

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Wednesday, April 12, 2023 | 14 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 69



www.pencitycurrent.com

FMCS D cuts athletic ties

BOARD MOVE: Decision came without a vote of the board of directors

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Community School District board of directors has decided to allow all shared athletic agreements with other schools to expire at the end of the athletic seasons for the 2022-23 school year.

According to a statement issued from the district Tuesday morning, attributed to the entire board of directors, the board cited the recent Education Spending Account legisla-

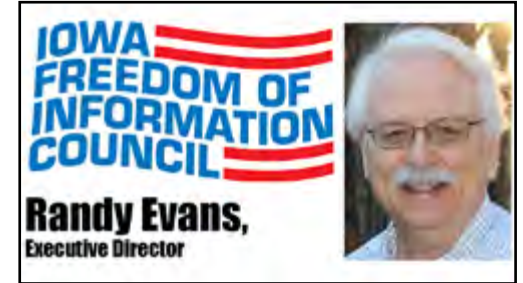
tion as part of the decision to end the shared agreements.

The statement in its entirety reads as follows:

“Each year, the FMCS D Board of Directors takes action on the district’s high school athletic program sharing agreements. At this time, the board has decided to allow all current sharing agreements to expire at the end of the athletic seasons for the 2022-23 school year. In January, Governor Reynolds signed a bill making state education funding that

See FMCS D, page 8

EDITORIAL



Forgetting how to agree to disagree

My friend Denny and I were as different as night and day. He was conservative; I was wasn't. I accused him of being to the right of Atilla the Hun. He accused me of working for Pravda, the famed Communist party newspaper.

We thoroughly enjoyed poking each other this way. It was invigorating to hash over issues that were bubbling up in rural Iowa, at the Capitol in Des Moines, or out in Washington.

But when all was said and done, neither of us would do or say anything to undermine our respect and admiration for the other.

Sadly, Denny is gone and I miss our debates. I am confident we would have found common ground these days over the free-speech turmoil that has embroiled some college campuses around the United States.

And we would have wondered whether such turmoil will be visited upon the University of Iowa this month when the national conservative commentator Matt Walsh speaks there.

Four hundred people have signed an online [Change.org](https://www.change.org) petition opposing Walsh's lecture on April 19 at the Iowa Memorial Union. He was invited by the Iowa Young Americans for Freedom student organization.

The speech is part of Walsh's nationwide "What is a woman?" lecture and documentary tour in which he discusses transgender and gender identity issues. Last year he said "gender ideology is one of the greatest evils in human history."

Petition organizers oppose Walsh's

See EVANS, page 5



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Southeast Iowa Regional Airport officially cut the ribbon on the Southern Airlines operations in Burlington Tuesday morning. Southern started flights to Chicago and St. Louis daily on April 1.

COUNTY NEWS

Assessment hikes draw attention at Supervisors' meeting

Hikes don't necessarily mean paying more

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Assessments letters that were sent out in the mail this week have the phones at the Lee County

Assessor's office ringing... a lot.

Assessment increases are happening all over the area, but as Assessor Patti Meierotto said, they are also happening across the state and the nation.

Meierotto said residents are seeing increases from 20 to 45 percent and it's the sales market from 2021 and 2022 that are driving the increases.

“With the county being in the financial state it is at the moment, a lot of

taxpayers believe we are raising assessments to get more taxes,” Meierotto said.

“But we are only the first part of the tax formula and you don't pay taxes on that value until September of 2024.”

That means the county won't see any potential increased revenue off the assessments until fiscal year 2025.

See HIKES, page 4

INDEX

Belonging Begins With Us.org.....	P.7
Business Directory.....	P.6
CLASSIFIEDS.....	Ps.6-7
Complete Rental.....	P.4
ConAgra Brands.....	P.7
Connection Bank.....	P.4
Donnellson Tunnel to Towers.....	Ps.10-11
EDUCATION NEWS.....	P.8
Fort Madison Family YMCA.....	P.4
FROM THE FRONT.....	Ps.4-5,8
James Healthcare & Associates, Inc.....	P.5
Lee County Health Department.....	P.9

LEE COUNTY NEWS.....	P.4
LOCAL NEWS.....	P.8
OBITUARIES.....	Ps.2-3
• Rose M. Becker, 72	
• Ross W. Becker, 75	
• James R. Bowman, 69	
• Blair L. Boyd, 69	
• Lola M. Long, 98	
• Lydia M. Peterschmidt, 83	
OPINION.....	P.5
Pen City Current.....	Ps.4,6,8
Pilot Grove Savings Bank.....	P.8

