



Pen City Current

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Peitz named HTC Teacher of the Year

Blue & Silver Celebration raises close to \$50K for HTC teachers

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR



Courtesy photo

Peitz honored

HTC teacher Linda Peitz is the Teacher of the Year. She is presented by Mike Avery of the HTC school board and Amy Merschman, Vice President of the board. Peitz first taught at Aquinas and then stayed on through the merger into HTC.

Council and the school's technology committee, and volunteering to come to the high school to teach the 7th grade science when the need arose.

One student nominated Peitz for getting the most out of her students, her dedication and her sense of humor. "Another thing I really

like about Mrs. Peitz is she is always quick with a funny comeback. She really cracks me up! I hope Mrs. Peitz wins Teacher of the Year. She deserves it. Since she even put up with teaching my Mom 30 years ago!" the student wrote.

This is a highly attended annual event where local individuals, business and organizations purchase tables and a small volunteer group prepares dinner for everyone, including the teachers who are hosted by the others.

The Blue & Silver Celebration was started three years ago as a means to provide teachers with a bonus at Christmas. According to committee marketing director Donna Borst, teachers at HTC earn considerably less than they could if they taught at a public school so the school board wanted to try and give them a little extra if possible.

The idea was born out of a land donation to Holy Trinity years ago by local families. The land

was the former Sheaffer Pen parking lot and when the land was sold a portion of the sale was used by the school board to give teachers the first bonuses that they had ever received. The families included Joe and Canda Rashid, Jan and Brad Randolph, Dr. Mark and Kara Pothitakis, Niko and Carrie Pothitakis and Brad and Jeanne Deery.

The bonuses were so well received that the board tried to find a way to make it an annual program and the Blue & Silver Celebration was started.

Over the past two years, the board has been able to give nice bonuses to the staff as a result of the annual program.

Jim Baier, Inc. had generously given HTC \$15,000 every year for the past ten years to use to help cover costs for the teachers. Borst said the board took that \$15,000 and put it directly into that event and distributed

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City to approve SEIRPC contract Tuesday

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - City officials are prepared to sign an agreement allowing the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission to administer work on the Cattermole Library and old Lee County Bank building.

City Manager David Varley said at the last city council meeting that he was bringing the agreement for approval so the project could move forward. The city council will meet Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

Barker Financial Group of Iowa City has taken over the project and Varley said the Iowa Economic Development Authority asked the city to take over as the funding go-between for the project. He also said the IEDA would look favorable on the city contracting with SEIRPC because of the group's experience in dealing with the projects like this. Varley said work could start as early as May and the Cattermole would be done first as it is close to 75% complete. Then the old Lee County Bank building, both in the Main Street district on Avenue G, would see work next. Rehabbing the

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Road closed

Road construction crews have the main drag through West Point closed for an overhaul. The street is blocked off for two blocks passed Brad's Pad and the BP station.

Photo by Lee K. Vandenberg/PCC

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Marvin L. Watson, 86,	Fort Madison

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From the Front



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HTC teachers honored at annual dinner

HTC - Continued from Page 1

every dollar back to the teachers.

Jim Baier's commitment ended last year, but both the Rashid family and both Pothitakis families have helped make up the difference.

We do not have the numbers tallied yet, but

we are hopeful that we will once again bring in over \$50,000 for our teachers.

The event recognizes every teacher with the number of years in the HTC system and the total numbers of years teaching.

Funding for the event comes from ticket sales, donated auction items, cash donations as well as in-kind donations from the committee, kitchen, bar and auction volunteers and Rita Holtkamp who spends close to a week preparing the meal.



