

PEN CITY CURRENT

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Party lines show in 1st debate



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

House District 100 candidates Rebecca Bowker (D-Fort Madison) and Republican incumbent Martin Graber (R-Fort Madison) field questions at the Pilot Grove Community Room in Donnellson Thursday night.

STARK CONTRAST: Candidates polarized on many issues facing Iowans, Lee County

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DONNELSON - The party lines were stark in contrast as the two candidates for House District 100 squared off in the Pilot Grove Community Room Thursday night.

The event, sponsored by Mississippi Valley Publishing and monitored by Lee County Economic Development Group's Emily Benjamin, took Republican incumbent Martin Graber (R-Fort Madison) and Democratic challenger Rebecca Bowker (D-Fort Madison) through the gauntlet of public education, transgender recognition, abortion, and workers' rights.

The evening was set with questions from the audience and none from Benjamin as moderator.

Grabber outlined his role in the current 83rd district for the past two years, after the position was held by a Democrat for the the past 30 years.

He said he ran to make sure his children and grandchildren have a shot at the same shot of living the American dream he did.

Grabber said he's been a Lee County resident for his whole life minus time in the Iowa National Guard.

Bowker said she's running because she doesn't believe Iowa is on the right path.

"I think there's changes that have happened and legislation that has been made in the last couple of years, restriction of voter rights, not fully funding public education, and of course the threat to take away a women's fundamental rights to health care," Bowker said.

Questions immediately focused on recent efforts of the Iowa GOP to move public funds to private schools.

Bowker said the state has tried to move \$55 million in public funds to benefit a relatively small amount of students and doesn't guarantee any rights to students.

"Gov. Reynolds has professed to pursue vouchers again in the future," Bowker said. "There's several issues, not just moving the public funds, but we have accessibility issues. They're not obligated to accept all students to their schools."

She said private schools can decline enrollment to handicapped students, or if you are disabled, the schools can exclude you. She also said there has to be transparency,

"You have to be able to know what that board is discussing and what is going on in our schools."

She also pointed out that 84% of private schools in Iowa have religious affiliations, which crosses the separation of

See DEBATE, page 7

CO2 PIPELINE



IUB denies tribal request for study

DES MOINES - The Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) issued an order today that denies a request for an environmental impact study (EIS) regarding the proposed carbon capture pipeline by Summit Carbon Solutions LLC (Summit Carbon), which is pending before the IUB in Docket No. HLP-2021-0001. The request for the EIS was filed by the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska (Winnebago Tribe) on June 2, 2022.

The order stated that the IUB will consider specific environmental issues raised by the IUB and the parties in the Summit Carbon docket as part of the public evidentiary hearing and in consideration of whether to grant Summit Carbon a hazardous liquid pipeline permit.

The IUB considers the proposed project under Iowa Code chapter 479B and the IUB's rules at 199 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 13, and the IUB will consider whether Summit Carbon has addressed the environmental concerns sufficiently.

The IUB stated in the order that it does not consider a separate EIS, as required by federal regulations, to be necessary to fulfill its statutory requirements in considering whether to grant the permit requested.

Today's order referenced a similar request made with regard to the Dakota Access pipeline in Docket No. HLP-2014-0001. In the IUB's Final Decision and Order issued March 10, 2016, in the Dakota Access docket, the IUB found "there is no explicit legal requirement, in statute or in rule, for an independent environmental

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WEATHER

FRI 07 Oct.....Sunny and cool, 54° F/ 33° F
SAT 08 Oct.....Sunny and cool, 59° F/ 40° F
SUN 09 Oct.....Sunny and cool, 69° F/ 44° F

OpenWeatherMap

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 10/05.....14 21 37 38 47, Star Ball: 5 All Star Bonus: 4
LUCKY FOR LIFE 10/05.....114 32 45 46, Lucky Ball: 1
PICK 3 10/05 MIDDAY.....4 0 1
PICK 3 10/05 EVENING.....1 9 7
PICK 4 10/05 MIDDAY.....3 8 0 0
PICK 4 10/05 EVENING.....6 2 5 7
POWERBALL 10/05.....26 30 33 37 62, Powerball: 6 Power Play: 2

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Obituaries/Sports

OBITUARIES

DENNIS D. CASS

Dennis Duane Cass, 66, of Montrose, Iowa, passed away at 8:20 a.m. Wednesday, October 5, 2022, at the Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House in West Burlington, Iowa.

