

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Sunday, January 19, 2020 | 9 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 25



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City takes building owner to court

Mayor takes next step with Humphrey building

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld announced Friday that the city has initiated court proceedings against the owner of a building in downtown Fort Madison.

Mohrfeld said the Humphrey building on the corner of Avenue G and



MOHRFELD

8th Street is a public safety and nuisance issue and is looking for judicial intervention. According to Lee County records, the building is owned by Bryan J. Humphrey, a former practicing attorney in Fort Madison.

“Regarding the Humphrey Building located at 732 Avenue G, the Mayor and City staff are working diligently to resolve the public safety



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Street barricades still cordon off the Humphrey building in downtown Fort Madison

and nuisance issues,” Mohrfeld wrote in an email to the Pen City Current Friday morning.

“We hope to have a trial date before the Lee County District Court in the next ninety days.”

He said the city will continue to work with the owner to resolve the issues, but it asking the court for assistance during the process.

“If the conditions are not abated voluntarily before

trial, the City will seek a court order requiring the issues to be rectified and authorizing the City to rectify them if the defendant does not comply with the order.”

Portions of 8th Street between Avenue G and Avenue H were cordoned off last fall when structural defects were observed that could jeopardize public safety.

In November, city officials expanded the barricade to include an entire half block

from Avenue G to the alley south. About a week later settling occurred causing brick facing to fall to the sidewalk inside the barricades.

Work has been done to shore up the exterior of the building and city officials said plans were submitted to shore up the interior of the structure, but Mohrfeld said at a city council meeting two weeks ago that the city wasn't aware of how that work was progressing.

TAYLOR, MITCHELL, KURTZ Legislators update new priorities for 2020 session

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A winter storm that swept through most of Iowa on Friday wasn't enough to stop Lee County's three area elected officials from stopping in for some questions at River Rocks Bar and Grill.

The first monthly Legislative Luncheon of 2020 sponsored by the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce kicked off with a recap of the governor's Condition of the State address, where Governor Reynolds pushed for a reduction in property taxes in favor of additional sales tax revenues, including a 1 cent hike in the local option sales tax.

State Representatives Jeff Kurtz (D-Fort Madison) and Joe Mitchell (R-Wayland), and State Sen. Rich Taylor (D-Mt. Pleasant) fielded questions moderated by Tim Gobble, executive director of Fort Madison Partners.

Jeff Kurtz said the proposed shift to sales tax in lieu of property tax is disingenuous to the middle class and working poor.

“A sales tax is the most regressive tax we can have. It disproportionately affects poor people, especially the working poor. And it's not like people aren't working here, they just aren't making enough money,” he said.

“To add the extra burden of another penny in sales tax on them while we're going to reduce the top bracket to down to 5.5% is unconscionable. I think it's gonna cause a lot of problems we don't see right now.”

State Sen. Rich Taylor agreed the move equates to a tax on poor people.

“By 2023 she's going to cut the top earners' tax by 3.5%. So basically all this is going to do is put a tax on the poor people, who can already barely afford to live,” Taylor said.

“We're not going to gain a thing out of this, in my opinion. If we keep the formula the same and not give big tax breaks to the richest people that don't need them, I'd be very much in favor of this.”

Kurtz said the democratic caucus figured 1/8 of a cent in sales tax equates to \$63 million. So

See 2020, page 8

TEAM STAFFING: Workforce agency moves into new office

Growth spurs TEAM Staffing's move to downtown

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – TEAM Staffing Solutions moved into new digs in November, but popped the top on its new facility Friday morning with about 25 guests and Fort Madison Chamber Ambassadors.

TEAM Staffing moved from its previous location in the Lodi strip mall, on Fort Madison's west side, to downtown after branch manager Angie King saw a story about the new building going up

at the corner of Bus. 61 and 10th Street.

Local property owner Dustin Ilmberger refurbished the former Bentler Rentals building, that was later turned into a car parts outlet and a Chinese Buffet. The building had been sitting vacant until the FMHS grad grabbed it up and turned it into commercial space.

“I had originally seen what his vision was going to be in the paper. So I drove by and thought that would be a really good space,” King said Friday.

“So I called my boss and had him come down and look at it. Here we are.”

King said TEAM Staffing has seen substantial growth in business over the past several years and was looking for more space.

“We were really starting to grow and we knew we were going to have to have a larger space,” she said. “The downtown area is really starting to grow and we felt this would be a really good location.”

