



# Pen City Current

Wed., June 19, 2019 | 10 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 139

## City to take kink out of Avenue L this fall

*Old Hwy. 61 to start this fall on the other end of town*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison will have two projects going on at the same time on the former Hwy. 61 this fall.

As part of the funds received from the state of Iowa

when it turned over the stretch of Old Highway 61 to the city, crews will begin working on straightening Avenue L at the “S” curve.

Public Works Director Larry Driscoll said that stretch of road was determined, along with the intersection of Avenue L and 27th Street, to be one of most dangerous in the city with the highest accident ratings.

“We did finish 27th Street a couple years ago and I thought that intersection was greatly improved. Some people disagree and that’s fine. But on the ‘S’ curve the plan was to straighten this out and we came to the city council about a year ago and talked about this,” Driscoll

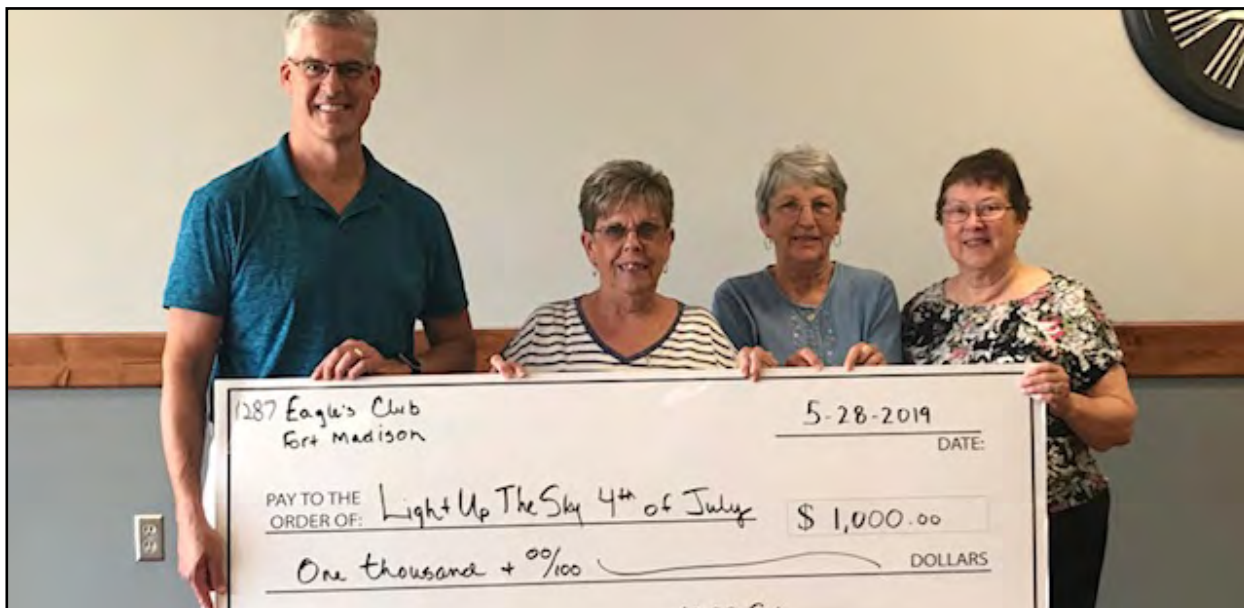
said.

The cost of the project will be around \$550,000, similar to the cost of the Avenue L/27th Street project.

The city plans to take some of the northwest curve out of the stretch of roadway and make the road curve to the southwest and then straighten out before bending back west after 36th Street.

The money to be used comes from city funds in the Old Hwy. 61 fund. The project was originally scheduled for 2022, as rebuilding the entire highway through Fort

See **HIGHWAY**, page 10



Courtesy photo

Fort Madison Eagles Club, top, and Connection Bank & Insurance, below, each donated \$1,000 to the Fort Madison Partner’s Light Up The Sky 4th of July recently. Partners are trying to raise \$20,000 to put on the show.



## Coach says Slater threatened his job over son’s playing time

*Superintendent says Wilson’s accusations are misleading, misrepresented*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A current Fort Madison High School coach has shed light on alleged interference from Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater on behalf of her son, who just finished his junior year.

Ryan Wilson, the head basketball coach at Fort Madison High School, confirmed on Monday morning that he was called to a meeting with Slater in January, where the superintendent mandated that her son get 16 minutes of playing time at the junior varsity level, or Wilson would be fired.



