



Pen City Current

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Next phase of Bus. 61 rehab in front of council

City to vote on starting plans for 6th through 10th streets

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – With the city getting ready to rebid the reconstruction of Bus. 61 from 2nd to 6th streets, officials will vote this week to enter into an agreement for professional services for the next segment.

At Tuesday's regular city council meeting, councilmen could vote on an agenda item to enter into a professional services agreement with HR Green out of Cedar Rapids for about \$452,000 to handle the administration for reconstruction of the highway from 6th to 10th Streets.

Green came under fire this fall for estimates that were substantially under bids on the first phase of the project, as well as for work on the platform to move the Amtrak depot to Riverview Park.

Green's services will include design of the project, a mandatory cultural resource study, public involvement, coordination with other utilities, geotechnical design,

bidding, permitting, and construction administration.

According to a report from City Manager David Varley, the project will be bid through the Iowa Department of Transportation in December 2020. Most of the project is expected to be done in November 2021 with final completion in May 2022.

The rebidding of the first phase of the business route could set that work to take most of the summer and fall of 2020. The work is part of a replacement of the entire stretch of highway through town.

See HWY 61, page 3

Iowa's chief judge dead at 66

The following is a press release from the Iowa Judicial Branch

DES MOINES – The Iowa Judicial Branch is saddened to report that Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Cady has passed away. He was



CADY

a wonderful individual and exceptional judge, respected and beloved

by his fellow jurists. His passing is a great loss to the court and the state he so loyally served. We extend our deepest condolences to his wife Becky and his family.

Statement from the family:

"Tonight, the state lost a great man, husband, father, grandfather, and jurist. Chief Justice Mark Cady passed away unexpectedly this evening

See JUDGE, page 8



Just six days after city officials expanded a closure of 8th Street south of Avenue G, a column in the building owned by Bryan Humphrey began to crumble and pour brick out onto the sidewalk. City officials said an engineer was supposed to inspect the building on Friday and report back to the city.

Courtesy Photo

Pothitakis, Freesmeier honored

BY PCC STAFF

CEDAR RAPIDS – Holy Trinity Catholic junior Claire Pothitakis was named to the Iowa Class 1A State Volleyball Tournament team following Friday's title match.

Head Coach Melissa Freesmeier was

also honored Friday by the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union with the Golden Plaque of Distinction.

The Golden Plaque of Distinction Award honors the Iowa coach who has demonstrated a successful career while making notable contributions toward

See HONORS, page 2

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



Ancestry search turns up pain for family

From an early age Scott Pieper (pronounced "Pipe-er" not "Peep-er") wanted to be a mortician. He wasn't sure why. Growing up in Monmouth, Illinois, with a mother, two brothers and a father who was a well-known and respected high school golf coach, the guidance counselor thought it odd when Scott wanted to "shadow" a mortician on Career Day. The guidance counselor advised against it and sent Scott off somewhere else. But Scott never forgot about wanting to be a mortician.

Scott's father, Bill Pieper, was a renowned high school golf coach, leading his teams to seven state championships, including six in a row, making golf the most popular sport at Monmouth High. (Very unusual. Football is usually king.) Coach Pieper walked with a swagger that the kids emulated. Although not a great golfer himself, he believed in his kids and inspired them, making them feel like they could do anything. Never satisfied with mediocrity, his attitude bespoke tenacity with approachability. In the classroom, his biology instruction was like a stand-up Jackie Gleason routine, endearing him to students. Two dozen of the kids on his golf team went on to college level Division I. All three of his sons, Scott, Erik and Aaron, won medals at the state golf tournament. Bill Pieper was Coach of the Year many times and inducted into the Illinois Coaches

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From the Front



Courtesy photos

Head Coach Melissa Freesmeier, with team above, was given the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union's Golden Plaque of Distinction, while junior Claire Pothitakis was named to the Class 1A All-Tournament Team.



Freesmeier, Pothitakis get honors at tourney finals

HONORS - Continued from Page 1

school, community, and the coaching profession.

