

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Sunday, February 2, 2020 | 8 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 32



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## Iowa kicks off 2020 race Monday



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Former Governor Tom Vilsack, right, leads applause for former Vice President Joe Biden Friday.

### New rules: Iowa Democrats to release raw votes, delegate winners

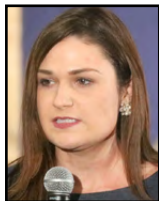
BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Former Vice President Joe Biden made a last minute appeal to Lee County Democrats Friday afternoon at Quality Inn and Suites with Iowa's first-in-the-nation caucuses Monday night.

Biden, with former Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack and U.S. Rep. Abby Finkenauser (D-Iowa 1st) in tow, told voters we need to get back to being a light for the world.

"It's time to be something bigger than ourselves. That's the American code – that's who we are," Biden said. "It's a uniquely American code, and one that Donald Trump doesn't seem to subscribe to."

Biden talked about all the efforts of the Republican Party,



FINKENAUSER

including the alleged efforts of President Trump, to have Ukrainian and other countries investigate Biden and his family, as evidence he's the won they fear most.

"I've been the object of their affection for a while," he said. "I wonder why he's so worried about me. He's spent \$12 million to \$15 million in ads against me."

Biden said Joni Ernst "spilled the beans" when she said Iowa caucuses are Monday and she was interested how discussions on Biden on the senate floor during impeachment proceedings would impact voters in Iowa.

He said other candidates from other states are running

See **CAUCUSES**, page 2

### SCHOOL TAX

## Absentee ballots ready for school PPEL levy

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor, announces that absentee ballots for the Special Fort Madison Community School District PPEL (Physical Plant and Equipment Levy) Election to be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 are now available in the Auditor's Office.

Eligible voters who reside in the Fort Madison Community School District may vote in person at the North Lee County Office Building, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison, located in the Auditor's Office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Monday, March 2nd, when the office will remain open until 5:00 p.m.

The Fort Madison Community School District voted unanimously at

See **BALLOT**, page 3

### FEMA FUNDS

## County gets \$15K in federal shelter grants

BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY – Lee County has been awarded federal funds made available through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program. Lee County has been chosen to receive \$15,522 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county.

The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the U. S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from American Red Cross, Catholic Charities, USA,

See **FUNDS**, page 8

### HIGHWAY 61 PROJECT

## Rebid on 2nd to 6th Streets comes in \$900K less

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A bid from the same firm that was rejected last fall on the 2nd Street to 6th Street Hwy. 61 rehabilitation project, has

come in close to a million dollars cheaper.

At Tuesday's regular Fort Madison City Council meeting, the council will vote on approving a contract with Jones Contracting Corp. out of West Point for \$2.39 million to

reconstruct the stretch of highway on Fort Madison's east side.

Jones had submitted a bid of \$3.33 million in August last year. City officials rejected that bid after it came

See **PROJECT**, page 8

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### WEATHER

SUN 02 Feb..... Sunny and Clear, 48.0° F/ 33.7° F  
MON 03 Feb..... Light Rain, 42.3° F/ 35.3° F  
TUE 04 Feb..... Snow, 25.9° F/ 16.8° F

OpenWeatherMap

### IOWA LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS 01/31.....28 31 33 57 62, Mega Ball: 19 Megaplier: 2  
PICK 3 01/31 MIDDAY.....8 3 2  
PICK 3 01/31 EVENING.....8 1 4  
PICK 4 01/31 MIDDAY.....5 3 3 6  
PICK 4 01/31 EVENING.....6 9 6 0

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## Lee County News/From the Front

# Different polls show Sanders, Biden as front-runners

Former Vice President and Delaware Senator Joe Biden gives a final week-end push with potential caucus-goers Friday afternoon at Quality Inn & Suites. The most recent polls have Biden and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders leading the field in Iowa.

