



Pen City Current

Wednesday, April 5, 2017 | 7 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 91

PAW faces major septic hurdle

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - According to an official with the local P.A.W. animal shelter, a failure in the shelter's septic system has the organization scrambling for funds to repair the system.

Tom Schulz, president of the P.A.W. board of directors, said toward the end of last week, the shelter started experiencing drainage issues in the building and called in Bates sanitation to help resolve the problem.

"We had a very alarming discovery. A couple of outside drains weren't working properly and we thought it may have been due to a collapsed pipe so we decided to have the septic tank pumped, too. They came out to pump the tank and they said the drain field is shot and it all needs to be replaced. And with the septic code the way is it, that's just massive, it could \$15,000 to \$16,000 to replace."

Schulz said the winters are tough and expensive. The shelter gets more dogs and less adoptions during the winter and the shelter just went through a Parvo inci-

dent where they lost quite a few animals.

"Not only does that put an economic stress on us, but it also puts an emotional stress on us, as well. You don't want to do this work if you don't like tears," he said.

"Quite frankly, we just don't know where to start so we thought maybe we would try to get some awareness about our problem."

"We're hoping that some of the local businesses and individuals come in and help out. I'm going to put in

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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Flying first graders

Students in first grade at Lincoln and Richardson elementary schools showcase their land flying techniques at the combined schools' musical performance to a packed house at the Fort Madison Middle School Tuesday night. The schools' combined kindergarten classes performed before the first graders.

City gives nod to YMCA/pool discussions

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A shortened Fort Madison City Council literally gave thumbs up to proceed with discussions to have the local YMCA take over management of the municipal pool.

Three council members were absent, just barely leaving a quorum at Tuesday's meeting, with councilman Kevin Rink, Travis Seidel, and Chad Cangas all absent from the meeting, but City Manager David Varley was told to move ahead with negotiating an agreement with the YMCA. A contract with the YMCA would still have to be brought in front of the council.

Varley has been working with YMCA Executive Director Ryan Wilson and several members of the board to enter into a management agreement to turn over operations to the YMCA.

The City would still own the property and Varley said the city would still be responsible for large capital expenditures, but overall management, supplies, staffing, etc. would be the responsibility of the YMCA.

City Councilman Brian Wright said for the last couple years the band department had been running concessions and is how they were raising funds and asked if they would still be able to do that.

Varley said the concessions could help them (the YMCA) make money at it, which would reduce the deficit in running the pool which helps everyone, but he said that would be the YMCA's decision as part of their management function.

Varley said the agreement would be a one-year deal at the outset.

"Do you think we have too few or too many life-guards and will they be dropping that," Wright said.

Varley said he didn't know what the YMCA would

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Supervisors talks Hwy. 61 crossover closure

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR



HUNOLD

Sheriff's office.

The proposal, which, according to Steffensmeier, would be paid for 100% by IFC, would eliminate the crossover

supervisors' workshop following the regular meeting Tuesday at the Lee County

intersection at 180th Street, which is the roadway on the north side of the facility that hooks up with U.S. Highway 61 just west of the plant. The plan would also include constructing an acceleration lane on the northbound side of the highway that would allow trucks to get up to speed before joining the main highway.

However, most of the

supervisors hinted at opposing the idea because it puts undue burden on county residents in the area.

County residents, including farmers, coming from the north would have to go to the cloverleaf and use the new J50 extension or RISE roadway to access property in

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From the Front

PAW needs help with repairs

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\$500 and challenge other businesses to help as well. There's an adage that beggars can't be choosers, well brother, I'm a beggar right now."

"We do a lot of cleaning out here, laundry and we run a lot of water and we were hoping animal hair or something had clogged the pipes. We weren't expecting that."

Schulz said the organization has about \$6,000 on hand.

"That'll cover about two weeks of operations," Schulz said. "We have our payroll, but our veterinarian bill alone is about \$2,000 a week. We've had months where our vet bill was over \$17,000"

Schulz said it isn't an issue of a lack of community support, but this is an expense outside of what the support typically covers.

