

# Super search down to 2

**SUPERINTENDENT:** FMCS D narrows field down to two candidates; both from Iowa

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Community School District School Board has announced two finalists in its search for the district’s new superintendent following a comprehensive review process with staff at Grundmeyer Leader Services.

The finalists are David Keane and Mike Wolter.

Keane is the current director of teaching and learning, special education, and human resources for the West Burlington Independent School District.

There he has led the collaborative effort to develop a new



WOLTER



KEANE

mission and a portrait of a graduate for the district, laying the groundwork for a strategic plan. He also worked to improve the efficiency of the student information management system and facilitated a K-12 mathematics curriculum review and adoption process.

Previously, Keane was a school-to-career advisor at Humboldt High School in north central Iowa. He also has expe-

See **SEARCH**, page 5

COMMENTARY

## EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



# A prayer gets answered at the right time

I had been clean and sober 15 years when I found myself out late, on a cold winter’s night, on my insurance business. I had skipped supper (well, I had a Salted Nut Roll) so was more than hungry. I was cold, hungry and tired. Not a good situation for a person in recovery.

I was close to the Mississippi River near a tiny town called Oakville. If I remembered correctly, there was only one place open this late that served food, a tavern. I didn’t really want to go into a tavern feeling like this. One of my sobriety rules was never go into a place alone that serves liquor. But what was I to do? I needed something to eat.

I thought I’d give my sponsor a call before I headed to the tavern. Just hearing his voice, I knew, would give me confidence and strength. Talking to another drunk will do that. It’s like a shot of adrenaline, or the first cup of coffee in the morning.

My sponsor’s phone rang and rang. He was probably at a meeting. Then it clicked into voice mail. “The mail box of the party you are trying to reach is full.” Dang it! Why can’t he delete his messages? My sponsor was a great guy, with over 30 years of sobriety, but was a little disorganized. He was a go-with-the-flow kind of guy.

I reached in my pocket for my sobriety coin. We carry these for just such an occasion. It wasn’t there. I turned my pocket inside out, change, pen knife and lint were all I found. I searched the other pocket. Same story. In a panic, I searched the crack of the car seat, and even felt around under the seat, in case the sobriety coin had slipped out of my pocket. Nothing. I must have left it in my other pants. Now what am I going to do?

See **SWARM**, page 4



Courtesy photo

The 2024 YMCA/Rotary Steak Fry was well-attended. Tickets are on sale again for this year’s event. Tickets are available online only and are discounted to \$25 prior to the day of the event, when the price increases to \$35 at the door.

YMCA/ROTARY

## Tickets still available online for annual Steak Fry fundraiser

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Family YMCA and the Fort Madison Rotary Club are excited to announce the 4th Annual Steak Fry Fundraiser, set to take place on Thursday, May 15th, 2025, at the Tri-State Rodeo Grounds in Fort Madison, IA. The event will kick off at 5:00 pm, with dinner served promptly at 5:30 pm, making it an evening of fun, food, and entertainment for the entire community.

This year’s Steak Fry Fundraiser promises to be a memorable night, featuring a delicious steak dinner, live music, and exciting auction items. The event will be held in the Bud Light Stockyard at the Tri-State Rodeo Grounds, offering a spacious and welcom-

ing setting for everyone to enjoy.

A Mouthwatering Menu

The highlight of the evening is, of course, the steak dinner. Guests can look forward to a 12oz Ribeye Steak, complete with optional sautéed mushrooms and onions, a baked

