

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 | 9 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 39



www.pencitycurrent.com

Amendment focuses on Lee County seats

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR



DAWSON

son (R-Council Bluffs) allows a county with multiple county seats to consolidate to one county seat by a vote of the county's board of supervisors.

Lee County is the only county in the state with more than one county seat and one county courthouse.

Lee County Supervisor Garry Seyb said he was surprised by Dawson's amendment, when he was

See **DAWSON**, page 7



An unhappy anniversary

What's on my mind this week?
Kelsey Ray Vandenberg.

This Monday, February 20, will be the third year to not have cake, not go to Cheddars or Steak 'N Shake, or eat her undertenderized beef stroganoff. I would give anything to chew on that meal again.

I used to hint, very gently, that she needed to stew the meat a little longer. But it didn't matter at all. I got such a kick out of watching her, and usually a house full of kids, yucking it up (I mean that in more ways than one), in the kitchen. Izzy Miller, Caleb Gehle, sometimes a Kai Newkirk, would pop in and it would be a full-on show.

With sauce splatters dried on my wife's new stove, and dishes heaped in the kitchen sink, Kelsey would call out "dinner's ready."

Lee and I would exchange looks. I could see that she was apprehensive, but we wouldn't have missed it for the world.

Yes, it was tough.

And so is February 20 every year.

In the name of that "anniversary", which is a phrase that gets in the way a bit because usually that's meant for celebration in most remarks, I have a story I want to share.

I've told a few people this story, but I think on this anniversary, I will share it with you all. Because over the last three years, you've all shared through these writings, the desolation and darkness that is losing a child. Many times I've prayed that no one I know ever has to go through this, but if these writings help anyone now and in the future, then sharing is absolutely the right thing to do.

So this story is dedicated to Tom Gendron and Tom Walljasper for sharing their grief with me; for my wife for her pain and unbearable suffering; to Taylor

See **KELSEY**, page 8

Thacher 4th at state



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison junior Ike Thacher reacts after getting his hand raised in 5th-round wrestleback action Friday night at the IHSAA State Wrestling Tournament in Des Moines.

LOOKING AHEAD: Bloodhound junior has eyes set on a better finish in 2024

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DES MOINES – For Ike Thacher it was a relatively short path to the podium Saturday night at his second IHSAA State Wrestling tournament.

Thacher wrestled five times for just about 16 minutes over four days and took the podium as the 4th-place medalist in

Class 3A 195 lbs.

His only pin came at the hands of North Scott's AJ Peterson in the battle for 3rd place. Peterson had fallen to DreShaun Ross of Fort Dodge, the No. 3 seed at 195 lbs. who also knocked the Bloodhound from the championship bracket on Thursday.

See **THACHER**, page 9

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WEATHER

WED 22 Feb..... Heavy rain with possible storms, 49° F/ 38° F

THU 23 Feb..... Mostly sunny with wind gusts, 40° F/ 13° F

FRI 24 Feb..... Partly sunny and cold, 30° F/ 23° F

OpenWeatherMap

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 02/20.....4 10 19 27 39, Star Ball: 10 All Star Bonus: 2

LUCKY FOR LIFE 02/20.....8 12 41 42 47, Lucky Ball: 1

PICK 3 02/20 MIDDAY.....3 8 0

PICK 3 02/20 EVENING.....2 5 7

PICK 4 02/20 MIDDAY.....6 10 1

PICK 4 02/20 EVENING.....7 3 0 2

POWERBALL 02/20.....3 17 26 38 54, Powerball: 15 Power Play: 3

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

EDGAR G. HOENER

Edgar "Bud" George Hoener, 88, of Sutter, Illinois, passed away on Sunday, February 19, 2023, at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, Illinois.

Bud was born on August 21, 1934, at the family farm in Hancock County, Illinois, the son of George and Freda M. (Hufendick) Hoener. He attended high school through Sophomore Christmas vacation, but he was valedictorian of his 8th grade class. On October 20, 1963, he was united in marriage to Carolyn "Sue" Smyser at the Emerson Baptist Church in Emerson, Missouri. She survives.