"I also want to say that the community does an amazing job of supporting the shelter. There are people who put in untold hours of volunteering and can drives. This is just outside anything we anticipated," he said.

Individuals wishing to help with the replacement cost or donate parts or labor for the repairs is encouraged to call the shelter at 319-372-2274 or you can visit their website at pawfortmadison.com.

The PAW Fort Madison Animal Shelter is a 501 c3 non-profit organization so all contributions are tax-deductible and is located at 2031 48th Street.



Fundraising efforts that help cover the regular operations were already on the books prior to the septic system failure. A music trivia night is set for April 29 at the Fort Madison Eagles Club.

Cost is \$10/person with eight people per team and registration starts at 6 p.m. with the contest beginning at 7 p.m. To reserve a table call Jennifer at 217-617-9905.

The group's Fourth Annual "Run for Their Lives" 5K and 1 mile event is scheduled for May 27 at 9 a.m. at Rodeo Park. The race will be held rain or shine, except for lightning & thunderstorms. There will be no make-up date. Early registration is \$20 per person, with guaranteed T-shirt on or before May 12th. Children (under 10) are only \$10. Late registration or race-day registration is \$25 per person with children under 10 \$15.

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Photo by Kelsey Vandenberg/PCC

Morning accident

Tuesday morning school traffic resulted in a two-vehicle accident on the curve at the Fort Madison High School. No one was transported after the two SUVs collided trying to navigate the 3-way curve going into the district drop zone.

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Local News/Obituaries

OBITUARIES

Bartholomew R. "Bart" Prado, Sr.

Bartholomew R. "Bart" Prado, Sr., 80, of Ft. Madison passed away at 11:50 PM on Monday, April 3, 2017 at Ft. Madison Community Hospital.



He was born on August 24, 1936 in Ft. Madison to Ladislao "John" and Cleofas Rodriguez Prado. On December 31, 1979 he married Maria G. Landeros in Ft. Madison. Bart was an explosives operator at IAAP and retired after forty three years of service. Bart served in the US Marines during the Korean Conflict. He was a member of Sacred Heart Church, the Knights of Columbus, the LULAC, Eagles Club and The Moose. He was an avid card player and also enjoyed bingo, playing pool, and bowling.



PRADO

Survivors include his wife, Maria Prado of Ft. Madison; four sons, Raymond Prado of Ft. Madison, Mike Olson of Missoula, MT, Raul Pizana of Tucson, AZ, and Jesus Pizana of Iowa City; eleven grandchildren; four great grandchildren; one brother, Ignacio "Nacho" Prado of Davenport; one sister, Benita Aguirre of Ft. Madison; numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Bart Jr.; three brothers and three sisters.

The family will meet with friends from 1-3 PM on Sunday, April 9, 2017 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. There will be a rosary recited at 3 PM at the funeral home. The funeral mass will be at 10:30 AM on Monday, April 10, 2017 at Sacred Heart Church with Rev. Mark P. Spring officiating. Burial will follow in Sacred Heart Cemetery with military rites performed by the Ft. Madison Veterans Honor Guard.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in his memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Marshall Field sandwich day

From left to right: Dana Rheinschmidt, Angie Sodey, Jillian Mohrfeld, and Jessica Holtkamp help staff the Potowonok's annual Marshall Field Sandwich fundraiser Tuesday at the Elks Club in Fort Madison. The group sold 537 sandwiches and cookies on the day, which beat last year's total by more than 137.

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FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

You won't hear a PEEP out of us this Easter

Pen City Current will not publish its digital e-Edition on Easter Sunday, April 16 & Monday, April 17 in order to enjoy the holiday with our families.

However, any breaking news will continue to be posted to our website at pencitycurrent.com.

We wish you & yours a wonderful Easter.

