

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Thursday, February 6, 2020 | 8 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 36



www.pencitycurrent.com

Buttigieg, Sanders in dead heat

Satellite caucuses could send Sanders to comeback win

BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY – Lee County voters said a man with no federal elected experience is their favorite candidate for the Democratic nomination for President. South Bend, Ind. Mayor Pete Buttigieg

leads the state with 26.4% of the support from caucus-goers in Iowa on Monday.

With results coming in slowly over more than two days and the national pundits shunning the party over its mishandling of the results, 96% of precincts were in as of 11 p.m. Wednesday night and all of Lee County results had been tabulated.

In Lee County 150 delegates to the county convention were split between six candidates led by Buttigieg with 54. Former senator and Vice President Joe

Biden received 38, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders got 31, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren received 16, Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar received seven and entrepreneur Andrew Yang was given four.

But in a late night development Sanders closed the gap to just four State Delegate Equivalents to Buttigieg.

Buttigieg also has the lead in state equivalent delegates, which is the tradi-

See CAUCUS, page 8

CITY BUDGET

City may bump LCEDG contribution

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – City officials have found a way to add to city road repair funds and talked again about the possibility of instituting a franchise tax among other issues at a city budget workshop Tuesday night.

The city had been earmarking \$100,000 from the road use taxes to resurface city streets and were considering reducing that amount, but instead has actually increased the funding by 50% to \$150,000 for residential streets this coming fiscal year.



MOHRFELD

City Manager David Varley said the city had budgeted for the purchase of a new street sweeper, but instead will lease equipment which will free up funds to keep working on city streets.

“We are going to lease purchase the street sweeper,” Varley said. “I’m going to try and get as short of a lease as we can, maybe three years, because I don’t like to borrow money.”

The move reduced the budget line on the street sweeper from \$245,000 that the city was going to pay cash for, to \$75,000 for the lease purchase agreement.

Varley said that still provides a decent minimum working capital in the road use funds.

Water rate increase

The city also looked at what the water fund looked like without the annual 2% increase. Varley put together a 5-year outlook as to what the city’s water fund would look like if the city didn’t apply the 2% increase in fiscal year 2020-21, but reinstated the following four years.

The end result was a \$289,000 decrease in the fund balance. Varley said the city has put more into expenditures in the fund because the city is behind in replacements of water mains in the city. The city water department is also looking at expanding capacity so additional water

See BUDGET, page 8

FMAAA

February art exhibit looks inward

BY BRIAN RIGGS
FMAAA Director

FORT MADISON – As the Fort Madison Area Arts Association approaches 40 years of existence next year, the gallery pays homage to the strong artists that paved the way for the non-profit cultural arts center.

The organization would never have been able to perform the programs and events that we offer today without the road paved by these outstanding talents.

“Sands thru the Hourglass” features amazing groupings of work by well-known artists that engaged with the region and Ft. Madison in particular. Reception opening occurs Saturday, Feb. 8th from 2-4



This watercolor of Tri-State Rodeo action will be part of the FMAAA February exhibit. A reception is planned for Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m.

p.m. Hy-Vee of Ft. Madison is the sponsor for the exhibition.

The main feature boasts work from Felis Sanchez, Wendell Mohr, Paula Howard, Helen Colby Swiers, Louphena Hensal, Margo Perez, Ruth and Dale Newberry, Molly

Meizner, Donna Guy, Ann White, and Alice Peradi. Wendell Mohr and Donna Guy resided in Bonaparte and Washington, Iowa, respectively. The other artists were Ft. Madison

See FMAAA, page 3

SCIENCE FAIR

Central Lee invites public to High School Science Fair

BY PCC STAFF

MONTROSE – Central Lee High School students will present Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Research Science Fair projects at the Lee County Conservation Center, Montrose located at 2652 Hwy 61, on Sunday, Feb. 9 beginning at 2 p.m.

The 9th -12th grade science research students from Central Lee High School have been working for months, many since last spring, on their research and experiments.

