



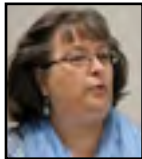
Pen City Current

Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2018 | 8 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 52

County puts PSAP money back in budget

BY **CHUCK VANDENBERG**
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - After settling on a \$158,000 shortfall in the county budget, county officials replaced \$90,000 in expenses to the budget including a \$75,000 payment to the county's Public Safety Answering Point, that had been removed in an effort to get the budget shortfall minimized.



RENSTROM

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Lee County Supervisors, that money, along with \$10,000 to county libraries and \$5,000 to the Lee County Fair Board, was added back to the proposed budget. County Budget Director Cindy Renstrom said the new figures generate an approximate \$160,000 shortfall in the next fiscal year that ends June, 30, 2019.

A budget sheet handed out at the meeting shows a negative balance of \$1.681 million. However a mental health fund, or Fund 10, as it's known on the county books has \$1.492 million that the county is projecting to spend down. There is no levy this year for that department as state regulations require counties to have those funds used for services prior to 2020. That

See **BUDGET**, page 8

Catfish Bend exec eyeing sports wagering bill

FM's Hoyer says it's time all states are allowed to benefit

BY **CHUCK VANDENBERG**
PCC EDITOR

BURLINGTON - An executive with Great River Entertainment in Burlington said a pending bill and Supreme Court decision on legalizing sports gambling in the state will take the "darkness" out of the \$150 billion illegal gambling industry in the United States.

Gary Hoyer, CEO of Great River Entertainment, the parent company of Catfish Bend Casino in Burlington, said he doesn't think the move will generate a lot of gambling revenues for the casino itself, but it will bring more patrons to the facility.

"If it's legalized and we're able to do it in Iowa, I would envision that Catfish Bend would participate," Hoyer said Tuesday afternoon.



“

I don't see us adding a building, but I do see us renovating and creating a space that's unique and adds that sort of venue to our property.”

-Gary Hoyer

CEO, Great River Entertainment

"We've talked about different ways we could add that to our facility as a component and what that would look like. I'm not sure what the Iowa legislation is going to authorize and what they

would allow us to do, but we would comply with regulations."

Some casinos and resorts in the state are formulating plans to deal with sports wagering in their facilities, some

including sports book facilities.

Hoyer said he didn't foresee any additional construction for the casino, but he has been

See **BILL**, page 8

CLASS 1A GIRLS REGIONALS

Crusaders win wild one in Winfield

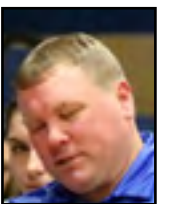
10th-ranked Montezuma up next for Crusaders Friday

BY **CHUCK VANDENBERG**
PCC EDITOR

WINFIELD - Sometimes you just can't make sense of it, but whatever, what matters is the Holy Trinity Catholic girls basketball team advanced to the Region 5 semifinals with a 53-38 win over Winfield-Mt. Union on Tuesday night.

With the win, the Crusaders now travel to the halls of Montezuma on Friday night for a 7 p.m. regional semifinal.

The game was wild pretty much the whole night. The Crusaders started the game with ice cold shooting and missing from everywhere on the court going 0-5 as the Wolves jumped out to a 4-0 lead on back-to-back buckets inside by senior Lexee Hartsock, which forced a quick time out by HTC head coach Tony Johnson.



JOHNSON

The stoppage worked as the Crusaders then came back and raced out to a 14-2 advantage through the rest of the quarter, mostly in transition after breaking the Winfield press. HTC took their first lead with about 1:30 left in the period at 8-6 on a bucket by junior Taylor Boeding. Boeding finished with 11 points to tie the team high with Emily Box.

Holy Trinity ended up shooting 7 of 18 from the field in the first quarter against only one turnover, but the Wolves committed eight turnovers in the press, while shooting three of 7.

