

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 | 12 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 64



www.pencitycurrent.com

County wants FM to fix trail drainage

P.O.R.T.: Trail next to county easement is sending water down 302nd Avenue

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A drainage issue that has surfaced around the Fort Madison PORT trail has county officials wanting action.

At a workshop following Monday's regular Board of Supervisors meeting, County Engineer Ben Hull told the board he has growing concerns over drainage near part of the trail on county property near the Canine Coral Dog Park south of Rodeo Park.

The point of contention is storm water drainage from the trail across a small easement that then runs across and down



HULL

302nd Avenue.

"The trail occupies the place where we used to have our ditch. In a number of places, the ditch has been eliminated causing the water to run down and across the road. Generally, it's not functioning well," Hull told the board.

Hull provided photos to the board that showed water running across the road and said not only are there hydroplaning and erosion concerns, in the winter there could be conditions of icing.

He said the county did review the plans and expressed con-

See **DRAINAGE**, page 5

COUNCIL MEETINGS



Forty-one years is a long time... and not

They say it's not good juju to talk about your competition, but I don't give two shakes about that.

I've sat side by side with a curly-haired, skinny guy named Chris Faulkner for the past six years. I worked with him in 1996 for about a year before I went on to a larger paper.

Chris announced this month that he would be retiring from the Daily Democrat after 41 years of doing a job that he didn't think existed. He knew newspapers existed, but a budding accountant didn't know you could get paid for writing about high school sports.

We won't go through all the dates, you can get that from the Daily Democrat.

This guy had illusions of working for a larger paper but instead chose staying in Fort Madison covering this small town's families for more than four decades.

My time working side-by-side with Chris has been a kaleidoscope of memories, a myriad of emotions. I've seen him happy, laughing, and patrolling the front line of the student sections at volleyball, basketball, and football games. Trying to raise the roof and firing off pix of kids in makeup, maybe catching a Will Larson dance.

One of my favorite stories to tell is from a soccer substate game last year. And Chris, you can smile at me about this. There was a shooting at Ivanhoe Park during the match. I heard the actual gun fire – this was no nail gun.

I meandered around and texted a few

See **FAULKNER**, page 8



Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herron and FMPD Captain Jamie Carle speak with witnesses of a natural gas leak Monday evening Fort Madison. Firefighters pulled a man from the residence, who was evaluated by medical staff and released.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

AVENUE H

City to start next phase of Hwy. 61 reconstruction

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Work will once again start on the reconstruction of business 61 in Fort Madison next month.

Beginning at 9 a.m. on Friday April 1, Highway 61 will be closed from 10th Street to 12th Street, and 15th Street to 18th Street.

At the intersections of 10th, 13th, 14th, and 18th streets traffic will remain opened to allow for cross traffic. The work includes removing the old highway and replacing

city storm and sanitary sewer lines, laying a new subsurface, and pouring new concrete for a 3-lane highway similar to the work already completed on 2nd through 9th streets.

City Public Works Director Mark Bous-selot said traffic will remain open from the middle of the 1200 block to the 1400 block of Avenue H so motorists can access businesses in that stretch of road during Phase 1 on the project.

"Basically from Casey's to Taco Bell will be accessible for businesses as will the side

streets to help navigate the construction zone," he said.

The entire stretch from 10th to 18th Street is currently scheduled to be completed by June of 2023, but the first phase should be done by Thanksgiving of this year.

Both sides of the highway are being re-constructed at the same time.

The city also announced beginning Monday, April 4th, the bridge on 27th Street between Avenue I and Avenue J will be closed for construction.

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WEATHER

TUE 29 Mar.....	Rain and Snow, 51° F/ 35° F
WED 30 Mar.....	Snow, 40° F/ 34° F
THU 31 Mar.....	Light Rain, 45° F/ 33° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 03/27.....	15 11 25 42, Lucky Ball: 7
PICK 3 03/27 MIDDAY.....	5 0 0
PICK 3 03/27 EVENING.....	6 2 8
PICK 4 03/27 MIDDAY.....	2 2 4 7
PICK 4 03/27 EVENING.....	5 7 2 9

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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

03/22/22 - 10:27 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Sierra Lynne McGee, 32, of Burlington, in the 1800 block of Avenue E, on a charge of driving under suspension.

03/23/22 - 10:39 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue L.

