

PEN CITY CURRENT

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Thursday, October 19, 2023 | 7 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 174



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City targets nuisances

CODE UPGRADE: New international property code language gives city more tools

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The City of Fort Madison is tightening its grip on dilapidated and nuisance properties.

At Tuesday's regular City Council meeting, the council heard a recommendation from City Building Director Doug Krogmeier and City Attorney Pat O'Connell about an update to city code that gives the city quicker remedy times for buildings considered a nuisance or dangerous.

Krogmeier said the city has been using outdated code language and it is hampering the city's ability to secure the buildings and either demolish them or get them in the

hands of private investors for rehabilitation.

"We've been using 1997 Dangerous buildings code from the Uniform Code and it's just dated. There are other, better tools in the new code that we want to update to," he said.

O'Connell recommended the city go to a code similar to language used in Clinton.

"It should give us better tools when we go to abandoned properties and dilapidated structures to make sure we define better what the actual problem is. The other code was either on or off."

Krogmeier said the move will also allow the city to up-

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CRUSADERS ADVANCE

HTC sweeps Danville to move to semis in Region 8

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The first point for Holy Trinity's volleyball team in its sweep of Danville in Wednesday's Class 1A Region 8 quarterfinal was a kill by Presley Myers.

The second point was also a Myers kill. The fourth point was a Myers block.

The game plan for the No. 3 Crusaders worked to perfection in the 25-11, 25-10, 25-15 win.

Myers and freshman Adalyn Kruse controlled the middle, and that opened up Holy Trinity's outside, one part of a dominant show of offense and defense for the Crusaders.

"That energy that we keep up, we keep it rolling until the last point," said Myers, who had 11 kills and eight blocks. "When we're aggressive in the middle, and stay aggressive, then we send it outside. Our outsides slam it."

"They're very active in the middle," Holy Trinity coach Melissa Freesmeier said of Myers and Kruse. "They got some big blocks."

It was a balanced attack that had everybody posting big numbers. Mary Kate Bendlage had 10 kills. Taegan Denning had seven kills. Natalie Randolph had five kills. Kruse had four kills and Anna Bendlage had three kills.

"For Presley to go early, it opened up our pin hitters," said Mary Kate Bendlage. "Taegan, Natalie and Anna were lights out tonight."

Myers, a sophomore, and Kruse, a freshman, have formed a potent middle combination this season.

"I've learned a lot from her," Kruse said. "We work together so much, I think we're feeding off each other."

Kruse is experiencing her first postsea-



FREESMEIER

Three Hounds qualify for state x-country meet

RUMP 4TH: Avery Rump, Paetyn Wiegand, and Jacob Shottenkirk advance to Oct. 28 meet in Fort Dodge

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

PELLA – Fort Madison will be sending three runners to the IGH-SAU/IHSAA state cross country meet in Fort Dodge next Saturday.

They almost sent four.

Senior Paetyn Wiegand, and sophomores Avery Rump and Jacob Shottenkirk will make the trip to Kennedy Park for the Class 3A run.

Sophomore Addison Rump just missed finishing 19th overall in the girls run. Runners from the top three teams that finished in the top 15 and five at large runners qualified for the state meet.

Avery Rump had the best finish of the day, taking 4th place with a time of 19:15.28, which was 36 seconds off the pace set by Pella's Marissa Ferebee.

The race was held at the Pella Sports Park and the home field advantage with Pella's Ruth Dunham finished second at 19:08.65. Harlan's Lindsey Sonderman, the state's No. 1



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Senior Paetyn Wiegand puts some distance between her and a pack of runners just before the halfway point of Wednesday's IGHSAA State qualifier cross-country meet in Pella.

runner in 3A, took third at 19:08.69. Wiegand was 8th overall at 20:06.68.

Pella won the meet with just 29 points with all five scoring runners finishing in the top 11, which brought all seven to the state meet. Harlan was second with 98 points and Clear Creek-Amana was third with 110. Those three qualified as teams. Washington was 4th with 112 points and Fort Madison was 5th with 122.

