

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 | 9 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 42



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ART CENTER

FMAAA to close for new roof, repairs

BY BRIAN RIGGS
Fort Madison Area Arts Association

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Area Arts Association shuttered the doors to the public after the finale of Budding Artist Exhibition on February 6th. FMAAA will reopen to the public in March with a traveling exhibition from Fairfield. The internal repairs to the damage caused by leaking roof will be completed along with additional track lighting and new coat of paint for the interior. FMAAA is so thankful to the individual, families, and businesses that donated to “Raise the Roof” efforts in 2020. The organi-



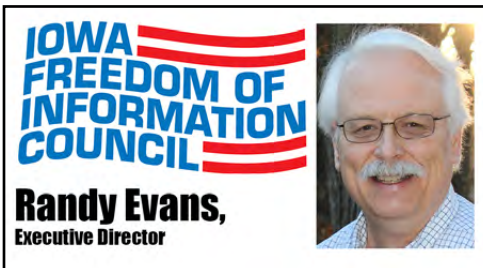
Courtesy Photo

FMAAA board member Angie Sodey holds up the reusable red Hy-Vee bags that are generating donations for the Fort Madison Area Arts Association. Hy-Vee donates \$1 to FMAAA for every red bag purchased during the promo.

zation will turn 40 years old as a 501c3 non-profit this summer, serving the Tri-State region. The new membrane for the exterior roof has a 25-year warranty. FMAAA looks forward to providing the best in cultural arts enrichment programs

and events well into the future at 825 Avenue G. There is still time to donate to the FMAAA renovation during the February shutdown. Our local Ft. Madison

See **ARTS**, page 3



Not surprising Iowans would have whiplash

Gov. Kim Reynolds’ message for Iowans has been consistent since the coronavirus pandemic arrived a year ago:

Yes, wearing masks is important, the governor has made clear, but government should leave it to people to do right thing.

Reynolds has been under intense pressure, both for and against facial masks. Advocates for a mask mandate have said she could save countless lives and slow the spread of disease if she required masks to be worn whenever people are in public places or large groups.

But government should not dictate people’s behavior, Reynolds insists.

Last week, however, the governor came out foursquare in support of a mandate that would require virtually all gasoline and diesel fuel sold in Iowa to be blended with ethanol and biodiesel.

This time, however, the governor was not concerned about dictating to business owners and drivers what they would have to do. This time, her concern was supporting Iowa grain farmers and refineries that produce ethanol and biodiesel from corn and soybeans.

I’m not here to question the importance of renewable fuels to Iowa’s rural economy. I know about half of the state’s corn crop each year is turned into ethanol, and Iowa ethanol refineries produce about one-quarter of the United States’ supply of the alcohol fuel.

That already is a significant economic factor in the state, and supporters of Reynolds’ proposal predict it would create 3,500 jobs in Iowa.

But it is hard to reconcile the governor’s I’m-for-this-mandate-but-not-that-mandate comments. Is it any wonder if Iowans have whiplash — especially with

See **EVANS**, page 6

Making valentines

Children enjoyed a morning of crafting and playing at Shug’s Tiny Town on Saturday at their “Be My Valentine” event.



AMBULANCE

Supervisors approve \$422K EMS acquisition

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – After being delayed for several weeks, an agreement has been reached between Lee County Supervisors and Lee County EMS Ambulance, Inc. for the county

to acquire a good chunk of the ambulance services property and equipment.

The regular meeting of the the Lee County Board of Supervisors was moved to Tuesday morning due to Monday’s federal holiday. Supervisors approved the purchase unani-

mously.

The county is still on track to take over providing ambulance services to Lee County residents starting July 1.

