



# Pen City Current

Monday, February 5, 2018 | 8 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 44

## Funding dominated education officials' DM agenda

*Slater says current voucher bills would hit school hard*

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Extending a local sales tax option, state supplemental aid, and other issues were on the agenda as area superintendents met with area legislators on Wednesday in Des Moines.

Fort Madison Superintendent Erin Slater said her discussions focused on extending the sunset on the



SLATER

sales tax infrastructure and the importance of supplemental aid.

She said local legislators, including State Sen. Rich Taylor, State Rep. Jerry Kearns, and State Rep. Dave Heaton, have been supportive in conversations about the district's needs and finances.

One of the key discussions Wednesday focused on extending S.A.V.E. which is Secure an Advanced Vision for Education. The SAVE is a penny sales tax that school districts can use for infrastructure improvements. The Fort Madison school district used those funds, which are gleaned from a one-cent tax on

sales throughout the state, to build the Fort Madison Middle School on Bluff Road. However, the funding source in its current form will expire in 2029.

"There is a bill being discussed to eliminate the sunset on that funding, which would allow additional funding to come in for infrastructure improvements and that would have an impact in Fort Madison," Slater said Thursday.

"Across the board there is a need for that S.A.V.E. to be extended for school districts. There are infrastructure needs if you're urban or rural and there is only

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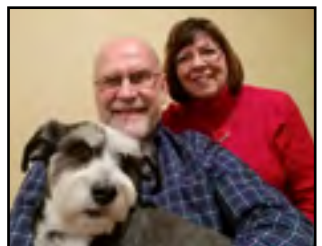


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Seniors at Holy Trinity were honored between the girls and boys varsity basketball games Thursday night. Seniors from the dance team, cheerleading, and girls and boys basketball were recognized for their four years of participation.

## EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



*Buffy the Bully, takes a back seat*

Buffy is the Bully of our 13 hens. We call her Buffy because she has a buff tail. We inherited Buffy and Red from a person who didn't want to keep Buffy and Red through the winter. Therefore, Buffy and Red are "adopted" hens. Buffy and Red stick together. The other 11 hens may be off in the garden somewhere, while Buffy and Red are beside each other in the mulch. Buffy may be a bully because she she "thinks" she is protecting Red. I dunno. I don't pretend to understand chickenology, although I'm learning. I've seen Buffy run half way across the barnyard to pounce on one of the pullets for some unknown offense. Why the pullets put up with this abuse is beyond me. It might be because Buffy and Red are a year older than the pullets.

Buffy and Red lay pretty speckled eggs, while the pullets all lay nice brown eggs. The variety of eggs is quite attractive in an egg carton when we give them away.

The 11 pullets don't have names because we can't tell them apart. They are all a nice combo of brown and white, mostly brown.

Buffy may be getting her "paybacks" for all the bullying she's done. She is the only hen that is molting. She looks quite ragged and has lost the "buff" out of

See SWARM, page 8

## IUB approves Alliant Energy's rate request

*Specific rate adjustments won't be ready until tariffs filed*

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa - February 2, 2018 - Customers will have new options as part of an approved rate settlement for Alliant Energy's Iowa energy company. On April 3, 2017, the com-

pany proposed its first rate review in six years to the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB). Today, the IUB ruled on the request.

"We will continue to help our customers by advancing clean energy and

strengthening the energy grid," said Doug Kopp, president of Alliant Energy's Iowa energy company. "We are reviewing the Board's decision."

The IUB approved the partial settlement agreement filed in September. This ruling allows Alliant Energy to continue to use previously identified

tax benefits to reduce the overall bill impact for customers. Alliant Energy will work with the IUB to determine the best method to begin providing additional benefits from lower corporate taxes due to the recently enacted federal tax reform.

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**CURRENT-LEE**

*FMHS Boosters Trivia Night Feb. 10*

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Bloodhound Boosters are holding a Trivia Night on Feb. 10 at the Fort Madison Eagles Club from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

The night will feature a full trivia contest in addition to a silent auction and other games for cash prizes. Teams are to be no more than eight people at \$10 per person. Participants are encouraged to bring snacks for their team table. A cash bar will be available.