Don Lampe, TEAM Staffing's operations manager out of Muscatine said

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WEATHER

SUN 19 Jan..... Bitter Cold, 41° F/ -2.0° F
MON 20 Jan..... Bitter Cold, 3.4° F/ -1.2° F
TUE 21 Jan..... Clear and Cold, 17.2° F/ 14.2° F

OpenWeatherMap

IOWA LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS 01/17..... 3 25 30 54 70, Mega Ball: 9 Megaplier: 3
PICK 3 01/17 MIDDAY..... 972
PICK 3 01/17 EVENING..... 757
PICK 4 01/17 MIDDAY..... 7430
PICK 4 01/17 EVENING..... 9665

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From the Front

Company, contractor created design together

OFFICE - Continued from Page 1

the resurgence in downtown was a key part of their decision.

“A vibrant growing downtown points to a healthy growing community. Fort Madison is investing in their downtown area and TEAM Staffing Solutions is happy to be a part of that effort and the downtown area,” he said.

Lampe said the investment by TEAM Staffing is not only an investment in better services for its current and future clients, but also an investment in Fort Madison.

“By investing in our new building, TEAM Staffing Solutions is investing in the overall Fort Madison community. We are grateful to all of our partner businesses for their support and business. Without them this would not be possible,” Lampe said.

“I also want to thank Dustin Ilmberger for his vision and work during

the construction of our new office space.”

King said Ilmberger worked with the company to design the office space to TEAM Staffing needs. She said the flow now for candidates is smoother and more efficient with the new office design.

“It’s designed for exactly what we need, which makes a huge difference in our process and efficiently working candidates through,” King said.

Ilmberger said he saw the opportunity to do something new in Fort Madison.

“There really hadn’t been a lot of new stuff in town. When they had it for sale, I walked through and saw the potential and I told myself if it was cheap enough I’d do it,” Ilmberger said.

“I wanted to do something nice for Fort Madison. I’ve lived here my whole life, and this gave us the opportunity to do



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Staff with TEAM Staffing, surrounded by Fort Madison Chamber Ambassadors and other guests, cut the ribbon on the company’s new downtown Fort Madison offices in the building at 10th and Avenue H, rehabilitated by Dustin Ilmberger.

something.”

Ilmberger said he goes downtown frequently and sees nice offerings in Fort Madison. He works out of town so when he comes home he sees the beauty of Fort Madison and thinks it could be a potential tourist destination.

The building will have 5,000 square feet of

commercial space when all the work is completed. TEAM Staffing occupies the front 2,000 feet on the Avenue H side, but Ilmberger said there are two more office suites for lease on the north side of the building with 1,500 square feet each. He said it could be made into one suite if there was interest

in a larger office.

It was Ilmberger’s first commercial rehabilitation project, but he has homes and apartments that he owns and has rehabbed. He said would consider doing additional commercial property facelifts if the opportunity was right.

“I would do it differently, I would do it a lot quicker. This was a big project for me and a learning concept, but sure... I’d

do it again,” he said.

TEAM Staffing Solutions Inc., is a regional workforce agency headquartered in Muscatine with seven locations around southeast Iowa. The Fort Madison branch is staffed by eight including King, Casey Nickel, Stephanie Sonneborn, Chelsea Boecker, Jessica Seitz, TJ LeMatty, Brandi Taylor and Amanda Huebner.

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PEN CITY CURRENT

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Pen City Current and www.pencitycurrent.com are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

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

Obituaries/Education News

OBITUARIES

MICHAEL T. LAMM

Michael Todd Lamm, 56, of Mediapolis, Iowa, formerly of Donnellson, Iowa, passed away at 12:50 p.m. Friday January 17, 2020 at his home.

He was born December 1, 1963 in Keokuk, Iowa, the son of Jack C. and Dorothy (Hennies) Lamm. On October 2, 1993 he married Tracey Rae North in Hamilton, Illinois.

Survivors include his wife: Tracey; two children: Ethan and Raeann Lamm, both of Mediapolis, Iowa; granddaughter: Brielle; his parents: Jack and Dorothy Lamm of Donnellson, Iowa; three sisters: Karen (Dion) Kramer of Donnellson, Iowa, Linda (Martin) Derr of Donnellson, Iowa, and Julie (Ray)Johnson of Donnellson, Iowa; one brother: Mark (Delilah) Lamm of Fort Madison, Iowa; mother and father-in-law: Tom and Ann North of Hamilton, Illinois; brother-in-law: Brandon (Denise) North of Ankeny, Iowa; and several aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.



LAMM

He was preceded in death by his grandparents: Cecil and Ruth Lamm; Harold and Ruth Hennies; and step grandfather: Charles Coffin.

Mike was a 1982 graduate of Central Lee High School. He attended Gem City College, in Quincy, Illinois where he received an Associates Degree in Complete Horology. Mike was a bench jeweler owning and operating Lamm Trades in Donnellson, Iowa and most recently Rhodes Jewelry in Mediapolis, Iowa.

He was a former member of St. Boniface Catholic Church in Farmington, Iowa. Mike enjoyed deer hunting and loved spending time with family, especially his granddaughter Brielle.

