraining order against a state law banning local public school districts from issuing mask mandates.

U.S. District Court Judge Robert W. Pratt, issued the TRO Monday writing that the immediate restraining order is necessary to protect the state's children, specifically those dealing with disabilities.

"The Court recognizes issuing a TRO (Temporary restraining order) is an extreme

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WEATHER

WED 15 Sep.....Sunny and Warm, 83° F/ 58° F
 THU 16 Sep.....Warm and Partly Cloudy, 87° F/ 59° F
 FRI 17 Sep.....Hot and Sunny, 90° F/ 65° F

OpenWeatherMap

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 09/13.....5 7 22 28 30, Lucky Ball: 5
 PICK 3 09/13 MIDDAY.....8 2 3
 PICK 3 09/13 EVENING.....3 7 1
 PICK 4 09/13 MIDDAY.....21 3 6
 PICK 4 09/13 EVENING.....6 6 5 6
 POWERBALL 09/13.....37 40 50 61 63, Powerball: 21, Power Play: 3

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

JOHN H. RODEFFER

John Henry Rodeffer, 90, of rural Dallas City, Illinois, passed away Sunday, September 12, 2021 at the Oak Lane Nursing & Rehab in Stronghurst, Illinois.



RODEFFER

John was born on March 15, 1931 in Farmersville, Illinois, the son of John Benjamin and Claire (Avis) Rodeffer. On August 11, 1967 he married Patricia Ann Johnson in Bloomington, Illinois. She preceded him in death on May 20, 2019.

John was a 1949 graduate of the LaHarpe High School. He received his bachelors degree from the University of Illinois. John was drafted into the U.S. Army and served two years during the Korean Conflict. He worked as a teacher all of his life. He also farmed in the Durham Township area all his life. John served as Durham Township Supervisor for many years.



He was a member of the LaHarpe Masonic Lodge, LaHarpe American Legion and the LaHarpe Christian Church.

Survivors include three children: Clark (Amanda) Rodeffer of Ann Arbor, Michigan, Lynn (Caryn) Rodeffer of Powell, Ohio and Anna Rodeffer of LaHarpe; five grandchildren: E'lanor, Derek, Lily, Silas and Zoey; one brother: Joe (Ellen) Rodeffer of Abingdon, Illinois and one sister Ann (John) Treat of Michigan.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife: Patricia and one brother: Jerry Lee Rodeffer.

The family will receive friends from 9:00 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. Saturday, September 18, 2021 at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in LaHarpe. Masonic Rites will be recited at 10:45 a.m. followed by funeral services at 11:00 a.m. officiated by Richard Martin. Graveside services with Military Rites officiated by Rex Huston will follow in the Durham Cemetery.

A memorial fund has been established for the LaHarpe Christian Church or Lamoine Christian Service Camp. To leave a condolence for the family, please visit John's obituary at banksandbeals.com.

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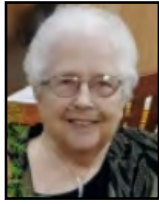
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OBITUARIES

BONNADONNA L. SIEGFRIED

Bonnadonna "Bonnie" L. (Rueth) Siegfried, age 89, of Boone, IA and formerly of Niota, IL, passed away peacefully with her children by her side on Thursday, September 9, 2021 at Westhaven Community in Boone.



SIEGFRIED

Catholic Services will be held at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Nauvoo, IL. Mass of the Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, September 18, 2021, followed by burial in Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Cemetery in Nauvoo, IL. Visitation will be held from 9:00 A.M. until time of service.

Bonnie was born on April 28, 1932 in Rock Island, IL, the daughter of Fred C. and Elenor W. (Vorwaldt) Rueth. At around the age of two, her father passed away. After her father's passing her mother and her moved to Fort Madison, IA to be closer to family. Bonnie graduated from St. Joseph's Catholic School, Fort Madison, IA in 1950.

Bonnie was united in marriage with Paul Siegfried on September 5, 1959 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Fort Madison. Bonnie left her job at Sheaffer Pen Company in Fort Madison, after nearly 10 years, to raise their family. For the remainder of her life, she was a faithful and devoted farmer's wife.

Bonnie was an avid seamstress (even sewing doll clothes), canning, cooking casseroles to deliver to the field, and being crafty. She made Christmas ornaments, Halloween costumes; you name it, she could make it! She enjoyed a little time to herself watching QVC or soap operas and would venture out to yard sales on Saturday mornings to snag a good deal.

In the fall of 2014, Paul and Bonnie moved to Boone, IA from their farm in Niota, IL. The couple enjoyed the move, being closer to family and getting to socialize more. Paul passed away on August 29, 2017. After nearly 60 years of marriage, Bonnie continued to be a loving wife, mother and supportive grandmother.

Bonnie is survived by her son, Brent L. (Yolantha) Siegfried of Aurora, IL; daughter, Alison (Eric) Purtle of Boone, IA; grandchildren, Alexander and Andrew Siegfried and Alizarin and Evanston Purtle; and cousins, Duane, Gary, Larry and Sr Justine Denning, and Ina Merschman. She was preceded in death by her parents; and husband, Paul.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Schroeder-Reimers Memorial Chapel of Boone, IA. Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home of Nauvoo, IL will be assisting with services in Nauvoo. Online condolences may be left to Bonnie's family at either www.schroedermemorialchapel.com or www.sbbfuneralhome.com.

schroedermemorialchapel.com or www.sbbfuneralhome.com. Memorial donations may be directed to Suncrest Hospice, West Des Moines, IA or Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Cemetery, Nauvoo, IL.

So God Made a Farmer's Wife

And on the 9th day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, "I need a caretaker for the hard working farmer." - So God made a Farmer's Wife.

God said, "I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, feed the farmer, work all day making a house a home, work alongside her farmer when needed, make supper, package it up and then go to the field and wait patiently at the end of the row for the farmer to come have his meal." -So God made a Farmer's Wife.

"I need somebody with arms strong enough to carry a basket of wet overalls up the basement stairs to go out to the clothesline and yet gentle enough to rock a newborn baby. Somebody to run for parts, move trucks, deliver meals, look the farmer in the eyes and tell him 'I love you and come back home real soon' - and mean it". -So God made a Farmer's Wife.