Pothitakis Dentistry.....	P.2
Public Notices.....	P.6-7
RonDavoo.....	P.8
Sonny's Super Market.....	P.3
Southeast Iowa Regional Airport.....	P.4
Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center.....	P.3
SPORTS.....	P.4
Tony Wolfe Insurance Services.....	P.4
United Way of the Great River Region.....	Ps.12-14

WEATHER

WED 12 Apr..... Sunny and warm, 82° F/ 51° F
THU 13 Apr..... Sunny and warm with wind gusts, 78° F/ 55° F
FRI 14 Apr..... Partly sunny and warm, 77° F/ 55° F

OpenWeatherMap

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 04/10..... 3 10 12 15 37, Star Ball: 2 All Star Bonus: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE 04/10..... 3 5 6 17 21, Lucky Ball: 18
PICK 3 04/10 MIDDAY..... 3 5 6
PICK 3 04/10 EVENING..... 5 4 9
PICK 4 04/10 MIDDAY..... 6 6 9 3
PICK 4 04/10 EVENING..... 5 7 0 6
POWERBALL 04/10..... 9 10 36 46 52, Powerball: 14 Power Play: 2

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

ROSE M. BECKER

Rose Marie Becker, 73, of Farmington, Iowa, passed away at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 5, 2023, near West Point, Iowa.

She was Born on September 10, 1949, in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of Henry and Dorothy (Nolte) Hellige. On November 18, 1972, she married Ross Wayne Becker in Fort Madison, Iowa. Last November they celebrated 50 years together. They entered into eternal life together on Wednesday, April 5, 2023.



BECKER

She is survived by her son: Gerald Wayne "Jerry" Becker of Farmington; two grandsons: John and Lloyd Becker; granddaughter: Elizabeth Anderson; brother: Arnold (Becky) Hellige of Fort Madison; three sisters: Mary Ann (Joseph) Wenke of Donnellson, Genevieve Martin of Venice, Florida and Pauline Ann (Robert) Smith of Alexandria, Missouri; sister-in-law: Jeannie Hellige of Fort Madison. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother: Virgil Hellige and brother-in-law: Walter Martin.

Rose Marie was a 1968 graduate of Aquinas High School. She was a member of St. Boniface Catholic Church in Farmington. She was a secretary at Iowa State Penitentiary for two years and retired from Barker Wire in Keosauqua after working there for twenty-eight years.

A visitation for Ross and Rosie will begin at 12:00 noon, Thursday, April 13, 2023, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington, where the family will receive friends from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A parish rosary will be recited at 6:30 p.m.

A Mass of Christian burial for Ross and Rosie will be held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, April 14, 2023, at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Farmington, with Father Dan Dorau as celebrant.

Burial for Ross and Rosie will be held at 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 14, 2023, at the Keokuk National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to be made out to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

On-line condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com. Schmitz Funeral Home of Farmington is assisting the family with arrangements.

LYDIA M. PETERSCHMIDT

Lydia M. Peterschmidt, 83, of Fort Madison, passed away on Sunday, April 9, 2023 at 5:00 PM at the West Point Care Center.

She was born on August 16, 1939 in Ft. Madison to George and Louise Fields Daniels. On December 30, 1960 she married Victor Peterschmidt in Ft. Madison and he passed away on June 26, 1999. Lydia worked at the Daily Democrat, Sears, for Dr. Idol Mitchell and Dr. Saathoff and lastly at Curves. Lydia was a member of Holy Family Parish and the Altar & Rosary Society. She enjoyed dancing, listening to Elvis and spending time with her family and friends.



PETERSCHMIDT

Survivors include one daughter, Cindy (Jeff) Manning of West Point; one granddaughter, Jessica (Wes) Peitz of Ft. Madison and three great grandchildren, Ava, Ethan and Aria. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and a daughter, Valerie Pilkington.

Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A private family burial will be held in Oakland Cemetery.

Online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

OBITUARIES

ROSS W. BECKER

Ross Wayne Becker, 75, of Farmington, Iowa, passed away at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 5, 2023, near West Point, Iowa.