Friends may call after 12:00 p.m. Monday, January 20, 2020 at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson. Family will receive friends from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at Saint Boniface Catholic Church in Farmington with Father Dennis Hoffman as Celebrant. Burial will follow at Sharon Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Great River Hospice or Sharon Cemetery. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

The Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

Southeastern opens fall scholarship applications

BY PCC STAFF

WEST BURLINGTON - The Southeastern Community College Foundation is now accepting applications for scholarships for students who plan to attend SCC in the fall of 2020. Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on March 1.

The Foundation has more than 400 scholarships totaling an estimated \$350,000 available to students for the upcoming school year.

Scholarships range in size from \$100 to full tuition and books and are available to a wide variety of students. Awards are available by program of study, county of residence, academic accomplishment, financial need, career goal, minority group, adult students, veterans, and more.

Anyone who plans to attend or is considering attending SCC in the fall is encouraged to apply by visiting SCC's homepage at www.scciowa.edu.

SCC Foundation Executive Director Val Giannettino encourages all students to apply.

"Students only need to fill out one application to have access to all of these scholarships," Giannettino says.

She says the chances of receiving a scholarship are in the applicants' favor. However, there is one thing applicants often forget.

"More than half of the applicants receive at least one award. What we can't stress enough is to start the application early," Giannettino advises. "This gives those who write a reference letter plenty of time to help the students."

To be considered for funding, an applicant must, in addition to completing the online application, provide at least one email address of a qualified individual who will write a reference letter online, submit a copy of their latest educational transcripts, and complete the online Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

As a service to residents of the area, SCC staff will be available to help applicants complete the SCC Foundation scholarship form and the FAFSA at its FAFSA Ready Iowa workshop on February 5 at both West Burlington and Keokuk campuses from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Questions about SCC Foundation scholarships can be directed to Julie Glasgow at (319) 208-5062 or jglasgow@scciowa.edu.



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Sports

HTC girls hold on for win Hounds' Kruse hits seven 3s enroute to 27-point night

Hound rally falls short as Crusaders win

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A late rally behind some sparkling shooting from Fort Madison's Camille Kruse fell just short as the Lady Hounds lost at home to cross-town rival Holy Trinity Catholic 45-44.

The Crusaders built a 10-point lead just a minute into the third period. But a 9-0 run highlighted by three consecutive three-pointers, two from junior Nadia Boeding and one from Kruse, cut the lead to just three with two minutes remaining in the period.

Avery Hopper converted a couple of free throws to push the lead back to five, but then the Hounds got into some foul trouble committing four in less than 90 seconds.

Hopper would convert inside on a nice pass from sophomore Raquel Schneider to give HTC a 35-28 lead going into the final period.

With HTC starting the fourth 0-6 from the field, Fort Madison would gouge their way back into the game and trailed by just one after Kruse scored on a floater in the paint.

Hopper would respond with a three-ball at the other end. After a defensive stop, Schneider would score on a drive from the left baseline to put HTC back up by six.

Fort Madison's Brandy Walker would miss a jumper at the free throw line that was rebounded by Anna Kester, but Kester would also misfire with about 2:10 left in the game.

The two teams would exchange a couple turnovers and then Kruse would connect on another of her seven 3-pointers on the night to cut the lead to three at 40-37. Kruse would lead all scorers with 27 points on the night.

Fort Madison Head Coach Tony Sargent said Kruse has had this type of game in her all season.

"It's the type of game she's had in her all year, but we just have to get some of the other girls going, too," Sargent said.

Kruse gave credit for the success to her teammates finding her on the perimeter.

"My teammates gave me good looks and that's how I got the good shots," Kruse said.

"Hopefully this will give a little boost



Fort Madison's Camille Kruse slams into Holy Trinity's Avery Hopper in the first half of Saturday's HTC 45-44 win.

to get more wins this season. This is a wakeup call for sure, but it's a boost for us. Toward the end we could have played a little better defense."

Holy Trinity would hold a 3 to 4 point lead for the next minute and a half, but with the Crusaders up 44-41, Kruse took a pass on the perimeter, pulled up and buried another three pointer with a Crusader in her face. Kruse added a little arch, sensing the defense, and the ball slipped through clean to knot the game at 44 with 18 seconds left.

Fort Madison would call a timeout after the bucket to set up a defense, but Kruse would get whistled for a foul at the Crusader end of the floor. HTC senior Ashlyn Haas would hit one and miss the bonus for

the 45-44 lead.

On the inbound, Fort Madison would get the ball down the floor, but Holy Trinity junior Bailey Hellweg would get whistled for a foul near the Fort Madison bench forcing a restart. The Hounds would commit a double dribble after the inbounds pass giving the ball back to HTC.

Senior Anna Kester would foul to stop the clock putting HTC in the double bonus, but Haas would miss both ends with :02.5 left on the clock.

