

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Monday, October 19, 2020 | 9 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 189



www.pencitycurrent.com

BLOODHOUNDS WIN: Snaps more than three decades without a playoff win

FM gets 1st playoff win in 32 years



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Fort Madison quarterback Landes Williams gets some room up the middle after Mateo Lozano (57) and the Hounds' offensive line pry away the defense in the third quarter of Friday night's 45-7 playoff win. For a complete recap, see page 4.



Randy Miller's touch felt in many bylines

The office looked like any editor's office.

Press releases and various correspondence piled on the desk.

A month's worth of newspapers — heck, maybe even two or three months — stacked in various corners.

An ashtray — this was the 1980s, you have to understand.

Every weekday in the summer of 1987, I'd have to make a few treks per day into the office of Randy Miller when he was the editor at the Daily Democrat.

I was a summer intern between my junior and senior years at the University of Iowa, and I was one of the news reporters in the newsroom where I had been working as a part-time sports writer for a few years.

I learned a lot in those years at the Democrat, doing everything from writing stories to taking photos to the old cut-and-paste ways of putting together pages.

Randy was one of my teachers.

Every day, I'd have to go into the office because he had questions on my stories.

Which is what a good editor does — be a pain in the butt about details. His name wasn't on the story, but he knew your name would, and he wanted to make it better.

So he had questions, and I always had to be ready with the answers.

Instead of saying it this way, Randy would recommend that way. Punch up that lead paragraph, he would say.

No story is ever flawless, but he worked to make it, and the writer, better.

I learned a lot that summer about dealing with people, dealing with sources, dealing with editors. That summer

See **VACANCIES**, page 8

See **MILLER**, page 3

SPECIAL ELECTION: Tuesday's agenda includes possible vote to hold election

Council may change direction on filling vacancies

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR



MOHRFELD

Iowa Code 327.13 which indicates the petition must be submitted within 14 days after publication of the city's intent to appoint someone to fill the vacancy.

Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise said Hamelton would need at least 46 signatures from eligible voters in the 2nd Ward. She also said she sent an email to Blind earlier this

week indicating that Dec. 15 would be the soonest an election could take place.

The state has a four-week blackout in place for any special elections before and after general elections.

Hamelton said Friday that Mohrfeld called him this week to confirm that it was his intention to run for office.

"I explained to him that it was very clear that I was going to run," Hamelton said.

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison city officials will discuss the possibility of putting two vacant council seats up for election later this year.

At Tuesday's City Council meeting, council members will vote on a resolution to fill the vacancies by special election. Two weeks ago Mayor Matt Mohrfeld said it was his intention to fill the vacancy by appointment on Nov. 17.

Jerry Hamelton, one of the candidates for the 2nd Ward spot vacated by the death of Bob Morawitz, said he intended to file a petition to force a special election.

According to a resolution in Tuesday's council packet, a petition was presented to City Clerk Melinda Blind, demanding a special election.

However, that petition doesn't have the required amount of signatures and has been submitted prematurely according to

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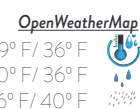
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WEATHER

MON 19 Oct.....Cold with Light Rain, 39° F/ 36° F
TUE 20 Oct.....Rain, 50° F/ 36° F
WED 21 Oct.....Showers, 56° F/ 40° F



IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 10/1711 12 19 35 43, Star Ball: 2, All Star Bonus: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE 10/154 14 27 44 47, Lucky Ball: 11
MEGA MILLIONS 10/1627 32 50 52 57, Mega Ball: 12 Megaplier: 5
PICK 3 10/15, 10/16, 10/17 MIDDAY6 0 4, 19 9, 9 0 1
PICK 3 10/15, 10/16, 10/17 EVENING8 8 8, 4 0 2, 9 3 6
PICK 4 10/15, 10/16, 10/17 MIDDAY8 0 6 9, 4 0 3 0, 7 0 2 8
PICK 4 10/15, 10/16, 10/17 EVENING.....4 7 2 4, 6 0 5 3, 5 2 8 2
POWERBALL 10/176 10 31 37 44, Powerball: 23, Power Play: 2

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

WADE P. JONES

Wade P. Jones, 50, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 1:47 AM at his home.