God said, "I need somebody willing to hem pants, mend holes, who can remove stains, make doll clothes, craft Christmas ornaments, keep a house clean, bake casseroles, snap green beans, clean sweetcorn, can tomatoes and dress chickens." -So God made a Farmer's Wife.

God had to have somebody willing to ride the ruts of life alongside the farmer while staying up late praying for rain clouds and good fortune for her family, then race to help the farmer whenever she is needed. -So God made a Farmer's Wife.

God said, "I need somebody strong enough to carry on when her farmer is called home before her, yet gentle enough to be a grandma. It had to be somebody who'd be able to handle the years of a thankless job while not cutting corners. Somebody to seed, weed, feed, wash and dry and cook and clean; and somebody to remember scheduled events and stock the cupboards and finish a hard week's work with a ten-mile drive to church in clean and freshly pressed Sunday bests. "Somebody who would bale a family together with the soft strong bonds of sharing, who would laugh and then sigh, and then reply only with smiling eyes, when her time has come to rest and join the farmer." -So God Blessed the Farmer's Wife.

A rewriting by Alison Siegfried-Purtle of the Paul Harvey 'God Made a Farmer Speech' to the FFA delivered November 1978, Kansas City, MO.

Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at: www.sbbfuneralhome.com.

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

MICHAEL K. WARD

Michael K. Ward, 69, of Bonaparte, Iowa passed away at 12:02 p.m., Friday, September 10, 2021 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

Mike was born on December 6, 1951 in Keosauqua, Iowa, the son of Alva G. and Lauree (Nelson) Ward. Graduating from Harmony High School, class of 1970, where he met and then married his high school sweetheart Cindy Medaris on April 10, 1971 in Farmington, Iowa. They shared 50 years of marriage raising four children. Mike was a lifelong farmer working for Kaiser Ag, Mount Hamill Lumber, and managed the Farmington Feed Store. Mike and Cindy delivered motorhomes and trucks throughout the country meeting many wonderful people along the way.



WARD

Mike enjoyed boating on the Mississippi river where he and his wife Cindy spent many years living on their houseboat. He also enjoyed riding the trails and back roads of the area; often times arriving at the farm to share many good times with friends and family in his shop. Mike loved life and lived it to its fullest; being a jokester, never meeting a stranger, and always making friends along the way. He will forever be remembered for his ornery nature. Mike was very proud of his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Out of every thing in life, his favorite role was being called Dad and Papa.

Survived by his wife Cindy and their four children: Kelly (Rob) Purdy of Cape Coral, Florida, Nikki (Jay) Brackensick of Mendon, Illinois, Adam (Jennifer) Ward of Bonaparte, Iowa, and Michelle (Neil) Philp of Farmington, Iowa. Eight grandchildren: Spencer Breitenstein, Maggie Denly, Hunter Brackensick, Kalyn Tuttle, Cooper Philp, Kaley Purdy, Kinley Purdy, and Noah Ward. Five great grandchildren: Xander, Ryder, Lane, and Saylor Breitenstein and Fayth Moore. Also surviving two brothers Donnie (Connie) Ward of Donnellson, Iowa and Jim (Liz) Ward of Oakridge, Oregon and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters: Susan and Dixie. The family will receive friends from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, September 16, 2021, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington. A Memorial Service will be held at 3:00 p.m., at Schmitz Funeral Home Farmington, with Scott Butler officiating.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in his memory to the Bonaparte Fire and Rescue or Farmington EMT's.

Schmitz Funeral Home of Farmington is assisting the family with local arrangements. On-line condolences may be sent to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

OBITUARIES

ROGER L. MARTIN

Roger Lloyd Martin, 64, of Montrose, IA, died Saturday, September 11, 2021 at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City, IA.

He was born on December 5, 1956 on a United States Air Force Base in Guam, the son of LaVerne Lloyd and Marilyn Jane Hawk Martin.



MARTIN

At the age of 40, Roger continued his education at Indian Hills Community College and received his Associates Degree in Drafting.

In his younger years, Roger had been employed at Dick Hamilton's Standard Station in Chariton, IA where he began with pushing a broom and working his way up to auto mechanic. Over the years he had worked as a baker, bartender and truck driver. Most recently he had been employed at Barker's Cabinets in Keosauqua, IA as a computer aided draftsman.

He was a member of The Antique Outboard Association and the Antique and Classic Boat Society.

Roger loved vintage and antique boats and had an extensive collection of vintage and antique outboard motors. He enjoyed motorcycles and cars and listening to music, especially country. He also enjoyed traveling and had traveled many miles throughout the United States in his camper van. As a child, he traveled from Guam to the United States on a ship and received a certificate for crossing the equator. Growing up in a military family, Roger had to learn to make friends easily due to his father's transfers and as an adult he never knew a stranger. Roger had a great sense of humor and was quite the prankster.

He is survived by his significant other of twelve years, Marla Shafer of Montrose, one brother, Brian Martin of Montrose, one sister, Kelly Jo Martin of Des Moines, IA, several nieces and nephews, one uncle, Jimmie Ray "Chicken Hawk" Hawk, several cousins and a host of friends. He is also survived by his faithful companion, Ruby Jean - The Boston Terrier.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Kim Ilene Martin.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m., Saturday (Sept 18) at the Vigen Memorial Home in Montrose with Pastor Dave Barrett officiating.

Visitation will be held prior to the service on Saturday, from 1 - 3 p.m. at the funeral home with the family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to Montrose Riverfront, Inc.

On-line condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

Gov. Reynolds vows to fight federal restraining order

ORDER - Continued from Page 1

remedy, however, if the drastic increases in the number of pediatric COVID-19 cases since the start of the school year in Iowa is any indication of what is to come, such an extreme remedy is necessary to ensure that the children involved in this case are not irreparably harmed," wrote Pratt in the court's conclusion.

The order prohibits Governor Kim Reynolds and Iowa Department of Education Director Ann Lebo from enforcing the new law that bans local public school districts from utilizing their discretion to mandate masks for students, staff, teachers, and visitors.

