

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Friday, October 15, 2021 | 11 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 186



www.pencitycurrent.com

## P.O.R.T. trail gets \$1.3M



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

A pedestrian bridge is lowered into a holding place last month near Avenue B as part of the P.O.R.T. trail's Avenue B section. The P.O.R.T. trail committee received \$1.3 million in additional funding from the GRHS-FMCH Community Health Foundation, bringing the group's total contribution to near \$3 million.

### FOUNDATION: Great River/FMCH foundation donates close to \$3M million to project

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

WEST BURLINGTON – The GRHS-FMCH Community Health Foundation has donated \$1.26 million in continuing support for Promoting Outdoor Recreational Trails (P.O.R.T.) of Fort Madison.

That comes on the heels of \$1.6 million the foundation donated in 2019, bringing the total close to \$3 million for the trail.

The GRHS-FMCH Community Health Foundation was created in 2018 as part of an agreement to provide funding for projects or initiatives that help improve the health of communities served by Great River Health System. Although the name of FMCH has been changed to Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, the founda-

tion's name has not changed. It is not part of the Great River Health Foundation.

"We're delighted to have partnered with the P.O.R.T. of Fort Madison project," said Neal Dodd, foundation chairman. "These trails will be used and enjoyed by people from the entire Fort Madison area for years to come. This is another example of how our hospitals, now working as one, can reach beyond our campuses to positively impact the health and well-being of our communities."

P.O.R.T. of Fort Madison is a subcommittee of the City of Fort Madison Parks & Recreation Department. The park system now has

See TRAIL, page 5

### CAREER CENTER

## J.E.C. gets cool marks from CL board

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

DONNELSON – The Central Lee School board had a cool response to a proposed budget from Southeastern Community College for the future Lee County Career Exploration Center.

At Monday's regular meeting of the school board, directors saw a proposal that would require a first-year investment from the district of \$88,531. Subsequent years would require incremental increases of at least 2% with a second-year investment of \$108,661, and a third year of \$110,984.

The budget spreadsheet produced at the meeting showed an even higher commitment from Fort Madison and Keokuk.



CROZIER

Fort Madison's contribution is \$160,966 the first year and \$197,566 the second year. That contribution would increase to more than \$200,000 annually after that with an average yearly growth factor of 2%.

Keokuk's numbers are slightly lower than that at \$187,688 in year one, and \$191,700 year two and \$195,802 in year three.

Central Lee Schools Superintendent Dr. Andy Crozier said it's a big ask for Central Lee taxpayers to put \$1 million into that program.

"If you look at that over the course of 10 years, our amount would be about \$1.1 million. Fort Madison's would be over \$2 (million) and Keokuk's would be just under \$2 (million). So as you can see here, there's a long way to go with that budget," Crozier said.

"We still have to take care of the 1,000 other kids that attend Central Lee. But coming back to the drawing board, I'm not saying it's done, but that's one of the challenges that's been presented to us."

The budget calls for a first-year total expenditure of \$402,000 and a second-year budget of \$493,000.

Crozier said there are different ways to navigate through it and different ways to

See CENTER, page 5

### HOUNDS PREVIEW

## Iowa City Liberty loss may have upside for Hounds

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – There may have been a silver lining of sorts in the cloud of last week's 24-16 Bloodhound loss to Iowa City Liberty.

The Lightning provided a glimpse into what the Hounds may be

in for this week when they travel to Class 4A's top-ranked North Scott, in a big District 3 matchup.

Fort Madison lost by a touchdown and two-point conversion last week and that's all that matters, said Coach Derek Doherty, but despite the philosophy of looking at each week as an 0-0 re-

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### WEATHER

FRI 15 Oct..... Cool with Light Rain, 49° F/ 52° F  
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SUN 17 Oct..... Cool and Clear, 46° F/ 59° F