He was born on March 9, 1970 in Arlington, Texas to Glenn and Merilin Paulus Jones. On July 14, 2018 he married Melinda Kemp Reed in Ft. Madison. He was a graduate of Ft. Madison High School. Wade was a correctional officer at ISP for twenty-seven years. He was a bass fisherman and went to Wisconsin every summer to compete. Wade also enjoyed hunting, especially deer.

Survivors include his wife, Mindy Jones of Ft. Madison; his mother, Merilin Jones of Ft. Madison; a step daughter, Bradie (Matt Bailey) Reed of Clinton; four grandchildren, Bleyn, Ryker, J'Kiya and Maddyx; his in-laws, Ron and Sharon Kemp of Ft. Madison and Kent Clippert of Keokuk. He was preceded in death by his Father, grandparents and mother-in-law, June Clippert.

Friends may call after 2 PM on Sunday, October 18, 2020 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory where the family will meet with friends from 3-5 PM. The funeral service will be held on Monday, October 19, 2020 at 10 AM at King-Lynk Funeral Home with Rev. Jon Heyland officiating. Burial will follow in Oakland Cemetery.

A memorial has been established for the ALS Iowa Chapter and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.



JONES

OBITUARIES

NICHOLAS J. SCHWARTZ

Nicholas James "Nick" Schwartz, 70, of rural Donnellson, Iowa, passed away at 9:08 p.m. Monday, October 12, 2020, at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City, Iowa.

Nick was born on May 29, 1950 in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, the son of Philip and Helen (Greiner) Schwartz. On August 13, 1977, he married Nicky Nichting at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Houghton, Iowa.

Survivors include his wife: Nicky; two daughters: Mindy (Chad) Ward and Lindsey (Jesse) Forquer; two sons: Luke (Brittini) Schwartz and Philip (Kayla) Schwartz; four grandchildren: Noah and Faith Ward; Nicholas "Cale" Schwartz and Coy Forquer; two sisters: Judy (Glenn) Neuweg and Wilma (Marvin) Wellman. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister: Mary Ellen Williams. Nick was a graduate of Marquette Catholic High School. He attended Southeastern Community College and spent most of his life truck driving for several local ag companies. Nick was a member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Houghton. He was an avid Cardinal, Iowa Hawkeye and NASCAR fan. Nick also enjoyed hunting, gardening, fishing, farming, raising livestock, being outside and most of all spending time with family and friends living his best life being retired.

Friends may call from 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m. Thursday, October 15, 2020, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, October 16, 2020, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Houghton with Father Dennis Hoffman as celebrant.

Burial was at St. John's Cemetery in Houghton.

A memorial has been established in his memory to Houghton Fire and Rescue.

Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.



SCHWARTZ

STEVEN GRIFFITHS

Steven Griffiths, 63, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 3:52 PM at his home.

He was born on November 25, 1956 in LaHarpe, IL to John and Phyllis Hanley Griffiths. On February 18, 1994 he married Mary Tegethoff Uhlik in Ft. Madison. Steve worked lifelong at the family business, Colusa Grain and Elevator. He enjoyed wood-working and being outdoors working around the house. Steve loved playing pool, socializing and being around people. Steve was a connoisseur of the finer "things" in life. He was an avid Dallas Cowboy fan and loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Griffiths of Ft. Madison; one daughter, Alicia Griffiths of Ft. Madison; two sons, Andy (Ashley) Uhlik of Oak Grove, MO and Matt (Jennifer) Uhlik of Jefferson City, MO; eight grandchildren; three brothers, Dale Griffiths of Nauvoo, D.J. Griffiths of Colusa and John Hobart of Warsaw; one sister, Mary Davis of Las Vegas; several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Mark.

The family will meet with friends from noon until 1:30 PM on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A graveside service will be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 2 PM at Myers Cemetery, rural Dallas City with Reverend David Poland officiating. Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established for Lee County Hospice and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.



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It's Black & White and Read all over

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Opinion/From the Front

Only the Randy Millers get the newsroom

MILLER - Continued from Page 1

I covered everything from a county fair to a sexual harassment complaint against a teacher. Randy guided me through every story.

A year later, with a degree completed, I came back for the summer and the Democrat had an opening for a reporter to cover city government. I wasn't that interested but, hey, it was a job.

