



Pen City Current

Friday, June 9, 2017 | 9 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 142

IUB, Alliant hold rate meeting in FM

Utility wants to increase revenues \$176M annually

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Officials from Alliant Energy's Interstate Power & Light Company and members of the Iowa Utilities Board held a public hearing on Thursday in Fort Madison to discuss a proposed 12.5% rate increase on residential usage, as well as other rate increases for other sectors.

The meeting, held

at McAleer Hall, was attended by about 25 people and about seven of those spoke with the two organizations about the increase. Attorneys from the Office of Consumer Advocacy representing the citizens of Iowa in these types of rate increases were also on hand.

Alliant filed the rate increase, its first in six years, on April 3 with the IUB and is asking for a revenue increase of \$176 million annually.

That equates, according to the IUB, with a 12.5% average residential monthly bill increase or about \$14.26 depending on usage. For commercial users the increase is lower at 11.6% averaged or \$33.04/month based on usage. The utility already has an interim rate increase in effect and if the board deems that is higher than what is ultimately approved by the board, the utility would be subject to pay a refund plus interest to customers.

The Pen City Current originally wrote an article

See **UTILITY**, page 9



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Lee County Supervisor Rick Larkin, far right, talks with IUB board member Geri Huser, left of Larkin, Nick Wagner, and Richard Lozier after the public hearing Thursday night.



Courtesy photo

FORT MADISON – The Climax Molybdenum Company is the most current partner to the Light Up The Sky This 4th of July fireworks campaign. All proceeds received go to making the Fort Madison display the best in the area. Fort Madison Partners Director, Tim Gobble is accepting the contribution check from Climax from Human Resource Manager, Mike Brewer. If interested in contributing, please contact the Partners office at 319-372-5471.

Fareway to hold open interviews

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fareway Grocery that is rapidly taking shape outside is now focusing on filling the inside- with employees.

The grocery that was set to open in late summer or early fall has set a date for open interviews at the Comfort Inn & Suites on June 27.

The open interviews will take place from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. for Grocery and Market positions. Fareway Grocery outlets are closed on Sunday and holidays and are accepting applications from people ages 14 and up.

The grocery poured the east side parking lot over the past several weeks and is now working on the landscaping surrounding the building while continuing to work on the electrical and plumbing fixtures on the inside of the building.

Officials have said they are hoping to have the 19,000 square-foot building open prior to rodeo but said that would obviously depend on construction progress.

The first Fareway Store opened for business at 624 Story Street in Boone, Iowa, on May 12, 1938.

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".

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Obituaries/Weather

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

FRI 09 Jun _____

 Mostly Sunny
Low – 75.6° F | High – 86.6° F

SAT 10 Jun _____

 Clear Skies
Low – 81.5° F | High – 89.4° F

SUN 11 Jun _____

 Clear Skies
Low – 81.5° F | High – 89.9° F

MON 12 Jun _____

 Clear Skies
Low – 84.9° F | High – 90.8° F

TUE 13 Jun _____

 Clear Skies
Low – 86.8° F | High – 93.6° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

Ad Council

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OBITUARIES

MARIE L. DITTMER

Marie L. Dittmer, 95, of Wever, Iowa passed away at 9:59 a.m. Thursday, June 8, 2017 at the Great River Hospice House in West Burlington, Iowa.



DITTMER

Born November 10, 1921 the daughter of John Godfred & Josephine (Wenke) Schroeder married William August "Bill" Dittmer at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Fort Madison. He preceded her in death on July 20, 2016.

Survivors include her three daughters: Louise Dittmer of Wever, Iowa, Linda (David) Dingman of Fort Madison, Iowa and Karen Dittmer of Burlington, Iowa. Two grandchildren: Lyndsey (Brian) Schmitz of West Point, Iowa and Alan Markey of Ankeny, Iowa. One great-grandson Nolan Schmitz. Two step-grandchildren: Lance Dingman of Fort Madison, Iowa and Sonya Dingman of Lawrence, Kansas.

She was preceded by her parents, husband Bill, three brothers: Herman, Austin, and John Schroeder.