The Lee County Conservation Center at Heron Bend, Montrose, will host the event. Judging will take place from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

The public is invited to view the projects and visit with students after judging has completed at 3:45 p.m. The awards ceremony will start at 4 p.m.

The public is invited to come and interview and talk to many of southeast Iowa’s top and award-winning student science researchers.

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WEATHER

THU 06 Feb..... Overcast, 29.8° F/ 24.2° F
FRI 07 Feb..... Light Snow, 31.5° F/ 23.2° F
SAT 08 Feb..... Clear Skies, 28.1° F/ 27.7° F

OpenWeatherMap

IOWA LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS 02/04 32 48 50 51 64, Mega Ball: 10 Megaplier: 2
PICK 3 02/04 MIDDAY 962
PICK 3 02/04 EVENING..... 716
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For the Record/National News

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

02/03/20 – 10:00 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Vincent Joseph Damico, 55, no address provided, in the 2200 block of Avenue L, on a charge of OWI-1st offense. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 02/03/20 – 12:47 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1700 block of 35th Street.
 02/04/20 – 1:44 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Brandi Rae Briggs, 26, of Keokuk in the 5000 block of Avenue O, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 02/04/20 – 4:13 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited and released Khali T.

Wise, 24, no address provided, in the 2800 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving under suspension.
 02/04/20 – 9:36 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited and released Daniel Lee Savage, 31, of Burlington, in the 2200 block of Avenue E on a charge of driving while suspended.
 02/04/20 – 10:42 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 4500 block of avenue L.
 02/04/20 – 1:59 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1300 block of Avenue H.
 02/04/20 – 2:02 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited and released Jessica Kim Bower, 29, of Fort Madison in the 130 block of Avenue H on a charge of criminal trespass.

02/04/20 – 8:21 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited and released Joshua Edwin James Hartman, 34, of Fort Madison, in the 2600 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving under suspension.
 02/04/20 – 8:27 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the alley of the 200 block of Avenue F.
 02/05/20 – 1:24 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Jacob Russell Gilpin, 22 of Fort Madison, in the 2300 block of Avenue C, on a warrant for probation violation and transferred him to the Des Moines County Line.
 02/05/20 – 5:18 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited and released Irene Rose Bengé, 78, of Fort Madison, in the 2000 block of Avenue H, on a charge of

driving under suspension.
 02/05/20 – 5:48 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Andrew Xazier Cortez Hunter, 26, of Fort Madison in the 2600 block of Avenue L, on a charges of criminal trespass and interference with official acts. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

02/03/20 – No reports filed
 02/04/20 – No reports filed

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

02/03/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call and one burn permit.
 02/04/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one smell of smoke.

Iowa Dems give statement about Caucuses

WASHINGTON - On Tuesday, U.S. Representatives Rep. Cindy Axne (IA-03), Rep. Abby Finkenauer (IA-01), and Rep. Dave Loebsack (IA-02) issued the following statement on the Iowa Caucuses:

“The Iowa Caucuses are the foundation of how our parties and our nation select their next President, and generations of Iowa voters know how seriously we all take that responsibility. This situation is disappointing, and requires accountability and transparency moving forward.

We must ensure complete accuracy so that every Iowan's voice is heard and counted, and we

thank the many volunteers that have now worked night and day to finalize a result that the nation and the whole world can know is fair.

For almost a half century, candidates for the highest office in the land have come to Iowa to present their visions for America to Independents, Republicans, and Democrats alike. As Iowan's voices in the U.S. House of Representatives, we know how important it is that our constituents came together last night to participate in what should be a trustworthy and efficient process, and this deserves to be done right.”

GOP gets behind Iowa caucuses

DES MOINES – Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, Sen. Chuck Grassley and Sen. Joni Ernst released the following joint statement regarding Iowa's presidential caucuses:

“Iowa's unique role encourages a grassroots nominating process that empowers everyday Americans, not Washington insiders or powerful billionaires. The face-to-face retail politics nature of Iowa's caucus system also encourages dialogue between candidates and voters that makes our presidential candidates accountable for the positions they take and the records they hold.

