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FMHS athletes get plaques for state recognition.

rrent

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Tuesday, January 9, 2018 | 8 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 21

Landfill, airport negotiating runway deal

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A negotiation is underway between the airport and the landfill to compensate the Fort Madison airport for a sod runway that is no longer being utilized.

At Monday's regular meeting of the Fort Madison Airport Commission, Great River Regional Waste Authority director Wade Hamm and board member Brad Randolph talked to the commission about a grass runway that is not currently being utilized by passenger airplanes, The strip, however, is within the 5,000 foot barrier the Federal Aviation Administration requires airports to be from landfills, due to bird



collisions. Commission member Bob Chestnut

said laws have changed over the years and the commission and landfill are trying to execute some type of agreement to satisfy the requirement.

RANDOLPH

An agreement created about 10 years ago with the commission, the airport,

and the FAA negotiated by people no longer on either side of the deal, set \$300,000 aside for the property in in-kind or cash value for the strip. In-kind donations would have included using landfill staff, equipment, and other resources to rebuild the grass air strip on the west side of the airport property.

However on Monday, Randolph said if the airport

wasn't interested in having the landing strip rebuilt the landfill would be willing to make a cash payment to the airport to not use the airstrip. The agreement wouldn't turn the property over to the landfill, but would officially end use of the strip. Shoring up the agreement is part of the GRWWA long-range planning.

Hamm said he was told by the FAA about three years ago to not be in a hurry about the issue, but not forget about it. He said he contacted the FAA again recently and the personnel has changed, but the new staff told him to work with the Fort Madison Airport Commission.

See AGREEMENT, page 5



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC West Point Fire Chief Chris Fullenkamp, left, and Asst. Chief Chad Hannum stand by a 30-year-old firetruck they are trying to replace with a current fundraiser.

EMPTY **NEST** By Curt Swarm



Chicken-ology is a lot like human-ology

 ${
m A}$ ria helps grandpa gather eggs If there's snow on the ground, our hens won't venture from the hen house. They come to the threshold, peck at the snow, but opt to stay indoors. That's fine with me. I leave the south door open for them during the day so that they get a little sunshine and vitamin D. Even in this bitterly cold weather, our lucky 13 hens are still pumping out a dozen eggs a day like clockwork. I have to gather the eggs more often because of freezing, but our girls are still producing. I attribute it to the marigold extract in the laying mash and, of course, TLC.

I have no heat in the hen house, save for their water heater. So, contrary to popular belief, you do not have to heat the hen house in the winter. (I did insulate it.) With all their feathers, the hens are quite hardy. I make sure they have plenty of corn scratch to keep them busy and build a layer of fat. But outside of that, they are self-sufficient. When the snow started to melt off their ramp, they decided to venture outdoors a little. But they made it no further than the shelter of a trailer I had parked nearby. They spent the day under the trailer, protected from

West Point needs a few bucks to replace old trucks

Dept. has about \$250K of

\$300K needed for new truck

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

WEST POINT - West Point Fire & Rescue is closing in on the purchase of a new fire

truck to replace a couple older units, but Fire Chief Chris Fullenkamp is looking for help in

getting past the \$300,000 purchase price of the new unit.

The department started

fundraising for the truck in 2017 as regular revenues won't sufficient to cover the cost of the new unit.

We get a millage on

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Obituaries/Current–Lee

OBITUARIES

MICHAEL R. WILSON

Michael R. Wilson, 52 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 10:43 p.m. Sunday, January 7, 2018 at his home surrounded by his family. He was born January 10, 1965 in Fort Madison, a son of Gerald A. Sr. and Karen L. (Ballard) Wilson.



Mike was a 1983 graduate of Fort Madison High School. He was a veteran of the United States Army, serving during Desert Storm. He was a heavy equipment operator at U.S. Gypsum near Mediapolis for 18 years. He later worked at Pinnacle Foods and most recently did part-time maintenance work at the Boulders Inn, both of Fort Madison. He loved hunting, fishing, and bowling. He was restoring a 1964 Rambler. Most recently, he enjoyed building model cars and planes. He is survived by two sons, Tony Wilson and Adam Wilson, both

of Fort Madison; one daughter, Ashley (Matthew) Blow of Fort Campbell, Kentucky; his father Gerald Wilson Sr. of Fort Madison; one brother, Gerald "Jerry" A. Wilson Jr. of Fort Madison; three sisters: Dollie J. (Gregory) Horn, of Fremont, Iowa; Shirley J. (Ronald) McMurray, of Franklin, Iowa; and Becky S. Wilson, of Fort Madison; one granddaughter, Adrienne Blow, and another little one on the way; uncles, aunts, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother.

