

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Friday, March 15, 2024 | 8 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 49



www.pencitycurrent.com

Closed for repairs

DERECHO: 2023 high winds toppled small spire in church, prompting a full-on inspection

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – An iconic part of the Fort Madison landscape is under a thorough inspection after being closed due to storm damage.

The Ss. Mary and Joseph Catholic Church on Avenue E has been closed to parishioners out of an abundance of caution and safety for everyone involved in the Fort Madison Catholic community.

According to Anita Helling, the church's business manager, the entire church is being inspected following a collapse of a small spire during the June 30 derecho that swept through Lee County.

Helling said there isn't a lot of information to be made public, but updates are provided weekly to the congregation who is now holding services at Sacred Heart.

"The church has been closed out of caution and safety," Helling said. "Our engineering firm suggested that, and our insurance company is going to be cautious. Out of utmost caution and safety we need to be proactive and make sure we keep everyone safe."

Helling said there are no cost estimates for any potential remediation and the inspections are still underway.

See **STORM**, page 3

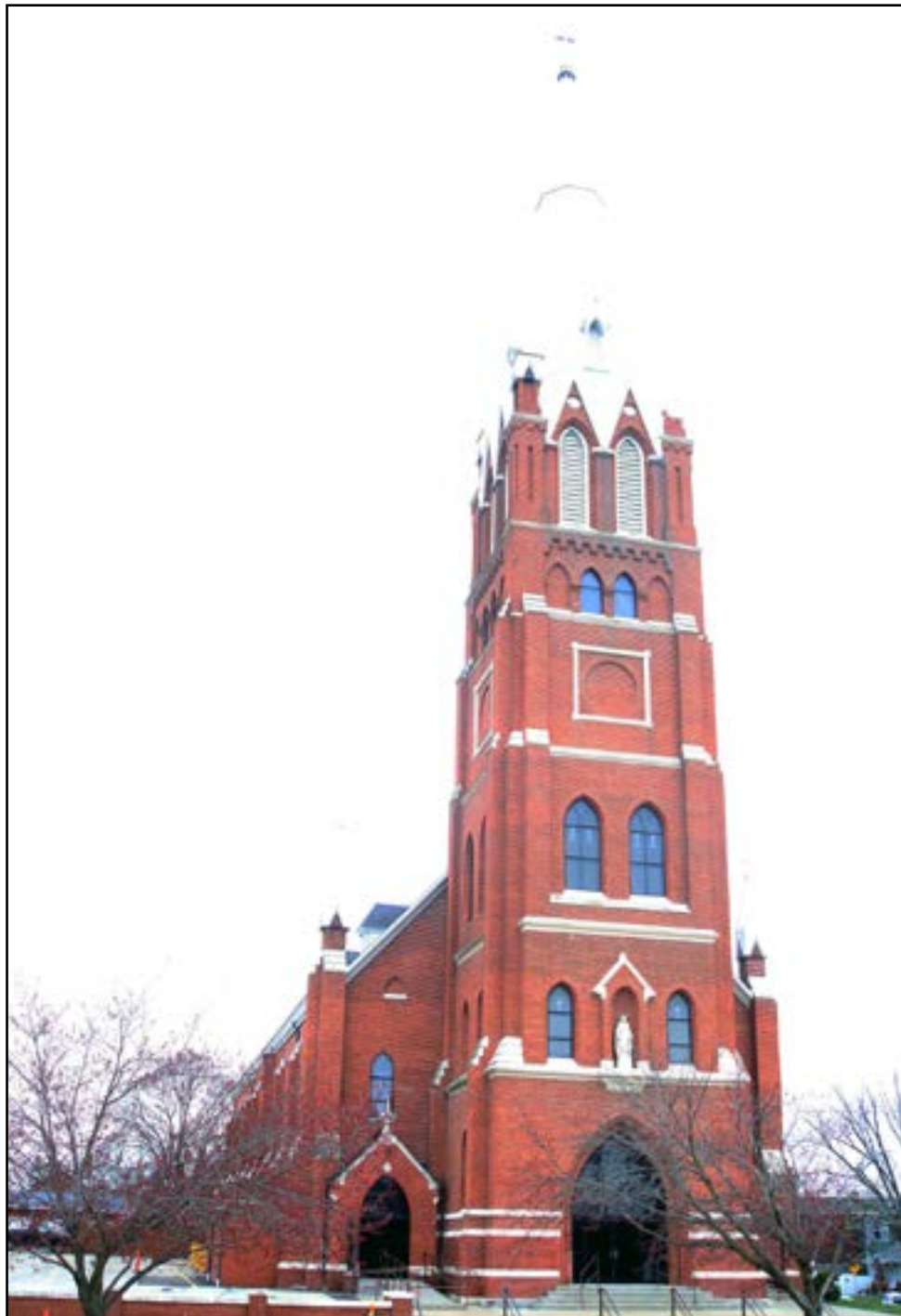


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Ss. Mary and Joseph Catholic Church on Avenue E in Fort Madison is closed for inspection and future repairs.