“Iowa's large population of independent voters and its practice of careful deliberation contributes greatly to the national presidential primary and makes it the ideal state to kick off the nominating process.

“Iowa's bipartisan first-in-the-nation status helped lead to the nomination of President Obama and has the full backing of President Trump. The process is not suffering because of a short delay in knowing the final results.



2020 To Do List Save Our Planet

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
- Place all recyclables loose in bins
- Don't recycle wrapping paper
- Properly dispose of all electronics and household hazardous waste



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Local News/From the Front

Kindergarten round-ups set for FM elementaries

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Community School District is setting their annual kindergarten round-up days for March.

Richardson Elementary is holding their roundup on Monday, March 16th and Lincoln Elementary will hold it's event on March 23rd

To register contact Lori at Lincoln at 319-372-2896 and at Richardson contact Ashley at 319-372-2765.

During the round-up children will be assessed by the teachers and parents and guardians will get information and paperwork for enrollment.

The event gives our schools a good opportunity to learn about the children coming into the system. In addition, you will learn about the district's ID Card System, Here Comes the Bus, Pick Up/Drop Off procedures, lunch information,

and more.

If you have a child entering Kindergarten in the Fall of 2020 you and your child are invited to attend Taste of Kindergarten at the elementary schools

Taste of Kindergarten is a fun way to get familiarized with the building, meet our team of awesome teachers, and find out about different opportunities for you and your child. Those dates are March 5th from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Richardson, and the same hour on March 12 at Lincoln.

Attendees can enjoy a slice of pizza and a bottle of water, and meet the Kindergarten staff. A tour of the buildings will be included as well as other activities. To RSVP for the event, click on the following link prior to Feb. 26 and fill out the form: <https://www.fmcsd.org/2020/01/10/taste-of-kindergarten/>



Courtesy Photo

Emily Benjamin of Climax Molybdenum presents a \$3,000 Freeport-McMoRan grant to Shirley Gabel and Lin Cramer of the Fort Madison Food Pantry. The grant will assist with repairs of the Idol Rashid Memorial Building once ownership shifts from the City/County to the Pantry organization.

Art center works with more than 100 area artists

FMAAA - Continued from Page 1

residents.

The artists share the common thread of a high level of quality, as well as the fact that they have passed away. Works will be for sale as FMAAA simply doesn't have the space to keep a permanent collection.

FMAAA is Always Moving, working with 100+ regional artists. The gallery houses a large amount of artwork in order to maintain the fresh variety that is offered to visitors. Therefore the treasures of FMAAA's past are available for public collection.

As cabin fever sets in FMAAA invites the public to remember the past achievements of this collective. FMAAA will utilize the opportunity to have an indoor Yart Sale as well. Need a frame for a great price? Come on down. Many unmounted photos, prints, and paintings will be available for closeout prices. Pick a painting, match a frame to it, and you are off and decorating.

FMAAA currently has readily accessible hours of operation open Mon-Wed-Fri-Sat from 10-5pm and Tues-Thur from 11-7pm, a shining artistic beacon at 825 Avenue G.

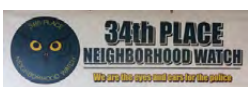
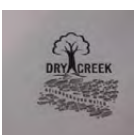


Watercolors and other medium will be on display from regional artists as part of the "Sands Thru the Hourglass" exhibit at the Fort Madison Area Arts Association's February exhibit. A reception is planned for Saturday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Do you have time - to help stop crime?

Visit any of these Facebook pages to learn more about what the Neighborhood Watch Program is & how to start your own group or join an existing group!

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Sports

HTC girls knock off #10 West Burlington

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Holy Trinity Catholic guard Ashlyn Haas (13) slides around West Burlington's Sydney Marlow (10) during Tuesday night's Crusaders' upset win.