I talked with Randy about it, and he had a suggestion — fill in until he could find someone else. His reasoning made sense — it was a position that could be controversial, and since I was a hometown kid, it could be uncomfortable for me and my family.

I also think it was because he wanted someone with more experience, and he knew that given my choice I would rather be a sports writer. So I decided to be a pinch-hitter for a few weeks, and it just so happened that right around the time Randy found a replacement, there was an opening at the Daily Gate City in Keokuk.

I worked somewhere else, but Randy would still edit me now and then, since the two papers were owned by the same company and shared a network. If he was going to use one of my stories, I was quite sure at some point a message would flash at the bottom of my computer screen with a question from Randy.

We ended up working together at The Hawk Eye in Burlington — I moved there in the summer of 1991, and Randy would be hired there in 1993.

That's where we stayed — Randy retired in 2016 and three years later, I was "eliminated." His desk then was like his desk at the Democrat, but that's how an editor's desk looks.

My relationship with him was like any writer has with an editor. There would be disagreements, but I always knew he had my back, and that continued even after we didn't work together.

He worked hard in the community — he always tried to talk me into the yearly Paint-A-Thon, but I always had the excuse of having to cover something that Saturday. I appreciated his work at renovating old houses — I put him on a search one time for a porch post my parents needed, but he couldn't find one.

Randy died early Saturday morning. I hadn't seen him in the last few months, and didn't even know he was ailing. I hated that — hated that I hadn't talked to him more, hated that I had lost touch.

The last time I saw him, he told me I should join him and some other former colleagues for their Tuesday coffee. I was intrigued, especially because it would have given me a weekly chance to annoy the person responsible for my "elimination." But I never did join them.

The newsroom atmosphere is something only journalists understand. It can be fun, contentious, happy and angry, peaceful until it's chaotic — and then you get the paper out and the next day you do it all again.

I've lost too many friends over the years, co-workers who went through all of those daily emotions and were a bigger part of your life than you realized at the time.

Randy would have enjoyed editing this column. I'm sure he would have found something to question.

And it would be wise for me to have the answer.

John Bohnenkamp is an award-winning sports writer and contributor to the Pen City Current. Comments can be sent to editor@pencitycurrent.com

Chestnut anniversary and half marathon

Jane and Mark McConeghey of Monroe, Iowa have always been innovative farmers, caring for their land like it was one of their children. A lot of it stems from education. Mark has a degree in marketing, and Jane in nursing—both from the University of Iowa. The McConegheys were one of the first, if not the first, to implement no-till farming in Jasper County. Then, they had the audacity to switch to large round bales for their hay, straw and stover. Neighboring farmers just shook their heads, convinced that too much education can make you wacky. But, when Mark, a fourth generation McConeghey to till the same soil, received an award for having a 150-year old family farm, they admitted he had "stick-to-intuitiveness."

Convinced that farmers needed alternative crops to corn and soy-

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



beans, the McConegheys dedicated a number of acres to aronia berries, going so far as to purchase an aronia berry harvester. (Aronia berries, with high concentrations of antioxidants and anti-inflammatories, have yet to prove themselves. Adequate markets are the problem.)

This year it's chestnut trees! Ginnie and I visited the McConegheys on a beautiful fall Saturday to watch them plant over 300 chestnut trees. It was also Ginnie's and my five-year wedding anniversary. What a wonderful way to celebrate! Chestnut trees were wiped out by blight in North America around the turn of the 20th Century. These are Chinese

Chestnuts, and blight resistant. Per acre, chestnuts can bring in more income than corn and soybeans. The major drawback is that it can take 15 years before a sizable crop is achieved.

The McConegheys don't care, they're planting for the next generation. Both in their early seventies, they realize they may never see the trees produce. "But someone will," they happily point out.

Their next experiment will be with paw-paw trees, and maybe persimmons. Stewards of the land, the McConegheys are visionary and not shy of risk.

For our anniversary, they sent us home with two Chestnut tree starts. Perfect. We also may never see them produce. But someone will!

On another note, I will be 31 years clean and sober this Novem-

See **SWARM**, page 8

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Sports

Hounds shake off slow start to roll in Pod 11 win

Quirky alphabet rule leaves 7-1 Fort Madison traveling north to 6-2 Grinnell

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison quarterback Landes Williams said he had a case of the jitters in the first quarter.