See **TICKETS**, page 7

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WEATHER

FRI 25 Apr.....	Shows likely, 71° F/ 46° F	☁
SAT 26 Apr.....	Sunny and cool, 65° F/ 45° F	☀
SUN 27 Apr.....	Mostly sunny, 70° F/ 57° F	☀
IOWA LOTTERY		
DOUBLE PLAY 04/23.....	37 42 49 54 66, Powerball: 26	
LOTTO AMERICA 04/23.....	18 24 34 40 42, Star Ball: 8 All Star Bonus: 3	
LUCKY FOR LIFE 04/23.....	8 14 15 23 24, Lucky Ball: 15	
PICK 3 MIDDAY 04/23.....	0 3 5	
PICK 3 EVENING 04/23.....	3 3 7	
PICK 4 MIDDAY 04/23.....	4 2 1 8	
PICK 4 EVENING 04/23.....	4 9 6 6	
POWERBALL 04/23.....	15 44 63 66 69, Powerball: 20 Power Play: 2	

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

JULIE O’CONNOR

We announce the passing of a truly remarkable woman-Julie O’Connor-beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. Julie’s life was a testament to selflessness, loyalty, and boundless love.



O’CONNOR

She was the devoted wife of 56 years to Mike, a nurturing mother, and a proud “Granny” whose unwavering support lit up every game, performance, and milestone. Julie’s grace and strength carried her through life’s challenges, and her quiet resilience left a lasting legacy. To her friends, she was a loyal confidante; to her family, the heart and foundation of it all.

A gifted vocalist, Julie shared her musical talents through choirs, community productions, and special events. She was a member of the First Christian Church Choir for many years. Her love of travel took her across the globe—from Egypt to Japan, Europe to Mexico—but her heart always belonged to Keokuk, a place and community she deeply cherished.

Julie found great purpose in teaching, especially during her time in California. After earning her Sociology & Early Childhood Education Degrees from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo—where she met Mike—she taught at All Saints Lutheran School and Robin’s Nest in Novato, California. She also established and operated Little Angels Preschool & Childcare Center in Keokuk, touching the lives of countless students with warmth and care. Julie also had a love for fashion, always dressed with elegance and sparkle. Shopping trips with her daughter and granddaughters were more than outings—they were treasured moments filled with laughter and love.

She is survived by her husband, Mike O’Connor; her children, Shannon (Dan) Tackes and Kevin (Jamie) O’Connor; grandchildren, Fallon, McKenna, Callum, Tristyn, Aydan, and Darby; her sisters, Natalie Froman and Kathleen Mahoney; and many beloved family members and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Maxine and Eugene Fallon.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial scholarship will be established for a Keokuk High School senior pursuing a degree in education. Visitation will be held on Saturday, April 26, from 10 a.m. to noon, at First Christian Church (3476 Main St.) in Keokuk. A funeral service will take place immediately following, from noon to 12:30 p.m., at the same location with a light meal to follow. The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://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.



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OBITUARIES

GERALD K. WEST

Gerald “J-Dub” “Jerry” Keith West, 67 of Montrose, IA passed away Sunday, April 20, 2025 at his home.



WEST

He was born May 1, 1957 in Keokuk, IA the son of John “Jack” Frederick and Patricia “Pat” Ann Hopkins West. Jerry graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 1975. He attended Southeastern Community College and received his Associate of Arts and later attended Northwestern Louisiana State.

Jerry was first united in marriage to Coy Six. To this union, two children were born. They later divorced. On November 11, 2000, Gerald was united in marriage to Laura S. Shankle in Las Vegas, NV. She survives.

Other survivors include one daughter, Jennifer Lipscomb (Mike) of Gainesville, FL, two sons, Jayson West of Keokuk and Jarrett West (fiancé Megan Harkin) of Waterloo, IA, and one granddaughter, Andy Lipscomb of Gainesville, FL. He is also survived by one brother, John West (Jenny) of Keokuk, one sister, Tracey West of Keokuk and several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Jerry was a member of Emmanuel United Methodist in Keokuk and taught Sunday school for a short time.