Marie was a member of the Holy Family Parish in Fort Madison. She was a rural school teacher and taught at Brush College in Wever. She later worked as an ASCP Medical Technologist. She enjoyed gardening, flowers, canning, quilting and sewing.

Friends may call and meet with the family from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Saturday, June 10, 2017 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Fort Madison.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, June 10, 2017 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with Father Joseph Phung as Celebrant.

Burial will be in Gethsemane Cemetery in Fort Madison.

In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established to Wever Fire & Rescue.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

The Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements.

ROBERT H. "BOB" KEMPKER

Robert H. "Bob" Kempker, 84, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 11:20 a.m. on Wednesday, June 7, 2017 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.



KEMPKER

He was born on June 14, 1932 in St. Paul, IA to Henry & Ida Overberg Kempker. He married Barbara J. Hunsaker on August 1, 1953 in Fort Madison, IA. He and his wife Barb founded Kempker Hardware, which they owned and operated for 40 plus years. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was a member of Holy Family Parish, Knights of Columbus, Kiwanis and the Fort Madison Elks Lodge. He enjoyed working in his yard, but his greatest love was spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

Bob is survived by: his wife: Barb Kempker of Fort Madison, IA; 1-son: Chuck (Dawn) Kempker of Fort Madison, IA; 4-daughters: Sharon (Steve) Thomas of Nevada, IA, Debra (James) Conaway of Raleigh, NC, Sandra (Dave) Holtkamp of Fort Madison, IA & Peggy Garlow of Phoenix, AZ; 12-grandchildren; 18-great grandchildren; 3-sisters: Ann (Richard) Helling of New Hampton, IA, Bernice (Jerome) Sokolik of Davenport, IA & Dorothy (Mark) Pollpeter of West Point, IA. He was preceded in death by: his parents, 1-granddaughter: Dallas Hnat & 1-brother: Dennis Kempker.

The family will receive friends from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. with a wake service to be held at 5:30 p.m. all on Sunday, June 11, 2017 at Ss. Mary & Joseph Church in Fort Madison. The funeral mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, June 12, 2017 at Ss. Mary & Joseph Church with Rev. Mark P. Spring officiating. Burial will be held at Sacred Heart Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in his memory. Online condolences to Bob's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com. King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family with the arrangements.



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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

06/07/17 - 5:30 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Robert Duane Dorothy II, 47, unknown address for trespass in the 2300 block of Avenue H. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 06/07/17 - 9:30 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2100 block of Avenue F.
 06/07/17 - 10:42 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of personal injury accident in the 800 block of Avenue E.
 06/07/17 - 3:22 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 5200

block of River Valley Road.
 06/07/17 - 4:12 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1400 block of Avenue F.
 06/07/17 - 6:54 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny theft in the 5400 block of Avenue O.
 06/07/17 - 7:29 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny theft in the 2400 block of Avenue G.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

06/07/17 - 9:50 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jeffrey Lee Rains, 40,

of Fort Madison on a warrant for criminal mischief-4th degree at the Lee County Sheriff's Department. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on his own recognizance.
 06/07/17 - 10:03 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Timothy Wayne Wolgemuth, 23 of Donnellson on warrants for failure to appear on a citation and probation violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 06/07/17 - 3:12 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 3300 block of Hwy 27. A vehicle driven by Ally N Becker, 17, was

headed northbound when she lost control of the vehicle and went into the ditch and hit an embankment damaging the vehicle. She was cited for failure to maintain control. No injuries were reported at the scene.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

06/07/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to an overheated vehicle, one motor vehicle accident, one medical call, two false alarms and one burn complaint.

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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



6/8
12 13 26 29 46
Lucky Ball: 13



6/8 MID-DAY
1 2 3 4 7 8
9 10 13 17 22 23
6/8 EVENING
1 4 7 11 13 15
16 17 18 19 22 23



6/8 MID-DAY
2 4 2
6/8 EVENING
8 0 0



6/8 MID-DAY
1 1 7 2
6/8 EVENING
2 2 8 0



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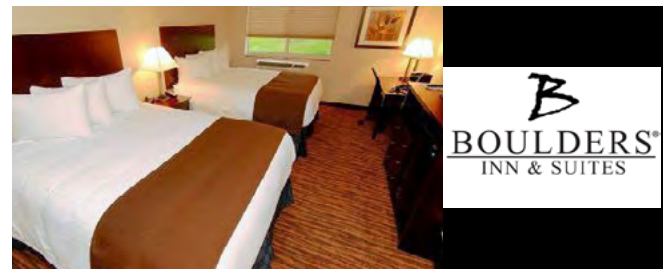
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September 9, 2017 at 9:30 AM
Theme: "Kids, Clowns, and Cowboys"