A farmer his entire life, Bud was also a member of Bethany United Christian Church in Tioga. In his younger years, Bud enjoyed going to the Crystal Ball Skating Rink in Carthage, and participated in skate shows.

He was an excellent woodworker and could play the piano by ear. Family was his top priority, and he attended all his children and grandchildren's sports, orchestra, band and school activities. Bud was a prolific traveler and visited all forty-eight continental states.

Bud proudly served his country in the United States Army from 1957 to 1959, where he was a guard at Spandau Prison. During this time he guarded Rudolph Hess, Albert Speer and Baldur von Schirach.

Bud is survived by Carolyn "Sue" Hoener of Sutter, Illinois; two sons: Douglas Hoener of Quincy and Gregory (Kathy) Hoener, Sr. of Sutter; his daughter Tammy Hoener of Quincy; seven grandchildren: Bryce (Olivia) Hoener, Allyson (Joshua) Hetzler, Kayla Hoener (Fiance Owen Shelton), Michael (Richlyn) Hoener, Gregory (Megan) Hoener, Jr., Thomas (Lexis) Hoener and Amber Hoener; five great-grandchildren: Callum, Liam, Ricky, Bennett and Ember; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Bud is preceded in death by his parents; three sisters: Marie (Pete) Frey, Naomi (Little) Griffin and Pauline Hoener; and his daughter-in-law Gloria Hoener.

Funeral services will be held at 10 am on Thursday, February 23, 2023, at Bethany United Church of Christ in Tioga, with burial to follow at Oakland Cemetery in Warsaw, Illinois. Military honors at the cemetery will be rendered by the Hancock County Honor Guard and the United States Army. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, February 22, from 2 to 7 pm, with family meeting friends from 4 to 7 pm at Printy Funeral Home in Warsaw.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Bethany United Church of Christ in Tioga.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.printyfuneralhome.com. Printy Funeral Home of Warsaw is in charge of arrangements.



HOENER



OBITUARIES

EVA P. WEST

Eva Pearl West, 91, of Keokuk, IA, died Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL.

She was born February 1, 1932 in LaHarpe, IL the third daughter of seven children to Sylvester Jennings "S.J." and Evelyn Mitchell Barnes.



WEST

Eva graduated from Memphis High School in Memphis, MO with the class of 1950. She was the team captain of the high school basketball team and the team was undefeated and went on to become the state champions.

On October 30, 1950 Eva was united in marriage to Ralph West in Keokuk. He preceded her in death.

She was a resident of Keokuk prior to moving to Florida for the last fifty years.

Eva had been employed as a hairdresser, worked at Sheller Globe in Keokuk, and for the Dana Corp in Sarasota, FL.

Eva loved working jigsaw puzzles and was an avid reader. Most of all, Eva loved her family very much and treasured the time she spent with her family. She will be dearly missed by all.

She is survived by one daughter, Vicki Radel (Ronnie) of Keokuk, three grandchildren, Adam (Cecilee) Radel, Jason Radel and Wes (Mary) Radel, three great-grandchildren, Eva Radel, Erica Radel and Orlando Radel, one brother, David Barnes (MaryAnn) of Kahoka, MO, two sisters, Carol Crivolio and Donna Kay Eddleman both of Florida and many nieces and nephews.

Besides her husband, she was also preceded in death by one son, Joseph West, her parents, one brother, Richard (Katherine) Barnes, two brothers-in-law, August Crivolio and Howard Eddleman, two sisters, Mary Lou (Tom) McGeeney and Wilma (Don) Fitzgerald and several nieces and nephews.

According to her wishes, she was cremated and a graveside service will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital or to the Keokuk Humane Society.

The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorial-home.com.

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For the Record/Iowa News

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

02/15/23 - 9:24 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft at the intersection of 24th Street and Avenue N.

02/16/23 - 8:42 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 600 block of 8th Street.

02/16/23 - 8:43 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited Sherris Michelle Marino, 41, of Fort Madison, in the 2600 block of Avenue L, on a charge of city: theft.

02/16/23 - 8:43 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited Kierra Denise Julius, 30, of Fort Madison, in the 2600 block of Avenue L, on a charge of city: theft.

02/16/23 - 10:53 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2500 block of Avenue J.

