



# Pen City Current

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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

## Down to the foundation

Construction workers continue to pull at the foundation of the former County Market location at the southwest corner of Ave. H and 18th Street. The demolition is part of the new Fareway Grocery that will be erected on the lot in 2017. A spokeswoman for the chain said progress is on schedule, but they are now at the mercy of the weather.

## Fareway progress on schedule

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON -Big moving equipment, trailers and a lot of dirt are taking up about four square blocks on the southwest corner of 18th and H, but it's all in the name of progress.

Fareway Grocery, of Boone, Iowa announced the new opening and broke ground this fall and began demolition right away.

Corporate Outreach and Communications Director, Emily Toribio said work on the site is going well.

"Demolition is nearly complete. All things so far seem to be on schedule with our current timeline," she said. "But clearly we'll be at the mercy of the weather over the next few months, so we'll see how things go this winter."

Demolition crews are removing the entire building and foundation and basi-

*"All things so far seem to be on schedule with our current timeline. But we clearly are at the mercy of the weather over the next few months.."*

-Emily Toribio  
Fareway  
spokeswoman

cally stripping everything down to the earth the former County Market building was built on.

Toribio says there haven't been any snags so far. "Not to my knowledge. We are all good and our hope is to open in the fall," she said.

When asked for an opening date, Toribio said Fareway sets new openings for seasons so they can adjust for any unforeseen circumstances... such as the weather.

"We set it for a season and hope that we can reach that. We'll have something of a more concrete date by late summer.

The building is planned to be 19,000 square feet located at 1820 Avenue H. But Toribio didn't have an idea of how many employees would be hired.

"We leave that up the open interview process and local management team to determine how much of a staff they will need," she said.

"But the store will have our unmatched meat department, great produce and low competitive prices. And we also have our personalized To-Your-Car carryout. We're really excited to be coming to Fort Madison and we're hoping that's reciprocated. It'll be nice to provide for those area residents."

See FAREWAY, page 2

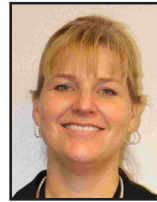
## District owed \$100K in meals

*Write-offs of more than \$60K already posted from 2015-16*

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - After writing off close to \$60,000 in unpaid meal bills at the end of the 2015-16 school year, the district is already \$35K in the hole to start this year.

At Monday's Fort Madison School District School Board meeting, Melaney Slater



SLATER

Quereto the director of the district's food program, advised the board the school district is already behind \$35,000 this year. District Secretary Sandra Elmore confirmed the figure and then reminded the board the figure only represents accounts that are over \$200. Then Elmore reminded the board that the district had just written off \$60K to start the year.

"We wrote it all off and sent those to a collection agency and now we're starting all over and we're already at \$35,000," Elmore said. "And these are typically not our free and reduced lunch people." Superintendent Erin Slater and several board

members said it was important to understand that the district would not deny a child a meal, but the district may have to look at alternative means to offset the unpaid accounts. One idea suggested included having students who have unpaid accounts pick up a separate lunch from the office and then return to the cafeteria. The board took no action on the issue, but was certainly geared up about the continuing loss of revenue.

"This is a hard thing because we don't want any child to go hungry. However, this is essentially \$100k out of our nutrition budget. It's like were enabling people to not pay. I wish we could wave a magic wand and take care of this, but it's just not that easy," said board member Dianne Hope.

"We can't keep writing these amounts off," said board member Gayla Young. "How can your department eat \$100,000?"

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## New PreK-3 building still on board's mind

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison School District continues to set their gaze upon a new elementary school in the

near future.

At Monday's meeting of the district's school board, Superintendent Erin Slater questioned the board on their feelings of moving forward again with placing a bond issue on the ballot.



LAMB

ballot again as soon as

According to state election laws, the district could put the question on the

February, but April, June and September were also options.

Board members were not in favor of the February date as it wouldn't be enough time to address the concerns of those that voted against the issue

earlier this month, when the bond failed with only 49% of the vote. Sixty percent +1 voter was needed to pass the bond, which would have provided \$27 million in funds to build the new PreK-3 building.