OpenWeatherMap

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LOTTO AMERICA 10/13..... 9 14 15 34 44, Star Ball: 8, All Star Bonus: 3  
LUCKY FOR LIFE 10/13..... 13 16 18 23 33, Lucky Ball: 17  
PICK 3 10/13 MIDDAY..... 2 8 4  
PICK 3 10/13 EVENING..... 2 5 1  
PICK 4 10/13 MIDDAY..... 17 5 5  
PICK 4 10/13 EVENING..... 2 3 8 8  
POWERBALL 10/13..... 23 29 47 59 60, Powerball: 15, Power Play: 2

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# Obituaries/Lee County News

## OBITUARIES

### JAMES A. BAIER

James A. Baier, 79, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away unexpectedly at 7:15 p.m. on Saturday, October 9, 2021 at Cook Hospital in Cook, MN. He was born on February 6, 1942 in Aurora, IL to George J. & Marie E. Dieter Baier, Jr. He married Linda Sue Zemborski on April 8, 1961 in Wheaton, IL. She preceded him in death on October 8, 2017.



BAIER

Jim was first and foremost a loving husband to his wife of 56 years, Linda.

Anyone who was around Jim and Linda knew that their marriage was special. They were true friends and partners in every aspect of their life together. He was the perfect gentleman, always opening doors for her and even filling her gas tank throughout their marriage. He loved spending time with his family above all things. He loved his children and grandchildren and spent lots of time with them, including great grandchildren. To them he was known as Poppy.

Jim Baier was a pillar of our community. He and Linda moved to Fort Madison in 1971 to purchase Thomas Motors, becoming the youngest Ford dealer in the nation at the age of 29. This new dealership was known as Jim Baier Ford and eventually became Jim

Baier, Inc as the Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep and Ram franchises were added. In 1999 Jim and Linda welcomed and became partners with their son Jamie and his wife Danette. Jim Baier, Inc has grown to over 50 employees, adding the ABRA franchise and facility next to the dealership. The dealership is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Jim and Linda, along with their close friends and business partners Doyle and Bert Hoyer, entered the banking business by purchasing Iowa State Bank in the late 1970's. Later they sold Iowa State Bank and purchased Fort Madison Bank & Trust, which now has become Connection Bank serving the communities of Fort Madison, Burlington, Keokuk and Montrose. Jim really enjoyed the banking business, but most of all his relationship with his best friend Doyle Hoyer. Throughout their partnership, there was never even one argument.

Jim was an amazing chef and enjoyed cooking as a form of relaxation. He was an avid sportsman who enjoyed bird hunting, salt water and fresh water fishing. He also loved gardening and woodworking! He built cradles for his grandchildren and many other pieces of furniture for his family members. Jim loved boating his whole life with family and friends. He loved

spending time in Florida and northern Minnesota, close to the water, where he could enjoy the wildlife. In his later years, he enjoyed feeding birds, deer and even black bears! Jim was a caring man, full of love, ambition, drive and integrity. He created a legacy that will be remembered and carried on by his family for generations to come.

Jim is survived by: 3-children: Michael (Patricia) Baier of Elko New Market, MN, Mindy (Ted) Goldie of Fort Madison, IA & Jamie (Danette) Baier of Fort Madison, IA; 12-grandchildren; 6-great grandchildren; 1-brother: Jerry (Patricia) Baier of Austin, TX; 2-sisters: Joan (Don) Schmitz of Cary, IL & Janet (Gary) Wynn of Cary, IL. He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife.

Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 14, 2021 with the family to receive friends from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The funeral mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, October 15, 2021 at Ss. Mary & Joseph Church with Rev. Joseph Phung & Pastor Steve Huecker officiating. Burial will be held at Gethsemane Cemetery. A memorial has been established in Jim's memory. Online condolences to Jim's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

### Keokuk gets \$493K for Riverfront Trail program

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK – The Iowa Transportation Commission on Tuesday announced approval for funding for close to a half a million dollars for the Keokuk Riverfront Trail project.

The commission approved \$1,497,675 for four State Recreational Trails Program projects. The State Recreational Trails Program was created in 1988 with the purpose of developing and maintaining recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized trail users. This funding is available to cities, counties, state agencies, local gov-

ernments, and nonprofit organizations through an annual application-based program.