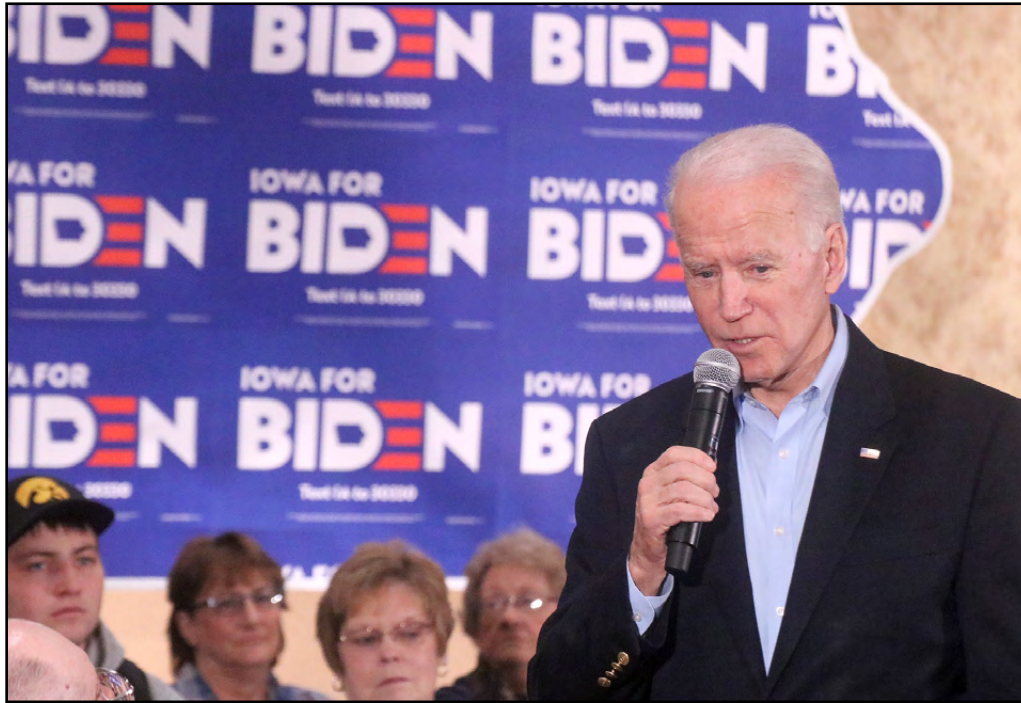


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

### CAUCUSES - Continued from Page 1

negative ads in Iowa against Biden.

"It's nice to be loved by so many people," he said.

He said it's time for the country to get back a solid reputation on the world stage.

"We're so much better than this. Folks, I'm gonna do whatever it takes to make progress in what matter's most in my view. First and foremost - climate change - the single greatest threat to this country."

Biden then listed off civil rights, voting rights, gun policy, health care and targeting rewards for work not just wealth and other issues on which Democrats differ from the current administration.

"Everyone knows who Donald Trump is. We need to let them know who we are," he said.

"We choose hope over fear. We choose science over fiction. We choose unity over division, and, yes, we choose truth over lies."

A recent national NBC/Wall Street Journal poll has Biden and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders in a virtual statistical tie at the top spot of Democratic primary field. Warren is third in the poll and New York busi-

nessman David Bloomberg had vaulted into fourth ahead of South Bend, Ind. mayor Pete Buttigieg.

Bloomberg hasn't made much of a push in the state as Biden, Warren, Buttigieg and Sanders have made visits throughout the state and multiple visits to south-east Iowa.

A poll from Real Clear Politics has Sanders at 23.8% of polled Democratic voters, while Biden is 2.6% behind. Buttigieg and Warren are at 15.8 and 14.6. Amy Klobuchar, Andrew Yang, Tom Steyer and Tulsi Gabbard follow in single digits.

Caucuses begin at 7 p.m. Monday night at the locations below, with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. Anyone arriving after 7 p.m. will not be allowed to caucus. Registering can be done prior to 7 p.m. at the precincts.

A satellite caucus will take place at 1 p.m. Monday at the Keokuk Labor Temple and the LULAC Club in Fort Madison for anyone who cannot make the 7 p.m. caucuses.