Registration required! Entry Forms due by Saturday, August 26, 2017

Category Desired (circle one below)	Classification (circle one below)
Theme Float (\$100, \$75, \$50 prizes)	Competitive (\$20 fee make checks payable to the Tri-State Rodeo)
Non Theme Float (\$90, \$60, \$40 prizes)	Non Competitive
Decorated Car/Truck (\$80, \$50, \$30 prizes)	
Antique Car/Truck (\$75, \$50 prizes)	
Miscellaneous (\$40 prize)	

Name of Entry _____
Contact Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone (_____) _____-_____
Note special conditions (extra-long, extra-high, will have music)

ALL ENTRIES ARE TO BE DECORATED TO BE CROWD PLEASING EXCEPT ANTIQUES AND MILITARY VEHICLES. FOR SAFETY REASONS, CANDY AND FAVORS ARE NOT TO BE THROWN FROM THE ENTRIES, BUT CAN BE PASSED OUT BY THOSE WALKING WITH THE ENTRIES

Note: Lineup information will be sent out 10 days prior to the parade. All entries are to be in place by 8:30 AM parade day. Competitive entries to be in place by 8:00AM.

Special Note: The Tri-State Rodeo is a private organization and reserves the right to refuse any entry on the day of the parade if the entries' message is not consistent with the express content of the organization. If you have any question about the entries' message quality please contact Kirk Sherwood BEFORE the day of the parade.

Please return the entry form to the address below:

Kirk Sherwood
31 Storms Court
Fort Madison, Iowa 52627
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631 Avenue D

4BR • 2BA • 2 car garage

Beautiful victorian home on a quiet street with an amazing wrap-around porch. All the modern conveniences. Quite a charmer! *Listing #20165372, \$124,900.*



620 34th Street

2BR • 2BA • 3 car garage

Motivated seller has reduced their asking price! Completely renovated home. This beautiful home won't be on the market long! *Listing #20165503, \$138,500.*



2160 Grand Venture Avenue
3BR • 4BA • 3 car garage

Amazing home in a private, wooded 7.5 acre setting just minutes from Fort Madison. Approximately 6 acres are timber and ravine woods. *Listing #20165295, \$309,900.*



939 Avenue G

Turn Key Office Space

Freshly finished office space in historic downtown Fort Madison with private offices, kitchen area, and phone system in place and ready to use! *Listing #20165675, \$79,500.*



2634 Avenue G

Very cute, well-maintained home in a great neighborhood! Perfect for a small family or retired couple. Come take a look as this one will sell quickly! *Listing #20165688, \$94,500.*



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2 BR • 1 BA • 1 car garage
Quality and beauty! Many updates and upgrades including a new concrete patio/carport with surround sound and mood lighting, new kitchen, bath and lighting throughout. This is an AMAZING house that you MUST see to appreciate!!!
Listing #20164622 • \$88,000



3 BR • 2 BA • 2 car garage
1,168 sq. ft. • 0.54 acres
Lovely family home comfortably situated at the end of a cul de sac, where you can enjoy the woods and the privacy! There is an inviting deck off the back of the home overlooking the woods and beautiful vinyl fencing. There are newer mechanicals and a newer roof, 2 fireplaces and lots of storage!! Don't miss out on this beauty.
Listing #20163951 • \$129,000



5BR • 2.50BA • 2 car garage
2,834 sq. ft.
14,868 sq. ft. lot
Amazing family home on a large corner lot in Farmington, IA. 2 fireplaces, beautiful woodwork, a beautiful open front porch, a large yard and an oversized garage!!
Listing #20164117 • \$127,500



