



Pen City Current

Wednesday, March 8, 2017 | 10 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 67

High winds, storms damage east FM

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Some in Fort Madison were awaiting...or awoken to, serious weather Monday night as a heavy thunderstorm blew through the area leaving some property damage in its wake.

According to National Weather Service reports out of the Quad Cities, Fort Madison had a report of wind gusts as high as 64 mph at 10:30. Minimal hail was seen on the east end of town but the most damaging impact was on Brenda Derr's building at 820 Avenue G.

Derr said the membrane was pulled up on the three-story building and then winds collapsed the roof into the third

floor sending rain water gushing into an apartment and then pouring into the main floor that houses her business, Dollhouse Dreams.

Derr said the water did extensive damage to the building's structure and winds blew down a top portion of the fire wall that separates her building from the building to the east.

Water could still be seen dripping onto the main floor and saturated bubbles in the ceiling on Tuesday at about 11:30 as techs from ServiceMaster and employees helped clean up the damage.

"We're gonna have to have it all torn out," Derr said of the ceiling. "We think the membrane flipped over and then the roof caved in. Joey Herren and Doug Krogmeier



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Timber

Fort Madison street crews work to remove a large tree that was snapped off in the 500 block of Avenue E, just west of the Old Settler's Park. High winds and a quick moving storm did moderate damage to the downtown district as well as leaving many branches in roadways and some in rural areas without power.

came in and they think the roof picked up and then came back down."

But she said she was moved and impressed by the efforts of local people

in the Main Street District

See **STORM**, page 2

Kiwanis giving away \$3,000 in scholarships



PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Kiwanis Club is offering scholarships to High School seniors. Three scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00 each will be awarded to graduating seniors. One recipient will be from Fort Madison Senior High School, one will be from Holy Trinity High School and the third will be a member of the Fort Madison High School Key Club.

Scholarship applicants should have plans to pursue additional training at an accredited college or university or business, technical, trade or career school. The applicant's scholastic achievement should reflect the student's ability to succeed in additional training. Also, the student should be actively involved in school and/or community service and leadership activities. Key Club members who are interested in applying should talk to their club sponsor, Sarah Kohl. Applications are available at the Fort Madison High School and Holy Trinity High School guidance counselors offices or by contacting Sarah Clendineng at sarahclen@gmail.com. Applications are due by May 1 and the winners will be notified in May.

Supervisors to consider minimum wage bump Tuesday

House reviewing bill that would eliminate county's right to set wage

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - Representatives of a committee assembled to put together a proposal to bump the minimum wage in Lee County were a bit upset with an unexpected delay Tuesday.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, committee members were on hand to ask why an ordinance to move the minimum wage in Lee County to \$8.20 wasn't being considered and several committee members pushed supervisors Ron Fedler and Rick Larkin on why there was a hold up on the ordinance.

Mike Bennett, a spokesperson for the

committee said he was upset that a vote didn't come out of today's meeting because an ordinance had been created, reviewed by County Attorney Ross Braden and submitted for approval.



Fedler and Larkin both said during the regular session that they were waiting on a report back from the committee and never got one. Larkin, as chairman of the supervisors, pulled the issue from the agenda because he felt he didn't have enough information.

"In August last year, when we brought this in front of the supervisors we were told we



LARKIN

would put together a committee consisting of two people from each supervisor's district and we would put together a proposal and we would bring that proposal back and the board of supervisors would vote on it. I'd like to know why that has changed," Bennett

said.

"Is that because of the bill in front of the house? It's been told to me that a supervisor said we're not doing anything with that until the state acts on the bill and then we don't have to worry about raising the minimum wage."

House File 295 is currently working through committees in the Iowa House of Representatives and would remove city and county authority to adjust minimum wages in the state. An amendment was added

See **WAGE**, page 8

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Marvin G. Swyter, 79,	Fort Madison

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From the Front

Storm damage confined to east side of city

STORM - Continued from Page 1

to help her clean up. "I didn't even know who to call. I called Cassie (Gilbert) at Main Street and said I need buckets and wetvacs and can you call someone to help me," she said. "She called around and Dave Poland from Two Rivers came over. Cassie was able to get a hold of a WetVac from Boulder's Inn & Suites so Dave went and got that."

