

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and **Read** all over

Thursday, October 6, 2022 | 10 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 173



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Water main breaks on Avenue E



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison city crews worked most of the day on what was described as a “large” main break just north of the intersection of 18th and Avenue E. City Public Works Director Mark Boussetot said the break happened just after 10 a.m. and flooded Avenue E for several blocks.

FORT MADISON NEWS

Council OKs \$165K for tourism

City to fund most of board’s expense for first two years

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison city officials have committed close to \$165,000 to help fund a city tourism bureau over the next two years.

At Tuesday’s regular meeting of the Fort Madison City Council, the topic got heavy debate as Councilman Tom Schulz said he opposed the idea because the council had no authority over the group, yet was funding it.

Councilwoman Donna Amandus said the task force that has been recreating what a Fort Madison tourism effort could look like, specifically didn’t want to hand the council control.

Amandus and Schulz are also running for the same Lee County Supervisor seat in the November general election.

City Manager David Varley said the funds will come from city’s share of hotel/motel tax, which also subsidizes Old Fort operations.

“Hotel/Motel money is pretty variable. We go from dropping 25% to being up 70% and this and that, but if we come close to what the city has averaged bringing in over the past five years, we should be able to support this and continue to support our operations at the Fort,” Varley said.

“It may be close a couple years because of the variability of that revenue stream, but I think we can do it.”

The proposal includes hiring a full-time director with a \$45,000 base salary plus benefits that would include insurance, bringing the package to \$56,000 plus a \$1,500 cell phone stipend.

Expenses are expected to be \$93,000 the first year and \$104,500 the second year. The city council committed \$75,000 to the effort for the first year ending June 30, 2023 and \$90,000 for the second year ending June 30, 2024.

See **TOURISM**, page 7

BLOODHOUND PREVIEW

Hounds face stiffest test of year at No. 6 IC Liberty

Lightning’s Beckman leads Class 4A in TDs through the air with 18

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison Head Coach Derek Doherty said the philosophy of the Hounds’ football program is not to focus on winning and losing, but showing up to compete with whomever’s across from you.

That’s the approach he wants the 6-0 Bloodhounds to take when they travel to Iowa City Liberty High School Friday night to take on the 5-1 Lightning.

Liberty is six points from being perfect with the only loss coming to



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg, PCC

Fort Madison’s Henry Wiseman lowers for impact on a reception last Friday in Clinton. Wiseman and the Hounds travel to Class 4A No. 6 Iowa City Liberty this week.

Western Dubuque. They own wins over Iowa City High in week 1 and Linn-Mar in week 2.

Liberty’s Graham Beckman leads state in Class 4A in passing TDs with See **PREVIEW**, page 4

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
 THU 06 Oct.....Mostly sunny and warm, 75° F/ 42° F ☀️
 FRI 07 Oct.....Mostly sunny and cool, 55° F/ 34° F ☀️
 SAT 08 Oct.....Cool with early morning frost, 59° F/ 39° F ☀️

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For the Record/Central Lee Homecoming

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

10/04/22 - 12:00 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited Madison Marie Hunter, 19, of Oquawka, in the 100 block of 2nd Street, on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of alcohol under age.

10/04/22 - 8:24 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1100 block of Avenue H.

10/04/22 - 9:51 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1100 block of 48th Street.

Lee County Sheriff Report

10/04/22 - 1:16 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Crystal Nichole Thomas, 37, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office, on a warrant for failure to appear/contempt of court. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

10/04/22 - 3:45 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Braedon Colby Tinder, 23, of Keokuk, at the South Lee

County Courthouse, on 3 warrants for violation of probation. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

10/04/22 - 5:50 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested a 17-year-old male juvenile from Des Moines at the juvenile detention center on a charge of simple assault.

10/04/22 - 6:33 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Austin Joseph Gray, 30, of Donnellson, at the sheriff's office, on a judgment hold warrant. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Those listed above are arrested on suspicion of a charge and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

10/03/22 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to five medical calls.

