



Pen City Current

Tuesday, March 6, 2018 | 8 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 69

Backfill bill getting mixed local reactions

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A proposed bill that would phase out payments to counties for commercial and industrial tax replacements is getting mixed reactions from area agency budget officials.

Senate File 2081 could potentially cut \$176,000 in property tax revenues from the budgets of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, Fort Madison Community School District, and the city of Fort Madison combined in the next budget year beginning July 1.

Other county public schools and governmental agencies would also lose property tax dollars in the

cut.

The bill calls for a 1/3 cut in repayments based on last year's projected "backfill" in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018. The issue is that most of the budgets will likely be certified prior to the new backfill rates going into effect, if the bill is signed by Gov. Kim Reynolds. Reynolds had indicated in her Condition of the State address that she wanted to fulfill the state's obligations to the program.

In 2013, the state rolled back commercial and industrial property tax rates to encourage growth in the state, and then offered to backfill county coffers with payments throughout the year to offset the reduced property tax revenue.

Lee County Budget Director Cindy Renstrom said if the bill is signed the county will lose about \$90,000. The county was projected to receive \$287,597 in 2018. Under the new bill, the county is projected to receive \$197,606 in the fiscal year starting July 1, a budget that was approved by supervisors last week. In fiscal year 2020, that number would be further reduced to \$98,803 and that would be the last year for the payments.

"That will just eat into the balance we're carrying next year," Renstrom said. "We would eventually have to look at cutting expenses out of people's budgets to

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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Third time around

Fort Madison's Jim Lair, who's lived in the district for 71 years, talks with Fort Madison Community School District Superintendent at Monday night's bond referendum forum at Lincoln Elementary School. The school is looking to build a \$30 million prek-3 school on the campus off Bluff Road. The average cost to a homeowner with a \$75,000 assessed home would be .97/\$1000 or about \$2.98 per month, according to literature from the district. School district Board President Tim Wondra is at Lair's right.

Larkin to seek fourth full term

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Four-term Lee County Supervisor Rick Larkin announced Monday that he will be running for another 4-year term on the board.

The former Fort Madison City councilman and 30-year employee of the Iowa State Penitentiary said he wants to continue working on economic development and law enforcement issues in the county.

"I would like to see us continue funding the Lee County Economic Development Group because that whole group has been pretty successful," Larkin said. "They're doing additional funding out in the communities of the county. But those businesses and industries are looking at this as a

public/private partnership and that's help bring entities like Siemens, the Iowa Fertilizer Co., and the Mills Group here."

He said the big issue facing the county right



LARKIN

now is the state's economy and how that's going to impact the county's budget.

"The big question right now is if the state's going to keep making payments in place of the commercial property tax that they rolled back in 2013," he said. "Thus far they've been keeping those payments in here, but there is talk now that they're not going to backfill that. If the state passes that law, then we have to make up the difference and we're going to have to go back and look at

See LARKIN, page 5

Granaman is FMAAA's March exhibitor

BY BRIAN RIGGS
Fort Madison Area Artist Association

Jerry Granaman has been a photographer since the mid-1970s in Ft. Madison. Needless to say, technology has greatly altered the components of that medium of expression. New large-scale works ON CANVAS

from Jerry are on display all month of March. A reception occurs for the artist on March 9th from 5:00-7:00pm. He will offer 10% off canvas purchases during the reception. He is also gifting a work entitled "Oak Alley" as a 50/50 raffle with proceeds to

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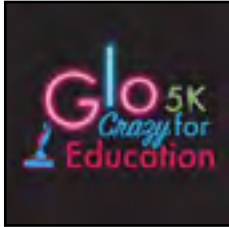
CURRENT-LEE

Spring vendor show coming to Fort Madison

FORT MADISON - Spring Vendor Show, Saturday, March 10th, 9am-1pm, Roling Hall, 2217 Ave. I, Ft. Madison. Featuring 16 Vendors. Bake sale items will be available for sale from the Holy Family Parish BFF group

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.