Pratt also said in the ruling that there is little harm to the state in enjoining section 280.13 and permitting the individual public school districts to use their discretion in invoking universal mask mandates.

"It is no great burden for individual school boards to make these types of decisions for the children within their districts," he wrote.

Pratt said the TRO is in order to preserve the status quo until the merits of the case are determined through a preliminary

injunction.

Reynolds vowed to fight the ruling saying the state will utilize all legal remedies to overturn the ruling.

Reynolds signed House File 847 into law in May and is a part of Iowa Code 280.13.

"Today, a federal judge unilaterally overturned a state law, ignored the decision by our elected legislature and took away parents' ability to decide what's best for their child," she said in a statement. "We will appeal and exercise every legal option we have to uphold state law and defend the rights and liberties afforded to any American citizen protected by our constitution."

Fort Madison Community School District Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater wrote in an email that the district will continue with current Return to Learn Protocols.

"Our current Return to Learn protocols will remain in place. Masks will continue to be optional at this time," Slater wrote.

Central Lee Community School District Superintendent Dr. Andy Crozier, who's been vocal about the state handcuffing the district's ability to make decision for themselves, wrote Monday that he was just hearing about the ruling.

"This is the first I have heard of this. If true, we will likely

receive guidance from the Department of Education, (Iowa Association of School Boards) and then use it to directly make decisions locally at Central Lee," Crozier said.

Several additional Iowa and federal judges are currently considering similar court action, as are judges in other states. An appeals court judge in Florida has upheld an executive order from Governor Ron DeSantis banning mask mandates after a lower court had blocked the order.

According to the state's coronavirus.iowa.gov tracking site 38% of all new positive cases in the past seven days through Monday, Sept. 12 are children ages 0 to 17. The next highest age grouping is 30-39 year olds at 20%

According to the Centers for Disease Control's tracking site at the following link: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view> Iowa|19111|Risk|community_transmission_level, Lee County had 708 PCR COVID tests done for the past seven days through Friday Sept. 10. Of those 708, 21.6% came back positive.

The Iowa reporting site, which includes antigen testing in it's total positivity rate for 7- and 14-day ranges, shows Lee County at 11.7% with its last county update on Tuesday, Sept. 7.

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ANNIVERSARY

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Opinion

The American spirit isn't what it used to be

When the anniversary of some tragedy rolls around, we are reminded of what was lost in those events.

We reflect on the lives that were taken and the upheaval those deaths brought to their loved ones, their friends and their communities. What might have been — that's often a topic during those reflections.

We saw this over the past weekend when the nation observed the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

But when you stop to think about the events of that horrible, horrible day. When you pause to really contemplate the tremendous loss of life in the span of a couple of hours. When you reflect on what occurred in the years since then, you realize that our nation has, regrettably, lost much more than just 2,977 lives.

The best way to understand the magnitude of those losses since 9/11 is to look at the contrasts between then and now.

On 9/11, in New York City and Washington, D.C., and in places like Choteau, Mont., and Omaha, Neb., the prevailing attitude was "How can I help?" People put aside what might have been in their own personal interests.

You didn't see tens of thousands of people making demands. You didn't have people threatening legal action if they were not allowed back into their offices or apartment buildings or airliners. You didn't have members of Congress and governors question our president's patriotism.

Instead, there was a sense of "we are all in this together," that we need to care for and care about one another. Countless times, people went to extraordinary lengths to provide kindness within the chaos, to put the greater good above self-interests.

Brian Clark and Stanley Praitnath are two such people. Clark and Praitnath worked on the 83rd and 81st floors in the south tower of the World Trade Center. They first met a few minutes after a United Airlines jet plowed through their floors at nearly 600 mph, creating a massive fireball of jet fuel.

Somehow, the two survived the impact, although Praitnath was trapped under his desk. Clark, through a lucky guess, found the only stairway that was not cut off by the crash.

He descended two floors, then heard Praitnath's cries for help through the stairway's walls. Disregarding his own safety, Clark left the stairway to investigate. He located the voice and freed the injured stranger.

Together, they made their way to the ground 80 stories below, through smoke and heat and debris. They reached safety just four minutes before their tower collapsed.

"We'll be brothers for life," Praitnath told reporters. "I wouldn't be here if he hadn't stretched out his hand that day" — if Clark had not put the well-being of someone he did not know on equal footing with his own safety.

As Brian Clark and Stanley Praitnath were hurrying out of the World Trade Center, the federal government closed the skies over the United States and ordered all planes to land at the nearest airport. For Emilio Martinez, who was heading home to Denver from a business trip to Ohio, that put him in Omaha.

Martinez wanted to be with his family, but instead of simply renting a car, he rented the largest van available at Eppley Airfield. Then, holding a handwritten "Going to Denver" sign on a piece of cardboard, he found seven strangers, all as scared as he was, who wanted to get home to their families, too.

They all piled into the van, and Martinez drove them 500 miles to Denver, dropping each one at their homes. The grateful travelers offered to pay Martinez for the cost of the van or the gasoline. But he said no. Helping them reunite with their loved ones was more important than money, he said.

Some things are just more important. Consider:

There's a little farming town in northwest Montana called Choteau. On 9/11, several years of drought had left the area's farmers and ranchers reeling financially. But a week after 9/11, the 1,700 people of Choteau held a rally to raise money to help the people of the largest city in the America.

Do you see a common thread here — that of people thinking about the greater good and the needs of others? Do you see the unity of purpose that was evident 20 years ago that is absent these days?

In all, 2,977 people died in the terrorist attacks on 9/11 or from injuries they suffered then. To date, 659,800 people have died from Covid in the United States. That figure is 200 times larger than 9/11's death toll, and we are recording deaths at a pace equivalent to one 9/11 every two days.