The purchase of six ambulances

See **EMS**, page 8

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WEATHER

WED 17 Feb	Light Snow, 17° F / -3° F	
THU 18 Feb	Overcast, 19° F / 0° F	
FRI 19 Feb	Light Snow, 20° F / -3° F	

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 02/15	1 21 22 34 45 , Lucky Ball: 11
PICK 3 02/15 MIDDAY.....	5 8 3
PICK 3 02/15 EVENING	2 9 5
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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report
 02/11/21 – 5:08 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 800 block of Avenue G.
 02/11/21 – 8:28 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Charles Gary Daisy, 39, of Keokuk, in the 1100 block of 19th Street on a charge of driving under suspension.
 02/11/21 – 10:05 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident on 18th Street.
 02/12/21 – 7:49 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1900 block of Avenue E.
 02/12/21 – 10:28 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 4800 block of Avenue O.
 02/13/21 – 7:05 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1500 block of 39th Street.
 02/13/21 – 11:54 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1200 block of 40th Street.
 02/13/21 – 2:12 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1700 block of Avenue H.
 02/13/21 – 2:40 p.m. – Fort

Madison Police arrested Chaquineterra Rasha Ne-
 whouse, 21, of Fort Mad-
 1700 block of Avenue H, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
 02/14/21 – 2:11 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Abigail Elaine English, 24, of Kahoka, Mo., in the 2800 block of Avenue K, on a charge of OWI. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
 02/14/21 – 3:57 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1700 block of Avenue H.
 02/15/21 – 9:03 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the at 53rd Street and Ortho Way.
 02/15/21 – 9:21 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident on Storms Court.
 02/15/21 – 3:30 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
 02/15/21 – 3:52 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 4800 block of Avenue L.

Lee County

Sheriff's Report
 02/11/21 – 1:24 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jerrie Richard Latham, 54, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's dept., on a charge of providing false information to acquire a permit. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on a promise to appear.
 02/11/21 – 3:30 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Nicholas William Kamp, 27, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's dept. on a warrant for violation of parole. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 02/11/21 – 9:35 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Cade Justice Burgher, 18, of Fort Madison, was cited for OWI at the sheriff's dept.
 02/12/21 – 10:30 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jason Lee Morris, 56, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's dept. on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.
 02/12/21 – 1:03 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Louis Eugene Metcalf, III, at the Marion County Jail in Palmyra, on a warrant for violation of probation. He was held in custody.
 02/12/21 – 2:58 p.m. – Lee

County Sheriff's deputies cited Marty Joe Cochenour, 44, of Fort Madison, in the 2700 block of Chalkridge Road, on a charge of violation of a no contact order.
 02/12/21 – 3:30 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Candi Isabella Kay Medina, 27, of Fort Madison, in the 8500 block of Chalkridge Road, on warrants for failure to appear. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and released after paying a fine.
 02/12/21 – 6:28 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Rebecca Sue Billing, 35, of Hamilton, Ill., at the sheriff's dept. on a warrant for contempt of court. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released after paying a fine.
 2/12/21 – 6:46 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 1600 block of Hwy. 218. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Barbara Kali Kircher, 30, of Keokuk, was headed southbound on Hwy. 218 passing a disabled semi and struck part of the truck's blow tire. No injuries or citations were reported.
 02/12/21 – 7:17 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested David Allen Laws,

39, of Hamilton, at the sheriff's dept., on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.
 02/12/21 – 8:52 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one vehicle accident in the 2200 block of West Point Rd. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Chase LeeRay Helenthal, 26, of Keokuk, was southbound when he lost control on snow conditions and slid into the ditch. No injuries or citations were reported.
 02/13/21 – 2:54 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Shaunta Marie Andrews, 22, of Burlington, in the 2600 block of Bauer Street in Burlington on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released after paying a fine.
 02/14/21 – 1:58 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Ken Curtis Nichols, 28, of Burlington, at the sheriff's dept. warrants for sexual assault and indecent exposure. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 02/14/21 – 11:36 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Sean Lewis Ram-bow, 19, of Burlington, at the sheriff's dept., on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee

County Jail and held.
 02/15/21 – 12:02 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Johnathan Robert Harian, 28, of Burlington, at the sheriff's dept. on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 02/15/21 – 11:47 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Andrew John Baxter, 33, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's dept. on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 02/16/21 – 12:12 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Misty Ann Richers, 40, of Fort Madison at the sheriff's dept., on a judgment hold. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

02/08/21 – Emma L Burkholder, age 18, of Keokuk, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Petition to Revoke or Modify Sentence for Probation Violation on original charges of Forgery. Burkholder was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 02/08/21 – Meghan J Plowman, age 28, of Hamilton, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear/ Failure

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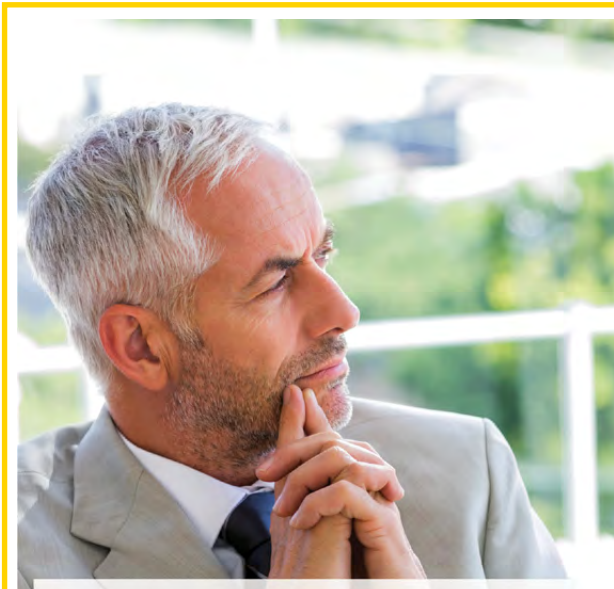


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PEN CITY CURRENT

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For the Record/From the front

For the Record

to Pay on original charges of Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine. Plowman was also arrested on a McDonough County Warrant. Plowman was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.

02/08/21 – Kody K Turner, age 28, of Dallas City, IL was arrested and charged with Violation of Order of Protection. Turner was also arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Driving Under the Influence and Criminal Trespass to a Residence. Turner remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance.

02/09/21 – Alicia C Behrman, age 36, of Dallas City, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on original charges of Driving While License Suspended. Behrman was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.

02/10/21 – Shawn L DeHaven, age 49, of Dallas City, IL was arrested and charged with Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm and Unlawful Possession of a Weapon by

a Felon. DeHaven remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance.

02/10/21 – Amanda L Turner, age 43, of Mendon, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine. Turner was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.

02/10/21 – Michael E Bates, age 45, of Ursa, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine. Bates was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.

02/10/21 – Brooke J Cooper, age 44, of Hamilton, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on original charges of No Valid Drivers License, Operating an Uninsured Vehicle, and Expired Registration. Cooper was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.

02/10/21 – Chad A Stewart, age 48, of Elvaston, IL was arrested and charged with Domestic Battery. Stewart remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bond awaiting his next court appearance.

02/12/21 – Dawn C Nelson Brown, age 50, of Warsaw, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on original charges of Possession of a Controlled Substance. Nelson was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.

02/13/21 – Michael A Vaughn, age 27, of Nauvoo, IL was arrested on an Adams County Warrant charging him with Petition to Revoke Probation. Vaughn was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.

02/13/21 – Christopher J Covert, age 37, of Blandinsville, IL was arrested and charged with Domestic Battery. Covert remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his initial court appearance.

02/14/21 – Tammy M Gittings, age 42, of Dallas City, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Criminal Damage to Government Supported Property, Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine, and Obstructing Justice. Gittings remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting her next court appearance.

