



# Pen City Current

Thursday, June 8, 2017 | 6 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 141

## New subdivision may get water booster

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A subdivision being constructed north of Bluff Road will get a new water booster station from the city pending a development agreement with the developer.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Fort Madison City Council, the council approved

a recommendation from City Manager David Varley to spend \$300,000 to build the booster station that is needed to provide adequate water pressure to the Woodlands Heights subdivision. Varley said typically this cost is born out by the developer, in



VARLEY

this case Mike Mohrfeld. However, Mohrfeld is looking for city to pay for the station as part of an incentive package, according to Varley's recommendation.

Typical developments of this type have a tax increment financing component included in the development agreements with the governmental bodies, in this case the city of Fort Madison. Chapter 403 of the

Iowa code gives cities and counties the authority to create TIF districts.

In a nutshell, TIF is a method of reallocating property tax revenues which are produced as a result of an increase in taxable valuation above a base valuation figure within in the TIF district, which would be the subdivision.

See **BOOSTER**, page 3

## AEA taps 3 finalists

BY PCC STAFF

BURLINGTON - The Great Prairie Area Education Agency Board of Directors has announced three finalists for the position of the chief administrator. Tim Kuehl, Nathan Wood, and Cindy Yelick were chosen from a field of 17 applicants to be interviewed on Thursday, June 8. Finalists will be interviewed by three groups: GPEEA Administrators, local Superintendents, and the Board of Directors.

Tim Kuehl is currently superintendent at Clear Creek Amana Community School District in Oxford. He has previously held positions as superintendent and elementary principal at Gladbrook-Reinbeck; middle school principal at Forest City; high school principal and curriculum director at Allamakee; and elementary principal and curriculum director at Manson-NW Webster.

Nathan Wood is currently a regional director at Great Prairie AEA. He has previously held positions as middle school/high school principal and PK-12 special education director at Pekin Community Schools and PK-6 assistant principal/school administration manager at Sigourney.

Cindy Yelick is currently deputy chief ad-

See **FINALISTS**, page 3

## Group forms to discuss Ave. G

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A group of about nine downtown business members representing about five businesses have started the task of looking into recommendations for the city when new sewers are put under Avenue G.

The group is looking for additional downtown business members to contribute to the group as they make recommendations to the city when the streets and sidewalks are replaced.

Skip Young, of Dana Bushong Jewelers, said the city has to replace and separate the 140-year-old sewer that currently mixes both sanitary and septic sewer. The EPA is requiring those systems to be separated.

City officials said last

See **MAIN ST.**, page 6

## There IS such a thing as a free lunch

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A line stretched from the cafeteria door to the lunch room with youngsters taking advantage of the Fort Madison Community School District's free summer lunch program.

But program coordinator Linda Martinez said she would like to see the program grow if, for nothing else, to make sure that children in Fort Madison get a healthy lunch during the summer at no cost.

"It's a great program," Martinez said Tuesday after serving about 50 meals to children in line. "We tried different lunches this year trying to have more things the kids like. Years before it was like tacos and those are just a nightmare mess. Every day they will have the main entree and at least one or two vegetables or one or two fruits. But there are always four items on the plate."



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Linda Martinez, the head of the FMCS D Summer Lunch Program, right, serves free meals as part of the program held at the Fort Madison High School's MPR. The program is running now through July 20 from noon to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. No lunches will be served the first week in July.

The meals, again, are free to anyone under 18 years of age and anyone can take advantage of the program. Martinez said if they are from out of town coming to the pool, they can walk right over to the high school and get a free lunch. The meals also come with a choice of white or chocolate milk.

Martinez and her assistant, Tracy Glasscock,

serves and prepares all the meals for program.

The Summer Lunch Program is served at the Fort Madison High School cafeteria from 11 a.m to 12:30 p.m. through Thursday this week. Beginning next week, lunches will be served from noon to 12:30 p.m. Kids under 18 eat for free. Lunches will be served through July

20th Monday through Thursday. No lunches are served Friday-Sunday and no lunches will be served the first week of July.

The program is federally funded and has been going on for years.

"Mostly it's daycares, which is great, but it's also sad because there are

See **LUNCH**, page 6

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# Sports

## Summer program focuses on multi-sport training

*Doherty aims morning workouts at all athletes*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

At right, Coach Derek Doherty chirps at student-athletes at Wednesday morning's workouts. Above, sophomore Danen Settles works a figure-8 agility drill.

FORT MADISON - There's a sense of something happening here.