Fort Madison would get a pass to midcourt and Walker would turn to find Kruse open on the right wing, but the freshman couldn't quite get her feet set for the shot and had to throw up a buzzer



Brandy Walker (31) soared past HTC guard Maria Rauenbuehler (14) Saturday night.

beater that fell short.

Sargent said the Hounds had opportunities to win the game, but made some mental blunders in the final 16 seconds.

"Just had some really bad mental mistakes and not knowing how to finish a game," Sargent said.

HTC Head coach Tony Johnson said he wanted the ball in either Ashlyn's or Avery's hands at the end of the game.

Johnson rotated Hopper into the guard position and said he's trying to platoon Hopper, Haas, and Maria Rauenbuehler in the number one spot.

"I thought we ran the offense well and got some really good shots. We missed a couple easy ones, but we were able to get it inside when we needed to," Johnson said.

Johnson was short Kassi Randolph, and freshman Brooke Mueller left the game in the third period with a stomach issue.

Johnson said that forced him to run the final quarter with just five players in the rotation.

"I thought we got some good play from our younger girls. Schneider had a good game late and I thought Brooke was playing very well inside," he said.

Hopper led Holy Trinity with 14 and Claire Pothitakis had 11. Boeding and Brandy Walker each ended up with six for Fort Madison.

Photos by Chuck Vandenberg

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
Agenda
DATE: TUESDAY,
January 21, 2020
MEETING
CONVENING TIME:
9:00 A.M.
LOCATION:
Correctional Center
2530 255th Street,
Montrose, IA

AGENDA

Pledge of Allegiance
 Approve Agenda
 Approve Tuesday, January 14, 2020 Board Minutes
 Consider Approval of Claims
 Public Input
 Open Bids and Consider Awarding Bid for Auctioneer Service at Tax Auction
 Consider Approval of Resolution Amending 2020 Secondary Road Construction Program To Include Replacement of Bridge on Lee-Henry Street
 Consider Approval of Addendum to Contract with Stellar Services for Upgrade to Kiosk System at Jail
 Consider Approval of Resolution Removing Mobile Home from County Tax System Canvass the Saturday, January 18, 2020 Green Bay Drainage District Election
 Consider Approval of Amended Resolution #2020-18 Replacing Member of Eminent Domain Board
 Discuss and Consider Setting Percentage of Salary Raise for Board of Supervisor Members
 Discuss and Consider Setting Percentage of Salary Raise for Elected Officials and Employees Covered Under Personnel Policy
 Consider Approval of Tax Abatement Resolution
 Personnel Actions:
 A. Status Change for Sheriff's Office Employee
 B. Promotion for Sheriff's Office Employee
 Reports:
 A. Sheriff's Monthly Report
 B. Recorder's Report of Fees Collected
 Commission or Committee Reports
 Adjourn
 Workshop to Follow
 PUBLIC MEETING
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PUBLIC NOTICE
MEETING MINUTES

December 23, 2019
 The Lee County Board of Supervisors met on Monday, December 23, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. at the Correctional Center.
 Present: Gary Folluo, Rick Larkin, Ron Fedler and Rich Harlow.
 All votes are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.
 The Board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
 Moved by Fedler, seconded by Larkin, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
 Moved by Harlow, seconded by Larkin, to approve the Tuesday, December 17, 2019 Board minutes. Motion carried.
 Moved by Fedler, seconded by Harlow, to approve payment of claims. Motion carried.
 There was no Public Input.
 Merle Whiteside, Roseville, Illinois, approached the Board with a request to pass a resolution showing support for a petition to enact a legal holiday for Native American Indians. It was decided to put it on the next Board Agenda.
 Moved by Fedler, seconded by Harlow, to receive the Compensation Board's recommendation of a three percent across the board raise for Elected Officials. Motion carried.
 Moved by Fedler, seconded by Harlow, to approve an addition to the Personnel Policy regarding Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration new required regulations. Motion carried.
 Moved by Larkin, seconded by Fedler, to approve Forest Mitigation Monitoring by EOR Iowa, Boone, for the Lost Creek Bridge Project. Motion carried.
 Moved by Harlow, seconded by Larkin, to approve Resolution #2019-115. Roll call: Harlow-aye, Larkin-aye, Fedler-aye and Folluo-aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION FOR
ESTABLISHING SPEED
LIMITS
Resolution #2019-115