BROADBAND NEWS

Wever set up for high-speed Internet service

• County's ARPA funds, private investment from Danville Telecom about to bring 100/100 service

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A \$1.9 million investment in county funds coupled with investments from Danville Telecom is bringing high speed internet to about 100 homes in Wever, and has produced a more efficient backbone of service in the county.

The fiber optic "backbone" Danville Telecom built east of Keokuk between the city and Argyle is physically complete, but still needs some electronics initiated. The ring creates a redundancy of service in the county that not only protects current users on Danville's system, but also is an attractive piece of infrastructure for larger Internet providers to help build out more rural service for the county.



FENCIL

Tim Fencil, CEO of Danville Telecom, told the Southeast Iowa Regional & Economic Port Authority Tuesday morning the construction is complete and focus has shifted to providing high-speed service to homes near Wever.

"On Feb. 6 we had a Wever town hall meeting with residents of Wever showing up. We had 55 at the fire department where we gave a presentation and talk to those individuals," he said.

"So far we have permission from 63 property owners, residential and business, to install fiber to their home.

Danville Telecom committed to serving 110 homes in the Wever area as part of the \$1.9 million in county ARPA funding that also helped create the redundant loop near Keokuk.

See **FIBER**, page 8

IOWA NEWS

Burlington police identify remains of man found last week

PCC Staff

BURLINGTON – Burlington Police have released the name of a man whose body was discovered on March 7 in Burlington.

The Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner has been able to positively identify

the human remains as that of 54-year-old Burlington resident Troy Daughterty.

Daughterty was reported missing to Burlington police in July of 2020.

The cause and manner of death are still being investigated by police, the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigations and the medical examiners office.

Results of an autopsy and toxicology are pending and may take several weeks, according to information released Thursday afternoon.

Officials believe this is an isolated incident and there is no danger to the public. No additional information will be released at this time, officials said.

INDEX

Business Directory.....P.6
CLASSIFIEDS.....Ps.6-7
Complete Rental.....P.8
EDUCATION NEWS.....Ps.3-4
FOR THE RECORD.....P.2
FROM THE FRONT.....Ps.3,8
Fullenkamp Insurance.....P.2
IOWA NEWS.....P.8
James Healthcare & Associates, Inc.....P.3

JDRE.org.....P.5
Jim Baier, Inc.....P.7
LEE COUNTY NEWS.....P.8
LOCAL NEWS.....Ps.3-4
Mohrfeld Solar.....P.4
OPINION.....Ps.4-5
Pen City Current.....Ps.4,7-8
Pilot Grove Savings Bank.....P.5
Pothitakis Dental Group.....P.4

Public Notices.....Ps.6-7
Ron Davoo.....P.5
SCENE AROUND TOWN.....P.4
Sonny's Super Market.....P.8
Southeast Iowa
Regional Medical Group.....P.2
SPORTS.....P.5
YMCA Test Kitchen & STEM Lounge.....P.3

WEATHER

FRI 15 Mar.....Cloudy & cool, 56° F/ 38° F
SAT 16 Mar.....Breezy with increasing clouds, 60° F/ 31° F
SUN 17 Mar.....Mostly sunny & chilly, 46° F/ 23° F

IOWA LOTTERY

DOUBLE PLAY 03/13.....2 25 64 65 67, Powerball: 5
LOTTO AMERICA 03/13.....23 33 34 41 50, Star Ball: 7 All Star Bonus: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE 03/13.....27 43 44 45 47, Lucky Ball: 18
PICK 3 MIDDAY 03/13.....3 7 2
PICK 3 EVENING 03/13.....6 5 9
PICK 4 MIDDAY 03/13.....19 13
PICK 4 EVENING 03/13.....7 3 8 9
POWERBALL 03/13.....21 29 54 59 62, Powerball: 4 Power Play: 2

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Education News/From the Front

AEA Social workers add to mental health care

Submitted article

BURLINGTON - Great Prairie Area Education Agency (GPAEA) is proud to highlight the invaluable contributions of our dedicated school social workers. These licensed mental health professionals are committed to nurturing the potential of Iowa students and work tirelessly to support students with special needs and disabilities, providing tailored attention and guidance to foster their academic and social growth.