Freesmeier had two state championships to her credit, the first in 1996 with Marquette and the second in 2014 with Holy Trinity. She was also on the 1991 staff when Marquette won the state title.

She has won close to 84% of the games her teams have played with 946 wins against 186 losses.

Pothitakis led Holy Trinity to the 2019 Class 1A State semis and went 31% attacking for the Crusaders. She had 41 kills against 103 attacks with nine errors.

For the year, Pothitakis had close to 400 kills and a 22% hitting efficiency. She was eighth in the state in Class 1A hitting and third in the Southeast Iowa Superconference.

DNA investigations reveal family's true stories

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

Hall of Fame in 1994.

So, you can imagine what a shock it was when Scott, at the age of 47, discovered that Bill Pieper was not his real father. It was like a sinkhole opening up and swallowing him, his whole life, and everything he'd ever known about himself, including the way he looked. He'd always been told he looked like his father.

It all started when Scott's girlfriend did an

ancestry search on herself. Some startling discoveries were made, like her father had a child she wasn't aware of. Scott decided to do the same DNA search on himself. Things just didn't seem to jive with the dates of his parents' wedding and the birth dates of himself and his middle brother. Bingo! There it was in black and white. Bill Pieper was not his father! His real father was a long time Burlington resident.

A ransack search of the-father-who-raised-him filing cabinet, verified the DNA results. Scott had been adopted at less than a year of age, and the adoption papers started on his middle brother, Erik. The youngest brother, Aaron, was a true son of Bill and Suzann Pieper.

Scott's mother, Suzann, had passed away from breast cancer. So, he confronted Bill, the father who raised him. Coach Bill Pieper admitted that Scott's mother had been married to another man

previously, and that the other man was the father of Scott and Erik. Bill Pieper apologized for the lifetime of deception. He had only been trying to protect and raise the boys in a loving home. Coach Bill Pieper has since passed away at the age of 74.

It turns out that almost everyone knew the two boys were adopted, including teachers and classmates of the boys. They were the last to know.

It gets worse. In trying

to track down their real father, they learned that the man, a mortician, (Ah, ha—the connection!) had passed away in 2015. They wouldn't even get the opportunity to know who their real father was, what his handshake was like, to smell his after-shave, or ask him why he had never contacted them. What they have is a name, a few pictures, and what some other family members and friends of the man tell them.

To put it mildly, Scott is disappointed in the

parents who raised him for not telling him and his brothers the truth. They love the parents that raised them; the boys were always well fed and cared for. There is just this void, a bottomless pit, that will never be filled.

Be honest with your kids.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com or visit his website at www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com.



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For the Record/Local News

First phase could start toward in spring 2020

HWY 61 - Continued from Page 1

The state turned over jurisdiction of the corridor to the city in exchange for \$13.9 million dollars when the bypass was constructed. Plans included redoing several intersections including the 27th Street and Avenue L intersection, which was completed in 2018. Plans also included redoing the intersection at Avenue O and Ortho Road.

Earlier this year Jones Contracting of West Point redid the "S" curve on Avenue L in the 3500 and 3600 blocks at a cost of a just over half a million dollars.

Original plans called for four segments starting on the west side of the city and working east. However, plans changed and the city decided to go from the east and tackle 2nd Street to 6th Street, moving progressively west. The city had originally planned to have the entire corridor rehabbed by 2027.

Also on Tuesday's agenda, the council will consider:

- refinancing about \$10 million in water revenue bonds at a lower 1.75% interest rate.
- vacating a portion of property in the 3500 block of Avenue L.
- appointing Ron Knoke to the city's Airport Commission to fill an unexpired term through Sept. 30, 2021.

Children's immunization clinic set for Thursday

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Lee County Health Department will hold a Children's Immunization Clinic Thursday, November 21, 2019 at the Lee County Health Department, located at #3 John Bennett Dr., Fort Madison from 1:00pm until 4:30pm.

