



Pen City Current

Tuesday, February 27, 2018 | 6 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 63

FM police looking for more reserves

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A depleted police reserve program has the Fort Madison Police department looking at adding to the reserve officer corps.

Jamie Carle and Brent Gibbs, the co-coordinators of the the local police reserve program, are looking for residents who are interested in joining the program to give back to the community or as a springboard into a career in law enforcement.

Carle said currently the department has just three officers in the reserve corp and would like to add seven to nine officers. The police department is planning on having a testing session on Sunday, April 8. All applications would need to be returned by April 1.

Those interested in applying for the reserve program can do so by picking up a packet at city hall, filling it out, and returning it by April 1.

Testing for the program would include a background check and some basic testing as well as a physical test that involves the same physical testing as the regular officers working through the academy.

Fort Madison Police Chief Tim Sittig said reservists aren't subjected to the same performance levels of what's called the Cooper Institute Standards which include sit-ups, push-ups, sit-and-reach, and a 1.5 mile run.

"Those applying should know that we don't have the same expectations of, say, a 20-year-old out of an academy. But we do need to know that they can do a



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison Police reservist Rachel Sugars is one of just three remaining on the staff and police officials are looking to increase that number to about 10 with an April application and testing period.

push or sit-up. There are different standards for gender and age and we look at those," Sittig said.

"If they are riding with us and we have a pursuit or a fight, our expectation is for them to participate as well. So we want to make sure they can cover our

back. We think of the police reserves the same way as a national guard...citizen officers who train once a month and, if something bad happens, we can activate them."

See RESERVES, page 4

HTC qualifies nine for state speech

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Holy Trinity Speech team delivered stellar performances at the Iowa High School Speech Association's District Contest on Saturday at Tri-County High School, earning nine "Superior" ratings along with seven scores of "Excellent".

Scoring top marks in two events was Freshman John Stinson in Prose Interpretation and Improvisational Acting. Also, earning "Superior" marks were juniors Sam Avery in Radio News, Sterling Barnes in Story Telling, and Kyle Scheetz in Story Telling; sophomore Ryan Otte in Story Telling; freshman Danny Caruso in Acting, Elizabeth Ebbing in Poetry Interpretation, and Annabelle Scheetz in Poetry Interpretation.

The "Superior" rating advances these orators to the State Contest which will be held at Cedar Rapids Kennedy High School on March 10.

See HTC, page 4

Pictured from left to right: row-1: Jordan Mueller and Elizabeth Ebbing; row-2 Ava Peitz, Yulu Zhang, Annabella Scheetz, Ryan Otte, and Jayde Watznauer; row-3 Danny Caruso, Sam Avery, Sabrina Fullhart, John Stinson, and Sterling Barnes; not pictured Kyle Scheetz.



Courtesy photo

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Area News/Lottery Numbers

West Point looks at \$1.5M waste water upgrade

Funding for the project could come from several sources

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WEST POINT - West Point residents may soon see an increase in their property tax levy or their sewer bill or a combination, but either way they'll be paying for a \$1.5 million upgrade to the waste water treatment facility on the town's east side.

At a special meeting Monday night at West Point City Hall, Jack Pope, a physical engineer from Garden and Associates of Oskaloosa, told the full council that the amount of ammonia nitrogen in the detention area would not pass new regulations from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

The new regulations reduce the amount of nitrogen as well as e.coli present in the water at the facility. Pope said he

wasn't concerned about the e.coli because the current facility is still under those limits.

Pope had three options for the city to consider. Two of those options carried a price tag of \$3.3 million and included additional land requirements and one of those would have required a building to be put on the property for additional filtering. The other option would require four new aerators and rock filter system.

That plan that was approved by the council. Construction crews would build a structure approximately 30' x 60' at the current location and fill a portion of it with rock and have the blowers inside the box. The rock would serve as a filtering system while the blowers circulated the water to help with the cleaning process. The rock helps capture the



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Engineer Jack Pope from Garden and Associates, shows the West Point City Council several options that can be used to upgrade the city's water water treatment facility on the town's east end. Ammonia nitrogen levels aren't being handled by the lagoon per state's requirements.