Reception planned for Friday at the art center

PHOTOS - Continued from Page 1

benefit PAWS/FMAAA. The winner will be pulled at the Lunch-ala-Art program on March 30th at noon. Need not be present to win and tickets will be available at PAWS and FMAAA gallery. Mobile Nursing Services is the sponsor for the exhibition.

Granaman scribes his way, "I am a self-taught fine art and landscape photographer, developing my craft for over four decades. I have been published in magazines, books, and newspapers and shown in galleries in Iowa, Illinois, and Louisiana, as well as selling internationally. Although I do both, I still prefer black and white over color, currently I have been working on infra-red and long exposure photography. I am always striving to improve my art form. This gallery showing will include several new pieces not previously shown."

Jerry was a strong photographer when the work involvement was oh so much more difficult. The days of mixing chemicals, dodging and burning, hanging film in windowless spaces are gone. Technology has even eliminated the cost of exposing bad shots on film rolls for the amateurs. Now anyone capturing a decent sunset fancies themselves a photographer. In fact, no medium has grown more in participation over the last decade at FMAAA.

However you still have to develop your eye, sense of timing, and ability to pick subject matter with attention to lighting values involved. Photoshop execution has taken over the driving to past darkroom techniques. Jerry prefers the natural shot on tripod, but has begun utilizing more computer software techniques, working with 256 Shades of Gray, which allows for subtle stimulation of the gray values.

I myself remember when the digital age of cameras transpired, all the darkroom photographers threatened to rebel and not show amongst digital photography tricks. Yet know all of them have transformed to the new way (or passed away, which unfavorably speaks to my age). The ability to mat and frame for yourself is still a needed skill for showings. However, new middleman printers on the Internet allow you to portray your finished image on canvas, wood, even metal. Jerry has went with large-scales images on canvas, which most definitely have a monumental type effect in shadowbox frames. Perfect décor for a waiting room!

Jerry continues to transform and extend his skill level on photography over decades. He has taught many photographers in Ft. Madison with classes at FMAAA. He is always willing to share knowledge with new shutterbugs. Check out ON CANVAS during FMAAA business hours Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm and open late for music lessons Wed-Thur til 7pm. FMAAA is Marching Forward this month with Expressions Art Auction occurring on March 24th at Comfort Inn & Suites at 6:30. The popular Pick-Your-Own vacation raffle is available once again by the Marshall Family. Event and raffle tickets available at FMAAA gallery, Lost Duck Brewery, and FMAAA Board Members: Angela Sodey, Teresa Dearing, Becky Carlsen, Mary Brockman, Coni Graber, Linda Marshall, Kathy McCracken, George & Mary Ann Gaudette, Gary & Anna Grinstead, Cindy Roberts, Jerry Granaman, Mio Santiago, Dorothy Kramer, Dr. Tim Benson, Pam Strunk, and Kelly Peters.



Photo courtesy FMAAA



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Pen City Current

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For the Record/Education News

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

03/02/18 - 2:35 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of burglary in the 1900 block of Avenue I.
 03/02/18 - 1:52 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 3000 block of Avenue N.
 03/02/18 - 6:24 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a property damage accident in the 4800 block of Avenue O.
 03/02/18 - 7:16 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of burglary in the 1900 block of Avenue I.
 03/02/18 - 7:23 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a shoplifter in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
 03/02/18 - 7:40 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested a 12 year-old male juvenile in the 2400 block of Avenue E on a charge of interference with official acts. He was detained and later released to an adult relative.
 03/03/18 - 11:28 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1100 block of 22nd Street.
 03/03/18 - 3:58 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the