Pen City current

VOTE

ROSS BRADEN
Lee County Attorney
May 2nd, 2017

"Looking to the future of Lee County"

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Paid for by: Committee to Elect Ross Braden, Lee County Attorney

Send your story ideas to Chuck Vandenberg, Editor, at editor@pencitycurrent.com or call (319)371.1670

Sports

FMHS girl kickers fall to BHS, 9-0



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Just for kicks

FMHS freshman Anna Kester moves the ball in Tuesday's 9-0 loss to Burlington in girls' high school soccer action.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Well...it wasn't rained out, but the Bloodhounds found themselves in a deluge against a formidable Burlington Grayhound girls soccer team Tuesday at the Baxter Sports Complex.

The Hounds lost to BHS 9-0, which was the score at the end of the first half. High School rules have a 10-0 mercy rule and Burlington substituted freely and was clearly working on their game in the 2nd half.

Head Coach Sebastian Seifert said starters Kaeli Hutson, Taylor Shannan, and Emily Wolf worked

well throughout the game.

"These three started as our offensive line and though they didn't have as many chances as we had hoped for, they did play well together. We switched formations this year and are still trying to see how well it is going to work for us. It is still early but we are evaluating our options," Seifert said.

The Hounds have 25 girls on the roster this year which is a new record, according to Seifert.

"This is the fourth year of this program and we are seeing growth which is exciting. The key will be creating an environment that will attract more athletes so the program can become more successful over time," he said.

After the game, the team voted Brynn Schroeder player of the game.

Schroeder is a senior and in her fourth year playing.

"She played a new position this game in defensive mid and did a very good job," Seifert said.

"The girls have worked hard to prepare for this game, so as a coach you just want your athletes to succeed if they have put in the work. But sometimes it just doesn't work out that way. Burlington was a lot better and the result shows it. We look forward to our game on Thursday and hope to even out our record.

The Bloodhounds host Canton, Mo., at the Baxter Sports Complex in Fort Madison at 5:30 p.m.

HTC drops Keokuk road match

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK - The Holy Trinity Crusaders dropped a 4-1 decision to Keokuk in boys high school soccer action Tuesday night.

Aden Alfred scored the only HTC goal on corner kick with an assist from Adam Rauenbuehler. Bailey Merschman had 16 saves in the game for HTC.

"The team struggled to communicate,

which led to breakdowns in the mid-field and the defense and Keokuk took advantage of our breakdowns," said head coach Ryan Culbertson. "Keokuk also won every 50/50 ball and every second chance ball."

The Crusaders are coming off a 2-1 performance on Saturday at the Fort Madison Invitational at the Baxter Sports Complex.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

On the move

HTC's Adam Rauenbuehler dribbles the ball in Saturday action at the Baxter Sports Complex. The sophomore was the only Crusader to score in Tuesday's 4-1 loss to Keokuk on the road.



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From the Front/Local News

Mayor wants to assure public has same access with Y

POOL - Continued from Page 1

do for staffing, but he said they have the same problem finding lifeguards that the city had.

City Councilman Mark Lair asked Varley if there was any talk about longer hours or different hours.

"I know a lot of times the city closes at, like, 5," Lair said.

Varley said hours have been part of the discussions.

"To them it makes sense to extend it to allow those people who get off work and it's 98 degrees and want to go to the pool," he said. "They are going to look at that. They think there is a market there and a demand there for parents and kids after 5 p.m."

Mayor Brad Randolph said his concerns were that people would still have access to rent the pool and the fees would stay the same.

"And then the pool season, we extended that into the fall because it was still hot enough for people who want to enjoy the pool," Randolph said. "My concern is that the public have the same access with someone else running it as they did with us."

Varley said that will all be addressed in the language of the contract. He said

there will be incentives in the agreement to encourage the YMCA to close the gap on the loss to more of a breakeven or profit position so the city eventually won't be subsidizing any losses.

"Over time, we hope this saves us money. They will be able to take advantage of economies of scale and they should be able to reduce or eliminate that gap, but more importantly it allows us to use our resources on our parks."