HTC would stretch the lead to nine at 20-11 on a

See **REGIONALS**, page 2

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Sports/Weather

Crusaders have hands full on Friday

REGIONALS - Continued from Page 1

three-point play from Madison Mohrfeld who scored inside, was fouled, and she converted the freebie. Winfield was able

to convert a bucket on their next possession and then with 3:19 left in the half, sophomore Ashlynn Haas popped a 3-ball from

far left side to give the Crusaders a 23-13 lead. Then the wheels fell off... or, as junior Emily Box said after the game with a chuckle..."We took our usual three minutes break and zoned out."

And that's exactly what it was as Winfield went on an 11-0 run where Winfield took advantage of several two and three shot possessions where the Crusaders couldn't seem to find the handle on the ball at either end of the court. Allie McArtor scored on a put-back with four seconds on the clock to give the Wolves a 24-23 lead. HTC rushed down the floor and tossed up a 3-ball that clanked off the back of the rim.

"I would say in the second quarter we got a little out of control," said senior Brett Schneider. "But I think it says something this time that we were able to fight through it and win in the end."

The Crusaders, who are 11-12 on the season,



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

HTC senior Brett Schneider goes up for a layup in the fourth quarter of the Crusaders' win on Tuesday night. Schneider finished with eight points on the night.

have lost five games in the fourth quarter this year and despite the smiles and laughter of the girls working through the second half, they were able to build a lead in the third that they wouldn't relinquish the rest of the game.

Madison Mohrfeld scored the first points of the second half inside to give the Crusaders the lead again and then Box con-

verted two free throws and Mohrfeld hit the front end of a one-and-one to take a 27-24 lead. But Hartssock scored inside again and Karla Schlee made two free throws off a Samantha Hoenig foul to give W-MU another one point advantage. Lauren Jamison scored on the next possession for the Wolves to make it a three-point lead and it seemed as if HTC

was going down a familiar road.

But Schneider hit a free throw and then Mohrfeld scored off an offensive rebound to tie the game at 30. At 2:42 HTC's defense held and Mohrfeld was hacked on the next possession down the floor, but only converted the front end of the one-and-one

See HTC, page 3



Ashlynn Haas gets called for a charge on this play as she was headed to the basket on a fast-break off a steal at the other end of the court.

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THU 15 Feb — Light Rain
 High – 41.8° F | Low – 33.5° F

FRI 16 Feb — Light Snow
 High – 24.1° F | Low – 4.3° F

SAT 17 Feb — Clear Skies
 High – 24.6° F | Low – 21.4° F

SUN 18 Feb — Light Rain
 High – 36.7° F | Low – 33.1° F

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Sports/Lottery Numbers

Crusaders speed offsets poor rebounding in win

HTC- Continued from Page 2

to give HTC a one-point lead. HTC's press again gave Winfield trouble and the Wolves wouldn't score again until the final seconds of the period, while the Crusaders raced out to a 37-32 lead going into the final period.

Hartsock again cut the lead to three on a bucket inside which would be the last field goal on the night for W-MU. Boeding connected on her first 3 pointer of the game. She had scored 22 and 17 in her last two games, converting nine three pointers over the stretch.

The Crusaders then committed three consecutive personal fouls, but Winfield was only able to convert three of the six free throws.

With Johnson continuing to employ pressure on inbound plays, the Crusaders began committing fouls in the press and sending Winfield to the free throw line while continuing to stop the clock. But again the hosts were unable to capitalize on the frenzied pace of the game, converting only two of six free throws. With about :38 left in the game, Boeding drove the lane and threw up an underhanded scoop shot in the lane drawing

a foul. She converted the second of the two free throws to set the final score at 53-38.

"It was pretty nice to have a comeback in the fourth quarter," Schneider said. "I think that's a good thing for us."

Johnson said, as was the case in the second quarter, that different combinations of players have different results and the Crusaders at times suffer with that and at others they succeed.

"It's whatever is clicking," Johnson said after the game. "Sometimes we have combinations that aren't working out and at other times we seem to do all right. I told the girls we were gonna find those combinations and then ride 'em out until they stopped working."

He said Box, who fouled out without about two minutes left in the game, and Schneider, can get fouls in a hurry in those frenzied times and that's something they'll have to keep an eye on with Montezuma waiting on Friday night.

