



# Pen City Current

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2019 | 8 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 258

## Armed man shot at Scotts

*Unknown if suspect was involved in another shooting*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A man with a gun was shot by local authorities at Scotts Miracle-Gro Tuesday night

after he ran into the warehouse armed.

The suspect, who was wearing a yellow hoodie, was shot twice in the chest and was transported to Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Law enforcement was called to the scene at about 10:55 p.m. with a report of a man running through the facility with a gun.

The call came about 45 minutes after a shooting took place in the 3100 block of Avenue O. It is not known at

this time if the shootings are related.

A man at that scene was shot in the neck and taken to Fort Madison Community Hospital and possibly airlifted.

Fort Madison Police, Lee County Sheriff's deputies, and the Iowa State Patrol were on the scene of the shootings.

Pen City Current will have more on this story as information becomes available.

## LCCB OKs letter to Army Corp

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE – The Lee County Conservation Board agreed to send a letter of support for a project that could eventually bring islands and greater wildlife back to Pool 19 of the Mississippi River.

At the regular Tuesday meeting of the conservation board, the board heard from Conservation District Director Nathan Unsworth about the program, along with Jim Noll, a wildlife advocate spearheading the program.

“Basically what we’re going to ask is to be able to send up a letter to the Army Corp of Engineers to consider our project and come in here and help us with developing a plan,” he said.

There are several programs through the Army Corps that could help move the program along, including a dredging program where material



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

From left to right Owen Krogmeier, Drake Weber, and Leo Thomas of Central Lee pitch a Future Problem Solvers’ idea to the Lee County Board of Supervisors at Tuesday’s regular meeting.

from dredging in the river could be brought down to this area to help elevate the islands that used to define the river flow and refuge.

Unsworth said if the board could qualify for the corp’s dredging program the Corp could pay for the work. He said there was another option called a system restoration, but that project

would require some matching funds.

“By submitting our name, we get our name on the record for a potential project. They have interest in the project.”

Unsworth said he’s had two meetings with the Army Corp, the first of which was with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and then the other was just with the

corp.

The plan is being spearheaded by Noll, who wants to re-establish the islands with habitat restoration efforts, which at this point involves pitching the project to legislators, as well as generating local support for the project as a boon to the economy in the form of eco-tourism.

See POOL 19, page 3

## Board could bond for repairs

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE – County building improvements totaling more than \$650,000 could prompt officials to issue bonds to help pay for the work.

After Tuesday’s regular Lee County Board of Supervisor’s meeting, Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise presented the board with a list of seven property improvements and some equipment purchases totaling \$666,300.

“Since July 1 we’ve had a very interesting year as far as maintenance,” Fraise said.

She presented a list of non-budgeted maintenance costs the county had incurred this year totaling more than \$120,000. Included in the list were five air conditioning repairs in the summer totaling close to \$30,000, a sewer line repair at the North Lee County building at \$29,400 and a new water heater at the Lee County Jail at a cost of \$22,142, among other items.

“As you recall in 2016, 70% of the voters in Lee County voted to keep these courthouses and these buildings, so we’ve got to keep them up,” Fraise said.

“We can’t let them go. By letting the courthouse in Keokuk go, I think it’s cost us dearly and we’re still recovering from that.”

Last year the county spent nearly \$400,000 renovating that courthouse including roofing, tuck pointing and other repairs.

Fraise said the county doesn’t have enough in the sales tax fund to do the needed repairs and asked the board to consider issuing bonds to pay for the repairs.

The projects include putting in two new boilers

See REPAIRS, page 8

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# FMPD using grant to beef up holiday patrols

FORT MADISON – During this holiday season, many people will be travelling on highways to visit family and friends to celebrate all the festivities.

The Fort Madison Police Department would like to remind all motorists to drive safely and defensively throughout the season. During this time of year, there are more motorists on the roads than usual and the weather can change in minutes. When celebrating with alcohol, always have your designated driver with you, or call a taxi to get home safely.

The Fort Madison Police Department, along with law enforcements throughout the state of Iowa, in conjunction with the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau,

will be out in force in the month of December through New Year's Eve, enforcing all of Iowa's traffic laws, with an emphasis on OWI's, speeding, seatbelt violation and texting while driving.