Proceeds go to benefit the Fort Madison Athletic Booster club. The first 15 teams to register will receive an advantage on trivia night.

You can register at the following link <https://docs.google.com/.../2PACX-1vSl-nEKPM0vv-D46Esju6Nx.../pub>. Forms need to be returned to FMHS athletic office or to a Booster club member.

*Pheasants Forever raffle tickets available now*

LEE COUNTY - Raffle tickets for Lee County Pheasants Forever 25 Gun Raffle are available from any club member or at the banquet. Tickets are \$10 each and are limited to 3,000. The raffle will be held during the chapter's annual banquet on February 24, 2018. Proceeds from the raffle are used to support the Tri-State Young Guns and Fort Madison Clay Crushers High School Trap Shooting Teams. For more information about the raffle, go to <http://www.leecounty.org/raffles/>.



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.

**LCEDG's Fraise earns economic designation**

LEE COUNTY - Lee County EDG Chief Operating Officer Dennis Fraise has earned the designation of Certified Economic Developer (CEcD), a national recognition that denotes a mastery of skills in economic development, professional attainment and a commitment to personal and professional growth.

The CEcD designation recognizes qualified and dedicated practitioners in the economic development field and sets the standard of excellence within the profession.



FRAISE

Candidates must pass a rigorous and comprehensive examination, which has three parts and spans two days. The exam tests a practitioner's knowledge, proficiency and judgment in the following key areas of economic development: business retention and expansion; finance & credit analysis; marketing and attraction; strategic planning; entrepreneurial & small business development; managing economic development organizations; neighborhood development strategies; real estate development & reuse; technology-led economic development; workforce development strategies

As highly competent economic development professionals, Certified Economic Developers work with public officials, business leaders and community members to create leadership to build upon and maximize the economic development sector. Excellence in the economic development profession improves the well being, quality of life and opportunities for individuals, businesses and communities. There are currently only 1,100 active CEcDs in the United States.

**New utility rates to be finalized**

**IUB** - Continued from Page 1

The specific rate adjustments and overall impacts to customer bills will be available when the company files its revised tariffs.

Today's decision enables the company to move forward with new energy solutions for customers. These include lower cost Time of Day pricing, a lower cost Second Nature program and more. Details on these programs

will be available online in early 2018.

The IUB also approved continuation of the transmission rider, which adjusts customer rates based on transmission costs approved by federal regulators. This will allow customers to quickly receive benefits related to lower corporate taxes from the company's transmission providers.

The company contin-

ues to review the written decision order from the IUB. Parties have 20 days to ask the IUB to rehear or reconsider its decision. Until that process is concluded, the IUB's decision is not final and the information provided in this news release is subject to change. A copy of the IUB's written order is available on the Iowa Utilities Board website as docket RPU-2017-0001.

**Two heads are better than one.**



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Founded in 2016



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## Obituaries/Lottery Numbers

### OBITUARIES

## MICHAEL J. STAYLINE

Michael J. Stayline, 66, of Mesa, AZ and formerly of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at Mountain Vista Hospital in Mesa, AZ. He was born on August 29, 1951 in Fort Madison, IA to James E. & Lottie M. Kircher Stayline, Jr. He worked at Armour Dial for many years in Fort Madison and enjoyed working on boats and marine equipment for many people over the years.

Mike is survived by: 1-daughter: Nika Salemi of Miami, FL; 1-nephew: Keith Landis of Fort Madison, IA & 1-brother in law: Rich Mueller of Mesa, AZ. He was preceded in death by his parents, 2-sisters and an infant brother, James Stayline III.

Per Mike's wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory in Fort Madison. No services are planned and burial will take place in Sacred Heart Cemetery. Online condolences to Mike's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

## LAVERNE SMITH

LaVerne Smith, 78, of Donnellson, Iowa passed away at 11:48 P.M. Friday February 2, 2018 at the Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Born October 28, 1939 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania the daughter of Anthony Kuczmariski and Mary M. Marshall Smith.

Survivors include her children: Darryl Smith, Darlene Fischlein, Dwayne Smith, Larry Smith, Gregory Smith, Thomas Smith, Kathleen De Angelis, LaVerne Smith, Anthony Smith, Kevin Smith, Kimberly Smith and David Smith. Also surviving are many grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one daughter Darlene Smith, two brothers Bernard and Richard Smith and one sister Darlene Smith.