The clinic is open to children who have no insurance, are insured by Iowa Medicaid/MCO or those who have private health insurance that does not cover the cost of vaccines. No appointment is necessary. Written parental consent is required for minors to receive vaccinations when in the care of another adult. Forms may be obtained at our website listed below.

Free lead testing is available for ALL children ages 6mos to 6 years that reside in Iowa. Please call 1-319-372-5225 with questions or visit our website at www.lee-countyhd.org.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report
11/14/19 - 12:36 p.m.
- Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 900 block of Avenue D.
11/14/19 - 7:37 p.m.
- Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1100 block of Avenue E.
11/15/19 - 12:58 a.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Jacob Paul Kottenstette, 28, of Fort Madison, in the 500 block of 15th Street on a charge of driving under suspension.

Lee County Sheriff's Report
11/14/19 - 8:23 p.m.
- Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Dakota Darin Ray Tanner Oberman, 21, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office

on a warrant for willfull injury. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on bond.
11/14/2019 - 11:55 a.m.
- Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested David James Markell, 23, of Keokuk, in the 2500 block of Plank Street on a warrant for unauthorized use of a credit card under \$1,000.
11/14/19 - 3:46 p.m.
- Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Joseph Daniel Cass, 32, of Keokuk, at Lake Road in Keokuk on a warrant for violation of a no contact order.
11/14/19 - 6:23 p.m.
- Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident in the 1300 block of Hwy. 16. According to

the report of a vehicle driven by Isaiah Jacob Christiansen of Douds was struck by an unidentified semi-tractor during a pass. Douds vehicle suffered minor damage with scratches and a broken mirror. No injuries or citations were reported.
11/15/19 - 6:37 p.m.
- Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on 218th Street. According to the report a vehicle driven by Rylee May Zimmerman, 15, of West Point left the roadway and struck a tree. Zimmerman was taken to the hospital by a family member and was cited for failure to maintain control. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*


Crimestoppers Chili Supper Tuesday

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Hy-Vee Food Stores in Fort Madison and Keokuk are hosting a chili supper, free will offering, fundraiser for Lee County Crime Stoppers on Tuesday, November 19th. 4-7 P.M.


The yearly event has become a contest between the two stores to see which can raise the most cash to support the Lee County Crime Stopper agenda.

This is a great time to get acquainted with the Lee County Crime Stopper organization and law enforcement.






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Lotto America™	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
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Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



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5 15 26 46 48
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All Star Bonus: 2

 <p>11/16 14 22 26 55 63 Powerball: 26 Power Play: 3</p>	 <p>11/16 MID-DAY 6 7 1 11/16 EVENING 2 0 4</p>	 <p>11/16 MID-DAY 6 6 7 4 11/16 EVENING 9 6 8 3</p>
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CURRENT-LEE

LEE COUNTY – The following is a list of current events and happenings in Fort Madison and north Lee County as submitted to the Pen City Current.

Fort Madison Wine & Beer Walk

Glasses go on sale this Friday at River Rocks from 5 to 7 p.m. for \$10. The event will be held in downtown Fort Madison on Friday, Nov. 22 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Backyard Birds

The Lee County Conservation will host a free birdwatching program on Saturday, Nov. 16 at the Heron Bend Conservation Center in Montrose. A naturalist will start the program at 9:30 a.m. and then bird watching and counting will be held. LCCB will provide binoculars. No pre-registration is required.

Memorial Turkey Shuffle

The annual Alice and Leo Schiller Memorial Turkey Shuffle will take place Nov. 28 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Ernie and Cheryl Schiller's house 2224 204th Avenue just east of Donnellson off Hwy. 2. Visit the following link for registration <http://livehealthyleecounty.org/index.php/community-events>

Community Thanksgiving

The annual Community Thanksgiving will be held Nov. 28th beginning at 11:30 a.m. at Fort Madison High School. Dine in is available and carryouts are available after 12:30 p.m. Call 319-371-5706 between Nov. 18th and 25 for deliveries or to volunteer. You can also contact the chamber at 372-5471 or by email at chamber@fortmadison.com.