02/16/23 - 4:09 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Avenue H.

Lee County Sheriff Report

02/15/23 - Lee County sheriff deputies had no activity to report.

02/16/23 - 6:29 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Trenton Darius Gosnell, 27, of Montrose, in the 3400 block of Argyle Road, Keokuk, on charges of 3rd offense OWI and escape from custody - felon. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

02/16/23 - 7:58 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Kristofer Lee Walters, 32, of Burlington, at the North Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for failure to appear - citation. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

02/01/23 - CLAYTON, GREGORY T (33 of Mendon, IL) Driving While License Revoked, Resisting/Obstructing a Peace Officer, Operate Uninsured Vehicle, Unlawful Use of Weapon

02/02/23 - MCCLANE, AMMON R (18 of Nauvoo, IL) Speeding

02/02/23 - WAGEMAN, LUCAS C (32 of Marquette Heights, IL) Speeding

02/02/23 - PUMO, BREANN N (35 of Macomb, IL) Speeding

02/02/23 - HEAGY, DENISE A (37 of Hamilton, IL) Speeding

02/05/23 - COOVERT, DAVID J (61 of Sycamore, IL) Speeding

02/05/23 - SUTTON, FRANKIE J (51 of Lomax, IL) Speeding

02/06/23 - ROBERTS, TAYLOR D (31 of Plymouth, IL) Aggravated Domestic Battery

02/07/23 - REEVES, CLINTON R (52 of Keokuk, IA) Driving While License Suspended

02/08/23 - SCHMITZ, KAR-

LEY R (29 of Keokuk, IA) Hancock County Warrant

02/10/23 - BAKER, ANTHONY L (52 of West Burlington, IA) Driving While License Suspended, Expired Registration, Obstruction of Justice, Henderson County Warrant

02/10/23 - RUSSELL, GREGORY A (60 Homeless) Hancock County Warrant

02/10/23 - SCHENK, SHASTA D K (41 of Quincy, IL) Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Hypodermic Needles, Obstruction of Justice

02/11/23 - HAYES, ROBERT L (53 of Elvaston, IL) Driving While License Revoked

02/12/23 - MCCONNELL, NOAH J (17 of Lomax, IL) Improper Lane Usage

02/12/23 - MILLER, JAIDEN C (19 of Clayton, IL) Speeding

02/13/23 - LEFFLER, BROOKE K (32 of Hamilton, IL) Possession of Methamphetamine

02/14/23 - GUTHRIE, JAMES L (52 of Tioga, IL) Driving While License Revoked

02/14/23 - LEVERTON, STEVE A (60 of Bowen, IL) Criminal Trespass to Vehicle

02/14/23 - LEVERTON, STEVE A (60 of Bowen, IL) Criminal Trespass to Vehicle

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

Eminent domain protestors rally at capitol

DES MOINES — Today, 150 landowners impacted by proposed hazardous carbon pipelines rallied at the Capitol alongside legislators and advocates, calling for a ban on eminent domain for the projects.

Twelve bills have been introduced this session in Iowa on the carbon pipeline issue including Senator Taylor's SF 101 which would enact such a ban. The rally came one day after the introduction of HF 368, which has the support of House leadership including Speaker Grassley, but does not include a full ban on eminent domain. Following a press conference this morning, landowners and advocates attended a subcommittee hearing for HF 368, where the bill was passed out of subcommittee.

Summit, Navigator and Wolf are behind three carbon pipelines proposed to cover 3,650 miles of the Midwest, including 1,590 miles in Iowa. The projects would cross 56 counties and affect tens of thousands of property owners in Iowa alone. Buoyed by substantial federal tax credits and eligible for \$40 billion of federal taxpayer funding,

these carbon pipelines pose serious safety risks currently under investigation by the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

Last week, the Iowa Utilities Board established a hearing schedule for the Summit carbon pipeline to begin in October, meaning that the 2023 legislative session is make or break for the carbon pipeline threat. For more than a year, impacted landowners, constituents and advocates have demanded legislative passage of a full ban on eminent domain for carbon pipelines like those proposed by Summit, Navigator and Wolf; a move supported by 70% of Iowa voters, according to Food & Water Action polling.