Donors helped “Raise the Roof”

ARTS - Continued from Page 1

HyVee submitted FMAAA as the non-profit to benefit from their annual “Have a Heart” reusable bag campaign. When you purchase the Red Heart reusable bag this month at HyVee, a dollar is donated to the FMAAA renovation project! Have a “Heart for the Arts” this month at Ft. Madison HyVee with a bag purchase!

FMAAA is so pleased with the regional support garnered with the “Raise the Roof” campaign. Thanks to the following donors: Axalta Coating Systems, Dave and Jane Bartlett, Michelle Bentler, David & Becky Biegler, Rebecca Bowker, Patti Boyd, Mike and Mary Brockman, Lyle Brown, Maralyn Burkhart, Climax Molybdenum, Connection Bank and Insurance, May Crowe, Dave’s Marine, Jeff & Beth Deacon, Marvin & Sarah Denning, Vicky Dovenspike, Harold & Connie Dyer, Gene and Sherri Enke, Janice Feany, Mike & Jennifer Flach, Corey and Carrie Fraise, Myrna Folker, Shirley Gabel, George and Mary Ann Gaudette, Fritz Goeckner and Tracy Bell, Linda Gregory, Don and Meredith Griffiths, Gary and Anna Grinstead, Laurie Hayler and Chaz Rippenkroeger, Paul and Donna Hedgepeth, Todd and Sarah Hoffner, Dr. Charles and Marilyn Holmes, Chuck and Karen Ihrig-Gilbert, Lori and Eric Illner Greene, John and Carol Janosik, Jim’s Greenhouse, Helen Johnson, Dr. Pam Kaiser, Tracy Kamp, Larry and Connie Kelch, Kempker’s Tru Value and Rental, Jim Knapp, King- Lynk Funeral Home,

Steve & Agnes Koellner, Dr. Paul & Gail Kunch, Jeff and Deborah Kurtz, Tim and Patricia Laffey, Timm and Mary Lamb, Anita Lee, Lee County Bank and Trust, Bill and Bev Link, Julie Long, Linda Marshall, Steve and Kathy McCracken, Meller Excavating, Brian & Kim Mendez, Ann M. Menke, Henry and Kathy Merschman, Carroll and Richard Michalek, Mary Moore, William & Kathleen Napier, Mary Nelson, Joe and Christine Panther, Jim & Betty Posz, Nicholas & Carrie Pothitakis, Potowonok Circle of King’s Daughters, John & Christina Rabo, Dr. Jake and Rosie Rashid, Tony Reyes Family Foundation/PaperPak, James and Dana Rheinschmidt, Warren and Peggy Rickleman, Brian Riggs, Cindy Roberts, Laetitia Rotter, Lillian Rubin, Jane Sanford, Dawn Schnicker, Scotts Miracle-Gro, Seither and Cherry Services, Drs. Larry and Carolyn Smith, Angela Sodey, Lon and Shelly Spurgin, Standard of Beaverdale, Roger Sirois, Bernard and Victoria Stephenson, SubArena, Curt and Ginny Swarm, Chad Ward, Jackie Wells, Mim Van Winkle, Barb Zumdom. These funds were paired by grant awards from Iowa Arts Council and by North Lee County Community Foundation.

This amount in turn was utilized to match the grant garnered by Fort Madison SIRCC for \$25000. FMAAA will continue to be “Always Moving” in the cultural arts zone for years to come thanks to our “Raise the Roof” donors.

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Sports

HTC boys suffer 8-minute scoring drought in season-ending loss

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DANVILLE – An eight-minute scoreless stretch between the 3rd and 4th quarter proved to be a dagger in the Holy Trinity boys basketball team’s 2020-21 season.

The Crusaders made an early exit in Class 1A District 8 action, with a 52-52 loss to Danville at Danville Monday night.

Head Coach John Hellige said losing Vasin and Jason Thurman, Chandler Rung and Kadin Medland will be tough on the Crusaders.

“We just couldn’t connect on baskets in the fourth quarter,” Hellige said.