1200 block of 20th Street.
 03/04/18 - 3:54 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a property damage accident in the alley of the 1500 block of Avenue H.
 03/04/18 - 7:17 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1200 block of Avenue H.
 03/04/18 - 7:20 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit & run in the 1500 block of Avenue G.
 03/04/18 - 11:47 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a property damage accident in the 800 block of Avenue E.
 03/04/18 - 12:23 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 400 block of Avenue A.
 03/04/18 - 2:17 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 800 block of Avenue E.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

03/02/18 - 2:30 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Loyal Gregory Gundrum, 48, of Burlington, at the Des Moines County Jail on a warrant for judgment hold. He was held in custody.
 03/02/18 - 2:40 p.m. - Lee

County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kandice Marie Warner, 29, of Burlington at the sheriff's office on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on bond.
 03/03/18 - 6:09 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jordin Rod Dale Snowden, 24, of Montrose at the sheriff's office on warrants for domestic abuse and a felon in control of a firearm and child endangerment-bodily injury. He was released on bond.
 03/03/18 - 6:10 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested a 14-year-old female from Burlington at the Southeast Iowa Juvenile Detention Center on a charge of assault with injury to a law enforcement officer/other. She is being held at the juvenile detention center pending court.
 03/03/18 - 8:44 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Brittany Nicole Tilley, 31, of Warsaw, Ill., on Main Street in Keokuk, on a warrant for 3rd-degree burglary. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on her recognizance.
 03/03/18 - 11:13 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies

arrested Austin James Corwin, 22, of Fort Madison in the 3100 block of Hwy 61, on a charge of carrying a weapon while intoxicated. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on his own recognizance.
 03/04/18 - 9:16 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Megan Jean O'Day, 25, of Keokuk, in the 800 block Ridge Street in Keokuk, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.
 03/05/18 - 6:10 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Aaron David Besine, 28, at the sheriff's office on three warrants for failure to appear. He was released on bond.
 03/03/18 - 6:43 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident near the intersection of Hwys. 61 and 16. A vehicle driven by Michael Adam Hanna, 34, of Fort Madison struck a deer that ran onto the highway. A female passenger was taken to Fort Madison Community Hospital for evaluation. No other injuries or citations were issued. *All persons in these listings are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

03/03/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls and a burn permit issue.
 03/04/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to five medical calls and faulty detector.

Congress opens 2018 high school art contest

Submitted article

WASHINGTON - Congressman Dave Loebsack announced today that high school students in the Iowa's Second Congressional District may now begin to submit their original artwork to be considered for the 2018 Congressional Art Competition. The annual competition is hosted by the United States House of Representatives to recognize talented young artists from across the nation.



LOEBSACK

The winning student from each district is invited to Washington, D.C. to attend a reception held in their honor and will have his or her artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year. The deadline for entries to be received is April 13th.

"Year after year, the vast amount of talent that Iowa's students display continues to amaze me. The creativity of our talented young artists demonstrates that the arts are thriving in Iowa," said Loebsack. For a young artist, having your artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol is quite a remarkable accomplishment. I look forward to seeing this year's entries and meeting the winning student."

Once again, to make the contest as easy as possible and open to as many students as possible, this year's winner will be chosen by the public through an online vote. [Details on how to submit art work are available by clicking here to visit Loebsack's website.](#) All entries must be received no later than Friday, April, 13th at 5:00pm CDT. The artist of the winning piece will receive two round trip tickets to Washington, D.C. to attend the reception and unveiling of their artwork in the Capitol (all other expenses must be covered by the winner). For additional details about the competition, students or teachers should contact David Leshtz at 319-351-0789 or by email at David.leshtz@mail.house.gov.

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 3/5 EVENING
 6 8 4



3/5 MID-DAY
 2 6 7 6
 3/5 EVENING
 1 5 7 3

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From the Front

Larkin reappointed to Mental Health Risk board

LARKIN - Continued from Page 1

our budget and we may be looking at cutting programs and that could mean the LCEDG funding or other services.”