He shook 'em off in the second half along with a bunch of Knoxville tacklers as the Bloodhounds rolled to a 45-7 win over the Panthers in the first round of the “pod” playoffs.

The Hounds will play Grinnell (6-2) next Friday at a site to be determined Saturday at noon. Grinnell downed Newton 44-23 in the other Pod 11 game.

Williams, uncharacteristically threw four of his first five passes behind Bloodhound receivers, but then righted the ship to go 9-19 for 147 yards and a couple TDs.

He also carried the ball 19 times for 90 yards, including a 17-yard run late in the 2nd quarter on 2nd and 10 where he carried three Panthers before going down at the eight.

“A lot of it was on me. I was playing nervous and not seeing my reads, but then the coach talked to me and my line talked to me and we got things going,” Williams said.

The Hounds got on the board first when Xander Wellman hit a 28-yard field goal after a Hounds drive stalled on 4th and 7 at the 13. Fort Madison got the ball at the Panther 15 after Brock Calif was headed for the endzone but was bumped out at the 15.

On Knoxville's next possession on 3rd and 11, Kieren Nichols tossed a screen pass to Tristin DeJong to the left, but Tate Johnson's hit knocked the ball loose and Keaton Poe recovered to give the Hounds the ball again at the Panthers 15.

Senior Calem Maclearn got the call on four straight plays and bulled in from the one for a 10-0 Fort Madison lead.

The Panthers would then go 74 yards on 16 plays mixing in running backs on a power wing for-



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Hounds' Tate Johnson gets a little bump before the ball arrives in the 3rd quarter of the Hounds' win Friday night. Johnson had 64 yards and a touchdown receiving in the win.

mation that had the Bloodhounds on their heels. Senior Keegan Cox would hold the ball out over the goal line on a sweep right at the pylon for the score to make it 10-7.

Brock Calif would fumble the kickoff trying to track it down on the Hound sideline as the Panthers tried to play keep away from the senior, who has three kick off returns for touchdowns this year.

The Panthers would take over at Fort Madison's 35, but would fumble on their first snap and the Hounds would recover to reset things.

Both teams would punt on the next two possessions, but Fort Madison would take over 1st and 10 at their own 40 and Williams went to work off the read. On 3rd and 6 the junior would slip off the left side behind the line for eight yards and a 1st down.

After a corner route toss to the endzone was just out of reach of Cole Thornton, Williams reeled off 17 yards carrying several Panthers on his back, and then found Calif open on the next play in the left side of the endzone from five yards out.

The Panthers ran two plays after taking the kick off at the 12. But on 1st and 10 from their own 35 with just six seconds left in the half, Nichols found Mike Hudson alone down the middle. Hudson rambled for 65 yards to the endzone, but the play was called back on a holding penalty and the half expired.

“We weren't us in the first half and I'm going to take the blame for that. We were too keyed up and were doing some things we haven't done,” Head Coach Derek Doherty said. “But that was great test for us in adversity.”

Coming out of the locker room up 17-7, Fort Madison would hold Knoxville to four and outs the rest of the game.

After softening up the Panthers with Maclearn and Williams in the running game, Williams found Tate Johnson down the left side on a 36-yard touchdown with just under five minutes left in the 3rd to push the lead to 24-7 with Wellman's PAT.

The two have hooked up for seven touchdowns this year. Johnson said the pairs history is proving dividends this year.

“Me and Landes have been playing together since first grade or so and that connection's always there,” Johnson said.

Williams and Maclearn would score the Bloodhounds next two TDs on the ground, and Calif would score from a yard out late in the 4th quarter to set the final.

Williams said he's proud to be part of the schools first playoff win in 31 years, and he's looking forward to next week's game.

“This is a good thing to be a part of. The guys last year built the foundation for us and we're just expanding on that,” he said.

“Grinnell has a good running back and we have to try and shut that game down and let our offense do the rest.”

Doherty said the Hounds made some adjustments at halftime, but the team also made a commitment to each other.

“We went in at halftime and we just pledged to each other that we're done trying to force things, and we're done complaining, and doing the things we haven't done all year. We just needed to get back to back to being us.”

Johnson led the receiving corps with 64 yards and the score. Larson had 53 yards on four catches. Maclearn had 50 yards on 11 carries and two scores.