“Our seniors Vasin, Chandler, Kadin and Jason will be missed.”

The Crusaders finished the year even at 11-11. Danville will travel to Springville to play Springville on Thursday at 7 p.m.

Holy Trinity jumped on the Bears early building a six-point lead at 12-6 with less than a minute to go. Danville would cut that lead to four at 12-8 at the end and then outscore HTC 14-10 in the second quarter to send the teams into the half-time break tied at 22.

Tyler Snaadt hit a 3-pointer to open the third and give HTC a 25-22 lead, and the Crusaders would stretch that to four at 31-27 with three minutes remaining in the period.

The Bears would then hold HTC score-



less for the next eight minutes and pulled away to a 40-31 lead on a 13-0 run that appeared to be too much to over come.

But a late rally capped by a Chandler Rung 3-pointer brought Holy Trinity back to within in four at 44-40 with less than two minutes remaining.

Danville would get hot from the free throw line as HTC tried to grab possessions hitting their last 12 points from the charity stripe with Ty Carr and Cadence Williams combining to go a perfect 8-of-8 down the stretch to seal the win.

Rung led HTC with 15 on the night. Vasin Thurman had 11. Snaadt finished with six, while Jason Thurman and Mikey DiPrima each added four points. Medland chipped in with two to round out the scoring.

Vasin Thurman finished the year just two points shy of 400. Jason Thurman wraps up his senior year with 240 points, while Rung had 234 and Medland had 92. Vasin Thurman also led the team in rebounds on the year with 214. Jason Thurman had 63 assists, which were top on the squad.

Hawks need OT to advance

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

DONNELLSON – Evan Swanson warned his Central Lee boys basketball team about Van Buren County before Tuesday’s Class 2A district first-round game.

The coach felt he needed to remind the Hawks of his warning at halftime, when they trailed by six.

It took overtime, though, before they could escape.

Central Lee’s 71-64 win over the winless Warriors was never easy, but it is February and it is the postseason, and that’s what Swanson told his team.

“Playoffs,” he said. “Survive and advance. That’s all that matters.”

Central Lee (7-14) plays at West Burlington (14-6) in Thursday’s second-round game.

Van Buren County finished the season 0-14. And it was that record that concerned Swanson heading into the game.

And he repeated his concern when a 3-pointer in the closing seconds of the first half gave the Warriors a 26-20 lead.

“I told them the same thing I told them before the game started — Van Buren isn’t just going to roll over for us,” Swanson said. “Records don’t matter right now. Matchups don’t matter right now. At the end of the day, just win. And if you don’t, you’re done. Telling seniors this could be their last few minutes to play, it can be impactful. So I think they finally understood Van Buren was here to play and they stepped it up in the second half.”

Dylan Stuecker had 19 of his 24 points in the second half and in overtime. Jaxon Betker had 18 points, 13 in the final 40 seconds of the fourth quarter and in overtime. Kaleb Sanders had 11 points, eight in the second half. Derick Denning was scoreless in the first half, but finished with eight points. All four are seniors.

“(Betker) has been playing well for us all season,” Swanson said. “Dylan coming out and hitting those threes to start the second half was huge. A lot of guys stepped up for us tonight.”

Betker’s 3-pointer with 40 seconds left in the fourth quarter put Central Lee up, 57-55. The Warriors tied the game with 22 seconds left on a jumper by Jackson Manning, and had the ball for a final shot, but Lane Davis’s jumper missed, sending the game to overtime.

Central Lee’s Seth Mayes opened the scoring in overtime with a cutback. Betker added a 3-pointer a minute later, and the Hawks were up 62-57. He then scored Central Lee’s next five points, as the Hawks pushed the lead to 67-61.

Van Buren rallied to get within 67-64, but Stuecker’s two free throws and Sanders’ putback of a Stuecker free-throw miss provided the final margin.