FORT MADISON – You lose a basketball game by 48 points, you're not going to forget it.

On Tuesday night, Holy Trinity's girls basketball team remembered.

The Crusaders took a 63-56 win over West Burlington, sprinting to an early lead before closing the game with a perfect final 2:19 from the free-throw line.

"It's the right time of year," Holy Trinity coach Tony Johnson said, "to have a win like that. They're top two, three, in the (SEI Superconference), so to get a win like this, it's huge."

Especially what happened the last two times these teams played.

They met on Jan. 3 in West Burlington, and the Falcons took an 83-35 win.

"They were embarrassed," Johnson said. "I knew tonight we would get a better effort. You never know what you're going to get night to night. But I knew getting beat by (almost) 50 up there, they were embarrassed."

They weren't going to be on this night.

Holy Trinity (11-9) scored the first seven points of the game, but West Burlington (15-4) rallied to lead 14-13 at the end of the quarter. That is when the Crusaders took over.

They scored the first eight points of the second quarter, outscoring West Burlington 18-4 in the quarter.

"We came out fast, which was great, and we carried the momentum the rest of the way," Johnson said.

The Crusaders were able to handle the Falcons' pressure defense when it was used — the struggle to make shots by West Burlington kept the Falcons from getting set up for most of the second quarter.

"We worked last night on breaking the press, and we worked on our free throws," Johnson said. "Both of those things came into play in this game."

West Burlington's Sydney Marlow scored 40 points on the Crusaders in the first game, but she played sparingly after falling ill in the first quarter.

West Burlington got to within 31-26 to open the second half before the Crusaders closed the third quarter on a 15-9 run.

The Falcons made one more push. They closed to within 53-49, but Holy Trinity would close the game by going 10-of-10 in free throws, with eight of those coming from Ashlyn Haas.

Haas finished with 16 points. Kassi Randolph had 14 points, and Claire Pothitakis added 12.

Annaka Harris led West Burlington with 17 points. Natalie Vandenberg had 15.

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Charles Vandenberg, Editor
(319).371.1670
editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager
(319).371.4125
sales@pencitycurrent.com

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Sports/Iowa news

SPORTS BRIEFS

FM 8th graders down Ottumwa

OTTUMWA – Leif Boeding led the Little Hounds with 11 points as Fort Madison's 8th grade boys 'A' team downed Ottumwa 49-23 on the road Tuesday night.

Nathan Bowen and Aiden Benda each had eight points. Hayden Segoviano led Fort Madison with four rebounds, he also had five points, along with Hunter Cresswell.

In the 'B' game, the Hounds won 25-12 behind a 10-point performance from Jahbari Startks 10 points. Ayden Moyers had six and five rebounds. Oliver Santiago had four points.

Ottumwa won the 'C' game 13-6. Conner Fuget, Richard Stocker, and Ethan Porter all had two points.

On Monday night, the Hounds 'A' team doubled up Fairfield 42-21 behind 12 points from Carson Rashid. Nathan Bowne had seven points and Hayden Segoviano had four rebounds.

Jamarkus Kline had 13 in a 'B' game 28-25 loss. Henry Morris led Fort Madison with two rebound. Xander Lumsden and Richard Stocker had four points each in a 12-10 'C' team loss.

WACO downs CL 7th graders

WAYLAND – Brayden Wyrick and Chase Johnson led Central Lee with 9 and 7 points respectively in a 34-28 loss to WACO on Monday night.

Kegan Damico and Drake Weber each had four points, followed by Ethan Bergman and Hunter Edlin with two.

The Hawks take on Cardinal on Monday night and then host West Burlington on Tuesday night.

Hawk 8th graders fall to WACO

DONNELLSON - Central Lee's 8th graders downed Van Buren on Thursday 48-17 behind 10 points from Cory Jones and 10 from Zach Manwill. Riley Stuecker, Aden Ross, Hunter Gregory, Aydin Holland, Grant Myhre, Kaden Skow and Landan Lowenburg all scored for the Hawks.