School social workers serve as essential liaisons between students' families and schools. They collaborate closely with parents, guardians, teachers, and school officials to ensure students excel academically and personally.

"Social work is a profession driven by a profound desire to enhance people's lives, particularly in our increasingly complex and stressful world," said Dr. Angelisa Fynaardt, Director of Special Education at Great Prairie AEA.

"Our school social workers confront students' emotional and behavioral challenges daily, remaining accessible to provide valuable information and referrals and develop personalized strategies for academic and social success."

In addition to their critical role within schools, AEA social workers are well-versed in a wide range of community resources and services. They facilitate access to these vital supports, ensuring students have the tools to thrive.

"Our AEA school social workers, skilled in building relationships and identifying strengths, play a vital role in fostering personalized growth," stated Chief Administrator Nathan Wood. "Their efforts are pivotal in enriching the lives of our students, and we sincerely value their invaluable contributions."

Great Prairie AEA encourages the community to recognize and celebrate the remarkable work of school social workers during National Social Work Month and throughout the year.



Courtesy photo

A Great Prairie Area Education Association school social worker spends time with a student in Ottumwa this year. Social workers play an important role in the early mental health advancements at area schools.

Spires susceptible to derecho winds

STORM - Continued from Page 1

"The June 30th storm caused one of our small spires to come down. The Diocese has recommended an inspection of the entire church and this will be a long process. We have removed the top portions of areas that have been compromised," she said.

"But the entire church is being inspected. The process now is just a waiting game."

Both the Sacred Heart church and Ss Mary and Joseph were both built in the 1800s. The church on Avenue E is the older church.

Helling said the high winds are detrimental to high spires on older churches.

"I don't see our weather patterns changing, either. There's going to be more and you just don't realize how damaging they are."

She said about a month ago a church spire in Connecticut just crashed to the ground.

the Y TEST KITCHEN

Cottontail Dash

Fun Run/Walk

Riverview Park | Fort Madison, IA
Saturday, March 30th, 2024
7:30am Check-In 8:00am Start
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FREE Event T-Shirt for the first 100 Participants

All proceeds will go to YMCA Test Kitchen Music and Cooking programs!
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March Madness

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 COMMENT ON A POST = 2 TICKETS
 BOTH COMMENT & SHARE A POST = 5 TICKETS
 REFERRAL ACCEPTS = 20 TICKETS

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2ND PRIZE = \$100 MEAT BUNDLE

3RD PRIZE = DR. GETWELLS \$50 GIFT CARD

***DOES NOT APPLY TO FEDERAL BENEFICIARIES**

Scene Around Town/Opinion



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The back parking lot is completed and striped as construction continues to progress at the Fort Madison High School. Work will continue through the spring and summer with an anticipated opening by the fall school semester.

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OPINION

Miller-Meeks says Biden SOTU was lackluster

Last week, President Biden delivered a lackluster State of the Union address that was divisive, touted empty policies, and swept the chaos at our southern border under the rug.

I am not surprised that the President failed to mention the decline of our nation during his State of the Union Address, but I am disappointed. I am disappointed that the President prized appearances, the appearance of a strong nation, over the harsh realities that many Americans face.

The President boasted about the economy. Yet, under Bidenomics, job growth has been stagnant, real wages are down by over 2%, and prices have risen 17.9%. Compared to three years ago, Americans spend \$1,019 more on necessary goods and services per month. This is the direct result of Biden's failed economic agenda.



MILLER-MEEKS

In Iowa's First Congressional District, we have been hit hard by the skyrocketing inflation rates. We feel the impact at the pump and at the grocery store when we, at times, have to put items back on the shelf. We know all too well the impact of the fentanyl and opioid crisis that can be directly linked to the drug cartels and the illegal immigration crisis at our border. We rely on the energy industry, which offers good-paying jobs in our communities, but the President is waging an all-out war on the very industry that sustains our community.

Fortunately, House Republicans are acutely aware of what is going on in our communities. We are introducing and passing legislation to fortify our border and keep our communities safe. This Congress, we introduced and passed H.R. 2, a historic border and immigration bill that strengthens border security and immigration laws, deters illegals from taking advantage of our immigration system, and addresses the humanitarian crisis that the Biden administration created.

This week, we passed the Laken Riley Act, legislation introduced by Representative Mike Collins (R-GA). This legislation honors the life and memory of Laken Riley and other victims of the Biden administration's open borders policies and enforces immigration laws. The legislation also requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged with theft in the United States.

As your representative, I will continue to acknowledge the realities of the state of our nation and correct the record on Biden's failed policies. I will also continue to work for our communities, especially the rural communities, which, more often than not, feel the brunt of the President's policies.