Ken Hagen, of DLR the See BOND, page 2

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From the Front

# Board looking at Sept. ballot

**BOND** - Continued from Page 1

architecture firm handling the project, was present at the meeting to answer questions. The board, in a separate discussion did vote to approve a standard agreement between DLR and the district for the next bonding work.

"We had a conference call earlier and talking with DLR, and having some reflections with Tim, we tried to talk

**“**  
*We don't want to lose that momentum that we created with the Kids' Committee and social media and we could start that back up in January.”*

-Erin Slater,  
FMSCD  
Superintendent

about two things; time frame and focus. Do we want to focus on the original bond question or

focus on what we're hearing in our feedback for constituents," Slater said.

Some of these questions are coming up again to expand voter base by adding something additional like fine arts, or some other theater space. And would that create a second bond question.

"As far as a time frame, Feb, April, June, September those are the next opportunities," Slater said. "I was told that there was a strong possibility the (Lee County) Health Dept. could put a bond issue on the ballot in May. That makes it a bit tricky for us because last time we were very close to the courthouse issue. And April would put us close to that bond issue and possibly even June.

"We don't want to lose that momentum that we've already created with the Kids Committee and social media and we could start that back up in January."

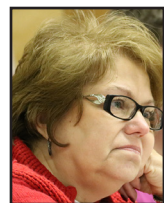
Several members thought September presented concerns.

"My only concern about September is that that's when everyone gets their

tax statements and they're gonna be angry with that," board member Tim Wondra said.

Lamb said you also run into the same problem with April as far as taxes and said September gives the board more time to address other issues.

"Maybe they want to see a bus- ing plan, maybe even a trial bus- ing plan. And then address some of the concerns



HOPE

of it being in flood plain and show them that (the property) is no longer in a flood plain," Board President Timm Lamb said.

"September allows us to answer those questions."

Board member Dianne Hope said she was more inclined to move quicker with the issue.

"I'm concerned about September because we've lost everyone for June, July and August and now it's September and you've got Labor Day and Rodeo and I just hate to lose what momentum we have going."

Slater said September gives her and volunteers on the referendum's 'Kids Committee' time to seek out and address specific voter issues on why they didn't support the new building.

"This will give me time to get out to people who have concerns and talk to them and try to answer the questions they have. I could go out and find those groups, with the Kid's Committee and ask, 'What would it take for you to vote in favor of this,'" Slater said.

She said some of the things people had concerns over included having an auditorium included in the plans, athletic fields and busing issues.

But she said there are still a lot of comments coming in on social media, including on Monday, that can help the district prepare better for a second run at the referendum.

Lamb said he didn't feel the voters rejected the school, but more of the planning and the issues around the building that need to be addressed this time around.



## Kirk/Rump get engaged



Katherine Rump, formerly of Wever, and Lt. Christopher Kirk, USAF, formerly of Burlington, are engaged.

Rump is a 2012 graduate of St. Ambrose University, Davenport Iowa, with a B.A. in Marketing and a Minor in Spanish. She is currently a strategic account associate with the HON Company.

Kirk, is a 2013 graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Col. with a B.S. in Management and a Minor in Spanish. He is currently a lieutenant in the United State Air Force

The wedding has been set for July 2, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. at the USAF Academy Catholic Chapel in Colorado Springs, Col. A reception will be held at Spruce Mountain, in Larkspur, Col., 80118

They couple is hoping to honeymoon on the Greek islands.

Katherine is originally from Wever, Iowa. Her parents are Charles and Rebecca Schroeder Rump. Christopher is originally from Burlington, Iowa. His parents are Steve and Julie Kirk. Katherine and Chris will make their home in Sumter, SC. More information about their wedding is available at <https://www.theknot.com/us/katherine-rump-and-chris-kirk-jul-2017>.

# Grocery brings history of service

**FAREWAY** - Continued from Page 1

**History**

The first Fareway Store opened for business at 624 Story Street in Boone, Iowa, on May 12, 1938. According to the Fareway website at [www.fareway.com](http://www.fareway.com), the first ad featured coffee at 14 cents a pound and a "regular package" of Wheaties for 10 cents.