03/23/22 - 10:49 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Sean Michael Raines, 40, of Fort Madison, in the 2100 block of Avenue C, on three warrants for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/23/22 - 5:15 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Andrea Jean Hoenig, 38, of Fort Madison, in the 3500 block of Avenue O, on a charge of driving under suspension.

03/24/22 - 9:13 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 400 block of Avenue E.

03/24/22 - 1:30 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Avenue H.

03/24/22 - 1:56 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 400 block of 6th Street.

03/25/22 - 9:30 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1500 block of 18th Street.

03/25/22 - 4:55 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2600 block of Avenue L.

03/25/22 - 7:04 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1800 block of Avenue H.

03/26/22 - 12:01 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited Carlos Richard Gonzales, 22, of Fort Madison, no location given, on a

charge of drive license denied/revoked - OWI.

03/26/22 - 12:55 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 500 block of 5th Street.

03/26/22 - 1:36 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited Shaqwanza Aviance Trotter, 30, of Fort Madison, at the intersection of 48th Street and Avenue L, on a charge of driving while barred.

03/26/22 - 3:16 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Deborah Jo Johnson, 60, of Fort Madison, in the 1200 block of 17th Street, on a charge of city: dog disturbing peace and a warrant for xxx???

03/26/22 - 4:14 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 200 block of Avenue G.

03/26/22 - 8:26 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2800 block of Avenue M.

03/27/22 - 10:00 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 3900 block of Bluff Road.

03/27/22 - 7:31 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Bradley Glenn Traman, 35, of Fort Madison, in the 200 block of Avenue G, on charges of assault w/bodily injury and contempt - violation of a no-contact order, and an active warrant

03/27/22 - 9:23 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Tehya Renee Elaine Smith, 21, of Keokuk, at the intersection of 33rd Street and Avenue L, on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

03/27/22 - 11:40 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Heather Michelle Hayes, 29, of Fort Madison, at the intersection of 24th Street and Avenue J, on a charge of driving while barred.

03/28/22 - 2:04 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited Kaneciah Rashell Page, 21, of Burlington, at the intersection of 7th Street and Avenue G, on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

Lee County Sheriff Report

03/22/22 - 4:19 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 1700 block of 295th Street. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Judy Danielle Thompson, 41, of Argyle,

was traveling in the 1700 block of 295th Street when Thompson lost control of the vehicle and struck a mailbox. No injuries or citations were reported.

03/22/22 - 11:13 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies cited and released Troy Michael Bode, 50, of Montrose, in the 400 block of 10th Street, Keokuk, on a charge of driving while barred.

03/22/22 - 11:52 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Eric Wayne Wood, 34, of Arebla, Mo., in the 1500 block of Hilton Road, Keokuk, on a warrant for possession of a controlled substance and a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/23/22 - 4:07 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Maurice Alexander Talton, Jr., 59, of Keokuk, at the North Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/23/22 - 5:26 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested James Edward Jones, 60, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/23/22 - 6:25 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Jeanie Naomii Frakes, 40, of Elvaston, Ill., at the South Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for violation of probation. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/23/22 - 9:18 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Shad Everett Marshall, 43, of Donnellson, at the South Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for domestic assault - bodily injury. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on bond.

03/23/22 - 10:52 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Phillip Ryan Beavers, 32, of Keokuk, in the 3600 block of 235th Avenue, Keokuk, on charges of failure to display registration plate, improper use of handicapped parking ID, driving while barred, possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, speeding, and failure to obey stop sign/yield row. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/23/22 - 11:54 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Brittany Anne Nye, 23, of

Donnellson, in the 3600 block of 235th Avenue, Keokuk, on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/24/22 - 1:11 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Gregory Wayne Myers, 63, of Cascade, IA, at the South Lee County Courthouse, on warrants for ongoing criminal conduct - unlawful, 2 warrants for 2nd degree burglary, 1st degree theft greater than \$10,000, and 2nd degree theft greater than \$1,500 but less than \$10,000. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/24/22 - 4:53 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested John Wesley Huss, 34, of Argyle, at the North Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for 5th degree criminal mischief. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on bond.