Mariannette Miller-Meeks currently represents Iowa's First District in the United States House of Representatives.

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Sports/Opinion

WEEKLY FISHING REPORT

Channel cats active as waters warm

DES MOINES - The following is the weekly fishing report of southeast Iowa fishing holes from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Big Hollow Lake

A few days in the 70's warmed the water into the low 50's. Forecast cooler weather will most likely drop water temperature drop for at least the next few days. Channel Catfish - Fair: If you can be there when the wind is blowing into the dam, you can find a few catfish concentrated there looking to feed; use cut bait. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Work the small islands along the north side towards the lower end of the lake. The shallow water flats around them attract bass early in the season looking for an early crayfish to eat.

Lake Belva Deer

Several boats and kayaks have been out this week. Water temperature is in the mid to upper 40s. Black Crappie - Slow: Anglers are picking up a few crappies out from the beach when the wind allows them to slow drift with ice fishing jigs. Channel Catfish - Fair: Anglers are picking up a few catfish along the face of the dam using cut bait. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Bass fishing has picked up with the warmer weather.

Use soft plastics or jigs with trailers with a slow presentation; work the north shore where the sun is warming the water. Walleye - Slow: An angler caught a nice walleye while crappie fishing on March 13; broke his ultralight pole in two, but he landed the fish.

Lake Darling

Water temperature is in the upper 30s. A few boats out on the lake; very little actual fishing pressure. Channel Catfish - Fair: Not much fishing pressure due to the windy days. March 13 rains filled up the lake to full pool; night crawlers were out. Try nightcrawlers in the wiers in the inlake silt dams. Largemouth Bass - Fair: A few largemouth were being caught along the rocks. Use soft plastics or jigs bounced slowly along the bottom along the rocks. A few crawdads have been seen.

Lost Grove Lake

Water temperatures are in the low 50s; expect temperatures to drop with the forecast cooler weather. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Target the long rock mounds at the upper end of the lake where the rocks absorb some of that suns heat. Use crawdad or salamander imitations with a slow presentation.

Anglers are getting out when the wind allows. Water temperature is in the mid-40s. Channel Catfish - Fair: When the wind is blowing into the dam or into the bays on the northside, using cut bait will give you a chance for some nice catfish. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Bass fishing along the north shore is picking up with the warmer weather. Work next to and over the rocks jiggging soft plastics and jigs; work them slowly.

For more information on the above lakes and rivers call the Lake Darling Fisheries Office at 319-694-2430.

Hawthorn Lake

Try cut bait for channel catfish in areas with the wind blowing in.

Lake Miami

Target channel catfish on the wind-blown shorelines using cut bait.

Lake Sugema

Try cut bait for channel catfish along the wind-blown shorelines.

Lake Wapello

Use cut bait to catch catfish on the wind-blown shorelines.

Ottumwa Park Pond South (Trout Pond)

Trout will be stocked on Saturday, March 23rd at 11 AM. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or

possess trout.

Rathbun Reservoir

The current lake level is 902.79 msl; recreation pool is 904 msl. Surface water temperature is 44 degrees. The Dedication Site boat ramp has reopened; use caution as the lake is still below recreation pool. Docks have not been installed; very little fishing activity. Lake Rathbun has zebra mussels so make sure to properly drain, clean and dry equipment before transporting to another waterbody. Channel Catfish - Fair: Try cut bait on the wind-blown shorelines. Walleye - No Report: All walleye less than 15" must be immediately released unharmed.

Red Haw Lake

Channel catfish will move into wind-blown shorelines; use cut bait in those areas.

Contact the Rathbun Fish Hatchery at 641-647-2406 with questions about fishing in south central Iowa.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Politics has changed us

Dear Editor:

Are we not finding petty politics increasingly annoying where there was once decorum and dignity?

A photo of 81 year old President Biden who briefly lost stairwell footing on one of his frequent airplane trips has been aired to a nauseating degree on media nationwide.

Iowa's Chuck Grassley is 90. Imagine following him around 24/7 with a high powered telephoto lens and then posting doctored photos on cable and social media with degrading commentary.

Pope Francis, 87 has been seen in un-becoming poses. Would media moguls lay in wait for awkward moment "paparazzi-style" film clips of the Pope as they do Biden? Would the public stand for it?

Who among us could not be made to look very stupid with an ever-present camera intent on slander and damage to our reputation?

This tactic is not journalism. It is propaganda.

In a different time the press reported to the public the policy positions of our leaders and their words, not the inevitable events that come with disability, age and the rigor of daily activity.