"Iowans are making ourselves heard loud and clear: no eminent domain for private gain," said Food & Water Watch Senior Iowa Organizer Emma Schmit. "From kitchen tables and farm fields to community meetings and the Capitol, our demands could not be more clear.

See RALLY, page 8

Respiratory Season is Here!

Complete with Influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and COVID-19!

The colder temperatures keep us all cozy and warm inside, but this closeness and the decreased indoor air flow only increase the spread of uninvited viruses.



Keep your family safe during Respiratory Season by following these tips:

- Stay home if you are feeling sick.
- Get a vaccination/booster for any viruses circulating. In our region this includes flu and COVID-19.
- Wash hands often, especially after sneezing, coughing, using a bathroom, or blowing your nose. It is always important to wash your hands before touching your face.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth whenever possible.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes or cough into your sleeve.
- Disinfect any surfaces you frequently use, such as doorknobs, faucet handles, children's toys and remote controls.

If you do catch one of these viruses, consult your medical provider for any symptoms that are severe or concerning.

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Sports

Lady Hounds dumped from post-season at CC-A

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

TIFFIN — The fire alarm provided some needed humor to the Fort Madison High School girls basketball team on Saturday night.

It's been a season of every emotion for the Bloodhounds, starting with the grief over the death of head coach Tony Sargent before the season.

So, when the Bloodhounds and everyone else in the gymnasium were sent outside when the fire alarm went off during the Class 4A regional semifinal against Clear Creek Amana, Sargent's daughter Toni, now Fort Madison's head coach, said she wondered who might have been responsible for the alarm.

"We kind of thought maybe my dad was in charge of pulling that fire alarm," Sargent said, smiling and trying to laugh through the tears that always come at the end of a season. "Maybe to get us moving a little bit."

The Bloodhounds' season ended with a 62-28 loss to the seventh-ranked Clippers, who advanced to Tuesday's regional final against North Scott.

Fort Madison ended its season with a 16-7 record.

"I'm nothing but proud of them," Sargent said. "This group has been so fun to coach. They get along. There's no drama. They're unselfish. They're just a great group of girls."

The Clippers (17-4) scored the game's first eight points as Fort Madison had two turnovers and missed three shots to open the game. Clear Creek Amana led 16-6 after the first quarter and was up 22-6 when the game was stopped.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison Head Coach TJ Sargent tries to get the Lady Hounds motivated during a timeout in the 2nd half of Fort Madison's regional semifinal loss Saturday in Tiffin.

Clear Creek Amana's Meg Berkland had made the first of two free throws when the fire alarm went off. A minute later, an evacuation of the gym was ordered and everyone headed outside.

Players from both teams weren't allowed to get anything from their locker rooms, so they were sitting outside in the uniforms, waiting with everyone else until firefighters arrived.

"We got them some blankets, tried to keep them warm," Sargent said.

There was no fire, and everyone was let back into the gym. The delay began at 7:18 p.m., and play resumed at 7:45 after the two teams were allowed a five-minute warmup.

Berkland missed her second free throw, but it didn't slow the Clippers, who led 32-10 at halftime after holding the Bloodhounds without a second-quarter field goal.

"Our shots just didn't fall in the first half," Sargent said. "It really put us in a bind. It did."

Fort Madison also went the entire third quarter without a field goal, and by the time Hadley Wolfe scored on a layup early in the fourth quarter, the Bloodhounds were down 53-17.

Dayonna Davis led Fort Madison with 11 points, all in the fourth quarter. Camille Kruse finished her career with 10 points, all coming in the first half.

Kruse and Molly Knipe were the only seniors on Fort Madison's roster this season.

"They've been great leaders all year," Sargent said. "Molly's a rebounding machine and her defense has been stellar all year. And Camille, she does everything. So we've got some big shoes to fill."