“
Right now that would set your monthly bill at \$36 per customer. And if I look around other communities this size, they typically pay between \$30 and \$40 a month so you have some really low rates

-Jack Pope,
Engineer, Garden & Associates

bacteria while the water can flow through. Pope

said it would cost about \$54,000 per year for operations and maintenance.

Pope told the council he was recommending the \$1.5 million option because the others have

the higher price tag and that option didn't require land acquisition. There was little discussion among the council on the options, but funding the project did raise some concerns.

Pope said the city would be eligible for a loan from the state's Revolving Loan Fund. But that cost, shared among the 475 users on the city's waste water system, would raise monthly bills about \$25 for 20 years or until the loan is paid back. Pope said he would also inquire about a Community Development Block Grant, but because the sewer rates were so low, they probably would put the project

See UPGRADE, page 8



APRIL 24-27, 2018

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Lotto America™	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



2/26
6 11 16 28 37
Lucky Ball: 11



2/26 MID-DAY
4 9 7
2/26 EVENING
9 8 3



2/26 MID-DAY
6 1 2 6
2/26 EVENING
0 2 7 5

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

For the Record/Current-Lee

For the Record

Fort Madison Police report

02/23/18 - 11:48 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2500 block of Avenue A
 02/23/18 - 1:37 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1100 block of Avenue E.
 02/23/18 - 2:02 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded arrested Michele Marie Spindlow, 27, of Fort Madison, in the 2300 block of Avenue N, on a charge of violating a no-contact order. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 02/23/18 - 3:02 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 5200 block of River Valley Road.
 02/23/18 - 3:22 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2000 block of Avenue B.
 02/23/18 - 6:26 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2000 block of Avenue J.
 02/24/18 - 5:47 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2000 block of 303rd Avenue.
 02/24/18 - 9:05 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Dominique Joran Houten, 23, of Fort Madison, in the 5500 block of Avenue O on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 02/24/18 - 9:05 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded arrested Dakota James Arnold, 25, of Fort Madison, in the 5500 block of Avenue O, on a warrant for 3rd-degree theft out of Illinois, and charges of possession of methamphetamine and possession of a controlled substance. He was taken to

the Lee County Jail and held.
 02/24/18 - 10:05 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded arrested Darin Leon Cale, 52, of Montrose at the police department, on a charge of 3rd degree burglary. He was released on a promise to appear.
 02/24/18 - 1:32 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2100 block of Avenue C.
 02/25/18 - 2:07 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1200 block of Avenue E.
 02/25/18 - 6:30 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 600 block of Avenue F.
 02/25/18 - 6:37 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2100 block of Avenue C.
 02/25/18 - 12:03 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded arrested Miguel Angel Alvarez, 25, of Fort Madison in the 1300 block of Avenue E, on a charge of 3rd-degree burglary and 5th-degree criminal mischief. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 02/25/18 - 2:13 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 400 block of 23rd Street.

Lee County Sheriff's report

02/23/18 - 7:25 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Joseph Richard Whitehead, 21, of Keosauqua, at the sheriff's office on a charge of OWI. He was released on a promise to appear.
 02/23/18 - 1:00 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Misty Lee Wallis, 46 of Campbell, Mo., in the 1800 block of 285th Street in Argyle, on a charge of possession of

drug paraphernalia. She was taken to the Lee County jail and released for time served.
 02/24/18 - 1:00 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kathy Ann Stone, 54 of Lilbourn, Mo., in the 1800 block of 285th Street in Argyle, on a charge of possession of a controlled substance. She was taken to the Lee County jail and released on bond.
 02/24/18 - 4:02 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Tanya Jo Worley, 44, of Fort Madison, at the intersection of 10th Street and Concert in Keokuk on a charge of driver's license revoked-OWI. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on a promise to appear.
 02/24/18 - 5:53 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the near the intersection of Highway X32 and 303rd Avenue. A vehicle driven by Shelby Renee Kemper, 20, of Fort Madison slid on icy roads and entered a ditch, running through a fence and coming to rest in a field. No citations were issued at the scene. Kemper complained of back and leg pain but denied medical care at the scene. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report

01/23/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls and one burnt belt on a washer
 01/24/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to five medical calls
 01/25/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call.