President Franklin Roosevelt led our nation through the Great Depression and World War II. Roosevelt also suffered from poliomyelitis, was confined to a wheelchair and wore heavy steel leg braces. There were no hateful press tactics. The President was known to the public for his character, words and actions and there was respect for the Presidency.

Americans are being played for stupid by these tactics. Some fall for the nastiness. Most don't. Roosevelt and Biden fought hard to overcome disabilities so that they can serve our country. That's how wise people see it.

David Helman, Salem, Iowa

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JDRF IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH TYPE 1 RESEARCH

Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE SPRING CEMETERY CLEAN UP

The Fort Madison Cemetery Department will begin Spring Clean Up at Sacred Heart, Elmwood, Oakland & City Cemeteries on Monday, March 25 through Friday, March 29, 2024. ALL items must be removed from the gravesites before Monday, March 25. Any items left will be disposed of during cemetery clean up. No items are to be placed on the graves until Saturday, March 30, 2024.

For further information, call (319) 372-7700, ext. 206 or email cityclerk@fortmadison-ia.com. Thank you for your cooperation!

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Fort Madison City Council at

5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at the Council Chambers of Fort Madison City Hall at 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, concerning Public Improvement Project 2023-02, Connecting Fort Madison PORT Phase IV Trail along 48th Street from Avenue L to River Valley Road. The purpose of the hearing will consist of approving plans, specifications, contract documents and awarding a construction contract for the project.

You may obtain further information or express your views concerning this issue either in person or through an authorized representative at the public hearing, or prior to the meeting by fax at (319) 372-8661, by telephone at (319) 372-7700 ext. 206, by e-mail at cityclerk@fortmadison-ia.com or in writing to the Fort Madison City Clerk, P.O. Box 240, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 no later than 4:30 PM on

March 19, 2024.
Justina M. Cullen
City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Fort Madison City Council at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at the Council Chambers of Fort Madison City Hall at 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, at which time and place a hearing will be conducted concerning approval to amend Ordinance No. D-070, Natural Gas Franchise Agreement with MidAmerican Energy Company.

You may obtain further information or express your views concerning this issue either in person or through an authorized representative at the public hearing, or prior to the meeting by fax at (319) 372-8661, by telephone at (319) 372-7700 ext. 206,

by e-mail at cityclerk@fortmadison-ia.com or in writing to the Fort Madison City Clerk, P.O. Box 240, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 no later than 4:30 PM on March 19, 2024.

A copy of the ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's office.
Justina M. Cullen
City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND LETTING

FORT MADISON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AIRFIELD PAVEMENT REHABILITATION CITY OF FORT MADISON, IOWA FAA AIP PROJECT NO. 3-19-0036-014 FAA BIL-AIG PROJECT NO. 3-19-0036-015

Online bids for the construction of certain Fort Madison Municipal Airport improvements and work incidental thereto on an improvement project

described in general as "Airfield Pavement Rehabilitation", must be filed before 11:00 a.m. on the 26th day of March, 2024, utilizing online bidding through QuestCDN. (EBid Reference No. 8921918), in accordance with the Plans and Specifications now on file in the office of the City Clerk. At said time and place, Proposals will be opened and tabulated by the Engineer.

Proposals received will be presented to the City Council and considered at a meeting presided over by the Mayor, to be held at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa at 5:30 p.m. on the 2nd of April, 2024. At such time and place, the City Council shall also hold a Public Hearing on the proposed Plans, Specifications, form of Contract and estimate of cost for the construction of said improvements hereinafter described in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 384, Code of

Iowa, at 5:30 p.m. on the 2nd of April, 2024 at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa. At the hearing, the City will receive and consider any objections made by any interested party, to the Plans and Specifications, proposed form of Contract, and the estimate of the cost for the project.

Complete digital project bidding documents are available at www.questcdn.com. You may download the digital documents for no charge by inputting the project title of "Airfield Pavement Rehabilitation", Quest project number #8921918 on the website's Project Search page. Please contact QuestCDN.com at 952.233.1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working in this digital project information.

Contract Work items: This project will involve the following work improvements:

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



Patrick Profeta
General Manager

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

Base Bid: Airfield Pavement Rehabilitation

1. Mobilization (NTE 10%)	5. PCC Spall Repair	9. Pavement Marking, White with Beads
2. Traffic Control	6. Pavement Marking Removal	10. Pavement Marking, Yellow with Beads
3. PCC Joint Cleaning and Sealing	7. 6" Plain PCC Pavement	11. Paint Marking, Black no Beads
4. PCC Crack Repair, Rout, & Seal	8. 6" Reinforced PCC Pavement	

All bids must be filed on QuestCDN.com on or before the time herein set. Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond in an amount equal to five (5%) of the total amount of the bid. Bid Bond must be on the form provided with the Contract Documents.