Courtesy photo

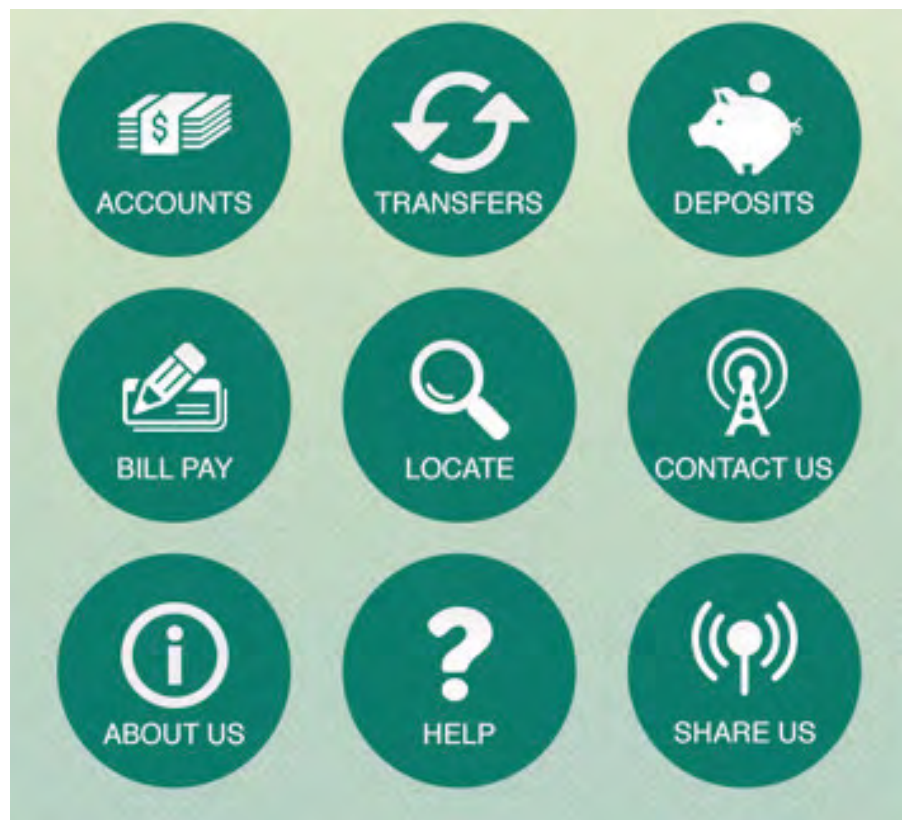
Auction items

Auction items helped raise money Saturday at the Holy Trinity Catholic Silver & Blue celebration. The event raised close to \$50,000 for teachers in the system.

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

MARVIN L. WATSON

FORT MADISON - Marvin L. Watson, 86, of rural Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 4:19 p.m. on Saturday, March 18, 2017 at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics in Iowa City, IA. He was born on March



WATSON

23, 1930 in Fort Madison, IA to Jack & Elva Belle Meneely Watson. He married Suzanne M. Bell on February 21, 1954 in Burlington, IA. He was a farmer for 44 years and a member of the Denmark Congregational United Church of Christ for 50+ years, member of the Wever Odd Fellows Lodge for 60+ years, the former sexton of Fairview Cemetery, former Sawyer School Board Member, former Lee County Farm Bureau President and served on the Lee County Election Board. He enjoyed playing cards and drinking coffee with friends.

Marvin is survived by: his wife: Sue Watson of Fort Madison, IA; 2-daughters: Jan (John) Hales of North Platte, NE & Lollie (Keith) Krogmeier of Fort Madison, IA; 1-son: Rex Watson of Ames, IA; 7-grandchildren & 13-great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Richard.

Friends may call after 3:00 p.m. with the family to receive friends from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. with an Odd Fellows Service to be held at 6:30 p.m., all on Monday, March 20, 2017 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The funeral will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Chad Savage officiating. Burial will be held at Fairview Cemetery. A memorial has been established for Fairview Cemetery or the Wever Odd Fellows Lodge. Online condolences and a video tribute of Marvin's life may be viewed at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

Parking amendments also on agenda

COUNCIL - Continued from Page 1

Sears building is still up in the air as Barker doesn't think putting upper story units above the Sears store would be a viable option. Officials are hoping to see them rehab the exterior of the building and keep it up to standards of Sears' franchise so that business can stay viable.

The city is also considering an amendment to

parking ordinances with regards to a 48-hour parking limit on public roadways, parking citations and parking restrictions for loading and unloading freight among other changes.

In other action, the council:

- will vote on a resolution for a public hearing on April 4 to sell 15th

Place and 16th, 17th, and 19th streets south of Avenue P to Hall Towing.

- will vote on a resolution to set a public hearing for April 4 on the sale of 3034 Avenue K to Habitat For Humanity.

- will vote on a resolution appointing City Public Works Director Larry Driscoll as the city's Title VI Coordinator

and approve the Title VI Non-Discrimination Assurances and Agreement.

- will vote to approve the purchase of a cold planer from Sinclair Tractor in the amount of \$12,000.

- will vote to approve a closed landfill land agreement between the city and the Great River Regional Waste Authority.

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HELP WANTED

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, the world's largest marketer of branded consumer lawn and garden products, is seeking a **Maintenance Electrician** for the Fort Madison, Iowa location.

The Maintenance Electrician will perform detailed mechanical, instrumentation, and electrical troubleshooting, repair, and preventative maintenance on plant process, utility, and packaging equipment. This position will perform multi-discipline maintenance and electrical work and maintain appropriate documentation.

This position requires a High School Diploma/GED, PLC Technician and Electrical Educational Courses. Candidates should be able to demonstrate the technical skills required to install/service a variety of systems in addition to program, repair, and maintain programmable logic controller systems (PLC) used in a high speed industrial packaging facility. Individual must be committed to maintaining a safe and clean work environment and complying with regulations and policies. This position must be available to work any shift and overtime as needed.

Minimum five years' experience in an electrical maintenance field in a manufacturing environment. For expanded job details and to apply visit <http://www.scottsmiraclegro.com/careers> and search for Req 2221.

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HELP WANTED

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, the world's largest marketer of branded consumer lawn and garden products, is seeking an **Inventory Coordinator** for the Fort Madison, Iowa location.

The Inventory Coordinator (Warehouse Stager) is responsible for the inventory management of multiple production components. This includes physical counts and inventory reconciliation before, after and during production campaigns.

This position requires a High School Diploma/GED, strong math skills, and the ability to follow directions provided in verbal or non-verbal format. Candidates should be able to demonstrate a willingness to learn multiple job assignments, able to utilize Microsoft Office and Google Chrome, safely operate a fork truck in a manufacturing environment, excellent prioritization skills and the ability to perform multiple simultaneous tasks, with interruptions. This position must be available to work any shift and overtime as needed.

Minimum one year experience in a manufacturing or warehouse environment and past SAP experience. For expanded job details and to apply visit <http://www.scottsmiraclegro.com/careers> and search for Req 2124.

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