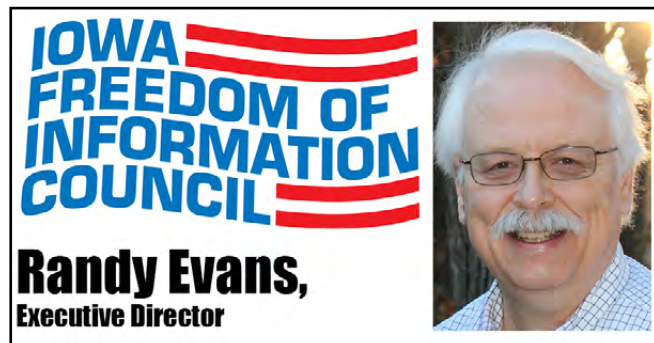
In the aftermath of 9/11, Americans saw more intensive security measures at government buildings and in offices throughout the nation. Flying now requires screenings of our luggage and ourselves. We have to remove our shoes and cannot take beverages through security checkpoints. We are limited to small amounts of toothpaste, shampoo and other personal care products when we travel.

We tolerate these restrictions on our freedoms because we know they are helping to prevent another 9/11. But wearing a cloth mask and getting a vaccination is too great a sacrifice to make for the well-being of our family, our friends and strangers.

If we want to see true unity, we have to go back 20 years to find it.

How sad.

Randy Evans is the director of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council and can be reached at DMRevans2810@gmail.com. Pen City Current is a member of the IFOIC.



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Sports

No. 1 Nikes take out No. 4 HTC in early Class A clash

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The calendar said September, but it felt like an October post-season match.

And that was the message Holy Trinity coach Melissa Freesmeier gave to her team after Tuesday's loss to No. 1 (Class 1A) Notre Dame.

It's still early.

"Exactly, exactly," Freesmeier said after the No. 4 Crusaders fell, 25-19, 25-19, 25-23. "We're only going to get better. So this was a great game for us."

The Nikes, last season's state champions, ended Holy Trinity's 10-year run to the state tournament with a win in the regional semifinals, and it was something the Crusaders hadn't forgotten.

But Notre Dame (19-6) controlled the first two games, then rallied late in Game 3 when the Crusaders (5-3) had a chance to stay alive.

"We kind of let up a little, didn't stay aggressive at it," Freesmeier said of the third game, when Holy Trinity led 23-19 before the Nikes scored the final six points. "But you know, we knew tonight was going to be tough. And win or lose, we were going to take something from this. And I think we did."

The Crusaders had 10 days off after a sweep over Danville.

"It's just the way it is, it's what we do this time of the year," Freesmeier said of the layoff that included time off for the usual break for the Tri-State Rodeo. "We have to be prepared. Every night in the (SEI Superconference) South (Division) is tough."

Holy Trinity seemed to be in control in the third game behind Kassi and Natalie Randolph, who combined for eight kills.

"They were hitting around the blocks, using the blocks, doing great, great things," Freesmeier said. "I thought they had a great third game."

But the Nikes grabbed the game at the end behind two kills from Joslyn Bentz and a block by Abby Korschgen of a Kayla Box kill attempt on game point.

"Our kids had guts tonight," Freesmeier said. "I'm proud of these kids for the way they kept fighting. They didn't give up. It's a good lesson for us, and I can't wait to get back to practice tomorrow."

Natalie Randolph led the Crusaders with 15 kills while adding six digs and a 12-for-12 serving night with four aces. Kassi Randolph had 11 kills and 12 digs, and was 9-of-10 serving. Mary Kate Bendlage and Brooke Mueller each had three kills. Anna Sobczak had 17 digs, while Teagan Snaadt had six digs. Box and Kassi Randolph each had two blocks. Mueller was 14-of-14 serving with an ace. Laura Mehmert was 7-of-7 serving.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Holy Trinity Catholic's Kassi Randolph (2) and Kayla Box (3) try to put up a block on Notre Dame's Josie Bentz in the first game of the Nikes' 3-set sweep of the Crusaders in Fort Madison..



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Burlington Notre Dame's Gabby Deery (11) drives a kill down the line past the Holy Trinity Catholic block of Natalie Randolph (11) and Reagan Holvoet (14).



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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDINGS FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL 9/7/2021

The Fort Madison City Council met in regular session at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, 9/7/2021, at City Hall, 811 Avenue E. Mayor Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Rink, Bowker, Lair, Schulz, Amandus and Cangas present. Council Member Andrews was absent.

On motion, Council approved the agenda. On motion, Council

approved the Consent Agenda: Minutes of 8/17 and 8/24/2021; Claims and Manual Claims dated 9/1/2021, Library Claims dated 8/18/2021; Payroll of 8/27/2021; New 5-Day Liquor License: Fort Madison Mexican Fiesta, 3417 Ave. Q, effective 9/15/2021; and Liquor License Renewal: Tena's, 4602 Ave. O, effective 9/8/2021.

Mohrfeld opened the public hearing concerning rezoning 1501 – 39th Street from R-4, Single Family Residential, to B-4, Highway Business

District at 5:43 P.M. With no oral or written comments, on motion, Council approved the first reading of an ordinance rezoning 1501 – 39th Street from R-4, Single Family Residential, to B-4, Highway Business District. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2021-50, authorizing the Mayor's signature on a modified 28E Agreement between the City of Fort Madison and Fort Madison Community School District for a School Resource Officer and to approve the hiring of a School Re-

source Officer. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2021-51, approving the Mayor's signature on Contract Amendment #1 with Delong Construction, Inc., for the addition of Base Bid A1 and A2 in the amount of \$628,862.50. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2021-52, approving the 2020-21 Fiscal Year Street Finance Report.

On motion, Council approved the Mayor's signature on Change Order #7 for PIP2020-03, Great River Health

Systems-Fort Madison Community Hospital Foundation: FMHS to Rodeo Park Trail. On motion, Council approved the Mayor's signature on a contract with Cessford Construction for the 2021 Rip Rap and Rock Procurement. On motion, Council approved the Mayor's signature on an Amendment to a Professional Services Agreement with Klingner & Associates for PIP2021-01, Riverview Marina Dredging. On motion, Council approved the Mayor's signature on an Amend-

ment to a Professional Services Agreement with HR Green for PIP2020-05, Reconstruction of Old Hwy. 61 from 6th to 10th Street.