He was born on September 11, 1947, in Fort Madison, Iowa, the son of Ora Leon & Marian (Philp) Becker. On November 18, 1972, he married Rose Marie (Hellige) Becker in Fort Madison, Iowa. Last November they celebrated 50 years together. They entered in eternal life together on Wednesday, April 5, 2023.



BECKER

He is survived by his son: Gerald Wayne "Jerry" Becker of Farmington; two grandsons: John and Lloyd Becker; granddaughter: Elizabeth Anderson and sister: Leona M. Byars of Burlington. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother: Joseph Becker and brother-in-law: Jim Byars.

Ross was a 1966 graduate of Harmony High School and was United States Navy Veteran. He was a member of St. Boniface Catholic Church in Farmington. He worked as a farmer and welder.



A visitation for Ross and Rosie will begin at 12:00 noon, Thursday, April 13, 2023, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington where the family will receive friends from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A parish rosary recited at 6:30 p.m.

A Mass of Christian burial for Ross and Rosie will be held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, April 14, 2023, at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Farmington, with Father Dan Dorau as celebrant.

Burial for Ross and Rosie will be held at 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 14, 2023, in Keokuk National Cemetery with full military rites.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to be made out to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

On-line condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com. Schmitz Funeral Home of Farmington is assisting the family with arrangements.

BLAIR L. BOYD

Blair Lowell Boyd, 69, of Bonaparte, Iowa, passed away at 8:35 p.m. Friday, April 7, 2023, at the Van Buren County Hospital in Keosauqua, after battling a long battle with cancer.

He was born on October 3, 1953, the son of Gerald and Jessie Louise (Pittman) Boyd, of Farmington, Iowa.



BOYD

He is survived by his daughter: Stacey Mae (Rodney) Warner; two grandsons: Colton and Scott Warner; granddaughter: Frankie Jo Warner; brothers: Floyd Boyd and Edward Allen Boyd; sisters: (Blair's twin) Brenda Louise (Randy) Cook, Connie (Jeff Oaks) Boyd, Ceceila Poole and Julie (Stephen) Krauter. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Gerald and Jessie Boyd; sister: Marvina Lee Sullivan; brothers: Marlin Dean Boyd; sister-in-law: Joyce Boyd and brother-in-law: Donnie Poole.

He attended Harmony High School. Later working for Conrad America, where he spent most of his working career and retired from. He loved fishing on the Des Moines and Skunk River, hunting, his truck and especially loved spending time with family and friends.

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

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

A memorial has been established in his memory. Memorials can be mailed to Schmitz Funeral Home, P.O. Box 56, Donnellson, Iowa 52625.

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

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

LOLA M. LONG

Lola Mae Long, 98, of Keokuk, IA, passed away Saturday, April 8, 2023 at Montrose Health Center in Montrose, IA.

She was born on February 25, 1925 in Monroe County, MO to Russell and Susan (Steele) Walkup.



LONG

She married Elmer Long on June 8, 1947. He preceded her in death on January 31, 2000. One son, Gary Brent, also preceded her in death.

Lola was a primary school teacher before and after raising her three children.

She was a member of the Evangelical Free Church in Keokuk.

Left with loving memories are one daughter, Mary Sue (Chuck) Campbell of Colorado Springs, CO, two sons, Lowell (Becky) Long of Keokuk and Bob (Terri) Long of Des Moines. She is also remembered by six grandchildren, Christopher (fiancée Kristina Clark) Campbell, Greg (Kristal) Campbell, Jennifer (Stefan) Hibl, Brian (Sarah) Long, Mark (Sarah) Long and Derek Long. Four great-grandchildren and four step-great grandchildren also remember her. One sister, Juanita Pfanner of Monroe City, MO survives as do numerous nieces and nephews. Her best friend and card playing buddy, Shirley Lunt, and special friends, Maria Barrera, Cinda Snyder and Marilyn Miller had a special place in Lola's heart.

Per Lola's request, there will be no visitation.

A private family graveside service will be held.

Memorials may be made to the donor's choice.

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

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.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.

OBITUARIES

JAMES R. BOWMAN

James "Jim" Roger Bowman, 69, of Montrose, passed away on Friday, April 7, 2023 at 4:35 PM at the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center Hospice House in West Burlington.

He was born on October 21, 1953 in Ft. Madison to Jimmie and Dorothy Finley Bowman.