Rump said she's not sure she was totally ready for the race, but it was fun and she got a look at the competi-

tion for next week.

"Honestly, I don't know if I was prepared or not. It was a fun run and I'm glad I did as well as I did and I got a scope of the other kids that will be at state also, which was amazing," Rump said.

Her strategy was to get out and run as hard as she could because she said she typically doesn't have a rush at the end.

"I don't usually have a kick at the

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WEATHER

THU 19 Oct.....Mostly cloudy & cool, 64° F/45° F
FRI 20 Oct.....Clear & cool, 66° F/47° F
SAT 21 Oct.....Clear & breezy, 64° F/42° F

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PICK 3 EVENING 10/17.....132
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From the Front

New code gives city more teeth for dangerous structures

CODE - Continued from Page 1

date code for Uniform Property Maintenance Code that would go along with the Dangerous Buildings code.

“They work hand-in-hand and Pat felt it was best to bring those along at the same time,” Krogmeier said.

The new code will integrate a 2018 International Property Maintenance Code into the city’s code language.

O’Connell said the new codes cross reference each other. He said that

will be the best tool the city will have in combating dilapidated and dangerous structures.

“That gives us things that we can prove that are violations of our code that dovetail into Iowa Code. The way it was before, unless the building was literally falling down as was the case with the Humphrey Building where there were instability issues, we didn’t have the tools,” he said.

He said the new code and the IPMC will give

staff the legal tools that have been in place since 2018. He said the city isn’t going to new language later than that because cities are still testing that language in court cases. The 2018 IPMC language has already passed legal scrutiny.

“These are not outlandish or new ideas. These are ones we’ve seen at work in other cities,” O’Connell said.

Right now, the city doesn’t follow the IPMC,

so that’s a huge improvement and O’Connell said that gives the city teeth with things like leaking windows and holes in roofing.

“We can argue that it’s a nuisance, but good luck with that. How’s that a nuisance to the neighbor? So, the big change is the IPMC. The dangerous building change is pretty moderate. It doesn’t change a lot, just draws on other sections of the code,” O’Connell said.

Krogmeier said the IPMC adoption gives the

city more teeth when it takes property owners to court to fix nuisance problems.

“The IPMC gives us a chance to go in now with a code violation and, if it’s abandoned and they walked away from it, we can get it off there and taken care of,” O’Connell said.

Fire Chief Joey Herren said it eliminates the requirement of having an engineer come in and create a report that is admissible in court.

“This just saves us that step,” he said.

Property owners would have the right to appeal the decision to the city’s Construction Board of Appeals. The new code language gives property owners 20 days upon receipt of the nuisance complaint to file an appeal with the Construction Board.

The council approved the recommendation on a first reading, but it will still require two other readings to allow the community to react to the new code language.

In other action the council:

- voted 7-0 to rezone the property where the new PAW Animal Shelter will sit to General Industrial District.

- voted 7-0 to approve a change order on the Hwy. 61 reconstruction project from 10th to 18th streets. This is the 3rd change order on the project and was for \$43,764. The increase was due to an increase in thickness of concrete as sampled by the Iowa DOT.

- set a public hearing for Nov. 6 at 5:30 p.m. for the sale of property at 1730 Avenue H, the former Jiffy Lube.

- approved a resolution changing the scope of the reconstruction of Hwy. 61 from 20th to 30th Streets. The project will now be a full mill of the surface to be replaced with concrete instead of an asphalt overlay.

- approved a motion to hire current city employee Justina Cullen as transitional City Clerk to eventually replace current City Clerk Melinda Blind who is planning on retirement.

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- **LOSS OF SENSATION?**
- **BALANCE PROBLEMS?**

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From the Front



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Senior Mary Kate Bendlage (13) battles for a ball above the net with a Danville Bear Wednesday in Fort Madison. Holy Trinity won in three sets to advance to the Class 1A Region 8 semifinals Monday night.



