

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 | 8 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 36



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LCCB backs off Denning work



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Melissa Peitz speaks to the Lee County Conservation Board about the Denning Conservation project near Houghton Tuesday night.

NEW TRUST: Mysterious trust pops up that could fund playground improvements

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

HOUGHTON – A mysterious trust has cropped up surrounding the management of the Denning Conservation property about two miles from Houghton.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Lee County Conservation Board about 25 people showed up to advocate that the board detour from plans to turn the property into conservation land.

Plans included demolishing at least one barn on the property, turning a section into conservation land with native Iowa prairie, and not replacing a playground that Eleanor

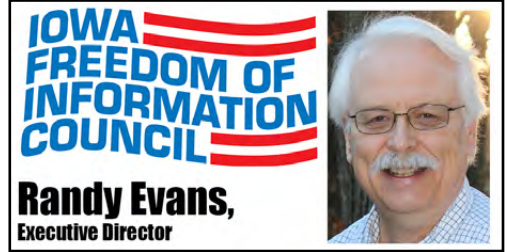
Denning personally funded when its useful life has ended.

However, LCCD director Heather Huebner said in the past few weeks information has come to light about the trust that was established to maintain the playground.

Melissa Peitz addressed the board on behalf of preserving the property, and said her information indicated there was about \$85,000 in it. Huebner said according to information she's received, the fund is supposed to have about \$77,000 in it.

Huebner said appointments have been set in the next week with attorneys to sort out the accounting of the trust.

See LCCB, page 8



Mixed message on mandates puzzling Iowans

I'm confused, and I have a hunch I am not the only one. Are government mandates a bad thing — or are they good?

My confusion comes because I hear what leaders in the Iowa Legislature and Gov. Kim Reynolds have said for months. It certainly seems as if, to a person, they agree mandates are bad.

The governor often talks about how she believes Iowans will "do the right thing" when it comes to Covid vaccines and wearing masks. She talks about the importance of defending people's rights and liberties. She is confident Iowans will act appropriately.

Last May, she signed a new law that blocks K-12 school districts from requiring that masks be worn by students, teachers, staff and visitors. That law also prohibits cities and counties from requiring masks inside businesses.

The governor's statement during the bill-signing was blunt: "The state of Iowa is putting parents back in control of their child's education and taking greater steps to protect the rights of all Iowans to make their own health care choices."

Now, this is where things get murky.

This is where it becomes difficult to know whether mandates are something being pushed by unpatriotic Americans with little regard for our Constitution — or whether they are a reasonable step by government.

Our governor and these same lawmakers are working on a proposed new law that would require all gasoline retailers, with few exceptions, to have available for consumers higher blends of ethanol.

Most gas stations and convenience stores now sell the E10 blend that is 10 percent ethanol and 90 percent gasoline. The governor and legislative leaders want to

See EVANS, page 8

OLD FORT PLAYERS

Spring production brings back Drinking Habits

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The smash hit "Drinking Habits" by Tom Smith was such a success for Old Fort Players Community Theater in 2020 that they are bringing the lovable zany characters back to the stage for the much-anticipated

sequel, "Drinking Habits 2: Caught in the Act."

The Sisters of Perpetual Sewing miss the excitement of the old days when they were saving convents and reuniting long-lost families. So, when they learn that the orphanage where Paul and Kate grew up is in peril, they can't wait to

come to the rescue. Everyone pitches in to mount a play to raise money, but it's no easy feat when Kate's expecting any day, Sally's hiding from stage-fright-stricken Paul after another flight from the altar, Mother Superior's acting is unexpectedly

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
WED 09 Feb.....Broken Clouds, 44° F/ 31° F
THU 10 Feb.....Clear Skies, 36° F/ 23° F
FRI 11 Feb.....Rain and Snow Mix, 43° F/ 21° F

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LUCKY FOR LIFE 02/07.....6 28 36 39 41, Lucky Ball: 16
PICK 3 02/07 MIDDAY.....250
PICK 3 02/07 EVENING.....639
PICK 4 02/07 MIDDAY.....6195
PICK 4 02/07 EVENING.....3538
POWERBALL 02/07.....5 15 38 47 65, Powerball: 10, Power Play: 3

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Obituaries/Iowa News

OBITUARIES

FRED L. DYER

Fred L. Dyer, 101, of Frisco, Texas, formerly of Houghton, Iowa, passed away at 2:23 p.m. Monday, January 31, 2022, in Frisco, Texas.