BOWMAN

On September 13, 1975 he married Susan Burk at the Denmark Congregational United Church of Christ. Jim worked at DuPont and retired after thirty five years of service. He graduated from Fort Madison High School and served in the US Navy. He was a member of the First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ where he served as a deacon for several years. Jim enjoyed fishing, bowling, cooking and traveling with Sue. Most of all he loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Sue Bowman of Montrose; one son, Shane (Anne) Bowman of Peoria, IL; one daughter Kelli (Peter) Seyb of Keokuk; four grandchildren, Peter Seyb, Jr., Johnny Seyb, Joshua Seyb and Katelyn Seyb; one sister, Cheryl (Charlie) Simpson-Sievert of Columbia, MO; one brother, Mark Bowman of Ft. Madison; two nephews, Jeff (Liz) Simpson, Mike (Stephanie) Simpson and one niece, Renee (Mike) Ehlers. He was preceded in death by his parents and mother and father in law, Jim and Cindy Burk.



The funeral service will be held at 11 AM on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Leslie Dalstra officiating. The family will meet with friends from 9:30 AM until the time of the service at 11 AM. Following the funeral service, his body will be cremated and burial will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in his memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

IT'S TIME



Colorectal cancer screening saves lives!

The recommended age for colorectal cancer screening has been lowered from 50 to 45 because colorectal cancer cases are on the rise among young and middle-age people. Colorectal cancer is one of the only cancer screening tests that can prevent cancer by finding precancerous polyps in the colon or rectum and removing them before they become cancer or find cancer early when it may be easier to treat. There are several screening options available. So, if you are over the age of 45, or at high risk for colorectal cancer, talk to your doctor about when to start getting screened and which screening option is best for you.



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April 10-14
11am - 1pm

<p>Monday, April 10 Minit Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans</p>
<p>Tuesday, April 11 Chicken Bacon Ranch Bake</p>
<p><i>Wednesday, April 12</i> <i>Scalloped Potatoes & Ham, Sweet Corn</i></p>
<p>THURSDAY, APRIL 13 FRIED CHICKEN DINNERS</p>
<p>Friday, April 14 Lunch on the Sidewalk</p>

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PEN CITY CURRENT

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Sports/From the Front

Supervisors say assessment hike might not mean tax hike

HIKES - Continued from Page 1

Lee County Supervisor Chairman Garry Seyb took that a step further and said Monday that residents may not see higher tax bills despite the higher assessments.

"I want everybody to understand that an increased assessment does not necessarily compute directly dollar-for-dollar to a raise in your taxes. That's the message I'm trying to get out to people," Seyb said.

"They need to understand that the assessors are going by the letter of the law and the rules that are out there."

He said some assessments have changed from agriculture to residential and that's a lot of the increase for some. He said some have gone from residential or agricultural to commercial and that's part of the increase.

Seyb said Lee County Beacon is a good way to see what the changes are and the new handbook that assessors are required to go by is causing diligence in the assessments.

He then said the county board will have to look at what the levy will do.

"The cost to run the county is not going to go up by those amounts. When those assessments go up, our levy quite frankly may be able to go down and may be able to go down quite significantly into next year."

Meierotto said the state formula requires assessments

to be set based on market value.

"The market dictates these rates and, even with our increased values for 2024 and 2025, we still aren't at 100% of market value," Meierotto said.

"We are getting a lot of phone calls and most people say they understand it, they don't like it, but they understand it."

She said the bottom line is that assessments are based on market value including agriculture property. Dwellings are assessed at market value, but land is based on a five-year productivity formula that comes from the state based on reports they get on crop sales.

"Ag land and buildings went up about 32% because of how well corn and beans have done over the past several years. That was reassessed as well," she said.

Odd years are re-evaluation years, but Meierotto said there were also some changes in the even years, but those have to do with construction and demolition improvements. But during the odd years, the state will come and look at the assessments, if the county isn't in compliance, they will make a correction.

"To be totally honest, I could still get one of those," Meierotto said. "Because we aren't at 100% market value yet. "Iowa Code mandates that our assessments must be valued at 100% market value in odd-numbered years. If an assessor does not increase values and the

data shows that they should have, the Iowa Department of Revenue will increase them in the fall of 2023, which is called a state equalization order."

Property owners may call and request an informal review now through April 25, 2023 or they may file a petition with the Board of Review from now through April 30, 2023. However, with April 30, 2023 falling on a Sunday, petitions will be accepted through May 1, 2023. Petitions for Board of Review may be found online on the county website or on the Iowa Department of Revenue's website.