Pen City Current had referred to varsity sports action in an editorial that ran on Sunday. And although her son has played both varsity baseball and basketball, Wilson confirmed that the issues discussed focused on junior varsity playing time only, and the Current regrets that error.

“The thing that I want to accomplish is just getting this out there. Knowing that this isn’t what Fort Madison is about. And we don’t want to continue to lose

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# For the Record

## For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report 06/14/19 – 1:31 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2200 block of Avenue H. 06/15/19 – 1:47 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 300 block of 7th Street. 06/16/19 – 10 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1200 block of Avenue F. 06/16/19 – 1:21 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1900 block of Avenue M. 06/16/19 – 3:06 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the

2600 block of Avenue L. 06/16/19 – 5:49 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1500 of Avenue H. 06/16/19 – 7:02 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2800 block of Avenue J. 06/15/19 – 3:03 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Jeremiah Johnson Turner, 21, of Fort Madison in the 800 block of 12th Street on a charge of possession of marijuana. He was released with a court date. 06/15/19 – no time given – Fort Madison Police arrested Jason Ray Pope, 42, of Fort Madison, in the 1700 block of Avenue E on a charge of OWI 1st offense,

and driving while suspended. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 06/16/19 – 9:25 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Kandy Lynn Lewis in the 100 block of Avenue C on warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 06/16/19 – 5:33 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Paul Alan Hileman 49, of Fort Madison, in the 2600 block of Avenue L, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 06/17/19 – 1:17 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 5400 block of Avenue O.

06/17/19 – 4:52 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2300 block of Avenue C. 06/17/19 – 7 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 100 block of 23rd Street. 06/17/19 – 3:55 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2400 block of Avenue L. 06/17/19 – 7:08 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2300 block of Avenue C. Lee County Sheriff's Report 06/14/19 – 8:17 a.m. – Lee

County Sheriff's deputies arrested John Kris Carter, 50, of Wever, in the 3400 block of Hwy. 16 in Wever on charges of False information provided for a permit to acquire a weapon and felon in control of a firearm-domestic abuse. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and htne released on a pre-trial release. 05/14/19 – 9:15 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Vanessa Yvette Patton, 52 of Burlington at the Burlington PD, on a warrant for contempt of court. She was jailed and then released on her recognizance. 06/14/19 – 6:34 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies

arrested Dymond Dakar Green, 26, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office on a temporary hold warrant. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 06/14/19 – 6:50 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Dalton Jerald McKeown, 23, of Fort Madison on a temporary hold warrant. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 06/14/19 – 8:27 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Le Blake Johnson, 37, of Ballwin, Mo., at the sheriff's office on a warrant for a judgment hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and

See **RECORD**, page 5

## FMCH Family Practice Welcomes Dr. Tatenda Goronga



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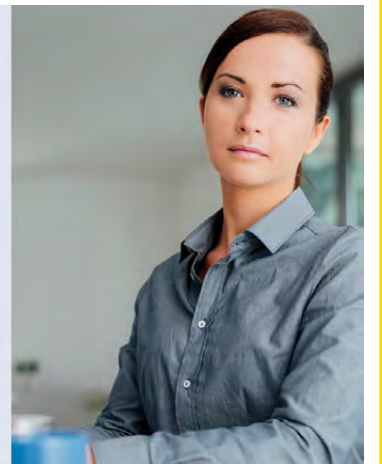


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# Obituaries/Lottery Numbers

## OBITUARIES

### CHRISTOPHER JOHN PIDGEON

Christopher John Pidgeon, 46, of Houghton, Iowa. Passed away at 8:47 p.m. Friday, June 14, 2019, at his home.

He was born on May 30, 1973, in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, the son of William J. and Juanita J. (Meierotto) Pidgeon.



PIDGEON

Survivors include his two daughters: Kayla and Keelin Pidgeon; father: Bill (Linda) Pidgeon of Houghton, Iowa; one sister: Kimberly J. Pidgeon of San Diego, California; one nephew and two nieces: Nolan, Sophie and Audrey Riley. Also surviving are several aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his mother: Juanita and his maternal and paternal grandparents: Irvin and Marjorie Meierotto and William and Agnes Pidgeon.