Manning led Van Buren with 24 points. Owen Loeffler had 15, and Davis added 11.

“We haven’t won a playoff game in two years,” Swanson said. “So they were thrilled, I was thrilled. I let them know that while it feels good, we’re not done. Just winning one playoff game isn’t enough.”

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From the Front/Classifieds

Reynolds OK mandating fuel standards, but not masks

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

public health experts nationally telling us a mask mandate could hold down the number of deaths from coronavirus while we wait to get people vaccinated?

The governor's ethanol's proposal is far reaching and includes tax credits and tax money for fuel retailers to upgrade their tanks and pumps. You will find the text of her proposal on the Legislature's website by searching for House Study Bill 185.

If approved by the Legislature:

(a) All gasoline sold in the state would have to include no less than 10 percent ethanol — except ethanol-free gas could be dispensed from a maximum of one pump per retail store and from certain other fueling sites, such as airports, marinas, facilities for vehicles not registered for highway use, and at locations selling motorcycles, snowmobiles and ATVs.

(b) All diesel fuel sold in Iowa from October through March would be required to include 5 percent biodiesel. From April through September, it would have to include 11 percent biodiesel. Each fuel retailer would be allowed to have one pump that dispenses diesel that is not blended with biodiesel. Certain other fueling locations, including airports, power plants and railroad facilities, would be exempt from the biodiesel requirement.

(c) After Jan. 1, 2025, except at the one pump per

retail store, all gasoline would have to be at least an E-15 blend of ethanol — although the governor could delay the requirement. And beginning in 2024, diesel would have to be blended with 20 percent biodiesel each summer.

(d) Fuel retailers violating these requirements could have their state licenses suspended or revoked.

The Reynolds proposal is not a sure bet, because powerful interests are aligned on opposite sides of the issue.

The Iowa Renewable Fuels Association, Iowa Farm Bureau, Iowa Corn Growers Association and Iowa Soybean Association all favor Reynolds' plan. The Iowa Motor Truck Association, Casey's and Kum & Go convenience stores, and a conservative advocacy organization, Americans for Prosperity, all oppose the proposal.

The first legislative test comes Wednesday afternoon when a House subcommittee holds a public hearing on the bill.

Monte Shaw, executive director of the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association, said, "This legislation would create a growing market for biofuels and thereby provide a stable and reliable market for Iowa farmers."

The legislation would benefit consumers, too, he said, because higher blends of ethanol would be available in more places. Shaw said only about 300 of Iowa's 2,400 gasoline retailers now sell the E-15

blend.

Eighty-seven percent of the gasoline sold in Iowa now is blended with ethanol, and 70 percent of the diesel fuel sold for on-road use is a biodiesel blend.

The Fuel Choice Coalition, a new group that includes Casey's and Kum & Go, said in a statement, "We strongly urge the Legislature to oppose this mandate, which will force Iowans to pay more at the pump, eliminates choice in our fuels, and threatens hundreds of small businesses and the people they employ."

Brenda Neville, the chief executive of the Iowa Motor Truck Association, told the Des Moines Register, "The trucking industry has absolutely no issues with biodiesel. But we do have an issue when we're being told what we have to put in our trucks."

Shaw, the renewable fuels leader, said, "Some of the opposition is just kind of knee-jerk, 'Don't tell me what to do.' OK, I get that. But there's a bigger public policy for the state of Iowa."

The folks who have been leaning on Governor Reynolds to require people to wear masks made the very same point that Shaw did: There is a bigger public policy involved.

Randy Evans is the director of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council and can be reached at DMRev-ans2810@gmail.com. Pen City Current is a member of the IFOIC.