He was born on July 14, 1956 in Keosauqua, Iowa, the son of Donald L. and Arlene (Jones) Cass.

He is survived by his mother: Arlene; five brothers: Doug (Robin) Cass of Montrose, Iowa, Ron Cass of San Diego, California, Don (Patty) Cass of Farmington, Iowa, Jim (Tammy) Cass of Jacksonville, Florida and Joe Cass of Argyle, Iowa. Also surviving are several nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father: Donald and brother: Steve.

Dennis retired from Henniges Automotive in Keokuk, Iowa. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, woodworking and working on lawn mowers.

A visitation will begin at 12:00 noon, Sunday, October 9, 2022, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson, where the family will receive friends from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. that afternoon.

A graveside service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, October 10, 2022, at Greenglade Cemetery in Farmington with Reverend Andrew Ellis officiating.

A memorial has been established in his memory for Greenglade Cemetery.

Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

Tribe wasn't first to request an EIS study on pipeline

IUB - Continued from Page 1

impact report as a part of this proceeding."

On June 17, 2022, Summit Carbon filed a response to the Winnebago Tribe's filing, and on June 21, 2022, Sierra Club filed comments addressing the EIS request. Since Sierra Club's filing, numer-

ous members of Sierra Club also have submitted comments requesting an EIS be conducted.

Documents regarding the proposed Summit Carbon pipeline are available for review in the IUB's electronic filing system under Docket No. HLP-2021-0001.

FM Harriers take 3rd at Centerville Invitational

RUMP WINS AGAIN: Avery Rump continues domination of field in ladies events, Shottenkirk leads boys

CENTERVILLE - The Fort Madison girls captured 3rd place at the Centerville Cross Country Invitational Tuesday afternoon behind another top finish for freshman Avery Rump.

The Fort Madison boys also took 3rd place behind Pella Christian and Oskaloosa. Jacob Shottenkirk outpaced the Bloodhound's Mason McLey by 12 seconds at 17:22 to lead the boys.

"The boys ran another stellar race. Every race is better than the one before it. Their confidence is high and we are prepared for what's ahead," said Head Coach Brian Mendez.

"We aren't the favorite heading into the conference meet next week, but I assure you that they are pumped and ready to race. They just take turns each week laying it down and moving the order of our line up! We are so impressed with them all."

Freshman Riley Tripp finished third at 17:43 for the Hounds and 11th overall. The other two scoring runners for the Hounds were Nolan Guzman (18:03 -21st) and John Cottrell (18:40 -40th).

Others competing for the boys were Cameron Shutwell (44th), Payton Lambert (58th), Ben Thele (59th), Castille Johnson (60th) Jackson Haessig (65th) Jake Haessig (118th), and Logan Pomberg (186).

Rump won the overall girls run at 19:19 with Addison Rump in seventh place at 20:36.

Hadley Wolfe was third for Fort Madison and 24th overall at 21:58. Allison Lamb (22:26 -32nd) and Alexa Walz (22:43 - 40th) were the other scoring runners for the Lady Hounds.

"Our girls team is running very well in Paetyn's (Wiegand) absence. They continue to improve and are doing it at the right time. Avery and Addison up front continue to run very well, but make no mistake, Hadley, Allison, Ellie, Alexa and Jordyn continue to improve and impress," Mendez said.

Ellie Huebner (42nd), Jordan Burch (73rd), Emma Berry (106), Emma Kern (120), and Lillian Gelsthorpe (131) also competed for the Bloodhounds.



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Local News/Lee County News

Fort Madison firefighters celebrate 100th year of Fire Prevention Week

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Fire Department is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®)—to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week™ (FPW), October 9-15, 2022. This year’s FPW campaign, “Fire won’t wait. Plan your escape™”, works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe from home fires.

“Today’s homes burn faster than ever. You may have as little as two minutes (or even less time) to safely escape a home fire from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Your ability to get out of a home during a fire depends on early warning from smoke alarms and advance planning,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA.

