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Tuesday, October 25, 2022 | 6 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 183



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## Ambulance director resigns

**COSBY STEPS ASIDE:** Officials say action won't disrupt ambulance services

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - Lee County Ambulance Director Dennis Cosby submitted his resignation to the county, effective immediately, Monday.

The Lee County Board of Supervisors will convene a special meeting at 2:30 Tuesday to accept the resignation and to consider appointing current Director of Operations, Jason Dinwiddie, as interim director.

Dinwiddie said Monday that he was not aware that Cosby was considering resigning.

Dinwiddie, who's also the county's Emergency Management coordinator, said in the interim things would be fine and the ambulance service will continue to provide the same level of service it has.

But Dinwiddie said he wouldn't be able to serve in both capacities on a permanent basis.

"That would be too much for one person," he said, Supervisor Garry Seyb said he was surprised by the move, as well.

"No, I was not expecting this. It's Dennis' choice and I

See **COSBY**, page 3

## EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



## Weekend shapes up to be pronoic

"Pronoic" is the opposite of "paranoic." A "paranoic" is a person who believes the world conspires against them. A "pronoic" believes the world conspires to do them good.

Such was I this last fall weekend: a pronoic. The world was out to do me, or us (Ginnie was with me) good. I had been invited to my hometown of Monroe, Iowa to do a "Meet the Author and Book Signing" at the Monroe Public Library for my new book, "Task Force IED." What an honor! The wife of my former high school history teacher, Suzanne Johnson, made the arrangements and baked up a truckload of treats for the occasion.

The only problem was that, at first, no one showed up. There we were, sitting and waiting, and no people. How humiliating! I tried to hide the sick feeling in my gut by gobbling down Suzanne's chocolaty treats with coffee, which made me sweat. Brenda, the Librarian, said, "I knew better than to schedule this for a Saturday morning. People are busy." Ugh.

I think God plays these little tricks just to test faith. Lo-and-behold, about half an agonizing hour after the event was supposed to start, people trooped in—old classmates, townspeople I hadn't seen in years, and even a few strangers. Brenda, instead of advertising the book signing to start at 10:00 am, had listed it as 10:00 am – 12:00. So people naturally thought they could drop in anytime within that time range. So be it. Bill it and they will come.

The book signing was a success. Books were signed, questions asked, and handshakes and hugs offered and accepted. One of the townspeople went home, read

See **SWARM**, page 2

## No Tricks, Just Treats

Thousands of kids and parents made the trek to Donnellson Saturday night for the Lee County Crime Stoppers No Tricks Just Treats event at Lee County Fairgrounds to launch the Halloween holiday. Vendors lined up in the fair barns to hand out candy and other treats to goblins

Courtesy photo



## Telecom exec updates board on broadband project

**DANVILLE TELECOM:** CEO tells county investment could open up more broadband improvements

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - The currently-funded broadband expansion in Lee County has further reaching opportunities for county residents.

Tim Fencil, General Manager and CEO of Danville Telecom, told the Lee County Board of Supervisors the current project will give Danville Telecom a connection loop including Lee County that will provide non-interrupted service for customers.

The current project is 57 miles of fiber optic cabling that will provide service to more than 120 homes currently without broadband service in the county, as well as an opportunity to enhance service along the

corridor.

He also said there are other funding mechanisms on the horizon that could bring more broadband service to the area in the future.

Supervisor Ron Fedler asked Fencil specifically if the expanded service project, which received a \$1.95 million grant from the county's \$6.5 million in America Rescue Plan Act funds, would provide any service along West Point Road and County

See **INTERNET**, page 3

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## WEATHER

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# Obituaries/From the Front

## OBITUARIES

### GERALD A. WILSON

Gerald A. Wilson, Sr., 86 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died 10:41 a.m. Sunday morning, October 23, 2022 at the River Hills Care Center, Keokuk, Iowa. He was born September 5, 1936 at Brooklyn, Illinois, a son of Arthur W. and Alta Ruth (Snyder)



WILSON

Wilson. On May 19, 1957, he married Karen Lee Ballard at the First Baptist Church, Fort Madison, Iowa. After celebrating 60 years of marriage, Karen preceded him in death June 28, 2017.