At 6:10 P.M., the meeting adjourned until September 21, 2021, at 5:30 P.M.

/s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor

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

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

EXPENDITURES	
General	\$169,748.66
Special Revenue	104,675.24
Road Use	63,827.29
Capital	664,546.59
Water	106,861.22
Sewer	30,603.41
Solid Waste/IWC	3,918.57
Storm Water Util.	467.98
	<u>\$1,144,648.96</u>

PAYROLL 8/27/2021	
General	\$189,579.67
Marina	316.49
Employee Bnfits	6,964.43
Old Fort	5,423.02
Road Use	28,878.88
Tourism	1,264.38
Water	30,484.12
Sewer	33,616.36
Solid Waste	14,284.96
Airport	312.77
Storm Water	3,808.10
	<u>\$314,933.18</u>

CLAIMS - 9/7/2021

ACCESS SYSTEMS LEASING, PRINTER LEASE	900.85
ALLIANT ENERGY, ELECTRIC	30,381.52
ALTORFER INC., JOY-STICK	1,216.18
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, TRAINING MATERIAL/SUPPLIES	1,412.99
AMSOIL, INC, DIESEL OIL/FILTERS	743.18
ANSER IOWA, ANSWERING SERVICE	207.00
ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES, UNIFORM	1,361.55
ATLAS BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, LICENSE	561.60
AUTOZONE, GREASE	14.46
BAIER FORD, OIL/ELEMENT	626.09
BALES, KELSEY, PAYROLL TRAINING	325.00
BARCO MUNICIPAL PROD INC., SIGNS	230.95
BATES SANITATION & ASPHALT, PORT-A-POTTIE RENTAL	150.00
BJ 'S PERFORMANCE, TOW UNIT #2	55.00
BLACKHAWK AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER, ANNUAL FIRE INSPECTION	212.50
BOHNENKAMP, ERIC, CLOTHING/BOOT ALLOWANCE	389.41
BROWN SUPPLY CO. INC., VALVE BOX/COUPPLINGS/GATE VALVE	3,648.60
BUILDING MATERIALS INC, SIDING/CASINGS/BOARD	204.83
BURLINGTON MUNI WATER, BACTERIA SAMPLE	204.00
CALHOUN-BURNS AND ASSOCIATION, PROF FEE	59,846.25
CARL'S LOCKS & KEYS, REPAIR MARINA LOCK	224.25
CENTRE STATE INTL TRUCKS, GLASS ASSEMBLY	69.53
CESSFORD CONSTRUCTION CO., COLD MIX	1,392.00
COMPANY NURSE LLC, ON JOB INJURY	344.00
CONN COMM INC., CHARGING CABLE	17.95
CORE & MAIN LP, PARTS	628.45

REVENUES 8/31/2021	
General	21,269.17
Special Rev.	314,966.19
Road Use	102,749.19
Debt	820.00
Capital	415,047.55
Water	304,631.44
Sewer	323,152.77
Solid Waste/IWC	67,078.30
SW Utility	17,624.01
	<u>\$1,567,338.62</u>

CRAZY CROW TRADING POST, MERCHANDISE RESALE	166.64
CURE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC, OCTOBER AGREEMENT	4,641.25
DANA ZUMDOME, CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	26.75
DARYL'S DETAILING, AUTO DETAILING	369.99
DAVE VRADENBURG, CLEAN/SCRAPE/PAINT @ DEPOT	4,175.00
DAVIS RADIOLOGY PC, ON JOB INJURY	16.70
DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY, SHEET PROTECTORS/BINDERS	182.92
DOUDS STONE, LLC, CLEAN STONE/ROADSTONE	6,818.01
DOVER PUBLICATIONS INC., MERCHANDISE RESALE	11.94
DRAIN DOCTOR LLC, CLEARED BLOCKAGE	251.45
EBERT SUPPLY, TOWELS	138.10
ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING, BATTERY PACK	68.68
GARNER OIL INC., FUEL	67.47
GRAY QUARRIES, INC, STABILIZED BASE	904.05
GREENWOOD CLEANING SYSTEM, JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	317.19
HILL PRINTING, PARKING TICKETS	1,354.50
HOWARD R GREEN COMPANY, PROF FEE - PARKING LOTS	4,377.50
HUFFMAN WELDING & MACHINE, LINKDAGE ROD	863.07
HUMBURD'S AUTO SERVICE, REPAIR TIRE	285.63
IDEAL READY MIX COMPANY, INC, FILL SAND	8,286.52
INSURANCE STRATEGIES CONSULTANTS, 509A STUDY	500.00
IOWA BRIDGE & CULVERT, AMTRACK PLATFORM	595,136.00
IOWA MUNICIPAL WORKERS, WORKMAN'S COMP #3	7,159.00
IOWA ONE CALL, LOCATES	115.30
JL TIME & ATTENDANCE COMPANY, TIMECLOCK SUBSCRIPTION	131.10

JONES CONTRACTING CORP, DEPOT SIDE-WALK	23,383.45
KLINGNER & ASSOCIATES, P.C, PROF FEE - MARINA IMPROV	3,522.96
KURON PUBLISHING, BOOKS TO RESELL	112.72
LEE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INVESTED CAMPAIGN	30,000.00
LEE COUNTY RECORDER, SALE OF PROPERTY	146.00
LYNCH DALLAS P.C., PROF FEE - GENERAL MATTER	3,893.00
MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT, INC, 110V CHARGER	376.04
MADISON TURF & TIMBER, 4 STROKE FUEL	97.32
MENKE PROFESSIONAL AUTO PARTS, BATTERY	197.28
MES-MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY SERVICE, FOAM CONCENTRATE	616.00
MID AMERICAN ENERGY CO., HEAT	652.35
MID-IOWA SOLID WASTE EQUIPMENT, ROTARY SWIVEL	391.66
MIDLAND SCIENTIFIC INC., TESTING SUPPLIES	146.43
MIGUEL LANDEROS, NUISANCE ABATEMENT	2,547.45
MOBOTREX, MODULE	4,632.00
MOHRFELD ELECTRIC, REPLACE METER @ DEPOT	412.01
MPH INDUSTRIES INC, REMOTE/SERVICE CALL	99.30
MUNICIPAL SUPPLY COMPANY, TOUCH SMART POINTS	39,603.00
NORRIS ASPHALT, PAVING SURFACE	2,044.29
O'REILLY AUTO PARTS, PARTS	654.76
PANTHER UNIFORMS INC, TOURN CASES	241.85
PARKVIEW VETERINARY CLINIC, RENTAL FEE/EXTRA BOARD FEE	1,380.00
POSTMASTER, FORT MADISON, WATER BILLS/PAST DUES	1,407.86
PROCESS SOLUTIONS, CHEMICAL	6,878.07
QUARRY CREEK ELK AND BISON, CLOTHING/BOOT	478.33
QUILL CORPORATION, HAND SANITIZER	87.28
RAINBO OIL COMPANY, GREASE	1,084.51
RATHBUN REG'L WATER ASSOC, WATER	28.09
RIVER CITY MOTORS PLUS, COOLANT/WATER PUMP	372.74
SEITHER & CHERRY CO., CURB/GUTTER REPLACEMENT	18,522.00