The projects and approved funding amounts are listed below:

- Heart of Iowa Nature Trail: Paving Skunk River Bridge to 610th Avenue (Story County Conservation Board) – \$384,000
- Raccoon River Valley Trail to High Trestle Trail Connector: S Avenue to Iowa 210 (Woodward) – \$220,080
- Grant Wood Trail: Paving Waldo's Rock Park to Oxley Road (Linn County Conservation Board) – \$400,000
- Keokuk Riverfront Trail (Keokuk) – \$493,595.

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### LLOYD B.W. WAGNER

Lloyd "Billy" W. Wagner, 78, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 2:47 a.m. on Sunday, October 10, 2021 at Unity Point Health-Trinity Hospital in Rock Island, IL.



WAGNER

He was born on April 10, 1943 in Fort Madison, IA to Elmer & Mildred Johnson Wagner. He married Nancy A. Morrett on June 5, 1965 in Fort Madison, IA. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War and worked at First Miss until they closed. He then started his own construction business.

He enjoyed being outdoors, hunting & archery. He made knives and sold them around the world. He enjoyed spending time with his great grandchildren.

Lloyd is survived by: his wife: Nancy Wagner of Fort Madison, IA; 1-daughter: Dottie Wagner of Fort Madison, IA; 4-grandchildren: Cecilia (Skyler) Browning, Dyre Vincent, William Wagner & Jayson Whitehall all of Fort Madison, IA; 7-great grandchildren; 2-sisters: Judy Bressette of Franklin, IA & Blanche Reynolds of Franklin, IA & 1-brother: Glen Wagner of Franklin, IA. He was preceded in death by: his parents, 1-son in infancy & 1-brother.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A private family graveside service will be held at a later date at Soldiers' Circle in Oakland Cemetery. Online condolences to the Wagner family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).



## OBITUARIES

### JACK H. MEISTER

Jack Haessig Meister, 98, of Keokuk, IA died Thursday, October 7, 2021 at the Clark County Nursing Home in Kahoka, MO.



MEISTER

He was born May 28, 1923 in Keokuk, IA the son of George J. and Irene Haessig Meister. Jack graduated from Keokuk High School.

Jack was a veteran of the United States Army and proudly served from 1943-1945, Ninth Army Headquarters and was deployed in the ETO. One of the highlights of Jack's army career was an occasion when the top three leaders of the WW II military command paid a visit to the 9th Army Headquarters in Maastricht, Holland. The group consisted of General Eisenhower, Sir Winston Churchill, General Bernard Montgomery and several other top brass. Jack and several other men were in close proximity to the entourage as they entered the building and greeted the unofficial welcoming group. The previous day, Jack and a fellow map plotter were called up to the CO's office to update a situations map that was used in a critique by the Eisenhower group. This was near the time of the "Battle of the Bulge" offensive. It was a memorable experience that Jack often recounted to be in the presence of these VIPs.

On July 13, 1946 Jack was united in marriage to Mae Lu Basye in Macomb, IL. She preceded him in death on March 11, 2020.

A lifelong resident of Keokuk, Jack operated his own electronics business for over forty years.

He was an active member of St. Paul United

Church of Christ, serving on the consistory and other committees and was an ordained elder. He was also a member of the American Legion and a member of the Keokuk Elks Club, where he enjoyed playing golf. Jack was active in the Habitat For Humanity program where he supervised and did much of the electrical work in three habitat houses.

He is survived by two sons, Larry (Nancy) Meister of Evergreen, CO and John (Christie) Meister of Newport, OR, two daughters, Minda (John) VanAusdall and Mary (Rob Seltzer) Thomas all of Keokuk, six grandchildren, Brian (Jamie) Meister of Melbourne, FL, Josh (Sherry) Meister of Nayarit, Mexico, Lindsey Meister of Taneytown, MD, Mark (Tracy) Meister of Siletz, OR, Chase (Brianna) Meister of Lebanon, OR, Daniel (Jeannie) Svejda of Keokuk one step-grandson Brandon VanAusdall of O'Fallon, MO and several great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one son, Jeffrey Meister, one step-grandson, Clayton Daugherty, two brothers, Glenn C. Meister and Russell H. Meister, and one sister, Marjorie Meister in infancy.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Memorials may be made to the St. Paul United Church of Christ or the Salvation Army of Keokuk.