Republicans will caucus beginning at 7 p.m. at Quality Inn & Suites in Fort Madison with surrogates for President Donald Trump on hand for the rally-type event. Trump is challenged by former Massachusetts Gov. Bill Weld and U.S. Rep. Joe Walsh (R-IL).

## Monday caucus locations

The locations for Lee County Caucusing are listed below. Caucus doors open at 6:30 close for entry at 7 p.m.

### KEOKUK

- KE1 - Keokuk Labor Temple, 301 Blondeau St., Keokuk
- KE2 - Heritage Center, 508 Main Street, Keokuk
- KE3 - George Washington Elementary School (gym), 116 N. 8th St., Keokuk
- KE4 - First Christian Church, 3476 Main St., Keokuk
- KE5 - Keokuk Middle School (cafeteria), 2002 Orleans St., Iowa
- KE6 - First Christian Church, 3476 Main St., Keokuk
- KE7 - Hawthorne Elementary School (gym), 2940 Decatur St., Keokuk

### FORT MADISON

- FM1 - St. John's United Church of Christ, 501 10th St., Fort Madison
- FM2 - Lincoln Elementary School (gym), 1326 Avenue E, Fort Madison
- FM3 - Fort Madison High School (multipurpose room), 2001 Ave. B, Fort Madison
- FM4 - Eagles Club, 4821 Avenue O, Fort Madison
- FM5 - Richardson Elementary (gym), 3301 Avenue L, Fort Madison

### RURAL TOWNSHIPS

- Jefferson - Richardson Elementary (library), 3301 Avenue L, Fort Madison
  - Montrose - Ivor Fowler Community Center, 710 Main St., Montrose
  - Charleston/DesMoines/VanBuren - Central Lee High School (gym), 2642 Hwy 218, Donnellson
  - Franklin/Cedar/Marion/Harrison - Learning Center, Lee County Fair Grounds 1100 N. Main St., Donnellson
  - West Point/Pleasant Ridge/Denmark - Fort Madison High School (multipurpose room), 2001 Ave. B, Fort Madison
  - GreenBay/Washington - Newberry Center, 728 Avenue G, Fort Madison
  - Jackson - Jackson Township Fire Station, 3640 Argyle Road, Keokuk.
- Republican Caucusing in Fort Madison is at the Quality Inn & Suites



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Left to right: Chris, Erin, Judy, Jill, Brian, Shelby, and Desiree



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# PEN CITY CURRENT

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## Lee County News/From the Front

# Group moves on to waterway trail planning

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK – With area bike trail mapping completed, a three-county effort is now moving to mapping out potential recreational waterways.

The Mississippi and Des Moines Rivers SET Confluence Region of Lee County, Iowa, Clark County, Missouri and Hancock County, Illinois will host a water trails planning session on February 6th from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at the Southside Boat Club in Keokuk.

The public is invited to attend any of the sessions to provide input on developing water trails along the Des Moines, Skunk, and Mississippi rivers.

In October of 2018, the group got together and used community forums to identify where new bike paths could be located that would connect the three county area. Those plans have been submitted and now the group is taking on the second phase which is the waterway trails.

Brian Leaders, a landscape architect with the National Park Service (NPS) has extensive experience facilitating community trails and routes planning sessions throughout the Midwest. The local planning sessions are supported through a technical assistance grant and awarded through the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program. The RTCA program supports communi-

ty-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the nation. The SET Confluence steering committee submitted this grant request in accordance with goals in the regional plan.

The planning sessions will begin with a presentation on the community and economic benefits of water trails development and end with an active mapping session identifying possible trails, water access points and additional amenities.

For further information on the planning sessions, please contact Nathan Unsworth at Lee County Conservation at [nunsworth@leecounty.org](mailto:nunsworth@leecounty.org) or at 319-463-7673.

## Levy would be on March 30 ballot

**BALLOT** - Continued from Page 1

a workshop in January to put a voted Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) on a March 30th special ballot.