SERVICE MASTER, JANITORIAL SERVICE	1,311.50
SOLAR TRAFFIC SYSTEMS, BATTERY	88.00
STANARD & ASSOCIATES INC, TESTING MATERIAL	97.50
STATE HYGIENIC LABORATORY, WATER TESTING	643.50
STERLING BARNES, SAFETY BOOTS	208.64
TESTAMERICA INC., WEEKLY SLUDGE TESTING	302.40
THACHER TREE CARE, TREE REMOVAL-IVANHOE/CEMETERY	850.00
THE BLUE LINE, CAPTAIN LISTING	199.00
THE SHREDDER, ON-SITE SHREDDING	60.00
TIM'S REPAIR SHOP, VENT & REPAIR MACHINE	124.90
TOM & KATHY SKEWES, ADOPT-A-GARDEN	

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Church Choir Accompanist Wanted

This person will accompany the choir for the 9:00am traditional worship service. A strong candidate will have experience in accompanying and have knowledge of a wide variety of musical styles. Piano/keyboard proficiency required. Candidate must have good organizational skills and have music prepared for practice held each Wednesday evening (September-May). Candidate will collaborate with both the Choir director and support First Christian Church's music ministry.

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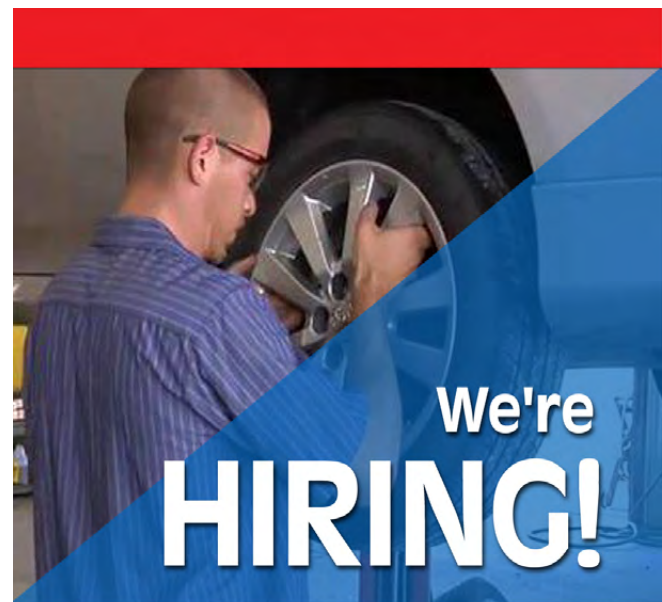
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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

SUPPLIES 277.82
 TRANSYSTEMS, FINAL
 PYMT-BRIDGE SURVEY
 65,611.43
 TRUCK REPAIR INC.,
 COOLANT 33.04
 TYLER TECHNOLO-
 GIES, MONTHLY MAIN-
 TENANCE 252.50
 U.S. CELLULAR,
 PHONES 1,506.22
 UPS, SHIPPING 12.62
 USA BLUE BOOK, EAR
 PLUGS/WIPES/TOILET
 PAPER..... 333.94
 VEENSTRA & KIMM,
 INC, PROF FEE - 10TH
 ST COMBINE SWR
 2,282.08
 WALMAN OPTICAL,
 SAFETY GLASSES - K
 BRISBY 102.00
 WATER SOLUTIONS UN-
 LIMITED, CHEMICALS
 9,302.86
 WESTRUM LEAK DE-
 TECTION INC, LEAK
 DETECTION SURVEY
 3,700.00
 YMCA, FORT MADISON
 2/3 - 2021 POOL SEA-
 SON..... 10,000.00
 TOTAL 983,041.60
 GENERAL 147,561.65
 SPECIAL REVENUES

..... 8,056.64
 ROAD USE 44,171.87
 CAPITAL PROJECTS
 664,521.12
 WATER 102,431.56
 WASTEWATER
 12,808.12
 SOLID WASTE .. 2,861.00
 AIRPORT..... 161.66
 STORM WATER... 467.98
 TOTAL 983,041.60

**MANUALS
 AUGUST 2021**

ALLIANT ENERGY,
 ELECTRIC..... 38,432.73
 CENTURY LINK,
 PHONE/INTERNET
 183.78
 GREG HOWARD, NUI-
 SANCE ABATEMENT
 650.00
 HY-VEE ACCOUNTS RE-
 CEIVABLE, MEDICINE/
 TOILETRIES/WATER
 120.93
 JON BLACKERT, BLACK
 POWDER 694.00
 PERMAR SECURITY
 SERVICES, SECURITY
 @ OLD FORT..... 45.60
 RATHBUN REG'L WA-
 TER ASSOC, WATER @
 AIRPORT..... 21.73