CURRENT-LEE

Rainbolt family holding benefit to offset son's final expenses

FORT MADISON - A benefit is being planned for expenses related to the death of Dakotah Rainbolt on March 3, 2018 at the Fort Madison Eagles, 4822 Avenue O. from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m.

As part of the benefit a \$10 raffle is being held for a quarter side of beef from Dave's Old Fashioned Meats. Contact Gary's Trading Post at 319-561-1132 for more information or tickets.

Glo Crazy for Education run set for April 7

FORT MADISON - A 5K run/walk will be held on April 7 at Baxter Sports Complex beginning at 8 p.m. Proceeds from the event will go to the Elliott Test Kitchen in Fort Madison. The event is being put on by Fort Madison service clubs including Fort Madison Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary clubs as well as the Fort Madison High School key club. Registration can be done at www.pencitycurrent.com/glo-crazy/.



Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for \$15. Add a photo for \$5. Non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of \$10 per 25 words and \$3 per photo. To place your listing, click here or call Lee at (319)371.4125.

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Founded in 2016



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Education News/From the Front



It's Time To Celebrate New Beginnings! Twenty8Teen

Thank you to all of our customers who helped us reduce our environmental footprint in 2017!

Great River Regional Waste Authority is looking forward to continuing our efforts to manage our environmental footprint and help educate our communities on ways to help in 2018!

Things to remember in 2018 when recycling:

Please do not place plastic bags in recycling bins.

Rinse & Clean all food jars and cans before placing in recycling bins.

Flatten boxes for better storage and volume reduction. *Empty all boxes before recycling.

Place all recyclable products loose in bins.

Do not recycle wrapping paper.

Properly dispose of all electronics and household hazardous waste. [Click Here](#) for more guidance!

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Reserve program can be jump start to career

RESERVES - Continued from Page 1

Gibbs said the reserve officers fill in with special events, traffic control, and requested security in the city. There is no pay other than the \$1 per year to keep them on workers' compensation if something were to happen. Reservists can also make money manning security for events like sporting events, the rodeo or other events.

"We tend to give those jobs to the reservists so they can get some experience and also to make a little money. Aside from the tazers and firearms, they have to pay for most of their gear. We hold some fundraisers for them like the dunk tank at RiverFest and we'll do some Pizza Hut fundraisers for them. We try to help where we can."

Rachel Sugars is one of the three current reservists and said it's helped her along her career path. She said the state law requires reservists work a minimum 12 hours per month.

"This is something that I've been working for and I enjoy it," she said. "It's got my foot in the door for a full-time job."

Sugars said she's been sworn in for a year and half, but has been involved in the program for the past three years.

"When I got hired on, we didn't do the physical testing, but I went through the regional tests," Sugars said.

Carle and Gibbs both started as reservists who found an interest in law enforcement and now have made full-time careers out of the profession.

Sittig said reservists usually sign up for two reasons.

"One is that they use it as stepping stone for a full-time job and others just want to give back to the community," he said. "So if that's an interest to them, some of them progress and get to the point that through getting all the required training passed and approved they can take a car out. Others are perfectly happy riding and partnering up, either way is perfectly fine with us."

Reservists would also need to learn 10-codes and the phonetic alphabet as part of the training program and would need to pass a background check.

"Once they complete their certification program, the moment we take them on as a reserve officer, depending on their work schedule, that's about 18 months, but once they complete that, they are eligible to write citations and everything other than implied consent," Gibbs said.

Kindergartens plan pizza night, roundup

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison School District's elementary schools are holding a Taste of Kindergarten as a prelude to the annual round-up.

On March 12, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Lincoln and Richardson schools will be offering a slice of pizza and a bottle of water as part of a meet-and-greet with kindergarten and bright beginnings teachers in principals.

The evening will also include a tour of the building and activities in each classroom. Schools are asking those interested to call the schools by March 8 to confirm attendance at 391-372-2896 (Lincoln) or 319-372-2765 (Richardson).

Kindergarten round up will be held Monday, March 26, at Lincoln and Tuesday March 27, at Richardson. Parents or guardians can call the above numbers to register a slot for the roundups.