The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk is assisting the family with arrangements

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).



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## From the Front

# FM board to discuss budget Monday

**CENTER** - Continued from Page 1

generate revenue that other entities can put forward, but when you jump into a plan, you have to know how you're going to pay the bills.

Preliminary plans include curriculum for Automation/Advanced Manufacturing/Robotics, Teacher Education, Pre-Engineering, and Computer Science.



FRAISE

Fort Madison Community School District Board of Directors President Dianne Hope declined to comment but said she had seen the budget worksheet.

Fort Madison Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater said the budget is on the agenda for discussion on Monday.

"This is a discussion item on the 10/18 board agenda which will be released today. I'll be sharing programming, budget information, etc. with the board at that time for their input and feedback"

Lee County Economic Development Group President Dennis Fraise said he's happy to see school boards reviewing the proposed budget.

"There's always those inflection points and this is one of those where we go from 'in theory' to 'this is what it is actually going to cost,' Fraise said.

"I fully expect school boards will due their diligence. They do great jobs of being stewards of their money and I applaud them for being able to look it and say 'that doesn't work for us'.

"I think everything is a beginning and not an end. SCC did a masterful job of putting that budget together and gave everyone something to react to. At the end of the day, school districts have to protect their budget, too."

He said SCC is leading the budget process and LCEDG is there to support the group efforts and "keep the training moving down the tracks".

Crozier said there's a "sweet spot" on a return of investment, but right now he's seeing too big of a difference in that number and the proposed budget.

He also pointed out at the agreement would require a 10-year commitment plus an automatic 5-year renewal. Each entity could request termination of their partici-

pation in the agreement but that would require approval of all the other groups in the contract including the two other school districts, LCEDG, and SCC.

"We've never signed contracts like that with anybody. Nobody would sign a contract like that. So there's still work to do with that scenario as well," Crozier said.

Board member Brock Westfall asked where the project currently stands and Crozier said, although they aren't back at square one, there still is substantial work to be done.

Central Lee board president Mark Hulsebus said the budget looked like an operating budget and not any kind of a balance sheet or net worth statement.

"You have no amortization or depreciation in there for a building purchase, either," Hulsebus said.

Crozier said it's his understanding that it's being taken care of by area businesses but there has been nothing produced contractually to guarantee that.

"If that doesn't come through, there has to be a line item for that, as well," he said.

Fraise is on record as saying LCEDG has set aside \$100,000 to help pay for building costs, not including educational costs, for up to two years. He said that account could grow if the building operations start seeing a positive cash flow. LCEDG is also on the hook for paying the mortgage on the facility, which totaled close to \$1 million and his held at Connection Bank.

Southeast Iowa Regional and Economic Port Authority purchased the building with a commitment from LCEDG to establish fundraisers to pay off the mortgage. LCEDG funds are used to pay the mortgage and related costs.

The faculty line for the center starts at \$45,900 per year and jumps to \$91,800 in the second year, and then follows an allowable 2% inflation rate for the remaining 10 years. The center's director, or navigator, salary and benefit package in the proposed budget is \$97,500 for the first year and then follows with the 2% inflationary rate.

# PORT gets additional foundation funding

**TRAIL** - Continued from Page 1

four trails totaling more than three miles.

The donation from the GRHS-FMCH Community Health Foundation consists of \$769,260 in unrestricted funds that may be used for existing and future trail projects, as determined by the P.O.R.T. committee. The remaining \$500,000 is restricted for the Rodeo Trail project signage, benches, and shade structures.

In 2019, the GRHS-FMCH Community Health Foundation donated \$1,578,000 to P.O.R.T. for the construction of a trail connecting to Rodeo Park in Fort Madison.

"P.O.R.T. is excited to receive additional funding so the finishing touches can be provided for the Rodeo Connector trail," said Larry Smith, chairman, P.O.R.T. of Fort Madison. "We are also looking forward to using the unrestricted funds to leverage future grants that will provide additional safe recreational opportunities for the residents of our community."