03/24/22 - 5:00 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Daniel James Burke, 57, of Keokuk, at the South Lee County Courthouse, on a judgment hold warrant. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/24/22 - 6:08 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Pele Oscar Wise, 43, of Fort Wayne, Ind., in the 2800 block of N. County Rd., on warrants for 3rd degree sex abuse - def 4+ yrs older, 1st degree kidnapping, 2nd degree sex abuse 2nd or subsequent, distribute drugs near a school, pander minor for prostitution, and 2 warrants for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/25/22 - 8:45 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident in the 3200 block of Hwy. 16. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Jerry Alexander Martin, 49, of Palos Hills, Ill., was traveling westbound on Hwy. 16 when an object flew out of the back of a vehicle driven by Max Al Doubet, 53, of Wever. The object struck Martin's vehicle causing minor damage. No injuries or citations were reported.

03/25/22 - 1:50 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies cited and released Phillese Sea Roberts, 37, of Minneapolis, Minn., in the 1400 block of Hwy. 27, West Point, on a charge of

possession of a controlled substance.

03/25/22 - 2:07 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies cited and released Sasha Nadine Robinson, 31, of Minneapolis, Minn., in the 1400 block of Hwy. 27, West Point, on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

03/25/22 - 5:01 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested IC Frederick Christy, 34, of Argyle, in the 3400 block of Main Street, Keokuk, on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on his own recognizance.

03/25/22 - 5:38 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Adam Nathaniel Watson, 37, of Keokuk, at the South Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for 2nd offense domestic abuse assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on bond.

03/25/22 - 5:45 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Karley Rachele Schmitz, 28, of Argyle, in the 3400 block of Main Street, Keokuk, on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance.

03/25/22 - 10:50 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Colton Michael Atterberg, 19, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on time served.

03/25/22 - 9:36 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Derek Roscoe Bradham, 29, of Cedar Rapids, at the intersection of Hwy. 103 and Franklin Rd., West Point, on charges of violation of a domestic no-contact order and 2 charges of possession of a controlled substance. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on bond.

03/25/22 - 10:13 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Kimberley Marie Pollock, 30, of Cedar Rapids, in the 1800 block of Franklin Rd., West Point, on charges of violation of a domestic no-contact order and unlawful possession of prescription drugs. She was taken to Lee County Jail and later released

on her own recognizance.

03/26/22 - 12:29 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Molly Rose Haynes, 29, of Fort Madison, at the intersection of 18th Street and Avenue H, Fort Madison, on charge of driving while barred. She was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on a promise to appear.

03/26/22 - 4:57 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Roderick Vaughn Taylor Rice, 43, of Ottumwa, at the sheriff's office, on a charge of assault w/ bodily injury. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/26/22 - 7:04 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Kaydence Joseph Wilson, 18, of Quincy, at the intersection of Hwy. 218 and 255th St., Donnellson, on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on a promise to appear.

03/27/22 - 9:48 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Anthony Douglas Fox, 38, of Waylon, Mo., in the 3500 block of Argyle Rd., on a charge of possession of a controlled substance. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/28/22 - 12:00 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Jerrod Wayne Dodson, 37, of Keokuk, at the South Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/28/22 - 2:17 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Halie Ann Gunderson, 23, of Fort Madison, at the intersection of 23rd Street and Avenue H, on charges of violation of a domestic no-contact order and child endangerment - no injury. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/28/22 - 2:17 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Andres Adrian Garcia, 24, of Fort Madison, at the intersection of 23rd Street and Avenue H, on charges of violation of a domestic no-contact order and driving under suspension. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Those listed above are charged with a suspicion of a crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



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Member **LION Publishers**
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Pen City Current, www.PenCityCurrent.com, and Pen e-Saver are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Monday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

Founded in 2016
P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Obituaries

OBITUARIES

MARY A. FRANCIS

Mary Ann Francis, 71, of Keokuk, IA died Thursday, March 24, 2022 at the Keosauqua Healthcare Center in Keosauqua, IA.

She was born July 7, 1950 in Muscatine, IA the daughter of Gerald Ford and Cora June Herman Dallas.



FRANCIS

On November 6, 2001 Mary was united in marriage to Donald Francis in Keokuk at the Rand Park flower garden. He survives.

Other survivors include four sons, Raymond LeRoy Wilson, Jr. of Keokuk, Arthur Woodro Wilson (Sherry) of Keokuk, John Gerald Wilson of Florida and Gerald Lee Wilson (Brandi) of Kahoka, MO and one daughter, Theresa Ann Adams (Frankie) of South Carolina, eleven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. She is also survived by one brother, Ronald Lee Dallas (Nancy) of Ft. Myers, FL, one sister, Betty Lou Jobe of Burlington, IA and one nephew.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two granddaughters and two nieces.