The move would generate about \$1 million per year, according to district Business Manager Sandy Elmore. Taxpayers would see a \$1.34 levy per \$1,000 of equalized assessed valuation on their tax bill.

But Elmore said even with conservative estimations of a 1.5% allowable growth from the Iowa legislature this year, the district's tax asking would be in the range from static at \$12.86/\$1,000 EAV to possibly a couple cents lower.

Eligible voters wishing to vote early may complete THE IOWA OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST FORM available from the Lee County Auditor or by downloading the form at <http://sos.iowa.gov>. The request for an absentee ballot may be hand delivered to the Auditor's office in Fort Madison or mailed to the Lee County Auditor, P.O. Box 190, Fort Madison, IA 52627. Requests must be received by 5:00 P.M., Friday, February 21st.

Only voters residing in the Fort Madison Community School District are eligible to vote in this election.

Fort Madison School District polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

Election Day Polling Locations for the school district are as follows:

FM1 – Ft Madison City Hall – 811 Avenue E, Ft Madison

FM2 – McAleer Hall – 415 11th Street, Ft Madison

FM3 – Ft Madison Public Library -1920 Avenue E, Ft Madison

FM4A&B – Roling Hall – 2210 Avenue I, Ft Madison

FM5/Madison Township – Hillview Village – 1102 48th Street, Ft Madison

Cedar/Franklin/Marion/Harrison Townships & the Cities of Houghton & St Paul – PGSB Community Room – 506 N. Main St, Donnellson

Jefferson Township – Lee County Conservation Center – 2652 HWY 61, Montrose

West Point /Pleasant Ridge/Denmark & Baltimore Twp in Henry County – West Point Library – 317 5th Street, West Point

Washington/Green Bay& Union Twp in Des Moines County – Grace Bible Church – 3526 175th Street.

You may locate your correct polling place by going on-line to <http://sos.iowa.gov>. Click on "Find your Precinct/ Polling Place." Follow directions to find the correct precinct for the CITY/SCHOOL ELECTION.

Anyone having questions regarding absentee voting may contact the Auditor's office at 319/372-3705.

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## Sports

**BLOODHOUND SPORTS** Fedler goes for 14 in second half as FM downs Fairfield

# Hounds get first conference win of season

BY CHUCK  
VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The alarm clock seemed to have gone off on an otherwise sleepy season for the Fort Madison Bloodhounds Friday night.

After a sluggish first half that saw Fort Madison down nine against a 2-11 Fairfield squad at the Hound Dome, the hosts shook off the night and woke up for 55-43 Southeast Conference win.

It was the Hounds first conference win of the season.

The win is also the first time the Bloodhounds have won back-to-back games all season.

Senior Jayden Fedler said the Hounds' play seems to be a bit different this week than it has the rest of the year. Fedler had four points in the first half, but finished with 18 to lead all scorers.

"It's just a different vibe now. It feels like everyone is coming together and things are starting to work out like we said it was going to after the first couple of losses," he said.



"Now it feels like it's finally starting to come together."

Fort Madison got behind early as the Trojans' 6'4" freshman post Max Weaton was able to score inside while disrupting the Hounds interior play. Fairfield senior Drew Martin buried a 3-pointer from the right baseline with 2:30 left in the first to put Fairfield up 14-5.

Fort Madison sophomore Dayton Davis was able to convert on slashing move inside the lane with :40 left in the first quarter to make it 14-7 at the end of one.

From that point the Hounds outscored Fairfield the rest of the way tying the contest at 18 on a Miles Dear 3-ball from the right wing off a skip pass over the defense from senior Parker Denning with :24 left in the first half.

Fairfield would work the ball up the floor and after a few passes on the perimeter found Weaton underneath for a shot that bounced up off the rim and fell through at the buzzer for a 20-18 Fairfield lead at the break.