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors is empowered under authority of the Iowa Code Sections 321.255 and 321.285 of the Code of Iowa, to determine upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation, that the speed limit of any secondary road is greater than is reasonable and proper under the conditions existing, and may determine and declare a reasonable and proper speed limit, and
 WHEREAS, such an investigation has been requested and has been completed by the Iowa Department of Transportation at request of the Lee County Engineer. Said investigation recommended a speed of 45 mph
 WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 321.285 also provides that the lawful speed in any residential district shall be 25 mph, and that area is in fact a residential area, the Lee County Engineer's recommendation is for the speed limit to be 25 mph as reasonable and proper under the conditions and circumstances of that area.
 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY that the speed limit of 25 mph be established and appropriate signs be erected at the location described as follows: 320th Street from 150 feet west of 176th Avenue eastward to IA 27
 Resolution adopted this 23rd day of December, 2019.
 /s/ Gary Folluo, Chairman. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor.
 Moved by Larkin, seconded by Fedler, to approve Resolution #2019-114. Roll call: Larkin-aye, Fedler-aye, Harlow-aye and Folluo-aye.
Resolution #2019-114
RESOLUTION
REGARDING
E-CIGARETTE USAGE
AND PUBLIC HEALTH
 WHEREAS, In December of 2018, the Surgeon General issued an advisory on e-cigarette use among youth in the

United States, declaring the use an epidemic and called for "aggressive steps to protect our children from these highly potent products that risk exposing a new generation of young people to nicotine";
 WHEREAS, e-cigarette aerosol contains harmful chemicals/substances, including nicotine, heavy metals, formaldehyde, acrolein, cancer-causing chemicals, volatile organic compounds and ultrafine particles; and
 WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Public Health is working with the CDC, FDA, other state and local health departments and clinical partners to investigate a nationwide outbreak of e-cigarette, or vaping, product use-associated lung injury (EVALI).
 WHEREAS, according to the Iowa Department of Public Health, as of November 20, 2019, 2,290 cases of EVALI reported to CDC from 49 states, the District of Columbia, and 2 U.S. territories, with 47 confirmed deaths in 25 states and the District of Columbia. Since August 2019, there have been 49 reported cases and no reported deaths in Iowa.
 WHEREAS, the Lee County Board of Supervisors join the Lee County Health Department, the Iowa Department of Public Health, and others across the State and Country in the belief, based on the statistics available, that the use of e-cigarettes is a public health hazard and should be prohibited in state and local smoke-free air regulations and tobacco/nicotine-free policies in an effort to assist in addressing this public health epidemic by reducing e-cigarette use.
 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Lee County Board of Supervisors hereby approves this resolution and joins in the effort to assist in addressing the public health epidemic by including e-cigarette use in smoke-free air ordinances and tobacco/nicotine-free policies in an effort to promote the reduction of e-cigarette use.
 Dated and signed at Montrose, Iowa on this the 23rd day of December, 2019.
 LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. /s/ Gary Folluo, Chairman;

/s/ Rick Larkin, Vice-Chair; /s/ Ron Fedler, Member; and /s/ Rich Harlow, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor. Motion carried.
 Moved by Larkin, seconded by Fedler, to approve a change to the Personnel Policy regarding E-Cigarette usage. Motion carried.
 Moved by Larkin, seconded by Fedler, to approve Resolution #2019-117. Roll call: Larkin-aye, Fedler-aye, Harlow-aye and Folluo-aye.
RESOLUTION
2019 - 117
INTERFUND
TRANSFER FROM
RURAL BASIC TO
SECONDARY ROADS
FOR FISCAL YEAR
2019/2020
 Whereas, it is desired to authorize the County Auditor to transfer sums from the Rural Basic Fund to the Secondary Roads Fund during the 2019-2020 budget year, and
 Whereas, said transfers must be in accordance with Chapter 331.432 of the Code of Iowa.
 Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, by the Lee County Board of Supervisors as follows:
 Section 1. The total amount to be transferred for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 is \$2,313,484.
 Section 2. Within seven working days of being notified of the current amount in said Fund, the County Auditor shall order a transfer from said funds.
 Section 3. Notwithstanding the provision of Section 2, of this Resolution, total transfers shall not exceed the amount in Section 1.
 Section 4. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 2, the amount of any transfer shall not exceed available fund balances in the transferring of funds.
 Section 5. At the discretion of the County Auditor, fund transfers can be allocated periodically during the fiscal year depending on fund balances.
 The County Auditor has determined the amount to transfer on December 23, 2019 is as follows:
 Rural Basic Fund to Secondary Roads Fund \$578,371.00.
 Section 6. The County Auditor is directed to cor-

rect her books when said operating transfers are made and to notify the Treasurer of the amounts transferred.
 Dated at Montrose, Iowa on the 23rd day of December, 2019.
 LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. /s/ Gary Folluo, Chairman; /s/ Rick Larkin, Vice-Chair; /s/ Ron Fedler, Member; and /s/ Rich Harlow, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor. Motion carried.
 Moved by Fedler, seconded by Larkin, to approve five tax abatement resolutions.
RESOLUTION
NO. 2019-112
 WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lee County has by Ordinance Number VI-11 adopted a plan for a County-wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District in Lee County, Iowa; and,
 WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 404.4 provides for prior approval of eligibility for a tax exemption by the governing body of the County;
 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: Scott Coursey 3109 170th Street Fort Madison IA 52627
 For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.
 PASSED AND APPROVED this 23rd day of December, 2019.
 LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. /s/ Gary Folluo, Chairman; /s/ Rick Larkin, Vice-Chair; /s/ Ron Fedler, Member; and /s/ Rich Harlow, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor. Motion carried.
RESOLUTION
NO. 2019-113
 WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lee County has by Ordinance Number VI-11 adopted a plan for a County-wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District in Lee County, Iowa; and,

Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICES

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 404.4 provides for prior approval of eligibility for a tax exemption by the governing body of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: Rolanda Pridemore 3139 Mississippi River Road Monroe IA 52639

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 23rd day of December, 2019.

LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. /s/ Gary Folluo, Chairman; /s/ Rick Larkin, Vice-Chair; /s/ Ron Fedler, Member; and /s/ Rich Harlow, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-116

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lee County has by Ordinance Number VI-11 adopted a plan for a County-wide

Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District in Lee County, Iowa; and,

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 404.4 provides for prior approval of eligibility for a tax exemption by the governing body of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: Robert and Susan Umthun

3051 Westwood Drive Fort Madison IA 52627

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 23rd day of December, 2019.

LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. /s/ Gary Folluo, Chairman; /s/ Rick Larkin, Vice-Chair; /s/ Ron Fedler, Member; and /s/ Rich Harlow, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-118

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lee

County has by Ordinance Number VI-11 adopted a plan for a County-wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District in Lee County, Iowa; and,

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 404.4 provides for prior approval of eligibility for a tax exemption by the governing body of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: Joe Mose- na 3421 Sorenson Road Wever IA 52658

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 23rd day of December, 2019.

LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. /s/ Gary Folluo, Chairman; /s/ Rick Larkin, Vice-Chair; /s/ Ron Fedler, Member; and /s/ Rich Harlow, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-119

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lee County has by Ordinance Number VI-11 adopted a plan for a County-wide Urban Revitalization Tax

Exemption District in Lee County, Iowa; and, WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 404.4 provides for prior approval of eligibility for a tax exemption by the governing body of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: Stanley and Susan Dohrn 2227 Carbide Lane Keokuk IA 52632

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 23rd day of December, 2019.

LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. /s/ Gary Folluo, Chairman; /s/ Rick Larkin, Vice-Chair; /s/ Ron Fedler, Member; and /s/ Rich Harlow, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Harlow, to approve a step increase for Secondary Roads employee Kevin Stueker-juergen, Road Maintenance Foreman-North, from \$26.82/hr. to \$27.57/hr., effective 1/9/20; step increase for Conservation employee Clayton Steele, Naturalist, from \$22.88/hr. to \$23.55/hr., effective

11/28/19 and new hire for Sheriff's Office-Berl Wilcox III, part-time Court-house Security, \$17.50/hr., effective 1/2/20. Motion carried.

Received and filed the Recorder's Report of Fees Collected for October and November.

Committee Reports: Harlow reported on an Employee Safety Committee meeting. Larkin reported on a Workforce Development matter and a Landfill Commission

meeting. Folluo reported on a Regional Planning Commission meeting.

At 9:45 a.m., a motion was made by Fedler, and seconded by Harlow, to adjourn. Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be Thursday, January 2, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the Correctional Center.

Gary Folluo, Chairman Attest: Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor

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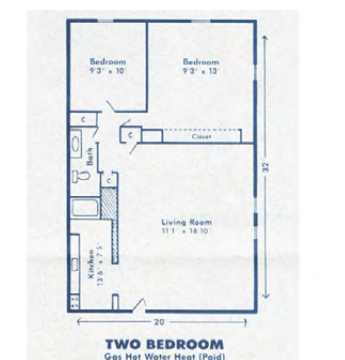
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From the Front

Taxes, tobacco, health care on priority list

2020 - Continued from Page 1

the bump would generate \$500 million in additional sales tax, which the governor would offset out of property tax to make it revenue neutral.

State Rep. Joe Mitchell arrived late to the lunch battling road conditions in southeast Iowa.

Fort Madison councilman Bob Morawitz asked the three to clarify the governor's reduction in property taxes in lieu of increased sales tax.

"Countywise and citywise, we really count on that money to come in. We don't have too many other funding sources," Morawitz said.

Kurtz said the caucus didn't get a whole lot of guidance on the funding, but said he's hearing it's supposed to be revenue neutral.

Taylor said the governor proposed funding state mental health care from the state's general fund to take the burden off county government.

"It's a great idea, but I'm not sure how she's gonna pay for that with all the other things she wants to do," Taylor said.

Mitchell said the penny sales tax increase, would send 3/8 to water quality and the remaining 5/8 would go to fully fund mental health at the state level.

"That means we would take the levies away and the property tax away that you guys pay right now for mental health on the county level," he said.