"I was like who else can I call to help get people down here to help with the water. I think people should know how everybody down here is like a family and if you need something people are here. I don't think people realize all this is down here," she said.

Derr said she will be moving her merchandise to storefront to the west at 824 Avenue G so she can remain open while restorations are being done. However, she said the old fashioned ice cream and soda station are good to

go. Lee County Emergency Management Director Steve Cirinna said he hadn't heard about the roof damage in Fort Madison, but said he was aware of some high winds and some tree damage.

Fort Madison street crews blocked off Avenue E from 5th Street to 6th Street when a large tree snapped off about 15 feet up and fell across the street from the south side onto the north easement and landed neatly between two vehicles. Street crews were out early Tuesday morning, cutting and removing the tree from the roadway.

An air conditioning unit was pulled from its mount atop the Fox Theatre and hung precariously on the roof by the hoses. A window was blown out at the old Lee County Bank building and the canopy/awning from Under the Sun was almost completely ripped from the building at the

“*I think people should know how everybody down here is like a family and if you need something people are here.*”

-Brenda Derr
Dollhouse Dreams owner

corner of 8th and Avenue G. All businesses are open today for business, although customers are asked to bear with the clean-up.

Emergency crews also responded to a semi-trailer that had been tipped on its side in the north-bound lane of Hwy 218 just north of Donnellson. The driver was trapped in the cab of the trailer but rescue crews were able to get him out uninjured.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The sun did come out

High winds late Monday night ripped the awning off the front of Under The Sun. The corner of Avenue G and 8th Street sustained some of the heaviest damage. A window was also blown out of the Lee County Bank building.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Roof damage

Ceiling frames stick over the back of 820 Avenue G in Fort Madison. The roof collapsed after the roofing membrane was flipped back by high winds. On the right side of the picture is where a good portion of the brick firewall between the two buildings also collapsed. The building houses Brenda Derr's Dollhouse Dreams and water damage has forced her to move her merchandise a unit west to 824 Avenue G., However the ice cream and soda station are still open.

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For the Record/Obituaries

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

03/03/17 - 6:42 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1400 block of Avenue G.
 03/03/17 - 10:25 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2000 block of Avenue F.
 03/03/17 - 11:38 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny / theft in the 4800 block of Avenue O.
 03/03/17 - 12:27 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 4500 block of Avenue O.
 03/03/17 - 2:03 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a property damage accident in the 1500 block of Avenue H.
 03/03/17 - 11:53 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny / theft in the 2200 block of Avenue C.
 03/04/17 - 1:09 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Monica Johanna Lino, 29, no address given, in the 2700 block of Avenue J on a warrant service for probation violation. She was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and held.
 03/04/17 - 2:49 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
 03/04/17 - 5:23 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1500 block of Avenue C.
 03/04/17 - 5:32 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a property damage accident in the 1700 block of Avenue H.
 03/04/17 - 5:32 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Bianca Blanchard, 33, of Fort Madison, in the 1700 block of Avenue H, on a charge of failure to yield entering a through highway. She was cited and released.
 03/04/17 - 8:20 p.m. - Fort

Madison Police responded to a personal injury accident in the 2600 block of Avenue G.
 03/04/17 - 8:20 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Damien Ray Pope, 18, of Fort Madison, in the 2600 block of Avenue G, on a charge of failure to maintain control, no insurance (accident). He was cited and released.
 03/05/17 - 10:23 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit & run in the 3100 block of Avenue L.
 03/05/17 - 5:26 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
 03/05/17 - 6:34 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Robert James Shirley, 31, of Fort Madison, in the 1100 block of Avenue F, on charges of interference with official acts, assault on a peace officer, and 4th degree criminal mischief. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and held.
 03/06/17 - 4:58 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a property injury accident in the 2000 block of 303rd Avenue.
 03/06/17 - 9:25 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny / theft in the 1900 block of Avenue H.
 03/06/17 - 10:16 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a property damage accident in the 5000 block of Avenue O.
 03/06/17 - 11:16 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a property damage accident at the intersection of 18th Street and Avenue L.
 03/06/17 - 4:21 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny / theft in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
 03/06/17 - 4:57 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Erica Marie Bushinger, 33, of Fort Madison, in the 2800 block of Avenue M on a charge

of 5th degree theft. She was given a court date.
 03/06/17 - 5:02 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of burglary in the 1900 block of Avenue I.
 03/06/17 - 6:20 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a property damage accident in the 4800 block of Avenue O.
 03/06/17 - 8:12 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny / theft in the 1600 block of 37th Street.
 03/06/17 - 8:15 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of 22nd Street.
 03/06/17 - 11:51 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a property damage accident in the alley in the 800 block of Avenue G.
 03/07/17 - 7:07 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of Avenue G.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

