



Pen City Current

Thursday, Jan. 4, 2018 | 10 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 17

City pledges up to \$72K for bridge study

Mayor hopes businesses, industry share in city's cost

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison will pitch in up to \$72,000 toward a comprehensive study of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe bridge that spans the Mississippi River on the city's east end.

Mike Norris, executive director of the Southeast Iowa



NORRIS

Regional Planning Commission, spoke at Tuesday's regular meeting of the Fort Madison City Council, outlining the study for the council.

The project has an estimated price tag of \$360,000 with the Departments of Transportation in Iowa and Illinois contributing \$144,000 each with the local match from Fort Madison, Norris said the cost is based on other similar studies done by the railroad.

The scope of the study would be to perform a conceptual design, perform structural inspections above

the water line, evaluate live load ratings on all elements of the existing bridge, evaluate all permits and permitting agencies that would be needed for construction, as well as comparing the study against the Fort Madison comprehensive plan; evaluate all hazardous materials impacts; look at the life of the bridge from zero maintenance to maintained state of repair; examine all alternatives from a do-nothing approach to a preferred alternative to improve the bridge to a point where it can safely handle 80,000 pound truck traffic; and provide cost estimates of all alternatives.

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2017 Area Recaps

Sheriff's dept. to build on momentum of 2017

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Bringing in two K-9 officers and equipping officers and patrol cars with the latest video technology would be enough for most sheriff's departments to call it good for the year.

But with Stacy Weber just wrapping up his first year as Lee County Sheriff, he says the county is just now getting an initial look at what's in store for the department.

"It's been a long year," Weber said at the start of interview Thursday.

Indeed. On Weber's first day, two fisherman went missing on the shore in Montrose. Both fisherman were eventually found drowned as a result of the accident.

Four weeks later, a body was found in Indian Path park on the west side of Skunk River just inside the county border. The state Department of Criminal Investigation took over the lead in that case, but the suspect is now in custody in Lee County Jail facing 1st degree murder charges.

Weber had, and still has, aspi-

rations to take the sheriff's department in a different direction. Despite the tragedies that have a marked impression on the 44-year-old husband and father of two from Donnellson, Weber points to the direction of the department and only looks back on the lives lost and how the department can work toward keeping those numbers minimal. And the direction he points is right at his staff.

"I know I get a lot of credit for

what goes on here, but honestly it's Chief Deputy (Will) Conlee, Deputy (Craig) Burch, Jail Administrator John Canida, the detectives, the deputies, my staff, and the jail staff," he said. "These people don't need to be told what to do, they have a job to do and when they come back in, day in and day out, it's done."

Conlee said morale is high in the

See 2018, page 10



Photo courtesy of LCSD

Lee County Sheriff's Dept. Chief Deputy Will Conlee reads to students at Central Lee Elementary before the winter break. The department wants to increase visibility in 2018.

Supervisor upset with chair appointments

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A Lee County supervisor is upset with the nomination process for chairman and vice-chairman of the county board.

At the first regular meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors for 2018, Gary Folluo expressed his concern with south Lee County not having one of their elected supervisors in a chair or vice chair position for the past four years.

The chairman and vice chairman for the board were nominated and appointed at the meeting, which was held at the North Lee County office building. Supervisor Ron Fedler nominated Don Hunold for the chairman's post and Rick Larkin as vice-chairman. Larkin was the chair in 2017 and Hunold the vice chair.

"I think it's been over five years since we've had a chairman from south

Lee County," Folluo said "When we have appointments to boards and commissions this board has always tried to be fair. It didn't matter where a person was from, we got them appointed to boards and commissions and, this board has been together for five years now, and I've not been chair or vice chair.

"And I don't have a problem with Don Hunold being chair as it's a natural progression to go from vice chair to chair, but I think I should rightfully be appointed vice chair. I've been on this board nine years and I was chair for the first year and haven't been vice chair or chair since that time. Nothing has been said about it and I think its bad for the

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Obituaries

ELIZABETH ANN LANGE

Elizabeth Ann Lange, 70 of Omaha, AR died Monday, December 25, 2017 at the Hospice of the Hills in Harrison, AR.

She was born March 20, 1947 in Keokuk, IA, the daughter of Joseph and Dorothy Hammel Manewal. On September 15, 2005 she was united in marriage to Richard Lange in Las Vegas, NV. He survives.



LANGE

Other survivors include two son, James Lowary of Keokuk and Leland Lowary of Fordland, MO, two daughters, Karen Riggle of Camdenton, MO and Shauna Fawcett of Camdenton, MO, six grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and six sisters, Dianna Spence of Keokuk, Judy Jones of Keokuk, Sue Burgess of Keokuk, Connie Jones of Keokuk, Donna Manewal of Rhodes, IA and Tammy Garcia of Argyle, IA and one brother, Randy Manewal of Omaha, AR.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one brother, Joe Manewal and two sisters, Cindy Peak and Nancy Jean Manewal.