If a property owner prefers, a petition can be mailed to them.

Seyb said he's asking everyone to take a deep breath and look at the situation and, if they have any questions, they are encouraged to contact the assessor's office to explain the assessments.

For more information, visit any of these links:

Lee County Beacon - <https://beacon.schneidercorp.com/Application.aspx?Ap- pID=177&LayerID=2207&PageTypeID=2&Page-ID=1132>

Lee County Board of Review petitions - <https://www.leecounty.org/pview.aspx?id=20859&catid=25>

Iowa Department of Revenue - <https://paab.iowa.gov/>

Fort Madison girls win over Keokuk

PCC Staff

KEOKUK - The Fort Madison Lady Hounds tennis team escaped with a win over host Keokuk Monday night after taking four of six singles matches.

Molly Knipe continued her nice start to the year

with an 8-5 win over the Chiefs' Brittney Kelly at No. 1 singles.

Lauren Otte, Naudia Ruston, and Makenna Pixler won at Nos. 3-5 singles. Ruston won a gritty 8-8 tiebreaker 7-3. Pixler won 8-2 at No. 5 and Otte won 8-5 at No. 3.

Madeline Gobble and Brianna Wright both fell at No. 6 and No. 2, both by 8-4 scores.

Knipe and Otte teamed up at No. 1 doubles and worked an 8-8 tie, then won the tiebreaker 7-4.

Keokuk won No. 2 and No. 3 doubles matches.

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From the Front

Robust dialogue is critical to American Society

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

appearance in Iowa City. They argue he is “prone to violence and a danger to the University of Iowa’s community at large.” The Cedar Rapids Gazette reported some petition signers have left comments like, “We do not need to platform openly fascist people at our university.”

In recent years, members of the Iowa Legislature have criticized the three state universities over accusations that administrators have stifled free speech rights, especially of conservatives. The University of Iowa and Iowa State University have lost expensive lawsuits over their treatment of student organizations that espouse views that may differ from other students or administrators.

The Iowa Board of Regents responded by adopting a freedom of expression policy that says, “It is not the responsibility of the universities to shield individual members of the campus community from viewpoints they may find unwelcome, disagreeable, or offensive.”

The solution is not to shout down speakers with whom people might disagree. Instead of protests that disrupt events, a better outcome that advances everyone’s knowledge and understanding of controversial topics is letting speakers speak and then organizing other events that expose people to contrary perspectives.

While Iowans will be watching to see if problems occur with Walsh’s lecture, it was clear last month in California what direction the current hot political climate is taking us.

Stuart Kyle Duncan of Baton Rouge, La., a member of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, was invited to speak at the Stanford University law school. But his speech was cut short when students heckled him relentlessly for views he expressed well before being appointed to the court and for his legal writings — on issues ranging from a ban on gay marriage,

to restrictions on bathrooms transgender people can use, to the pronouns he would use to refer to transgender people.

Whether you think Duncan is a legal light or a dim bulb, the reception he received at Stanford should embarrass everyone who believes in freedom of speech, civility, and the importance of a robust dialogue in American society. The Stanford law students missed an opportunity to hear what the judge

came to say and then to respectfully question his views on an array of legal issues.

After all, that is what lawyers spend their careers doing — helping to mediate society’s differences.

Legal scholar Erwin Chemerinsky puts the issue at play at Stanford and potentially in Iowa City this way: “Freedom of speech does not protect a right to shout down others so they cannot be heard.”

Jenny Martinez, the dean of the Stanford law school, issued a lengthy

statement to faculty and students after the national fallout from the Duncan incident. Even if you have never been in a courtroom, her comments merit attention.

“Some students have argued that the disruptive protest of the event was itself constitutionally protected speech,” she wrote. “But the First Amendment does not give protestors a ‘heckler’s veto.’”

Martinez went on: “I believe that the commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion actually means that we must pro-

tect free expression of all views. ...

“Students calling for the law school administration to restrict the organization or the speakers it can bring to campus are demanding action inconsistent not only with freedom of speech but with rights to freedom of association that civil rights lawyers fought hard in the twentieth century to secure.”

Martinez said all of this goes beyond issues of law school decorum and university policies.