03/03/16 - 9:46 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Angel Jaime Garcia, 34 of Fort Madison at the Lee County Sheriff's office on a warrant for a judgment entry. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and then released to serve weekends.
 03/03/17 - 12:45 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Karissa Breanne Coughenour, 24, of Burlington at the Lee County Sheriff's deputies on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and then released on a transfer to another agency.
 03/04/17 - 6:34 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Julian Jeffrey Holmes, 26, of West Point at 4th Kilbourne in Denmark on charges

of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance - marijuana. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and then released on a promise to appear.
 03/06/17 - 5:02 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 2000 block of 303rd Avenue. A vehicle driven by Russell Lee Franklin, 57 of Fort Madison was traveling northbound and lost control then rolled. Franklin was transported to the Fort Madison Community Hospital with minor injuries.
 03/06/17 - 12:33 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested David Alan Londrie, 54 of Keokuk at the Lee County Sheriff's office on a warrant for parole violation. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 03/06/17 - 4:35 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Sonya Lynn Daniels, 39 of Burlington at the Lee County Sheriff's office on a warrant for contempt.

Fort Madison Fire and Rescue Report

03/04/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to a grease fire in the 4900 block of Avenue O.
 03/04/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls and one medical lift assist.
 03/05/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls and a mutual aid call
 03/06/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to four medical calls.

All persons in these listings are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

OBITUARIES

MARVIN G. SWYTER



SWYTER

Marvin G. Swyter, 79, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 8:47 p.m. on Monday, March 6, 2017 at his home. He was born on March 31, 1937 in Kanawha, IA to Gerald & Norma Faye Abbas Swyter. He married Patsy Ann Scovern on January 19, 1957 in Fort Madison, IA. She preceded him in death on August 24, 2013.

He was a truck driver for many years and was a member of the Fort Madison Eagles, Moose & Izaak Walton Clubs. He enjoyed fishing, playing pool and camping.

Marvin is survived by: 1-daughter: Brenda Swyter of Fort Madison, IA; 1-son: Brett Swyter of Fort Madison, IA; 11-grandchildren; 11-great grandchildren and 1-brother: Gary (Barb) Swyter of San Dimas, CA. He was preceded in death by: his parents, wife, 2-sons: Bryan & Bruce and 1-brother: Roger.

Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 9, 2017 with the family to receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday evening at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The funeral will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, March 10, 2017 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Pastor Russell Young officiating. Burial will be held in Oakland Cemetery. A memorial has been established for the Fort Madison Eagles Club. Online condolences and a video tribute of Marvin's life may be viewed at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

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 Chuck Vandenberg, Editor
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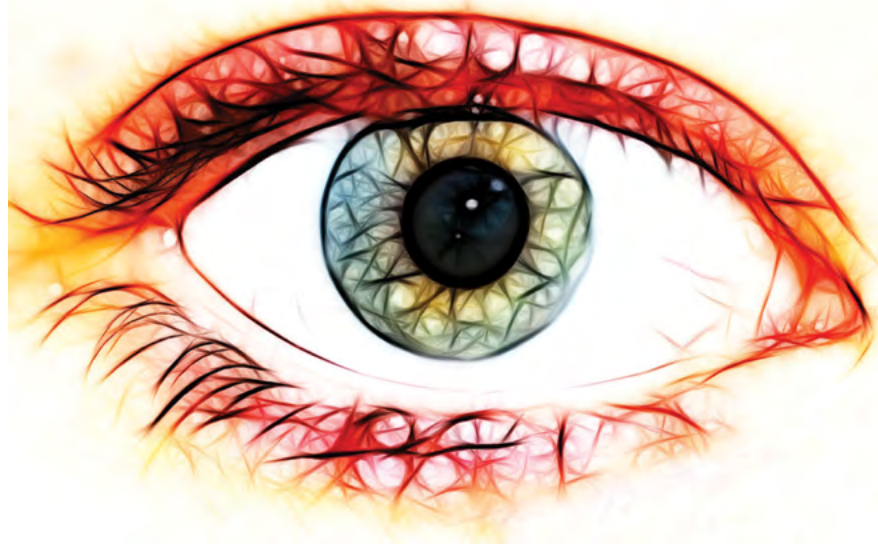
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Please contact
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Catholic Early
Childhood Center
has positions
available**