Johnson and Poe each had 6.5 tackles. Tanner Settles had six including a tackle for a loss. Jakob McGowan had six tackles including two for losses.

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Obituaries/Classifieds

OBITUARIES

LYLE E. ACKER

Lyle E. Acker, 90 of Quincy, IL formerly of Keokuk, IA died Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL.

He was born March 10, 1930 in Rushville, IL the son of Homer and Cressa Acker. His parents passed away at a young age, and he was raised by his sister and her husband, Doris and Alec Yuskis.



ACKER

Lyle was a veteran of the United States Marine Corp and proudly served his country during the Korean War.

On May 10, 1968 he was united in marriage to Eunice Varner. She preceded him in death on June 1, 2016.

Lyle had been employed by Keokuk Steel Castings for thirty-six years, until his retirement. He later worked for Ewart's Wood Shop, which he thought of as family. Lyle was a member of the Masonic Lodge. He had a strong faith of God and was an active member of Anchor of Hope Fellowship in Keokuk, while living there. He had served as treasurer of the church for many years.

Lyle was an avid St. Louis Cardinal fan. He loved his family and everyone he knew. He never met a stranger and was always an encouragement to everyone he met.

He is survived by his children, James Acker (special friend, Veronica Hewitt) of West Virginia, David (Judy) Harrison of Palm Coast, FL, Arlene (Tim) Cowman of Quincy, IL, Ron Harrison of Tulsa, OK and Karen Harrison of Macomb, IL. He is also survived by ten grandchildren, Timm (Dan) Harrison, Kristal (Tim) Daniels, Lyle Martin, Dana Tipton, Brandon (Erin) Harrison, Jenna Harrison, Matthew Williams, Travis Williams, Sarah Acker and Jeremiah Acker, numerous great-grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by one daughter, Dianne Rohrough, one son, Gary Harrison, his parents and eight brothers and sisters.

A funeral service will be held at 1:30 p.m., Friday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Ron Harrison officiating. The service will be live streamed on the Vigen Memorial Home Facebook page. Burial with military rites will be in the Keokuk National Cemetery.

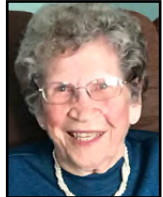
A public Masonic memorial service will be held at 12 noon on Friday at the funeral home. Following the Masonic service, visitation will be held from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., at the funeral home with family meeting with friends at that time.

Masks will be required for the visitation and the funeral and social distancing will be in effect. Memorials may be made to the American Legion Post #41. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.



HAZEL L. HAWES

Hazel L. Hawes, 93, of Argyle, Iowa passed away at 12:15 P.M. Saturday October 17, 2020 at her home. Born November 15, 1926 at Fort Madison, Iowa the daughter of John and Mae (Wilt) Bostwick. On November 18, 1945 at Fort Madison, Iowa she married E.L. "Nip" Hawes. He preceded her in death on November 29, 2012.



HAWES

Survivors include two daughters: Carolyn (Harold) Pundt of Keokuk and Darla (Chris) Fowler of Argyle. Two sons: Larry (Mary) Hawes of Argyle and Scott (Joyce) Hawes of Montrose. Seventeen grandchildren, twenty-eight great grandchildren and thirteen great-great grandchildren. Also surviving is her sister Jeanne Kisor of Keokuk and sisters - law: Alice Hawes of Keokuk and Mary Bostwick of Numa, Iowa and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, one brother and two sisters.

Hazel was the Salutatorian of the Argyle Class of 1944. She worked as a beautician for 32 years. She retired in 1992 from the Argyle Post Office. Hazel was a member of the Argyle Presbyterian Church.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 A.M. Wednesday October 21, 2020 at the Argyle Presbyterian Church with Pastor Shelby Whitney officiating. Burial will be in Argyle Memorial Gardens near Argyle, Iowa.

The family will meet with friends Wednesday from 10:00 A.M. until the time of the service at the church. Those attending are encouraged to wear masks and adhere to social distancing requirements.