Bid Bond forfeited, and the proceeds retained as liquidated damages if the bidder fails to execute a contract or file acceptable performance bonds or provide an acceptable certificate of insurance within fifteen (15) calendar days after the acceptance of his proposal by resolution of the City. No bidder may withdraw a proposal within ninety (90) days after the date set for opening bids.

The right is reserved, as the City of Fort Madison, Iowa may require, to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in the bids received.

All Contractor(s) and subcontractor(s) are required to obtain tax exemption certificates from the City of Fort Madison, Iowa for this project. These tax exemption certificates are only for use on this specific project as covered under the Contract. Before final payment will be made on this project, the Contractor(s) and subcontractor(s) shall provide lien waivers as required in the Specifications.

Bidder hereby agrees to commence work under the contract on or before date to be specified in a Notice to Proceed and to complete the work within thirty (30) calendar days.

Failure to complete the work under the specified schedule will result in liquidated damages of \$400.00 per calendar day until the project is complete and ready for operation. Punch list items shall be addressed fourteen (14) calendar days from final inspection unless time extensions are authorized in writing by both the Owner and the Engineer. Failure to complete punch list items under the specified schedule will result in liquidated damages of \$250.00 per calendar day.

This project is subject to the requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Participation. The owner has established

a contract goal of 0.99 percent participation for small business concerns owned and controlled by qualified disadvantaged business enterprises (DBE). The bidder shall make and document good faith efforts, as defined in Appendix A of 49 CFR Part 26, to meet the established goal.

This project is subject to the requirements of the Davis-Bacon Act, as amended. The Contractor is required to comply with wage and labor provisions and to pay minimum wages in accordance with the schedule of wage rates established by the United States Department of Labor.

Award of contract is also subject to the following Federal provisions:

Executive Order 11246 and DOL Regulation 41 CFR PART 60-4 - Affirmative Action to Ensure Equal Employment Opportunity

DOL Regulation 2 CFR § 200 Appendix II (D) - Davis Bacon Act

2 CFR part 180 (Subpart C), 2 CFR part 1200, DOT Order 4200.5- DOT Suspension & Debarment Procedures & Ineligibility

15 CFR § 29 - Government wide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace

DOT Regulation 49 CFR PART 30 - Denial of Public Works Contracts to Suppliers of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Contracts to Suppliers of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors (Foreign Trade Restriction).

TITLE 49 United States Code §50101 - Buy American Preferences

By virtue of statutory authority, preference will be given to products and provisions grown and coal produced within the State of Iowa and to Iowa domestic labor to the extent lawfully required under Iowa statutes, providing that the award of the contract will be made to the lowest responsible bidder submitting the lowest acceptable bid, which shall be without regard to state or local law whereby preference is given on factors other than the amount of the bid.

Published by the order of the City of Fort Madison, Iowa, this 15th day of March, 2024.

CITY OF FORT MADI-

SON, IOWA
By: /s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld,
Mayor

PUBLIC NOTICE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST POINT CITY COUNCIL WEST POINT, IOWA 52656 MARCH 11, 2024

Mayor Gary Peitz called the properly noticed regular meeting of the City Council of the City of West Point to order in the West Point Library, 309 Fifth Street, West Point, Iowa 52656 on March 11, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. In addition to Mayor Gary Peitz indicated the following Council Members were present: Wendy Vonderhaar, Larry Buchholz, Bruce Wellman, Brian Meierotto and Will Stuekerjuergen.

Mayor reported the following: Municipal Utility Board Meeting Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall, Library Board Meeting, Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.; Next regular City Council Meeting is Monday, April 8, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the West Point Public Library.

Mayor Gary Peitz presented the City Administrator's report.