With the nod, Varley said he will work to bring an agreement to the council in two weeks so the YMCA can get rolling on their end to be ready for the pool to be open.

In other action, the council;

- voted 4-0 to vacate 15th place and 16th, 17th and 19th streets south of Avenue P and sell the property to Hall Towing, Inc. for \$33,889.93.

- voted 4-0 to sell property at 3034 Avenue K to Habitat for Humanity for \$1.

- voted 4-0 to install up to three street lights in the Green Oaks Development Subdivision.

- voted 4-0 to sign four documents related to upcoming construction on the Cattermole Library and the Old Lee County Bank building housing grant.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Honoring employees

Fort Madison Mayor Brad Randolph reads a proclamation to Todd Shields, a member of the Fort Madison Police Department, as the city annually recognizes the employees for their service to the community. Randolph read the recognition as part of Tuesday's City Council meeting.

The docs are all federal paperwork to shore up the city's role as the responsible party in the agreements between the contractor, the state and Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission.

- heard from Dave Taylor, the new

owner/operator of 10th Street Station, who introduced himself and said he was excited to be a part of the community and help with historic preservation and Main Street efforts.

**Great River Regional Waste Authority's
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From the Front/Classifieds

Supervisors not hip to idea of closing crossover

HIGHWAY - Continued from Page 1

the Green Bay Bottoms, which is 4.2 miles. The other option would be to exit the highway at Wever and take 358th Avenue back into the bottoms.

Supervisor Don Hunold said he was leery of doing anything else in the area that would put additional burden on the residents of Wever and the Green Bay bottoms area.

"I'm gonna promote that from here to heck and back," Hunold said. "I think we've done a lot for the fertilizer plant and I'm not sure I want to burden those residents anymore."

Steffensmeier said the final decision rests with the Iowa Department of Transportation, but it's his understanding that the fertilizer company would pick up the cost.

"100% of it," said Supervisor Gary Fulluo.

"It would actually be up to the DOT if that crossover is closed or not," Steffensmeier said.

"They're gonna have to figure out another access and

the closest would be through Wever and that could cause a problem with accidents," Supervisor Ron Fedler said.

"I've called a couple folks in the bay area and I think they've given up quite a bit already," Hunold said.

"Now you're gonna force people to go either through Wever and back to the crossover or down by the BP to get down that lane. This road takes them right down to their property. We put a brand new highway in for them and now they want to close that crossover. I think we've done enough."

Ben Hull, assistant county engineer, said the DOT actually started throwing some of this around.

"I would absolutely agree that this is an inconvenience. That's 220 trucks coming and going when they get to peak. I'm not going to say that it's a convenience for them, it's a safety issue and they are taking it serious because they are talking about penalties for the drivers. So it is about safety."

"The only one this is going to benefit is the truck drivers not having to go 4.2 miles around the RISE and to the interchange. This is a time issue," Fedler said.

Steffensmeier said all the traffic coming from the north would have to come up to the interchange and get on the RISE to get the plant. Fedler said that 70% of the truck traffic in peak season would be going north out of the facility.

Folluo said if the crossover is closed, enforcement is going to have to be enhanced on those other roads east and south of Wever that will attract lots of heavy traffic in lieu of the trek up to the interchange.

The board recommended that Chairman Rick Larkin write a letter on behalf the supervisors and send it to the DOT outlining the supervisors concerns.

"I understand the safety part of it, but I know its a state decision, and I think it will cause some animosity with the residents down there," Fedler said.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Fort Madison Community School District and the Fort Madison Education Association will meet in open public meeting to receive the Association's initial proposal to the District for the purpose of negotiating the 2017-2018 contract at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 12, 2017.

They will then meet in open public meeting to receive the District's initial proposal to the Association at 4:05 p.m. on Wednesday, April 12, 2017.

The meetings will be held at the Board of Directors Office, 1930 Avenue M, Fort Madison, Iowa.

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