Jerry was a lifelong sports fanatic and loved all sports. When he was twelve years old he won the State Ping Pong Tournament. One of the joys of his life was coaching and umpiring his children’s youth baseball teams. He was an avid Los Angeles Lakers fan, St. Louis Cardinals fan, Kyle Bush NASCAR fan and Kansas City Chiefs fan. He also enjoyed bowling and had been on several leagues through the years.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA. Burial will be in the Sand Cemetery in St. Francisville, MO. Visitation will be held from 6-8 p.m., Friday, at the funeral home with family meeting with friends at that time. Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

TODD L. LEWIS

Todd Lee Lewis, 63 of Keokuk, IA passed away Monday, April 14, 2025 at his home.



LEWIS

He was born October 3, 1961 in Burlington, IA the son of Lyle and Shirley Breuer Lewis.

Todd had been employed by several local businesses through the years including Dollar General, Pepsi and Bridgeway. He loved spending time outdoors, especially hunting and fishing. He was known for his laid-back creature of habit nature. He was also an avid reader. Todd had a heart for helping others and spent countless hours volunteering at Acts 2:45 Closet.

He is survived by one sister, Kim Krome of Keokuk and one brother, Mike Lewis (Susan) of Ocean Springs, MS, two nieces, Tara Nicoli (Scott) of Keokuk and Rachel Lewis Furrow (Colin) of Navarre, FL, two nephews, Drew Krome (Melissa) of Keokuk and Matt Lewis (Kendra) of Ocean Springs, MS and one aunt, Sharon Knutson of Westchester, OH.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother-in-law, David Krome.

A graveside service will be held at a later date. The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk IA is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

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# For the Record

## For the Record

**Fort Madison Police Report**  
04/17/25 – 1:24 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1300 block of Avenue J.  
04/17/25 – 1:30 p.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Adriana Faith Olson, 18, of Fort Madison, in the 3400 block of Avenue N, on charges of domestic assault with bodily injury, interference with official acts and 1st degree harassment. She was held in Lee County Jail.  
04/17/25 – 3:38 p.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Gabriel Hiram Helmick, 22, of Fort Madison in the 1800 block of Avenue H, on an active warrant for pretrial violation. He was held in Lee County Jail.  
04/17/25 – 4:57 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 2400 block of Avenue I.  
04/17/25 – 9:21 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1800 block of Avenue F.  
04/18/25 – 10:15 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of 24th Street.  
04/18/25 – 12:18 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1500 block of 21st Street.  
04/20/25 – 11:44 p.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Dylan Gilman, 20, of Fort Madison, in the 3000 block of Avenue O, on a charge of possession of marijuana. He was held in Lee County Jail.  
04/21/25 – no time listed – Fort Madison police arrested Konner Jedidiah Westercamp, 18, of Kahoka, Mo., in the 700 block of Avenue F, on warrants for burglary and assault. He was held in Lee County Jail.  
04/21/25 – 8:11 a.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Jessica Chantel Sewell, 36, of Fort Madison, in the 300 block of Avenue D, on a warrant for interference with official acts. She was held in Lee County Jail.  
04/21/25 – 10:12 a.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1100 block of 48th Street.  
04/21/25 – 12:50 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1600 block of 33rd Street.  
04/21/25 – 1:40 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1800 block of Avenue L.  
04/21/25 – 1:58 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2700 block of Avenue J.  
04/21/25 – 4:26 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 2700 block of Avenue N.  
04/21/25 – 5:15 p.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Thomas Joe Sebastian, 47, of West Point, in the 3100 block of Avenue O, on a charge of driving while barred. He was held in Lee County Jail.  
04/21/25 – 8:25 p.m. – Fort Madison police arrested David James Flowers, 41, of Fort Madison, in the 500 block of Avenue F, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was held in Lee County Jail.  
04/21/25 – 9:11 p.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Gregrey Darnell Taylor, Jr., 27, of Fort Madison, in the 2800 block of Avenue J, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was held in Lee County Jail.  
04/21/25 – 10:08 p.m. – Fort Madison police cited Brian Joseph Kempker, 39, of Fort Madison, on the BNSF Bridge on a charge of failure to appear and interference with official acts.  
04/22/25 – 12:17 a.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the Fort Madison area.  
04/22/25 – 8:16 a.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Dalton