The Fort Madison Police Department wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season and to drive safely. Think safety when celebrating this holiday season.



## For the Record

**Fort Madison Police Report**  
12/09/19 – 6:42 p.m.  
– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1900 block of 48th Street.  
12/10/19 – 8:08 a.m.

– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a gas drive off in the 1700 block of Avenue H.

**Lee County Sheriff's Report**  
12/09/19 – 2:49 p.m.  
– Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jarrod Ray Hagmeier, 39, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on a judgment hold.  
12/09/19 – 3:00 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested April Lee Jacobson, 51, of Keokuk at the sheriff's office on a warrant for violation of probation. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on bond.  
12/09/19 – 6:20 p.m.

– Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Dale Lee Junior Heidbreder, Jr., 40, of Fort Madison in the 2800 block of 217th Street in Fort Madison on a charge of assault. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

*Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

**Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report**  
12/09/19 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls, one assist one, false alarm, and one burn complaint.



## 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

<b>WED 11 Dec</b>	Clear High– 33.0° F   Low – 29.0° F
<b>THU 12 Dec</b>	Overcast High– 44.5° F   Low – 34.5° F
<b>FRI 13 Dec</b>	Overcast High– 43.2° F   Low – 37.2° F
<b>SAT 14 Dec</b>	Snow High– 25.4° F   Low – 18.3° F
<b>SUN 15 Dec</b>	Overcast High– 21.6° F   Low – 21.2° F

[OpenWeatherMap](https://OpenWeatherMap)

# Lee County News/From the Front

## Project could bring eco-tourism to the area eventually

**POOL 19** - Continued from Page 1

Noll says the dams built on the river have contributed to silting which has pushed the water levels up and with the wind on Pool 19 of the Mississippi River, turbidity leaves a cloudy water by keeping the silt stirred up.

That process has resulted in the elimination of most of the plant life that attracts wildlife to the area.

Noll wants to re-establish the islands in the pool, and bring that wildlife back and possibly create some calmer channels that are favorable to kayaking and canoeing and other river sports.

He said the plan either has to come from a local project where funds would need to be raised, or get the area deemed a wildlife refuge and then federal funding would pay for the projects.

Right now, the pool is not within 20 miles of another refuge, therefore legislators say it doesn't qualify. Noll is working on a waiver of that regulation to help bring about the change.

In other action:

- the board voted 5-0 to submit the 2020-21 fiscal year budget to the county.
- the board presented outgoing board member Rodger Whitaker with a plaque for his service on the board.
- the board heard a pitch from Central Lee Future Problems Solvers students to use technology more efficiently at the conservation district.

## LCHD offers to keep inspecting salons

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE – With state health officials pulling inspections for tanning salons in Iowa, Lee County is looking at an ordinance to police operations themselves.

Lee County Health Department Administrator Michele Ross told Lee County Supervisors following Tuesday's regular meeting that she would like them to consider an ordinance that would allow the county to continue to inspect tanning operations in the county, despite the state pulling that requirement.

Lee County Supervisors agreed to put a proposed ordinance on the agenda in January to give operators time to respond to the changes. The ordinance would be similar in wording to the Appanoose County ordinance and has been reviewed by Lee County Attorney Ross Braden, according to Ross.

If the county decides not to pursue an ordinance, Ross said businesses offering tanning wouldn't have that portion of their business inspected.

She said the business are currently paying a \$33 inspection fee and she's asking the county to set the inspection fee at \$35.

Michael Shelangoski, the LCHD Environmental Services program director, who handles the inspections, said there are currently 12 businesses offering tanning services with close to 26 beds or booths in the county.

He said inspections range from examination of tanning beds and equipment to logs and timing mechanisms.

"In the past the health department has always done annual inspections through state requirements from the Iowa Department of Public Health," Ross said.

"This past year, they've decided to drop the tanning facilities as part of local health department inspections. Different counties were recommended by the state to pass local ordinances and have the environmental health departments continue to offer the inspections on a local level."