Mary was a loving mother and home maker who enjoyed caring for her family. She was an avid yard sale shopper and loved antiquing and was always on the lookout for knick knacks to add to her collection. Mary enjoyed taking pictures, spending time on her computer and researching genealogy. Mary loved to go camping with her husband and searching for mom and pop restaurants along the way.

A gathering of remembrance will be held from 2-4 p.m., Tuesday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with the family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to Good Samaritan Hospice.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

OBITUARIES

SHARI L. FORESMAN

We regret to announce the passing of Shari Lee Foresman, 60, of Auburn, California, on March 17, 2022. Shari lived a full and warm life, filled with joy and adventure. She will be fondly remembered and sorely missed.



FORESMAN

Shari was born on July 9, 1961 in Elgin, Illinois to Warren and Viola Dahl. She graduated with a degree in English from the University of Missouri in 1989. Shari was a devoted wife to her husband John and mother to her children Eric and Susie. Being a mother was one of the most important parts of Shari's life, a role that gave her much pride and joy. In her spare time she enjoyed making art, sewing, sailing, swimming, and traveling.

Shari is survived by her husband John; her mother Viola; her son Eric and his partner, Ali; her daughter Susie and son-in-law Carlo; and her siblings Yvonne, Dan, Vicki, Jeanne, Carol, and Larry. She is preceded in death by her father, Warren, and her mother- and father-in-law, Madaline and Ludwig.

A memorial service will be held at Immanuel United Church of Christ in Bartlett, Illinois on Wednesday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. The family will receive friends from 10:00 a.m. until time of services at the church. An additional service will be held at Sacred Heart Church in Dallas City, Illinois on Friday, April 1 at 10:00 am, followed by the burial at Harris Cemetery in Dallas City.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Peter and Paul Catholic School, 1115 Young St., Nauvoo, Illinois. To leave a condolence for the family, please visit Shari's obituary at banksandbeals.com.

ARDELLE M. LOWE

Ardelle May Lowe, 97, of LaHarpe, Illinois, formerly of Pontoosuc, Illinois, passed away at 12:45 a.m. Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at The Elms in Macomb, Illinois.

Ardelle was born May 30, 1924 in Clinton, Iowa, the daughter of Alva and Pauline Gearman. On November 5, 1960 she married Robert W. "Bob" Lowe in Chicago, Illinois. He preceded her in death January 1, 2009.

Ardelle worked for a short time for Clean Towel in Burlington, Iowa and as Steam Engine Cleaner during World War II. She and her husband, Bob, owned and operated Town & County Tavern in LaHarpe, Crows Nest Tavern in Gulfport and the Wye-Knot Tavern in Niota.

She was a member of the Carthage VFW Auxiliary and the Fort Madison Moose Lodge. She enjoyed doing puzzles and Sudokus. She especially enjoyed traveling.

Survivors include one son: Robert "Mike" (Joyce) Lowe of Belton, Missouri; one daughter-in-law: Mary Hitchcock of Andalusia, Illinois; three grandchildren: Jesse Lowe, Shaun (Rhonda) Hitchcock and Lori Mier; five great-grandchildren: Jason (Katie), Jared, Brendon (Danielle), Maddie and Hannah and five great-great-grandchildren: Ryken, Xavier, Acelynn, Charlie and Livia.



LOWE

Mrs. Lowe was preceded in death by her parents; husband: Bob; one son: Ross Hitchcock and one brother: Ovid Gearman.

Cremation has been entrusted to Banks & Beals Funeral Homes.

A graveside service will be held at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at the Keokuk National Cemetery, Keokuk, Iowa.

Memorials may be made to the Ardelle Lowe Memorial Fund. To leave a condolence for the family, please visit Ardelle's obituary at banksandbeals.com.

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Sports/Scene Around Town

Lady Hounds fall to BND Nikes 3-0 in season

SHUT OUT: Snaadt, Randolph, Sobczak all have shots on goal for Hounds

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON – It took about five minutes for Fort Madison's girls soccer team to settle in during their first match of the season.

It took 29 minutes, though, for Notre Dame-West Burlington to score on the Bloodhounds.