He worked doing testing materials at Sheaffer Pen for 5 years, Iowa Army Ammunition Plant for 15 ½ years, and the former Amax (now Climax), retiring after 15 ½ years. During retirement he worked at Farm King and Pinkerton Security. He enjoyed woodworking, hunting and was an animal lover. He was known for his many unusual pets. Gerald also had quite the green thumb, growing many flowers and plants.

Gerald is survived by his one son: Gerald A. (Christy) Wilson Jr., of Fort Madison, Iowa; three daughters: Dollie J. (Gregory) Horn, of Fremont, Iowa; Shirley J. (Ronald) McMurray, of Franklin, Iowa; and Rebecca S. "Becky" Wilson, of Fort Madison, Iowa; one brother, Leon (Frances) Wilson, of Fort Madison, Iowa; one sister, Billie Mosher, of Fort Madison, Iowa; 13 grandchildren, 19 great grandchildren, several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, one son, Michael Wilson, two brothers, Harold and Raymond and one sister, Juanita Sawyer.

Family will greet friends from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Thursday, October 27, 2022 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. A Funeral Service will follow at 11:00 a.m. Thursday morning at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Burial will be at the Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison. A memorial has been established, contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Online condolences to the Wilson Family may be made from the Barr Memorial Chapel, [www.barrmemorialchapel.com](http://www.barrmemorialchapel.com).

## OBITUARIES

### LORENE L. WILSON BOYER

Lorene Lillian Wilson Boyer, 88, of Donnellson, Iowa, passed away at 10:05 p.m. Saturday, October 22, 2022, at the Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House.



BOYER

Born on December 18, 1933, in West Point, Iowa, the daughter of Delbert and Bertha (Eschman) Wilson. On December 28, 1952 she married Delbert W. Boyer at St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Franklin, Iowa. He preceded her in death on December 7, 2014.

She is survived by five sons: David (Christina) Boyer, Jerald (Tina) Boyer, Allen Boyer, Bradley (Tammy) Boyer, and Bruce (Katie) Boyer; also surviving are eleven grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband; parents; three sisters: Doris, Genevieve, and Nadine; and two brothers: Edwin and Roger.

Lorene was a member of the St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Franklin. She loved tinkering on her farm, gardening, canning, and doing crafts with her grandchildren.

Her body has been entrusted to the crematory of Schmitz Funeral Home for cremation.

Per Lorene's wishes no visitation or services are planned.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Donnellson Library or Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House and can be mailed to Tammy Boyer P.O. Box 61 Farmington, Iowa.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.schmitzfuneral-homes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneral-homes.com). Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements.

# Weekend seemed as though the world conspired to do good

## SWARM - Continued from Page 1

the book overnight, and posted on social media that it was the best book he ever read. Fantastic!

Following the book signing, my high school graduating class of '66 had a class reunion at a classmate's, Karlin and Darrell's, rural home. What a nice event, with food and desserts to last from here to Sunday. "Get your kix with the class of '66." (My weight scales wasn't so kind after that. Grrr!)

The class reunion was held next to where I grew up: Maple Hill. One of my high school buddies, John, offered to take Ginnie and me for a UTV ride through the timber, creek bottom, and fields where I used to hunt, fish and tramp around. Ginnie and I jumped at the opportunity. It was such a beautiful fall day,



with corn stalks, hay fields, and a bullhead-filled pond transporting me back to my youth. I saw myself, at 13, sitting in a locust tree, pumping on a fox call, trying to avoid the three-inch thorns. The Indian-Summer sun set the hardwoods ablaze with color—reds, golds, silver. The world was showing us her beauty.

Then it was "Light and Fight" night in Monroe with live music, food and games at the town "square." The town "square" had the same feeling as it did over fifty years ago when Herb Bosch flooded a section for ice skating.

It was after dark, and now, in 40° weather, there were fire department games, where two opposing teams tried to water blast a lighted barrel on a zip line against each other. It was like a contest of wills, or good vs evil. Water over sprayed us in the chilly night air. But it was refreshing, exhilarating actually, as the world swirled in laughter, music, and fire-engine sirens. Once again, it was as if the world was conspiring to do us good.