She said an ordinance would keep the tanning facilities in check with following standards for infection control and would also help prevent over tanning, which she said is unhealthy according to Centers for Disease Control.

"We've been doing the service for the state. We're just requesting to continue to do the inspections locally because we feel strongly that they need to be done," Ross said.

Supervisor Ron Fedler said it would be appropriate to send the proposed ordinance or a letter to the area businesses so they have some notification of the upcoming changes.

"If this goes on the agenda, which it sounds like it will, they have the opportunity to come forward and can't say they didn't know about it," Fedler said.

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## Tree of Love Gatherings

Lee County Health Department would like to invite you to a series of gatherings that will take place in LCHD's lobby.

Sessions are offered to help bring people together during the holidays & to support those who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

You are welcome to join any or all the gatherings.

Gatherings are free & open to the public.

**If you have any questions, please contact**

**Lee County Health Department**  
**#3 John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison**  
**(319)372-5225**

*#1: Traditions*

Wednesday,  
December 4<sup>th</sup>  
2:00-3:00pm

*#2: Listen*

Wednesday,  
December 11<sup>th</sup>  
2:00-3:00pm

*#3: Connect*

Wednesday,  
December 18<sup>th</sup>  
2:00-3:00pm

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## Pen City Current

Founded in 2016



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# Lee County News/Current-Lee

## 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.

### The Enchanted Forest

The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce is hosting the Enchanted Forest again this year in the Old Lee County Bank Building at 803 Avenue G. Businesses have sponsored Christmas trees that will be on display each Saturday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

### Tree of Love Gatherings

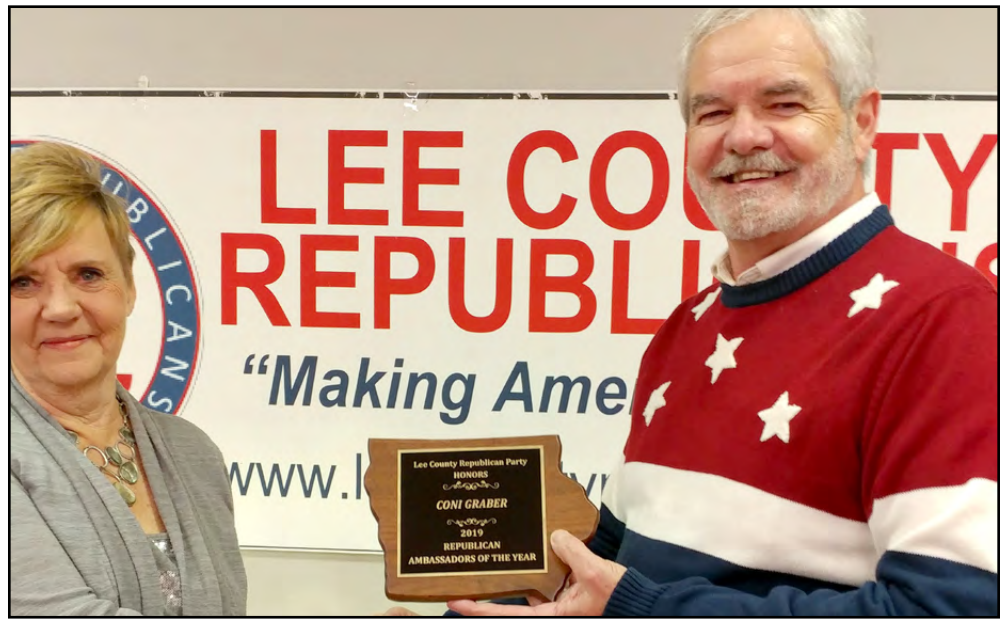
Lee County Health Department is once again hosting a series of gatherings to help and support those dealing with the loss of a loved one over the holidays. Each Event is Wednesday's during the month of December from 2 to 3 p.m. at #3 John Bennett Drive in Fort Madison. Call 372-5225 for more information.

### Santa at Kempkers

Santa will be onsite again this year Kempker's True Value & Rental in Fort Madison on Thursday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Parents are invited to bring the camera and take pictures of their children with the jolly old elf and take advantage of holiday sales.