“The cycle of de-

generating discourse won’t stop if we insist that people we disagree with must first behave the way we want them to,” she said. “The cycle stops when we recognize our responsibility to treat each other with the dignity with which we expect to be met. It stops when we choose to replace condemnation with curiosity, invective with inquiry.”

My friend Denny would agree. I do.

Randy Evans’ column runs regularly in Pen City Current. He can be reached at DMReviews2810@gmail.com.

DIAGNOSED WITH NEUROPATHY?

GABAPENTIN OR LYRICA NOT WORKING? TOLD NOTHING COULD BE DONE?



- PAINFUL HANDS/FEET?
- NUMBNESS & TINGLING
- COLD OR BURNING FEET?
- LOSS OF SENSATION?
- BALANCE PROBLEMS?

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES
New Construction
Announcements**

Notice to Bidders
Iowa Department
of Natural Resources

Starting July 27th,
2022, the Department of
Natural Resource will be
accepting sealed con-

struction bids via email.
Sealed bids will be
received by the Iowa
Department of Natural
Resources, at the Wal-
lace State Office Building,
502 East 9th Street, Des
Moines, IA, 50319-0034,
or via email at [construc-
tionbids@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:constructionbids@dnr.iowa.gov)
until 11:00am, April 20,
2023 for the public im-
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below, at which time they
will be opened publicly.
After the bid opening, bid
results may be obtained
by visiting the Depart-
ment's website at [https://
programs.iowadnr.gov/
engreal/projectlist.asp](https://programs.iowadnr.gov/engreal/projectlist.asp). In
addition to attending the
bid opening in person,
interested parties may
also call in to the following
number to listen to the bid

opening:
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iowa.gov](mailto:constructionbids@dnr.iowa.gov) All bids, and
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must contain a scanned
original signature. – Elec-
tronic signatures are not
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ing bid documents, the
subject line of the email
must state the following:
Project Number, Project
Name, and Bid Letting
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attachment, or first of
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the bid proposal. No bids
shall be accepted via
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Note: The United States
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tra time should be allotted
for proposals sent by the
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ment of Natural Resour-
ces shall not consider bids
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Resources mail room or
reception staff, by the
time and date described
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the bid was mailed or

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location prior to that time
and date.
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including drawings, spec-
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and addenda items for the
project are available at
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laws, as outlined in the
plans and specifications

and including but not limit-
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ter 26 related to public
construction bidding; Iowa
Code chapter 73 relat-
ed to preferences; Iowa
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on public improvements;
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trative Services – General
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PUBLIC NOTICES

encouraged to be familiar with public improvement procurement requirements and the bidding documents before submitting a bid.

Each bidder shall accompany the bid with a bid security as defined in Iowa code section 26.8. Scanned copies of the bid security will be accepted for those bidders submitting bids electronically. Additionally, the submission of an electronic bid security in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, or money order, the original security must be mailed to the Department at the Wallace State Office Building, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319 within (5) business days of the

HELP WANTED Public Works General Operator

Performs a variety of unskilled or semi-skilled maintenance work, operates a variety of equipment in the construction, operation, repair, maintenance and replacement of City street, sanitary and storm drainage facilities and systems.

DESIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS
Education and Experience:
• Graduation from high school education or GED equivalent and
• Two (2) years of experience relating to construction, maintenance, or repair, or
• Any equivalent combination of education and experience.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS
• Valid State Driver's license
• Class B CDL or the ability to obtain one within six months of hire.

Necessary Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Some knowledge of equipment, facilities, materials, methods and procedures used in maintenance, construction and repair activities;
- Skill in operation of some of the listed tools and equipment;
- Ability to perform heavy manual tasks for extended periods of time; ability to work safely; ability to communicate effectively verbally and in writing; ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with employees, other departments and the public; ability to understand and carry out written and oral instructions.

Submit applications to Justina Cullen at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, IA 52627 or via email at jcul-len@fortmadison-ia.com by 4:30pm on Monday, April 24th, 2023.



bid letting date. The bid security must be in an amount set forth in the bidding documents and made payable to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Failure to execute a contract for the proposed work and file an acceptable Performance Bond, in an amount equal to 100% of the contract price and a certificate of liability insurance, within thirty (30) days of the date of the award of the contract, will be just and sufficient cause for the rescinding of the award and the forfeiture of the bid security.