The Holy Trinity Catholic Early Childhood Center has 2 part-time positions available for our Child Care Programs. We are also seeking child care substitutes to fill in as needed. The following qualifications are required:

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- Work collaboratively as a team with program staff
- Able to complete training as required by DHS.

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2BR • 1BA • 1 car garage
733 sq. ft. • 9,116 sq. ft. lot
Country living in the city! Large fenced lot with garden including blackberry bushes, grapes, rhubarb, and asparagus, along with apple and peach trees. Large shop attached to the garage and a storage shed. Sit on the front deck and enjoy the country scenery! In Farmington.
Listing #20163103 • \$39,999



3 BR • 2 BA • 2 car garage
1,168 sq. ft. • 0.54 acres
Lovely family home comfortably situated at the end of a cul de sac, where you can enjoy the woods and the privacy! There is an inviting deck off the back of the home overlooking the woods and beautiful vinyl fencing. There are newer mechanicals and a newer roof, 2 fireplaces and lots of storage!! Don't miss out on this beauty.
Listing #20163951 • \$139,000



5BR • 2.50BA • 2 car garage
2,834 sq. ft.
14,868 sq. ft. lot
Amazing family home on a large corner lot in Farmington, IA. 2 fireplaces, beautiful woodwork, a beautiful open front porch, a large yard and an oversized garage!!
Listing #20164117 • \$127,500



2BR • 1BA • 1 car garage
1,224 sq. ft.
7,250 sq. ft. lot
A house with character! Wrap-around porch, original hardwood in formal dining room/living room combo, main floor laundry, nice size eat-in kitchen including appliances, dining room has original fireplace, basement and 1 car garage.
Listing #20162543 • \$53,000



5BR • 1.75BA • 1 car garage
1,904 sq. ft. • 1,903 sq. ft. lot
Great family home on large corner lot in the middle of Ft. Madison. Large living / dining area with original craftsman woodwork and built-ins, 14 x 22 garage on the alley with 2 additional storage sheds. Nice front porch, rear deck, and a great sunroom on the East.
Listing #20162346
\$86,950



2BR • 1BA • 2 car garage
930 sq. ft. • 7,280 sq. ft. lot
This 2 bedroom home in Montrose has been a rental property and sells as is. Priced way below assessed value to sell quickly!
Listing #20164279 • \$38,500



3BR • 1.50BA
1,460 sq. ft.
3,625 sq. ft. lot
Reasonably priced home has had new doors installed, new bathroom fixtures, and freshly painted. With its vinyl siding and fenced rear yard, its ready for your family!!
Listing #20162025 • \$25,500



4BR • 3BA • 2 car garage
1,349 sq. ft.
9,160 sq. ft. lot
From the inviting entrance to the serene back yard, you will enjoy it ALL and everything in between!!!! This very well maintained 4 bedroom, 3 bath home has everything your family will need to call this Home. There is a beautiful screened porch and a deck off the back of the house, all overlooking a meticulously landscaped large yard. Call today on this amazing home situated on a quiet, safe cul de sac!!!
Listing #20163339 • \$164,900



2BR • 1.25BA
1,119 sq. ft. • 0.17 acres
Brick rancher on Ave E close to Old Settlers Park, has full basement mostly finished, picket fence, newer windows, roof, etc.
Listing #20162502 • \$88,900



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**5BR • 3BA
3,119 sq. ft.
14,500 sq. ft. lot**

From the period wrought iron fencing to the amazing stained oak staircase...from the impressive arches to the large wrap porch, this beautiful turn of the century (20th) home offers all the beauty and elegance of that era. This is a beautifully appointed home with all the modern conveniences. There is an extra large lot for your family to enjoy!!