Elizabeth was a skilled seamstress and created many beautiful quilts and crocheted projects for her family to enjoy. She was a member of several quilting guilds through the years. Elizabeth enjoyed feeding the birds outside. She loved to spend time with her family and grandchildren.

A Gathering of Remembrance was held from 2 - 4 Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk. Burial will be at a later date in the Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk.

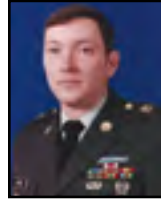
Memorials may be made to Hospice of the Hills in Harrison, AR.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

ROBERT E. LOTER

Robert E. Loter, MSG, US Army, Retired, of Polk City, IA, formerly of Keokuk, IA, died Thursday, December 28, 2017 at his home.

He was born on November 28, 1951 in Keokuk, IA, the son of Bob Phillips and Betty Loter. He was raised by his grandparents, Earl and Ruby Loter. He graduated from Keokuk High School with the Class of 1970. On May 28, 1972, Robert was united in marriage to Charlotte Rubey in Montrose, IA.



LOTER



Robert enlisted in the United States Army in 1972 and served his country for 20 years, retiring as Master Sergeant in 1992. He served with the 82nd Airborne from 1972 - 74. From 1974-76 he was with the First Infantry and from 1976 - 79 was with the First of the 39th Infantry. Robert served in the recruiting Command from 1979 - 1992. He taught Recruiting School in Indianapolis from 1985-88, was a Guidance Counselor with MEPS from 1989-90, served in the Des Moines Recruiting Command and then was the Recruiting Trainer for the State of Iowa until his retirement in 1992.

Following his retirement he was employed with Iowa Workforce Development from 1994 - 2014. He also began studies at William Penn University and graduated Magna Cum Laude in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in Business Management.

Robert was a member of the Polk City United Methodist Church, the Masonic-Joppa Lodge in Montrose, the Smoky Mountain Muzzle Loaders and the NRA.

He enjoyed riding motorcycles and playing pool with friends. Robert was an avid reader and especially enjoyed reading about history. He also enjoyed watching movies. He was a history buff and was the ultimate fact provider for his nieces.

He is survived by his wife, Charlotte Loter of Polk City, IA, one sister, Connie Woodsmall (Ted) of Kahoka, MO, a brother-in-law, Kent Rubey (Patricia) of Montrose, two nieces, Elizabeth and Emma Rubey, three half-sisters and many cousins.

He was preceded in death by his mother and step-father, Betty and Ronald Eder, his grandparents and a half-brother, Bob Phillips.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m., Thursday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with Pastor Dean Graber officiating. Burial with military honors will be held at the Keokuk National Cemetery.

A time of fellowship will follow the services at the Montrose Trinity United Methodist Church, 2nd and Cedar Street, in Montrose, IA.

Memorials may be made to the Great River Honor Flight or to the Puppy Jake Foundation.

On-line condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

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Charles Vandenberg, Editor
(319).371.1670
editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager
(319).371.4125
sales@pencitycurrent.com

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P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Nissa Rung, Advertising
(319).520.8953
n.rung@pencitycurrent.com

Shawna Ross, Advertising
(319).470.0622
ssross@pencitycurrent.com

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Obituaries/Lottery Numbers

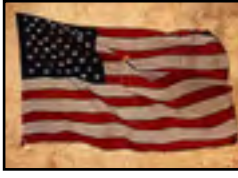
ROBERT H. "BOB" FRAUNE

Robert H. "Bob" Fraune, 88, of Waterloo, IA and formerly of Fort Madison, IA died at Cedar Valley Hospice Home on Thursday, December 28, 2017. He was born on April 19, 1929 in Fort Madison, IA, the son of Henry and Emma Wiggengost Fraune. He married Rosemary J. Schmidt on August 28, 1954



FRAUNE

at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Fort Madison, IA. Bob graduated from Catholic Central High School in 1947 and graduated from St. Ambrose University in 1956. He was an accountant (Cost Control) at John Deere retiring in 1984.



Bob loved traveling throughout the USA with his wife and children. After retirement, he enjoyed fishing and he and Rose spent 20 years at their summer lake home in Minnesota. Bob served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He was a member of St. Edward Catholic Church and Knights of Columbus.