He was first elected to the seat in 2004 for a two-year term and then has been re-elected for three consecutive terms in 2006, 2010, and 2014. Larkin said the county has done a decent job of controlling spending while providing much-needed services to the residents.

“We have been able to stabilize our tax asking for the past three years. Our tax rate has not gone up and we’ve been able to live with what we’ve budgeted. We’ve had to take some out of our carryover the past couple of years, but if can we slowly reduce the amount we need to get out of there we should be ok... but there’s so much looming out there right now including this big tax reduction bill.”

The legislature is proposing a tax cut bill that could slash up to \$1.2 billion annually from state coffers with hopes that growth and tax on online purchases will make up the difference. The proposal has drawn the ire of many including public school districts and most Democrats in Des Moines.

Larkin said he’s always been a proponent of transparency in government.

“I believe in open and transparent government. I welcome every citizen to attend our meetings or give me a call and voice your opinions. Democracy works better if we all participate. When you consider the

corrosive environment in our federal and state politics, it’s great to work with solid, dedicated board members. While we may not always agree on the issues, we respect each other and do our best to represent the people we serve.”

Prior to being elected as a supervisor, Larkin served in the Iowa House representing Fort Madison in the legislature. He was also elected to the Fort Madison City Council and has served on many volunteer and civic organizations including the Elks Club, Kiwanis, Knights of Columbus, Holy Family Catholic Parish, Pre-Rodeo Pancake Breakfast, Mental Health Risk Pool, and many other groups and organizations.

Larkin was just re-appointed last week by the governor to serve on the Mental Health Risk Pool state board.

“I was appointed to that in 2009 through the Iowa State Association of Counties,” he said. “I believe there are nine members on that board and four of them are active supervisors. What we do is if there is carryover at the end of the fiscal year in mental health funds then it is referred to that board and they make awards to counties that run into trouble funding mental health programs.”

The board didn’t have much money to award after the state adopted a regional mental health structure, but he said this year may be different considering all the changes going on at the state level.

“

I believe in open and transparent government. I welcome every citizen to attend our meetings or give me a call and voice your opinions.

Democracy works better if we all participate.”

-Rick Larkin

Lee County Board of Supervisors

In a release put out by Larkin on Monday he said he was also interested in keeping a focus on law enforcement.

“I support the efforts of the Board of Supervisors to improve law enforcement in Lee County. We have increased the number of deputies patrolling Lee County roads and the number of correctional officers working in our jail. Soon we will be enacting security measures to protect our county workers and the public in county buildings.”

If another Democrat were to run for the seat, a primary would take place in June prior to the general election in November. Larkin said he’s not aware of anyone else running for the seat at this time.

City sniffed out potential cuts; budget would take \$10K hit

BUDGETS - Continued from Page 1

cover it.”

Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise said the county has only received about \$242,000 of the \$287,597 projected.

Fort Madison Peggy Steffensmeier said City Manager David Varley sniffed out that this may be coming so they only

entered 75% of last year’s backfill payments into the budget. With the bill calling for only 2/3 of the previous year’s payments for the upcoming fiscal year, the city is looking at about an additional \$10,000 in lost payments, if they got all the payments they were sched-

uled to get.

“This budget we didn’t budget hardly any because David said there was no guarantee on it,” Steffensmeier said. “We talked about it and heard (the state’s) budget scenario and thought maybe we shouldn’t do this.”

She said the city re-

ceived about \$96,300 in the 2016-17 fiscal year and the city only budgeted \$73,850 this year. At 66% the city would anticipate getting \$63,558, which is \$32,742 less than last year. She said the most the city ever received was \$109,700 in the 2015-16 fiscal year. The city’s general fund budget is close to \$6.3

million.

Sandy Elmore, the Fort Madison School District business manager said the district would lose up to about \$54,000 at a 66% reimbursement, but she said in some cases the district doesn’t get all the projected payments from the state.