STORY COUNTY PROJECT NO. 23-02-85-01

State Forest Nursery Hoop Building
Proposal Guarantee: \$12,500.00
Completion Date: 10/27/2023
Project Description: State Forest Nursery is installing a new hoop building structure over their cob storage area. This cob storage area currently has a 75'-0" x 85'-0" concrete slab with 3x3x6 concrete blocks on its perimeter. The contractor shall purchase 26 new blocks of the same dimension then remove all blocks and stack them two (2) high around the perimeter. The contractor shall order a new 88'-0" wide truss hoop-building as specified and installed as instructed.

DAVIS COUNTY PROJECT

NO. 23-05-26-01
Lake Wapello State Park
Office & Storage Building
Proposal Guarantee: \$50,000.00
Completion Date: 03/01/2024
Project Description: Lake Wapello State Park is located in Davis County, Iowa. The park will receive a new office/shop and storage building as shown in the documents. The office/shop will have a garage/storage area which will have three (3) heated bays. The office will have one large open office space, one storage area, one restroom, mechanical room and a conference/breakroom. There will be a rock drive into the garage bays and a storage yard to the rear of the building. The public entry will have a large overhang with a decorative heavy timber truss in accordance with the Iowa State Parks design guide.

POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY PROJECT NO. 21-04-78-02

Lake Manawa State Park
PCC Parking and Boat Ramp
Proposal Guarantee: \$37,500.00
Completion Date: September 29, 2023
Project Description: This project consists of replacing the west boat ramp and parking lot at Lake Manawa State Park by removing all asphalt

and concrete pavements and placing new PCC boat ramp and parking lot.

**POLK COUNTY PROJECT
NO. 21-02-77-08**
Big Creek State Park Fishing Pier & Path
Proposal Guarantee: \$25,000.00
Completion Date: September 30, 2023
Project Description: This project consists of demolishing the existing damaged wooden accessible fishing pier and constructing a new

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steel framed accessible fishing pier and fishing path along the shoreline north of the pier. Work includes pile driving, steel framing, field welding, deck and railing construction, and finishing. The new accessible fishing path entails grading of the shoreline to create a bench, constructing PCC sidewalk, riprap of the band, seeding of the cut

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Grade 1 water distribution certified or willing to obtain. Must live or be willing to comply with on-call requirements and possess and comply with Iowa CDL regulations.

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Applications are available per request. Any questions please feel free to call Dawn @ 319-837-3100 West Point, IA 52656 or to cityofwestpointiowa@gmail.com
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From the Front

HTC, Central Lee officials disappointed with move

FMCS D - Continued from Page 1

had been designated for public schools available for students attending private schools. That dramatic shift, engineered by state lawmakers, has caused many schools in Iowa to reconsider their sharing agreements as private schools now have more resources to fund their own athletic programs.

The board does not plan to place renewing the sharing agreements on a future board agenda. Instead, the board will place its focus on our district's human and financial resources.

As a board, we understand that this marks a shift from current practice. In following the district's mission of ensuring all students learn the academic and life skills necessary for personal success and responsible living, we believe the focus must remain on the students who attend our FMCS D schools."

Several members of the board, including Brad Menke and former Board President Dianne Hope, chose not to comment on the statement saying all comments had to come from current Board President Josh Wykert or Vice President Mio Santiago. Calls to Santiago went unreturned Tuesday afternoon.

Wykert responded via email saying the process the board used to arrive at the decision was explained in the statement. He said the board will not be taking any action on any shared agreements for the foreseeable future.

"This was not a decision the board takes lightly. However, it was necessary given the decision by state lawmakers to provide public funding for private schools through the new voucher system," Wykert wrote in the email.

Board member Paul Wilkerson said no formal vote on the decision was made.

"We were briefed on it by the superintendent and Athletic Director, but there was no formal vote by the board," he said.

He said the briefing by Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater and AD Jeff Lamb was "some time ago."

Both Slater and Lamb declined to comment on the issue and deferred all questions to Wykert.

The district currently offers 18 sports and they share some of those programs including baseball, track, girls' cross country, boys' and girls' tennis, and boys' and girls' wrestling, and boys and girls soccer, with Holy

Trinity Catholic.

Central Lee shares boys' and girls' wrestling and Keokuk and Burlington also have agreements in place.

According to the statement, all of the shared programs will be allowed to expire. However, several of the agreements are proposed and hosted by other schools, including bowling and swimming/diving. It is unclear if those agreements will also be allowed to expire.