He is survived by his wife; son: Bob (Sandy) Fraune, Waukesha, WI; son: Mark (Crystal Meyer) Fraune, Waterloo, IA; son: Larry Fraune, Plymouth, MN; daughter: Mary (Jim) Fraune, Minocqua, WI; daughter: Patty Dennis, Waterloo, IA; daughter: Barbara Jenkins; 5 grandchildren: Marlena and Brandon Fraune, Fernando and MiKayla Fraune, and Johnny Kohls; and a sister: Helen Loving, West Point, IA. Bob is preceded by: his parents; a son, David; a grandson, Billy Kohls; 6 sisters: Alice Fedler, Ruth Krogmeier, Viola Menke, Arline Walljasper, Louise Menke, and Joan Fraune; and 2 brothers: James and Paul.

A visitation will be held from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 5, 2018 with a 3:00 p.m. Rosary to be held at Locke Funeral Home in Waterloo, IA. The family will also receive friends for an hour before services at the church. The Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, January 6, 2018 at St. Edward Catholic Church in Waterloo, IA.

A visitation will be held on Monday, January 8, 2018 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. with a Rosary to immediately follow at 6:30 p.m. all at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory in Fort Madison, IA. The Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at Ss. Mary & Joseph Church in Fort Madison, IA with Rev. Mark P. Spring officiating. Burial will be held at Gethsemane Cemetery. A memorial has been established for St. Vincent De Paul in Waterloo, IA or Divine Word College (102 Jacoby Drive SW, PO Box 380, Epworth, IA 52045-0380). Online condolences to the Fraune family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

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Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



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Sports/From the Front

Schneider sets record in win

Senior guard converts 17 field goals in win over Tigers

BY PCC STAFF

NEW LONDON - HTC senior guard Brett Schneider outscored New London Tuesday night en route to a 73-32 blowout win in girls Southeast Iowa Superconference South division girls basketball action.

Schneider converted 17 buckets from the field, without a 3-pointer, and hit on 3 of 5 free throws to set a new school record with 37 points in the win. Emily Box chipped in with 13 points.

Holy Trinity jumped all over the 1-9 Tigers 21-3 in the first quarter after falling behind 1-2 in the early going and then going on a 21-2 run. The Crusaders kept the pace in the 2nd quarter with a 15-10 advantage to



SCHNEIDER

hold a 33-13 halftime lead with Box and Schneider combining for 28 of HTC's first half points.

Schneider then went on a tear in the second half with 22 more points, while the Tigers only mustered two points in the third quarter and Holy Trinity had a 60-18 lead going into the final quarter with the game out of hand. Heavy subbing in the fourth quarter allowed New London to outscore the Crusaders 14-13.

Ashlynn Haas finished with nine points for HTC, Madison Mohrfeld had four points, while Avery Hopper, Taylor Boeding, Eryn Anderson, Claire Pothitakis and Katie Denning all had two points for the Crusaders.

Holy Trinity improves to 4-6 on the season and hosts Burlington Notre Dame on Friday.

Riles puts up 18 in Hound win

Senior post has career night with 10 in the 4th quarter

BY PCC STAFF

WASHINGTON - The Fort Madison Bloodhounds got 15 second half points from senior Lorenzo Riles in a 76-49 win over host Washington to highlight boys Southeast Conference basketball action Tuesday night.

Riles finished with 18 on the night to lead Fort Madison. Treavor James-Kokjohn had 15 and Brandon Keester added 10 to round out the scorers in double figures for the Hounds.

Fort Madison held a slim 9-6 advantage with two minutes left in the first quarter, then both teams got



RILES

hot offensively. The Hounds outscored Washington 10-3 in the next minute of play before Washington battled back for a 14-19 first quarter deficit.

The Hounds extended the lead to 10 before the end of the first half with James-Kokjohn leading the way with six points in the 2nd quarter.

Junior Logan Rashid heated up in the third quarter with seven points to help Fort Madison push the lead to 38-58. The Hounds then got 10 in the fourth from Riles to put the game out of reach.

The Hounds improve to 6-3 on the season and travel to Fairfield for the second of a four-game road swing on Friday night.

Fort Madison girls yet to find first win

BY PCC STAFF

WASHINGTON - The Fort Madison Lady Hounds fell to 0-9 on the year with a 19-55 loss Tuesday night on the road at Washington to highlight girls high school basketball action.

Taylor Shannan led the Hounds with five points, four in the third period to lead Fort Madison. Eleesha Estrada had four points and Nadia Boeding added three points. Anna Kester, Kamryn Bailey and Maddie Rashid each added two points for Fort Madison. Dalyn Wondra chipped in with one point.

Washington put up 17 in each of the first and second periods to race out to a 34-7 first half lead and then outscored the Hounds 21-12 in the final two periods.

Kira Ropp lead all scorers with 15 points.

The Hounds travel to Fairfield on Friday night.

New London routs HTC boys Tuesday

BY PCC STAFF

NEW LONDON - The Holy Trinity Catholic boys fell to New London on the road Tuesday 74-12 in boys Southeast Iowa Superconference South division basketball.

The Crusaders got six points from sophomore Matt Hellige and three each from sophomore Reed Fehseke and junior Brant Holtkamp.