10/04/22 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to six medical calls.



The Central Lee High School 2022 Homecoming King court includes Josh Hawk, Thomas Eschman, Blake Bergman, Brett Azinger, and Grant Anderson. The queen court is Karlie Pohren, Makayla Morrison, Mya Lampe, Karissa Moeller, and Paisley Grafton.

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versus

Martin Graber
Republican

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Sports/From the Front

AREA VOLLEYBALL

HTC girls hold Central Lee at bay in SEISC match-up

Crusaders sweep Lady Hawks on Senior Night

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON - Central Lee has been a team that has tested Holy Trinity in volleyball the last two seasons.

The Hawks have won the last two SEI Superconference South Division regular-season matches against the Crusaders.

Holy Trinity made sure that didn't happen this season.

The Crusaders controlled the net, sweeping the Hawks 25-10, 25-19, 25-16 on Senior Night at Shottenkirk Gym.

Holy Trinity (18-8 overall, 3-3 division), ranked 10th in Class 1A, has won 11 of its last 12 matches heading into the final weeks of the season.

"The kids came out with authority," Holy Trinity coach Melissa Freesmeier said. "They came out with a lot of energy, and got the job done. I thought, as a whole, we played really, really well."

Holy Trinity had just nine hitting errors in the three games, a nearly flawless performance that kept the Hawks (10-15, 3-4) from getting anything going.

"We were struggling big-time," Central Lee coach Amy Cook said. "We were struggling on our blocks getting there. Our energy was up and down, something we've been struggling with quite a bit."

Senior nights can get emotional, and this one certainly was for the Crusaders. But they put that aside in a hurry, racing to a 13-3 lead in the first game.

The Hawks challenged Holy Trinity in the second game, leading 8-4 at one point before the Crusaders rallied.

"Central Lee's gotten us the last couple of years," Freesmeier said. "And we didn't want that to happen tonight. It was a big night for our seniors, it was big night for our kids."

"Central Lee's got a team that doesn't give up. They've taken some sets from great teams this year. They're young, but they've challenged a lot of teams."

Mary Kate Bendlage, who led Holy Trinity with 14 kills, was 30-of-33 hitting. Presley Myers, who had 13 kills, was 16-of-17. Brooke Mueller, who had five kills, was 12-of-14. Kayla Box, with three kills, was 7-of-7.

"Our hitters mixed things up, kept them guessing," Freesmeier said.

"I don't feel like we were executing much," Cook said. "We're still struggling with that team chemistry. They'll get there."

"We've got to get our mental toughness. I feel like we've got great athletes, and I feel like I've got them in the right spots for the most part. We just need to build that chemistry up, and that trust in each other."

Anna Bendlage led Holy Trinity with 33 assists. She also was 9-of-9 serving and added four digs and three blocks. Mary Kate Bendlage was 7-of-8 serving with two aces and added 11 digs. Box had three blocks. Alexa Dingman was 18-of-18 serving with one ace. Laura Mehmert was 8-of-8 serving and had two digs. Teagan Snaadt had eight digs.

Mueller, playing for the first time in more than week, was 10-of-13 serving with an ace. She had eight digs and one block, and was honored after the match for reaching the 600-kill mark for her career.

Taegan Denning was 7-of-9 serving with four digs and a block. Myers was 7-of-7 serving, adding three blocks and a dig.

Doherty looking for more from Hounds v. Liberty

PREVIEW - Continued from Page 1

18 as a junior and has 21 total touchdowns, which is second best in the state. He's thrown for 1,481 yards.

"They had a quarterback Ty Hughes last year who transferred and now this Beckman kid is there lighting it up. They have depth there obviously, and being a bigger school helps with that, but it's led from the top," Doherty said.

"This kid likes to throw the ball, but they throw because they can... not because they need to. They like to air it out."

Doherty was less than thrilled with the performance of the Hounds at Clinton where they sneaked out of town with a 14-13 win Friday night.