He was born on September 11, 1920, near West Point, Iowa, the son of Fred and Josephine (Groene) Dyer, Sr. On October 30, 1944, he married Bernice E. Conrad at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point, Iowa. She preceded him in death on December 27, 1998. Survivors include his three sons: Rick Dyer of Cape Coral, Florida, Randy (Sue) Dyer of Houghton, Iowa, Bill (Rae) Dyer of Omaha, Nebraska; three daughters: Janet Milligan of Angleton, Texas, Connie Baumgartner of Omaha, Nebraska, Deb (Skip) Middleton of Frisco, Texas; eleven grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; one sister: Jane Dyer Schilitz of Bettendorf, Iowa; one sister-in-law: Connie Dyer of West Point, Iowa. Also surviving are several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife: Bernice; one son; two brothers: Irvin and Harold; two sisters: Ruth Mehmert and Evelyn Bentler.

Fred was a graduate of St. Mary's Catholic High School. He was a World War II veteran serving in the United States Army Air Corp. He was a member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Houghton, Iowa, the Houghton Knights of Columbus Council #3905 and the West Point American Legion Holtz-Geers Post #668. Fred enjoyed farming, playing cards and socializing over a cup of coffee.

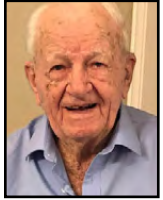
Friends may call after 1:00 p.m. Thursday, February 10, 2022, at St. John's Catholic Church in Houghton, Iowa, where the family will receive friends from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. that evening. A Christian wake service will be held at 5:30 p.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, February 11, 2022, at St. John's Catholic Church in Houghton with Father Dan Dorau as celebrant.

Burial will be at St. John's Cemetery in Houghton with full military rites presented by West Point American Legion Holtz - Geers Post #668.

A memorial has been established in his memory for Houghton Knights of Columbus or West Point American Legion.

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



DYER

OBITUARIES

BESSIE M. STEVENSON

Bessie May Stevenson, age 83, passed away on Saturday, January 29, 2022 at her home in Paris, MO. Bess was born May 15, 1938 in Shelbyville, MO, the daughter of the late George Moon and Lucille (Smith) Hockaday. On September 7, 1956, she married John Simpson of Shelbina, MO. They later divorced. She was united in marriage to Richard Stevenson of Denmark, IA on February 16, 1980. He survives.



STEVENSON

Bess is also survived by her children, Joann Hancock (Bob) of Duncan's Bridge, MO, Sam Simpson (Lloyd) of Kirksville, MO, John Simpson (Michelle) of Center, MO, and Lisa Theall of Raleigh, NC; two step-sons, Ronald Stevenson of Denmark, IA and Nick Stevenson (Pam) of Dallas Fort Worth, TX; eleven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and one sister, Jessie Harrison of Moberly, MO; and several nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents; two grandsons, J.L Hancock and Mason Theall; and step-son, Rick Stevenson.

Bess graduated from Shelbina High School with the Class of 1956. She graduated with a marketing and management degree from Western Wyoming Community College in Rock Springs, WY with the Class of 2000. She worked for General Electric in West Burlington, IA for 16 1/2 years and was the first woman to be a woman expeditor. She moved to Rock Springs, WY in 1987. Bess was the YMCA Domestic Violence manager for 7 years and then managed her own commercial cleaning business. She was the housekeeping manager for a local hotel before retiring.

Bess was a member of the Shelbina Christian Church, Rock Springs Women's Club, PEO Chapter B.C., GFWC of Wyoming and Missouri, and the Red Hats Society. She was a past state president of the GFWC and PEO. Bess was a volunteer for Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County, Cowboys Against Cancer, and many other community organizations. She loved to volunteer and was always ready to help others when they needed it most. Bess enjoyed quilting, collecting antiques, listening to country music, and spending time with her grandchildren.