2BR • 1BA • 1 car garage
1,224 sq. ft.
7,250 sq. ft. lot
A house with character! Wrap-around porch, original hardwood in formal dining room/living room combo, main floor laundry, nice size eat-in kitchen including appliances, dining room has original fireplace, basement and 1 car garage.
Listing #20162543 • \$53,000



5BR • 1.75BA • 1 car garage
1,904 sq. ft. • 1,903 sq. ft. lot
Great family home on large corner lot in the middle of Ft. Madison. Large living / dining area with original craftsman woodwork and built-ins, 14 x 22 garage on the alley with 2 additional storage sheds. Nice front porch, rear deck, and a great sunroom on the East.
Listing #20162346
\$86,950



4BR • 1.50BA
1,706 sq. ft. • 7,250 sq. ft. lot
This spacious home has it all, the character of a turn of the century home; beautiful woodwork, beamed ceilings, window seat, columns, and large covered front porch, yet also includes MANY updates. Call today for your private viewing!
Listing #20164725 • \$92,000



3BR • 1.75BA • 2 car garage
1,772 sq. ft. • 0.57 acres
Great family home with LOTS OF NEW! New kitchen, bathroom, windows, most flooring, wrap around deck, ceiling fans, light fixtures, furnace and central air! Beautiful neutral decor and window treatments make this a must see! All this and a 2 car heated garage
Listing #20164861 • \$157,500.



3BR • 1BA • 1 car garage
928 sq. ft. • 1,087 sq. ft. lot
Very nice maintenancefree home by Lincoln School with a 75 X 145 fenced yard, nice patio, fire pit and child's play set! Some very nice built-ins, some original hardwood flooring, full basement including laundry area. Also find extra parking, garage and carport area on the paved alley.
Listing #20164148 • \$72,500



3 BR • 2 BA • 1 car garage
2,260 sq. ft.
6,784 sq. ft. lot
Lots of new! Semi open floor plan, new flooring, great open basement family space, and many updates including heat/air units, kitchen back splash, counters and more! Fenced in back yard with stamped concrete patio and awning. Call today to see this great home in a quiet neighborhood.
Listing #20164544 • \$139,900



4BR • 2BA • 2 car garage
1,260 sq. ft. • 4.59 acres
Custom Designed, Energy Efficient home with an open floor plan, cathedral ceilings, on a hard surface road. Includes large deck extends the entire back length of the house, master bedroom that opens up to the back deck, jack and jill master bath and second bedroom. The property also includes an oversized 2 car garage with a heated workshop attached.
Listing #20164982 • \$191,500



3BR • 1BA • 2 car garage
1,488 sq. ft. • 16,247 sq. ft. lot
Has been owned by this seller since 1960!!! Large eat-in kitchen with newly tiled floor includes stove, microwave, washer and dryer, main floor laundry (in bedroom), formal dining room with built-in hutch, and spacious living room. The house sits on a HUGE lot and has a nice 2 car garage in back. Home has Gas Heat and central air with maintenance-free siding on house and garage.
Listing #20165151 • \$55,900



2BR • 1BA • 2 car garage
930 sq. ft. • 7,280 sq. ft. lot
This 2 bedroom home in Montrose has been a rental property and sells as is. Priced way below assessed value to sell quickly!
Listing #20164279 • \$38,500





NEW PRICE

**5BR • 3BA
3,119 sq. ft.**

14,500 sq. ft. lot

From the period wrought iron fencing to the amazing stained oak staircase...from the impressive arches to the large wrap porch, this beautiful turn of the century (20th) home offers all the beauty and elegance of that era. This is a beautifully appointed home with all the modern conveniences. There is an extra large lot for your family to enjoy!!

Listing #20162159 • \$149,500



**2BR • 1.75BA • 2 car garage
679 sq. ft. • 6,500 sq. ft. lot**
Nice, small home. Seller has purchased and remodeled. Excellent condition.

Listing #20164161 • \$62,500



REDUCED

**3BR • 3BA
2,754 sq. ft.
3,550 sq. ft. lot**

Gorgeous, turn-key home with large patio minimum maintenance. UPDATES GALORE!!! Practically perfect in every way, this 1841 home includes the latest improvements while keeping its Victorian charm.