LaVerne was of the Catholic Faith. She enjoyed reading, coloring and especially singing and fishing.

Friends may call and meet with the family from 1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M. Tuesday at the Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 P.M. Tuesday February 6, 2018 at the Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson with Fr. Dennis Hoffman officiating.

Burial will be in the Evangelical Cemetery near Donnellson.

In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com).

The Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements.

#### Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.



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Powerball <sup>®</sup>	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America <sup>™</sup>	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



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# Wyrick, Mohrfeld qualify for state swim

*Central Lee's Wyrick qualifies in 3 events*

BY PCC STAFF

MARION - Two area swimmers qualified for state Saturday at the Iowa High School Athletic Association district meet in Marion at Linn-Mar High School.

Central Lee's Blake Wyrick qualified in three different events and Holy Trinity Catholic's sophomore Jacob Mohrfeld qualified in the 100-meter breaststroke.

In the 200-yard medley relay Wyrick anchored Burlington High School's team of Kale Schuff, Matthew Rowland, and

Josh Gulick to a qualifying 2nd place finish with a time of 1:40.12. That mark set a new Burlington High School swim team record.

Mohrfeld took a qualifying 4th place finish in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:02.44, just one second behind Rowland's 3rd place finish.

In the 50-yard freestyle, Wyrick qualified with a 3rd place finish at 22.20, just .42 secs off the pace. He also qualified in the 100-meter freestyle with a 48.54 2nd place finish.

Mohrfeld also finished 7th in the 200-yard individual medley.

The BHS swim team finished in fifth place with 234 points as a team.



Courtesy Photo

## Strikers 3rd at Winter Games

A local 10u indoor soccer team placed third out of 14 teams in their division last week in Dubuque at the Winter Iowa Games. The Lee County Strikers, sponsored by Welch's Insurance in Donnellson, consisted of back row: Coach Antonio Estrada, Colton Taft, Kyler Beelman, Evan Fogarty, Carson Morrison, Emma Seitz, Asst. Coach Jerry Taft. Front Row: Zach Estrada, Reilynn Turnbull, Gage Van Ausdall, Austin Fogarty.

OPINION

## IHSAA, national school leaders tout value of officiating

They don't make the headlines. Their names are not in the box scores. They don't make the all-star teams. But some of the most important individuals in high school sports are the contest officials.

These individuals are so important that, in fact, there would be no organized competitive, school sports without the men and women who officiate these contests every day across the country. Subtract the dedicated men and women who officiate school sports and those sports would no longer be organized; they would be chaotic.

In some sports, officials are retiring faster than new licenses are being issued. The worst-case scenario is that junior varsity, freshmen and middle school games are being postponed – or even cancelled – because there are not enough men and women to officiate them.

Anyone looking for a unique way to contribute to

their community should consider becoming a registered official. For individuals who played sports in high school, officiating is a great way to stay close to the sport after their playing days have ended. Officiating helps people stay in shape, expands their social and professional network and offers part-time work that is flexible, yet pays. In fact, officiating is a form of community service - with compensation.

"Officiating is a difficult avocation, but a big part of it is building life skills for yourselves and others," said NFHS Hall of Fame official Gary Christiansen, a Mason City native who officiated state championships in four Iowa sports over the course of a nearly 50-year career.

"If you're going to be successful in any field, it's about developing and learning how to deal with the people around you. Whether they're athletes, coaches, fans, or other officials, you want them to grow as people and understand that what you learn from an event is more than the final score."

Christiansen recently retired from officiating varsity level contests, but he still watches games and tournaments year-round with his experienced eye on the action and on the officials.

"When I started in the late 1960s, I thought I would be officiating in the NFL within six months," Christiansen said. "Young people just have to be patient and give themselves a chance as officials. Then, coaches and parents have to help give them that chance. That's tough to do."

