



Pen City Current

Wednesday, April 3, 2019 | 8 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 84

No new elementary...again

Wondra says measure probably won't be put to voters again anytime soon

• Menke, Steffensmeier elected to school board

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – For the fourth time in almost as many years, Fort Madison School district voters have shot down an attempt to build a new elementary school.

Results from the Tuesday night special election on the issue of building a \$30 million Prek-3rd grade elementary building near the current middle school on Bluff Road failed to meet the state-mandated 60% +1 supermajority.

Voters cast 58.13% of the votes in favor of the new construction. It's the third time in as many years a majority of voters in the district did want the new school built.

Fort Madison School Board President Tim Wondra said he doesn't see the current school board putting the issue back in front of voters.

"Yeah, I don't foresee it coming back on the ballot anytime in the near future," Wondra said Tuesday night.

"We tried to listen to the community. They didn't want ball fields and we took that off. They wanted more focus on traffic and we addressed that. No matter what we did it didn't change anything."

Fort Madison Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater agreed with Wondra's assessment.

"I would agree with that statement. Like I've said, the board made as many changes as possible with the ball fields, traffic, and its impact to the site for access and egress which the community was vocal about," she said.

"We changed architecture firms, hired a construction manager so we had added expertise. No other adjustments we could have made and the current board doesn't see any additional changes they could make."

Votes totaled 3,296 on the issue with 1,916 in favor of the new school and 1,380 voted against it for a 58.13% approval.

The numbers are strikingly similar to the fall election that failed with just over 59% of the vote in favor of the new building. Voter turnout was about 250 heavier than the April 2018 bond election.

See REFERENDUM, page 8



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Fort Madison Public Library was full of activity on Tuesday as voters cast their ballot for a new \$30 million elementary building and two new school board members. The referendum failed with only 58% of the vote in favor of the building.

FM man succumbs to injuries from Thursday fire

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The man pulled from a burning building by Fort Madison firefighters early Thursday evening has died as a result of injuries.

According to a release from the Fort Madison Police Department Tuesday morning, 32-year-old Hamilton Parker, of Fort Madison died at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Saturday.

The cause of the fire that broke out at about 6:30



PARKER

p.m. Thursday at 1121 Avenue E, is still under investigation by the State Fire Marshall.

Firefighters and emergency responders began performing CPR on Parker after being pulled from the home. He was taken to Fort Madison Community Hospital and then transferred to Iowa

City.

An autopsy has been ordered to determine the cause of Parker's death.

County files injunctions against Powdertown residents

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE – Lee County Attorney Ross Braden has filed four injunctions against property owners in the Mooar-Powdertown district for failing to upgrade septic systems as required by code.

At Tuesday's regular Lee County Board of Supervisors' meeting, Rosa Haukedahl, outgoing program director for Lee County Health Department's Environmental Ser-

vices, said in addition to the four injunctions currently with the courts, seven other properties could face injunctions in the future, but county officials are working with them to get systems upgraded.

Haukedahl announced she was leaving the Lee County Health Department for a job with the Iowa Department of Inspection and Appeals.

She said one of the Mooar-Powdertown properties is on a purchase agreement that will close in April, which

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Obituaries/Lee County News

OBITUARIES

HAMILTON E. PARKER

Hamilton E. Parker, 32, of Ft. Madison passed away on Saturday, March 29, 2019 at 4:20 PM at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

He was born on January 22, 1987 in Milwaukee, OR to David and Brenda Duncan Parker. Hamilton formerly worked at Gleasons. He loved music, singing and was always writing lyrics. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends.