HTC managed only a bucket in the second and third quarter combined in the loss. Alex Dentlinger led the Tigers with 22 points.

The Crusaders fall to 2-7 on the season and host Burlington Notre Dame on Friday.

Board votes to amend juvenile detention agreement

COUNTY - Continued from Page 1

board to do that."

Fedler said Supervisor Matt Pflug was vice chair for four years and said he's discussed a chairmanship with Pflug in years passed.

"I talked to Matt about being chair and he said he'd just as soon not be the chair so it's not like I haven't talked to people about that," Fedler said

Pflug said at that time his professional workload was too heavy to take on the chairmanship, but things have calmed down since then.

Folluo went on to say Larkin has been chair and vice chair for four or five of the past nine years and it was time the board looked at things differently.

"I'm all about being fair, but I don't think this has been fair and I won't support it," Folluo said, and then asked to separate the nominations for chair and vice chair.

At that point a question in order came up as to how to deal with the Fedler's motion. Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise said the motion was presented as a resolution as part of the agenda.

Folluo and Fedler agreed that Fedler would have to rescind or amend his motion, but according to rules book Fraise referred to during the meeting, any supervisor could motion to amend Fedler's motion.

"I think it's ridiculous that we have to have this conversation because we all talk about being fair and this has not been fair and everyone on this board knows it," Folluo said.

Folluo then made a formal motion to separate the chair and vice chair nominations. A vote was conducted to amend Fedler's motion which failed 2-3 with Larkin, Fedler and Hunold voting against the amendment. Then the original motion was back up for a vote and passed 3-2 with Pflug and Folluo voting against the nominations.

Hunold and Larkin then changed chairs and Hunold took chairmanship of the board and the meeting.

In other action, the board;

- voted 4-1 to keep the current board meeting time and schedule. Folluo, who cast the only no vote, asked again to move some meetings to county buildings in the county seats, "But this has fallen on deaf ears so let's just move along," Folluo said. Fedler said the chairman can schedule the meetings at other locations, but the sheriff's office is centrally located and the holding meetings at the sheriff's office is the safest way to go. Pflug said attempts to hold meetings at other locations didn't boost attendance, but he said it did give residents who work a chance to attend the meetings if they move them to 5:30 or 6 p.m. and suggested they do that a couple of times.

- voted 5-0 to keep current supervisor committee board and commission assignments.

- voted 5-0, to extend the current Lee County Urban Revitalization Plan through Dec. 31, 2023

- voted 5-0 to amend the South Iowa Detention Service Agency agreement for the juvenile detention center. The amendment includes requiring member counties to send at least 80% of the juvenile offenders to the center in Montrose to maintain solvency for the agency. It also changed the agreement to allow counties to enter the agreement without paying a buy-in to share in original costs. However, if the agency were to ever dissolve, those counties would not receive any revenues from liquidating the commission and its facilities. Current counties involved in the agreement include Davis, Des Moines, Henry, Lee, Wapello, Mahaska, Jefferson, and Louisa.

- voted 5-0, to approve a resolution requiring all county employees to submit expenses in the fiscal quarter the expense is accrued and to eliminate paying mileage accrued from home to designated offices.

- set Monday from 1:30 to 4 p.m. and Tuesday beginning at noon for 2018-2019 fiscal year budget workshops.

- heard from Pflug that Keyway Mgmt. group has stepped off as managers of the Lincoln Ridge Apartments in Keokuk. He said talks are ongoing with the Keokuk Housing Authority to take over the management position.

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From the Front

City's share triggers state DOT grants to help fund study

SEIRPC - Continued from Page 1

Mayor Brad Randolph said he hoped local industry and businesses could jump in and help the city offset some of that \$72,000

"I'm not saying we should look for a specific percentage of participation because I'm not sure we would get that," Randolph said.

"I'm being biased, but I think it's important that we proceed with this because I think there's a need for it. I'm basically indicating that we should be on the hook for the total amount, with the thought that we don't want to be on the hook for the total amount," Randolph said.

"This is a project we've been talking about for years and it gets quiet, but there is still activity. And your ability to garner support from not only Iowa DOT, but Illinois DOT considering this is a private bridge, speaks volumes to the importance of the project," Randolph told Norris.

Newly sworn in Councilman Bob Morawitz asked if previous studies

involving using truck tolls to pay for the project were available. He said he remembers talking with local and state officials about this sort of study 15 years ago and wondered why those documents weren't available.

Councilman Chris Greenwald said he remembered those issues as conversations and not a study. Randolph said he too was unaware of those studies, but that was before his time on the council.

The other player in the study, and any future work on the project, would be the Southeast Iowa Economic and Port Authority. Randolph said the Port Authority would have bonding authority to help raise funds for the construction phase of the project.