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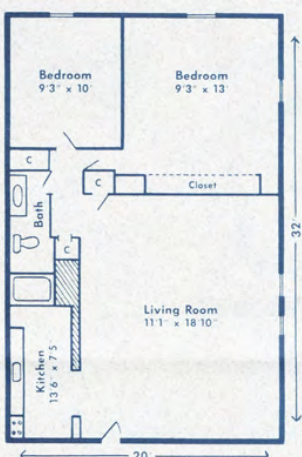
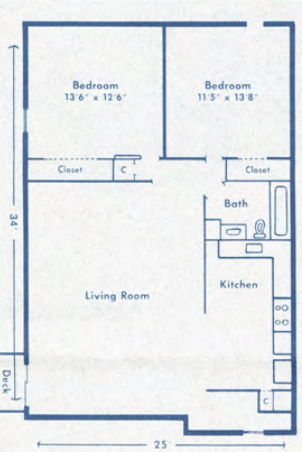
**PUBLIC NOTICE
AGENDA
FORT MADISON
PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
Date: Thursday,
February 18, 2021
Time: 5:30 P.M.

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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 members, 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 meeting ID (845 8477 0078) 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 a. Regular Meeting January 21
V. Approval of the Bills - a. Approval of February 2021 Bills
VI. Correspondence VII. Director's Report
a. Financial
b. Personnel
c. Programming
d. Collection Development
e. Operations
f. Facilities - landscaping

g. Professional VIII. New Business a. Discussion with Mayor Mohrfeld of the Special Library Levy IX. Unfinished Business a. Aarin Guzman Donation Project Presentations X. Upcoming Events and Information a. February 25 - Sunnybrook Chili Fundraiser benefitting the library. If anyone can help with deliveries from 11:30 to 1, they would appreciate it.

b. March - Begin reviewing new Trustee Handbook
Next Meeting, Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 5:30.

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Sports/From the Front

Grant could help fund some of the new ambulances

EMS - Continued from Page 1

and a command vehicle have already been approved, as well as the hiring of Cosby and Jason Dinwiddie to run the new service, all under the direction of an advisory board assembled in 2020 to oversee the transition.

After having the private ambulance service's facilities and equipment appraised, and following negotiations between the ownership family and the county's ambulance director Dennis Cosby, a price was reached at \$442,500.

Cosby said after having the assets appraised, he believes the price is fair.

"Looking at all the equipment and going through everything and talking to the companies that manufacture these things, I think we're right in line there," Cosby said.

The acquisition includes just one ambulance out of the fleet, a 2018 model, medical equipment, and three buildings and their contents in Donnellson, Fort Madison and Keokuk.

"Dennis really took care of this and got back to us. I think it's a fair price for what they have, and in negotiations when you get both sides to agree to something this quickly, you're probably doing a good job and I would recommend it," said Supervisor Rick Larkin.

Larkin also sits on the advisory board with Supervisor Garry Seyb, Jr.

Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise said it would be the intention to take the funds out of the county's general

fund.

Fraise also said the county is working with Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission on a grant that could potentially pay for up to 35% of the recent purchase of ambulances. That grant would be a USDA grant that requires a public hearing, which was set for Feb. 22 at 9:10 a.m.

In December the county approved spending just over \$1 million on six ambulances and a command vehicle.

Supervisor Matt Pflug said a bill to have ambulance services declared essential services under state code made it out of a state ways and means committee last week. The bill could open up state ambulance services to additional public revenue streams.

In a related issue, supervisors also approved a motion to hold a public hearing for a maximum tax levy with a 2% increase in property tax dollars, which is the limit the state will allow without a supermajority vote, or four of five supervisors.

The county had a 2% increase in the last fiscal year, but this year will be adding an entire new ambulance division to the county budget, all while holding to the 2% overall increase.

Fraise said the advisory board has high hopes that the ambulance service will be a wash for the county.

In other action, supervisors:

- approved a 28E agreement with Jefferson County for Environmental

Bloodhounds hang around with Ottumwa until late

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – It was a heck of a game, right up until it wasn't.

With just over three minutes left and the Fort Madison boys down by just two, things went as cold as the air outside the Hound Dome.