PARKER

Survivors include his Mom, Brenda Parker of Ft. Madison; his dad, David Parker of Ft. Madison; four brothers, Jake Parker of Klamath Falls, OR; Zach Pender of Portland, OR, Doug Crawford and Brian Crawford of Estacada, OR and; one sister, Vicki Blevens of Portland, OR; maternal grandfather, Melvin Duncan of Stronghurst, IL; aunts, uncles, a nephew, Trenton and a niece, Savannah. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, maternal grandmother and a brother, Joshua Pender.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2019 at the Moose Lodge from 11 AM until 2 PM with words of spiritual healing from Brother Don Culp at 1 PM

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

Keokuk teen killed in bicycle mishap

PCC STAFF

KEOKUK – A 14-year old from Keokuk has been killed as a result of an accident involving a motor-vehicle and a bicycle Monday evening.

According to the Keokuk Police Department, Brandon Scott Fitzgerald of Keokuk was killed when he hit the pavement after he was riding his bicycle and holding on to a 2012 Chevy Impala driven by an adult male, who has not been identified.

As Fitzgerald was being pulled by the bicycle, he fell off the bike and landed on the concrete.

First responders admin-

istered aid at the scene and then Fitzgerald was taken by Lee County EMS ambulance to Unity Point Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The investigation into the incident is ongoing and the Keokuk Police Department is asking for the public's help. Anyone who witnessed the incident or has information regarding the incident should call Capt. Kevin Church at 319-524-3131.

According to an Iowa State Patrol accident report, which has Fitzgerald's age listed at 15, the Impala and Fitzgerald were southbound on South 7th Street near the intersection of K Street. The two

made contact resulting in the bicyclist falling from the bike.

Grief counselors have been made available to students and staff in the Keokuk School system.

The Impala was discovered in Fort Madison Monday and the driver has been identified, but no arrests were included in the press release this morning.

Assisting in the investigation was the Keokuk Fire Department, Lee County EMS, Lee County Medical Examiner, Lee County Attorney's Office, Fort Madison Police, Lee County Sheriff's Department, and the Iowa State Patrol.

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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.

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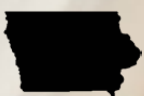
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Current-Lee/Lottery Numbers

CURRENT-LEE

LCHD Hospice Volunteer Training

Training will take place on four Tuesday evenings starting April 2 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at LCHD office. No fee for the training sessions, which are open to the public. To register call 319-372-5225.

HTC Presents Little Shop of Horrors

Holy Trinity Catholic presents Little Shop of Horrors this Friday & Saturday, April 5 & 6 at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 7 at 3:00 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Shottenkirk Gymnasium. Admission is \$5 with children 10 & under being admitted for free. Tickets are available at Holy Trinity Catholic High School or at the door.



FMAAA Expressions Art Auction

The annual fundraiser for the Fort Madison Area Arts Association is set for April 6, at 6:30 p.m. at the Quality Inn & Suites in Fort Madison.

Glo Crazy for Education 5K

The Glo Crazy for Education 5K run will take place April 6th beginning at 8 p.m. at Baxter Sports Complex in Fort Madison. Registration begins at 6:30 and refreshments are available at the Sports Complex after the run. Fort Madison Service Clubs Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary and FMHS Key Club organize the event. To register click here: <https://www.pencitycurrent.com/2019glorun/>

FMHS Boosters Spring Craft Show

The boosters will hold their annual spring craft show will be held April 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the FMHS gym and MPR. More than 70 vendors have signed up for this years show.

Senior Community BINGO

Each month on the second Wednesday of the month, The Kensington hosts Senior Community BINGO at 2 p.m. in their dining room at 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. All seniors are welcome and cash prizes are awarded.

Fort Madison Community Clean up

The Fort Madison Chamber will be holding it's annual Community Clean up on Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m. to noon. with registration at Central Park. Free lunch will follow in the park. Call the Chamber at 372-5471 to register and for details.

Caregivers Connection

The Kensington hosts this monthly gathering to help educate attendees about all dementia types. Held at noon the 4th Tuesday of every month in The Kensington's private dining room, 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. Call 319-372-4233 to RSVP or for more information.

Sports Complex Auction, Social Tour

The 2nd annual event will be held on April 27, 2019 beginning at 1 p.m. at the complex with transportation by SEIBUS. Dinner will follow by Fat Jimmy's Smokehouse and the auction begins at 7 p.m.