Michael Root, 28, of Fort Madison, in the 1900 block of Avenue M, on a charge of trespass. He was held in Lee County Jail.  
04/22/25 – 11:48 a.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Zackary Steven Williams, 29, of Burlington, in the 1400 block of Avenue H, on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was held in Lee County Jail.  
04/22/25 – 11:57 a.m. – Fort Madison police cited Anthony Christoph Pennington, 23, of Keokuk, in the 1400 block of Avenue J, on a charge of driving under suspension.  
04/22/25 – 12:38 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2000 block of Avenue I.  
04/22/25 – 7:54 p.m. – Fort Madison police cited Adam Ray Wilson, 26, of Fort Madison, in the 2800 block of Avenue N, on a charge of driving under suspension.  
**Keokuk Police Report**  
04/17/25 – 1:28 p.m. – Keokuk police arrested Bruce Allen Reddic, 69, of Keokuk, in the 900 block of Morgan Street on charges of 1st degree harassment. He was held in Lee County Jail.  
04/17/25 – 2:59 p.m. – Keokuk police responded to two-vehicle accident in the 500 block of Johnson Street. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Randy D. Tripp, 57, of Warsaw, was making a left hand turn onto 5th Street from Johnson Street and struck a vehicle driven by Angela Marie Dunn, 55, of Keokuk, who was in the intersection after coming to a stop. Tripp was cited for failure to yield. No injuries were reported.  
04/18/25 – 1:43 a.m. – Keokuk police arrested Jeremy Jacob Palm, 25, of Keokuk, in the 1400 block of Timea Street, on a charge of OWI. He was held in Lee County Jail.  
04/19/ 25 – 12:45 a.m. – Keokuk police arrested Carlos Soto, 32, of Keokuk, in the 1200 block of Main Street on a charge of OWI.  
04/20/25 – 3:16 a.m. – Keokuk police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1000 Morgan Street.  
04/20/25 – 8:04 a.m. – Keokuk police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1400 block of Bank Street.  
04/20/25 – 5:41 p.m. – Keokuk police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 300 block of N. Park Drive.  
04/20/25 – 5:53 p.m. – Keokuk police cited Shea Everett Jones, 37, of Hamilton, in the 2700 block of Main Street, on a charge of driving while license revoked.  
04/20/25 – 2:59 p.m. – Keokuk police arrested Thurman Purduman, Jr., 58, of Keokuk, in the 1500 block of Des Moines Street on charges of driving while license revoked, interference with official acts, and assault with injury on a law enforcement officer or other. He was held in Lee County Jail.  
04/20/25 – 11:21 p.m. – Keokuk police arrested Wesley William Clay, 49, of Keokuk, in the 900 block of High Street, on an active warrant and a charge of possession of a controlled substance. He was held in Lee County Jail.  
04/21/25 – 1:43 a.m. – Keokuk police arrested David Alan Londrie, 62, of Keokuk, in the 3400 block of Main Street, on charges of possession of a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was held in Lee County Jail.  
04/21/25 – 7:52 a.m. – Keokuk police arrested a 17-year-old female in the 2200 block of Middle Road on a charge of disorderly conduct. She was released to a parent.  
04/21/25 – 9:58 a.m. – Keokuk police arrested Tab Andrew Bottger, 52, of Keokuk, in the 100 block of S. 2nd Street, on a warrant for violation of a no contact order. He was held in Lee County Jail.  
04/21/25 – 11:14 a.m. – Keokuk police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1800 block of Carroll Street.  
04/21/25 – 7:55 p.m. – Keokuk police cited Dalton Lee Boudewyn, 24, of Warsaw, in the 300 block of Main Street, on a charge of driving while license revoked.  
04/21/25 – 10:21 p.m. – Keokuk police responded to a two-vehicle accident in the 1800 block of Main Street. According to the report, a vehicle driven by April Dawn Jones, 49, of Keokuk, was east bound on Main Street, while another vehicle driven by Diego Ray Alfaro was at a stop sign at 18th and Main. Both vehicles moved into the intersection claiming they had green lights and collided. Alfaro was cited for driving under suspension, failure to provide insurance and leaving the scene of an accident. No injuries were reported.  
04/22/25 – 1:29 a.m. – Keokuk police arrested David Lee Hoadley, 57, of Keokuk, in the 1300 block of Main Street, on charges of possession of controlled substance, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, driving under suspension, and transporting an open container. He was held in Lee County Jail.  
04/22/25 – 11:35 a.m. – Keokuk police arrested Raychel Nikole Reeves, 31, of Keokuk, in the 200 block of Fulton Street, on a charge of violating a no contact order. She was held in Lee County Jail.  
04/22/25 – 5:59 p.m. – Keokuk police arrested Stephanie Sue Kitavarada, 32, of Keokuk, in the 1500 block of Bank Street, on a