### Rudolph on stage at Sondheim

The original television comes to life with all the favorite characters, Youth tickets only \$15. The beloved stop-motion animated television classic, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, made its network television debut in 1964, delighting audiences across the country. The "most famous reindeer of all" from the longest running and highest rated television special comes to life in RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER: THE MUSICAL, Tuesday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m at the Sondheim Theater in Fairfield.



Courtesy photo

Lee County Republican Chairman Martin Graber presents Connie Graber with the 2019 GOP Ambassador award last Monday in Donnellson.

## Grabber named Lee County GOP ambassador for 2019

DONNELLSON – The Lee County Republican Central Committee held its annual Christmas Carry-in Party Monday, December 2, at the Pilot Grove Community Center in Donnellson.

Many friends and supporters enjoyed great dining of Pork Loin, prepared by Terry Schrepfer, and a large variety of sides and desserts.

Chairman Martin Graber announced Coni Graber as the 2019 GOP Ambassador of the Year.

Sara Burns, Keokuk, was the winner of the \$50 "GOP Supporter Contact" drawing.

Candidates for Iowa Senate District 42 Jeff Reichman and Nancy Amos, spoke briefly about the upcoming primary race.

Joe Mitchell, Iowa House District 84 Representative expressed his anticipation of the new 2019 session starting in January.

Molly Sullivan, Iowa 2nd District Representative for the Trump Campaign, urged the group to encourage voters to participate in the Caucus on February 3 as it is very important to show support for President Trump and all Republican candidates.

The evening concluded with a fun game of "TRUMP" Bingo.

Lee County Republicans and friends would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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## Sara Evans BLUE CHRISTMAS TOUR



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## Sports/Classifieds

# HTC scores 28 in the 4th to down New London

BY PCC STAFF

NEW LONDON – The Holy Trinity girls overcame a stagnant second quarter and then tightened the screws in the fourth quarter to down New London 55-43 in girls high school basketball action Tuesday.

HTC jumped out to a quick 7-2 lead, but the Lady Tigers came roaring back outscoring Holy Trinity 25-17 the rest of the first half behind 18 points from senior Layney Loyd.

The Crusaders held a five point lead at 16-11 at the end of one. New London would cut the lead to one at 19-20 with four minutes left in the half and then pour it on for a 27-24 halftime advantage.

Holy Trinity was able to cut into the lead in the third quarter and would tie the game at 37 going into the final period.



JOHNSON

Head Coach Tony Johnson said sophomore Kassie Randolph spurred Holy Trinity in the second half defensively and on the boards, while seniors Avery Hopper and Ashlynn Haas put points on the board.

The two seniors each popped for 15 points on the

night to lead Holy Trinity and both had six in the first half and nine in the second. The Crusaders put up 28 fourth quarter points and took the lead quickly at 42-39 with just a minute gone.

Once they had the lead, New London wouldn't catch up and HTC stretched it to nine at 50-41 with three minutes left.

"Our defense led us back to the win," Johnson said. "Ashlynn and Avery stepped up in the fourth quarter and Kassie did a really good job in the second half rebounding and defensively."

Raquel Schneider and Claire Pothitakis each had six points for HTC, Bailey Hellweg finished with five, Randolph had four, while Ali Robu and Brooke Mueller each added a bucket in the first half.

Through three games Haas is averaging 15.7 points per contest which is seventh in a loaded Southeast Iowa Superconference South. Sophomore Raquel Schneider is fourth in the conference in rebounding at nine per outing.

Holy Trinity (3-1) hosts Burlington Notre Dame (2-0) Friday in a girls/boys varsity doubleheader at Shottentkirk Gym on Homecoming night for the Crusaders.

# HTC boys edge New London

BY PCC STAFF

NEW LONDON – Holy Trinity wiped out a three-point half time deficit to knock off New London on the road Tuesday night.

Chandler Rung led the Crusaders with 14 points on the night including six in the final period as Holy Trinity overcame a sluggish first quarter where they trailed the Tigers by 16-6, to get the win 43-42.