The push for the study would be to ultimately look at options to modify or improve the bridge road deck to get trucks from local industries, including the Iowa Fertilizer plant, across the bridge

in Fort Madison, which would save those entities money in transportation. Randolph said from past meetings with the railroad officials, BNSF is open to an agreement that would allow paid tolls on the bridge to be used to help finance improvements to the bridge.

Morawitz also pointed to an 1866 agreement with the railroad that mandates the railroad provide a roadway over the river.

"If we take that over how does that effect that agreement because they have to provide that. If we take it over that means we're responsible for the repairs and maintenance, right?" Morawitz said.

"That's a piece of the pie that hasn't been baked or cut yet" Norris said.

"We should have those answers before we put a bunch of money in it," Morawitz said.

Randolph said those concerns are issues for later in the project.

"We're not even there yet," Randolph said. "That's



RANDOLPH

just an idea that has been discussed as a possibility in order to fund the improvements. If you're saying you don't know who's going to maintain the deck once it's done and we shouldn't do the study and spend the \$72,000...I'll disagree with you because I think you're not seeing the big picture at that point."

Morawitz said he's been looking at the project for 15-20 years.

"The railroad always maintained it," Morawitz said. "They used to have semi - they don't now because of the s-curves - and when we talked about that back when Mayor Ireland talked with them there was no discussion about us taking over the deck itself. We would bond for the improvements and then the railroad would take the tolls from semi's to pay off the bond so the railroad wouldn't have an expense and the city wouldn't have an expense."

Randolph said having

the port authority bond for the improvements would mean the same thing, neither entity would have an expense.

"It doesn't mean we have to (take over the road deck and toll operations). It was a way to help pay for the project. If we wait for BNSF to do it it may never happen," he said.

Councilman Chad Caggas made a motion to call the question and end the discussion, which passed, and then the motion to approve the expense passed 6-1 with Councilman Kevin Rink voting against the measure. Rink had asked Norris if any towns on the Illinois side were contributing to the study cost. Norris said he would look into it, but said Fort Madison had a lion's share of the interest with the amount of industry on the Iowa side.

"We will have a competitive consultant process on this so we hope that process helps drive that cost down a little bit," Norris said. I'm hoping that competitive pressure brings that ceiling down."

In other action, the

council;

- voted 6-0 to set a meeting date on the authorization of a \$1.7 million Water Revenue Capital Loan agreement

- voted 6-0 to accept Avenue E from Vica Lane to 33rd Street

- voted 5-1 to accept improvements made in the Woodland Heights subdivision Phase 1.

Morawitz voted against the measure after a lengthy discussion where he asked for a five-year performance bond on the sewer lines that were installed on the project. Currently the city has a maintenance guarantee from Greenoak Development on the sewer improvements.

- voted 7-0 on appointments of Corey Fraise to the Planning and Zoning Commission, David Soppe to the Fort Madison Housing Authority and Brian Wright to the Fort Madison Tourism Commission, Merlin Hellman to the Southeast Iowa Regional Riverboat Commission and Loren "Andy" Andrews and Dan Reppert to the city's Historic Preservation Commission.

OBITUARIES

GERALD L. STROMBERG

Gerald L. Stromberg, 81, of Ft. Madison passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on Tuesday, December 26, 2017 at 11:25 AM at the Ft. Madison Community Hospital.



STROMBERG

He was born on June 23, 1936 in St. Paul, MN to Selma Stromberg. On April 23, 1960 he married Carolyn Hjelle in Newfolden, MN. Gerald worked for Armour Dial and retired in June 1999 after thirty three years of service. He served

in the US Marines during the Korean Conflict and was stationed in Korea, Japan and Hawaii. Gerald loved tinkering on old cars. He enjoyed playing cards and was an active member of the Newberry Center. Gerald's greatest love was spending time with his family.

Survivors include his wife, Carolyn Stromberg of Ft. Madison; three daughters, Roxanne (Jesse) Puga of Ft. Madison, Rhonda (Richard) Mueller of New London and Ronica (Lloyd) Kettelhake of Lincoln, NE; seven grandchildren and two great granddaughters. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers and one sister.

Friends called after 2 PM on Thursday, December 28, 2017 at King-Lynk Funeral Home where the family met with friends from 4-6 PM. The funeral service was held at 1:30 PM at King-Lynk Funeral Home on Friday, December 29, 2017 with Rev. Dean Graber officiating. Military rites were conducted by the Ft. Madison Veterans Honor Guard. Burial will be in Soldiers' Circle, Oakland Cemetery.

A memorial has been established in his memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.



VERNE E. MARSH

Verne E. Marsh, 80, of Ft. Madison passed away on Friday, December 29, 2017 at 5:25 AM at the Keosauqua Health Care Center.