Burial will be at Denmark Cemetery at a later date. Memorials may be made to Shiloh Christian Children's Ranch or Shelbina Christian Church.

Future Ready Iowa youth internship project available again

DES MOINES – Governor Kim Reynolds today announced the opening of another round of funding opportunities for employers, nonprofits, educational and community groups seeking to provide high school youth with internship opportunities.

Now available for the fourth consecutive year, Future Ready Iowa's Summer Youth Internship Project grants are designed to help youth explore and prepare for high-demand careers while gaining work experience and

developing the personal attributes necessary to succeed in the workplace.

A total of \$250,000 will be available for programs this summer. Applications must be submitted through www.IowaGrants.gov by March 2, 2022.

Priority for funding will be given to programs that provide internships to high school youth who are at risk of not graduating, from low-income households, from communities under-represented in the Iowa workforce, or

who otherwise face barriers to success and upward mobility in the labor market.

"Iowa needs every available worker for our economy to succeed," said Governor Reynolds. "These Future Ready Iowa Summer Youth Internship programs open doors to students who face barriers or otherwise might not consider work in a particular industry or career. Our state can build a brighter future by helping both young Iowans and employers consider the entire range of

what's possible in our labor force."

Grant funds may be used for services and resources to support costs of program participants, including for example: internship wages, training resources, transportation of the participants, clothing, program staff time and indirect costs. Last year, more than 550 students participated in 26 summer internship programs. A total of \$1.6 million was awarded in amounts ranging from \$5,900 to \$246,720.

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Obituaries/Lee County News

OBITUARIES

JASON D. LAMPE

Jason D. Lampe, age 49, passed away at 11:10 a.m. on Friday, February 4, 2022, at his home in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Jason was born on September 2, 1972, at Sacred Heart Hospital in Fort Madison, Iowa, the son of Danny and JoAnn (Fullenkamp) Lampe. On June 5, 2004, he married Laurie Fett in West Point, Iowa. They had three beautiful daughters together.



LAMPE

Jason's greatest gift in life were his daughters: Mya, Halle, and Nora. He is survived by the three: Mya, Halle, and Nora, all of Donnellson, Iowa. He is also survived by his parents; brother: Joe (Jamie) Lampe of Iowa City, Iowa and sister: Amy (Brandon) Mills of Iowa City, Iowa, as well as close cousin: Emily (Corey) Kelch of Fort Madison, Iowa.

He is also survived by nephews: Jackson, Christian, and Quentin and nieces: Samara, Keira, and Leah, all of Iowa City.

Jason was a radiology technician, with a focus on MRI imaging and management. Even though he held several jobs over the years, his love was for radiology and healthcare. He often reflected his passion during his time as an employee and Director of Radiology at the Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Jason was a graduate of Marquette High School in West Point, Iowa and Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa, Iowa. Throughout his education, he was involved and excelled in every sport Marquette offered. He also loved the outdoors, with lots of time spent hunting, fishing and, just watching nature in general.

Jason was preceded in death by his grandparents, as well as several aunts and uncles.

Friends may call from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, February 6, 2022, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point, where the family will receive friends from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. that afternoon.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, February 7, 2022, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point with Father Apo Mpanda and Pastor Kevin Hardcastle officiating. A luncheon will follow at the American Legion in West Point, Iowa.

A private family burial to follow at Calvary Cemetery in West Point, Iowa.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established for the education of his daughters, Mya, Halle, and Nora. Those can be sent to the funeral home at: Schmitz Funeral Home, P.O. Box 22, West Point, Iowa 52656.

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

LCHD sets immunization clinic for Thursday in Keokuk

KEOKUK - Lee County Health Department will be holding a Children's Immunization Clinic Thursday, February 10, 2021 at Trinity United Methodist Church, 2330 Plank Road in Keokuk from 1:00 pm until 4:30pm.

Please park on the south side of the building (the large parking lot) and enter in the door that states HANDI-CAPPED.

The clinic is open to children who

have no insurance, are insured by Iowa Medicaid (MCO) or those who have private health insurance that does not cover the cost of vaccines.