Drinking Habits 2
"Caught in the Act" Book By **Tom Smith**

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Lunch Specials
Feb 20-24
11am - 1pm

Monday, February 20

Roast Beef Sandwich, Cheese Potatoes

Tuesday, February 21

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Wednesday, February 22

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Thursday, February 23

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Friday, February 24

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Mount Pleasant City Council will meet in Regular Session Wednesday, February 22 at City Hall, 307 E. Monroe Street, second-floor meeting room at 5:30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Roll Call.
 2. Consent Agenda: To the Public -All items with an asterisk (*) are routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion and a roll call of the Councilmembers. There will be no separate discussion of items unless the Mayor, a

councilmember or citizen so request, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered in its normal sequence on the Agenda.

3. Receive & file communications- Midwest Old Threshers Reunion 2023 - Historic Preservation Annual Report
 - Request to purchase of undeveloped alley in the 1100 block of N. Lucas and N. Broadway
 4. Approve agenda.
 *5. Approve minutes of previous meetings.
 *6. Approve payment of bills.
 *7. Receive reports of Officers.

8. Old Business-
 * a) Request from Main Street Mount Pleasant for use of Central Park for year 2023 events to sell alcohol and close parking spaces as outlined in the letter from Lisa. Oetken.

* b) Request from Relay for Life of Henry County to rent Central Park, blocking off parking spaces on northeast corner of the square, June 23, 2023.
 *c) Approve Amplified Sound Permit for Relay of Life, June 23, 2023, in Central Park From 5-9 p.m.
 9. New Business-
 a) Resolution setting date for Public Hearing

on City of Mount Pleasant 2023/2024 Maximum Property Tax Dollars.

b) Resolution setting Public Hearing for FRA TCO zone change.
 c) 1st reading of proposed Ordinance amending Park and Recreation fees.
 d) Approve purchase of cemetery mowers.
 10. Public Forum.
 11. Adjourn to meet in regular session on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDINGS FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL 2/14/2023

The Fort Madison City Council held a special meeting at 4:00 P.M. on Tuesday, 2/14/2023, at City Hall, 811 Avenue E.

Mayor Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Gray, Rink, Andrews and Roller present. Council Members Bowker, Amanus and Cangas were absent.

On motion, Council approved the agenda as written. On motion, Council approved a 14-Day liquor license for Fork Catering & Hospitality, effective February 18, 2023. The meeting adjourned at 4:06 P.M.

/s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld,

Mayor
 ATTEST: /s/ Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF WEST BURLINGTON Special City Council Meeting Wednesday, February 22, 2023 - 6:00 PM West Burlington City Hall 122 Broadway Street

TENTATIVE AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER
 ROLL CALL
 PERFECTING & APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 PUBLIC HEARING
 1. Council will hold a

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Hearing on this issue of establishing the Maximum Tax Dollars to Levy for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

- NEW BUSINESS
1. Consider a Resolu-

tion setting the maximum property tax dollars for the affected levy for Fiscal Year 2023-2024
CITIZEN INQUIRIES
ADJOURN

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE

THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE LEE COUNTY COMMISSION OF VETERANS

AFFAIRS WILL BE ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023 AT FORT MADISON VA OFFICE LOCATED AT 701 AVENUE F, FORT MADISON, IA AT 12:00 NOON.

The agenda includes: 1 request for Veterans financial assistance, January 2023 monthly financial report, minutes, monthly client report, and Spring Outreach Planning.

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PROUD MAKERS OF
ARMOUR

From the Front

Seyb says state is forcing local governments with bill

DAWSON - Continued from Page 1

informed via multiple texts on Monday. He said he then logged into the meeting online and listened to the rest.

Lee County voters rejected the idea of one courthouse in 2016 when a public measure for an \$8.5 million bond was put in front of voters.

That measure failed by about 58%.

Seyb went to Des Moines and talked with legislators, including Dawson and House Speaker Pat Grassley, about Senate Study Bill 1124. He was accompanied by fellow supervisor Tom Schulz and Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber.

"I talked to him about the bills we have that come out of our general fund and the funding of the courts and I don't know that he was aware, at the time, that we have to fund two courthouses," Seyb said.

As a matter of code, the county funds the maintenance and facility costs of the courthouses, but does not fund wages for court personnel, other than Lee County Sheriff deputies on site.

"It would cause cost savings to the county if we were able to go to one courthouse," Seyb said.