He was born on May 29, 1937 in Ft. Madison to Edward and Erla Yeager Marsh. On April 9, 1982 he married Patricia Bugund in Colorado Springs, CO. Verne worked at Cranden's paper mill for forty nine years and also farmed.

Survivors include his wife, Patty Marsh of Ft. Madison; two daughters, Virginia Soppe of Ft. Madison and Gina Marsh of Dallas City, IL; one son, Mike Marsh of Ft. Madison and six grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Curtis and a brother, Edwin.

Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and there will be no formal services at this time. Burial will take place in Lost Creek Cemetery. Online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

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Obituaries

THOMAS LEE WALKER

Thomas Lee Walker, 74, of Nauvoo, Illinois passed away at 9:13 a.m. Thursday, December 28, 2017 in the emergency room at Unity Point Health Center in Keokuk, Iowa.



WALKER

Born July 2, 1943 in Fort Madison, Iowa the son of I. Harvey and June E. (Salisbury) Walker. Tom graduated from Nauvoo-Colusa High School and Western Illinois University. On June 22, 1963 he married Martha Annette Baxter in Nauvoo, Illinois. She preceded him in death on July 26, 2012.

Survivors include three children: Deborah (Jim) Tulpa of Milford, Michigan, Thomas "Greg" (Mitzi) Walker of Seffner, Florida and Todd (Lisa) Walker of San Antonio, Texas; five grandchildren: Jared (Katherine) Walker of St. Petersburg, Florida, Jeremy Walker of Florida State University, Sydney Walker of Seffner, Florida, Lauren Tulpa of Milford, Michigan and Gabrielle Walker of San Antonio, Texas and one great-grandson: Beckett Walker of St. Petersburg, Florida. Also surviving is his special friend: Sue Ann Schmitz of Nauvoo, Illinois and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife: Martha and one brother: Eldon Walker.

Tom attended Nauvoo Presbyterian Church and Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church. He was a member of the Nauvoo Historical Society. He enjoyed golfing, drawing and reading.

The family received friends from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday, January 1, 2018 at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Nauvoo, Illinois.

A funeral service was held at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church with Pastor Mark Anderson and Father Thomas Szydlak as celebrants.

Burial will be at the Thornber Cemetery in Powellton, Illinois.

In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established in his memory for Thornber Cemetery.

Schmitz Funeral Homes is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

GARY LEE GONTERMAN

Gary Lee Gonterman, 69, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 12:52 p.m. on Thursday, December 28, 2017 at his home. He was born on August 1, 1948 in Ottumwa, IA to Earl G. & Lorena E. Davis Gonterman. He married Sharon Launer Henshaw on July 3, 1986 in Fort Madison, IA. He retired from the J.I. Case Company in Burlington, IA in 2004. He enjoyed spending time with his wife, his family & his cocker spaniel, Lacey. He like to cook over an open fire, making homemade pizza for his family, camping, (drinking a little beer), and rebuilding old cars.



GONTERMAN

Gary is survived by: his wife: Sharon Gonterman of Fort Madison, IA; 1-son: Brian Joel Gonterman of Fort Madison, IA; 2-granddaughters: Heather & Kala; 1-great grandson: Maverick; 1-brother: Larry (DeMaris) Burch of Burlington, IA; 2-sisters in law: Sheila Hawk of Warsaw, IL & Cindy (Joe Wayne) Heathcott of Newbern, TN; 1-brother in law: Russell (Hilda) Launer of Warsaw, IL; his father in law: Leo Launer of Warsaw, IL and several nieces & nephews. He was preceded in death by: his parents, 1-brother: Earl Gonterman Jr., his mother in law: Norma Jean Launer & 1-brother in law: Andy Launer.

Cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and no services are planned. Online condolences to Gary's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

MARJORIE DOLORES MEIEROTTO

Marjorie Dolores Meierotto, 100, of West Point, Iowa, passed away at 1:20 p.m. Thursday, December 28, 2017 at the West Point Care Center in West Point, Iowa.

Born May 13, 1917 in West Point, Iowa the daughter of John and Elizabeth "Lily" (Krieger) Peitz. On September 30, 1940 she married Irvin Meierotto at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point, Iowa. He preceded her in death on August 24, 1996.

Survivors include one son: Ron (Sharon) Meierotto of Donnellson, Iowa; three daughters: Linda (Greg) Wilbert of Fort Madison, Iowa, Jane (Gary) Michael of Wayland, Iowa and Mary Lu (Mike) Menke of Donnellson, Iowa; two son-in-laws: Bill (Linda) Pidgeon of Houghton, Iowa and Marvin McGregor of West Point, Iowa; eleven grandchildren: Jen Ogle, Pam McQuade, Kim Pidgeon, Chris (Jenni) Pidgeon, Brian (Lori) Wilbert, Tonya Booten, Jeff (Gina) Crabtree, Clover Farmer, Angie (Scanlon) Daniels, Wendy (Tim) Vonderhaar and Kerri (Jeff) Phelps; twenty two great-grandchildren; two sister-in-laws: Barb Peitz and Darlene Denz; two brother-in-laws: Cyril Meierotto and Frances Meierotto and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband: Irvin; two sons in infancy; two daughters: Juanita Pidgeon and Janet McGregor; three grandchildren in infancy; one sister: Martha Laverne Meierotto and one brother: Charles Peitz.