Written parental consent is required for minors to receive vaccinations when in the care of another adult. (Please visit our website for a consent form.)

Please call 1-319-372-5225 with questions or visit our website at www.leecountyhd.org.

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OBITUARIES

JON R. LOEFFLER

Jon Roger Loeffler, 74, of Keokuk, IA died Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at the Allen Hospital in Waterloo, Iowa.

He was born October 27, 1947 in Keokuk, Iowa the son of Roger "Bud" and Bernadine "Babe" Bennett Loeffler. Jon graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 1966.



LOEFFLER

On June 15, 1968, Jon was united in marriage to Mary Jane Blankenship at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Keokuk, Iowa.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two daughters, Laura Keller (Marlon) of Keokuk, Iowa and Jennifer Conard (Jeff) of Byrnes Mill, Missouri, three grandchildren, Audrianna Briggs (Matthew), Brandon Conard (Brooke) and Madelynn Keller (Michael), one great-grandchild, Camden Briggs and one nephew, Jame Hayes (Amanda) and his three children, Andrew, Macy and Logan.

Prior to Jon's retirement in 2013, he had been employed by ADM Milling in Keokuk, Iowa for forty-three years.

Jon loved the outdoors and especially enjoyed family oriented activities including boating, camping, riding four wheelers and taking golf cart rides. He was a skilled mechanic and enjoyed to work on cars. Family was the most important aspect of Jon's life. Jon was a deeply devoted husband, father and grandfather. Jon leaves his family with a lifetime of wonderful memories. His faith was an integral part of his life and he was proud to be a veteran of the United States Army who served during the Vietnam War and was a proud American.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father, as well as his sister, Jami Loeffler.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Friday, February 11, 2022 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, Iowa with Pastor David Turner officiating. Burial with military rites will take place at the Keokuk National Cemetery.

Visitation will be held after 1:00 p.m., Thursday, February 10, 2022 at the funeral home with family meeting with friends from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Memorials may be made to the Wounded Warriors Project.

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

Spring OFP show to kick off May 6

OFP - Continued from Page 1

narcoleptic, and the sisters' award-winning wine keeps getting switched with the grape juice. The merry mix-ups multiply in this warm and winsome sequel to "Drinking Habits."

Co-directors Ty Clute and Angela Sanford are looking for several new actors this time around. "Not everyone from the old cast can fit the show into their schedules this year, so we are looking for some fresh faces to fill out the cast," Sanford said. The script calls for three men (two under 40 and one over 40) and five women (three over 40 and two under 40). All interested actors are required to audition even if they were cast in the previous show.

Drop by the OFP downtown location February 15, 17 & 20 at 6:30pm. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. No experience or preparation is necessary. Also needed are volunteers for Stage Manager and Sound and Lights positions. Experience is preferred but not

required as training will be provided.

"Drinking Habits 2: Caught in the Act" is produced by Special Arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. (www.playscripts.com), performances are scheduled to run May 6-8 & 13-15, 2022.

Sponsors for the season include Lee County Bank, Jim Baier Ford and partners include the Fort Madison Daily Democrat and Scotts, with Connections Bank also contributing.

Last season would have been Old Fort Players' 40th anniversary but the celebration was postponed due to Covid. So, this will be the "40+1 Anniversary Season." The theater is located in downtown Fort Madison at 725 Avenue G. Send a Facebook message, send an email to oldfortplayers-fm@gmail.com or call 319-372-9559 for more information. Like them on Facebook (Fb@oldfortplayers) or visit www.oldfortplayers.com to keep up with everything that's going on at the theater.

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Sports/Education News

Big 3rd quarter helps Lady Hounds to win over HTC

Ross scores 11 of Bloodhounds' 22 points to give Fort Madison win in crosstown rivalry

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison's girls basketball team scored 21 first-half points against Holy Trinity on Monday night.

The Bloodhounds surpassed that in the next eight minutes.

A dominant third quarter helped Fort Madison take control of the game on the way to a 57-42 win.

The Bloodhounds (14-4) outscored the Crusaders 22-2 in the quarter after trailing by two points at halftime.