The Fort Madison Fire Department encourages all residents to embrace the 2022 Fire Prevention Week theme.

It’s important for everyone to plan and practice a home fire escape. Everyone needs to be prepared in advance, so that they know what to do when the smoke alarm sounds. Given that every home is different, every home fire escape plan will also be different. Have a plan for everyone in the home. Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure that someone will help them!

Fort Madison Fire Department wants to share these key home fire escape planning tips:

Make sure your plan meets the needs of all your family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.



Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of your home. Smoke alarms should be interconnected so when one sounds, they all sound.

Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows open easily.

Have an outside meeting place a safe distance from your home where everyone should meet.

Practice your home fire drill at least twice a year with everyone in the household, including guests. Practice at least once during the day and at night.

The Fort Madison Fire Department is hosting a series of events in support of this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, “Fire won’t wait. Plan your escape.”, including a smoke trailer for 4th Graders sponsored by State Farm, assemblies focusing on fire safety at local elementary schools, and reading time with books aimed at fire prevention.

For more general information about Fire Prevention Week and fire prevention in general, visit fpw.org and sparky.org.

Recorder reminds military docs are free of charge

FORT MADISON: The Iowa County Recorders Association wants to make all veterans aware that recording or requesting military records is always free of charge for a veteran. In recent weeks it has been reported that a third-party company has been charging veterans to record these documents. Please review the Iowa Code chapter and information regarding submitting copies of DD214 documents below. Please remember to always contact your local County Recorder for assistance recording or requesting military records.

The County Recorder’s office has on permanent record, military discharges that have been presented for recording by the veterans themselves. Pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 331.608(6), notwithstanding section 22.2, subsection 1, such record shall be confidential and shall not be made available for examination or copying except as follows:

To the person who is the subject of the record, to a member of that person’s immediate family, or to that person’s agent or representative duly authorized in writing.

To a person requesting to examine or copy a record when the event that resulted in the record being made occurred more than sixty-two (62) years prior to the request. However, the recorder shall redact any social security number included in a record made available pursuant to this paragraph.

To a person is a funeral director licensed pursuant to chapter 156 and who has custody of the body of a deceased veteran.

When otherwise ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction.

When otherwise required by a department or agency of the federal or state government or a political subdivision. The recorder shall make these records available to the Department of Veteran’s Affairs. The Department of Veteran’s Affairs and its employees shall be subject to the same state and federal confidentiality restrictions and requirements that are imposed on the recorder.



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Sports

BLOODHOUND VOLLEYBALL

Lady Hounds fall in 3 on Senior Night

Fort Madison can't find momentum in 25-12, 25-10, 25-8 loss to Class 1A No. 14 New London

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison girls volleyball team is still looking for leadership, a dynamic that isn't sitting well with Head Coach Kelly Knustrom.

The Lady Hounds fell to Class 1A No. 14 New London 25-12, 25-10, 25-8 Thursday on Senior Night.

The Bloodhounds were barely in any of the matches outside of a 5-point rally midway through the first game with New London up 10-1.

Isabella Boeding served Fort Madison back into the match with four straight after a sideout to cut the lead to 10-5, and would hang around to 15-10 before New London outscored the Hounds 10-2 the rest of the way, mostly on errors on the Hounds' side of the net.

The Tigers didn't record a kill in the 10-2 run.

"I think it's just kids need to do their job. We weren't doing our jobs tonight. That's what it was," Knustrom said.

The second year head coach got loud during a break in the second set, telling the Lady Hounds to just do their jobs.

"We got tied up in worrying about other people and committing errors. I thought we were pushing through that the last three Tuesdays. Emotions were high because it's senior night. That's not an excuse, but..." she said.

The Tigers ran away clean in games two and three without the Hounds getting closer than five at 13-8 in the second game. New London's Natalie Burden was lethal with kills from her outside hitting spot finding holes down the line and across court through the first two games.

Knustrom said she was playing without Aija Jenkins who is out of town and has been rotating in some younger players.

She said Sydney McEntee has been holding her own as a freshman on the front.

"I've been really impressed with Sydney. I was a bit nervous about her game speed at the varsity level, but she's trying to step up and she's doing okay," Knustrom said.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison senior Dalaney Walker prepares a dig Thursday night in the Bloodhounds' 12-25, 12-25, 8-25 loss to New London.