Visitation will be held from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Funeral services will follow and begin at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at the funeral home, with Reverend Preston Smith officiating. Burial with military rites will be at Soldiers Circle, Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison. A memorial has been established, contributions may be left at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Online condolences to the Wilson family may be made at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

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.

CURRENT-LEE

BY PCC STAFF - Lee County Crime Stoppers will be holding a chili fundraiser at both the Fort Madison and Keokuk Hy-Vee locations on Jan. 18 from 5 to 7 p.m. Proceeds will be used for expenses and criminal payouts.





BASIL "RED" REED

Basil "Red" Reed, 97, of Keokuk, died Saturday, January 7, 2018 at the River Hills Village in Keokuk, IA.

He was born November 30, 1920 in Gregory Landing, MO the son of Albert and Hilda Fredelake Reed. On May 16, 1952 he was united in marriage to



Norma Lee Kinkeade in Pocahontas, AR. She preceded him in death on October 26, 2004. He was a veteran of the United States Army and proudly served his

country during WW II. He served in the 5th Engineering Special brigade from August 1942 - October 1945. He was one of the last

REDD

remaining veterans locally and in the United States, who served on the beaches of Normandy

on D-Day. He was awarded five Bronze Stars.

Red had been employed by Hubinger's in Keokuk for thirty-three years, until his retirement on January 1, 1983.

He was a member of the VFW Post 3508 and the American Legion Post #41. He had been a member of the military honors firing squad since

1983, and had served as the American Legion Chaplin since 1995. He continued to conduct military services until he was in his mid-90s and had conducted more than 1,000 funerals for local veterans. The City of Keokuk honored Red's service by dedicating a granite bench in his name at the Keokuk Veterans' Memorial.

Red enjoyed spending time outdoors gardening. He also liked reading books. Red was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan.

He is survived by one son, Joe Reed of Keokuk, seven grandchildren, twenty-one great-grandchildren, and several great-great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by one daughter, Carolyn Steele, one great-granddaughter, Cheyenne Nicole Steele, two sisters, Lois Standley and Marian Scott and five brothers, Cecil, Russell, Hershel, Marshall and Edsel.

A graveside service with military rites will be held at 11 a.m., Thursday at the Keokuk National Cemetery at 11 a.m.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Wednesday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with family meeting with friends from 6-8 p.m.

Memorials may be made to the Keokuk American Legion Post #41 or to the American Cancer Society.

Online condolences may be left for the family at <u>www.vigenmemorialhome.com</u>.





IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

Lotto Drawings

Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life®	Mon & Thu	8:30 pm	9:38 pm
Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America	Wart & Sat	8:50 nm	10-00 ით



For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police report

01/03/18 - 12:24 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 900 block of Avenue H 01/03/18 - 8:13 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 900 block of Avenue H, 01/03/18 - 9:23 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2000 block of 303rd Avenue. 01/03/18 - 3:18 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a gas drive off in the 2200 block of Avenue L. 01/03/18 - 5:27 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 500 block of Avenue E. 01/04/18 - 8:22 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a burglary in the 200 block of 2nd Street. 01/04/18 - 3:27 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2000 block of Avenue B. 01/04/18 - 4:35 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 800 block of Avenue F. 01/04/18 - 9:53 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1300 block of Avenue B. 01/05/18 - 12:45 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident at the intersection of 48th Street and Bluff Road. 01/05/18 - 1:30 a.m. - Fort

Madison Police arrested Jason Carl Burch, 45, of Wever, in the 4800 block responded to a report of a burglary in the 2000 block of Avenue I. 01/05/18 - 4:17 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1700 block of Avenue I. 01/05/18 - 4:30 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 5400 block of Avenue O. 01/05/18 - 4:34 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1400 block of 48th Street. 01/06/18 - 10:11 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run reported at the police department. 01/06/18 - 2:14 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a shoplifter in the 400 block of Avenue H. 01/06/18 - 8:54 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in progress in the 800 block of Avenue F. 01/07/18 - 8:17 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a shoplifter in the 400 block of Avenue H. 01/07/18 - 8:35 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 400 block of 23rd Street. 01/07/18 - 7:45 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested John Robert Winkle Mead, 38, Fort Madison, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. Lee County

Sheriff's report 01/03/18 - 6:25 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested James Rafael Cain, 29 of Kahoka, Mo., on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/04/18 - no time given - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested a juvenile on a charge of assault with injury. He was assigned to juvenile court. 01/04/18 - 3:22 p.m.

- Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Wade Garrett Wagner, 23, of Fairfield at the Lee County Sheriff's office on court ordered hold. 01/04/18 - 3:45 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Derek Roscoe Bradham, 25, of Fort Madison, at the Lee County Jail, on a court ordered hold. 01/05/18 - 2:02 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested James Wallace, Jr., 56, of Keokuk, at the Lee County Sheriff's office on a court hold. He was released on 01/06/17 for time served. 01/06/18 - 12:31 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Dustin Bradley Andersen, 35 of Keokuk, at the Lee County Sheriff's office on two warrants for court holds. 01/06/18 - 1:34 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Sean Michael Best, 27 of Shamokin, Penn., in the 3300 block of Main Street in Keokuk on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/06/18 - 3:58 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputes arrested Todd Michael Spurgeon, 43, of Keokuk, in the 200 block of Hwy. 61 bypass in Keokuk, on a warrant for assault with injury, and charges of driving under suspension, no proof of financial liability, possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of methamphetamine less than 5 grams. He was taken to the Lee

in the northbound lane. No citations or injuries were reported at the scene, but both airbags deployed. 01/06/18 - 10:57 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Gregory Chad Behymer, 42, of Keokuk in the 10 block of S. 9th Street on a warrant for simple domestic abuse assault and a charge of false identification of law/ public service officer. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released. 01/07/18 - 10:06 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested William Charles Ackley King, 23, of Keokuk, no location given, on a warrant for contempt of court. 01/07/18 - 10:30 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's

deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident in the 2800 block of Hwy 103. After a truck had gone into a ditch another truck driven by Raymond Evan Hymes, 25 stopped to assist and was struck by a vehicle driven by Larry James Snider, Jr., 26, of Fort Madison, on icy conditions. Snider and a passenger Selenn J. Henderson, 18 of Centerville were taken to the Fort Madison Community Hospital with injuries. Hymes was cited for failure to use safety belts and no proof of insurance. Snider was cited for no proof of insurance. A passenger in Hymes vehicle, Jodi Milard, was also cited for failure to use a seatbelt.

01/08/18 - 2:04 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jacob Matthew Davalt, 36, of Keokuk on a charge for driving while barred. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and then released on a promise to appear,

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue

01/05/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical and two false alarms 01/06/17 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to medical and one fuel spill 01/07/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to nine medical calls. All persons in these listings are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



FEBRUARY 22-23

Hamilton is the story of the unlikely Founding Father determined to make his mark on the new nation as hungry and ambitious as he is. From bastard orphan to Washington's right-hand man, rebel to war hero, a loving husband caught in the country's first sex scandal, to the Treasury head who made an untrusting world believe in the American economy. George Washington, Eliza Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson and Hamilton's lifelong friend/foil Aaron Burr all make their mark in this astonishing new musical exploration of a political mastermind.

Join us for an overnight stay in the Windy City as we take in an evening showing of the Broadway Musical that's rocking the nation at the CIBC Theatre. We'll be staying in the heart of the city at The Palmer House Hilton where you'll enjoy a complete breakfast buffet.

Friday morning, we'll escape the cold as we make our way to The Garfield Park Conservatory - one of the largest and most stunning conservatories in the nation. Often referred to as "landscape art under glass," the conservatory occupies approximately two acres inside, where thousands of plant species are on display throughout eight rooms in this magnificent facility. Travel through the conservatory and experience the lush flora and tropical temperatures taking you away from the hustle and bustle of Chicago.

Tour Includes:

-Deluxe Roundtrip Motorcoach Transportation -On-board Friendly Host -Hotel Accommodations -Buffet Breakfast -Hamilton the Musical -Garfield Park Conservatory

of Bluff Road, on a charge of OWI 1st offense. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/05/18 - 1:12 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1700 block of Avenue I. 01/05/18 - 4:06 p.m. - Fort Madison Police County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hwy. 61 near Devil's Creek Bridge. A vehicle and towed trailer driven by Kenneth Eugene Woodley, Jr., 53 of Fort Madison, lost control and struck the bridge barrier, before jackknifing and coming to rest facing south

County Jail and held.