Ginnie and I spent the night with a couple of my old classmates, Mark and Jane, then went to church with them the following Sunday morning. The church service was in the K P of Al building, whatever that means. When we were in high school we called it the "KP Hall" and had dances there. It's where I did my first twist. So many memories, so many good feelings.

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## From the Front

# BEAD funds could be used for more county broadband work

**INTERNET** - Continued from Page 1

Road X23.

Fencl said there are plans to extend broadband south out of New London, but only to Skunk River, which separates Henry and Lee County.

"I just wanted answers for people that come to me who are not going to get initial access to this, that they understand from the profits (Danville Telecom) will reinvest and expand on it," Fedler said.

Fencl said residents can look on Danville Telecom's website to see where the expansion in service is planned.

Fencl told Supervisor Rick Larkin that it could be up to 10 years before the entire county has broadband access.

Danville Telecom partnered with Southeast Iowa Regional and Economic Port Authority to foster the project in southeast Iowa.

As part of that agreement SIREPA will own the fiber optics network for 10 years and Danville Telecom will pay a \$95,000 annual lease payment to SIREPA, which is to be used to leverage additional funds for county broadband expansion.

"The takeaway is that we want people to understand this project is just not helping the people along that route. It's much bigger than that and will continue to give back over the next decade," said Supervisor Garry Seyb.

"To me, this is just a model of what, as a county, we should be looking at. The decision this board made was really awesome."

Fencl also brought up the federal Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment program that is part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

That act includes \$42.45 billion in funding for the BEAD program, which is focused on connecting underserved areas by funneling money through state grants. The legislation gives the National Telecommunications and Information Administration authority over the program. How long it will be before grants are awarded is still unclear.

Under the program, each of the 50 states will receive an initial allocation of \$100 million from the \$42.45 billion pot, with additional funding to be distributed based on coverage maps that have yet to be put out by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Fencl said that amount could expand to as much as \$400 million in Iowa, according to conversations he's having with officials about the program.

In order to receive funding, each state must submit a five-year action plan that identifies locations that should be prioritized for support; outlines how to serve unconnected locations; and assesses how long it would take to build out universal broadband.

State-level grant opportunities will be open to cooperatives, non-profits, public-private partnerships, private entities, utilities, and local governments. Grant recipients are required to deliver service offering speeds of at least 100 Mbps downstream and 20 Mbps upstream and provide at least one low-cost service plan for subscribers.

Seyb said the lease payments that go back to SIREPA for using the fiber optics could be used to leverage additional state and federal funding to increase broadband coverage.

Mike Norris, SIREPA's administrator, said the Danville Telecom project structure was recognized by Iowa's Office of the Chief Information Officer, as one of the most innovative project structures of any submission.

"Bringing ARPA money into this partnership we have is at the forefront of something totally unique and effective in Iowa and I think we need to keep that going," he said.

"So we're keeping an eye on this BEAD fund and will keep up with the board about how we can keep that structure and leverage going for future success."

# Seyb: Ambulance service will stay strong in the county

**COSBY** - Continued from Page 1

don't know what his reasoning is, but that would be something to talk with him about," Seyb said.

Cosby was unavailable for comment when contacted Monday.

"I can honestly say I was surprised. Jason will be able to step up in the interim assuming the board accepts the resignation. I don't know what would stop them from that," Seyb said.

"I don't see this as concerning. I don't think it will be felt in the public, but it will be felt by us. As far as day-to-day operations, the ambulance service will continue to function well for Lee County. We're making a lot of strides and a lot is changing with the service."

The position will be advertised for at least 10 days and then the county will start conducting interviews for the opening.

"I still see the ambulance as a strong organization in the county. We will start a search going forward," Seyb said.

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## Sports

# HTC to face Nikes for state tourney berth Wednesday

BY JOHN  
BOHNENKAMP  
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON - The difference for Holy Trinity in Monday's Class 1A regional semifinal against WACO was the game they lost.

The 25-6, 23-25, 28-26, 25-17 win for the Crusaders was built on the run that just fell short in the second game.

And now they get a chance to face the team that has knocked them out of the last two post-seasons.

No. 9 Holy Trinity (28-15) faces No. 5 Notre Dame (31-13) in Wednesday's 7 p.m. regional final at Burlington High School. The Crusaders lost to the Nikes in the regional semifinal in 2020 and in the state semifinals last season.