Marjorie was a 1934 graduate of St. Mary's High School. She worked at Sheaffer Pen for over twenty years as a production inspector. She was a member of St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point, the Altar and Rosary Society of the church and St. Ann's Circle Daughters of Isabella. Marjorie enjoyed reading, sewing, camping, gardening, baking, playing cards, dogs and especially spending time with her family at gatherings.

Friends called at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at the Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point and the family received friends from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. that evening. A Parish Rosary was recited at 3:30 p.m. and a Christian Wake Service was held at 5:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

A Memorial Mass was held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point with Father Dennis Hoffman as celebrant.

Burial will be at the Calvary Cemetery in West Point.

A memorial has been established in her memory to St. Mary's Catholic Church or the P.A.W. Animal Shelter.

Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

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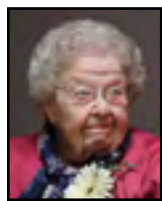
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Obituaries/Classifieds

IRMADEAN "DEE" A. (FOERING) MEIROSE

Irmadean "Dee" A. (Foehring) Meirose, 86, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 7:26 a.m. on Wednesday, December 27, 2017 at Fort Madison Community Hospital. She was born on April 16, 1931 in Mt. Pleasant, IA to Chester & Anna Mae Volger Cazey.



MEIROSE

She married Allan D. Meirose on July 27, 1974 in Fort Madison, IA. She worked at Sheaffer Pen, Jimbo's Super Value and lastly at the Iowa State Liquor Store, retiring in 1990. She enjoyed Facebook, keeping up with her friends on her computer and hearing about her grandchildren.

Dee is survived by: her husband: Allan Meirose of Fort Madison, IA; 1-son: Michael P. (Jeanne) Foehring of Braddyville, IA; 1-daughter: Patricia (Jim) Foehring Brady of Neligh, NE; 2-step daughters: Roxanne (Tom) Payne of Hinton, MO & Nancy (Wayne) Royer of Macomb, IL; 6-grandchildren; 11-great grandchildren; 1-great great grandson; 1-sister: Betty Kirkhart of Cantril, IA and several nieces & nephews. She was preceded in death by: her parents, first husband: W. Paul Foehring, 2-grandchildren, 1-sister & 1-niece.

Cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The family will receive friends from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 13, 2018 with the memorial service to immediately follow at 2:00 p.m. all at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. Burial will follow at Sacred Heart Cemetery. A memorial has been established for St. Jude's Children's Hospital and may be sent to Allan Meirose, 1401 Avenue D, Fort Madison, IA 52627. Online condolences to Dee's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

LESTER EARL HAWTHORNE

Lester Earl Hawthorne, 69, of Farmington, Iowa, passed away at 4:57 P.M. Monday December 25, 2017 at his home.

Born February 8, 1948 at Fairfield, Iowa the son of Earl B. and Enid Pearson Hawthorne. On June 7, 1970 at Fairfield, Iowa he married Cathy Wixom.

Survivors include his wife Cathy of Farmington, one daughter Heather Hawthorne of Fort Madison, Iowa. One son Heath (Amy) Hawthorne of Fort Madison, Iowa.



HAWTHORNE

Grandchildren Coty (Kasey) Miller, Clayton Craig, Sammy Craig, Ophelia Craig and Brooklyn Harvey.

One brother David Hawthorne of Farmington. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister Sharon Stone.

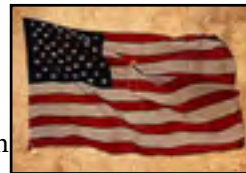
Lester was a United States Army Veteran serving during the Vietnam era. He was a member of the Farmington American Legion Post #236 and the National Rifle Association. He retired from the Iowa State Penitentiary in 2010. Lester enjoyed golfing, hunting, target shooting, working on cars and drag racing. Lester loved his family especially his grandbabies.

Friends called after 1:00 P.M. Dec. 29 at the Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington where the family met with friends from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 A.M. Saturday December 30, 2017 at the First Baptist Church in Farmington with Pastor Chad Welch officiating.

Burial with full military rites by the Farmington American Legion was held in the Greenglade Cemetery in Farmington.

The Schmitz Funeral Home of Farmington assisted the family with arrangements. Online condolences to the family may be left at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.