Listing #23006122 • \$99,999



REDUCED

**4 BR • 1.75 BA
3 car garage • 2,052 sq. ft.
8,700 sq. ft. lot**

Beautiful 4 bedroom home with large rooms, recently redecorated and ready to move into. This home features stainless steel appliances, main floor laundry, eat in kitchen and formal dining room, main floor office or bedroom, open staircase, large living room and big bedrooms. Newer roof, siding and gutters on house. 24' X 36' insulated garage and workshop, plus carport. Large wrap porch great location near Old Settlers Park.

Listing #20163776 • \$129,500



**3 BR • 1 BA • 1 car garage
1,248 sq. ft. • 0.37 acres**

Well-kept ranch on a beautiful, large corner lot in West Point, IA. New wooden privacy fence surrounding the entire back yard. There is also an attached garage and storage shed. A large wooden deck leads to the front door where you can sit and enjoy those beautiful Iowa summer sunsets! PLUS a covered deck in the back for those rainy days. This house is a rare find.

Listing #20164234 • \$119,900



**2BR • 2BA • 3 car garage
1,404 sq. ft. • 1.42 acres**

Upgrades, improvements, updates...call it what you like, this home has had MANY in the last 2 plus years. This seller has completely refurbished the hill to the north of the home with new landscaping finishes. This is a must see property!!! It has enough room for your family and then some!!!

Listing #20164991 • \$129,900



**3BR • 1BA
1,432 sq. ft. • 5,500 sq. ft. lot**

This UPDATED, MOVE-IN READY, CHARMING 3 bedroom home will make an awesome family home!!! This gem has all new windows throughout, exterior doors, deck, plumbing, & NEW roof on house & garage. So come check it out! This is a MUST SEE!!!

Listing #20165237 • \$92,500



PENDING

2 car garage • 2,527 sq. ft.
UNIQUELY beautiful 9.38 river bluff acreage. This home boasts many updates including complete master suite, heat and A/C, Septic system, deck, roof & gutters, flooring, and the list goes on. This private property includes fenced in barn area for animal lovers, mature fruit trees plus trees have been dropped for a beautiful panoramic river view that will last for years! Owner also plans to leave a John Deer mower and new snow blower!!

Listing #20162733 • \$269,000



**3 BR • 2.50 BA
2 car garage • 1,194 sq. ft.
10,400 sq. ft. lot**

Great family home is move-in ready. Nice-sized kitchen with all appliances, dining area, and nice living room all on the upper level. Completely re-modeled family room with a wood burning fireplace on lower level. Many updates include newer flooring, roof and HVAC system.

Listing #20164531 \$114,900



Land

14.65 acres • 638,514 sq. ft.
Just outside city limits, perfect for housing development or small farm for horses or small livestock, over half tillable. City water is available. 30' X 60' building is totally insulated, heated and air conditioned with 200 amp service.

Listing #20162574 • \$249,000



**3BR • 1.75BA • 1 car garage
888 sq. ft. • 9,450 sq. ft. lot**

RARE RANCH with large fenced back yard and attached garage! Updated windows and kitchen, newer HVAC and water heater. Family Room in the basement. Just waiting for your own personal touch!

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Sports

Banged up Crusaders fall to Wapello 18-0

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WEST POINT - The Wapello Indians scored quick and often on a banged up Holy Trinity Catholic squad Thursday night in high school baseball action.

The 15-run mercy rule was implemented after four innings with Wapello up 18-0.

The Indians jumped all over junior Aiden Alford, tagging him for eight runs in the top of the first. The Crusaders couldn't get an out until the fifth hitter of the inning. Cody Mangold hit into a fielder's choice ground out to short where Cole Thornton flipped to Jason Thurman at 2nd for the out. Logan Belzer came around to score on the play. Alford then walked Brentin Pallister to load the bases again and three consecutive singles by Jared Wiley, Bryce Bermeister, and Joseph Stewart scored a total of 6 runs.

The Crusaders then

committed back-to-back errors at third and short to allow the other two runs in before Alford got Trace Howard to fan on his second trip to the plate in the inning and Trenton Massner flew out to left field to end the inning.

Reed Fehseke drew a walk to start the game for HTC, but Massner struck out Cameron Bahl. Head Coach Albert Schinstock called a hit-n-run and sent Fehseke and Alford laced a single up the middle to have two on with Fehseke in scoring position. Kyle Bredemeyer struck out and Vasin Thurman grounded out to second to end the threat.