01/06/18 9:25 a.m. - Lee

Single: \$450 // Double: \$370 per person



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Education/Sports

STEMFest returns to SCC's WB campus

Event for students, adults set for Feb. 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

WEST BURLINGTON – The fifth annual Southeast Iowa Regional Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Festival (STEMFest) will take place at SCC's West Burlington campus on Saturday, February 10 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The event is a joint effort between SCC, the Southeast Iowa STEM Hub, local businesses, manufacturers, and educators.

STEMFest exposes kids and adults to careers and opportunities in STEM-related fields through hands-on activities, exhibits, and demonstrations. Participants explore STEM careers through robotics and healthcare simulations as well as electronics and renewable energy exhibits.

With the growing demand for jobs requiring digital

and technical skills, a background in STEM is essential for many careers. SCC Work-Based Learning Specialist Leanne Krogmeier, says STEMFest is also a great way for students to explore careers in Southeast Iowa's industries.

"STEM jobs continue to dominate the list of hot careers," says Krogmeier. "That's why it's so important we get kids interested while they're young. STEMFest is a fun and creative way to expose kids to concepts and career paths they may never see or consider."

Krogmeier says that organizers decided to mix it up this year to keep the event fresh and fun.

"We used to have the event in April, and it competed with a lot of other activities," explains Krogmeier. "Moving it to February not only avoids conflicts, but it gives people something fun to do in the winter."

In addition to the new date, this year's event will feature animals from Niabi Zoo, kid-friendly demonstrations by Absolute Science, and the Grout Museum will transform SCC's Little Theater into a mini-planetarium. People can also tour the patient simulation center and EMT ambulance lab in SCC's new Health Professions Center.

The popular event attracts hundreds of people every year.

"Our goal is to continue to show students and parents how fun STEM can be," says Krogmeier. "We've got another great lineup of exhibitors from across the region and plenty of cool activities. Kids can even sign up to win a drone or free Kidtek learning camp. It's going to be a lot of fun."

STEMFest is free and open to the public.

To learn more about the Southeast Iowa Regional STEMFest, visit: <u>http://se.iowastem.org</u>.

For questions about STEMFest at SCC, contact Leanne Krogmeier at (319) 208-5053, or <u>lkrogmeier@</u> <u>scciowa.edu</u>.

For more news or to learn about Southeastern Community College, visit: <u>http://www.scciowa.edu/rss/</u><u>news/index.html</u>.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

At a wrestling meet prior to the holiday break, Fort Madison High School presented 2016-2017 plaques to All-State Cheerleader Haley Gray, Ryan Steffensmeier, who took 8th place at 113 lbs in the 2017 State Wrestling Meet, and Harlan Steffensmeier, right, who took 3rd place at 138 lbs at the 2017 State Wrestling Meet. The plaques will hang in the FMHS Multipurpose Room.





Haley Gray - All-State Cheerleader



Harlan Steffensmeier- State Wrestling



Ryan Steffensmeier- State Wrestling

Area News/From the Front

Lee County K9 sniffs out meth on traffic stop

KEOKUK - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrests of two Keokuk, Iowa men on felony and misdemeanor drug charges.

Michael Lee Hawkins, age 64, of the 1500 block of Des Moines Street, Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on Jan. 6, at his residence on two outstanding felony drug warrants. Hawkins is charged with delivery of less than five grams of methamphetamine second or subsequent offense, a class C felony with an enhancement. If convicted, Hawkins

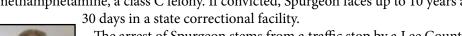


faces up to 60 years in a state correctional facility. The arrest of Hawkins stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that he was involved in the distribution of illegal drugs in the Lee County area.

HAWKINS

In an unrelated matter, Todd Michael Spurgeon, age 43, of the 2400 block of Johnson Street, Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on Jan. 6 in the 200 block of Highway 61 in Keokuk following a traffic stop. Spurgeon is

charged with possession with intent to deliver less than five grams of methamphetamine, a class C felony. If convicted, Spurgeon faces up to 10 years and





The arrest of Spurgeon stems from a traffic stop by a Lee County deputy in which a K9 unit alerted on the vehicle being driven by Spurgeon. Items that support the charges were discovered during a search of the vehicle.