"Our Monday meeting was pretty rough. We have an open and honest floor, but these guys don't talk as much as teams in the past," he said.

"That's not better or worse, they're just a different group. Last year we knew who those guys were. These guys are bit more quiet. But as coaches we got after them a bit."

Doherty said it seemed the Hounds were trying to get a peak at who Clinton was before engaging in the game.

"We've tried that

This week's live-stream link: <https://youtu.be/9SNN-ymbDYYg>

before, and every time we end up getting scored on. We can't wait around. If we wait around against these types of teams we have coming up, we're going to dig ourselves into a hole that we'll have trouble getting out of."

The Hounds will be led on defense by junior Hayden Segoviano, who will have his hands full keeping Beckman, who isn't afraid to tuck it and run, as well as senior Trey Gregoire who has four TDs and is averaging just over five yards a carry.

Segoviano is ninth in 4A in tackles with 45.5 and fourth, along with sophomore Brody Cashman, in sacks with five each.

Gregoire's twin Garrett Gregoire has seven receiving touchdowns and will keep the Bloodhounds' secondary, which was susceptible to long passes last week, busy most of the night.

Beckman will move the ball around. He's completed passes to 12 different receivers and backs, six of whom have scored TDs. And at out of 152 attempts on the season, Beckman's been picked off just twice.

But Fort Madison's Aidan Boyer has been almost as selective. Boyer has thrown 144 attempts and been intercepted twice. He went over the 1,000 yard mark Friday night.

Junior Teague Smith, who seems to be improving by the week at finding a little extra running room, is

averaging 5.2 yards per carry for 488 yards and six scores.

Doherty said each week Smith finds a little more instinct about running the ball.

"Shout out to Coach (Patrick) Lamb, he's our running back's coach and he's got great drills and has been working those guys. It's been fun to watch and I think Teague's starting to like those longer runs. He's been working hard at it," Doherty said.

The third-year coach said Liberty will run 21 different kids onto the field and that caught Iowa City off guard in Week 1, which is tough to scout for.

"They do a lot of different things. They're very diverse and have great wide receivers.

They run quick routes and make plays and just because they can throw, doesn't mean those running backs won't run. Beckman doesn't run like a quarterback - he runs like a running back and wants yards," Doherty said.

"They're dangerous. I keep using that word, but these guys are putting up points and putting up yards and it's going to be a tough task."

The Hounds play their final two regular season games at home with Class 4A No. 8 North Scott coming to town next week and then Burlington in the season finale. If last year is any indicator the Bloodhounds will need to win one of the final three games to qualify for a spot in the post season.

The livestream link for this week's game can be found by clicking here: <https://youtu.be/9SNN-ymbDYYg>.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Fort Madison Housing Authority is soliciting public comment on updating its Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP) for public housing. The proposed plan will be available for review in the lobby at FMHA, beginning October 4, 2022. Comments may be submitted by October 26, 2022, to be considered by FMHA staff and decision-making authorities. Please submit written comments by mail to: Amy Myers/ACOP, Fort Madison Housing Authority, 1102 48th Street, Fort Madison, IA 52627, or email your comments to amy@fmhousingauthority.com.

SUBJECT In it: Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy, FMHA describes updates to

activities intended to increase programmatic efficiencies and provide quality, affordable rental housing for eligible low-income families in the City of Fort Madison. FMHA is soliciting public comment on planned programmatic updates, which include updates to the background screening process, a revised unit offer approach for approved applicants, and policy changes to reexamination procedures. These updates support the onboarding of new residents and low vacancy rates for FMHA's public housing units.

PUBLIC HEARING: FMHA will hold a virtual public hearing by video conference on the proposed Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy on November 18, 2022, at 10 a.m. Informa-

tion on how to attend will be provided at FMHA's lobby.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Fort Madison Housing Authority is soliciting public comment on updating its Section 8/HCV Administrative Plan. The proposed plan will be available for review in the lobby at FMHA, beginning October 4, 2022. Comments may be submitted by October 26, 2022, to be considered by FMHA staff and decision-making authorities. Please submit written comments by mail to: Amy Myers/HCV ADMIN PLAN, Fort Madison Housing Authority, 1102 48th Street, Fort Madison, IA 52627, or email your comments to amy@fmhousingauthority.com.

www.fmhahousing.com.