Listing #20162159 • \$164,000



PENDING

**2BR • 1.50BA • 2 car garage
1,366 sq. ft. • 3,300 sq. ft. lot**
Immaculate, well-kept ranch has family room with fireplace on the main floor, finished Rec Room, 2nd laundry room, 1/2 bath, and storage room with shelving all in the basement. All windows are vinyl replacement.

Listing #20162507 • \$109,900



**2BR • 1BA • 2 car garage
868 sq. ft. • 7,000 sq. ft. lot**
PRICE REDUCED! Rare opportunity to own a renovated home at a great price!! Large, shaded yard and a 2 car garage. Located in a nice neighborhood on a corner lot. Seller is motivated and offering a 1 year AHS Home Warranty!

Listing #20163035 • \$52,000



**3BR • 1BA • 1 car garage
928 sq. ft. • 1,087 sq. ft. lot**
Very nice maintenancefree home by Lincoln School with a 75 X 145 fenced yard, nice patio, fire pit and child's play set! Some very nice built-ins, some original hardwood flooring, full basement including laundry area. Also find extra parking, garage and carport area on the paved alley.

Listing #20164148 • \$72,500



SOLD

**2BR • 1BA • 2 car garage
1,330 sq. ft.
7,250 sq. ft. lot**

REDUCED BY \$13,100! Affordable with lots of potential!!! Nice size kitchen with breakfast bar plus dining area, spacious living room w/fireplace. Sits on a corner lot.

Listing #20160368 • \$59,900



REDUCED

**2BR • 1BA
1,144 sq. ft.
3,625 sq. ft. lot**

Move-in ready with many updates including kitchen WITH appliances, fresh paint, newer electrical (100 AMP breaker), new water lines at street and more! The home is clean as a whistle and ready to move in!

Listing #20161431 • \$42,500



REDUCED

**3BR • 3BA
2,754 sq. ft.
3,550 sq. ft. lot**

Gorgeous, turn-key home with large patio minimum maintenance. **UPDATES GALORE!!!** Practically perfect in every way, this 1841 home includes the latest improvements while keeping its Victorian charm.

Listing #23006122 • \$99,999



**3BR • 3.50BA • 3 car garage
3,723 sq. ft.**

Splendor in the woods...with privacy...AND a view...AND an **AMAZING** home. Call today on this brick beauty perched atop a hill overlooking Ft. Madison with a view of the Mississippi River and almost 6 acres of ground. Offered are 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, a formal living & dining room, a large great room/kitchen/breakfast room combo and a study/den with beautiful cherry cabinetry & bookshelves lining the walls. All of this with **STUNNING** hardwood floors. This beautiful home offering top-of-the-line features throughout.

Listing #20160805 • \$460,000



**2BR • 1.75BA • 2 car garage
679 sq. ft. • 6,500 sq. ft. lot**
Nice, small home. Seller has purchased and remodeled. Excellent condition.

Listing #20164161 • \$62,500



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Real Estate

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PENDING

**3BR • 3BA • 3 car garage
1,635 sq. ft. • 4.3 acres**

Amazing cedar log sided home in a quiet and private setting, a well-appointed guest house, and 26x32 metal building. The main home offers beautiful hardwood flooring with a awesome open floor plan. Enjoy summer evenings on the nice walk-out patio area. This is a dream home!!!

Listing #20161863 • \$299,000



PENDING

**3BR • 2.50 BA
2 car garage • 2,400 sq. ft.
10,150 sq. ft. lot**

Lovely tri-level home on a quiet cul de sac offering numerous upgrades. There are 3 bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths, a large living room, dining room and open kitchen with newer stainless steel appliances and a breakfast bar. Newer windows, HVAC, new floor coverings on main and lower level and freshly painted throughout. The large backyard is completely fenced and has a 24 x 16 patterned concrete patio. Don't miss out on this wonderful family home.

Listing #20163404 • \$167,500



**3BR • 1.75BA • 1 car garage
888 sq. ft. • 9,450 sq. ft. lot**
RARE RANCH with large fenced back yard and attached garage! Updated windows and kitchen, newer HVAC and water heater. Family Room in the basement. Just waiting for your own personal touch!