SPURGEON

The Lee County Attorney's Office, Lee County Sheriff's Office, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, and the Keokuk Police Department assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investiga-

tion.

The defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy.

Airport wants more money or grass runway rebuilt

AGREEMENT - Continued from Page 1

"I was under the understanding that there was no desire to put that back," Randolph said. "Ultimately it's up to the airport to decide, but we just want to move forward and we're able to negotiate some compensation to the airport for permanently closing that."

Chestnut said \$300,000 wasn't going to be enough to rebuild that, especially if land acquisition had to considered. He said if that was the best offer the landfill had as far as a cash payment, then maybe the landfill should just go ahead and rebuild the runway.

"The cash option if it's reasonable, should be entertained," he said. "We have some real work that needs done up here. We have hangars that need work that are now 60-70 years old. So we should consider a cash option if the amount is right, Because we could use that for some of this work and then maybe have some grant seed money."

Randolph said he assumed the airport didn't have a desire for the runway any more or to have it rebuilt and if that was the case, GRRWA would be willing to make a payment of \$75,000 to \$80,000 to the airport.

"We'd have to put pencil to paper, but that's the number that rolls off the top," Randolph said. "You would have to decide what it's worth to you to be adequately compensated for the status quo." Chestnut asked Randolph if the landfill board had the \$300,000 set aside from their general fund so they won't be hurt too badly if they had to pay a large portion of that out in cash.



Thank you to all of our customers who helped us reduce our environmental footprint in 2017!

Great River Regional Waste Authority is looking forward to continuing our efforts to manage our environmental footprint and help educate our communities on ways to help in 2018!

Things to remember in 2018 when recycling:

Please do not place plastic bags in recycling bins.

Rinse & Clean all food jars and cans before placing in recycling bins.

Flatten boxes for better storage and volume reduction. *Empty all boxes before recycling.

Place all recyclable products loose in bins.

Do not recycle wrapping paper.

Properly dispose of all electronics and household hazardous waste. *Click Here* for more guidance!

For your convenience:

 Convenient Drop-Off Locations in 10 cities
 Curbside Recycling Bins are available at our Ft. Madison and Keokuk locations
 HHW Collection Available by appointment during regular business hours at our Ft. Madison and Keokuk locations

"The only reason I ask is that I would be more likely to resist that offer if it would strap you. I would want more than that, but I wouldn't want to do that if you don't have that money."

Randolph said if the cash amount the airport wanted was too high then the landfill would probably just build it because it wouldn't be feasible to dump all the cash into it. Chestnut said he agreed and if the amount of money wasn't enough to show the value of the property, then the landfill should just go ahead and build it.

After Randolph and Hamm left the meeting, Chestnut said he'd like to see the commission ask for more cash for shutting down the runway to allow the airport to see value for the purchase and be able to do some of the work including new drainage tiles and four new doors for the hangars. He said remaining funds could be used to hold in an account to use for matching grants for additional work.

"We could take that money, whether it's \$50,000 or whatever, and turn it into \$500,000 or something like that," Chestnut said.