The Fort Madison High School athletic programs have a tradition like most schools in terms of your sporadic state champions and championships, the ups and downs of programs, and the revolving coaches.

But something is happening at FMHS with a younger generation of coaches coming in, mixed with some more traditional names, and a supportive administration.

Derek Doherty, an assistant football and wrestling coach, works up a summer athletic enhancement program each year, that on

Wednesday had roughly sixty boys and girls ranging from incoming seniors to as young as sixth graders.

"Well, it was a lot of explaining but we got through it," Doherty said after the 90-minute workouts. "We'll find out in about two weeks who's committed. It's tough

the first couple of weeks because they get sore, but they need to realize the best thing for soreness is movement."

Doherty said the program is a compilation of guidance from several nationally known strength trainers including Chris Doyle, the University of Iowa's Director of Strength

and Conditioning, and Chip Morton, the Cincinnati Bengals strength and conditioning coach.

The student-athletes work the program in about 15 stations in groups of three to four kids. Each rotation is about one minute and the next person in the group does the station workout. After all

in the group have done the station, the whole group runs to the next station. The students work out as a group and run along side each other for encouragement and support.

The program runs all summer with three phases Doherty has set up to maximize the impact.

"We've got it mapped

out for three phases. We do hypertrophy phases for two weeks, then move to a strength phase for four weeks, and then we go to a power phase leading into the season, and then we go into our in-season phase which is just a strength and power phase," he said.

"But this isn't just physical. I think as much as it's physical, it's also a huge mental test. I think they did good today, but they'll get better. We focus on not losing hustle and being able to finish."

Fort Madison Head Wrestling Coach Ryan Smith was one of about seven coaches at the program manning a station.

"I think that AE is such a great opportunity for our student-athletes," said Smith said Wednesday. "Those that commit will see tremendous gains in their performance and will be less likely to get injured. It is not just a luxury anymore, but a necessity to keep up with the other

See **WORKOUT**, page 4

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Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Hot Lotto®	Wed & Sat	8:18 pm	9:40 pm
All or Nothing™ - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:45 pm
All or Nothing™ - Evening	Daily	8:00 pm	8:45 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:50 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	8:00 pm	8:50 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:50 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	8:00 pm	8:50 pm

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Power Play: 3

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Sizzler: 3

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11 15 19 20 22 24  
6/7 EVENING  
1 2 3 6 8 11  
12 14 17 21 23 24

**Pick 3** iowa

6/7 MID-DAY  
2 4 9  
6/7 EVENING  
2 5 6

**Pick 4** iowa

6/7 MID-DAY  
2 0 9 9  
6/7 EVENING  
6 3 4 5

# Obituaries/For the Record

## Agreement could include TIF district

**BOOSTER** - Continued from Page 1

Until the tax increment debt within an area has been repaid, tax revenues produced off the increased valuation of the development are allocated back to the city or county which has established the TIF district.

The city hasn't created a TIF district for the subdivision yet, but according to Varley that may become part of a development agreement with Mohrfeld and the city may be able to recoup the cost of the booster station through those means.

Mark Lair asked if the booster would be large enough to handle further development in the area and Public Works Director Larry Driscoll said it would be.

"In a project like this, generally the contractor is responsible for the infrastructure in the subdivision, which in this case would include the booster station," Varley said.

"We're working on a development agreement for this subdivision which we will bring back to the city council. In that agreement, we hope to have a TIF set up to help pay for the infrastructure and provide some incentives like we did in the previous subdivision. We're hoping in that agreement to have TIF set up so hopefully we can recoup 100% of the cost."

Varley said a normal upgrade of this type that benefits the whole city would come from the water fund, but when the city does something as an incentive, this may allow them to get reimbursed from the TIF revenue that would come back to the city.

"\$300K should not come out of water fund, it's really being done to help the developer with subdivision so that will be worked into the TIF that we will bring back to you for your approval," he said.

In other action,

- the city heard from Nancy Snaadt of Alliant Energy about grants the energy company has paid to city organizations, consumer rebate programs and a 10% rate increase that is being proposed on city utility rates. Alliant is currently in an interim rate increase mode until the Iowa Utility Board rules on Alliant's rate increase.

- the council approved a bid from Your Heat & Air Guy to put a new HVAC unit on the library.

- the council heard from Driscoll that the 15th Street project up is coming along well and next week if all goes well the contractor could be laying concrete.

- the council approved the sale of 1301 Avenue I to James R. Andrews after a public hearing was held on the matter.