Smith said he was surprised with the extent of the added infusion of funds.

"That's goosebump money," Smith said Wednesday.

"I had been having ongoing conversations with Neal Dodd regarding the overages we were seeing with the Avenue B bridge and other changes orders. We had kind of an agreement that they were going to make us whole there and backfill the coffers for what we overspent with the initial \$1.6 million we'd gotten.

"But I was incredibly surprised by the \$1.3 million for future development."

He said the unrestricted \$770,000 preliminarily may be used for local match money for future grants, but a long-range planning session has been set for this winter with Southeast Iowa Regional Planning on the future what the trail will look like.

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2 Groups: Grades Pre-K-2 and Grades 3-8

(practice schedule will be handed out at registration)

**WHERE:** Fort Madison Senior High MPR

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## Sports/Classifieds

# Lady Hawks win pool play at Davis County Invite

BY PCC SPORTS

BLOOMFIELD – Central Lee went 3-0 in pool play Saturday at the Davis County Invitational. New London ended the Hawks run in the championship gold bracket in three sets.

Makayla Morrison and Meghan Hopp combined for 34 kills and 42 digs as the match with New London went into a tie breaker. The Tigers won the first set with extra points at 25-27. The Hawks came back

and dominated the second set 25-17 before falling in the tie breaker 11-15.

Macy Watkins had 38 assists in the New London match. Alix Congdon had 24 digs and Sophie Turner dug up 12 balls.

The Lady Hawks rolled to 21-13, 21-16 wins over Cardinal and then split the first two sets with Keokuk 15-21, 22-20, before winning in a tie breaker 15-9. A two-set win over Davis County 21-19, 21-17 put the Lady Hawks in the gold bracket.

In the three pool play wins, the Lady Hawks got 23 kills from Hopp along with four blocks. Morrison had 20 kills and 19 digs. Macy Watkins had 71 assists in the three matches. Alix Congdon had 21 digs.

Central Lee (14-10) hosts Class 1A No. 5 Holy Trinity Catholic (23-6) on Tuesday for senior night, before opening Class 3A regional action at West Burlington Monday night at 7 p.m.

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

## HELP WANTED

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Lee County Health Department is seeking a full-time RN to work in the agency's hospice & home health care programs. Experience in completing comprehensive patient assessments and providing skilled nursing care based on patient's plan of care preferred. Skilled nursing home visits and patient care management responsibilities will be required. LCHD's operational hours are 8:00am-4:30pm Monday-Friday with each RN assigned an on-call rotation every 3rd to 4th weekend and limited evenings during the month. LCHD offers a team oriented work environment with competitive wages and excellent benefits. Please send resumes to Becky Fader, Program Manager, at [bfader@leecountyhd.org](mailto:bfader@leecountyhd.org) or to LCHD, PO Box 1426, Fort Madison, IA 52627 by November 8, 2021. LCHD is an EOE.



### NOTICE OF JOB OPENING

## Office Manager

Lee County Attorney's Office  
Keokuk, Iowa

Lee County Attorney's Office has an immediate opening for the Office Manager position (full-time, salary based).

The position's successful applicant is preferred (but not required) to have the following:

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3. Knowledge of modern office practices, procedures, and equipment.
4. Knowledge of computer software and navigation of governmental websites.
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10. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with attorneys, law enforcement personnel, other governmental agencies, co-workers and members of the public.
11. Ability to organize, prepare, and maintain a large filing system of current and closed files.
12. Ability to utilize good judgment in personnel issues.
13. Ability to maintain accurate and thorough records.
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## PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
MEETING NOTICE**  
Lee County  
Conservation Board  
Agenda  
October 12, 2021  
Lee County  
Conservation Center  
2652 Hwy 61,  
Montrose, IA 52639  
4:00 p.m.