Fareway's concept of a self-service grocery store was considered revolutionary, allowing shoppers to pick out their own groceries rather than submitting a list

to someone who would package everything for them. Shopping carts were a novelty, referred to as "rubber-tired gliders" that carried shopping baskets.

The name Fareway was originally chosen to convey a "wide range of stock of foods," with the word "fare" meaning food. "Bill of fare" was also the commonly used phrase for "grocery list". The name also symbolized the idea of treating employees and customers fairly-where hard work deserved a fair wage, customers could expect to pay fair prices.

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# For the Record/Local News

## For the Record

### Fort Madison Police Report

12/16/2016 - 1 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to property damage accident in the 2200 block of Hwy. 61.  
 12/16/2016 - 2:03 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a property damage accident at 302nd Avenue and 303rd Avenue.  
 12/16/2016 - 3:20 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a property damage accident at the intersection of 330th Avenue and Hwy. 61.  
 12/16/2016 - 3:30 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue L.  
 12/17/2016 - 1:55 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 300 block of Avenue L.  
 12/17/2016 - 5:43 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 4800 block of Avenue O  
 12/18/2016 - 2:04 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded

to a report of a property damage accident in the 5400 block of Avenue O.  
 12/18/2016 - 8:25 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 700 block of Avenue D.  
 12/18/2016 - 11:06 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Louis Eugene Metcalf III, 28, no address given, on a charge of contempt of court (violation of a no-contact order) - simple misdemeanor. He is being held at the Lee County Correctional Center.  
 12/18/2016 - 11:30 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident on Alta Drive.  
 12/18/2016 - 12:59 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of 12th Street.  
 12/18/2016 - 1:37 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 4200 block of Avenue L.  
 12/18/2016 - 2:00 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit & run at the intersection of 37th

Street and Avenue O.  
 12/18/2016 - 3:13 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 500 block of 8th Street.  
 12/18/2016 - 5:08 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2000 block of 303rd Avenue.  
 12/18/2016 - 6:40 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 500 block of 12th Street.  
 12/18/2016 - 11:29 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident at the intersection of 303rd Avenue and Airport Road.

### Lee County Sheriff's Report

Jerry Myer Caviness, 43, of Alexandria, Mo was arrested by LCSD at 10:43 am on Dec. 16 at the Lee County Jail on charges of Failure to appear/Criminal contempt, Criminal Mischief 2nd-degree and eluding police. He was taken to the

Lee County Correctional Center and released on furlough. Carl Linn Washburn, 43, of Hamilton, IL, was arrested by LCSD at 11:10 a.m. on Dec. 16 in the 90 block of Buchanan Street in Carthage on charges of driving while barred, excessive speed (auto) and failure to yield to 10-33 vehicle. He was taken the Lee County Correctional Center. Beth Ann Lumino, 37, of Westwood Drive, Fort Madison, IA, was arrested at 3:02 p.m. by LCSD at 302nd Avenue/303rd Avenue on charges of 4th degree theft and 5th degree theft. She was jailed at the Lee County Correctional Center and released on bond. Matthew Joe Townsend, 27, of 245th Avenue, Fort Madison was arrested at 12:00 a.m Dec. 17 in the 4800 block of Avenue O on a charge of 5th degree theft. He was jailed at the Lee County Correctional Center and released after paying a fine. Taj Michael Kite, 27, of 195th Avenue, Argyle, IA was arrested at 11:08 p.m. in 2700