Fort Madison would



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Hound sophomore Dayton Davis (10) slips into the lane for two of his 16 on the night as Fort Madison got their first Southeast Conference win at home 55-43 over Fairfield. At left, Romeo Maestro (14) tries to score over Fairfield's Max Weaton (44) in the first half of Friday night's 55-43 Bloodhound win.

then take over the contest starting with a 16-8 third quarter run highlighted by eight points including a Davis 3-pointer that almost from the hip, with no time on the clock in front of the Fort Madison student section to give the Hounds a 34-28 lead.

Fairfield slipped into half-court hybrid match-up zone that tried to trap senior Michael Mosena in the fourth period. But Mosena used some righteous ball handling and quick feet to navigate a double team for most of the quarter.

Mosena's ball control

allowed some open looks underneath and the Hounds played unselfish ball the rest of the quarter with a myriad of nifty interior passes that resulted in 7-of-9 shooting for the period and a lead of as much as 16.

"A huge thanks to my teammates for them coming to the ball when their man came and trapped me. Whoever that was, I looked to get them the ball, or looked for a skip pass, because they were wide open," Mosena said.

"I just tried to slow it down a little bit and not turn it over."

Wilson said Mosena is showing confidence.

"We go as he goes, and as long as he stays under control and slows down and makes some ball fakes we're ok. We have some small guards so teams are gonna double team us," Head Coach Ryan Wilson said.

"The thing I love about Mike is his defense and his energy. He plays defense and that brings everyone else in."

Wilson said the Hounds just wanted the

win more in the second half and became unselfish with the ball.

"It really was an issue of giving up some good shots to get great shots," he said.

"They wanted it. They came out and played hard. We didn't make to many adjustments in the second half. We went to a different zone offense that allowed us to do more high-low stuff."

The Hounds committed just 11 turnovers on the night which is well below their season average. Fort Madison was also 12-of-15 at the free throw line including going 7-of-7 in the final minutes.

Davis had 16 points for Fort Madison and Denning had 11. Jace Burgher had four points and Miles Dear had five.

The Hounds (5-10, 1-7) will try to make it three in a row Saturday with an afternoon set with a 5-8 Pleasant Valley squad that beat Burlington and Mt. Pleasant at the beginning of the season. Fort Madison then travels to Central Lee on Tuesday night.



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## Sports

# Fort Madison splits double dual in Kirksville

BY PCC STAFF

KIRKSVILLE, Mo. – Fort Madison suffered a rare dual wrestling loss Thursday night, but had to go out of the state to find the competition.

The Bloodhounds knocked off Centerville 66-12 in a double dual at Kirksville, Mo., but then lost to the hosts 40-24.

Kirksville's Chance McKim started things with a quick pin of the Hounds' Emmett Kruse at 106, but Matthew Steffensmeier scored a 10-5 decision at 113 to cut the lead to 6-3.

Kirksville would take the next three matches at 120, 126 and 132 all by decision, with Gavin Wiseman losing a very close 7-5 decision at 132.

Will Larson would get some Hound points with another hard fought 4-2 decision over Logan Blickhan. But Kirksville would win the next two.

Fort Madison would pick up more points with a forfeit at 160 and a Nathan Steffensmeier pin at 170 midway through the second period. Kirksville would then rattle off three straight at 182, 195 and 220 before

Danen Settles would get a win by forfeit at 285.

Against Centerville, the Hounds won at 106, 113, 120 and 126 before Wiseman suffered a pin at the 3:33 mark at 132 to Matthew Lewis.

Larson would then lose a 5-1 decision at 138 and Quanton Ross would lose a decision at 145 for Fort Madison's only other losses of the match.

Mason Schau at 152, Nathan Steffensmeier wrestling at 160 against Centerville, Austin Ensminger at 170, and Levi Lowney at 182, all scored consecutive falls. Bryce Britton would win by forfeit before Lozano and Settles each won by pins in less than a minute.

The Hounds are at the 13-team Southern Iowa Wrestling Classic Saturday in Fairfield.