SUBJECT In it: Section 8/HCV Administrative Plan, FMHA describes updates to activities intended to increase programmatic efficiencies and provide quality, affordable rental housing for eligible low-income families in the City of Fort Madison. FMHA is soliciting public comment on planned programmatic updates, which include updates to the background screening process, a revised voucher offer approach for approved applicants, and policy changes to reexamination procedures. These updates support the onboarding of new participants and low attrition rates for FMHA's Housing Choice Voucher Program.

PUBLIC HEARING: FMHA will hold a virtual public hearing by vid-

eo conference on the proposed Section 8/HCV Administrative Plan on November 18, 2022, at 10 a.m. Information on how to attend will be provided at FMHA's lobby.

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Sports/Education News

Tourism board plans draw ire from one councilman

TOURISM - Continued from Page 1

Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld said the city collects about \$283,000 a year from the tax revenue.

An additional \$5,000 would come from fundraisers, while the task force projected \$10,000 the first year in marketing grants, \$1,000 in co-op marketing revenue, and \$2,500 from cruise ship services for an estimated total of \$93,500.



AMANDUS

Councilwoman Rebecca Bowker said she is supportive of the effort, but said she wanted to make sure the tourism bureau is a public body and there is transparency in the effort.

Amandus said the current task force will be assembling the Tourism board.

“The task force has been working on this for months,” she said.



SCHULZ

Bowker, who was part of the task force, said at the end of the day it’s public funds and going forward there has to be transparency in all the steps.

Schulz said he concurred with the transparency part, but said he still opposed the idea.

“I don’t like anything about this,” he said.

“I got no problem with allocating the funds, but allocating it to a body with very little accountability to the people who are elected to spend the money and control the tax dollars - handing that off to a third party, I don’t know.

“We’ve got a library that runs pretty good with accountability to (the council), we’ve got an airport that runs pretty good with accountability to this group. But for some reason here we have to write this check and send it to you guys and say, ‘let us know if it works out.’”

Amandus said the program is similar to what she says is working in Keokuk.

“It works very well down in Keokuk not to have this tied to the city,” she said.

Mohrfeld compared the tourism board to the Lee County Economic Development Group board that is private/public funded. He said the task force is suggesting the tourism board be an open board corporation with quarterly reports back to the council.

Schulz said the comparison isn’t realistic because the city is funding the majority of the operations without any accountability.

Mohrfeld said this gives the group latitude to seek funding out of the private sector in the way of fees for services, a capital campaign, or memberships.

The move to fund the tourism board for the next two years with \$165,000 from the city’s hotel/motel tax passed 6-1 with Schulz voting against the measure.

In other action, the council:

- approved 7-0 a first reading to vacate property located between Avenue B and 117-16th Street.

- approved 7-0 to give a 2-year exclusive option to purchase the James Block Building, formerly the Humphrey building, at 732 Avenue G, to Barker Financial out of Iowa City.

HOUND VOLLEYBALL

Lady Hounds lose 2 at SEC tourney

Tonight is senior night for Lady Hounds against New London

PCC Staff

WASHINGTON - The Lady Hounds just missed moving on at the Southeast Conference volleyball tournament Tuesday night.

Fort Madison lost in the first round action to Fairfield 24-26, 15-25, but then almost knocked off Burlington falling in a third set tiebreaker 16-18. Fort Madison won the first set with the Grayhounds 25-22, but got edged in the second set 28-30 before falling in the tiebreaker.

Dayonna Davis led the Bloodhounds at the net with 11 kills followed by Taylor Johnson with 10 kills.