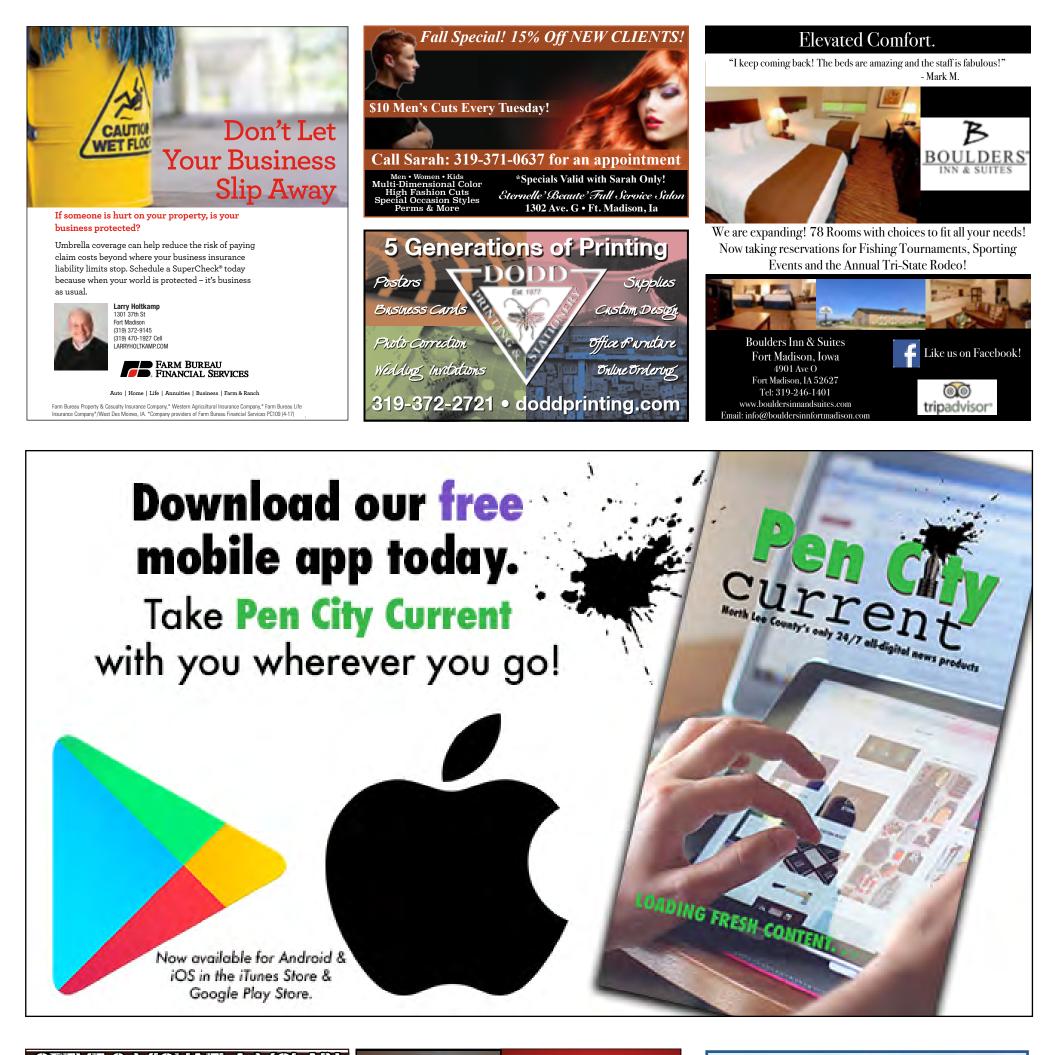
The commission decided to get an engineer's estimate on the value of the land and bring that back to the next meeting so the commission could put come up with an amount to counter to the landfill.



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Classifieds

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES









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Public Notices/Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE City Council OF THE City of Fort Madison, STATE OF IOWA, ON THE MATTER OF THE PRO-POSED AUTHORIZATION OF A LOAN AGREEMENT AND THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$1,700,000 WATER REV-ENUE CAPITAL LOAN NOTES, AND THE PUB-LIC HEARING ON THE AUTHORIZATION AND **ISSUANCE THEREOF**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Fort Madison, State of Iowa, will hold a public hearing on the 16th day of January, 2018, at 5:30 o'clock P.M., in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 811 Avenue "E", Fort Madison, Iowa, at which meeting the Council proposes to take additional action for the authorization of a Loan Agreement and the issuance of not to exceed \$1,700,000 Water Revenue Capital Loan Notes, in order to provide funds to pay the costs of acquisition, construction, reconstruction, extending, remodeling, improving, repairing and

equipping all or part of the Municipal Water Utility, including water tower rehabilitation. The Notes will not constitute general obligations or be payable in any manner by taxation, but will be payable from and secured by the net revenues of the Municipal Water Utility. At the above

meeting the Council shall receive oral or written objections from any resident or property owner of the City, to the above action. After all objections have been received and considered, the Council will at this meeting or at any adjournment thereof, take additional action for the authorization of a Loan Agreement and the issuance of Notes or will abandon the proposal to issue the Notes.

This Notice is given by order of the City Council of the City of Fort Madison, State of Iowa, as provided by Sections 384.24A and 384.83 of the City Code of Iowa, as amended.

Dated this 9th day of January 2018.