Memorials may be made to the Argyle Presbyterian Church or the Argyle Memorial Gardens and can be mailed to the Schmitz Funeral Home P.O. Box 56 Donnellson, Iowa 52656. The Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE Lee County Board of Supervisors Meeting Tue, Oct 20, 2020 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CDT) AGENDA

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Pledge of Allegiance
Approve Agenda
9:01 a.m. Public Hearing for Approval of Shooting Range at 2958 County Road 103

Consider Approval of Resolution Approving Shooting Range at 2958 County Road 103 9:06 a.m. Public Hearing for Approval to Vacate Portion of Lost Creek Road in Green Bay Township

Consider Approval of Resolution Vacating Portion of Lost Creek Road in Green Bay Township
9:11 a.m. Public Hearing for Approval to Vacate Moorar Alley in Jackson Township

Consider Approval of Resolution Vacating Portion of Moorar Alley in Jackson Township Public Input

Consider Approval of Authorizing Loan Agreement and Providing for Issuance of General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bond and Providing For Levy of Taxes to Pay Same

Consider Approval of October 13, 2020 Board Minutes

Consider Approval of Claims

Consider Approval of Resolutions (2) Removing Mobile Homes from Tax System

Consider Approval of Tax Abatement Resolutions (2)

Consider Approval of Class B Native Wine Permit for Hinterland Dairy, Donnellson Personnel Actions:

A. Step Increase-Health Department
B. New Hire-Sheriffs Office Reports:
A. Auditor's Report of Fees Collected
Commission or Committee Reports
Adjourn

Workshop to Follow

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PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST POINT CITY COUNCIL WEST POINT, IOWA 52656 OCTOBER 12, 2020

Mayor Paul Walker called the properly noticed regular meeting of the City Council of the City of West Point to order in the Conference Room of the Public Library, 317 Fifth Street, West Point, Iowa 52656 on October 12, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. In addition to Mayor Walker, the following indicated Council Members were present: Joe Loving; Brian Meierotto; Will Stuekerjurgan; and, Dan Waters. Absent: Bruce Wellman. Tentative agenda was approved by consensus. Upon invitation Nikki Fraise reported Community Club plans to rent displays for winter wonderland and a Wine Walk will be held on December 4, 2020. Upon invitation Marian Neuweg and Mike Schierbrock addressed the Council regarding the recent meeting held to discuss a memorial bench to be placed in City Square Park and



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Iowa Department of Public Health

Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

on motion approved the requested placement. The Public Works Department report was reviewed. Upon invitation Police Chief Brad Roberts presented the Police Department report. Mayor reported on the following: Beggars Night will be held on October 31, 2020 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Elections will be held on November 3, 2020; expressed appreciation to IARBGAR committee; and, staff for organizing city-wide sales to be successful events. Mayor reported meeting date and time for meetings of the upcoming Municipal Utility Board; Library Board; and, next regular Council Meeting of November 9, 2020. Dennis McGregor presented the City Administrator's report. On motion approved urban revitalization tax exemption for Ron & Caryl Abolt at 602 Iowa Joe Street. On motion approved Resolution No. 799-20 requesting reimbursement from government relief fund. On motion minutes of prior regular Council Meeting of September 14, 2020 were approved as presented. On motion Treasurer's Report for September 2020 was approved as presented. On motion warrants payable for October 2020 were approved as presented. On motion meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m., October 12, 2020.

EXPENDITURES FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

Altorfer, repair	99.88
Andy's Service Center, fees	90.00
Baker & Taylor, books	531.38
Cessford Construction, rock	1333.85
City Clerk- FM, fees	320.00
Daily Democrat, publications	73.72
Delta Dental, premiums	101.02
Dennis McGregor, reimb	8.00
Diane Smith, mileage/reimb	30.62
Drake Hardware, services	28.75
Ebert Supply, supplies	52.50
Floyd's E-Z-Way, trash hauling	47.00
Holtkamp Auto, repairs	21.00
Hope Haven Area Dev, services	30.00
Ia Dept of Revenue, taxes	247.00
Ia DNR, permit fee	85.00
Jet Gas, fuel	606.50
Kirk Wellman, reimb	219.35
Lee Co Secondary Roads, snow removal	2951.26
LJ Neuweg Rental, fees	65.00
Mary Jane Pranger, cleaning	132.00
Mastercard, supplies	404.81
McFarland-Swan, supplies	102.96
Mediacom, telephone	270.08
Panther Uniforms, uniform	108.23
Per Mar Security, services	281.43
Petty cash, supplies	22.95
Raygun, book	23.50
RICOH, copier	215.56
Simmering-Cory, codification	2200.00
Storey Kenworthy, supplies	206.01
Sun Life Financial, premiums	258.90
SYNCB/Amazon, supplies	139.15
Trophy Outlet, engraving	8.30
U S Cellular, telephone	70.77
UPS, charges	14.84
Verizon, data plans	40.01
Wellmark BC/BS, premiums	2726.89
West Point Lumber, supplies	114.29
West Point Prof Group, lease	685.00
West Point Utilities, utilities	2034.54
Wex Bank, fuel	317.42
Windstream, telephone	183.88
WL Miller, gravel	1640.66