"I think our intensity was down in the beginning," said Fort Madison guard Malarie Ross, who scored 11 points in the quarter and finished with 21. "I think switching to a man-to-man defense really helped us, too."



ROSS

"We talked at halftime about how our intensity was low and our defense was bad, and we had to change that."

Holy Trinity (10-11) did not have a field goal in the quarter — the only two points came from free throws from Natalie Randolph with 2:50 left.

"We turned the ball over too much," Holy Trinity coach Tony Johnson said. "We tried to make too many long passes, we got frustrated because nothing was coming easy, and we just turned the ball over too much."

Holy Trinity started strong. The Crusaders opened the game with a 9-2 run and led most of the half before Fort Madison tied the game at 21 on Anna Lynk's 3-point-er. Holy Trinity, though, got the lead back right before halftime on two free throws by Teagan Snaadt.

Then the Bloodhounds took over.

"We lost our rhythm," Johnson said. "We started forcing stuff."

Holy Trinity had a similar offensive struggle in Friday's 46-44 loss to Highland, when the Crusaders scored just four second-quarter points.

"It just seems like we have games where we have a quarter where we get out of sync, and whether we call timeouts or put somebody new out there, it doesn't seem to change it," Johnson said. "We just get into a funk."

Irelynd Sargent had nine points for the Bloodhounds. Lynk and Camille Kruse each had eight points.

Randolph had 17 points for the Crusaders. Mary Kate Bendlage had 14.

Holy Trinity opens Class 1A regional play with Thursday's first-round home game against New London.

"New season," Johnson said. "That's what I just told them. You build up all year, you get your seed, and then you play Thursday night. It's all you can do."

Fort Madison had two regular-season games remaining before opening Class 4A regional play.

"I feel like we came into this game overconfident, and I think that showed we can't do that in any other game the rest of the season," Ross said.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Holy Trinity's Mary Kate Bendlage drives on Fort Madison's Cory James in the fourth quarter of the Bloodhounds' win Monday night.



It's Science Fair Season. Come out Wednesday for the HTC Open House for Science Fair at HTC-WP from 4 to 6 pm. There will be a community spaghetti dinner served.

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AGENDA**

NOTICE TO THE

PUBLIC: The Mayor and City Council welcome comments from the public during discussion. If you wish to speak, please step up to the Council table, state your name and address for the record and limit the time used to present your remarks to

five minutes in order that others may be given the opportunity to speak. The normal process on any particular agenda item is that the motion is placed on the floor, input is received from the audience, the Council is given an opportunity to comment

on the issue or respond to the audience concerns, and the vote is taken. On ordinances, there is time provided for public input at the time of the first reading. In consideration of all, if you have a cell phone, please turn it off or put it on silent ring.

Special Meeting called for the purpose of approving Montrose Sandbar Class "C" Liquor License.
CALL TO ORDER.
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
APPROVE AGENDA.
Approve Montrose Sandbar Class "C" Liquor

License.
ADJOURNMENT:
*Please note that this agenda may be changed up to 24 hours before the meeting time as provided by Section 21,4(2). Code of Iowa.



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From the Front

Advocates want county to reconsider Denning property

LCCB - Continued from Page 1

Board president Tom Pollpeter said in his 11 years as part of the Conservation Foundation board and the Conservation board this was the first he'd heard of the trust.

He said the Denning improvements, that have to be approved by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, have been part of the board's plans for five years. The DNR owns the Denning property, as a result of Eleanor Denning deeding it to the state. The Lee County Conservation District manages the property for the estate.

"This is the first I've ever heard of that trust," Pollpeter said. "And as far as I know, no money has ever flowed from that trust to the foundation or this board."

Huebner said all activity around the property is now on hold pending action from the DNR's Natural Resources Commission, which meets Thursday.

Linda Pieper, whose family just celebrated 100 years

in farming, said heritage is a source of pride in land-owners and the property owned by Eleanor and Conrad Denning should be preserved. If it can't be, then maybe the state can sell it to the county.