Listing #20163423 • \$74,900



REDUCED

**4 BR • 1.75 BA
3 car garage • 2,052 sq. ft.
8,700 sq. ft. lot**

Beautiful 4 bedroom home with large rooms, recently redecorated and ready to move into. This home features stainless steel appliances, main floor laundry, eat in kitchen and formal dining room, main floor office or bedroom, open staircase, large living room and big bedrooms. Newer roof, siding and gutters on house. 24' X 36' insulated garage and workshop, plus carport. Large wrap porch great location near Old Settlers Park.

Listing #20163776 • \$129,500



PENDING

**Multi-family Duplex
2,672 sq. ft.
7,250 sq. ft. lot**

Income property. Potential for \$875/month income or more. Side-by-side duplex with 2 - 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartments. West side has a long term renter and east side is vacant.

Listing #20162154 • \$49,500



**3 BR • 1 BA • 1 car garage
1,248 sq. ft. • 0.37 acres**

Well-kept ranch on a beautiful, large corner lot in West Point, IA. New wooden privacy fence surrounding the entire back yard. There is also an attached garage and storage shed. A large wooden deck leads to the front door where you can sit and enjoy those beautiful Iowa summer sunsets! PLUS a covered deck in the back for those rainy days. This house is a rare find.

Listing #20164234 • \$119,900



2 car garage • 2,527 sq. ft.
UNIQUELY beautiful 9.38 river bluff acreage. This home boasts many updates including complete master suite, heat and A/C, Septic system, deck, roof & gutters, flooring, and the list goes on. This private property includes fenced in barn area for animal lovers, mature fruit trees plus trees have been dropped for a beautiful panoramic river view that will last for years! Owner also plans to leave a John Deer mower and new snow blower!!

Listing #20162733 • \$269,000



NEW

**4BR • 2.50BA • 1 car garage
2,056 sq. ft.
39,640 sq. ft. lot**

Beautiful 2 story home located just off Highway 61 north of Fort Madison. Formal living and dining room, nice kitchen with breakfast room all open to a main floor family room, relaxing, private screened porch that opens onto the large deck that spans the back of the home. Basement boasts recently finished family room and tons of storage.

Listing #20164530 • \$175,000



**Land
50.82 acres
2,213,719 sq. ft.**

Ideal 50 acre m/l parcel to develop. Close to new 4-8 Middle School and Baxter Rec Plex. TREMENDOUS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY.

Listing #20162779 • \$559,020



**Land
14.65 acres • 638,514 sq. ft.**
Just outside city limits, perfect for housing development or small farm for horses or small livestock, over half tillable. City water is available. 30' X 60' building is totally insulated, heated and air conditioned with 200 amp service.

Listing #20162574 • \$249,000



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From the Front/Local News

Fedler, Larkin wanted discussion before voting on ordinance

WAGE - Continued from Page 1

Monday by Rep. Brian Meyer (D-Polk County) that would set the minimum wage at \$8.75 July 1, then move it to \$9.75 on Jan. 1, 2018, and \$10.75 on Jan. 1, 2019. Meyer's amendment also stipulates an annual percentage increase equal to the cost of living increase formula used in Social Security benefit tabulations. Meyer also added an amendment removing all superfluous language relating to consumer packaging that is part of the current bill in debate.

Larkin said it was his expectation that the committee would bring in people from the community to speak on the issue and there would be good discussion on it, but all he saw was an ordinance on the agenda so he pulled it off the agenda.

Bennett said it was his understanding that that's what the committee was

tasked with bringing back to the board.

Former board chair Ron Fedler said he formed the commission as chair and his expectation was for the committee to report back to the board, not just create an ordinance.

"The way I remember, that committee was to report back to the board and there's been no report back until today. The motion and the committee was formed to report back to the board," he said.

Bennett disagreed. "We both know, Mr. Fedler, that's not the way it went down," he said.

Fedler said he's going off his recollection of how the committee was formed.

"No, I don't know that. I appointed two committee members to report back to the board. I also asked them to report back by January but they were having trouble getting committee members and



FEDLER

we've had no report until this meeting." Supervisor Gary Folluo said he felt the committee did their jobs in recommending the ordinance.