"We're going to go in on Wednesday night and fight," Holy Trinity coach Melissa Freesmeier said.

WACO (27-7) provided the Crusaders with quite the battle in this match.

The first game was easy — Holy Trinity scored the final 14 points behind the serving of Mary Kate Bendlage, who had five of her 10 service aces in the match during that run.

"Set 1, I knew we were ready, but I didn't expect it to be so dominating," Freesmeier said. "We were glad it was."

"I think we came out and showed who we are," freshman middle hitter Presley Myers said.

But the Warriors didn't go away. They scored six consecutive points with the second game tied at 18 to get to game point.

Holy Trinity scored the next five points, and appeared to tie the game at 24 when an Ellah Kissell tip appeared to go out of bounds untouched. But after a conference among the officials, it was ruled that Holy Trinity had touched the ball before it went out, giving the game to WACO.

The way the Crusaders finished, though, provided the fuel for the rest of the match, especially in the third game, when they trailed 25-24, led 26-25, and then finally pulled out the game.

"We came back and had a chance to win it, and I thought that that was big for momentum," Freesmeier said. "The kids just stayed in it, kept fighting. The call at the end, we were like, you had the chance to win the game,

but we shouldn't have given them the opportunity. They were like, 'All right, let's go.'"

"We were down five and came back," Bendlage said. "That call, it was the right call. But carrying that into the third set, we had all the momentum. That third set would have been much harder for us had we not finished (the second game) like we did."

"We lost that second set," Myers said. "There were little things we did, mistakes we made, that we knew we could fix. And we did do better in the third and fourth set."

Holy Trinity took control of the fourth game, taking a 20-13 lead with a 5-0 run that included two more aces from Bendlage.

"I'm not usually one to serve that many aces, so that was kind of a surprise for me," said Bendlage, who was 31-of-31 serving. "But I've been really focusing in on my serve."

"When she puts the ball in play, she has some wicked, wicked serves," Freesmeier said.

It was the second time the Crusaders defeated WACO this season. They won in three games in the SEI Superconference Tournament, an education for what they would face in this match.

"I think we learned we had to be on our toes, because they hit it hard every



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

WACO's Grace Coble tries an attack against the block of Kayla Box (3) and Anna Bendlage (24) in early action Monday night. The Crusaders won 25-6, 23-25, 28-26, 25-17 to advance in Class 1A Region 8 post-season play. The Crusaders take on Burlington Notre Dame Wednesday night at BHS with a 7 p.m. start time.

single time," Holy Trinity setter Anna Bendlage said. "They place the ball well."

Bendlage had a season-high 40 assists. She is in her first season as the Crusaders' setter, pressed into a larger role after the season-ending knee injury to Natalie Randolph.

"Mostly, it's just staying positive and listening to my coaches and my teammates, learning where to put the ball," Bendlage said. "It was a lot, because I didn't start setting until last year. But it's good pressure."

"I think she's done

really well," said Mary Kate Bendlage. "For her never setting a varsity game, she's taken to the role. She stays calm, cool and collected, which is all we need."

The Crusaders kept their cool, and their momentum, and are one step away from returning to the state tournament.

"We had some unsung heroes on the night, all over the court," Freesmeier said. "It was nice to see everyone involved tonight, and we're going to need that again."

"That was fun. That's what high school volleyball is all about."

"Oh yeah," Myers said. "It was fun."

HOLY TRINITY STA-

### TISTICS

Anna Bendlage — 3 kills, 40 assists, 11-13 serving (2 aces), 10 digs, 1 block

Mary Kate Bendlage — 17 kills, 4 assists, 31-31 serving (10 aces), 15 digs, 5 blocks

Kayla Box — 13 kills, 1 assist, 10 digs, 4 blocks

Taegan Denning — 3 kills, 1 assist, 16-18 serving (3 aces), 12 digs

Alexa Dingman — 10-10 serving (3 aces), 1 dig

Laura Mehmert — 12-12 serving, 2 digs

Brooke Mueller — 7 kills, 1 assist

Presley Myers — 13 kills, 3 digs, 2 blocks

Teagan Snaadt — 2 assists, 13 digs

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