/s/Melinda L. Blind City Clerk, City of Fort Madison, State of Iowa

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From the Front/Weather

WP fire gets better ISO rating *Friends, family*

FUNDS - Continued from Page 1

the property taxes that is specified toward fire protection. Right now we get .48 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. The last three years our budgets averaged just over 60K and expenses have come in at about \$51,500 so you're looking at about \$9,000 a year you can put away and that would take a long time to save for a \$300,000 truck," Fullenkamp said.

He said the older trucks, one of which is more than 40 years old, just aren't capable of servicing the area. Two of the pumps on the trucks wouldn't pass a recent ISO test and one has a blown engine.

Fullenkamp said he has put in FEMA grants almost every year and the last time he was approved for the federal funds was 2006. He said the department began to replace all the bunker gear in 2013 after going 10 years without replacing any of it.

"We're pretty much done with that, but that's something that's ongoing so we don't have 30 sets of gear that need replaced."

He said the department started talking and put out a fundraising letter to start a conversation and that went out in September. Donations were good for the first three weeks, and then

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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

These two trucks are being replaced when the West Point Fire & Rescue raises additional funds to cover the cost of one new truck that will do the work of both.

another letter went out in December and got another little boost from that.

He said no bids have been taken on the truck but they did put together some estimates around the \$300,000.

With the donations, we have about \$170,000 and with what the board has we have about \$260,000 so we're close we just need that one final push," he said.

He said they are looking at new because rural departments don't look to get rid of trucks after five years.

"New truck, you figure it lasts 25-30 years or you buy a 10-year-old truck and you have it for 10 or 15 years and you're already putting maintenance in it right away," Fullenkamp said.

Fullenkamp said the fire department was recently given an improved ISO rating of a 5 from a six due to some improvements to the water lines in West Point and more modern supplies, but he said without replacing the truck there's a good chance that rating would slip back to a 6. When ISO ratings come down, so do residents' homeowners insurance rates. The inspection was done in the summer for

the first time since 2010.

"In 2010 we called them because they hadn't been here since 1990. So they came out in 2010 and we had a new truck, the new dispatch was in place, and they dropped us from a 7 to a 6. They are trying to get everyone on a 5 to 7 year rotation so they came back this summer and dropped us to 5, which will go into effect in February.

The improved rating should bring homeowners rates down 7 to 8 percent.

Anyone wishing to help contribute funds can send donations to PO Box 239, West Point, Iowa 52656.

Wishing you a Happy and **Prosperous New Year** Fedler Specialties and Screenprinting would like to thank you for your business this past year.

are helping hands

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

the northwest wind. When I went out to shut them in for the night, one confused hen had decided to remain outdoors and was trying to stay warm in some tall grass. Strange. I picked her up and returned her to the safety of the hen house. I did a quick count. All 13 were accounted for.

Ginnie's daughter and granddaughter visited over Christmas. Of course, granddaughter, Aria, wanted to help grandpa do chores. It was her first experience with farm animals, but she caught on real quick. We had her help scatter corn and gather eggs. She now knows where eggs come from. When we came back in the house she was quite interested in learning how to crack an egg to make scrambled eggs. I can't wait 'til spring when she can help nurse the bucket calf we are going to get.

People line up for our eggs and Ginnie and I have fun giving them away. Family comes first, so I keep my son and daughter in Mt. Pleasant well stocked. At a dozen nice brown eggs a day, there is no way Ginnie and I can eat them all. But they sure are good.

Two of our hens were given to us, Buffy and Red. They are the only ones with names, because we can distinguish them from the others. Their eggs are also different; they are speckled.

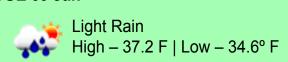
Buffy is a bully (Buffy the Bully) and picks on the other hens. I don't know why they allow it, but Buffy seems to have an attitude, possibly because she was adopted. If there's a pecking order, Buffy is at the top. Buffy and Red, the two adoptees, stick close together, and Buffy may be protecting Red. I dunno. I'm just beginning to learn chickenology. It's a lot like humanology.

When Ginnie and I are gone overnight, we have our neighbor boys, Brody and Boden (Bro and Bo) do chores for us. When I walked them through the chore routine, the hens flocked around the farm boys like old buddies. Bro picked one of them up and put her under his arm. Bo stroked her and said, "Aw, I wish we still had chickens."

I knew our hens were in good hands.

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

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Clear Skies High– 21.3° F | Low – 14.5° F

<u>OpenWeatherMap</u>