"But we're going to have to have conversations on all bills that we got coming out of the general fund, if for nothing more than to streamline taxes for the taxpayer.

"There's not a lot of fat out there to cut. I've got them pulling numbers right now as to what costs we have for the courthouses. Right now they're skewed because of the one-time costs we've incurred for a new roof and a tuck pointing."

He said he believes the state judiciary will have to address the county's two judicial systems and that isn't something supervisors will be able to change through a vote.

"I expressed concern that the judiciary's going to have to weigh in because there are two county seats, and I believe the constitution of Iowa addresses that. There's going to have to be something done at the state level that will allow us to have a single county seat

and court."

Seyb said people who've been contacting him keep pointing to the wage increases last year as the reason for the county's issues.

"We did have a nice increase last year but that was to make up for some of the very low wage increases we had seen in the years before that, and to keep some employees. We needed to make that adjustment," Seyb said.

Schulz said the Iowa House doesn't currently

have a corresponding bill, but is focusing on assessment limits and not general fund property tax levies.

Seyb said state counties are looking at 15%-18% increases in assessed values.

Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise said if the state passes a \$3.50 cap on the property tax levies for the county's general fund, the county will not be able to function.

"If we have to stay at that, I'm just going to

be totally up front here, there is no way we can survive - no way," Fraise said.

Supervisor Matt Pflug asked where Lee County's legislators including State Sen. Jeff Reichman (R-Montrose), State Rep. Martin Graber (R-Ft Madison) and State Rep. Matt Rinker (R-Burlington), stood on the issue.

"They should be out in front of this waving a flag," Pflug said.

Schulz said they are aware of Lee County's issues, but haven't taken a position yet. Seyb said

they are pushing the issue and helped coordinate conversation around Lee County's struggles.

"They understand the concerns. They haven't come out with a position for or against it that I'm aware of, but Rep. Graber got us in to see the Speaker," Seyb said.

He said caps on supervisors in any of the state's counties inhibits the local government from governing.

"You're governing those that govern. It's an attempt by the state to force local governments to do

something, or to cap their ability to do something, instead of we the people of our county being able to affect local government through the vote."

The bill would need to be approved by the full Senate and then moved to the House where there is opposition to caps.

Schulz said there may be resistance to the bill in the House, but if the bill dies anywhere along the line, the amendment dies with it.

The bill was approved by the Ways and Means Committee on Monday.

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From the Front/Iowa News

Dreams could be mental wormholes to lost loved ones

KELSEY - Continued from Page 1

for the loss of her only sister - only sibling; for anyone else that carries this type of pain; and for Brad and Maria Walker, whose daughter Emily was blessed with a new heart this week... and a community exhaled.

This story is a recollection of a dream that I had about six weeks ago. . .

In my dream I was in a home that I didn't recognize, in an upstairs room that I didn't recognize. I was watching television and I heard a noise. I got up to see what the noise was. I remember vividly that I walked out of the room and looked around the corner at another door that was wide open.

I walked into the room and saw Kelsey sitting in a chair in her black strapped sunflower dress, staring out a window. Through the window was nothing but light - no trees, no backyard, no neighbor's home - nothing.

"Kelsey?"

She said nothing, but turned and looked at me for just a moment. She then got up from her chair and walked over to me. I started to cry softly. I don't know if I was crying in my sleep or not, I would imagine I was.

She put her arms around me.

I think it was because of her heart condition that her skin was always cool to the touch, and in my dream, I could feel the coolness of her skin. I could literally feel the temperature of her skin - and I cried harder. She just held me without saying a word until I woke up.

When I woke, my instinct was to start crying, but something came over me and I realized this was a gift. I had been struggling with some additional personal stuff and that was starting to gain traction with me, so maybe my mind needed some closure or some sense of peace.

Maybe our dreams are some type of mental wormhole to those we've lost. We need what we need, so our minds provide it. Maybe it's something on a grander scale and part of an afterlife that can only be possible through our imagination - while we're on the earth. I don't know and I don't care.

My daughter came to me in as real a fashion as she possibly could have. She "momma bear-ed" me, and without saying a word, conveyed that everything was going to be okay.