Chris was a graduate of Marquette High School and Indian Hills Tech School. He had worked at T.H.E. Company, Kruse Implement and Armstrong Small Engines as a mechanic for over twenty years. Chris loved working on lawn mowers. He enjoyed watching NASCAR and football, mushroom and deer hunting. Most of all, Chris loved his girls. He was a quiet, simple man with a big heart.

Friends may call after 12:00 noon, Tuesday, June 18, 2019, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point, where the family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. that evening. A Prayer Service will be held at 7:00 p.m.

A Memorial Service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 19, 2019, at Schmitz Funeral Home with Father Bruce DeRammelaere officiating.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in his memory for his daughters' college funds.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com). Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements.

#### Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries one time 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.

## OBITUARIES

### VICTOR DUANE MUNFORD

Victor Duane Munford, 84, of Farmington, Iowa, passed away at 8:50 p.m. Sunday June 16, 2019, at his home.

He was born on February 26, 1935 in Clark County, Missouri, the son of Victor Frederick and Maude Nadine (Carlstead) Munford. On June 7, 1958 he married Barbara Ann Philp at the Embury United Methodist Church.



Survivors include his wife: Barbara; five sons: Sidney Alan Munford (Gisselle) of Independence, Iowa, Martin John Munford (Gretel) of Farmington, Iowa, Jason Clark Munford (Gloria) of Jacksonville, Florida, Joseph Duane Munford (Carol) of Des Moines, Iowa, Justin Charles Munford (Trulie) of Montrose, Iowa; one daughter: Laura May Story (Mark) of Bonaparte, Iowa; nineteen grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren, with one on the way; one brother: Robert L. Munford of Wasilla, Alaska.

He was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents.

Duane attended college at Parson College in Fairfield, Iowa and at Northeast Missouri State Teachers College in Kirksville, Missouri. He was a Farmer and retired rural mail carrier. Duane was a member of Embury United Methodist Church, American Legion Post 231 and Subic Bay Marines. He served in the Korean Conflict as a Corporal in the Marines from November 1954 to September 1957. He loved farming and his family. Duane also enjoyed baseball, collecting arrowheads, raising watermelons and strawberries.

Friends may call after 12:00 noon Sunday, June 23, 2019, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington, where the family will receive friends from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. that evening.

A Funeral Service will be held at 10:00 a.m. Monday, June 24, 2019, at the Embury Methodist Church, rural Donnellson with Reverend Lanette Van officiating.

Burial will be at Green Glade Cemetery in Farmington, Iowa with full Military Rites by the Farmington American Legion Post 231.

Memorials have been established in his memory for the Embury Endowment fund or the Farmington EMT's. Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com). Schmitz Funeral Home of Farmington is assisting the family with arrangements.



## IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

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Lotto America™	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



6/17  
3 25 29 40 47  
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2 7 7



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## Sports

# Panthers throw cold water in Hounds' streak

BY ETHAN LILLARD  
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison baseball had only been shut out once in the 15 games leading up to Monday's double header against Mount Pleasant.

The Bloodhounds had already faced Mount Pleasant in a double header earlier in the season, splitting the two games 3-2, 5-2. The Panthers pulled ahead in the season series 3-1 after Monday, shutting out Fort Madison in both contests winning 10-0 through five innings and then winning 11-0 through six.

"There's a lot of things," Fort Madison Head Coach Ron Walker said about the reason his team didn't show much effort. "There's a lot of things going on within our team and we were split up tonight with coaches at different locations. It's something we have to play through. I have to take some responsibility for it as well. But as bad as tonight was, we did not handle ourselves very well tonight as human beings and represent the Bloodhound uniform."

The story of game one was Mount Pleasant starting pitcher Jaxson Hoyle. Through four innings, Hoyle had logged seven of the teams' 12 total outs on strikeouts. Thanks to big innings to start the game, Hoyle also had the run support as well.

An error put Corbin Broeker on first to begin the game before Nik Coble walked. Clayton Lowery then brought home Broeker and Coble with a bases clearing double for the 2-0 lead. Chase Lamm then delivered with a sacrifice fly ball to put Mount Pleasant ahead 3-0 before Fort Madison got its first at bats.

The Bloodhounds didn't do themselves any favors at the dish, going three up three down, before the Panthers exploded again in the top of the second.