Another benefit of officiating is that individuals become role models so teenagers in the community can learn the life lessons that school sports teach. Students learn to respect their opponents, the rules of the game and the importance of practicing good sportsmanship thanks, in part, to those men and women who officiate. And the objectivity and integrity that officials display is an example that every young person needs to observe firsthand. In short, communities in our state and around the country will be stronger because of the life lessons officials help teach the next generation.

Officiating is a great way to stay connected to sports and to give back to the local school and community. We need dedicated men and women to become involved so school sports programs can continue to prosper for years to come.

"My theory has always been that high school and middle school athletics are designed to be part of the educational process," Christiansen said. "Very few people are going to go and play and participate in sports beyond high school. But you have to learn how to win and learn how to lose. It's part of life."

Individuals interested in learning more about becoming an interscholastic official, and even beginning the application process, can do so at <https://www.iahsaa.org/officials/>.

By Bob Gardner, Executive Director of the National Federation of State High School Associations and Alan Beste, Executive Director of the Iowa High School Athletic Association.



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### PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Lee County, Iowa**  
**Board of Supervisors**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Agenda**  
**DATE: TUESDAY,**  
**February 6, 2018**  
**MEETING**  
**CONVENING TIME:**  
**9:00 A.M.**  
**LOCATION:**  
**2530 255th Street,**  
**Montrose, IA 52639**  
**AGENDA**

Pledge of Allegiance  
 Approve Agenda  
 Approve Tuesday, January 30, 2018 Board Minutes  
 Consider Approval of Claims  
 Public Input  
 Review Applications and Consider Appointment of Weed Commissioner  
 Consider Board of Supervisors Salaries for FYI 9  
 Consider Approval of

Resolution Setting Elected Officials Salaries and Employees Covered by Personnel Policy  
 Consider Approval of Resolution Raising Credit Card Limit for Assistant Engineer  
 Consider Approval of Class B Beer Permit for Tri State Gun Club, Montrose  
 Consider Approval of Class C Beer Permit for Tri State Outdoor Products  
 Consider Approval of Tax

Abatement Resolutions (6)  
 Personnel Actions:  
 A. Step Increase-Health Department  
 Reports:  
 A. Commission of Veteran Affairs Minutes of Meeting  
 B. Commission of Veteran Affairs Quarterly Report  
 C. Treasurer's Report of Fees Collected  
 Commission or Commit-

tee Reports  
 Adjourn

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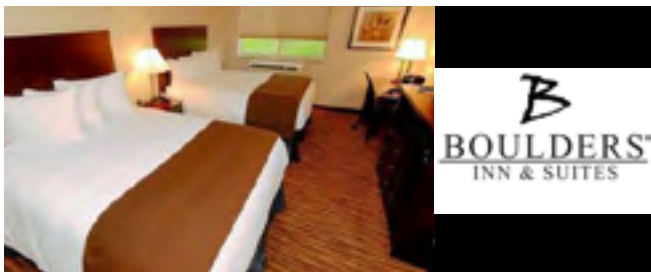
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### School Age Care Program Supervisor Wanted

Holy Trinity Early Childhood Center has an opening for a School Age Care Program Supervisor. This is a full-time (benefits eligible), year round position that requires the following qualifications:

- Associate's Degree in Education or Early Childhood; Bachelor's Degree preferred
- 2+ years experience working in a youth program or education
- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Able to pass a background check and complete training as required by Iowa DHS
- Enthusiastic and patient in working with children

Holy Trinity Early Childhood Center is also seeking substitute associates for our preschool and childcare programs.

Please contact Stefanie Drollinger at [stefanie.drollinger@holyltrinityschools.org](mailto:stefanie.drollinger@holyltrinityschools.org) or 319-372-6428 for application information.



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**From the Front/Weather**

# Current bills move public funds to private schools

**FUNDING** - Continued from Page 1

so much districts can do. So it would be good to be able to take advantage of that money that is already being spent around the state.”

She said extending the funding wouldn't allow the district to access that money to build a new elementary school because they are currently using those funds to pay off the middle school. However the district would be able to access some of the funds for other projects.

“It doesn't help us with building an elementary but where it could help is improvements at the high school. It could help there immediately,” Slater said.

Slater said there's been some negative press on the S.A.V.E. where districts used the money for athletic facilities, turf, football fields, and such and she said new language in an extension could address those issues.