The Braves feature a couple of six foot post players and are 18-3 with two of their losses coming to undefeated North Mahaska, who sits on the



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Emily Box goes in for two of her 11 points on the night Tuesday.

other side of the bracket semifinals facing Iowa Mennonite.

"We're going to have to really work on boxing out. That's where they're really strong and we didn't do a very good job of that tonight. Winfield had a 250 rebound advantage over us coming into tonight and you could see that in the game."

Boeding and Box each had 11 to lead a balanced scoring attack for the Crusaders. Brett Schneider had eight for HTC while Mohrfeld and Erin Anderson each added seven points. Samantha Hoenig, Mya Lawlor, and Haas all had three points for HTC.

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Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
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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



2/13
5 12 15 46 49
Lucky Ball: 1
Megaplier: 4



2/13 MID-DAY
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2/13 EVENING
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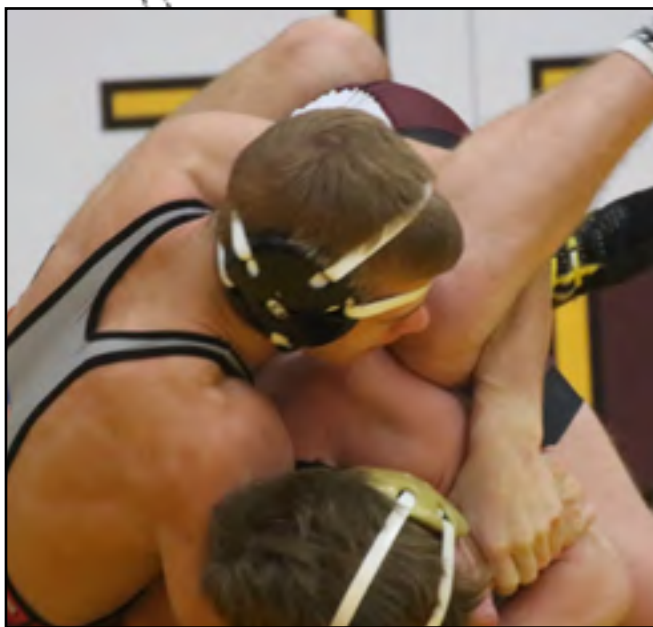