There were positive things for Fort Madison to take away from the 3-0 loss to the Nikes at the Baxter Sports Complex.

"I would say, for our first game, it was maybe even better than I expect-

ed," said coach Carrie Burken, who was replacing several key players from last season's team. "As far as how we played, the first five minutes were chaotic, disorganized. But after that, they really started figuring things out, organizing with each other. I liked what we did."

The Nikes got all three of their goals in the second half.

It was the second one, a shot by Aviana West that sneaked into the net with 14:45 to play, that hurt the most.

"That second goal was really tough on us," Burken said. "Coming back from two goals is a lot more difficult than one goal. That second one really put a lot of pressure on us."

The Bloodhounds, who lost plenty of scoring from last season, had

chances to score in both halves.

The best first-half chance came with 1:30 left, when Teagan Snaadt's shot from deep on the right side crossed in front of the net and went wide.

Natalie Randolph had two close shots in the second half, the first when the match was scoreless and the second coming just three minutes after the second ND-WB goal. But Randolph couldn't get a clear look at the net on either shot.

Anna Sobczak then had her shot with 9:30 remaining pass by the net on the right side.

"We had good opportunities," Burken said. "I think we figured out in the second half where the weaknesses were in their defense and we sent Teagan and Natalie to those spots. The next step will be shooting sooner or passing sooner. But those are game situations, and the more we play this season, the more we'll convert on those."

"Finishing is always the last thing to come, and I think we'll get better at that. Game situations are different than practice."

Burken tried players in different positions, something she expected to do a lot early in the season.

"You could see a lot of changes in the first half," she said. "The second half, I think we got a lot more comfortable."

Burken hopes 2nd year of co-op leads to another post-season run

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
SPORTS STAFF

FORT MADISON – Carrie Burken's first season as Fort Madison's girls soccer head coach was an education for her, and her players.

There is still a bit of a learning curve to start this season, considering the roster turnover and the number of new players.

"I think with so many new players out, it's going to be figuring out who works well together," said Burken, whose team opened the season on Monday at home against Notre Dame.

It wasn't just Burken's first season last year, it was also the first season of the co-op between Fort Madison and Holy Trinity.

The Bloodhounds went 8-7 last season, including the program's first postseason win. Burken wanted to build on that, so she spent the offseason trying to add to her roster.

"A lot of the Fort Madison girls I've had in class — they know me, they know my personality," said Burken, who teaches social studies at Fort Madison High School. "With the Holy Trinity girls, I would see them at volleyball games, basketball games, so I'd always talk to them, try to get to know them. I wanted them to come out, and be a part of this."

Seven HTC players are on the roster.

"We have a lot of programs that co-op, so I'm glad that we were able to get some more

players from Holy Trinity," Burken said. "I think it's great for both schools, and great for the community."

Burken learned a lot about herself as well.

"I learned that there's a lot more to being a head coach than an assistant coach," she said. "I think I learned a lot about knowing your players — how they work together, knowing when to push and when to encourage."

There is a lot of offense to replace from last season. Seniors Claire Pothitakis, Brandy Walker and Taylor Crabtree combined to score 48 of the Bloodhounds' 56 goals.

Last season was about mixing and matching lineups at the start of the season, and Burken envisions that early this season.

"The season is going to be a little bit of a hodgepodge," Burken said. "Who is comfortable where, who can play multiple positions? But I think that was the same way as last year."

Perhaps the biggest win of last season was the 3-2 victory over Burlington in the first round of the postseason.

"I think that was really big for the girls to see we could go farther, just because we never had," Burken said.

The learning process begins again for the Bloodhounds. There are just four seniors on the roster, meaning this group could be together for a while.

"That's the exciting thing for me, to get to know them and see what they can do," Burken said.