Complete results from Thursday's action is below Fort Madison (FOMA) 66.0 Centerville (CENT) 12.0

106: Emmett Kruse (FOMA) over (CENT) (For.) 113: Matthew Steffensmeier (FOMA) over (CENT) (For.) 120: Owen Kruse (FOMA) over Jax Mosley (CENT) (Fall 1:21) 126: Gage Roberts (FOMA) over (CENT) (For.) 132: Matthew Lewis (CENT) over Gavin Wiseman (FOMA) (Fall 3:33) 138: Nathaniel Genobana (CENT) over Will Larson (FOMA) (Dec 5-1) 145: Leland Henderson

(CENT) over Quanton Ross (FOMA) (Dec 8-4) 152: Mason Schau (FOMA) over Ryan Messamaker (CENT) (Fall 3:27) 160: Nathan Steffensmeier (FOMA) over Josh Oldfield (CENT) (Fall 0:13) 170: Austin Ensminger (FOMA) over Matt Logsdon (CENT) (Fall 0:47) 182: Levi Lowney (FOMA) over Ethan Messamaker (CENT) (Fall 1:14) 195: Bryce Britton (FOMA) over (CENT) (For.) 220: Diego Lozano (FOMA) over Cruise Flanders (CENT) (Fall 0:36) 285: Danen Settles (FOMA) over Jace Lang (CENT) (Fall 0:37) Fort Madison (FOMA) 24 Kirksville (CENT) 40.0 106: Chance McKim (KIRKSVIL) over Emmett Kruse (FOMA) (Fall 1:29) 113: Matthew Steffensmeier (FOMA) over Lathon Wilcox (KIRKSVIL) (Dec 10-5) 120: Hunter Tarr (KIRKSVIL) over Owen Kruse (FOMA) (Dec 9-3) 126: Donovan Gaines (KIRKSVIL) over Gage Roberts (FOMA) (MD 16-4) 132: Gavin Robertson (KIRKSVIL) over Gavin Wiseman (FOMA) (Dec 7-5) 138: Will Larson (FOMA) over Logan Blickhan (KIRKSVIL) (Dec 4-2) 145: Luther Evans (KIRKSVIL) over Quanton Ross (FOMA) (Dec 10-5) 152: Jaden Ballinger (KIRKSVIL) over Mason Schau (FOMA) (Fall 4:45) 160: Austin Ensminger (FOMA) over (KIRKSVIL) (For.) 170: Nathan Steffensmeier (FOMA) over Parker Laudwig (KIRKSVIL) (Fall 3:00) 182: Tristan Gillespie (KIRKSVIL) over Bryce Britton (FOMA) (Fall 2:21) 195: Colton Hannah (KIRKSVIL) over Levi Lowney (FOMA) (TB-1 5-3) 220: Bryce Kertz (KIRKSVIL) over Diego Lozano (FOMA) (Fall 1:25) 285: Danen Settles (FOMA) over (KIRKSVIL) (For.)

### SPORTS BRIEFS

#### FM 8th graders fall to Burlington, Keokuk

KEOKUK – Carson Rashid scored 11 in a 38-25 loss to Keokuk on the road Thursday night. Fort Madison's 'B' and 'C' teams both tied in their games.

Hunter Cresswell had four points and Nathan Bowen led the Hounds in rebounds with seven.

Leif Boeding, Cade Denning and Bowen all had three points for Fort Madison.

In the 'B' game, the game ended in a 21-21 ties with Jamarkus Kline leading the way with 8 points. Jahbari Starks had four points in the 8-8 'C' game.

On Monday the 'A' team fell 36-33 to Burlington on the road. Rashid put in 13 for the Hounds followed by Boeding with nine and Creswell with six.

The 'B' team also lost 17-14. William Bennett had five points for FMMS and Hayden Segioano had seven rebounds for the Fort Madison in the loss.

Fort Madison's 'C' squad got a 5-4 win behind Xander Lumsden's three points and Deeunta Ceaser's two.

#### VB knocks off Central Lee 7th graders

DONNELLSON – The

Van Buren Warriors downed Central Lee's 7th grade boys on Thursday night, 24-20. Brayden Wyrick had 14 for the Hawks and Chase Johnson had six.