Call To Order  
Approval of Minutes  
from September 29, 2021  
Public Input

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

Approval of Bills  
Approval of Financial Report  
Approve Environmental and Outdoor Education Specialist 1 Hire  
LCCB Annual Report Staff and Director Reports  
Board Members Comments  
Adjournment

Workshop to Follow

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# Obituaries/Sports

## Lancers come into game 7-0, No. 1 in 4A

**PREVIEW** - Continued from Page 11

cord, even Doherty knows one slipped away last week. "I don't know how much you can take out of that game, but we can look at ourselves and we know our rules and our jobs. We just didn't do our jobs at times last week and it hurt us," Doherty said. "We hope the kids learned from that and they're ready to do their job this week. I know we had a really great practice Wednesday."

North Scott comes into District 4 this year, as do the Hounds, but the Lancers have about three hundred more kids and Iowa City Liberty is just under North Scott. Fort Madison, on the other hand, is one of the smallest 4A schools, three spots out of Class 3A.

Fort Madison hung around with Iowa City Liberty for four quarters and a Mikey DiPrima pick with just under two minutes left gave Fort Madison a chance to tie the game as time expired. A chance that didn't turn into points.

Doherty said he's not big on comparing what one school did against another, only how Fort Madison measures up. "Sometime styles match up and sometimes they clash. Liberty and North Scott were 21-0 all in the second quarter. I know those stats and you can look at that to see if you can dig something out of it, but at the end of the day, they're going to line up in the three-man front and we're gonna spread it out. And then they'll flip it and we'll do the same thing," Doherty said.

The Lancers are 7-0 and coming off winning the Class 3A state championship in 2020, and were quickly installed as the top team in 4A at the start of the season.

North Scott, like Liberty, has a large enough squad where

See **LANCERS**, page 11

### OBITUARIES

## JERRY L. STEWART, SR.

Jerry Lee Stewart, Sr., 88, of Saint Paul, Iowa passed away at 7:46 a.m. Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at Keota Health Care in Keota, Iowa.



STEWART, SR.

He was born on April 11, 1933 in Franklin, Kentucky the son of Alfred and Evelean (Mayhew) Stewart. On March 30, 1961, he married Ardith Marie "Ardie" Jones in Waco, Texas. She preceded him in death on July 16, 2016.

Survivors include one son: Jerry Lee Stewart, Jr., of Bakersfield, California; four grandchildren: Alexis Stewart, Kinsey Stewart Nigro, Tyler Stewart and Nikki Stewart; five great grandchildren: Kayson Lee, McKinlee Marie, Jagger Lee, Mason and Dakota; one step grandchild: Daisy. Also surviving are four sisters: Maxine (Larry) Freeman of Bettendorf, Iowa, Wanda (Neil) Watts of Burlington, Iowa, Sandi (Ron) Bengé of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, Brenda Baker Stewart of Queen Creek, Arizona; one sister-in-law: Linda Stewart of Pismo Beach California; five brothers: Jim (Mary Anne) Stewart of Rock Island, Illinois, Willie Stewart of West Burlington, Iowa, Rick (Holly) Stewart of Coal Valley, Illinois, Don Stewart of Denmark, Iowa and Gene (Pam) Stewart of Mt Pleasant, Iowa.

He was preceded in death by his wife: Ardie; one son: Terry Stewart; his parents: Alfred and Evelean Stewart; two brothers: Sterling Stewart, Robert Stewart and sister-in-law: Mary Lou Stewart.

Jerry grew up in Kentucky and entered the Army

from Illinois, serving during the Korean War. He worked for the Goodyear Tire store in Burlington early in his career and then moved to Texas. There he started working as a carpenter and married his wife Ardith Marie Jones. They then moved to Santa Maria, California where he became a journeyman carpenter for the next fifty-one years. Following their retirement, they moved back to Saint Paul, Iowa to be closer to Jerry's family. Jerry loved late model car racing. He supported his son Jerry Jr. in his racing and was very proud of his son's accomplishments in his racing career. One of his favorite things to do was to watch old video tapes of past races.



Friends may call from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, October 17, 2021, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Monday, October 18, 2021, at the Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point with Pastor Aaron Helterbran officiating.

Burial will be in the Salem East Cemetery in Salem, Iowa with full military rites presented by the Henry County Honor Guard.