Ottumwa would outscore Fort Madison 12-1 down the stretch for a 54-43 win in the Hounds regular season finale. Fort Madison opens Class 3A Substate 5 action Monday against Mt. Vernon at Mt. Vernon with a 7 p.m. tip.

The Hounds lost Friday after a solid first half, but then went ice cold shooting in the second half.

But Head Coach Ryan Wilson said the Hounds played a solid game and just couldn't get shots to fall when they needed, and couldn't get to the free throw line.

Fort Madison shot only seven free throws on the night converting just three. The Bulldogs on the other hand when to the free throw line 24 times and made 20, 12 in the final period.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Fort Madison's Dayton Davis goes up for a shot in the third quarter over Trae Swartz (22) of Ottumwa. Swartz and Davis would tie for game-high scoring with 17 points each.

"I thought we played a good game," Wilson said. "We just couldn't, for whatever reason, get to the line as much as they did. But our kids played hard against a much bigger squad."

Fort Madison had a lead 40-39 with about 7 minutes left in the game when Dayton Davis scored off

in inbounds bounce pass from Miles Dear under the basket.

On the next possession, Ottumwa would slip through Fort Madison's 1-2-2 trap press for a transition bucket and Dear would foul Kie Glosser on a layup. Glosser would hit

See HOUNDS, page 9



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Sports

Free throws hurt FM late in loss

HOUNDS - Continued from Page 1



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Fort Madison junior Tate Johnson shoots over Ottumwa's Adam Greiner (34) in the fourth quarter of Tuesday night's 54-43 loss to Ottumwa in the Hounds' regular season finale.

the freebie for a 42-40 lead.

In the next half court possession for Fort Madison, Dear would miss on a three attempt, but Davis working hard against 6-5 senior Trae Swartz would yank down the rebound with one hand and fight it away only to get fouled going back up.

Davis would hit the back end of the two free throws. The Hounds would miss 13 of their next 14 shots including a flurry of shots in the final :30 that Ottumwa couldn't get control of, and the Hounds couldn't get to go down.

The one basket came from Davis off a steal to cut the lead to 48-43 with 2:20 left.

Ottumwa would only convert one basket the rest of the way, but went to the free throw line 10 times converting eight to put the game away.

The Bloodhounds trailed through the first 10 minutes to open the game but tied things up at 15 when Tate Johnson buried a 3-pointer from the right wing with 5:09 left in the half.

There would be four more ties and three lead changes the rest of second quarter before Davis scored with :02 left on the clock to give Fort Madison a two-point lead 26-24 going into the break.

Davis tied Swartz with 17 for game-high honors. Dear had 10 for Fort Madison. Matt Hopper had six, Reiburn Turnbull had five, Tate Johnson had three points and Landes Williams had two on the night to round out Fort Madison's scoring.

Ottumwa's Matt Graeve would tied things up right away in the 3rd and then Dear would hit a 3-ball to give Fort Madison the lead again.

The Hounds would miss the next four shots from the field while Ottumwa built a 35-29 lead, but Hopper would hit back-to-back threes, the second in front of the



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Landes Williams (4) drives against an Ottumwa defender in the first quarter Tuesday night at the Hound Dome.

Bloodhound student section to get things a bit rowdy and tie the game at 35.

Turnbull would hit a three as ball slipped through the net right after the buzzer sounded to give Fort Madison the lead going into the final period.

"We attacked the basket, we got shots at the basket and shots in the lane. We did a lot of good things. They just didn't call it or it got blocked or whatever," Wilson said.

With the post-season set for Monday, Wilson said he told the Hounds to keep their heads up.

"We played a good basketball game. We took care of the ball tonight, but we didn't get to the free throw line and shots didn't fall, but we did a lot of good things."

Wilson said he really has seven starters and six of those seven can hit the three, but they have to rebound better.

"We're not big. We're athletic, strong and can jump a little, but our point guard is our second leading re-

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