- approved a construction contract and bond execution to begin work on the Blackhawk Heights Sanitary Sewer to Meyers Driveway and Septic Service in the amount of \$2.44 million.

## For the Record

### Fort Madison Police report

06/06/17 - 8:09 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1000 block of Avenue F.

06/06/17 - 8:51 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 2200 block of Avenue H.

06/06/17 - 10:42 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1800 block of Avenue I.

06/06/17 - 1:10 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Joshua Adam Bowen, 37 of Wever in the 600 block of Avenue F. on a warrant for aggravated domestic abuse assault. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

06/06/17 - 1:29 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 3400 block of Avenue L.

06/06/17 - 2:35 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Scott Allen Gilman, homeless, on a warrant for forgery. He was taken to the Lee County Jail held.

06/06/17 - 5:33 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the

1700 block of Avenue F. 06/16/17 - 7:10 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1100 block of Avenue E.

### Lee County Sheriff's report

06/06/17 - 6:26 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Old Quarry Road.

A vehicle driven by Julie Alice Dodson, 37, of Wever swerved to avoid a collision with a deer and overturned in a ditch. Dodson was taken to Great River Medical Center for injuries. No citations were issued at the scene.

06/06/17 - 10:20 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Scott Kendall Coursey, 31, of Fort Madison at the Lee County Sheriff's office on a warrant for operating a vehicle while intoxicated. He was released on a promise to appear.

### Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report

06/06/17 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls.

## AEA finalists well versed in Iowa's educational systems

**FINALISTS** - Continued from Page 1

ministrator at Heartland AEA. She has previously held positions as executive director of instructional services, administrator for Iowa Core Curriculum, executive director of teaching & learning and regional coordinator at Heartland AEA; director of early childhood, assessment, and special education and elementary principal at Ames Community Schools; elementary principal at Des Moines Public Schools; director of McPrep Middle School Academy at Drake University; coordinator of Moulton Professional Development School at Des Moines Public Schools; and assistant administrator at Spring Branch ISD in Houston, Texas.

## OBITUARIES

### Robert "Bob" Kempker

Robert "Bob" Kempker, age 84 of Ft. Madison, passed away on Wednesday, June 7, 2017 at 11:20 AM at the Ft. Madison Community Hospital. Arrangements are pending at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory.

## 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 08 Jun



Scattered Clouds

Low - 67.3° F | High - 81.1° F

FRI 09 Jun



Some Clouds

Low - 74.7° F | High - 87.5° F

SAT 10 Jun



Clear Skies

Low - 78.3° F | High - 84.1° F

SUN 11 Jun



Light Rain

Low - 84.8° F | High - 90.3° F

MON 12 Jun



Light Rain

Low - 87.1° F | High - 95.2° F

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## Sports

# Program builds physical, mental strength

**WORKOUT** - Continued from Page 2

schools that offer the same opportunities.”

Andy Mitchell, FMHS’ activities director said the program was up and running before he came and not only is good for the student-athletes but also for the coaches.

“This was a program that started before I got here with previous ADs and coaches,” Mitchell said. “We haven’t tried to reinvent the wheel. We’ve encouraged our coaches and they know that every program needs to have kids that are stronger, more flexible and more explosive. Right now this is the type of coaches we have. They understand the benefits of the program Coach Doherty is running.”

He said FMHS has a strong group of coaches right now.

Right now we have real good rapport amongst our coaches,” he said. “They realize they share so many kids and we push that

multi-sport mentality. They realize that working together is just going to benefit all the programs. We have some real good people as coaches right now. Good guys and ladies and they work to get along and push our kids to do what they need to do.”

Coach Shiffman said this kind of program is somewhat new to him.

“I’m more used to seeing preseason workouts. This is kind of new and different and cool for me,” Shiffman said.

“The really neat thing is it’s not just football training for football, basketball training for basketball, and softball training for softball. Everyone is training for the whole school year. We’re building multi-sport athletes.”

Shiffman said Doherty has created a program that the school should be proud of and it comes from his multi-sport commitment to the school.

“This is his baby and he

should be proud of it. You can really tell from this the ones who are believing. The multi-sport girls are really working and they’re showing the results because they’ve bought into it. We’re just trying to get everyone in there and buying into it,” Shiffman said.

“I got a great comment from Coach Doherty that he’s a multi-sport coach. He’s coached track, tennis, soccer, and is coaching wrestling and football. Coach Smith was out there, Coach Rickelman was out there, Coach Bailey was out there and he was loving every minute of it. These are multi-sport coaches. I think it’s important that we’re out there for our benefit of course, but it’s also important to the kids, seeing that we are believing in it.”