On Monday, the Hawks fell 44-33 at Wayland. Manwill had 8 points, followed by Jones and Ross with seven each. Myhre, Lowenberg, Dante Merschman and Denton Westercamp also scored for Central Lee.

Authorities identify shooting victim

MAPLETON - At approximately 9:40 PM on January 31, 2020, Mapleton Police and EMS responded to a 911 call of a shooting that occurred in Mapleton. The name of the victim has been identified as 16-year-old Joseph Hopkins of Mapleton, Iowa. An autopsy was conducted on Monday by the Iowa State Medical Examiner's Office. Hopkins died as a result of a single gunshot wound. Investigators do not believe there is a current danger to the public. The investigation is ongoing and no further details are being released at this time.

HOUND BASKETBALL Fedler goes for 20 in win over Hawks

Bloodhounds roll over Central Lee

BY PCC STAFF

DONNELLSON – Jayden Fedler hit for 20 as the Fort Madison Bloodhounds downed Central Lee Tuesday night on the road.

The Hounds put three players in double figures as they won their third game of the last four 63-44 over the Hawks.

Fort Madison had a little trouble shaking off the hosts in the first quarter being up just two at 9-7 with three minutes left in the first quarter. But a 10-5 run to finish up the quarter had the Hounds with some breathing room at 19-12.

Fedler scored 10 of his 20 in the first period and was shut out in the second period.

Central Lee would cut the lead to four at 27-23 with just a minute left in the first half, but Miles Dear would bury a three pointer with less than minute to go to send Fort Madison into the locker room with a seven-point 30-23 lead.

Fedler would get back on track inside in the third putting up six to go along with a couple 3-balls from Dayton Davis and Michael Mosena to stretch the lead

to 13, while holding the Hawks to just nine points in the period.

Fort Madison would get 18 to Central's 12 in the final period to ice the game. Reinburn Turnbull and Matt Hopper would hit a couple 3-pointers off the bench to help set the final score. Fedler added four more in the period.

Dear finished with 11 points for the Hounds, while Parker Denning had 10, Davis scored nine. Jace Burgher put in four for Fort Madison, while Mosena, Turnbull and Hopper each scored three.

Central Lee didn't have any players in double figures, but nine players got on the board led by Kade Myhre's eight points. Seth Mayes put in seven, Alex Sandoval had six, Dylan Stuecker and TJ Stutes each had five, followed by Bronson Sargent and Derick Denning with four apiece. Maddox Doty had three and Kaleb Sanders put in a bucket to round out the Hawks (2-16) scoring.

The Hawks take on Danville Thursday at home.

Fort Madison moves to 6-11 on the year, 1-7 in Southeast Conference play. The Hounds travel to Washington on Friday night for a conference matchup.

IDPH implenting coronavirus protocols

DES MOINES - The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has implemented the recommendations of President Trump's Task Force on Coronavirus.

This increased surveillance is expected to result in notification of individuals identified for testing and monitoring for novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

This enhanced level of surveillance has identified two Iowans that recently returned from China who are undergoing testing for novel coronavirus

(2019-nCoV), and are under voluntary home confinement. The testing is being done by the Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and results are not expected for several days. This is

part of a planned, layered approach that utilizes a variety of actions to protect the public health.

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The Pen City Current is seeking a part-time to full-time stringer/reporter for south Lee County.

Candidates will have some writing experience and basic photography skills. Compensation based on story production. Coverage would include the city of Keokuk, Keokuk Public Schools, Central Lee Public schools, south Lee County breaking news, and features. Sports coverage would be considered as an additional beat for the right candidate. This is an excellent opportunity with a rapidly growing local independent news outlet.