The Indians matched their first inning total with another eight runs in the top of the second. Alford walked the first two batters, prompting Schinstock to pull him for Jason Thurman. Thurman gave a two-run single to Wiley and then got Burmeister to fly out to left before the onslaught arrived. Two more run-scoring singles followed by a walk to Sam

Short loaded the bases again and Tracy Howard hit another single to plate two more. Massner grounded out to short before two more hits and another error plated two more runs. Thurman got Burmeister to ground out to second to end the top half.

In the bottom half Ben Tinguely popped out to right and Jason Thurman grounded out to short. Zander Schweiss drew a walk, but Quentin Schneider struck out to move the game to the third inning where freshman Garrett Hannum gave up a single to center and then got two Indians to pop out to Schneider in center and caught Stewart, who had singled to left on a force out at second, when Short's soft pop to right fell in between three Crusaders. Short held on the fly and didn't have time to advance before the throw.

In the Crusaders' bottom of the third, Fehseke reached on an error at third and advanced on a stolen base and a wild



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Above, HTC's Jason Thurman is late with a tag on Wapello's Cody Mangold in the first inning of Thursday's 18-0 loss at South Park. Below Cameron Bahl is also late with tag at third base.

pitch, but the next three Crusaders struck out to end the inning.

Wapello put two more up in the top of the 4th inning to stretch the lead to 18-0 and the Crusaders couldn't take advantage of two walks to try and get the four runs they needed to extend the game and Massner ended up striking out three to end



See HTC, page 9

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From the Front/Sports

Area officials ask board for caution in setting rate

UTILITY - Continued from Page 1

on this rate increase on March 13. At Thursday's meeting Joel Schmidt, vice president of regulatory affairs reiterated that the main driver of the rate increase was to start to recoup on investments already made in Iowa totaling \$2.5 billion since 2010, including a \$700 million natural gas facility in Marshalltown.

State Rep Jerry Kearns (D-Keokuk) was in attendance and spoke to the board asking them to proceed with caution and think about their action.

"I'm not in your service delivery area in Keokuk but I have received some comments from people that I represent in my district and you can probably imagine they're not very positive," Kearns said.

"I'd like to know a breakdown where the increase is being utilized. For example upgrades, equipment, purchase of power on the grid, wages - I think those would all be important to understand with this increase that's being proposed,"

Kearns asked the board.

After the meeting Kearns said Alliant has been a very good company for Iowa.

"Well their last increase was six years ago and if you divide the increase over those six years it's not so bad, but wages have been stagnant for that time and the bottom line is people hate any increases in costs," Kearns said. "But we still have people on fixed incomes. That's the concern. They are good company though, they really are."

Lee County Supervisor Rick Larkin also addressed the groups and cautioned the board on raising the rates too high as Lee County has a high ratio of residents on fixed incomes.

"We have to understand the impact these increases will have on people with fixed incomes and will they be able to absorb this increase. Some will and some may not. For commercial and industrial, this increase could cause some to look elsewhere.

We really need to remain competitive. So I ask the board when making their decision to please be fair."

After the meeting, Larkin said he wasn't there representing the board of supervisors but representing his constituents.

"I have to think about Ma and Pa here in Lee County and whether they can afford this," Larkin said. "Most of the time with these types of requests the utilities come in asking for a rate, but the board settles on another."

Fort Madison Partners Executive Director Tim Gobble also spoke to the board.

"As with any budget whether residential, commercial or industrial, if there is an increase in line items, there is a negative effect in others," Gobble said. "The proposed increase will touch everyone of these rate classes in some way. Our industry will feel it the most as they are our heaviest users and they will need to look at ways to absorb that increase.

The rate proposed will definitely have an impact as none are poised to pass that along to their customers which equates ultimately to job loss and business risk. We need to make sure we are looking out for their best interests."

Gobble also acknowledged the contributions and infrastructure investment such as rebuilt power stations in three different locations in Fort Madison and recognized the partnership with Alliant has helped economic growth in the area.