CLAIMS REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2024

Access Systems	51.25
Access System Leasing	88.32
Altorfer Inc	87.22
Amazon Capital Services	132.45
Baker & Taylor	848.66
Brozene Hydraulic Service	217.90
City of Mediapolis ...	20.00
Daily Democrat	64.18
Donald Consulting Group	8,388.80
Drake Hardware & Software	105.00
Floyd's E-Z Way ...	105.00
Fullenkamp Insurance	280.00
Gale Cengage Learning	249.51
Globe Life Liberty National	80.97
GPM	5,917.00
GRRWA	992.00
Holtkamp Automotive Repair	479.00
ION Environmental Services	620.00
Mastercard	1,123.90
MidAmerican Energy	257.27
Mississippi Valley Embroidery	88.00

Office of Auditor of State	8,852.32
Per Mar Security Services	334.68
Petty Cash	19.30
Pranger, Mary Jane	180.00
Raymond Geddes Co Inc	49.27
Ricoh USA Inc.	172.16
Robins Sales & Service LLC	741.25
Sparks Jeri	150.00
Treasurer-State of IA	186.57
USA Bluebook	168.05
US Cellular	76.56
USPS	199.65
West Point Lumber & Hardware	151.11
West Point Professional Group	750.00
West Point Utilities	4,625.31
Wex Bank	735.35
Windstream	161.80

RECAPITULATION

FUND: PREV BAL, RCPTS, DSBSD, CUR BAL: Gen.Govt.: 436,290.09; 152,628.18; 175,768.44; 414,189.29 Grants: 3,440.82; --; --; 3,440.82; Cap Equip: 4127.06, ---, ---, 4127.06; Lib County/St: 5,990.90; 1,999.83, 428.84; 7,561.89; Lib Mem & Gift: 15,127.63; 66.35; 650.14; 14,543.84; Hoening Estate: 529,758.34; 130,280.38; 130,150.00; 529,888.72 Road Use Tax: 59,895.64; 9,484.77; 6,177.91; 63,202.50; LOST: 10,217.72; 13,050.12; 13,050.12; 10,217.72; Restricted Gifts: 4,811.27; --; --; 4,811.27 East Sewer; --; ; 16,678.00; -16,678.00; Walk Path; 6,079.40; --; --; 6,079.40; American Rescue:55,554.00; 15.77; --; 55,569.77; Sewer: 22,198.32 ;22,090.81 ; 23,328.36 ;20,960.77; Sewer Sinking: 48,655.68; 8,413.33; --; 57,069.01; Landfill: -11,013.56, ---; --; -11,013.56 /s/ Gary B. Peitz, Mayor Attest: Randy Welding, City Administrator
--

Denise R. McGowan /
City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE Fort Madison Community School District Special Meeting / Work Session 03/06/2024 - 06:00 PM Central Office Board Room 1930 Avenue M Fort Madison, Iowa 52627 MEETING MINUTES

Attendees
Voting Members Amy Thacher, Director
Brad Menke, Director
Mio Santiago, Vice President
Paul Wilkerson, Director
Keith Hehr, Director
Kelly Nelton, Director
Non-Voting Members
Dr. Erin Slater, Superintendent

I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum The meeting called to order by Vice President Santiago at 6:00 PM. II.

Consider approval of agenda Motion made by: Paul Wilkerson Motion seconded by: Keith Hehr Voting: Unanimously Approved

III. Consider approval of quote from Carroll Seating in the amount of \$308,391.31 for the FMHS bleacher project Motion made by: Keith Hehr Motion seconded by: Brad Menke Voting: Unanimously Approved IV.

Systems Instructional Coaching Model progress and board update The Board participated in a discussion session regarding the progress made towards implementation of the Systems Coaching Model supporting teaching and learning. V.

Schedule Board Instructional Tour at FMHS The Board scheduled the Instructional Tour of the Fort Madison

High School. VI. Announcements
i. Spring Break: March 11-15, 2024
ii. Regular Board Meeting: March 20, 2024, 6:00 p.m. - Central Office Board Room

iii. Public Hearing / Board Work Session: April 03, 2024, 6:00 p.m. - Central Office Board Room VII. Adjourn The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Motion made by: Brad Menke Motion seconded by: Amy Thacher Voting: Unanimously Approved

HELP WANTED

Parks & Cemeteries Part-Time Laborer

Under direct supervision, performs manual work in grounds and building maintenance of public parks, cemeteries, and their facilities.

DESIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education and Experience:
• Some experience in building and grounds maintenance;
• Must have a valid Iowa driver's license;
• Skill in operating some of the listed tools and equipment: hand, tractor & power mowers, backhoe, carpentry, and plumbing tools, etc.

Apply at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, IA 52627 or email applications to knafziger@fortmadison-ia.com by March 22, 2024.

Applications can be found online at www.fortmadison-ia.com.



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Iowa News/From the Front

Grassley joins group in new bill to combat immigrant crimes

WASHINGTON – Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), a senior member and former chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, joined Sens. Katie Britt (R-Ala.), Ted Budd (R-N.C.) and 31 Republicans in introducing legislation to combat crime stemming from illegal immigration. Companion legislation passed the House of Representatives last week by a bipartisan vote of 251-170.