Four Holy Trinity Catholic students receive excellent honors

HTC - Continued from Page 1

"Excellent" scores went to juniors Sterling Barnes in Public Address and Yulu Zhang in Poetry Interpretation, sophomore Jayde Watznauer in Literary Program and Solo Musical Theater, and freshmen Jordan Mueller in Literary Program, Ava Peitz in Prose, and Annabelle Scheetz in Public Address.

Senior Sabrina Fullhart was entered in Acting, but was unable to perform because of weather related transportation issues.

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The Holy Trinity Catholic Schools Foundation Board is looking to hire a Development Director. This individual will work with the Board to grow the assets managed by the Foundation. Email resumes to Brian Foecke at bfoecke@ft.nyl.com. Resumes are due by March 15th.



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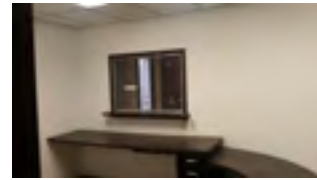
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Sports/From the Front

Area fishing spots thawing quickly

BY PCC STAFF

DES MOINES - The following is the fishing report released the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for the week ending Feb. 28, 2018. DNR officials are reporting unsafe ice in most locations so please be careful fishing this week.

- Big Hollow Lake**
Unsafe ice conditions.
- Lake Belva Deer**
Unsafe ice conditions.
- Lake Darling**

Unsafe ice conditions. 60 degrees and rain on Monday. 43 degrees and rain on Monday night into Tuesday has ruined what ice was left. Last couple of days of colder weather has refrozen open water, hiding the bad spots.

Lake Geode

Drained for renovation work scheduled for later this year.

For more information on the fishing at the above lakes and rivers, contact

the Lake Darling Fisheries Office at 319-694-2430.

Mississippi River Pool 19

Tailwater stage is 7.90 feet at Lock and Dam 18 above Burlington and is rising. Tailwater stage at Lock and Dam 18 has risen close to 5 feet since Monday. River stage at Burlington is 12.95 feet and forecasted to reach 14.9 feet. Flood stage at Burlington is 15 feet. Unsafe ice conditions due to

recent rains, warm weather, and rising river levels.

River stages have been on the rise this past week with the recent rains and warm weather. Water clarity is poor. Tailwater fishing for walleye and saugers has been slow. There are unsafe ice conditions with the recent rains, warm weather, and rising river conditions. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19, contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

Funds could come for a variety of sources

UPGRADE - Continued from Page 2

toward the bottom of the list because the rates could be higher to pay for the project.

“Right now, that would set your monthly bill at about \$36 per customer. And, if I look around other communities this size, they typically pay between \$30 and \$40 a month so you have some really low rates,” he said.

City Administrator Gene Menke told the council the city could levy for the project as well. Other options were using Local Option Sales Tax funds that the city currently doesn't have obligated to anything else. He said another option was to issue general obligation bonds to pay for the project, or a combination of all the options to help ease the impact on users.

“We're gonna kick that can down the road,” Menke said after the meeting. “We're just not sure what that will look like yet.”

The council approved the upgrade called a SAGR in environmental terms, meaning Submerged Attached Growth Reactor, by a unanimous vote. Pope said he would submit the application before March 1 because that's the state's deadline for revolving loan applications. He also said the town has until 2020 to remediate the facility to handle the new requirements.

The current facility is just under 20 years old. Mayor Paul Walker asked Pope how long he thought that would keep the town within state guidelines, as they are known to change.

Pope said the state won't ever say it's good for 20 years or so, but they could probably count on somewhere between 12 and 20 years before more improvements would have to be made. The new upgrade would have to be operational by the end of December 2019.

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TUE 27 Feb	Partly Cloudy High - 55.3° F Low - 45.0° F
WED 28 Feb	Moderate Rain High - 49.6° F Low - 49.0° F
THU 01 Mar	Moderate Rain High - 40.3° F Low - 30.6° F
FRI 02 Mar	Clear Skies High - 39.9° F Low - 29.6° F
SAT 03 Mar	Clear Skies High - 34.3° F Low - 23.7° F

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