Mt. Pleasant added four runs before the Hounds were able to record the first out of the inning. Fortunately for Fort Madison, that out turned out to be on a double play, as Reed Fehseke made quite possibly the best fielding play of the season for the Bloodhounds. On a ball that was ripped up the

middle, Fehseke drifted to his right, picked up the ball with his glove and flipped it to Jason Thurman covering second, as he then threw it down to twin brother Vasin Thurman at first for the double play.

"I was hoping that double play would give us some energy and we would start taking some at bats and start chipping away," Walker said. "Unfortunately, that did not happen."

A walk, a hit-by-pitch and a single loaded the bases for Mount Pleasant in the top of the second, before Broeker then walked to bring in the first run of the inning. Coble followed with a double to plate two. Lowery singled the following at bat to bring in one more run before the fielder's choice double play plated another run for an 8-0 Panther lead.

Fort Madison went three up, three down to end the second, third and fourth innings, before the Panthers put the nail in the coffin on a two-run shot from Brennan Bender for the 10-0 lead.

Hoyle then ended the game with a clean bottom of the fifth, as Fort Madison never sent more than three batters to the plate in any inning of the opening contest.

"First off, tip your hat to (Hoyle)," Walker said. "He came out and was around the strike zone all day and took the game to us. He came out and competed hard and came right after us. We didn't respond very well."

"We were soft with our energy level. We didn't play real hard. The first batter of the game reaches on an error, walk the next guy on four straight pitches and that doesn't set the tone very well for the start of the game. We didn't have a lot of energy and never could recover."

#### GAME TWO

Things did not improve for Fort Madison in game two, though the Hounds did compete for the first three innings.

Mount Pleasant put the first runs of the game on the board again in the top of the second inning after Trace White started the frame with a triple. Bender plated White with a sacrifice fly, before two-straight singles combined with a wild pitch helped the Panthers grab a 2-0 advantage.

The Bloodhounds showed signs of life with back-to-back singles in the home half of the second, but three straight outs

followed.

Three-straight singles, an error, another single and a sacrifice fly had Mount Pleasant ahead of Fort Madison 5-0 before the Hounds got an out. The sac fly was followed with another sacrifice fly ball, putting Mount Pleasant in the driver's seat with the now 6-0 lead.

The Panthers put the game on ice in the top of the sixth inning, again kickstarting things with singles. A Lamm single was followed by a White one bagger. Lamm then scored on an error before Dalton Gardner singled in White to make it 8-0. A Chase Williamson single, another Broeker single and a Coble double put the ten-run rule into effect for the second straight game, as Mount Pleasant went on to take game two 11-0.

After the game the first thing Walker had his players do was run wind sprints.

"To be honest with you, I kind of lost count," Walker said about how many down and backs he had his guys run after the combined 21-0 losing effort in the two games combined. "It had nothing to do with the score. The 21-0 wasn't why we were running. We didn't show up to compete and our body language and our attitudes were horrible tonight. It's kind of disappointing when we have the community standing behind us and we talk about taking pride in who we are. We as a team did not do a very good job about that. I apologize for the way we showed up tonight."

From a player's perspective, the same sentiment was shared about effort or lack thereof, also stating the drive the Hounds once displayed doesn't seem to be there.

"I don't think we showed up to the field ready to play," Fort Madison senior Dayne Cordray said. "I knew when we walked in the gate and everybody was kind of messing around ... We weren't here mentally."

"We've just kind of gotten OK with where we're at right now with how many wins we have. We're not hungry anymore. I think we kind of lost that drive. I think we're going to get it back though here soon."

The Hounds fall below .500 at 8-9 on the year and travel to Davenport North on Thursday for another double header.



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## Sports/For the Record

# Lady Hounds drop two to Panthers at home

*FMHS has lost four of last six games*

BY ETHAN LILLARD  
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison softball played a double header earlier in the season against Mount Pleasant. The two contest were actually the first two losses on the season for the Bloodhounds, as the two losses dropped them to 1-2 on the year.

Fast forward to June 17 and again the Hounds and Panthers competed in a Southeast conference double header, this time on the Bloodhounds' home diamond.

Much like the first go around, Mount Pleasant was able to come away with two wins in the two games, but unlike the first time the teams faced, Fort Madison lost by just two runs in both contest.

### GAME ONE

Game one started with both teams producing three-run innings. Two doubles combined with a single gave Mount Pleasant a 2-0 lead before the Hounds recorded the first out. Cassie Powers answered with back-to-back strikeouts, before another single brought in the third run of the inning.