Salute to Small Business Breakfast

The Fort Madison Chamber will be holding it's annual Salute to Small Business Breakfast on Thursday, May 9 beginning at 7:30 a.m at Quality Inn & Suites.


Soroptomist Princess Tea Party

The annual Princess Tea Party is set for Saturday, May 11th at Quality Inn & Suites in Fort Madison. Ages 3-5 will attend from 10 a.m. to noon, while 6 and up will attend from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Registration deadline is April 5. For more information email Dr. Lauri Wondra at laurisorop@gmail.com.

Jack Morris Memorial Golf Outing

The annual Fort Madison Chamber Golf outing will be held June 14, 2019. Sponsorships are available. Contact Fort Madison Partners at 319-372-5471 for more details.

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4/1
9 19 22 33 41
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4/1 EVENING
4 6 0



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From the Front/Classifieds

Board approves new county employee health care plan

BOARD - Continued from Page 1

will allow the new owners six months to install a septic system. Three residents have acquired permits in 2017 but didn't do any work. The county extended those permits for a year and now those are expired.

One person did come forward and get a permit for the work to be done, she said. There were also two systems that were installed in 2017, but those are failing so the county is working with those property owners to get those rectified.

Braden said residents will have 20 days to respond to the injunctions and then 10 additional days before they go into default. The residents must file an answer to the court whether they agree or disagree with the claims. If the residents hire attorneys, Braden said it would be argued in court and if the county is successful in its argument, a court order could be issued, which could result in displacement of the residents.

"We're asking for a permanent injunction from them essentially being able to continue to reside there without an approved sewage system," Braden said. "We're also requesting civil damages for their failure to comply and their continued contamination of that area."

According to court documents, one of the residents issued an injunction died in 2017.

He said the two with failing systems may be treated differently because the owners have retained attorneys and the situations have gotten bad.

A program was started in 2016 to get 38 homeowners with unpermitted septic systems to have upgraded or new systems installed. The effort began when the Iowa Department of Natural Resources told Lee County that Chatfield Lake, located in the township, was contaminated and had to be cleaned up. DNR officials at one point threatened the county with fines of up to \$25,000 per day if efforts weren't undertaken to get the district and lake cleaned up.

In an unrelated issue, the board approved a second health care option for county employees. The new Health Savings Account compatible option would put \$100 per month into a savings account for county employees with single policies and \$200 per month for family policies. The accounts would be used to cover qualified medical expenses in a plan with higher deductibles.

The employees would also be able to contribute additional funds tax-free into the account, which at retire-

ment age could be treated as a retirement account with no penalties for withdrawals at age 65. Tax, however, would be assessed at that point.

With the HSA option, employees would pay for prescription and office copays until the deductibles are met, which would be \$3,000 for a single and \$6,000 for a family. Employees would also have the option of staying on the current plan with no changes.

Employee premiums would stay the same on both policy options.

In other action, the board:

- approved, 5-0, the state-mandated five-year road plan.
- approved, 5-0, selling the county shed in Argyle with the structure in tact rather than tearing the shed down and selling the lot.
- approved, 4-1, to continue a voluntary wellness program through Health Solutions for the county employees. Employees save \$600 per year in health insurance premiums if they participate. Board Chairman Gary Folluo voted against the measure citing the \$600 incentive served as a penalty to those that chose not to participate in the program.
- approved, 5-0, a proposal from Calhoun-Burns and Associates for on-call structural engineering services.

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Sports/Education News

Mick Pickford freestyle wrestling tourney at FMHS on April 13

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The 49th annual Mick Pickford Freestyle wrestling tournament is set for Saturday, April 13th at the Fort Madison High School.

A new novelty to this year's event will be custom Mick Pickford Fight Shorts designed by Compound Sportswear. The champion of each weight class will be awarded the fight shorts and a medal.

Medals will also be awarded for 2nd and 3rd places in each weight class.