Holiday Window competition

Businesses are being encouraged to take part in the Fort Madison Partner's Holiday Window Display Competition. Decorate a window, send a picture, get likes on Facebook and the business with the most hits wins. Deadline to sign up is Nov. 27. Windows will go on Facebook starting Dec. 4 with voting from Dec. 4-11th. The winner will be announced Dec. 13.

Weekly Book Sale

Friends of the Fort Madison Public Library is holding a weekly book sales from 11 a.m to 1 p.m. on Thursday's at the Public Library.

Lighted Parade Float Work Nights

Float work nights for the annual holiday lighted parade are held every Monday starting Sept. 30 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 1200 Avenue I. Entrance is through the back. Call the Chamber at 319-372-5471 for more information.

Mistletoe on Main

This year's event will be held on Nov. 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in downtown Fort Madison. Shop local, and enjoy a day of Christmas cheer. Special treats, carriage rides, the North Pole Express and Santa!

PORT Ugly Sweater Fun Run

The annual fundraiser for the P.O.R.T. committee will be held on Dec. 1, 2019 at Baxter Sports Complex beginning at noon.

Enchanted Forest

The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce's Enchanted Forest will be held in the Lee County Bank building following the Lighted Parade, and on Nov. 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with Santa expected from 10 a.m. noon. The Forest will also be open on Saturdays Dec. 7, 14, and 21 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Businesses are encouraged to bring and decorate a tree for \$25.

Christmas Lighted Parade

The annual lighted parade will be held on Nov. 29 at 6:30 p.m. Call the Chamber at 319-372-5471 for more information.

Food Drive

The Keokuk Salvation Army is looking for donations to stock the Food and Soap Pantry from Nov. 1 -18th. Drop off locations locally include American Eyecare

Kensington events

The Kensington is offering Senior's Only Community Bingo on the second Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m. The event is free for seniors and cash prizes are awarded. Caregivers Connection is held the 4th Tuesday of every month at noon. Call 319-372-4233 to reserve your seat.



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Scene Around Town/Iowa News



Lee County Health Department Administrator Michelle Ross, right, and former administrator Julie Schilling, center, talk with guests Thursday at the 30th anniversary celebration of the LCHD Hospice program. At left, guests joined the Hospice staff for refreshments and a presentation at the LCHD offices on the old prison grounds in Fort Madison.

Courtesy photos

Gov. Reynolds lifts limits on anhydrous ammonia haulers

Late harvest had created high national demand

DES MOINES – Today, Gov. Kim Reynolds signed a proclamation that will temporarily allow vehicles that transport propane and anhydrous ammonia to be oversize and overweight.

The late harvest and high demand for petroleum products throughout the Midwest have resulted in low supplies of propane as well as difficulty transporting adequate supplies of anhydrous ammonia for agricultural activities. The proclamation temporarily suspends provisions of Iowa Code §§ 321.463 (6) (a) and (b) and 321E.29 and Iowa Admin. Code chapter 761-511 pertaining to movement of oversize and overweight loads of propane and anhydrous ammonia.

The proclamation is effective November 16, 2019, and will expire at midnight on December 15, 2019.

Gov. Reynolds has led the state response to the severe propane distribution and supply issues. On October 3rd she signed a proclamation easing the hours of service regulations for propane transporters, and continues to be in contact with industry stakeholders and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to increase the amount of propane in the pipelines to Iowa.



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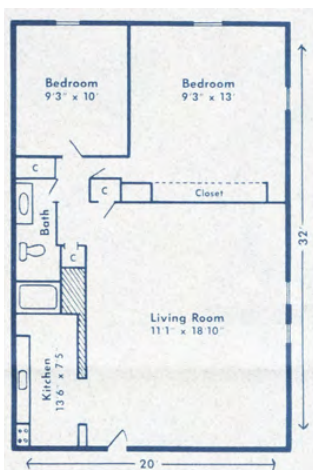
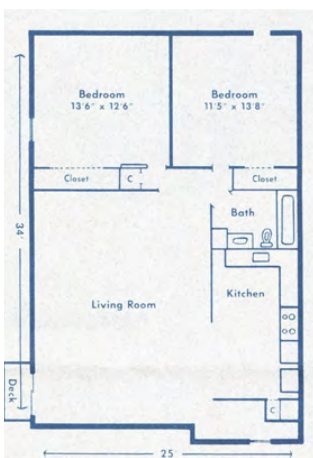