VERIZON WIRELESS,
 HOTSPOTS 640.16
 WELLMARK BC/BS,
 SEPT 2021 - PREMIUM
 92,391.56
 WEX BANK, FUEL
 USAGE 15,349.97
 TOTAL 148,530.46
 GENERAL 12,346.42
 SPECIAL REVENUES
 93,131.16
 ROAD USE 19,655.42
 CAPITAL 25.47
 WATER 4,429.66
 WASTEWATER
 17,795.29
 SOLID WASTE .. 1,057.57
 AIRPORT..... 89.47
 TOTAL 148,530.46

**LIBRARY CLAIMS
 AUGUST 2021**

3RD GENERATION
 ELECTRIC REPAIR,
 HVAC PROBLEM
 480.36
 AMAZON.COM, LI-
 BRARY MATERIALS &
 OFFICE SUP 276.14
 BAKER & TAYLOR, RE-
 TURN ITEMS..... 1,964.02
 BIBLIONIX AUTOMA-
 TION, ANNUAL SUB-
 SCRIPTON 2,600.00

BLACKSTONE PUBLISH-
 ING, LIBRARY MATERI-
 AL 361.45
 BOOK FARM, INC, LI-
 BRARY MATERIALS
 1,324.39
 CENGAGE LEARNING
 LIBRARY, MATERIALS
 98.76
 DAILY DEMOCRAT, AN-
 NUAL SUBSCRIPTION
 125.00
 DEMCO, BOOK COV-
 ERS 325.12
 DES MOINES REGIS-
 TER, SUBSCRIPTION
 794.28
 FP MAILING SOLU-
 TIONS, POSTAGE ME-
 TER ANNUAL RENTAL
 684.00
 FRANK MILLARD & CO.
 INC, REPLACE BAT-
 TERY IN FAUCET
 800.02
 IOWA STATE UNIVERSI-
 TY, INSECT ZOO PRO-
 GRAM..... 258.71
 J&S ELECTRONIC BUSI-
 NESS, ACRONIS BACK-
 UP BRONZE TIER
 128.44
 KANOPY, INC., LIBRARY
 MATERIALS 14.00
 KEMPKERS TRUE VAL-
 UE, JANITORIAL SUP-
 PLIES 84.47
 MEDIACOM, PHONE &
 INTERNET..... 364.00
 MID AMERICAN ENER-
 GY CO., HEATING
 12.31
 MOBILE BEACON, AN-
 NUAL SUBSCRIPTION
 120.00
 OUR IOWA MAGAZINE,
 ANNUAL SUBSCRIP-
 TION 19.98
 PENGUIN RANDOM
 HOUSE, LIBRARY MA-
 TERIALS..... 352.50
 QUILL CORPORATION,
 OFFICE SUPPLIES &
 JANITORIAL S..... 315.39
 SERVICE MASTER, JAN-
 ITORIAL SERVICES
 905.10
 SHOWCASES, DVD
 SLEEVES 668.46

TOTAL 13,076.90
 GENERAL 9,840.59
 SPECIAL REVENUES
 3,236.31
 TOTAL 13,076.90

**PUBLIC NOTICE
 AGENDA
 FORT MADISON
 PUBLIC LIBRARY
 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
 Date: Thursday,
 September 16, 2021
 Time: 5:30 P.M.
 Place: Sheaffer Meeting
 Room and Online**

Electronic Meeting
 (Pursuant to Iowa Code
 Section 21.8)
 An electronic meeting
 is being held because
 a meeting in person is
 impossible or impractical
 for the health and safety
 of Library Board mem-
 bers, library employees
 and the public presented
 by COVID-19. You can
 participate in the meeting
 via telephone and can
 comment on an agenda
 item by joining the Zoom
 meeting. Using your
 telephone, dial (312) 626
 6799 and enter the meet-
 ing ID (899 5134 2807)
 when prompted. If you
 have trouble connecting
 to the meeting, please
 call (319) 372-5721.
 I. Excused absences
 II. Approval of Agenda
 III. Public Comments IV.
 Approval of minutes
 V. Approval of the Bills
 a. Approval of Septem-
 ber 2021 Bills
 VI. Correspondence
 VII. Director's Report
 a. Financial
 b. Personnel
 c. Programming
 d. Collection Develop-
 ment
 e. Operations
 f. Facilities - landscap-
 ing

g. Professional
 h. Aarin Guzman Up-
 date
 VIII. Unfinished Busi-
 ness
 IX. New Business
 a. Review Computer
 and Internet Policy
 b. Review Laptop Policy
 X. Trustee Education
 a. Trustee Handbook
 Chapter 6 "Developing
 and Adopting Policies"
 b. Trustee Handbook
 Chapter 7 "Planning for
 the Library's Future"
 XI. Upcoming Events
 and Information
 a. Library Board Advi-
 sory Meeting, Tuesday,
 September 28 at Donnell-
 son Public Library

**PUBLIC NOTICE
 PROCEEDINGS
 FORT MADISON
 CITY COUNCIL
 9/9/2021**

The Fort Madison City
 Council met in special
 session at 2:30 P.M. on
 Thursday, 9/9/2021, at
 City Hall, 811 Avenue E.
 Mayor Mohrfeld presided
 with Council Members
 Cangas, Lair, Amandus
 and Rink present. Council
 Member Andrews, Bowk-
 er and Schulz absent.
 On motion, Council
 approved the agenda.
 On motion, Council
 approved a Temporary
 Outdoor Service Area for
 Buffalo61 Bar & Grille,
 6111 Reve Court – effec-
 tive September 18, 2021.
 At 2:34 P.M., the
 meeting adjourned until
 September 21, 2021, at
 5:30 P.M.
 /s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld,
 Mayor
 ATTEST: /s/ Melinda L.
 Blind, City Clerk

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Administrative Assistant/Biller

Lee County Health Department is seeking a full-
 time experienced Administrative Assistant/Biller.
 High School graduate or equivalent. Three to five
 years in Administrative Assistant experience.
 One year experience in medical office preferred.
 Highly sufficient in all Microsoft Office
 applications, especially Excel. Clinical billing
 experience preferred. Please send or email
 resume to Tammy Wilson, Finance/Operations
 Director at LCHD, PO Box 1426, Fort Madison, IA
 52627 or to twilson@leecountyhd.org by
 September 27, 2021. LCHD is an EOE.