The Laken Riley Act would require Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to arrest and detain illegal immigrants who commit theft, burglary, larceny or shoplifting until they are ultimately removed from the United States. Further, the bill would ensure states have standing to bring civil actions against federal officials who refuse to enforce, or who violate, immigration law. The legislation is named after Laken Riley, a 22-year-old student who was murdered by an illegal immigrant and repeat criminal offender who had previously been detained and released.



GRASSLEY

“Laken Riley’s life was robbed by an illegal immigrant, and repeat criminal offender, who the Biden administration allowed to slip through the cracks,” Grassley said. “The Laken Riley Act would ensure criminals who have illegally entered our country receive due justice and would help keep communities safe. We must act now to ensure this terrible tragedy never happens again.”

“Make no mistake – Laken Riley’s heartbreaking murder was a direct, preventable consequence of willful open border policies by President Biden and his administration. This commonsense legislation would ensure ICE detains and deports criminal illegal aliens, so more innocent American families do not have to face this kind of unimaginable tragedy,” Britt said.

“States should be able to protect their citizens from the Biden administration’s lawless, open border policies by seeking relief in federal court. That’s why I am joining Senator Britt to introduce the Senate version of the Laken Riley Act. We simply cannot tolerate any more senseless tragedies like this one. What happened to Laken Riley should never happen to any American citizen,” Budd said.

Danville to start building high-speed fiber optic service to Green Bay residents

FIBER - Continued from Page 1

“I will say it was really enjoyable going to Wever and having that conversation with the people. They are so happy we are coming to town,” Fencil said.

“I think I had to repeat at least 15 times that our charge was \$85. They would ask what else, that’s it - \$85. What’s it going to be next month? \$85.”

Fencil said residents stuck around for about 45 minutes after the meeting regarding the service and asked questions about the service and possible price increases.

“I assured everybody that I’ve been at Danville 14 years and as CEO 12 years and we’ve raised our prices once. That was six months ago when we went from 3/1 (upload/download mgb) speed to 100/100 and our price went from \$75 to \$85,” he said.

“It was a very powerful meeting and we discussed if we need to, we can go back and have another meeting to keep people up on the progress of the work.”

Fencil said 14 other homes have also expressed interest that are outside the 110 commitment. He said if costs to run service to those homes comes back reasonable, maybe Danville can extend beyond the original commitment.

The county has to approve the utility improvements and permit the work. Fencil said those applications are in.

He also said the construction is scheduled to be completed by September. Fiber lease payments to SIREPA will begin in December of 2024. The funding for the project was acquired by the port authority through grants and investments and the port authority owns the new fiber optic ring infrastructure for 10 years. Danville will pay lease payments to SIREPA for those 10 years and the funds are to be used to leverage additional high speed “build out” in the county.

Fencil said additional funding is being released by the state and federal governments, but the regulations on the money make it very difficult for smaller companies like Danville Telecom to compete for the grants. However, the presence of the high-speed infrastructure built by the county, SIREPA, and Danville Telecom, position the county well for other investment by larger firms.

In the last Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), Lee County had two of the top 20 projects presented to the state.

Mediacom and Mediapolis Telephone have been awarded about \$20 million combined to extend additional high speed service in the county with the latest round of grants from Empower Rural Iowa’s Rural Broadband grant funding. The two companies have planned about \$28 million in Lee County work.

The Mediacom award could serve approximately 700 addresses in southern Lee County. Mediacom requested \$29 million for their multi-county project to serve a total of 4,466 addresses, but the company was awarded \$19.1 million, which could potentially affect the project going forward.

Under the Mediapolis Telephone project, about 850 addresses in an area encompassing the rural areas north of Fort Madison to Hwy. 16 could be served.

“I’m not going to say we should take credit for that, and when I say we, I mean Lee County Board of Supervisors, SIREPA, and Danville Telecom, but I think because we expressed interest and we got the ball rolling, I think it was imperative to those other companies that they claim a stake here as well,” he said.

The federal government has a BEAD program, which is a \$42 billion broadband program, where funding is allocated to each state. Iowa’s share, according to Fencil, will be about \$400 million.

“We won’t know the extent of that program until late 2024. Once that allocation and plan that Iowa puts together is approved, then we will have a better picture of what the funding looks like for Lee County and the rest of the state,” he said.

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Lunch Specials
March 11 - 15
11 am - 1 pm

Monday, March 11

Roast Beef Sandwich, Cheese Potatoes

Tuesday, March 12

Spaghetti, Garlic Toast, Applesauce

Wednesday, March 13

Beef Enchiladas, Spanish Rice

Thursday, March 14

Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, March 15

Fish & Shrimp Dinners

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