The tournament is open to middle school wrestlers from grades 6th-8th in 15 weight classes beginning at 71 lbs.; high school wrestlers in grades 9-12 in 14 weight classes starting at 106 lbs. There is also an open division from wrestlers beyond high school in eight weight classes starting at 135 lbs.

Entry fee is \$20 for those pre-registered by Friday,

April 12 at 10 p.m. Registration is \$30 beyond that date at the door no mail ins are permitted. Registration can be done at trackwrestle at the following link: <https://www.trackwrestling.com/registration/BasicPreReg1.jsp?tournamentGroupId=129820132&TIM=1554239258684&twSessionId=xpvlrpbdr>.

A USA Wrestling card is required and may be purchased at <http://www.usawmembership.com>.

Weigh-ins for all classes will take place at FMHS's wrestling room on Saturday, April 13, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. The tournament is sponsored by the Pickford Wrestling Club and is governed by the 2019 International Freestyle Rules. Membership in USA Wrestling is mandatory and cards must be presented to participate.

For more information, contact Ryan Smith at Fort Madison High School by email at ryan.smith@fmcsd.org.

Barr medalist at HTC dual golf meet

Crusaders down two-man Danville team at Sheaffer

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Holy Trinity Catholic's Josh Barr carded a 47 on the front nine at Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course Monday in a dual meet with Danville.

Barr put together a string of pars on holes 6-8 to edge fellow Crusader Kyle Bredemeyer who went out with a 48 for runnerup at the meet.

Danville's Weston Briggs shot a 49 for 3rd place followed by HTC's Trevor Mohrfeld and Danville's Taran Nelson who both shot a 52 for 4th place on the par 36 front nine.

The Crusaders won the meet finishing with a 207 team score which is calculated by adding the scores of the top four place finishers from each school. Danville had just two golfers and didn't figure into the team scoring.

Other golfers for HTC included Brandon Delaney – 60, Rhett Fullhart – 69, Wyatt Hellman – 75, and Kyle Scheetz – 79.

On Thursday, Holy Trinity finished third at the Keokuk Invitational shooting a 192.

Barr shot a 46 to lead the Crusaders again, followed by Bredemeyer with a 50.

Notre Dame won the event with a 173, followed by Fort Madison's 185, Keokuk's 186, HTC with a 192. Clark Co. had no team score, but competed in the invitational.

SCC to host tech skills throw down

WEST BURLINGTON – On Friday, April 12, Southeastern Community College will host the Southeast Iowa Skills Throwdown. Nearly 90 area high school students will compete for top honors in categories including auto tech, carpentry, welding, and computer-aided design (CAD).

The events are a mix of individual and team competitions. Tasks include building structures from blueprints, making prototypes from predetermined specs, and trouble-

shooting and diagnosing vehicle error codes.

Local industry representatives will judge the projects and examine them for accuracy, proper use of tools, safety, craftsmanship, speed, and layout.

Michelle Randall, SCC's Director of High School Relations, sees the competitions as a great opportunity for the high school students.

"Students have fun going head-to-head with other teens in the area," she said. "These contests let them

showcase their talents in industrial technologies for their teachers, SCC instructors, and local professionals."

CAD instructor Jonathan Gad-dis agrees, sharing that competing at SCC adds another level to the contest.

"The competition allows the teenagers to show off the culmination of the skills they have acquired," he shared. "Competing on a college campus adds to the excitement."

The event starts at 9 a.m. and concludes at 2 p.m.



Clean Home. Clean Planet.

Do your part during this year's Spring Cleaning activities by making sure you're choosing products safe for our planet.

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Education News/Weather

Scholarships open to SCC's summer KidTek U

Registration for June, July camps starts April 16

LEE COUNTY - The Lee County Economic Development Group is now accepting scholarship applications for the annual Kidtek University.

The camps take place at Southeastern Community College in June and

July and are designed for students of all ages. There are standard camps for students in grades 4-6 and advanced camps for grades 7-9.