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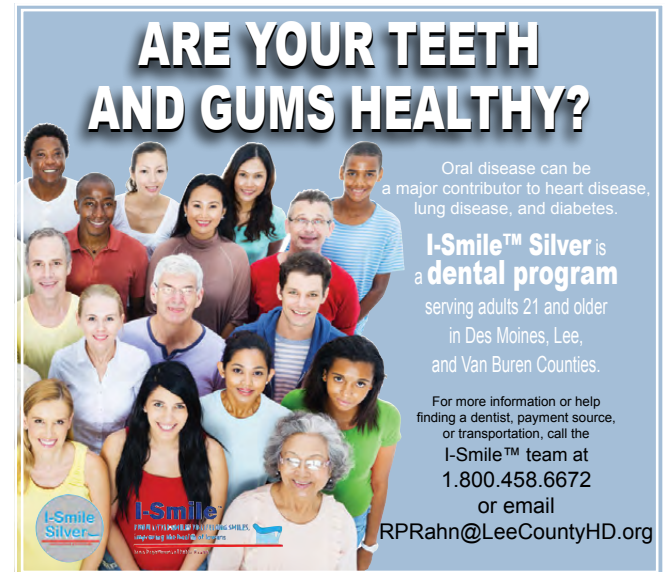


Lake Cooper Angling Association President Jim Noll Accepts a \$500 check from UFCW, Local 617 member Mitch Seager, as a donation towards sponsorship for two LCAA "Open" Bass Tournaments to be held out of Lake Cooper this summer.

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Iowa News/From the Front

Hull feels city is ignoring county's requests on drainage

DRAINAGE - Continued from Page 1

cerns about drainage, but those concerns were not addressed appropriately.

"The comments were acknowledged with a response that, at that time in July of 2020, there was no time to revise plans before they were bid, or an addendum added," Hull said.

"I understand there was a later addendum. I don't know that I saw that. In any case, the plans we saw were preliminary in nature and it was never really clear to me what the overall drainage plan was and it's clearly not working."

However, the 28E agreement with the city allows for the county to actually move the trail if the project were to cause issues on county property. The city has only annexed the property that holds the trail and is responsible for maintaining the trail, but not the drainage areas or roadways.

Hull asked HR Green, the city's engineering firm on the project, for the city to investigate the issue. He said the responses were incomplete and designed to shield liability. Hull then took the issue to supervisors Ron Fedler and Garry Seyb who met with city officials to discuss the concerns.

Hull said it wasn't the greatest area in the Lee County road systems to begin with, but it was functioning and now it's not.

The city agreed to amend the 28E currently in place where they would fix the drainage issue and continue to perform winter maintenance, while indemnifying the county against damages.

He said the county didn't get the revised 28E to the city until December, but they received a counter proposal from the city.

"I have iterated a few times, that we weren't asking for thoughts and opinions. We considered this to be an olive branch. Under this agreement, we have a number of remedies. We can have them relocate the trail based on our maintenance needs and I

consider that to be the nuclear option at this point," Hull said.

"That's what we don't want to have happen. But, at this point, I feel like I've been ignored and we're not getting responses," Hull said.

Fort Madison Public Works Director Mark Boussetot said a meeting was set in November to address the issues, but said he sent out emails last week to try and get pertinent people to sit down again and work out the issue.

"We had a meeting set for November, but Ben couldn't make it and then we got into Thanksgiving and the holidays, and it didn't get revisited until now," Boussetot said.

He said the city did maintain the section of 302nd near that part of the trail over the winter because of the county's concerns with water freezing on the roadway.

"We said we'd do that until we could get this sorted out and we did."

Seyb agreed saying he'd met with Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld a couple times and the city isn't against resolving the issue, but the county and the city need to sit down again.

"I don't believe the city has at any point said it's not their responsibility. The 28E from us, was basically our opportunity to give them a time frame to do one of two things," Seyb said.

He said those were for the city to go back to the engineers to do work to meet the county's needs, or for the city to work with Hull to find a path going forward.

However, Hull said the city should eventually annex all the way to the middle of 302nd Avenue to assume responsibility for the drainage and the roadway. He said the city has done a good job honoring commitments to keep the roadway clear of ice. Board Chairman Matt Pflug asked Hull to approach the city about coming into a Supervisors meeting and update the county on where the city is at with respect to resolving the issue.

State's jobless rate falls to 3.5%

DES MOINES - Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 3.5 percent in February from 3.7 percent in January. The state's jobless rate was 4.4 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate decreased to 3.8 percent in February.

The total number of unemployed Iowans fell to 59,400 in February, down from 62,700 in January. Meanwhile, the total number of working Iowans increased to 1,626,800 in February - a figure that was 9,100 higher than January and 33,400 higher than one year ago. Iowa businesses added 5,800 jobs in February as hiring has ticked up in 2022. In 2021, the state

averaged around 2,800 jobs gained per month.

The labor force participation rate increased from 66.8 percent to 67 percent.