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From the Front/Weather

Heart attack claims state's top jurist

JUDGE - Continued from Page 1

from a heart attack. Arrangements are pending.” Chief Justice Cady, Ft. Dodge, was appointed to the Iowa Supreme Court in 1998. The members of the court selected him as chief justice in 2011.

Born in Rapid City, South Dakota, Chief Justice Cady earned both his undergraduate and law degrees from Drake University. After grad-

uating from law school in 1978, he served as a judicial law clerk for the Second Judicial District for one year. He was then appointed as an assistant Webster County attorney and practiced with a law firm in Fort Dodge. Chief Justice Cady was appointed a district associate judge in 1983 and a district court judge in 1986. In 1994,

he was appointed to the Iowa Court of Appeals. He was elected chief judge of the court of appeals in 1997 and served until his appointment to the supreme court.

Chief Justice Cady is a member of the Order of Coif, The Iowa State Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Iowa Judges Association, and Iowa Academy of

Trial Lawyers (honorary). He also served as chair of the Supreme Court's Task Force on the Court's and Communities' Response to Domestic Abuse and is a member of the Drake Law School Board of Counselors. Chief Justice Cady is chair of the Nation Center for State Courts Board of Directors and President of the Conference of Chief Justices. He also serves on the Board of Directors,

and chairs its Committee on Courts, Children, and Families, and the Committee on Judicial Selection and Compensation.

He is the coauthor of Preserving the Delicate Balance Between Judicial Accountability and Independence: Merit Selection in the Post-White World, 16 Cornell J.L. and Pub. Pol'y 101 (2008) and of Iowa Practice: Lawyer and Judicial Ethics (Thomson-West 2007). He is the author of Curbing Litigation Abuse and Misuse: A Judicial Approach, 36 Drake L. Rev. 481 (1987), The Vanguard of Equality: The Iowa Supreme Court's Journey to Stay Ahead of the Curve on an Arc Bending Towards Justice, 76 Alb. L. Rev. 1991 (2013), and Reflections on Clark v. Board of School Directors, 150 Years Later, 67 Drake L. Rev. 23 (2019). Justice Cady also delivered remarks at the 2012 Drake Law School Constitutional Law Symposium, The Iowa Judiciary, Funding, and the Poor, 60 Drake L. Rev. 1127 (2012) and presented the inaugural Drake Law

School Iowa Constitution Lecture, A Pioneer's Constitution: How Iowa's Constitutional History Uniquely Shapes Our Pioneering Tradition in Recognizing Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, 60 Drake L. Rev. 1133 (2012).

Chief Justice Cady was an adjunct faculty member at Buena Vista University for more than 30 years and served on its President's Advisory Council. In 2012 he received an honorary doctorate degree in Public Service from Buena Vista University. Chief Justice Cady received the Award of Merit from the Iowa Judges Association in 2015. He received the Outstanding Alumnus Award from Drake University Law School in 2011, he received the Alumni Achievement Award from Drake University in 2012, and the Judicial Achievement Award from the Iowa Association for Justice in 2016. Chief Justice Cady is also the Iowa chair of iCivics Inc.

Chief Justice Cady is married with two children and four grandchildren.

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

MON 18 Nov — Partly Cloudy
High— 41.8° F | Low — 35.5° F

TUE 19 Nov — Partly Cloudy
High— 53.2° F | Low — 43.7° F

WED 20 Nov — Rain
High— 56.2° F | Low — 55.6° F

THU 21 Nov — Light Rain
High— 48.1° F | Low — 32.6° F

FRI 22 Nov — Partly Cloudy
High— 42.6° F | Low — 35.9° F

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