Please send resume, writing/photography samples, and cover letter via email to:

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

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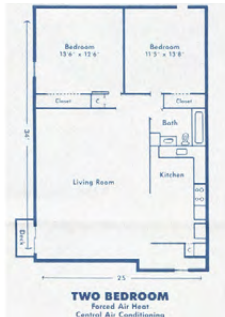
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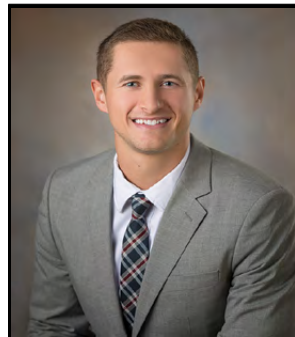
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From the Front

City adjusts budget projection

BUDGET - Continued from Page 1

can be produced at the request of one of the industrial facilities on the west side. That projected cost of that expansion is between \$1.2 million to \$1.5 million.

Varley said water is a vital necessity and wants to keep balance high enough for emergencies and wants to keep it higher than most of the other funds.

"A deteriorating road is bad, but not as bad as not having water or having to boil water," Varley said.

Vehicle replacement fund

Varley is also proposing a vehicle replacement fund where the city departments would essentially pay rent on their vehicles. That money would go into a fund at a rate that would pay to have the car replaced in a set amount of years, which varies by department.

"The beauty of it is it's like financing a car. If you're really frugal when you have a car paid for, you continue making that payment to yourself so when you want a new car you have that money in the bank," he said.

He suggested the city start small with just the police department and then expand to other departments.

Also regarding the police department, city officials took a closer look at what it costs to keep a dedicated police investigator as a full-time position.

A five-year look had that position projected a cost of about \$560,000 in salary and benefits, as well as training and a "hand-me down vehicle"

Lee County Economic Development

Group

Mayor Matt Mohrfeld suggested at the meeting that the city bump the amount given to Lee County Economic Development Group in light of recent successes in education and growth.

"I would suggest that, if it's possible, we look at elevating that from \$25,000 to \$30,000," Mohrfeld said.

"It's a \$5,000 increase which would be 20% and I think it sends a nice message that we are rewarding them for their success. And hopefully it will also send a message to other investors we see the value, and hopefully they do."

Bowker said she supported the additional money to LCEDG citing campaign information from voters who wanted more businesses to locate in Lee County.

Franchise Tax

Bowker also broached the franchise fee and said it was a tough discussion and suggested leaving things as they are until the next budget year and then revisit it.

Mohrfeld said he believes a franchise tax is on the books at 0%. Having that at 0% doesn't surrender the LOST collected on those utilities. City Clerk Melinda Blind said the city had to provide Alliant Energy at least 6 months notice to start collecting the tax.

Councilman Mark Lair said last time the city discussed a franchise tax several industries and the Fort Madison Partners came out opposing the move



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Former Vice President Joe Biden takes a moment as former Gov. Tom Vilsack talks about the tragedy that has dotted the life of the former senator from Delaware. Biden finished a disappointing 4th in the Iowa caucuses Monday.

Biden's showing could hurt campaign

CAUCUSES - Continued from Page 1

tional barometer of success at the Iowa Caucuses.

Buttigieg received 26.4% of the SDEs while Sanders was right behind at 533 or 25.7%. Warren was third with 18.3% and Biden was fourth with 15.8%. Klobuchar was fifth at 12.2%.

As far as the preference tabulations, which are akin to a popular vote with attendees writing their

first preference on a card during the caucuses. If their group wasn't viable, they put the name of the candidate they moved to, in the event they didn't stay uncommitted.

In Lee County, Buttigieg had 382 first preference votes, followed by Biden with 281, Sanders 243, Warren 146 and Klobuchar 63.

When the second preference results were calculated, Buttigieg finished the day with 413 votes, followed by Biden with 286, Sanders with 253, Warren with 140 and Klobuchar with 65.

A full breakdown of the caucus results can be found at the Iowa Democratic Party website at www.thecaucuses.org.



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