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From the Front/Weather

County traffic deaths down 10 in 2017

2018 - Continued from Page 1

department and the numbers bear that out. He said one of the things the department tracks is contacts under, what he calls, grant periods.

Grant periods are the periods of time of traffic enforcement that are paid for with money the department receives from the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau.

"In the six month grant period in 2016 we had 240 contacts," Conlee said. "In the same time in 2017 we had 1,400 contacts. Those are traffic stops where we make contact with a motorist just on traffic enforcement. That doesn't include any other data."

Weber said GTSB officials came down to Lee County after the 2016 election and said, 'You've had 13 fatalities this year. What are you going to do, and what can we do

to help you?'

"They can only give you so much money, but that's what I told them we needed and that's what they did," Weber said. "This year so far we've had three. And that's three too many. So we increased our presence on the street and when you do that, eventually you end up with a higher inmate population."

He said those contacts result in suspended drivers, warrants, and other violations that result in jail time. Weber said he prefers to be on the street than at his desk and when he's on the street he's always monitoring motorists.

"I always run radar," he said. "And so does Chief Deputy Conlee. So if I got ya speeding, you're gonna have a conversation with the sheriff about your driving. And if I think your windows are tinted too dark, I'm gonna pull you over and we're gonna have a chat."

The increased traffic stops have pushed the inmate populations at Lee County Jail from approximately 73 inmates per day before he took office, to about 90 per day, with many days over 100.

Due to that increase, Weber went to the board and asked for additional help, spurred by an incident in the fall where a combative inmate wouldn't cooperate with instructions of the correctional officer on duty and a fight ensued. The officer got control of the situation, but no help was available during the incident. Lee County supervisors approved hiring two additional staff and are looking at allowing two more in the upcoming budget session.

While campaigning for the position, Weber said the people of the county told him they wanted a K-9 presence on the department, so Weber made that a campaign promise to bring a K-9 officer onto the staff.

A committee was formed by volunteer citizens including animal advocates, former law enforcement officers, liaisons with the Iowa State Penitentiary K-9 team, and county residents. In a matter of just a few months, enough money had been raised privately to purchase, train and equip a K-9 officer. In fact, the county residents were so supportive that enough funds were raised to bring in two officers and in less than 11 months, the department now has two functioning K-9 officers on staff. Deputies Uriah Wheatley and Dakota Foley are the animal handlers.

"What tickled me was how fast the community got behind us. In just several weeks we exceeded our goal and not just for the dogs, but the equipment," Weber said. "The community just came out and backed us 100%. And the deputies who stepped up to be K-9 offi-

cers - the public needs to realize that this just isn't an 8-4 gig. These animals live with the deputies and the things they're tasked with just don't end at the end of a shift."

Training has also been ramped up in 2017. Weber said he asked a deputy to write down some thoughts on the year and where the department was headed.

"I've never seen so many guys gone for training like this before," Weber read from the letter. "There's been a change in morale for the department as a whole and people are now wanting to leave where they are and come work here."

Another accomplishment for the department for this year is creating a rapid response team. Conlee said the program is still in the beginning stages, but about six deputies have gone through initial training for the program. Weber said Fort Madison and Keokuk police departments have tactical response teams but only a couple deputies have been involved in that, so the department decided to build one internally.

Weber said the R.R.T. will develop further in 2018, a year he says will be time to build on the programs already created.

Conlee said it's been a whirlwind of a year.

"It's flown by, that's for sure. When the Sheriff asked me to be the Chief Deputy, I started thinking about the things I wanted to see changed from the patrol side and that was first and foremost the outdated equipment we had in our vehicles," Conlee said. "I knew we were going to increase proactive patrols, but in order to do that, they had to do it safely and that's why we went to new cameras and car video systems."

Twelve new body cameras and six new video systems have also been purchased and put in place to supplement what was already in place. Weber said the devices aren't for "Big Brother".

"The camera system wasn't for Big Brother, but so those guys knew that we cared about them enough to go get the best equipment there is, because that may be the only witness to their murder," he said.

Weber said he hopes to build on the programs that have already started and doesn't see adding much more new to the department in 2018.

"We've got a lot going on right now and next year I really just want to see what these programs do. A work in progress comes to mind on the things that have taken place," he said.

"We also want to be even more visible, even though I think we've taken huge strides this year in being seen more."

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 04 Jan



Clear Skies

High - (4.6°) F | Low - (14.9°) F

FRI 05 Jan



Clear Skies

High - (6.3°) F | Low - (29.1°) F

SAT 06 Jan



Light Snow

High - 14.6 F | Low - (3.8°) F

SUN 07 Jan



Light Snow

High - 32.8° F | Low - 18° F

MON 08 Jan



Light Snow

High - 13.5° F | Low - 2.8° F

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