Rung had all of his first half points in the second quarter with six points to lead a 15-8 run that put the Crusaders down just three 24-21 at the end of the first half. Senior Matt Hellige put in four points in the rally.

The momentum would swing again in the third period with New London's Grant Swanson carrying the load with nine points as the Tigers outscored HTC 14-9.

The Crusaders defense came up big in the fourth quarter as they held New London to just four points. Rung would go 4-for-4 from the free throw line in the quarter to help Holy Trinity capture the lead and hold on for a 43-42 win.

Quentin Schneider had 10 points for HTC, followed by Hellige with seven, Jason Thurman with six, Vasin Thurman had four, and Blake Crabtree added a bucket.

"All six kids played awesome," Head Coach John Hellige said. "We got down early and settled in and finished very strong. Free throws were big and our defense."

The Crusaders and Tigers both move to 1-2 on the season. Holy Trinity takes on Burlington Notre Dame on Friday in a girls/boys varsity double header on Homecoming night.

# the classifieds

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**FORT MADISON**  
**COMMUNITY SCHOOL**  
**DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**December 16, 2019**  
**6:00 P.M.**

Finance: Wondra/Ross  
**AGENDA**

- I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum
- II. Recognition of guests
- III. Reading of Foundation documents

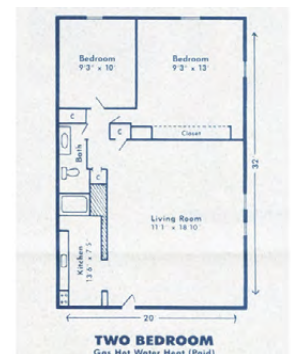
- IV. Monthly communications
  - A. Student Rep Report – Teagan Hamilton & Allie Miller
  - B. Curriculum Corner - Perkins Update - Greg Smith
  - C. "Did You Know?"
  - D. Superintendent Goal Report
    - National School Safety Conference - Patrick Lamb, Chris Schelich, Adrian McKay
    - Indicators of Progress
    - Collective Commitments
  - E. District Presentations
    - ESTES Facility Assess-

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# Classifieds/Public Notices

## PUBLIC NOTICES

ment Report  
 V. Approve the agenda  
 VI. Consent Agenda  
 A. Minutes  
 1. November 18, 2019 Regular Meeting  
 2. December 2, 2019 Work Session  
 B. Financial reports  
 1. November Balance Sheet  
 2. November Revenue Summary  
 3. Expenditure Report  
 4. Student Activity Report  
 C. Accounts payable  
 1. November General Account Board Bills for Approval AMEX  
 2. December General Account Board Bills for Approval  
 3. Student Activity Account Board Bills for Approval AMEX  
 4. Nutrition Account Board Bills for Approval AMEX  
 D. Consider personnel resignations  
 1. Jennifer Gracey, associate at Richardson  
 2. Andy McWhortor, bus driver  
 3. Dawn Eid, associate at the middle school  
 4. Angela Stein, associate at Richardson  
 5. Lynne Lange, administrative assistant to the associate principal at the high school  
 E. Consider employment of personnel  
 1. Emily Bruxvoort, associate at Lincoln  
 2. Sydney Simons, associate at Lincoln  
 3. Amy Gruntmeir, administrative assistant to the associate principal at the high school  
 4. Tim Harmon, associate at Richardson  
 5. Melissa Pollpeter, associate at Richardson  
 6. James Boyle, food service delivery driver  
 F. Consider contract modifications  
 1. Judy Hand, transfer in assignment with increase in hours and add technology stipend  
 G. Consider leave of absence  
 H. Consider open enrollment requests  
 I. Other reports  
 1. Activity and athletic fundraisers  
 Director moved and director seconded the documents submitted in the consent section of the agenda be approved and/or filed as submitted.  
 VII. Action Items  
 A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services – Kim Harmon  
 1. Approve District Developed Service Delivery Plan Committee members  
 B. Superintendent – Erin Slater