Central Lee Superintendent Dr. Andy Crozier and Holy Trinity Catholic Education Director Craig Huebner were both disappointed with the decision.

Central Lee had a state wrestling champion in 2018 when Harlan Steffensmeier won the title. Two Central Lee wrestlers from the 2022-23 season also made it to the state tournament with the Bloodhounds.

"We are disappointed to learn via email on April 11 that the Fort Madison Community School District has opted to drop the sharing agreement with Central Lee for boys' and girls' wrestling after 24 years of a successful relationship," Crozier wrote.

"Over this time, Central Lee's student-athletes have contributed greatly to the success of Fort Madison's wrestling program. This includes a state champion in 2018 and two state qualifiers this past season. Additionally, the Fort Madison Wrestling Club has benefited from numerous active Central Lee parents taking part in fundraising efforts because of their child's participation in wrestling.

Crozier said this move by FMCS D could put other partnerships with the district in question.

"This decision by the Fort Madison CSD will force us to determine whether we should continue with other joint opportunities between our districts. For example, we also partner with Fort Madison on initiatives such as the Lee County Career Center; junior high, junior varsity, and varsity scheduled competitions; and numerous other opportunities that jointly benefit both districts."

Huebner also said he was disappointed to see a program with documented success wash away.

"I'm disappointed. The sharing of athletics has been, from where I sit, very successful. I went to Aquinas in the 80s and 90s and participated in those shared programs," Huebner said.

"It's been done for generations and decades. I'm sad to see it go and take away opportunity for all students. It seems to me it's more political than what's best for

students."

Holy Trinity parents who live in the Fort Madison district pay taxes to the district as well as an \$80 per student participation fee to join the shared programs. The HTC board two weeks ago approved a \$10,000 annual payment to the district to help offset the costs.

Huebner said that was to help offset costs of coaches.

"We had had a couple conversations with some of their coaches who thought that could go a ways to help. My first couple years (the board) talked about sharing some costs for assistant coaches because our kids do increase their need for coaches. We didn't do it at that time, but we thought it was good faith thing to show we were willing to put a little forward to help with that," Huebner said.

Huebner pointed to the ESA law as part of the equation and said there are some misconceptions around that new law.

"Some of that is misconception that they're not getting anything out of this, but they are getting \$1,200 per year for every kid that goes here but lives in their district."

Those contributions, according to the new Iowa law, are phased in over three years.

"I didn't make the law," Huebner said. "(Lawmakers) put it out and I'm taking advantage of it, just like they would."

HTC has some programs that are self-sufficient due to numbers, but there are others where they can't field a team. He said that is based on student interest levels.

"Our numbers aren't super high, but we do have a large interest in the volleyball program and we've seen increased interest in others," he said. "It's just one of those things if we can easily field enough players to have a solid team. I only have 100 kids in the high school. It's tough to field a team because they overlap heavily. Our goal moving forward will be to see if we can garner enough interest to field other teams. (AD John Goetz) and I are going to get together and discuss that."

He said HTC has had conversations with Central Lee around a shared football program, but not other programs, and no decisions have been made.

Crozier said Central Lee will also begin to evaluate other options.

"Central Lee will begin looking into other options for wrestling moving forward. As always, we remain committed to ensuring all students have opportunities to be successful both in and out of the classroom."

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Friday, Oct. 6, 2023 • Deer Run Golf Course • Hamilton, Illinois
12:00 Noon Shotgun start for both

	May	Oct	Both
Team Sponsor - Includes cart, lunch, free soda & water, 2 mulligans/golfer & 5 drink tickets/golfer.	\$400	\$400	\$720

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Team Contact: _____ Email: _____

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12:00 Noon Shotgun start for both

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Team Sponsor - Includes cart, lunch, free soda & water, 2 mulligans/golfer & 5 drink tickets/golfer.	\$400 4/24/23	\$400 9/25/23	\$720 4/24/23
Hospitality Sponsor - Includes name & logo on beverage carts, at the buffet line & throughout the golf course. Provide a jpeg of your logo to UWGRR.	\$300 4/28/23	\$300 9/29/23	\$540 4/28/23
Hole Sponsor - Includes sign by green & marketing opportunity. Provide a jpeg of your logo to UWGRR.	\$100 4/24/23	\$100 9/25/23	\$180 4/24/23

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