In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established in his memory for the Alzheimer's Association.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com). Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements.



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Opinion

# These men have some eloquent guidance

Richard Deming, the son of a grain elevator worker and grocery store clerk from small-town South Dakota, is a modest, soft-spoken man. He has spent the majority of his adult life with people when they are most vulnerable — when they or loved ones are fighting cancer.

Ron Fournier came out of a different background. The son of a Detroit, Mich., cop has spent much of his working life as a big-time political reporter, covering our nation's political leaders, including several presidents.

While you might think the two are as different as Madison, S.D., and the Motor City, they are quite similar in one important way: Each has become an eloquent, soul-searching advocate for keeping life in the proper perspective. We all would be wise to heed them, especially during these times when so many lives are filled with so much stress.

Deming is medical director of the Mercy One Cancer Center in Des Moines. His life was shaped by his mother's seven-year fight, first with brain cancer and then with lung cancer, during his high school and college years.

"In retrospect, I'm sure it was her hand on my back

that was kind of gently leading me into what became my career in cancer medicine," Deming said in a recent interview on Bob Leonard's always-interesting program, "In Depth," on KNIA radio in Knoxville.

While Deming uses the latest scientific knowledge and tools to treat cancer patients, at times he sounds like someone in a medical ministry. He calls it his "career in caring." Others are more philosophical: "The good physician treats the disease. The great physician treats the patient."

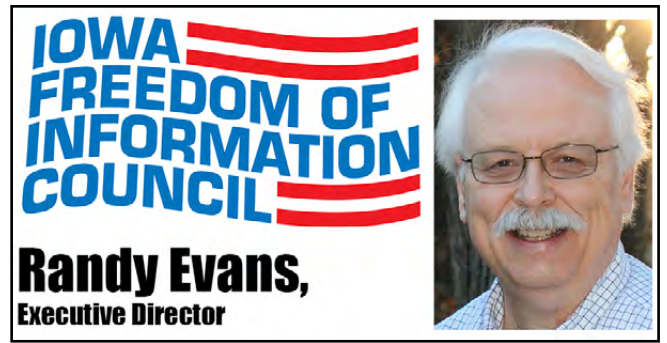
Deming told KNIA listeners: "It grew out of my understanding of what it means to live a full, meaningful, joyful life that includes suffering and challenges along the way.

"That understanding — that a joyful life includes the bumps, that joy comes through suffering, not from going around it — has really inspired the way that I practice medicine and the way I try to instill finding joy in the journey, as opposed to just at the top of the mountain."

Mountains are not just a metaphor for Deming. He has led cancer survivors on mountain-climbing journeys in Nepal, Tibet, Tanzania and Peru. He has a wonderful

book, "Above and Beyond Cancer," that shows and tells the inspirational stories of these expeditions in the words and photos of participants.

Deming told Bob Leonard he is constantly inspired by his patients, both those who are cured and those whose journeys end in death. Both groups of patients find strength they did not know they had.



"It's the ups and downs, and the twists and turns, that give the emotional complexity to our lives," Deming said. "We should just welcome what comes our way, realize that we are all in this together, and know there are so many people who are willing to help you on your journey.

"It's just like a hug. It works in both directions," Deming added.

Ron Fournier's discovery of life's important lessons came 11 years ago when his son, then 12, was diagnosed with Asperger syndrome, a type of autism. Fournier came to realize that his own anxieties about his son were really an extension of the timeless anxieties of all parents who want their children to excel, be popular and live happily.

For Tyler Fournier, although highly intelligent, Asperger's left him socially awkward and ill-equipped to interact with people. It wasn't until the autism diagnosis that the Fourniers realized their son was not just "quirky."

"I didn't want to acknowledge that he might be different," Fournier wrote in his outstanding book, "Love That Boy," about coming to terms with and then embracing his son's autism.

"That's one of many expectations we carry into par-

See EVANS, page 11

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## Opinion/Sports

# Two men advocate for keeping perspective

**EVANS** - Continued from Page 10

enthood, wanting our kids not to be different, not to be abnormal, to be perfect,” Fournier wrote. “Well, we realized that he’s not perfect, and you know what? That’s OK.”