1. Consider approval of SBRC Modified Allowable Growth Application  
 2. Consider approval of the sharing agreement between FMCS and Holy Trinity for Girls Tennis for the 2019-2020 school year  
 3. Consider approval of travel for a group of four to attend the national symposium for Strategic CSforALL Resource and Implementation Planning in Denton, TX on January 14 and 15.  
 C. Board Secretary/ Business Manager – Sandy Elmore  
 1. Approve Depository Resolution  
 2. Approve DLR Contract for High School HVAC  
 VIII. Discussion Items  
 A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services – Kim Harmon  
 1.  
 B. Superintendent – Erin Slater  
 1. Consider policy changes  
 200.4 - Shared Decision-Making: Position Statement **ours only, no changes**  
 206.5 - Board-Superintendent Relationship **ours only, no changes**  
 207 - Board of Directors' Legal Counsel **same as IASB, no changes**  
 208 - Board Committees **same as IASB, no changes**  
 208-R - Committees to the Board **ours only, no changes**  
 208.1-E-1 - Ad Hoc Committees **same as IASB, no changes**  
 208.1-R - School Improvement Advisory Committee **ours only, no changes**  
 501.6 - Student Transfers-In **information only**  
 501.6b - Admission of Exchange Students **recommend to delete**  
 505.5 - Graduation Requirements **adopt IASB model with changes**  
 505.5-R - Graduation Requirements **adopt regulation**  
 2. Certified Employee Attendance  
 3. Board Member Attendance  
 4. Schedule board instructional tour  
 C. Board Secretary/ Business Manager – Sandy Elmore  
 1.  
 D. Board discussion about the IASB Convention  
 IX. Comments from the audience  
 X. Legislative update  
 XI. Announcements  
 January 6, 2020 6:00 PM - Work Session, Board Room, Central Office  
 January 20, 2020 6:00 PM - Regular Meeting, Board Room, Central Office  
 XII. Adjourn

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
 NOTICE OF  
 PUBLIC HEARING**  
 Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Fort Madison, Iowa, will meet in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, at 5:30

PM on December 17, 2019, at which time and place hearing will be conducted concerning the exchange of City property located in the 3500 block of Avenue L and legally described below. The City intends to transfer by Quit Claim deed City right-of-way (see Legal Description below) to Jess A

Sholl in exchange for property owned by Jess A Sholl located in the 3500 block of Avenue L needed by the City for its road improvement at that location.

City Right-of-Way to be deeded to Sholl:

You may appear at the

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:**

A PARCEL OF LAND WITHIN LOTS TEN (10), ELEVEN (11), TWELVE (12), & THIRTEEN (13) IN BLOCK THREE (3) OF FAIRVIEW ADDITION TO THE CITY OF FORT MADISON, LEE COUNTY, IOWA AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 13 IN BLOCK 3 OF FAIRVIEW ADDITION TO FORT MADISON, LEE COUNTY, IOWA; THENCE NORTH 01°00'40" WEST (NORTH 00°41' WEST-RECORD) ALONG EAST LINE OF SAID LOT 13 A DISTANCE OF 37.63 FEET (37.63 FEET-RECORD) TO THE BEGINNING OF A 167.00 FOOT (167.00 FOOT-RECORD) RADIUS, NON-TANGENT CURVE, CONCAVE WESTERLY AS DESCRIBED IN A WARRANTY DEED RECORDED IN BOOK 2017, PAGE 3012 IN THE OFFICE OF THE LEE COUNTY RECORDER; THENCE NORTHWESTERLY 25.03 FEET (25.02 FEET-RECORD) ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE WITH A CHORD THAT BEARS NORTH 09°39'34" WEST, 25.01 FEET (NORTH 9°20' WEST, 25.00 FEET-RECORD); THENCE NORTH 13°58'46" WEST, 2.76 FEET (NORTH 13°37'½" WEST, 2.76 FEET-RECORD) TO THE NORTH LINE OF THE SOUTH 65 FEET OF SAID LOT 13 AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 89°30'59" WEST (SOUTH 89°52¼" WEST-RECORD) ALONG SAID NORTH LINE 96.30 FEET TO THE WEST LINE OF LOT 10 OF SAID FAIRVIEW ADDITION; THENCE NORTH 00°59'37" WEST ALONG SAID WEST LINE 10.20 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89°30'59" EAST, 11.40 FEET TO THE BEGINNING OF A 470.00 FOOT RADIUS, NON-TANGENT CURVE, CONCAVE SOUTHEASTERLY; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY 58.15 ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE WITH A CHORD THAT BEARS NORTH 58°04'54" EAST, 58.12 FEET TO THE BEGINNING OF A 20.00 FOOT RADIUS COMPOUND CURVE, CONCAVE SOUTHERLY; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY 36.44 FEET ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE WITH A CHORD THAT BEARS SOUTH 66°10'35" EAST, 31.60 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 13°58'46" EAST, 28.28 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 2,649 SQUARE FEET, MORE OR LESS.