"Did the committee members recommend the ordinance? Then why isn't it on the agenda," Folluo said. "The ordinance is a recommendation. It has to be read three times. Once it's out there you'll have your discussion."

Supervisor Don Hunold, who sat on the committee with Supervisor Matt Pflug said the blame could be laid at his feet.

"I pretty much took the bull by the horns and I should have contacted you guys. It's kind of my fault I got ahead of the horse here a little bit and I

should have gotten information to you so you can put the blame right here," he said.

But Pflug said bringing the ordinance to the board doesn't create that big of a problem.

"If it's brought to the board you vote either up or down. So you're saying you don't have any idea what happened in those committees?"

After a lengthy discussion in the workshop following the regular session, the board decided to put the ordinance on the agenda for next week. Procedures would typically require three readings of the ordinance before passage, but boards can waive the additional readings by a majority vote.

"We know that \$8.20 is not going to make somebody enough money to live on, but we have to recognize people have not gotten a raise in a long

time," said Kathy Gabel, a committee member from Keokuk.

"As a group we need to set a precedent in Lee County that we appreciate our workers and if we can raise the bar even in pennies then we are setting a standard for people to expect a higher standard of living in our community and we want that for the people of Lee County.

In other action,

- the board approved the 2017-2018 budget. Chair Rick Larkin said he was proud of the way the county staff worked together to get the budget passed even though the county is showing a \$1.5 million deficit. The deficit will reduce the county's fund balance to just over \$10 million at the end of the fiscal year. Pflug also said that the county is, and always has been, conducting itself in a fiscal fashion and with the Health department building referendum

approaching May 2, he hopes voters sees that conduct.

- the board approved a Class C Beer Permit for Tri-State Outdoor Products.

- the board approved a liquor license for Archies 2 in Wever.

- the board approved a contract for security services provided by Lee County Sheriff's Department for the Iowa Fertilizer Company. The contract would reimburse the county for deputies' time on the facility outside of normal call duties, according to County Attorney Ross Braden. This work would be on a voluntary basis for the deputies, according to the discussion.

- the board approved a resolution to set a public hearing to enter into an installment agreement with WatchGuard Video for body and dashboard cameras for the sheriff's department.

GRRWA ramping up education efforts with new mascots

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A superhero may be coming to a class near you.

The Great River Regional Waste Authority is currently working on putting together three mascots for its Environmental Management System's educational programming.

Wade Hamm, director of the authority, said one of the state's objectives for recycling and waste management programs is an educational focus aimed at teach-

ing the state's youth about the benefits of recycling.

"It's just one of six items that they audit us on. Our objective is to have more environmental classes," Hamm said. "We're making a series of Power Point presentations depending upon the age of the youth we're talking to. We had some employees who said we should get a mascot for recycling, so that's what we're looking at. We want to increase the number of those presentations we're doing and really get the word out there about environmental management."

Hamm said GRRWA doesn't have the mascots yet but they are looking online for a super hero, Rocky out of



Paw Patrol who drives a recycling truck, and they are trying to find a third one.

"We've got an employee who's excited about being our mascot and helping educate area kids on our programming. One of the focuses we want to hit hard is the younger kids. I give presentations to local service groups, Lions clubs, etc. and they do the education programs.

In another stroke of good news for GRRWA is that offender labor that is part of the authority's workforce will remain intact through the end of June.

Hamm said GRRWA's contract is with Iowa Prison Industries, and he was informed that IPI will be honoring their contract with GRRWA and will be sending offenders from the Mt. Pleasant facility.

Although that labor will be cut by about an hour per day due to increased travel and offenders having to be back in Mt. Pleasant by 3 p.m. they have to leave the facility a bit earlier than usual.

"When they decided to close the John Bennett Unit they had to move those inmates throughout the state. IPI contacted me and said they would get me a crew from Mt. Pleasant and carry out the contract we have," Hamm said.

"That's kind of a bad deal for the city, but the state had to do what it had to do. I felt very fortunate that IPI stepped up and honored the contract."

He said he didn't know if there would be a way to work out logistics to get some labor for the city to use in the parks system. The city is left with a labor shortfall where offender labor was used at .50/hour and now is faced with looking outside city payroll to get parks and cemeteries maintained.



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