HTC's Teagan Snaadt, Mary Kate Bendlage, and Presley Myers celebrate a point in the second set as the Crusaders rolled to a sweep of Danville Wednesday night.

Underclassmen playing big roles in Holy Trinity story

HTC - Continued from Page 1

son, but has approached it much like the regular season.

"It's nerve-wracking at first, but then it's just a normal game to me," Kruse said. "I've been in serious situations, I've played club (volleyball) all my life. It's all the same to me."

"She's spectacular," Mary Kate Bendlage said. "A lot of people don't think of her as a freshman anymore. I know we expect great things out of her, and I know every night she's going to show up and play well."

Holy Trinity (29-10) led 15-11 in the first set before going on a run that would define the rest of the match. The Crusaders scored the final 10 points to take the set, then outscored Danville (13-15) 18-1 to open the second set.

"We did a good job of pushing, keeping the gas on, and our offense ran really smooth today," Freesmeier said.

Danville couldn't get anything going against Holy Trinity's defense. Teagan Snaadt and Mary Kate Bendlage led the Crusaders with 19 digs each. Anna Bendlage had 11 digs, Randolph had 10 digs, and Denning had nine.

"We've been working on our defense every day in practice, and it's paid off," Kruse said. "We're getting to most everything."

"Our communication was on for every single ball," Mary Kate Bendlage said.

"We were digging everything," Myers said. "Teagan was on fire. There was one point where she got a dig on one side of the court, and then she was on the other side to get another one."

Anna Bendlage led the Crusaders with 17 assists, while Randolph had 15. Randolph was 21-of-21 serving with an ace. Kruse was 12-of-14 serving with two aces. Denning was 18-of-19 serving with an ace. Anna Bendlage was 9-of-9 serving with an ace.

The Crusaders didn't lose a set in their two matches this week. Now they face SEI Superconference South Division rival Notre Dame (26-14) in Monday's regional semifinal.

"It was a spectacular week," Mary Kate Bendlage said, "and now we look forward to Monday."

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Local News/For the Record

Fort Madison to start hydrant flushing

FORT MADISON - In an effort to maintain high quality finished water to the City water customers and to ensure proper fire protection, the Fort Madison Water Department will start its annual fire hydrant flushing on Monday, October 23, 2023 at 7:00 AM. The hydrant flushing will continue

through Friday, October 27, 2023 at 3:00 PM.

Motorists are advised to use caution when they encounter Water Department crews flushing hydrants. Customers may experience discoloration of the water and reduced pressure. Conditions should return to normal in a short period.

City to hold public hearing on next PORT Phase

FORT MADISON - The City of Fort Madison will be holding a public information meeting for the proposed Fort Madison - Phase IV Trail Project along 48th Street between Avenue L and River Valley Road. The meeting will be held on Thursday, October 26, 2023 at City Hall, 811 Avenue E. The meeting is an informal open house

format from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

All persons interested in the project are invited to attend. Representatives from the City of Fort Madison and French Reneker Associates will be in attendance to answer questions and receive comments about the project.

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For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

10/17/23 - 3:24 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Trenton Michael Blint, 22, of Fort Madison the 1700 block of 35th Street on a charges of child endangerment, 3rd-degree harassment and disorderly conduct. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

hicle. No injuries or citations were reported.

10/18/23 - 12:49 a.m. - Keokuk Police cited Terry Joe Wreiden, 32, of Keokuk at 14th Street and Exchange in Keokuk, on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Keokuk Police Report

10/12/23 - 10:52 a.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Main Street and 18th Street. A vehicle driven by Carol Ann Case, 78, of Keokuk, failed to stop in time at a red light and struck the back end of a vehicle driven by Clara L. Bollin, 98, of Nauvoo. Both vehicles suffered minor damage and Case was cited for following too closely.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

10/17/23 - 5:31 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a single-vehicle accident on 190th Avenue and Hwy. 2. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Kimberlie Sue Cook, 56, of Willow Springs, Mo., failed to navigate a turn and drove into a culvert. No citations or injuries were reported.

Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

10/16/23 - 1:13 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of 7th Street and Exchange. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Alyssa Violet Maples, 18, of Kahoka, Mo., failed to stop at a stop sign. A vehicle driven by Kevin Ray Fields, 45, of Keokuk was headed northbound and was unable to stop before colliding with Maples' ve-

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

10/16/23 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls, one small trash fire and one burn permit.

10/17/23 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to one false alarm and three medical calls.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County
Conservation Board
Agenda
October 19, 2023
Special Meeting
Lee County
Conservation Center
2652 Hwy 61,
Montrose, IA 52639

12:00 p.m. Microsoft Teams meeting
 Join on your computer, mobile app or room device
 Click here to join the meeting
 Meeting ID: 231 309 397 604 Passcode: JY-QELF
 Call to Order
 1. Call To Order
 2. Approval of Agenda
 3. Discuss and Take Action on Pollmiller Shower House Project
 4. Adjournment
 Workshop may follow
 Hearing and vision assistance available upon request. Citizens are welcome to all LCCB meetings.
 Next regular meeting – November 6, 2023 at 4pm

& Council Workshop of October 19,2023;
 • Cash Receipts & Treasurer’s report for September 2023;
 • Minutes of the Civil Service Commission of September 30, 2023;
 • Certified list for candidates for consideration by the Keokuk Police Department;
 • Resolution approving a Liquor License for Los Tapatios Restaurant, 706 Main Street, Class C Retail Alcohol License-effective November 1, 2023 (pending fire inspection);
 • Motion to pay bills and transfers listed in Register No.’s 5368-5369;
 7. Motion to approve the initial reading of an Ordinance amending

Section 9.36 dealing with stop streets.
 8. Consider resolution guaranteeing a line of credit for Keokuk Economic Development Corporation.
 9. Consider resolution approving the 2022-2023 Annual Finance Report.
 10. Consider resolution awarding contract for engineering services for

landslide at North 3rd and Franklin Street.
 11. Consider resolution approving lease with Nanaby, LLC at the Southeast Iowa Development Center.
 12. Consider resolution setting a public hearing on the submission of a US EPA Brownfield Grant Application.
 13. Motion to approve a

sewer credit for Joe Benson, 700 S. 6th Street for filling pool in August.
 14. Motion to acknowledge receipt and acceptance of a petition to change council presentation plan.
 15. Boards & Commissions:
 16. Council Liaison Reports:
 17. Staff Reports:

18. New Business:
 19. Adjourn Meeting.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
AMENDED
AGENDA
KEOKUK CITY
COUNCIL MEETING
October 19, 2023
501 Main Street
5:30 P.M.

1. Call to Order.
 2. Pledge of Allegiance:
 3. Roll Call.
 4. Mayor’s Correspondence:
 5. Citizen’s Request.
 6. Consent Agenda.
- Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting

HELP WANTED

LIBRARY PAGE
PART-TIME

Fort Madison Public Library
 The Fort Madison Public Library is seeking applicants for a library page position. 10 hours/week August through May, 12 hours/week June and July. Tasks will include shelving books, helping to prepare for and clean up after library programming and assisting during children’s programs. Must be 16 years or older. Applications can be picked up and returned to the Fort Madison Public Library. Preference given to applications received before October 25. Contact Sarah Clendinning at (319) 372-5721 if you have any questions.



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From the Front

Sophomores looking to build on last year's effort

HOUNDS - Continued from Page 1



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Mason McLey runs in the mix at the halfway point of Wednesday's state qualifier in Pella. McLey didn't qualify for next week's state meet in Fort Dodge.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The boys' Class 3A state qualifying run gets underway in Pella early Wednesday evening. The Hounds' Jacob Shottenkirk took 6th place at the meet and was the only boy to qualify for Fort Madison.

end, I try my best to kick and it's not a great kick."