hearing to express your views concerning the above. Written statements may be submitted to the Fort Madison City Clerk, P.O. Box 240, 811 Avenue E,

Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 no later than 4:30 PM on December 17, 2019 or delivered before the hearing is closed.

Melinda L. Blind  
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## Iowa News/From the Front

# Burlington Trailways gets \$740,000 in IDOT grants

DES MOINES – Today, the Iowa Transportation Commission approved more than \$2.3 million in grants for four intercity transportation providers for the calendar year 2019 Intercity Bus Program.

The Commission approved the funds for nine projects submitted by the following four entities: Burlington Trailways, Jefferson Lines, City of Dubuque Public Transit (The Jule), and the City of Fort Dodge.

Burlington Trailways received \$740,000 in funds to replace one over the road coach, marketing and other operational assistance. New vehicles will replace older buses in their fleet, therefore, lowering overall maintenance costs.

Eleven applications were received this year, requesting a total of \$2,586,070, highlighting the important role of this funding. Jefferson Lines received funds to replace three over the road coaches. The Jule and City of Fort Dodge, also received funding for the marketing of their existing services.

With the current trend in intercity bus transportation moving away from rural connectivity into more urban-to-urban service, these funds play a vital role in keeping rural Iowa connected to other areas within the state of Iowa, the Midwest, and the nation. This funding comes from the Federal Transit Administration's 5311(f) program intended to support intercity bus providers that serve communities with less than 20,000 residents.

# Public hearings required before issuing bonds

## REPAIRS - Continued from Page 1

and a condenser tank at the South Lee County Courthouse at an estimated cost of \$175,000, as well as tuckpointing the North Lee County Courthouse at a cost of \$144,000 and a new digital jail security camera system at a cost of \$125,000.

The current jail camera system is analog and the new system would be a digital camera operating system.

Other projects include redoing the North Lee County building bathrooms to include Americans with Disability Act compliance at a cost of \$80,000, two showers at the Lee County Jail at \$75,000, repairs to the front wall at the Heritage Center in Keokuk at a cost of \$10,000; recarpeting the first floor of the South Lee County Courthouse at \$17,600, purchasing an additional county truck to hook up plow blades to do their own snow removal, and two plow sanders at a cost of \$12,700.

Because the total of the project is less than \$750,000 the bond doesn't need to go to an election, unless voters contest the move, which would then force the issue in front of the public.

Approval of the bond would require two public hearings because the truck and plow sanders wouldn't fall under the essential purpose of the building repair bond.

Fraise said the county's debt is "very" low compared to other counties.

Budget Director Cindy Renstrum said the fund balance in the sales tax fund, which is the money received from the state as part of the 1% local option sales tax, is at about \$306,000 at month's end in November.

"We really don't want to get below that \$300,000 mark," Fraise said. "We have to have that for emergencies."