Sports

Lady Hounds get first SEC win under Knustrom

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

BURLINGTON – First-year Head Coach Kelly Knustrom didn't mince words after her Lady Bloodhounds got their first Southeast Conference win of the year over Burlington Tuesday night.

"It feels pretty good to be honest," Knustrom said. "The girls are pretty pumped, I'm pumped. And this was a total team effort."

The Hounds rolled the 2-12 Grayhounds, but needed a fifth-set tiebreaker to get it done winning 25-18, 13-25, 25-18, 12-25, 15-9 to get to 1-2 in Southeast loop play and 2-11 overall.

"I told them in the locker room that we'll have ups and downs, and tonight we had more ups than downs and that's the trend we're looking at here," Knustrom said.

After the Hounds rolled to the first set win, a "down" settled in as Burlington jumped out to a quick 12-6 lead. Fort Madison battled back to cut the lead to just one on a kill from Alaina Simpson at 14-13, who finished the night going 18-22 hitting with 11 kills, showing some steady hang time from the corner.

Burlington freshman Annalise Buxton then scored on 11 straight service points without a side out to put the match away. Seven of those points came on Fort Madison errors. It wasn't until the Grayhounds got a kill from Morgan Schroeder at 23-13 that BHS scored on offense.

Schroeder would get another kill and then Ayla Cannon put down a kill to end the second set.

Fort Madison would run away with the third set go-



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison's Aija Jenkins (26) and Alaina Simpson (6) put up a block on Burlington's Annalise Buxton in the fourth set of the Lady Hounds' five-set win Tuesday night.

ing up by as much as 10 at 18-8. Burlington would cut the lead to two at 20-18 when the Bloodhounds' Molly Knipe dropped one over the net but out of bounds. Fort Madison would get a side out on a wild, lengthy rally that ended when Cannon's attack went wide left. Eve Ruble would serve the next four for the win.

Burlington would breeze to the tie breaker with a fourth set win doubling up the Hounds, but Fort Madison jumped out in the first-to-15 tiebreaker. At 3-1, Simpson would serve four straight and get a kill from Ruble to spot the Hounds a 7-1 lead before the Grayhounds got a side out.

Fort Madison would push the lead to 10-4 before Burlington would get back in it with four straight capped by an Adalyn Galbraith kill down the middle of the Hound defense. Simpson would get a kill on an attack and score again on the next point with a drop shot to give Fort Madison a 13-8 lead. Burlington would get a side out on a defensive error before the Hounds wrapped things up.

Knustrom said the girls have set a bar for themselves after a rough weekend in Cedar Rapids at the Linn-Mar tournament that featured some of the best teams in the state.

"It was rough, but they decided then as a team to set the bar. And for every team after now this is it," Knustrom said. "They're committed to being that team that other teams will look back on and say they started it."

Ruble was 13-22 hitting on the night with six kills and Anna Lynk was 14 of 14 hitting with nine kills. Molly Knipe was 13 of 15 serving with four aces. She also had 14 assists and 14 digs on the night. Simpson

had 18 digs and three blocks.

"I thought Molly played excellent defense. And Alaina's defense was great, she didn't let a lot drop and Anna Lynk took some nice shots, but it really was a team effort and we need everyone firing if we're going to be successful."



The Lady Hounds react after getting the final point in the fifth-set tie breaker to win 3-2 over Burlington Tuesday night.

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From the Front

Group wants to build six outdoor pickleball courts at Victory

COURTS - Continued from Page 1

the public.

The tennis courts in Victory Park were refurbished in the 2015, but the work didn't last very long and the court itself, which was an overlay, began to ripple quickly and the courts became unusable.

Original plans included utilizing more of the park space just west of the courts to expand and add a couple pickleball courts, but Amandus said the committee is looking at just replacing the entire facility with pickleball.

"With that plan we could've only done two pickleball courts. So we're gonna put our heart and soul into making all six."

The group overseeing the effort is the Fort Madison Pickleball Association. They won't apply for non-profit status, but instead are going to be working with the Fort Madison Beautification Foundation, which is a 501c3 non-profit to channel donations and grants.

She said Keokuk and Mt. Pleasant both have secured \$25,000 grants from the Iowa Economic Development Authority to build those pickleball facilities and this group will be pursuing that option as well.

Other members of the committee include Bev Brockman, Lynn Hoyer, Sandy Miller, Phyllis Porter, Sharon Bartlett and Rita Holtkamp.

Amandus said the committee is currently taking donations to help with the transition and checks can be sent to the Fort Madison Beautification Foundation with "PickleBall" written in the memo line. Checks can be sent to Pickleball Association Treasurer Lynn Hoyer at 10 High Point in Fort Madison.

Anyone wanting more information or to help with the efforts is encouraged to contact Brockman at 372-7502 or Amandus at 470-4881.

Empower Iowa grant to help build out county broadband

INTERNET - Continued from Page 1

million. The two grants together will cover the cost of the infrastructure upgrade.

The award was one of just 39 that were part of \$97.5 million in state grants announced on Tuesday.

However, according to the state's Office of the Chief Information Officer, which handled the 178 grant applications, close to \$300 million in assistance was requested through the grant program. Due to overwhelming response to the program another opportunity, using APRA federal funds is being planned for the near future.

"Expanding broadband across our state continues to be a top priority," said Gov. Reynolds. "It is clear by the sheer volume and scope of applications that the need is there. Today's award announcement will go a long way toward meeting that need, and we won't stop here."

Due to the overwhelming amount of interest and success of this program, the State of Iowa will expedite a new grant opportunity utilizing ARPA federal funds to build upon the \$100 million in state funding for this grant program. Details on this new grant opportunity will be released in the near future.

Mike Norris, executive director of Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission, serves as administrator for the Southeast Iowa Economic and Regional Port Authority. The port authority applied for the county assistance to help secure the state grant.

Norris told supervisors last week that construction could begin on the new line within 12 to 18 months with service being available within two years.

Danville Telecom also received a \$1.67 million grant for a similar project in the New London/Lowell area with funding assistance from Des Moines and Henry County. The \$1.67 million is 50% of the cost of the project.

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