2/13 MID-DAY
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2/13 EVENING
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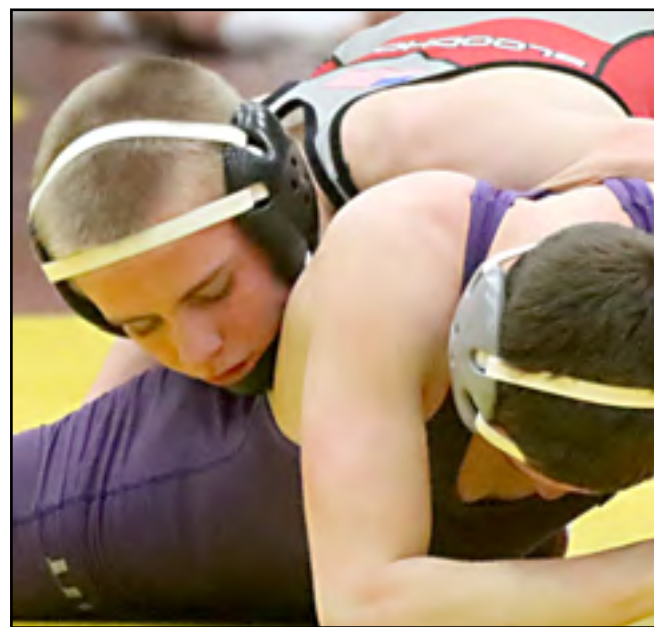
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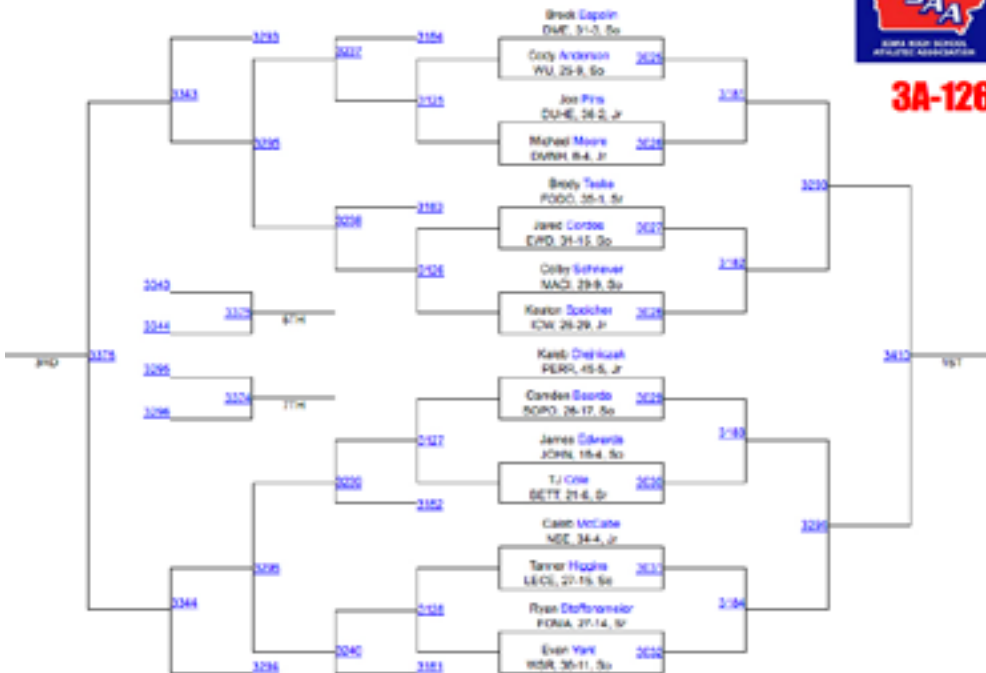
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From the Front

All in, county budget still \$189,000 short of balanced

BUDGET - Continued from Page 1

money was received by the county from the state to offset expenses incurred as a result of closures of mental health facilities across the state.

When that spend down is calculated out of the total shortfall, the county is looking at \$188,968.

Supervisor Gary Folluo, who at a Feb. 2 meeting, asked Renstrom if it was possible to pull \$75,000 out of the \$150,000 the county fronts the PSAP organization. The county fronts the money in lieu of taxes as PSAP receives funds through the levy authority of the Lee County Emergency Management Commission. Commission director Steve Cirinna said the money is then paid back to the county in increments as the commission receives its tax proceeds. It was incorrectly reported on Feb. 3 that Renstrom suggested holding the funding back. Renstrom was responding to a question from Folluo as to the viability of holding the funding back, which was eventually held back at that meeting.

“At the last budget meeting we had to make some cuts and we cut some money from PSAP and we were short about \$158,000. Now we put that money back in and the library and fair and we’re short \$160,000? How did that happen?” he asked Renstrom.

Renstrom said she forgot to change a couple of files that impact utility tax revenues on her spreadsheet and the entered numbers on the Iowa Department of Management website that cleans things up, She said the budget

that was approved by the supervisors on Tuesday has a \$189,000 shortfall for the fiscal year.

Supervisor Rick Larkin made a motion to accept the budget with the \$90,000 added back in and set it for public hearing on Feb. 27.

The county’s levy for 2018-19 under the proposed budget is \$10.38/\$1,000 assessed valuation. The levy is broken down as follows: \$3.50 - General Basic.; \$3.15 General Supplemental; \$0.88 - Emergency Management; \$0.63 - Debt Service; and \$2.24 - Rural Basic. The levy is projected to generate \$12,231,384 for the county which is an increase of \$539, 263 over fiscal year 2018. The levy rate itself is the same as the previous two fiscal years.