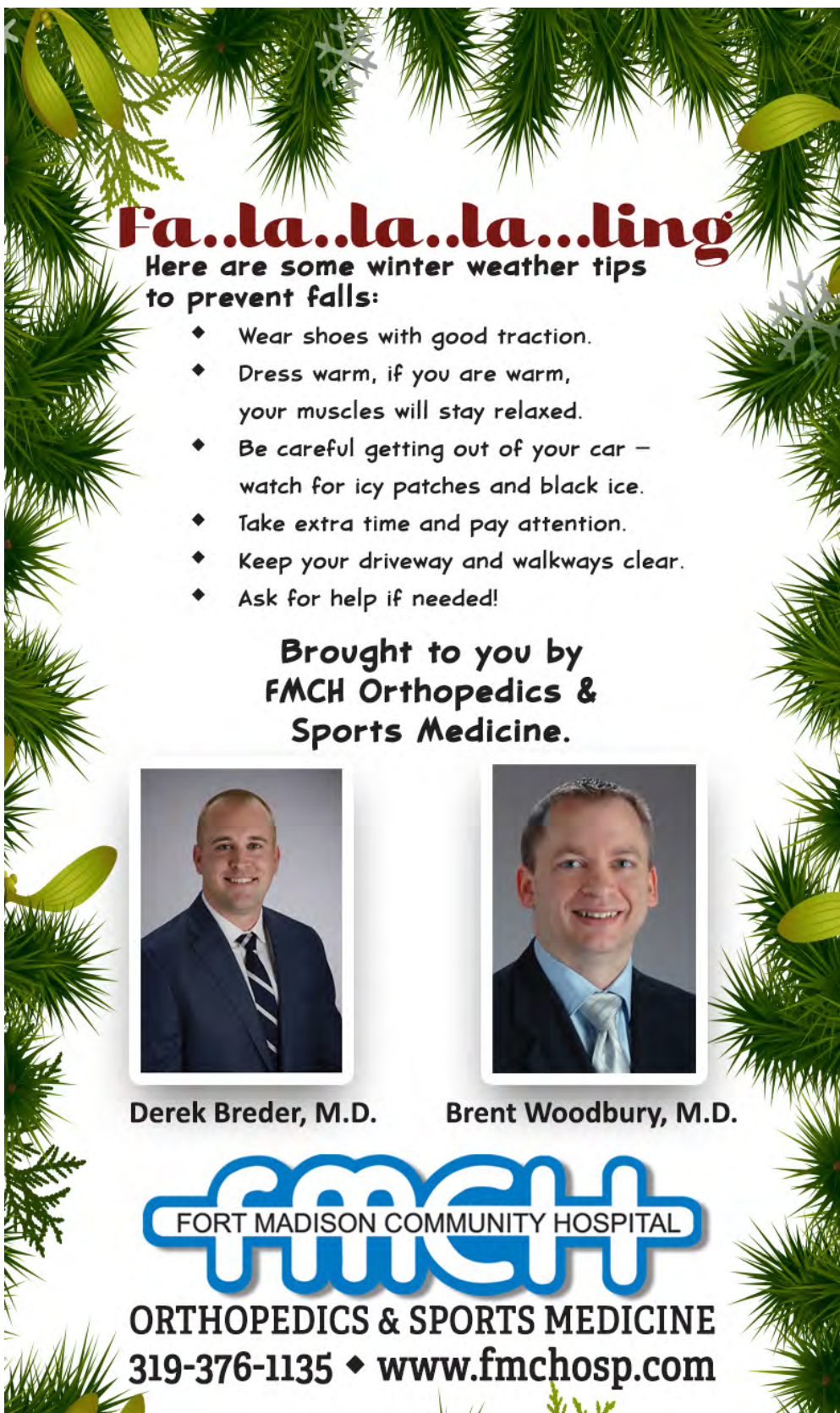
Supervisor Ron Fedler said some of the figures, like the boilers, are estimates and he'd like to see firm numbers because the county has received engineer estimates in the past that were way off actual costs.

"I remember when we did the south tuckpointing and the engineer estimated \$90,000 and it ended up being over \$400,000 when they really got into it, and I don't want to ever come in with that kind of problem again," Fedler said.

"I would like to know pretty much exactly what they would be rather than we bond for this and then we find out we haven't bonded enough."

Supervisor Rich Harlow suggested the county look at switching to furnaces rather than the boilers in the courthouse, but Supervisor Matt Pflug said he didn't know if they could do that transition and still stay under the \$750,000 threshold that doesn't require an election.


The request came in a workshop session after the regular meeting so the board couldn't take action on the request, but could put in on an agenda at an upcoming meeting for formal action.




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



**12/9**  
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