"February's jobs report is a strong sign that our economy continues to move in the right direction," said Beth Townsend, Director of Iowa Workforce Development. "More Iowans are returning to the workforce and finding new jobs, many with higher wages than they earned pre-pandemic. We have had a tremendous response to the Reemployment Case Management program, and with over 86,000 job openings currently on IowaWORKS.gov, we can help any Iowan find their next great job, too!"

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From the Front

Faulkner steps aside after 41 years with local paper

FAULKNER - Continued from Page 1

people to confirm what I thought I'd heard. As sirens started wailing, I found my way to Ivanhoe for some initial photos and then back to the soccer game. I could get the story after the game, and they weren't going to let me into that crime scene anyway.

With about three minutes left in the soccer game, I went up to Faulkner behind the south goal and said, "Well, this will be a busy night,"

"What do you mean?" he said.

"Didn't you hear the gun fire or the sirens? There was apparently a shooting in Ivanhoe Park. I left at halftime to get some pictures."

Faulkner, who really is a consummate news guy, proceeded to throw his game clipboard about 20 feet across the grass behind the goal and I thought he was getting ready to throw his camera. I quickly advised against that move. We journalists will sacrifice our body before putting a \$1,500 camera in harm's way, or anyone else's for the matter.

Steaming and feeling like he had failed his beat as the weekend slot editor, I told him he had time to catch it and I didn't have a whole lot of information anyway. I did...but I didn't say I did.

I remember sitting next to him on a wrestling mat in Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines when Harlan Steffensmeier was wrestling for the state title in 2018. We were watching Harlan getting ready on the mat just minutes before Fort Dodge's Cayd Lara made his way to the mat. Harlan was air drumming and bouncing around - something I'd never seen him do in three years of covering wrestling.

"Did you see that, Chris?"

"What?"

"He was air drumming. I've never seen him that relaxed before. He's gonna win this. Get ready."

We worked the rest of that story together getting with the state champion, Coach Ryan Smith, and family members to get our stories done.

There were numerous other sports events that we covered together. HTC state volleyball, FMHS football,

basketball, et.al and then breaking news - fires, features, and the rest of Fort Madison's story.

It has always been my pleasure and a bit of comfort seeing Chris walk in. It's familiarity, and it's comfort. Seeing Chris walk into games made it a Bloodhound, Crusaders, or Hawks event. There will still be those games - there's too much tradition here. But it just won't be the same.

I would imagine Chris won't be able to go cold-turkey and will be sitting in the stands to enjoy stories unraveling that he no longer has to write about.

He was the envy of a lot of us who write and photograph at the same time. Very few can track the game, keep the stats, shoot the game, tweet, post to Facebook, and then go do the traditional stuff that gets made into plates and rolled off the presses.

I'll miss our conversations on ethics waiting on coaches to come out of locker rooms, or the gossip of the latest hedge fund buyout. He knew things I did not.

I rarely knew things he did.

We all have our skill sets in this looney journalism gig, and I never said it to him, but I learned some of the business from him. One thing he hones well is everything in this microcosm of news-gathering is interconnected. The things we write today will have a lasting impact on the families of generations to come. Chris got that... gets that.

I'll miss sitting next to you my friend, and doing everything we can to not shoot the same damn picture. The community will be one short now. But it's our pleasure to applaud your efforts to chronicle the lives of so many.

Chris-iis Faulk-ner... Clap... Clap... Clap-Clap-Clap.

Speaking of clapping, there wasn't a lot of that going on this weekend as I went to the Ozarks for 437,000 holes of golf. We went with some friends I met over the past year golfing on the weekends, and we were relegated to cart-path only golf due to the five inches of rain that dumped on the area. Those that come down here regularly to play are going..."Oooof" right now.

It was a long, chilly weekend. Yes, I was the only one in the group playing in shorts, but Larry Kelch, Gordy Fedler, Dan Fullenkamp, Steve Knight and about four others cheered me on in my shorts, then laughed as I tried unsuccessfully to not fall asleep in the leather recliner watching NCAA hoops. On the very last hole of the quasi-competitive weekend, Dan, who always seemed to find a way to work my Thursday 122 (talk about Oooof) into the conversation, told me my feet were lined up wrong. I hit the next ball 250 down the middle.

Dan likes to win... But that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is editor and co-owner of Pen City Current and can be reached at charles.v@pencitycurrent.com.

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