RECAPITULATION

Fund: Prev Bal, Rcpts, Dsbd, Cur Bal: General: 321618.13, 30538.60, 25843.70, 326313.03; Grants: 500.00, 545.26, ---, 1045.26; Capital Equip: 4127.06, ---, ---, 4127.06; Lib County: 8239.35, 1467.12, 563.51, 9142.96; Lib Mem: 18955.82, 358.85, 314.73, 18999.94; Road Use: 8848.03, 13718.84, 10321.54, 12245.33; Local Option: ---, 8933.23, 8933.23, ---; Sewer Lagoon: (5000.00), ---, ---, (5000.00); Sewer: 14716.00, 20773.10, 15922.78, 19566.32; Sewer Sinking: 28824.78, 9608.26, ---, 38433.04; Landfill: 259.53, ---, ---, 259.53

/s/ Paul Walker, Mayor
Attest: Diane E. Smith, City Clerk

ties2034.54
Wex Bank, fuel317.42
Windstream, telephone183.88
WL Miller, gravel1640.66

RECAPITULATION

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/s/ Paul Walker, Mayor
Attest: Diane E. Smith, City Clerk

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Degree in computer science or related field or combination of related experience and education required.

Salary based on qualifications and experience. Excellent benefits package.

See LeeCounty.org website for employment application and job description. Submit application and resume to

Lee County IT Department
Attn: L.Schmitt
933 Avenue H
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or email to lschmitt@leecounty.org

Deadline to apply is 4:00 pm on Friday, October 30, 2020.

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IT/GIS SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

Lee County government has an opening in the IT/GIS Department for an Information Technology / Geographic Information Systems Administrator.

Job functions include coordination and monitoring all IT functions, network, telephone systems, computer hardware, software and cabling, planning, developing and controlling the IT / GIS department, and maintenance & growth of the Geographic Information System.

Degree in GIS, computer science or related field or combination of related experience and education required. Knowledge and experience with Microsoft server and desktop software, IBM iSeries and ArcGIS software preferred.

Salary based on qualifications and experience. Excellent benefits package.

See LeeCounty.org website for employment application and job description. Submit application and resume to

Lee County IT Department
Attn: L.Schmitt
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Fort Madison, IA 52627
or email to lschmitt@leecounty.org

Deadline to apply is 4:00 pm on Friday, October 23, 2020.

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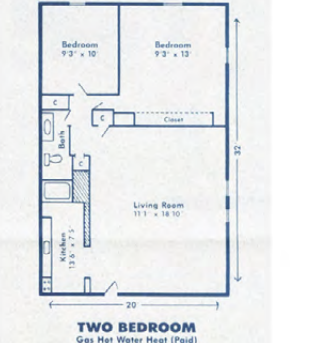
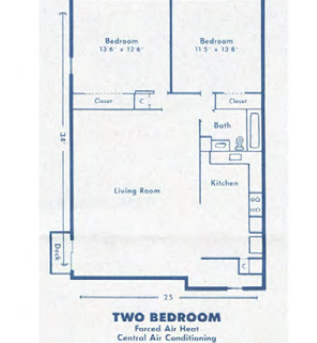
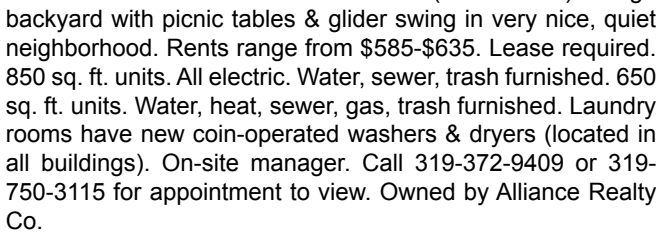
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From the Front

Five throw names in for council vacancies

VACANCIES - Continued from Page 1

Others that have informed the Pen City Current of their intention to run include Donna Amandus, Mike Chapman, and Brian Peterschmidt for 3rd Ward, and Tom Schulz for 2nd Ward. Amandus is on record as saying voters should decide who fills the vacancies. The 3rd Ward seat was vacated by Tyler Miller who resigned Oct. 6.