“What you have to remember is that the state

will allow us to levy for that money, so it could go back on the property taxpayers.”

The Iowa State Association of Counties issued a statement last week opposing the measure.

“SF 2081 would phase out those reimbursements over three years,

See **COUNTIES**, page 7

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Holy Trinity Catholic Early Childhood Center is seeking an Assistant Director for their Ft. Madison Center.

This is a year round clerical and administrative role - full time during the school year, part time during the summer. Benefits eligible.

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Flash in the Pan

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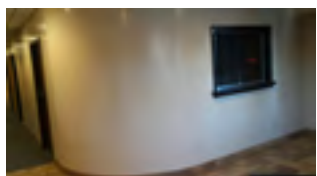
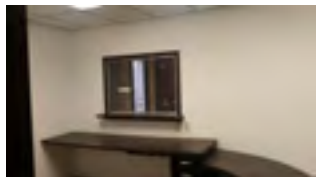
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Area News/From the Front

Steffensmeier takes 3rd at YMCA girls state meet

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison's Abby Steffensmeier took 3rd place in the 25-yard breaststroke at the state girls YMCA swim meet held Saturday. Swimming in the 8 & under division Steffensmeier also took 11th place in the 50-yard freestyle. Mia Mason took 10th in that division in the 50-yard freestyle. In the 11 and 12-year-old division, Elliott Dostalek earned 15th place in the 50-yard backstroke, while Jordyn Boyer came in 21st place in the 50-yard breaststroke and 30th in the 50-yard freestyle swim.

Counties association wants state to follow Gov. Reynolds' plan

COUNTIES - Continued from Page 5

leaving counties with a \$29 million loss of revenue per year. Because fiscal year 2019 budgets are currently being finalized, counties may have to make drastic cuts to services if the state reimbursement is reduced," according to a prepared statement from the group. "It's unfortunate the legislature is considering starting the phase-out of the backfill after most counties and cities have published their final budgets for FY 2019. County officials I've talked to don't understand why the legislature would knowingly take an action that could put either the county budget or services in a precarious position. Our members would urge the legislature to follow the leadership of Governor Reynolds, fund the backfill for FY 2019, and then work with local officials to put a plan in place that meets both the state's budgetary constraints in future years and local governments' obligations to meet the service needs of their citizens," stated Bill Peterson, Executive Director of the Iowa State Association of Counties.

Task force busts Keokuk drug house

KEOKUK - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Keokuk, Iowa man on a misdemeanor drug charge.

Gregory Alan Meierotto, 50, of 906 Palean Street, Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on March 1st, 2018 at his residence on a misdemeanor drug charge. Meierotto is charged with maintaining a drug house, an aggravated misdemeanor. If convicted, Meierotto faces up to 2 years in a state correctional facility.



The arrest of Meierotto stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that he was involved in the use and/or distribution of illegal narcotics in the Lee County

area. A search warrant was served in connection to this investigation and items that support the charge were discovered.

The Lee County Attorney's Office, Keokuk Police Department, Lee County Sheriff's Office, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, and the 8th Judicial District of Probation and Parole assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy.

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

TUE 06 Mar



Light snow
High - 37.7° F | Low - 30.0° F

WED 07 Mar



Light snow
High - 30.3° F | Low - 23.8° F

THU 08 Mar



Light Snow
High - 30.9° F | Low - 26.0° F

FRI 09 Mar



Light Snow
High - 36.6° F | Low - 22.7° F

SAT 10 Mar



Clear Skies
High - 38.4° F | Low - 23.5° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)



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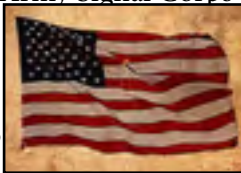
STEPHEN HENRY BEIMER

Stephen Henry Beimer, 90, of Ft. Madison passed away at 3:45 AM on Sunday, March 04, 2018 at The Madison.