Lauryn Helmick had three aces and Dalaney Walker served a perfect game 15-15 with an ace.

Johnson had six blocks on the night and Sydney McEntee had four.

Amy Yasenoch had 25 digs on the night.

On the year, Johnson leads the Hounds with 70 kills, followed by Aija Jenkins and Elle Ruble each with 54.

Yasenoch leads defensively with 160 digs, followed by Molly Knipe with 130. Knipe is also the go-to Hound for assists with 132 on the season.

Fort Madison falls to 2-15 on the year and is 2-5 in the loop action. They play host to New London Thursday night on Senior Night.

SCC to host college fair on Tuesday, October 11

WEST BURLINGTON - Southeastern Community College will host College Representative Day on Tuesday, October 11, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Loren Walker Arena on the West Burlington campus. Area high school juniors, seniors, and their guardians are invited to attend to learn more about their college options.

Representatives from over 40 colleges, universities, and military branches will be in attendance. The

purpose of the event is to give high school students and their parents an opportunity to discuss admission requirements, housing, financial aid, scholarships, internships, and specific majors.

Jesse Belba, SCC admissions specialist, says he is pleased to host the fair at SCC.

“This is a great opportunity for high school students and their parents,” he said. “They’ll get the chance to visit

with college reps from all over the Midwest and discover what programs and schools are out there for them.”

The program is free and open to the public.

Attendees can pre-register for the event at app.strivescan.com/visit.

The fair is sponsored by the Iowa Association for College Admission Counseling.

For more information, call Belba at (319) 208-5019.

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*Meet our loan officers from left to right:
 Scott Piper, Brett Wrieden, Justin Menke, and Nichole Nagel*



Call today to talk to one of our home loan officers.

319-469-3951

Donnellson | Fairfield | Fort Madison | Houghton | Keokuk | Mt. Pleasant | Packwood | Pilot Grove | West Burlington | West Point | Winfield

www.PilotGroveSavingsBank.com



*The average person is on their device
 3+ hours per day.*

**Reach your customers
 wherever they are
 with digital ads.**

Call Lee (319)371.4125

PEN CITY CURRENT
Black & White and Read all over

Moose Lodge 671

Open
to
the
public

LMNOP
7:00-10:00



\$10
All
you
can
eat

CATFISH & BURGERS

Saturday, October 8

5:00-7:00



Kiwaniis

IVANHOE

COMMUNITY PICNIC

Saturday, October 8

11am-2pm

*Free hot dog lunch
with chips & water*

Free will donations will be accepted and are tax-deductible

A free set of discs will be raffled off at the event. Need not be present to win.

**Stop by to try out the new
Disc Golf Course!**



DONNELSON VISION GROUP PRESENTS

OKTOBERFEST

October 8th

Mainstreet - Donnellson, IA

Friends of the Library Book Sale

8 am - 4 pm (Library)

Classic Car Cruise

10 am - 4 pm (Main Street)

Decorated Pumpkin Contest

10 am - 4 pm (Community Room)

Lunch at the Fire Station

11 am - 3 pm Brats/Hamburgers & 2 sides \$10

River City Baggers

Noon (Main Street) Bags Tournament

Bingo

1 pm - 3 pm (Community Room)

Choppers Axe Throwing

3 pm (Bank Parking Lot)

Food Trucks

3 pm - Bun Buster & Low n Slow

Lee Henry Road Band

3 pm - 6 pm (Stumble Inn)

Hawkeye Tailgate Party & Trivia

4 pm (Stumble Inn)

Family Activities in the Park

Bounce House

10 am - 4pm (\$3)

Sand Art

10 am (\$3)

Pick a Pumpkin

10 am (\$1 & \$2)

Face Painting

1 pm - 3 pm (\$2+)

Balloon Animals

1 pm - 3 pm (\$2)

Kid's Yoga

Noon & 1 pm



CINEMA

FREE

MOVIE SHOWING!

7:15 PM

HOCUS POCUS

LOCATION: LIBRARY