Mohrfeld said Friday that he wanted to put the agenda item in front of the council to help clean up the process.

"That's not up to me. It's up to the council. And that conversation will be had in the meeting (Tuesday).

Mohrfeld said he did call Hamelton who told him he was going to do everything he could to get the seats in front of voters. But Mohrfeld said the current petition Hamelton turned in was insufficient.

"Two things – it wasn't the required amount of signatures and he didn't turn it in at the right time," Mohrfeld said.

"But that's semantics. He made his intentions clear, and putting it on the agenda gives us a chance to accelerate that process."

State code would also allow the council to appoint someone to fill the positions until the special election results had been certified. Mohrfeld said the decision to either make those appointments or just continue with a five-person council, is also part of the discussion Tuesday.

The Council, when full, is comprised of seven members, so five would still give the council a quorum and majority vote on issues if four of the five are present in the interim.

Possible runoff(s)?

The other wrinkle is Fort Madison City Code at Title 1, Section 17-4 (A) requires a run-off if none of the candidates for the office obtain 50% plus 1 of all votes cast for the seat.

As an example, if 400 people vote in the special election in the 2nd Ward, at least one candidate would have to get a minimum of 201 votes, otherwise a run-off would take place for the two candidates with the most votes. That run-off would be set four weeks following the special election.

That happened in 2013 when Rusty Andrews beat Neal Boeding in a run-off election, despite Boeding beating Andrews by 142 votes in the general election. Boeding's 786 votes in the general election fell 22 votes shy of the majority threshold of 50%+1, so the race went to a run-off and Andrews won.

In other action:

Also on Tuesday's agenda are three change orders to current projects underway including the Hwy. 61 restoration project, the Santa Fe Depot Passenger Platform, and the new parking lot behind City Hall.

Change orders on the parking lot have increased the price of the project from \$429,533 to \$520,672. The work on the rail passenger platform was originally awarded to Iowa Bridge and Culvert for \$2,704,811 and the change order, combined with previous change orders, will raise that price to \$2,721,749.

The Hwy. 61 change order increases the cost of the 2nd to 6th street portion \$89,951, creating a new total contract of \$2,665,206 when combined with other previous change orders. The original bid approved with Jones Construction was for \$2,388,777.

In other action, the council will also hold a discussion about possibly prohibiting parking on the south side of Avenue E from 2nd to 26th Street.

Half marathon at Empty Nest on Election Day

SWARM - Continued from Page 3

ber 3, which, of course, is also election day. To celebrate recovery and the election, Ginnie and I are hosting a half-marathon (13.1 miles) here at our house. The Empty Nest Farm has a circular driveway that is 1/8 mile around. To try it out, I jogged 10 miles on it—no, not counting laps—but using GPS. What a blast!

So, starting at 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, November 3, anyone who wants to help me run (or walk) the half-marathon is welcome to join. We have bathrooms and showers here at the house, and Ginnie will be serving brunch. The menu includes ham sliders (to die for), egg casserole, fruit, juice, coffee, an electrolyte drink and whatever anyone else wants to bring (like Lori's Scotcheroos!). Our address is 2471 Marsh Ave., Mt. Pleasant 52641. We're right on Hwy 34, two miles east of Mt. Pleasant. Look for the "Empty Nest Art" sign and the blue metal roof on our house and barn. You can't miss us.

I'm having tee-shirts printed: "Vote for Health, Election Day Half Marathon, Help Curt celebrate 31 years of sobriety. Sobriety is healthy and so is voting!" I guarantee you these tee-shirts will be collectors' items. For the health of it!

BTW: My jogging pace is akin to some peoples' walking pace. Just come out and have fun! A half-marathon right here. It's like, "taking a trip and never leaving the farm!"

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

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