Tammi Kircher, an NRC commissioner from Keokuk said the state isn't going to sell the property to the county because that would violate the wishes of Eleanor Denning when she passed away at the age of 108.

Kircher said at Thursday's meeting there will be a brief conversation about the property and the new information of the trust. She said she couldn't come up with an answer as to how the trust got missed.

"I have no idea," Kircher said after the meeting. "But no one knew about it."

Several area residents advocated for keeping the parking lot and at least one of the barns that has then state-of-the-art architecture and design.

Central Lee student Sydney Jones gave a presentation that included a pamphlet with photos of the playground and the barn.

Jones also asked if the property could be deeded over

to the county.

"Then we could capitalize on the educational opportunities with the buildings just like these," she said.

She pointed out that one of the historic barns is built in such a way that it will stand up for another 100 years and it's already 100 years old.

Gail Thompson, the mayor of Houghton, said parts of the property are within the two-mile extraterritorial jurisdiction and they could help with the property. Thompson also asked where the funds from Eleanor Denning's funeral memorial ended up. The memorial was established for the conservation of the property.

Huebner said she would look into the memorial funding.

Paul Steffensmeier gave the most charming perspective on the property when he referenced Maurice Denning, who lived on the property from 1911-1918 as a child. Denning was born in Houghton in 1907 and was named Public Enemy No. 1 by J. Edgar Hoover after allegedly leading the "Ghost Gang" in multiple robberies of Nebraska banks, and bootlegging.

Fuel mandate from GOP conflicts with other positions

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

increase the market for Iowa ethanol by having more stations sell the E15 blend, which contains 15 percent ethanol.

The governor has been trying for a couple of years to increase the sale of ethanol, because that would raise the demand for Iowa corn. About half of all corn grown in Iowa is used for ethanol. But only about 300 of Iowa's 2,000 convenience stores now sell E15.

Legislation approved last week by the Iowa House would require fuel retailers to purchase and install the equipment necessary to start dispensing E15 by 2026.

The House bill provides some wiggle room for retailers whose fuel tanks and equipment are too old or are not compatible with the higher blends of ethanol. In its present form, the bill allows those retailers to seek a waiver from the Iowa Department of Agriculture from the E15 requirement.

Political leaders often preach about

burdensome government regulations and the detrimental effect those have on businesses. The House-passed bill manages to stir in several of those regulations.

The waiver application would require documentation that is backed up with "credible evidence" from engineers and other experts hired by station owners. If those experts or the station owner make untrue statements on the application, they could be charged with felonies, punishable by prison terms of up to five years and fines of up to \$10,000.

Ron Langston, the president of FUEL Iowa, an organization of gasoline retailers, fuel distributors and biofuel producers, said he is concerned the Legislature's proposals will force higher costs on businesses than the retailers can expect to recover through higher sales. And in small, rural communities, those economics will force some retailers to get out of the fuel business, he predicted.

"Markets, not government mandates, are what have been proven to work," Langston told reporters.

One of those economic anxieties is an existing federal prohibition on E15 being sold during summer months, except for use in so-called "flex fuel" vehicles.

Tom Cope, a lobbyist for Casey's General Stores, one of Iowa's largest fuel sellers, told lawmakers that listing E15 as a flex fuel "will cause sales to fall through the floor."

Sales falling through the floor — that is not the sort of business model you want if the government is going to require you to change the varieties of gasoline you sell and force you to absorb some of the expense of upgrading your equipment.

You didn't hear lawmakers using the mandate word last week. You didn't hear the words "burdensome government regulations" pass their lips, either.

Nor were they talking about their concerns for the individual liberties and

rights of business owners who do not want to be ordered to take on an expense they have no interest in and, perhaps, no ability to bear.

Instead, House Speaker Pat Grassley of New Hartford said, "I think it's very important for us here in Iowa to show the support for the renewable fuels industry."

Of course. When the legislation was debated last year to prohibit mask mandates, proponents of masks tried, with no success, to show their support for the health of Iowans and the wellbeing of people in care centers, retail establishments and schools.

Last year, lawmakers had no appetite for requiring anyone to wear a mask. This year, their view of mandates has changed — at least as long as we are talking about ethanol.

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

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