Kent Bailey, who’s been in the FMHS coaching circles for decades and is the current head volleyball, assistant basketball,



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Incoming FMHS senior Elijah Barnes runs with resistance bands and a bag weight Wednesday morning during the school’s Athletic Enhancement program.

and assistant softball coach was also working a station Wednesday.

“Our athletes have talked about wanting to change the culture,” he said. “They are now beginning to realize you have to work for it. It was very encouraging to see the 60-plus kids making a commitment each morning. Twenty-six of those were volleyball players who went to skills training right after athletic enhancement.”

Doherty said he’s sent the program to Doyle at the University and then tweaks the program year-

in and year-out to take advantage of new thinking and technology.

“I’ve worked with Doyle, sent him off our program and he’s been in contact. I’ve got a couple others I communicate with. We went and watched the Bengals guy speak and that was really cool because he not only was working with the million dollar athletes but he was also working with his kid’s high school. I’m constantly doing research and trying to stay relevant and give the kids the best program we can.”

Right now the program

focuses on lifting Monday and Tuesday, agility and speed on Wednesday and then more lifting on Thursday. Fridays are off days for the program.

Mitchell said the basics of the program are the same.

“The core of it is essentially the same. Our coaches show up, you’ll even see our golf coach out here, but today you saw the football, wrestling, volleyball. Brian Mendez runs a similar program for the track kids, but they get going a bit earlier in the day.”

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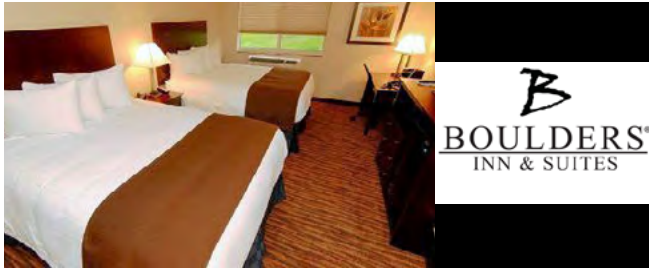
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## From the Front

# Summer meal program open to everyone

**LUNCH** - Continued from Page 1

so many other children out there that could get a free meal.

Martinez said the program served 79 meals Monday in addition to delivered meals in the city.

"We also take sack lunches to HTC child care. And Richardson, for three weeks, will have a summer program that we'll feed there. So about 70 there and 80 here.

Adults are also welcome to come eat at the school and can get the same meal and drink for \$3.50.

"We've had in previous years a couple adults who came three times a day and paid for lunch and some

would just come in and pay and eat with their children or grandchildren," Martinez said.

"This is, like, the 15th year we've done this. It stays pretty much the same. It seems that no matter how much publicity you do, it just doesn't grow a lot. The meals used to be served at the middle school, but when we moved it here we thought with the pool we would serve more people."

Martinez said the district changed the hours this year to start at noon which coincides better with the city pool hours.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The FMHS MPR fills up with children enjoying free lunches on Tuesday.

# Group wants more input

**MAIN ST.** - Continued from Page 1

month that they couldn't put the sewer in on Avenue H due to federal funding guidelines so the project was moved to Avenue G.

"I've been told that we could be looking at a true landscaping change. So now I think is the time to start look at curbs, sidewalks, parking and landscaping," Young said.

He said the city is looking at closing Avenue G from 2nd Street to 10th Street for an undetermined amount of time.

"I was approached to pull together what we wanted as far as street closings. We are here to assume that if we do nothing, we will get the worst treatment possible," Young said.

Young said he was told the project could take place in the next year or two, but Main Street Director Cassie Gilbert indicated she had been told the work wouldn't be done until at least 2020.

Chris Cetta, with Under the Sun, said she's heard of these types of projects and that it can kill a business if it's not handled properly.

Gilbert said she's currently gathering information but there is some time.

"I have talked to the other cities that have had this done. But there is no funding for this right now, the city is still on track for 2020. So we do have time to get a plan together that everybody likes and everyone is happy," Gilbert said.

"Other towns have sent me information on what they've done. Some have done the whole street at one time and others have done block by block by block. In most cases they had to do back alley entrances (during the construction).

The group set July 12 at 5:30 p.m. for the next meeting at the Fort Madison Area Artists Association.



535 Avenue G  
Fort Madison, IA  
319-372-2478  
Mon - Thurs:  
7:30am - 5:30pm  
Friday:  
7:30am - 5:00pm

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