"I haven't seen details on how we're going to make that work, but the biggest thing is if the state's going to take control of its funding, then we need to take control of the system and make sure it's better than it is right now."

He said it's also important that the state make sure the regions know what the expectations are.

Gobble then asked about a loophole in the state's hotel/motel laws that allows for sales tax to be exempt on stays longer than 30 days in the state's hotels and motels.

Gobble said Lee County was 13th in the state with an exempt sales tax of \$1.1 million, exempt general fund revenue of \$56,000, and exempt local revenue of \$78,000.

Kurtz said he was on Ways and Means when that bill went through and said there wasn't any controversy in the bill whatsoever.

"I tried to find out something about this before I left, but I will keep looking into it," Kurtz said.

Taylor said there are a lot of extended stays in larger cities so he was surprised to see Lee County in there because the other counties are anchored by a really big city. He said the figures may have come from when the fertilizer plant was under construction.

One question focused on the age to purchase tobacco products in Iowa, with the federal government setting the age at 21. Local law enforcement has indicated they won't enforce the law until it becomes a state law.

Mitchell said his stance has always been that if you can be drafted, or vote, or be the mayor of Fort Madison, you should be able to purchase tobacco and vaping products.



KURTZ

"I don't know how much of an appetite the legislature will have on it this year, but that's been my stand on it," he said.

Kurtz said the problem with not raising it that he could see is insurance rates going up because of the health problems associated with tobacco and now vaping. But said he would have to hear a lot more to consider not raising the age.

"The more we can keep from tobacco and vaping the better off we are," Kurtz said.

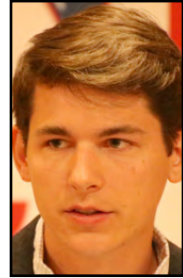
Taylor said he's more in line with Mitchell, but he said he didn't care of it's 18 or 21 for everything, but if you can't smoke or drink, you shouldn't be able to be drafted or go to prison as an adult until you're 21.

Gobble also asked the three if there was any additional information regarding the collection of online sales tax and that revenue data stream.

Taylor said he wasn't sure how the state was collecting the online sales tax.

"We don't have a handle on where its coming from. They send us so much money and we take it. There's absolutely no requirements for them to prove what they've collected in the name of Iowa, or to share where that money came from," Taylor said.

He said it all goes into one big basket and is distributed like the local option sales tax.



MITCHELL

Kurtz said he was in a budget subcommittee meeting on Thursday and went through revenue lines, but said he agreed with Taylor that was a separate line that showed revenue from online companies.

Mitchell said there has been an increase in revenue to the state from that tax put in place a few years ago, but he said his understanding is that the state has no power to enforce the payments or report it due to federal law.

"Right now they're voluntarily doing that tax, and if there's someway to make sure that Amazon or Wal-Mart is paying their fair share, I'm all for that," he said.

Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise asked what legislators are looking at to help ambulance services and reimbursement rates to keep service providers viable.

Mitchell said one proposal is to use sports wagering rev-

enues, which is about \$2 to \$3 million per year. Under that proposal the state would distribute that to counties to help offset the costs of services. Mitchell, who represents all of Henry County, said that county is struggling with ambulance services as is Lee County.

The next budget for Lee County includes an additional \$75,000 for Lee County Emergency Medical Services ambulance service, for a total subsidy of \$500,000.

Fraise said the county is right up against the 2% state mandated soft cap and said the state needs to classify ambulance services as an essential service to help with reimbursements.

Kurtz said he's been in State Auditor Rob Sands' office talking about Medicaid payments.

"That's the crux of the problem. We either underpay, delay payment, or don't pay at all," Kurtz said. "He's had several investigations over Medicaid and he said the figures he's getting almost are unusable, Kurtz said. "So this is gonna be a fight."

Kurtz said he favors moving back to a state-run Medicaid system.

Taylor said he's been working on the issue since last summer and has had a couple rural Republican senators agree with his position. However, Taylor said he can't get them to sponsor a bill to define ambulance services as an essential service.

"I've had absolutely no luck in getting either of them to sign on with me for a bill like that. As we all know in this room, if I don't have a Republican sponsor on the bill, it's dead on arrival."

But he said yesterday he heard that Republicans would support a county-by-county bill to consider ambulance service an essential service, as opposed to a statewide essential service. And he hopes that bill will get through the legislature.

Kurtz said he's working on state passenger rail issues into Iowa City and through the state. He's also involved in nationwide Solutionary Rail discussions. Solutionary Rail is the electrification of the rail system and could be a boon to the area with Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe moving through the area.

He said another big push this year will be cyber security, and he may be involved in developing some legislation in a bi-partisan effort.

Mitchell said he's working to target workforce issues in the rural parts of the state.