Once the autism diagnosis was in hand, Fournier was prodded by his wife to capitalize on father and son’s shared interest in U.S. presidents.

The two embarked on road trips to visit museums and homes of notable presidents. With Fournier’s connections from his time as a White House reporter, they met with Bill Clinton in Little Rock, George W. Bush in Dallas, and Barack and Michelle Obama at a White House reception.

The presidents and Mrs. Obama all were gracious and kind to Tyler. That’s just what decent people do, Fournier said.

The title for the book came from a comment Bush made after first meeting Tyler in 2003, on Fournier’s last day on the White House beat. Tyler, then 5, launched into a rapid commentary about Bush’s dog Barney, a Scottish Terrier, about Scottish Terriers in general, and about President Franklin Roosevelt’s dog Fala, also a Scottish Terrier.

Bush was enchanted. “We were walking out of the Oval Office when Bush grabbed me by the elbow. ‘Love that boy,’ he said, holding my eyes,” Fournier wrote in *The Atlantic*.

Years later, he came to better understand Bush’s message.

“The message isn’t to love him despite his idiosyncrasies. It’s to love him because of his idiosyncrasies,” Fournier said. “What makes him different, what makes all of our kids different, is what makes them special.”

Ron Fournier and Richard Deming both are right.

Randy Evans is Executive Director of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council and can be reached at [DMRevans2810@gmail.com](mailto:DMRevans2810@gmail.com). Pen City Current is a member of the IFOIC.

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# Hounds hoping for better execution on the road

**LANCERS** - Continued from Page 9

there aren’t as many Lancers playing both sides of the football.

“Knowing they can go with a pretty full platoon is a luxury. We’re trying to build towards that, recruiting the hallways here and trying to get more kids come out for football. This year we’ve had the biggest increase in the number of kids that have come out, but some kids are just not ready for Friday nights and that’s the reality of it,” Doherty said.

But Fort Madison has a solid group of kids who have shown week in and week out they are more than ready for Friday nights.

Senior Landes Williams has 23 touchdowns on the year – 15 through the air and eight on the ground, two ahead of North Scott senior signal caller Greyson Juel. Juel stepped in after senior Carter Markham led the Lancers to the state title before graduating last year.

Juel leads District 4A with 21 passing touchdowns to five different receivers, but he has a penchant for senior Jacob Nelson who will work out of the slot and go in motion. Nelson has 602 yards in catches and 13 touchdowns, with the longest at 63 yards.

Senior Darnell Butler typically will line up just off and behind Juel’s hip and can run inside or out. He has 577 yards on the year and five touchdowns. He runs behind some bulky lineman anchored by 6’4” 260 lb. David Borchers and 6’5” 230 lb. Nate Schneckloth, both of whom see time on

both sides of the ball.

“Do they have good athletes? Absolutely. No doubt about it. It’s a well-established program with a state championship last year. They reload. They lost a great quarterback in the Markham kid last year and they replaced him right away. This kid is good. But football is a game of execution and who’s gonna be able to execute their job better,” Doherty said.

The Lancers were held to just 14 points in the first half of a win over Burlington two weeks ago, but wore the Grayhounds down in the second half, putting up 28 enroute to a 42-0 win. They then rolled Clinton 41-0 last week.

Doherty said the Hounds will have to create damage for North Scott, while minimizing Hounds’ damage.

“That’s going to be big for a Fort Madison football team that lost two of three major margins last week. We tied in the third. All the things we preach about winning football games, if that’s the goal for you, here’s the goals that are going to make that happen. When you lose two of three, you’re not setting up yourself for success, but hopefully that will propel us this week.”

The Hounds will be looking for better execution on many fronts this week, but have had solid performances in the first six games of the year.

In addition to Williams’ work off the snap, Fort Madison runs Jakob McGowan and Teague Smith out of the backfield. Tate Johnson, Kane Williams, Xander Wellman, and Gavin Wiseman are all part of the Fort Madison receiving corp.

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