Rump said this year will be more exciting than her freshman state race, where she finished 8th overall with a 19:23.08.

"I feel like I'm a little more excited than scared this year because I know what to expect and I know the course. So I think it will be a little more fun than nerve-racking."

Wiegand suffered an injury as a junior and wasn't able to compete in Fort Dodge last year. She finished 8th overall on Wednesday and said qualifying was all she was after.

"I like this course, it felt like it ran a little faster than I'm used to and the Pella girls pushed me in this one."

She said her goal was to finish in the top 15 and make it to state.

"It's definitely going to be a lot harder competition than we see in our area," she said.

Head Coach Brian Mendez said both Wiegand and Rump deserved to go to state.

"Coming on her injury and not having Paetyn here last year made her even more hungry," Mendez said.

"She's working really hard and improving every race. I didn't have a single doubt that she would qualify here today."

He said Avery Rump just gets to the line and goes.

"She just fires off and, if anyone wants to run fast, then it's Let's Go," he said.

On the boys' side, Shottenkirk took 6th place for the boys with a healthy kick at the end where he erased about seven runners in the final 100 meters.

"When I was at a half mile left, I was sticking with a kid from Washington and I just stuck with him and saved myself up a bit. I felt fresh on the last 100 and I just kicked as hard as I could," he said.

He credits his 16:41.14 time with a fast start.

"Today, I got out the hardest I have of any meet. I knew I had to do that up here," he said.

Mendez said he's been letting the sophomore have space this season.

"He's amazing. I haven't gotten him figured out yet. But he has it figured out, so I stay out of his way. He's a talent and he knows what he's doing. He just runs smart. All these boys do, it just wasn't their day. What do you do? We're a top five team in a really tough district."

Allison Lamb was 44th with a time of 23:09.99 followed by Hadley Wolfe in 47th at 23:22.71 for Fort Madison's scoring runners. Ellie Huebner (57th) and Alexa Walz (71st) also competed for the Lady Hounds.

Mason McLey was the second Bloodhound to cross for the boys. He took 23rd overall with a time of 17:27.56. Nolan Guzman was 27th at 17:31.13 and Riley Tripp finished 29th at 17:35.85. Calvin Johnson was the other scoring runner for Fort Madison with a 37th-place finish at 18:03.89. Peyton Lambert was 38th at 18:07.47 and Hunter Wiegand was the other runner for the Hounds, finishing in 43rd place.

The boys also took 5th place with 122 points. Pella, Washington, Clear Creek-Amana, and Newton finished 1-4.

The girls' State meet will take place at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28 with the boys to follow at 2:45.

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

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

HTC HIGH SCHOOL

2600 AVE A

FORT MADISON, IOWA

An Evening of Fellowship and Fundraising

4:00 p.m.

Happy Hour (Sponsored by Josh Denning & Associates)

Live Auction beginning with Grow-An-Acre grain sale

Dinner by Sonny's On The Sidewalk (4-7)

6:00 p.m.

Student class projects sold throughout the auction

7:00 p.m.

FFA serving walking tacos (7-9)

9:00 p.m.

\$10,000 Cash Raffle drawing (Sponsored by TJ Excavating, Keokuk Family Dentistry, Edward Jones - Corey Kelch, and Randolph Dental)

10:00 p.m.

Pizza Oven Raffle drawing (Sponsored by Keokuk Family Dentistry)

LIVE AUCTION ITEMS INCLUDING TOOLS, HOME DECOR, TOYS, GIFT CERTIFICATES AND PARTIES! ALSO, TASTY DRINKS AND APPETIZERS COMING OUT OF OUR HORS D'OEUVRE ROOM (SPONSORED BY CONNECTION BANK) ALL EVENING!

Throughout the evening will be the opportunity to Fund A Need!

This year's goal: \$17,000 to carpet four high school classrooms.

(Labor donated by Holtkamp's Floors, Decor & Furniture)