She said a 1.5% supplement aid number has been heard coming from Gov. Kim Reynolds' office. But a state house bill is recommending a 1% increase, which would push the current \$6,664 per pupil funding by \$67 to \$6,731.

“It's still low historically but it's better than 0 and it's better than 1,” she said of Reynolds' number. “It's difficult when you take a look at budgets and try to support all the needs we have, especially when you look at special needs. We need to be providing the best services we can to each individual child. That can be costly but that's our responsibility and vouchers would be something that would hurt that.”

House File 9, currently being debated, would provide for much of the \$6,660 toward a private school and Senate File 2089 would allow education grants for students that would be partially funded by monies allocated to public schools.

Slater said those bills would do harm to the district.

“It would hurt public schools' resources and would have a huge negative impact financially,” Slater said. “Part of the frustration from public educators is not only are your resources leaving - money, students, but they're going into an environment where transparency and regulations for assessment are not there. We have all this transparency, and which we should, the public should know what we're doing absolutely, but when you go to an environment where we have these regulations and there's no accountability on the other side to be competitive - that's very frustrating.”

She said area elected officials have been supportive of her concerns.

“I've gone up the last two years,” she said. “It's a great opportunity to meet and at the same time explain to them what the need is as far as southeast Iowa and rural districts and how those needs contrast to urban areas who typically get more attention.”

# Adopted chickens causing chaos at Empty Nest farm

**SWARM** - Continued from Page 1

her tail. She is no longer the bully with the loss of her feathers, and hangs back on the fringes of the flock, trying not to be noticed. Ginnie feels sorry for Buffy and asks about her almost daily. I tell Ginnie that Buffy is getting her just due (poultry justice, if you will), but Ginnie still wrings her hands and asks about her.

I usually gather the eggs and do the chicken chores around 10:00 in the morning. I have found that by this time, the hens have usually laid their eggs, and I can let them out for the day to roam the farm.

One morning it was rainy and dark. I went out at 10:00 as usual. On approaching the hen house, I typically call out to them and they start clucking in anticipation of the bread crumbs I give them. I heard no clucking on this rainy morning. I threw open the hen-house door and, I'll be danged, the hens were still in bed! I couldn't believe it. 10:00 in the morning! Guess they like to sleep in on rainy mornings just like humans. Well, then there was the big “fly down” from their roosts, like wild turkeys in the woods. They gobbled up their bread crumbs. There were only a couple of eggs in the nests that morning and I had to go back out around noon to gather the majority. Sleepy heads!

The hens like to hide their eggs. I have nice laying boxes for them, and they may use the laying boxes or they may not. Sometimes I find little clutches of eggs scattered about in various nooks and crannies. This winter the hens' egg production dropped off drastically. Of the 13 hens, we had been getting a dozen eggs daily like clockwork. Suddenly, there were only a couple of eggs. I had been anticipating a drop in egg production as hens often go into a molt in the winter, lose their feathers and stop laying. I begrudgingly accepted the fewer eggs. Then I noticed a huge nest of eggs cleverly hidden under a ramp. Those boogers had been hiding their eggs! I'm pleased to say there has been no drop in egg production all winter.

We give away a lot of eggs. There's no way Ginnie and I can eat a dozen eggs a day, although we love farm fresh eggs. It's fun giving away eggs, and people line up for them. It's such a happy gift! At my creative writing class on Saturdays, I give away a dozen eggs as a door prize for the best story, as voted on by the students. The competition is stiff for those dozen eggs!

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at [curtswarm@yahoo.com](mailto:curtswarm@yahoo.com) or find him on Facebook. Curt's stories are also read at 106.3 FM in Farmington.



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## 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

**MON 05 Feb** —  
Snow  
High – 14.6° F | Low – 5.7° F

**TUE 06 Feb** —  
Light Snow  
High – 9.3° F | Low – 9.2° F

**WED 07 Feb** —  
Light Snow  
High – 17.0° F | Low – 1.1° F

**THU 08 Feb** —  
Light Snow  
High – 24.0° F | Low – 21.7° F

**FRI 09 Feb** —  
Light Snow  
High – 39° F | Low – 25.7° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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