He said he wants to market to people in Puerto Rico to come to Iowa to live and work. He said he's met with Iowa Director of Economic Development Debi Durham, the governor's office, the speaker of the house, and hopefully the senate soon, to start a grant program to encourage participation in the program.

"I see it as a real tangible, substantive way to get people to the state of Iowa and get people working here."

He's also working on a grant program for people to develop micro brews and other places that are appealing to younger Iowans to keep them in the state or incentivize a move to back to the state.

Taylor said he's looking at a bill that would freeze property tax for anyone making less than \$8,000 a year. He also has a bill to focus on rural broadband access that could work with the Governor's proposed \$15 million increase in funding for those efforts.

Taylor also said he's working on a bill that would make it a misdemeanor to transport an unsecured pet in a vehicle. He said his proposal would increase penalties to a felony if the animal is killed in a motor vehicle accident where the animal wasn't secured. He is also proposing a felony for anyone found guilty of beating a pet.

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Sports

HOUNDS BOYS DOWN HTC Fedler goes for 17 after finding early foul trouble

Fort Madison takes pace from HTC in crosstown win

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Bodies were flying all over the floor, but it's not unexpected when Holy Trinity Catholic and Fort Madison meet up for the annual cross-town matchup.

Fort Madison pressured the Crusaders for most of the game, controlling the tempo and setting the pace for a 63-48 win Saturday in non-conference boys high school basketball.

Fort Madison started racing up and down the floor and had seven shots from the field before Holy Trinity got its second shot.

But the Hounds were a bit chilly going just 2-8 in the first eight minutes for an 8-3 lead.

Holy Trinity wouldn't have much going either as the full court pressure of Fort Madison forced a slower pace for the Crusaders. A swarming defense forced a five-second call and several close calls on 10-second violations in the first period getting the Crusaders out of sync.

Bloodhound sophomore Dayton Davis scored six unanswered points to give the Hounds a comfy 12-5 lead, but foul trouble would force Davis to the sideline. The sophomore has battled foul trouble all year, getting after steals and wreaking havoc in passing lanes.

"It's tough and exciting, but frustrating," said Head Coach Ryan Wilson about having to keep Davis on the bench.

"If he could stay in position he's gonna get the steals and we can keep him on the floor longer. He has to quit gambling and be a little more picky."

Fort Madison would push a 14-7 first quarter lead and a pesky man defense held HTC to no made buckets from the 3:38 mark of the 1st period until Chandler Rung's 3-point play just before the end of the half set the score at 29-15.

Holy Trinity wouldn't be able to cut into the lead in the third with Jayden Fedler taking over inside and scoring Fort Madison's first seven of the third period to open up a 36-21 lead.

Davis would swipe the

inbound pass and hit a layup, but then would turn around and commit his fourth foul right after the play getting after the next inbound pass.

Vasin Thurman and Matt Hellige would convert back-to-back buckets to cut the lead back to 38-25, but HTC wouldn't get much closer than that.

Thurman would take a hard fall going up for a bucket in the third period when he got over the Hounds' Jace Burgher and fell over the top of him on the way down, halting play. Thurman would return after some treatment to his hip.

Head Coach John Hellige said it was a physical game, but they always expect that in town.

"We weren't totally not expecting a physical game.



Fort Madison's Romeo Maestro (14) guards Holy Trinity's Jason Thurman in the Hounds' win.

The consistency just hasn't been there for us," he said.

"We'll have an absolute perfect game like at Mediapolis, and we played good enough to win against Winfield.

But there's times when it feels like other teams are throwing that first punch

and we get back on our heels and get caught trying to play catch up.

He said the Crusaders handled the press okay, but couldn't attack it because of the pace.

"They controlled the tempo and that's really our game to try and do that,

but we were just a tick off tonight."

Wilson said he wanted to pressure the Crusader ball handlers and see if they could get some buckets in transition.

"Pressing is something we do. I saw that they struggle handling the ball a little bit against man-to-man defenses. We had a couple times where we held them to 9 or 9.5 seconds at halfcourt. Our kids were disciplined in the press."

With the Bloodhounds up 44-25 going into the final period, Wilson started getting some bench in the game, as the student section started chanting who they'd like to see next.

He said it's good to get those kids some floor time because the Hounds have had foul trouble, but also

they need the experience.

"We have a phenomenal group of sophomores and a big group of seniors and when we're able to find some time to get some of these kids some minutes, it's good for the program."

The Bloodhounds committed just eight turnovers on the night, which is down about 10 on average for the year, and had just three in the first half.

"That speaks volumes being down about 10 turnovers from our average. Our patience really paid off," Wilson said.

Fedler led the Hounds with 17 points followed by Parker Denning and Dayton Davis each with 12.

Vasin Thurman had 13 to lead Holy Trinity. Chandler Rung chipped in with 11 and Matt Hellige had nine.



2020 To Do List

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