Olivia Williams was hit by a pitch to put a runner on for Fort Madison to start the bottom of the first. Kylee Cashman moved Williams to second on a sacrifice bunt, before a Mount Pleasant fielding error put Williams at third. Ivy Geerdes had a sacrifice groundout for the Hounds' first run, before a Powers double

brought in Featheringill to cut the lead to 3-2.

Neeley Rehm came in to run for Powers and scored on a Mount Pleasant fielding error the next at bat, tying up the game at 3-3.

All of the runs in the game came from two innings of play, as the next runs weren't scored until the top of the seventh inning with Powers holding Mt. Pleasant to just four hits from innings two through six. The seventh is when the Panthers' bats got hot again.

A double, a walk and a single loaded the bases for Mount Pleasant in the top of the seventh. Another single to center field plated the final two runs of the game, as Mount Pleasant went on to take game one 5-3.

Geerdes and Powers had the lone RBIs for the Bloodhounds in game one. Powers tossed 115 pitches over seven innings, giving up 11 hits and five earned runs while striking out eight.

### GAME TWO

Fort Madison led through four innings in game No. 2.

Kylee Cashman came in to score on a wild pitch in the home-half of the first, providing the only run of the game through the first four innings. Katelyn Dennis was able to maintain the lead from the circle, starting off with two three-up, three-down innings before allowing her first hit in the third on a single.

Singles were the difference maker for Mt. Pleasant in game two, as the Panthers rallied with back-to-back singles in the top of the fifth with two outs. An error allowed one of the singles to turn into a run, before another single gave the

Panthers the 2-1 lead. A double in the top of the sixth inning extended Mount Pleasant's lead to 4-1.

Vanessa Golowach hit a double to try to keep things alive for Fort Madison in the bottom of the seventh, later coming in to score and make it a 4-2 game. The run was short lived, as Mount Pleasant retired the next three batters in order, coming away with the 4-2 victory and the sweep.

Williams collected the lone RBI for the Bloodhounds. Dennis was hit with the loss, throwing 101 pitches over seven innings, allowing seven hits and just one earned run while striking out seven.

The Hounds fall to 8-10 on the year and have lost their last four. They host Washington on Thursday night for a double header.

## For the Record - Cont'd from page 2

released for time served.  
06/15/19 – 5:32 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested John Henry Wenki, 18, of Argyle, no arrest location provided, on charges of OWI, fraudulent use of registration and driving while license denied or revoked. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on a promise to appear.  
06/15/19 – 10:12 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Lauren Elaine Beach, 26, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office, on a judgment hold warrant. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
06/15/19 – 3:42 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Blake Andrew Vanness, 30, of Danville, no arrest location provided, on a charge of contempt of court. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on bond.

06/16/19 – 3:04 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Keith Alen Savage, 48, of Burlington, in the 200 block of Hwy. 61 on a charge of OWI-1st offense. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on a promise to appear.  
06/16/19 – 8:06 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Bryan Lee Woodley, 46, of Donnellson, in the 3400 block of Hwy. 61 in Keokuk on charges of interference with official acts and domestic abuse assault.  
06/16/19 – 9:25 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Susan Michelle Woodley, 51, of Fort Madison, no arrest location provided, on a charge of domestic assault. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
06/17/19 – 10:52 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Robert

Jackson Wixom, 53, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office on a temporary hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and transferred to another county.  
06/17/19 – 6:43 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Andrew Christopher Mena, 30, of Keokuk at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report  
06/14/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call.  
06/15/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls, and a report of gas odor.  
06/16/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls and one smoke detector malfunction.

## 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

<b>WED 19 June</b>	Rain High– 72.8° F   Low – 62.5° F
<b>THU 20 June</b>	Light rain High– 75.3° F   Low – 68.3° F
<b>FRI 21 June</b>	Rain High– 77.0° F   Low – 68.8° F
<b>SAT 22 June</b>	Light Rain High– 86.9° F   Low – 76.5° F
<b>SUN 23 June</b>	Heavy Rain High– 82.9° F   Low – 68.9° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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\*See store for details

**Thank you to Hellige Lawn Service for donating continual time and labor to maintain the 18th St. roadside Bloodhound Monument since 2015!**

Thanks also to Huffman Welding & Machine, Kempker's True Value, FM Booster Club, & the class of '89 alumni for generous donations of materials and money for the project!