block of 295th Avenue, Argyle, IA on charges of 1st-degree harassment. He was jailed at the Lee County Correctional Center and released on bond. David James Kokjohn, 57, of BelAir Drive, West Point, Iowa was arrested at 7:02 p.m. Dec. 18 at the Lee County Sheriff's Department on a judgment entry/mittimus. He was jailed at the Lee County Correctional Center. At 12:59 p.m. on Dec. 16, the Lee County Sheriff's Dept. responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 3000 block of Hwy. 61. A vehicle driven by Byron Keith James, 37, of Hannibal, MO jack-knifed and slid into the ditch due to weather and road conditions. No injuries were sustained. No citations were issued. At 3:20 p.m. on Dec. 16, the Lee County Sheriff's Dept. responded to a one-vehicle accident near the intersection of Iowa 961 and Hwy. 61. Zacharias Crow, 18 of Fort Madison slid on icy roadways and hit a fire hydrant. No

injuries were sustained and no citations were issued. At 1 p.m. on Dec. 16, the Lee County Sheriff's Dept. responded to a one-vehicle accident in the southbound lane in 2200 block of Hwy. 61. Paul Eugene Bell, 20, of Kahoka, Mo., was traveling southbound slid on icy roadways into the ditch. No injuries were sustained. No citations were issued. At 1:27 p.m. on Dec. 16, the Lee County Sheriff's Dept. responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 3000 block of Hwy. 61. Michael Edward Paullin, 48 of Burlington, IA slid on icy road conditions and hit the median. No injuries were sustained. No citations were issued. At 2:27 p.m. on Dec. 16, the Lee County Sheriff's Dept. responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Old Denmark Road and 303rd Avenue. Olivia Joyce Williams, 15, of Denmark, slid on icy road conditions and struck a legally parked vehicle. Williams was charged with failure to maintain control.

## District looking hard at handling overdue meal accounts

**DEBT** - Continued from Page 1

she asked Quereto. "It's like we said, some high school (families) are taking advantage of this."

Board Vice President Tim Wondra said there is no incentive to make district residents who are behind on their meal accounts to pay.

"I'm one that pays full price for meals for my kids. But what's my incentive to keep paying when others don't," Wondra said.

Board President Timm Lamb said it's a sticky situation and needs a specific solution.

"I know we all agree that there's a problem, but we're not sure what the solution is," Board President Timm Lamb said.

Quereto, who's retiring in January, said other schools have programs where students and parents can be called into

the school to address the issue.

"If there is some way that you can fend this off before the student gets in line (to get a meal)... I want there to be as little trauma to the students as possible," Hope said.

At a recent state school board convention, board member Lois DiPrima said that issue was addressed and some schools were putting alternative sack lunches in students' lockers who had substantially overdue meal accounts. DiPrima also asked the board if district employees had overdue accounts, and could wages be garnished to recoup the money. Quereto said the bills would have to be sent to collections first and legal paperwork would have to be drawn up.

"Once we start gar-

nishing wages, that's an embarrassment. The sheriff comes to the workplace and presents that to HR, but I don't know how else to do it to attract parents' attention," Hope said. "If we have a parent who can't afford the garnishment, we should be working with them on free and reduced lunches."

"I agree with Dianne, we've got to do something. That's a lot of money," board member Jared Hotop said.

"Your sports departments, they're not \$60K in the hole...or they're not playing," board member Gayla Young said.

"I think when we hire the new person, we make that part of the process that they come up with a plan. I think that's gotta be something that's discussed as part of that position," Lamb said.

## Pigskin Pick 'Em standings

### PCC STAFF

After our first week of the Pigskin Pick 'Em contest, Fort Madison YMCA Director Ryan Wilson is in first-place going a perfect 7 of 7 on the week.

Wilson didn't even give Cincinnati respect at home against Pittsburgh but picked the Saints to win on the road at Arizona? Who does that?

Coming in second place is Tracie Vandenberg of West Burlington who got 6-of-7 picking Denver over New England. And there is a three-way tie for third with Holy Trinity Catholic's Athletic Director John Goetz, Sara Sandburg of Fort Madison and Davis Rung, who must have been picking with his carrots and peas, all had 5 correct.

Here's the really good news, Chuck Vandenberg went a miserable 2-for-7 picking only Houston and New England correctly. So anyone can get in the 2nd week and have a legitimate shot at beating the editor.

Due to Christmas falling on a Sunday this year, Week 2 picks must be submitted by 11:30 a.m. Saturday, December 24th.

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