On Monday night Wyrick had 13 in a 36-31 loss to Burlington Notre Dame. Chase Johnson had eight and Kegan Damico had four for Central Lee.

The Hawks play again Monday night at WACO.

#### BND rolls Central Lee 8th graders

BURLINGTON – Aden Ross had three points to lead Central Lee Monday night in a 43-12 loss to Burlington Notre Dame. Landan Lowenberg, Kayden Ames, Ryan Wilbert and Zach Manwill each had two points. Grant Myhre rounded out the scoring with a point.



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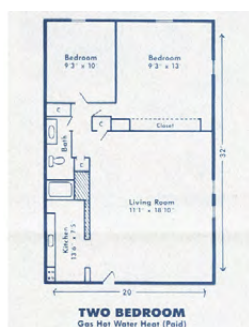
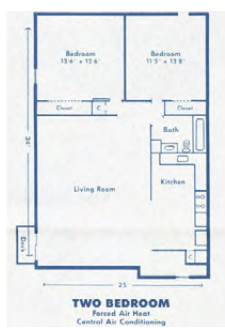
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**Chuck Vandenberg**  
Editor - Pen City Current  
editor@pencitycurrent.com

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From the Front

# Local board will decide where funds are disbursed

**FUNDS** - Continued from Page 1

National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, The Jewish Federations of North America, The Salvation Army, and, United Way Worldwide.

The Local Board is charged with distributing funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country.

United Way of the Great River Region and Community Development Department, City of Keokuk will convene a local board that will determine how the funds awarded to Lee County are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies in the area.

The board is responsible for recommending agencies

to receive these funds and any additional funds made available under this phase of the program. Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive Federal funds, 3) have an accounting system, 4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply.

Lee County has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously to local food pantries, Community Action Agencies, and emergency shelter



United Way of the Great River Region

programs.

Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact Sue Prochazka at United Way of the Great River Region at 319-524-4504 or [vc@united-waygrr.org](mailto:vc@united-waygrr.org) for an application. Interested agencies must make contact by February 7, 2020.



**2020  
To Do List  
Save Our Planet**

## Highway 61 rehab set to begin this year

**PROJECT** - Continued from Page 1

in close to double engineering estimates from HR Green of Cedar Rapids.

The work is also being watched carefully by the Iowa State Historical Society because of its proximity to the original fort location. Any discoveries during the reconstruction could halt progress and add to the city's cost.

The city received two bids on the work, the other was from Langman Construction Inc., out of the Quad Cities for \$3.42 million.

In September, considering the original bid for the work by Jones, Pat Jones said he could see a potential savings of about \$230,000 which would bring the costs to \$3.1 million, but Jones said at that time, he didn't know what impact rebidding the project would have on the cost.

Winter bidding is typically more favorable in regard to costs, Andrew Marsh, a vice president from HR Green said last fall.

The bids were received by the Iowa Department of Transportation on Jan. 22. The project is being funded through IDOT grants and funds the city still has from the \$13 million it received from the state to take responsibility of the highway after the bypass was built.

Projected costs from the city's proposed budget for 2020-21 fiscal year are about \$10 million with work possibly being completed on the 2nd to 6th and 6th to 10 streets, and the one way pairs on 18th and 20th streets. That would leave about \$3 million in the Highway 61 fund.

In other action, the council is scheduled to:

- vote to adopt a resolution of support for an Iowa Department of Economic Development application for the High Quality Jobs Creation Program in connection with the recently announced planned \$32 million expansion at ConAgra Foods. The project is contingent upon receiving state tax credits under the program.
- hold a workshop following the regular meeting to discuss the 2020-21 fiscal year budget.

*Thank you to all our customers who worked to reduce their environmental footprint last year. We look forward to helping you continue your efforts and to educating our communities on more ways to help this year.*

### Here are just a few ways you can help:

- Don't put plastic bags in recycling bins
- Rinse & clean all food jars & cans before recycling
- Flatten empty boxes for better storage & volume reduction
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