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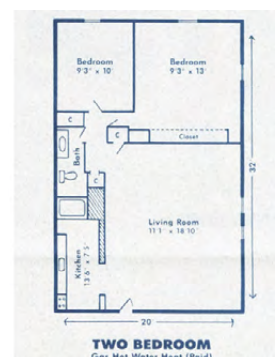
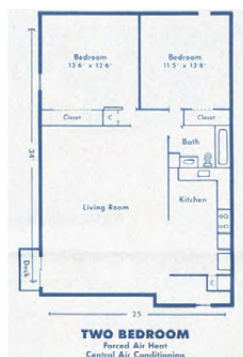
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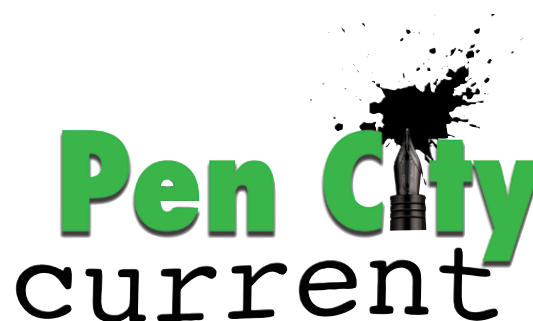
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## From the Front

# Slater says she won't respond further to allegations

**COACH** - Continued from Page 1

great people in our community, staff in the district, community leaders, teachers, coaches, players, whoever," Wilson said.

Wilson said he was called to a meeting Jan. 5 at Slater's office in the central office building at 11:30 a.m. The meeting included Slater, Fort Madison Athletic Director Jeremy Swink, and Wilson.

"At that meeting it came down to there would be a revamping of the athletic department and my job would be posted if playing time expectations weren't met for her son," Wilson said.

"I couldn't believe it happened. I walked out of the meeting shocked and appalled that this meeting just took place. It was a matter of now I gotta figure out a plan to make this happen."

He said Slater's expectations equated to half a game in the junior varsity contests.

Pen City Current provided Dr. Slater with Wilson's comments via email after contacting her for the article, and Slater responded via email Monday night.

"These accusations are misrepresented and misleading. As the superintendent of the Fort Madison Community School District, I will not comment publicly on school district personnel issues or employee discipline," she wrote.

"I will no longer answer accusations from a disgruntled part-time employee of the athletic department."

Slater issued a letter on Jan. 7, summarizing the Saturday meeting. Slater

said Wilson had agreed at an earlier meeting on Dec. 20 that varsity players who play junior varsity are there to get game experience and should be contributing in at least half of the game minutes.

Wilson said Slater's son questioned him about playing time and he had a conversation with him and the junior varsity coach. And Slater's son didn't get the full 16 minutes with the exception of a couple games because Wilson said that's not how his program works.

"Essentially it just came down to becoming a better basketball player and a lot of the way we play - the style we play - sometimes doesn't fit his skill set," Wilson said.

"But I'm not going to give playing time based on demands, wants and needs, and ulterior motives from parents. If

you're gonna play 16 minutes, you're gonna earn it. So had I lost my job at the end of the season because an individual didn't play half a game - so be it."

Wilson said he had a conversation with Swink after the Saturday meeting to figure out a plan going forward. The two then requested a meeting with Fort Madison School Board President Dr. Tim Wondra, to discuss the issue and met with him on Sunday.

He also said the follow-up letter he received on Jan. 7, was substantially different than the conversation that took place in the office on Saturday.

Slater wrote in the letter... "moving forward, it is expected that the two varsity players that were discussed should be contributing in at least half the JV game minutes. It was recommended that

Ryan think about subbing or having to cover the JV coach game responsibilities due to the JV coach not following expectations and apparent targeting."

Wilson said the targeting language was the first time anything had been communicated to him or to the JV coach.

"Nothing had been communicated to me or the JV coach at all prior to that regarding that situation."

Wilson also contends the Saturday morning meeting violated established team rules for no parental contact 24 hours before or after a game. The Hounds played Fairfield on the Friday night before and then Albia later that night after the meeting.

"That was a violation out of hand, but also was she coming at me as a superintendent and using that power and authority, or is she coming at me as a parent?" Wilson said.

"And why does it have to be in the superintendent's office. This is an athletic situation, why wasn't it at the high school in the athletic director's office?"

Wilson was also reprimanded for discussing the issue with people outside the district. The reprimand was signed by high school principal Greg Smith and Swink.