I believe she didn't say anything because she knew it would be a difficult road with ups and downs, but she wanted me to know everything would be okay.

Some people will crinkle their noses at this dream, or have doubts, or be skeptical. But let me add just this as the certainty with which I know my daughter keeps an eye on me.

About a year and a half ago I was headed out for some golf with Gordy Fedler, Jay Baldwin, and Steve Knight. I was on my way to Green Acres in Donnellson, but before leaving the house I sat down at Kelsey's picture by her box and asked her to come with me.

Kelsey loved to drive the golf cart and would laugh when things got a little out of control. She really didn't like golf, but she enjoyed being outdoors and liked to putt (-putt).

"Come with me today. You haven't been golfing in a long time. You can drive the cart," I said outloud to the ceramic picture that sits on a coffee table carefully disorganized by her mother.

On Hole No. 1, I made a 25-foot putt from off the green and kinda looked up at the sky and smiled.

I aced hole No. 2.

Oh yeah - she loves her daddy - but that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is editor and co-owner of Pen City Current and can be reached at Charles.v@pencitycurrent.com.

Protestors want full ban on eminent domain

RALLY - Continued from Page 1

Without a full ban on eminent domain for carbon pipelines, the threat of these unsound, unsafe and unwanted projects remains. State legislators must side with those they represent, not the corporate profiteers looking to make a killing on our backs. There is no acceptable way to take peoples' land for a carbon capture scam. It's time to pass a full ban on eminent domain for carbon pipelines."

"Our legislature created the law that gave the Iowa Utilities Board the power to use eminent domain and the legislature can take it away," said Kim Junker, Butler County farmer, impacted by the Navigator pipeline proposal. "We, the impacted landowners, are the experts. Not Farm Bureau, not Summit's lobbyists, not the Iowa

Renewable Fuel Association. It's time our legislators listened to us, the hardworking Iowans who put them into office in the first place. We want a full ban on eminent domain for carbon pipelines — it's the only solution that permanently addresses all the issues of these needless pipeline projects."

"We're glad that leadership has put some thought into HF 368, but it's simply not what landowners are calling for," said Cindy Hansen, Century Farm Owner in Shelby County, impacted by the Summit pipeline proposal. "We need a full ban on eminent domain for carbon pipelines. If this threshold bill is going to move forward, it needs some work: it needs to apply to all of the pipeline applications, and it needs to apply to private parcels, not total miles of the route.

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Sports/From the Front

Bloodhounds ousted from substate by Mt. Pleasant

PANTHERS: MP boys sweep Fort Madison in three games this season

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

MOUNT PLEASANT — Fort Madison's defense silenced Mount Pleasant for the final 6 1/2 minutes of Monday's Class 3A boys basketball substate quarterfinal.

The Bloodhounds gave themselves plenty of chances to win, but fell 40-38 to the Panthers.

Mount Pleasant (18-5) plays host to Solon (17-5) in Thursday's semifinal.

Fort Madison ended its season with a 6-16 record, and lamenting the missed opportunities at the end.

"We executed our game plan really well," Fort Madison coach Ryan Wilson said. "A couple of shots, a couple of free throws, a couple of calls go our way, and it's a 5-point or 6-point win."

Fort Madison had been swept by the Panthers during the regular season — a 25-point loss to open the season and a one-point loss in early January — but this game was more to the Bloodhounds' pace.

"The lower the score, the better opportunity I felt like we had," Wilson said.

Fort Madison trailed 39-31 after Nate Dismang's layup with 6:30 to play. But that would be Mount Pleasant's last field goal of the game.

"We just got tougher," Wilson said. "We just got tougher, dug our heels in, and let them know we're going to be here. We gave ourselves a hell of an opportunity to win."

Fort Madison had a chance to tie the game down 39-36 with 2 1/2 minutes to play, but Carson Rashid's 3-pointer rolled off the back of the rim. But the Bloodhounds got the margin to one point on the next possession when Leif Boeding scored off an offensive rebound, then got another stop to have a chance to get the lead. Mount Pleasant's defense, though, forced a shot clock violation to get the ball back.

Then the Panthers gave the Bloodhounds more opportunities. Owen Vansickel missed the first free throw of a one-and-bonus chance. Fort Madison got an open look at the other end, but Hunter Cresswell's shot inside missed.