BEIMER

He was born on June 3, 1927 in Ft. Madison to Stephen and Caroline Merschman Beimer. On June 30, 1949 he married Eileen Holtkamp in Houghton, and she passed away on November 16, 1999. He was a member of Sacred Heart Church, the Knights of Columbus and the Newberry Center. Steve graduated as Valedictorian from Catholic Central High School. He was drafted towards the end of WWII and assigned to the Army Signal Corps and served in the United States and Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. After the service he joined his father in the plumbing business until his father retired in 1968. He then formed a partnership with his brother Kenny and became a master plumber and worked another twenty-two years until his retirement. He served a term on the City Plumbing Board, the building and grounds committee of the Catholic school system and Sacred Heart Church. Steve enjoyed spending time with his family, music, dancing, playing cards and was a skilled woodworker.



Survivors include three sons, Dale Beimer of Ft. Madison, Iowa, Bill (Jody) Beimer of Pleasant Hill, Iowa and Randy (significant other Linda Starceвич) Beimer of Muscatine, Iowa; four daughters, Shirley (Danny) West of Donnellson, Iowa, Barb (Tim) Melloy of Grundy Center, Iowa, Joyce (Greg) Dana of Clive, Iowa and Diane (John) Holtz of St. Joseph, Missouri; fifteen grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren and two on the way; two brothers, Kenny (Cleta) Beimer of Ft. Madison, Iowa and Leon Beimer of Ft. Madison, Iowa; one sister, Mary Jo (Art) Pranger of Trumbull, Connecticut and special friend Marcy Grimwood of Ft. Madison, Iowa; several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, a son Gerald and a daughter Judy.

Friends may call after 2 PM on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory where the family will meet with friends from 5-6:30 PM. A rosary will be recited at 6:30 and a wake service will follow. The funeral mass will be held at 10:30 AM on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. Burial will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established for HTC Elementary School Project and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

HELEN NEUWEG

Helen Neuweg, 95, of West Point, Iowa, passed away at 6:50 a.m. Sunday, March 4, 2018 at the West Point Care Center.



NEUWEG

Born September 25, 1922 in West Point, Iowa the daughter of George Ernest and Nellie Elizabeth (Isaacson) Blacksmith. On January 31, 1942 she married Albert John Neuweg at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point, Iowa. He preceded her in death on December 18, 1998.

She is survived by her four sons: Michael (Marija) Neuweg of Austin, Texas, William (Kathy) Neuweg of West Point, Iowa, Roger (Kay) Neuweg of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa and Randy (Jan) Neuweg of St. Paul, Iowa; three daughters: Linda (David) Korte of Bowling Green, Missouri, Sandra Hamm of Gautier, Mississippi and Adrienne (Terrell) Wilson of Houghton, Iowa; fifteen grandchildren and twenty six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband: Albert; one son: Larry; one granddaughter; one daughter-in-law; one son-in-law; two sisters: Doris Schlatter and Edith Oldfather; three brothers: Donald Ogburn, Herbert Blacksmith and Dale Blacksmith.

Helen graduated from West Point Public Schools. She worked for Sheaffer Pen and assisted her husband on their farm. She was a member of St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church, the Altar and Rosary Society of the Church, St. Ann's Circle Daughters of Isabella, the West Point Garden Club and the West Point Historical Society. Helen loved to play cards and was an avid NASCAR fan.

Friends may call after 12:00 noon Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point, Iowa where the family will receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. A Parish Rosary will be recited at 3:00 p.m. and a Christian Wake Service will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

A Memorial Mass will be held Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point with Father Dennis Hoffman as celebrant.

Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery in West Point.

Memorials have been established in her memory for the Holy Trinity Elementary Capital Campaign or Lee County Hospice.

Schmitz Funeral Homes in West Point is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at www.schmitzfuneral-homes.com.

Spring Cleaning

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- Use environmentally-safe cleaning products
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