"Infrastructure investments such as these will deliver a more reliable service to residents and businesses in the area. More reliability means fewer outages. Alliant has always been there playing a critical role, especially when prospects are looking to locate in our region."

Dennis Fraise, also commended Alliant's role in helping Lee County meet its growing demand for electricity, including two substations at a price tag of about \$5 million. Fraise said he wasn't on

hand to support or oppose the rate increase.

"Alliant is one of our key partners when we try to work on expansion or bringing in another industry. It's a real competitive advantage for us when we have a utility partner when we work on projects like this we get a comment such as "when we work with Alliant we don't get a no, we get a yes," Fraise said.

Schmidt reiterated to the group that Iowa has been graded the top electrical grid in the country.

"The American Society of Civil Engineers recently gave energy infrastructure in the US a D-, which is very bad," Schmidt said in the March 13 article. "However, a recent article in the US News and World Report said Iowa has the number one power grid in the country. We've got great power here. We can harness wind and we can continue with that but we have to invest in it and that can be expensive. Our reliability is very good by national standards."

"We want to continue

to fund operations and provide excellent customer service and continue to provide the cleaner energy they expect," Schmidt said.

A PRNewswire report published Feb. 23, based on Alliant Energy's 2016 financial report, indicated the utility had an increase in earnings per share in 2016 of .19 and the primary drivers of higher earnings were higher electric and gas margins. When asked how the utility explains an additional need of revenue to families on fixed budgets, Schmidt said the utility usually seeks returns on investments after the investments go into service.

"That's one piece of it," he said. "We do need that revenue going forward. We've made \$2.5 billion in electric investments since 2010 so we want to bring that into earnings."

He said the utility also wants to continue to manage and modernize the power grid to be able to continue to take on different sources of power continuing the transition to cleaner energy.

Hannum decent in first varsity appearance

HTC - Continued from Page 8

the game.

"We're kind of beat up right now. Missing our Collin Thornton at short with a ham string injury and our 3rd baseman Fehseke is playing with a bad arm. I've got a bunch of 8th graders up here doing the best they can," Schinstock said.

"I think when we have our No. 1 and No. 2 starters pitching we're competitive. We've been competitive up until tonight."

Alford went one inning giving up 10 runs, eight earned, walked four, and struck out one. Thurman went one inning giving up six runs, five earned, and issued a walk. Hannum pitched two innings giving up two runs on five hits and one strike out. Fehseke and Alford had the only hits, both singles.

The Crusaders are scheduled to travel to West Burlington for tournament play on Saturday with HTC's first game set for noon.

FMHS girls get walk-off win again

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The FMHS girls softball team seems to have turned a corner with three big wins in a row.

The Bloodhounds won again Wednesday night with a come-from-behind 12-11 win over Wapello at home.

Fort Madison scored four runs in the bottom of the 7th inning to erase an 8-run fifth inning where the red and black found themselves behind 10-5 with nine outs remaining.

The Hounds put up three runs in the bottom of the sixth after the Arrows put up another run in the top half of the inning.

Lexi Schmidt slammed the door in the top of the ninth and then the Hounds plated four in the bottom for the win.

Jada Lamm led the Hounds at the plate going 3 for 5 including a double with three runs driven in. Chase Lowney, coming off one her biggest nights in high

school Tuesday going 7 of 10 with four doubles and two home runs in a sweep of No. 4 ranked Burlington, was hot again going 3 for 5 with an RBI, two runs scored and a stolen base.

Kamryn Bailey went 2 for 4 with a double, two RBIs, two runs scored, and a stolen base. Schmidt went 2-for 5 with three runs scored. Sadie Smithburg was 2 for 3 with a run scored and two RBIs. Bailey is leading the Hounds hitting .408 on the season, 12th best in the Southeast Conference, and is tied for the league lead in home runs with four and is second in the conference with 18 RBIs. Chase Lowney is also at the top with four home runs and is just behind Bailey hitting .400 on the year.

Teryn Parsons and Schmidt are hitting .393 and .391 on the season.

Schmidt went the distance for the Hounds giving up 11 runs, eight earned, and struck out four. She is 3-5 on the year with a 5.07 ERA.

The Hounds play in tournament action Friday and Saturday at the Davenport West tournament.

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