Vansickel was fouled again, and missed the first free throw again. But the ball was tipped back to Vansickel on the rebound attempt, and after being fouled he was able to hit the first free throw before missing the second. The ball was knocked out of bounds, giving the ball to Fort Madison with less than a second remaining.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison High School's head coach Ryan Wilson expresses his displeasure with a referee's call during their game against Mount Pleasant High School, Monday at Mount Pleasant High School. Fort Madison lost 38-40.

Wilson drew up an inbounds play similar to the one that gave the Bloodhounds a last-second win over Holy Trinity earlier this season. But Aidan Boyer's inbounds pass was intercepted by Mount Pleasant's Aaiden Ashton as time ran out.

"It's just a matter of trying to get the ball and get it caught," Wilson said. "Get it down here to where I can use my last timeout and hope for a prayer again."

Boeding had 10 points for the Bloodhounds. Vansickel had 16 to lead Mount Pleasant.

Fort Madison brings back the bulk of this season's team.

"The offseason starts tomorrow," Wilson said. "We thank our seniors — we were very appreciative of the hard work they put in. The rest of these guys, I told them to know this feeling. Remember the score, offseason starts tomorrow, and what you do between now and next November is going to determine what next year is like."

Thacher had a goal to be in the top 4 on the podium

THACHER - Continued from Page 1

Peterson, a senior, locked up with Thacher off the whistle, which goes to Thacher's strength, and after some hand-fighting on two occasions got his arms inside of Thacher's and still managed to lift Thacher off the ground and toss him to the mat, a move that left many a little wide-eyed.

Smith said he's never seen that against someone at Thacher's level.

"Not against a guy as good as Ike," Smith said. "That kid's legit. He's strong."

But Thacher said it was an issue of him not being more aggressive off the whistle.

"I knew he was pretty strong. I just wanted to try and get my own shots. I didn't come out fast enough, I guess. Nothing you can do about it now, though," Thacher said.

On the second toss, both in the first period, Peterson was able to get around Thacher and muscle him into a cradle where he executed the pin with 49 seconds left in the first period.

The Fort Madison junior advanced to the 3rd place match after top-seed McCrae Hagarty defaulted with a medical injury. Hagarty suffered a medical injury in his semifinal match with Danari Mickel of Ames on Friday night and was already wrestling with a shoulder wrap.

Thacher said not having to wrestle Hagarty didn't affect his match with Peterson in his eyes.

"I don't think that really affected anything. Either way, you warm up the same and you treat the match the same. It doesn't matter."

A pin over Evan Franke of Muscatine in the 5th round consolation match sent Thacher to the podium. If he had lost his next two, he still would have wound up in 8th place and the top 8 medal at Wells Fargo.

Thacher said he was happy to finish where he did, and he met his goal for the year.

"It definitely feels better to place. That was my goal coming up here - place high, in the top four, and I did it," he said Saturday.

As a sophomore, Thacher qualified also at 195 after a dramatic, final-moments reversal and pin at the district qualifier in Iowa City. He lost his first two matches at state, however. But he said those losses helped him this year.

"Last year I was kind of nervous, Now I know you have to go in thinking you can beat anyone. That mentality helps a lot," he said.

Thacher won three matches on the mat. He also got a bye in the first round Wednesday with his No. 6 seeding, and got the forfeit win over Hagarty, who would have been a handful if healthy. That gave him a 4-2 mark with the losses coming to No. 3 Ross and No. 4 Peterson.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Thacher tries to get a leg for control in the early going of his match with North Scott's AJ Peterson Saturday at Wells-Fargo Arena in Des Moines.

His 4th place on the podium this year won't be good enough next year, Thacher said.

"Next year I want to climb higher on the podium."

Smith said Thacher had a strong tournament.

"He's got nothing to hang his head about," Smith said. "He wrestled a great tournament and got beat by a tough kid."

The six other wrestlers from Fort Madison all lost their first two matches. Logan Pennock, Teague Smith and Thacher all had first round byes, but Thacher was the only Bloodhound to advance in the championship bracket.