"I'd like to see some other kids step up and be leaders, and that's not happening and that's frustrating this deep in this season.

"It just felt very unorganized and not team-like tonight. I don't know if it was just high emotions, but I'm ready to forget this game."

Fort Madison falls to 2-16 on the year and travels to Durant this weekend for the Durant Invitational.

Crusaders finding balance at right time of season

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

DANVILLE — October has a different feel, and Holy Trinity's volleyball team knows it.

Postseason is approaching, and the No. 10 (Class 1A) Crusaders are playing their best volleyball at the right time.

Thursday's 25-13, 25-15, 25-16 win over Danville was a complete effort for the Crusaders (19-8 overall, 4-3 SEI Superconference South Division), who have won 12 of their last 13 matches.

Holy Trinity, which made it to the state tournament last season, should know its regional tournament road on Friday with the IGHSU expected to release the pairings. But the Crusaders already have that October feeling.

"I can see that in the way they're playing, and I can see that in the way we're practicing," Holy Trinity coach Melissa Freesmeier said. "They don't take a day off."

What Freesmeier likes the most is the balance of her team. Everyone, she said, is fitting into specific roles and finding out ways to produce — five Crusaders had at least one assist in the match.

"We have an arsenal out there," she said. "It's just making our team better. The key is doing your jobs, and we'll win some ballgames. The cohesiveness is just so much better."

Holy Trinity's offense was led by freshman Presley Myers, who had a career-high 17 kills on 30-of-30 hitting. Freesmeier said she is working well with sophomore Anna Bendlage, who had 36 assists.

"Anna, as you saw again tonight, is playing better and better," Freesmeier said. "And Presley had a career high tonight, and she's getting better and better. They're running well together."

Myers had four kills in a 12-0 run by the Crusaders in the second game, who were trailing 13-12 when the run began.

"Big run," Freesmeier said. "And then the kids just started to play volleyball, have some fun."

"I was very impressed. Danville fought and fought and fought. But again, we ran our offense well."

Mary Kate Bendlage was 12 kills on 28-of-32 hitting. She also was 6-of-6 serving, adding six digs and a block. Kayla Box had five kills and three blocks. Anna Bendlage had seven kills and five digs. Taegan Denning had a kill, an assists, was 20-of-20 serving with one ace, and 11 digs. Brooke Mueller had three kills, two assists, 13-of-15 serving with one ace, and 13 digs. Teagan Snaadt had an assist and 13 digs. Alexa Dingman was 6-of-6 serving. Laura Mehmert was 14-of-15 serving with two aces, and added three digs.

Freesmeier said she's looking forward to seeing the pairings.

"We're wondering, and we're hoping," she said. "We get what we get, and we're not going to throw a fit. Take one game at a time, and go from there."

It is the feeling of October.

"I think they're feeling it, and having fun with it," Freesmeier said.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

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Please email completed applications to:
 Dennis Cosby, EMS Director
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 Jason Dinwiddie,
 Director of Operations
jasondinwiddie@leecounty.org



PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE AGENDA KEOKUK CITY COUNCIL MEETING October 6, 2022 501 Main Street 5:30 P.M.

1. Call to Order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll Call.
4. Mayor's Correspondence:
5. Citizen's Request.
6. Consent Agenda.
 - Minutes of the Council Workshop & Regular City Council meeting of September 15, 2022;
 - Minutes of the Civil Service Committee meeting of September 24, 2022;

- Resolution approving a Liquor License for Aldi, Inc. #15, 3379 Main Street, effective October 22, 2022 – Class C Beer Permit, Class B Winner Permit and Sunday Sales;
 - Certified list for the Fire Department Promotional Examination conducted on September 2, 2022;
 - Approving an Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption for Gerald Dommerman, 1320 Grand Avenue, three season room and breezeway;
 - Motion to pay bills and transfers listed in Register No.'s 5297-5300;
- OLD BUSINESS:

7. Motion to remove from table a motion to approve the initial reading of an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2018, granting to Interstate Power & Light Company, its successors, and assigns, a non-exclusive twenty-five-year franchise to acquire, construct, erect, maintain and operate an electric system in the City of Keokuk, Iowa and to furnish and sell electric energy to the city and its inhabitants and requiring said company to pay a franchise fee to the city.
- NEW BUSINESS:
8. Consider resolution naming authorized representative for Federal Emergency Management Grants.
 9. Consider resolution approving contract for engineering services for South 18th Street repair.
 10. Consider resolution setting a public hearing on a request to vacate & dispose of a portion of a platted unimproved alley in Block 11, Hawkeye Addition, City of Keokuk, Lee County, Iowa.
 11. Consider resolution setting a public hearing on a request to amend Title 20, of the Keokuk Municipal Code Section 20.30.030(6) fences.
 12. Consider resolution authorizing demolition of

13. Motion to approve that all open positions funded all or with a portion of General Fund revenues be approved for hire prior to the recruitment process commencing.
14. Motion to approve filling a firefighter position at the Keokuk Fire Department.
15. Boards & Commissions:
16. Council Liaison Reports:
17. Staff Reports:
18. New Business:
19. Adjourn Meeting.

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17. Staff Reports:
18. New Business:
19. Adjourn Meeting.

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From the Front

Candidates square off on public employees' rights again

DEBATE - Continued from Page 1

church and state dynamic.

"At the end of the day, public money has to stay in public schools."

Graber said the governor did not propose a voucher system in the last session, and the best place to start with education is parents. He said there is already public money in the private school system.

"It's very, very important that we recognize that, in my opinion, the people that ought to control what happens with students is the parents," he said.



BOWKER

"Here's the key, it has to be a joint effort between the students, the parents, and the teachers. It shouldn't be adversarial, they should work together."

Graber said the last governor to cut funding for education was Chet Culver who took money midstream for the public schools.

But Bowker said the current funding level isn't sufficient because it doesn't keep pace with inflation.



GRABER

"We need to fund public schools at 4 or 5%. When this governor is touting a \$1.9 billion surplus, we can do better than 2.5%," she said.

Graber said throwing more money at the problem isn't the answer.

"I would say to you that I'm not a believer that more dollars automatically makes better education. There's a lot more to it than saying 'here's more money take that'."

"It's important that people look at the local level and the quality of the education."

Bowker called it a money illusion because the amount of growth isn't keeping with the growing costs of goods.

The issue of transgender athletes competing with the gender they identify with instead of their biological gender became an issue.

Bowker said she doesn't believe in discriminating against those who identify as a different gender.

"Minority rights are the cornerstone of what our country was based on. In general, I support minority rights that includes LGBTQ individuals and, we as a country and nation, need to move that agenda," Bowker said.

Graber said he voted for the legislation that precludes transgender men from participating in women's sports.

He said the male body structure gives an undue benefit in competition over women and that's not a fair situation.

"I agreed with that and I voted for it."

Another question focused on whether the candidates were anti or pro abortion.

Bowker said it was interesting that the GOP was pushing for a reduction in sex education in public schools, then to defund planned parenthood, then make some contraceptives illegal.

"And, by the way, they want to eliminate abortion or women's right to decide on their own bodies. In no other environment or arena is a man forced to undergo any type of procedure," she said.

"We need to make sure women have a fundamental right to make their own health care decision, and we can't be involved in that."

Graber said he was pro-life and wouldn't say he was pro-abortion.

"If we're going to do anything, we need to make sure we identify for the health care professionals what is an abortion," he said.

Graber said non-viable pregnancies require medical intervention for the safety of the mothers. But he also said the system takes care of the child and mother after the birth.

Bowker took an opportunity to address the impact of the changes to Chapter 20 and public employees' right to bargain for benefits and would she favor reinstatement.

"Absolutely. You're talking about our friends and neighbors that lost their right. Not only did they lose it, but some got slapped in the face, especially corrections, by being excluded from the public safety category," Bowker said.

Graber said the changes to the law took place before he took office and he didn't know if he could support reinstating public employees' bargaining rights.

"The only time it's been mentioned is when the Democrats bring it up as an amendment. I'm going to say right now, it seems like it's working," he said.

Graber referenced the openings at the ISP and said if those rights were in place, they wouldn't be able to do some creative things to help fill those positions.

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