The cost for the week-long camps is \$179. Registrations for the

summer youth camp begins on April 16 and scholarships begin to be awarded on April 12. There are a limited number of scholarships and camps available.

There are multiple scholarship partners and only one application needs to be completed. Those interested can apply at <https://www.scciowa.edu/scripts/kidtechu/kidtechuapp.asp>.

Results very similar to 2018 bond election

REFERENDUM - Continued from Page 1

"It's pretty close," Wondra said. "It's the same numbers for such an important thing for our kids and community."

Wondra also put out a statement after the results came in.



WONDRA

"I'm very saddened by the results. I want to thank all the people who worked so

hard behind the scenes and those who recognized the need for a new elementary school and continued to vote yes," he said.

"The district will continue to provide the best educational experience we can for all of our students and our teachers will continue do the best they can with the facility limitations they face every

day."

In Precinct 1, voting at the Fort Madison Public Library, the tally was 638 for and 403 against the measure for 61.3%. In Precinct 2, where voting was done at Grace Bible Church, voters broke 179-140 in favor of the building for a 56.1% approval. Precinct 3 voting was done at the West Point Public Library and 219 voted for the measure while 312 voted against it for just a 41.2% approval.

In the 2018 bond election, Precinct 1 came in at 59.7% approval, while Precinct 2 was 55.7% and Precinct 3 was 35.6% in favor of the new building. Absentee approval was higher in that election at 67.3%.

Absentee ballots this time around came in 880 for and 525 against for a 62.6% approval. The absentee ballots also included the satellite voting locations that were held on consecutive Fridays prior to the election.

"The Fort Madison Community School District is thankful for the work that is done each and every day for students in our district. We are extremely disappointed, however, at the failure of

the elementary school bond referendum," Slater wrote in a prepared statement.

"With less than the required 60% super majority approval, the Fort Madison Community School District finds itself unable to move forward in providing the type of educational facilities required for the demands of today's teaching and learning standards."

Also on the ballot were two open school board

seats. The seats currently held by Brian Steffensemeier and Joshua

Wykert had to be placed on the ballot because they both were appointed to fill vacancies.

Steffensmeier replaced Jillian Troxel when she left the district. Joshua Wykert replaced Gayla Young after she died in January.

Steffensmeier and Brad Menke will take seats on the board with Steffensmeier garnering 2,232 votes and Menke getting 1,720 votes. Wykert was third in the voting with 965 votes.



SLATER

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COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION SERIES

FORT MADISON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Does CBD Oil Really Work?

There has been a lot of talk about CBD (Cannabidiol) oil. The non-intoxicating marijuana extract is being credited with helping treat a host of medical problems -- everything from epileptic seizures to anxiety to weight loss to sleeplessness. Cannabidiol oil is extracted from the buds and flowers of marijuana or hemp plants.

We invite you to join us as Dr. Amy Huber explores what CBD oil is, whether these claims are hype or reality, and most importantly the safety of using CBD oil.

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

5:30 - 6:30 pm

FMCH Conference Rooms

Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, please call 376-2244.

Presented by:

Dr. Amy Huber
Family Practice



Dr. Huber is a Board Certified Family Practitioner. She completed her residency at Eastern Tennessee State University after receiving her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Degree from Des Moines University.

"The most rewarding aspect about being in health care is having the ability to take what I have learned, and use it to help people understand their symptoms or medical problems. I am lucky enough to have attained an education that can be used to help make other people's days a little brighter."



Lack of eye contact is a sign of autism. Learn the others at autismspeaks.org/signs.

AUTISM SPEAKS

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

WED 03 Apr



Light Rain
High- 56.2° F | Low - 47.0° F

THU 04 Apr



Light Rain
High- 54.8° F | Low - 49.9° F

FRI 05 Apr



Mostly Sunny
High- 60.7° F | Low - 50.7° F

SAT 06 Apr



Mostly Sunny
High- 68.2° F | Low - 63.1° F

SUN 07 A



Overcast
High- 58.1° F | Low - 57.0° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)