The reprimand was a big factor and Wilson said his position as Executive Director was also a concern for him in not coming forward sooner.

"There was some thought that I could be done and things went through my head and I was losing sleep at night over was it really worth

it. This is what I do at the Y, I work for the kids and create programs for the community. Coaching is a huge part of my life... Ideally, I'd think I can continue coaching," he said.

A video surfaced Saturday that showed Scott Slater, Dr. Slater's husband, confronting Wilson and calling him 'vindictive' in a 20-second exchange. Most of the video is inaudible.

Scott Slater was also suspended for a game by the district for violating team rules about a parent approaching a dugout during a baseball game this spring.

The Slaters have open enrolled their son out of the district for the upcoming school year.

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**From the Front/Iowa News**

**Homes For Iowa program launches in Newton**

NEWTON – The Iowa Department of Corrections, Iowa Prison Industries, and Homes for Iowa Inc. invite members of the media and public to attend the official groundbreaking ceremony for the Homes for Iowa partnership project near the Newton Correctional Facility.

This event will be the official launch of the construction phase of the Homes for Iowa program, which is a partnership between many stakeholders from across the state in an array of sectors; all united with one goal in mind: building quality, affordable housing for areas of Iowa that need it while teaching valuable work-skills to those incarcerated.

To learn more about the program, please review the articles by Iowa Public Radio and The Des Moines Register.

Speaking at the event will be: Governor Reynolds, Lt. Governor Gregg, Iowa Finance Authority/Iowa Economic Development Authority Director Debi Durham, Corrections Director Skinner, Senator Lofgren, and Home Builders Assn. of Iowa Executive Director Jay Iverson.

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**Council ready to bump sewer rates**

**HIGHWAY** - Continued from Page 1

Madison was planned with the money from the state. At the same time, the city will begin work on the stretch of Old Hwy. 61 from 2nd Street to 6th Street. That project has been delayed for a year.

“We started that project in 2018 and had some delays through the state,” Driscoll said.



GREENWALD

He said, answering questions from Councilman Chris Greenwald to explain the delay, the state history and archeological officials got involved and wanted to make sure dig sites were done to help protect any potential history in the ground.

“We initiated the startup for construction and designs in the spring and we just now finished all the documentation they wanted last month, so we will bid that section of road in July,” Driscoll said.

He said the city made a compromise with the state historical society to regulate how the city will proceed with digging on the highway, at an additional cost of \$100,000.

“This has slowed us down to the tune of about 12 months,” Driscoll said.

Greenwald then asked how many blocks of overlay on Avenue F the city could get for \$100,000 to which Driscoll replied five.

“That’s putting a price on history,” Councilman Rusty Andrews said to Greenwald with a chuckle.

“I find that comment out of line,” Greenwald replied.

The detour will use 34th Street and Avenue M for motorists to get around the construction as Driscoll said the city will completely shut down that stretch of road, after talking with business owners in the area. The shut down will take 30 days off the construction time.

The council approved a resolution ordering the construction, setting public hearing and bid letting for the

project, 6-0. Councilman Chad Cangas was absent.

In a related issue, the council moved forward with having Driscoll get designs to reconstruct the lower parking lot in Riverview Park to allow access to the depot museum during high waters. The city will also redo the parking lot at Avenue F and 8th Street. The cost is at about \$880,000 and will come from the reimbursement of interest paid on the waste water treatment loans.

That money was originally earmarked for the Avenue G sidewalk project. That project popped when estimates came in almost double what the city’s engineering firm had originally estimated. The funds have to be used for storm water projects. The parking lots will have permeable pavers and a base to allow storm water to be absorbed by the lots rather than run into the city’s storm sewer system.

In other action, the council:

- voted 5-1 to approve a second reading of sewer rate increases that will bump overall sewer rates on an average home using 4,000 gallons per month about 13% over the first two years. The ordinance needs a final reading before it takes effect.
- voted 6-0 to authorize Driscoll to file an application with the Iowa Department of Transportation’s State Recreational Trails program for construction of Connecting Fort Madison! Phase 4. Phase 4 would connect the path from Baxter Sports Complex to River Valley Road on the west side of 48th Street.
- voted 6-0 to spend \$8,662 on eight computers for the Fort Madison Police Department’s squad room. The department will also soon be getting onboard computers for vehicles and City Manager David Varley said the state will be picking up the tab for those computers.

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