As part of the workshop that took place after the regular meeting, Fort Madison Chief of Police, Tim Sittig, who chairs the PSAP board, along with all the board members with the exception of one, talked with the supervisors about the importance of keeping the funds in place while the PSAP board is able to save enough money to be totally self sufficient.

In other action, the board approved, 4-1, another change order on the south Lee County Courthouse for \$1,680 for additional costs associated with flashing replacement on sections of the roof. Supervisor Ron Fedler, who has opposed almost all change orders due to the project coming in over budget, voted against the measure.

Supreme Court ruling will set the agenda

BILL - Continued from Page 1

looking at what options are available within the confines of the casino now.

“I don’t see us adding a building, but I do see us renovating and creating a space that’s unique and adds that sort of venue to our property,” he said. “I’m right in the middle of a major project right now and don’t see us adding on, but I do have room for something cool and exciting in the facility we have.”

What’s prompting the look-and-see stature is a case currently in the hands of the U.S. Supreme Court that was argued last month, A federal law, the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act, or PASPA, passed in 1992, that prohibits sports wagering in most states could be stricken down as being unconstitutional in its power to tell states they can’t regulate an illegal activity.

The case was argued in January and a decision is expected before the summer. In anticipation of that decision, House Study File 592, a bill that adds “sports gambling” to the Iowa Code definitions of gambling games, cleared the House Committee on State Government and is now in front of the House Commerce Committee. The bill provides for onsite and online sports wagering overseen by the state’s Racing and Gaming Commission.

Another hurdle in front of the proposed legislation is that the lobbyists for Major League Baseball and the National Basketball Association have come out against the Iowa bill unless they can grab 1% of the gross receipts of the wagering in the state. Numbers from the American Gaming Association estimate that about 95% of most sports wagering receipts are paid back to gamblers leaving 5% profit for the casinos. If the major league sports took 1% of the gross receipts, that amounts to 20% of the gross profits.

That doesn’t sit well with proponents of the bill.

“Yeah, and that’s not counting gaming tax. From what I’m being told, the economics don’t work if they take a 1%,” Hoyer said. “They don’t get that in Nevada why should they get that in Iowa. The major leagues are trying to scrape off a piece of that.”

Hoyer said as large of an industry as sports wagering is, it’s not a real profit center for the casino.

“It’ll get people in and participating in the game-watching and having cocktails and maybe doing something in the facility.”

The bill also contains language that would open up online sports wagering and companies could set up online wagering account services.

Hoyer said that the system would work better if there wasn’t an online option.

“I think it actually works better if we’re not online because it’s a such a thin profit center,” he said, “The benefit would be to get people to come to our facility. I’ve been told by our advisors that our leadership in Des Moines really wants to make it online to improve the involvement which would help with taxation. But If everybody had the ability to place bets online, I don’t see that translating into extra folks coming in to our facility.”

The bill would bring the \$150 billion illegal market to light in the country and Hoyer said that’s good in many ways.

“I think it creates something new and different and something that people would try,” he said. “It’s obvious from statistics there is a huge appetite and market for betting on sports already. But it’s unregulated through bookies and not safe and it certainly doesn’t create a tax revenue. When the states take it over, they take a tax for one, and number two, it eliminates the dark and shady characters in the background making an illegal profit. Bringing it out of the closet, taxing it and regulating it improves things for everyone.”

Currently only Delaware and Nevada have active legal sports betting due to a grandfather clause in the act for states that had previous licensed state gaming and met the law’s criteria.

“They’ve justified it for so many years with the grandfather clause in Nevada, but casinos are opening up and they can do it. That doesn’t sound like any grandfather clause I’ve ever heard of,” he said. It would be nice if all states could participate.”

Two heads are better than one.



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Lee County Health Department has a number of programs to help you in every stage of your life. To learn more about the following programs visit us online by clicking this ad.

- Hospice
- Homecare
- Wellness
- Senior Health
- Environmental Health

- 1st Five
- HOPES
- I-Smile Silver®
- Immunizations
- Child / Adolescent Health

Touching the Community with Care

2218 Avenue H • Fort Madison, IA
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