warrant for failure to appear. She was held in Lee County Jail.  
04/22/25 – 6:14 p.m. – Keokuk police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 800 block of Bank Street.  
04/23/25 – 1:07 a.m. – Keokuk police arrested Demitria Leshelle Dupree, 35, of Keokuk, in the 1200 block of Johnson Street, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was held in Lee County Jail.  
04/23/25 – 2:26 a.m. – Keokuk police cited Daniel Scott Treadwell, 35, of Springfield, Ill., in the 1300 block of Blondeau Street, on a charge of interference with official acts.

**Lee County Sheriff's Report**  
04/21/25 – 8:15 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Tracy Joe Helmick, 33, of Fort Madison, at the N. Lee County Courthouse on a warrant for driving under suspension. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released after paying a fine.  
04/21/25 – 9:42 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Paul Richard Clatt, 67, of Keokuk at the sheriff's department on a judgment hold. He was held in Lee County Jail.  
04/22/25 – 11:31 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jamisen Ryder Farmer, 18, of Revere, Mo., at the N. Lee County Courthouse on warrants for 2nd-degree burglary and felony assault. He was held in Lee County Jail.  
04/22/25 – 9:52 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Cody Scott Glasgow, 33, listed as homeless, at the S. Lee County Courthouse in warrants for violation of a no contact order, and 3rd-degree harassment. He was held in Lee County Jail.  
*Those listed above should be and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

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Sports/From the Front

Only option was act of grace

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

I'm going to have to tough this one out. I can do this. I'm strong enough, and have been sober long enough, I can go into a bar, get something to eat, and go home. If I have to white knuckle it, I'll white knuckle it.

Who am I trying to kid? I was in a HALT, and knew it—Hungry, Angry, Lonely or Tired. Halt. Take care of yourself. Use common sense. Are you going to blow 15 years of sobriety because you're stuck out late at night, hungry and tired? But no one will know. No one knows me in this town. I can get away with it. Yeah, right. When I come to in the morning, in Missouri, in Jail.

I drove within a block of the tavern, parked and studied it. I could see the Hamm's Beer sign flashing in the window, and catch the drift of jukebox music when the door opened and closed. "Pop-a-top again." This wasn't good. This was exactly the type of dive I used to get blind drunk in, and get arrested for public intox or DUI. I said a little prayer. "God help me. I don't want to drink. Help me be strong and not touch liquor, if it be Your will."

I drove to the tavern's parking lot, got out of the car, and walked to the door, like

it was something I did every day. A deputy sheriff was just coming out as I was going in. There was his squad car. What's he doing here?

I opened the door and stepped inside. I swear, 20 heads turned and stared at me. Something was off kilter. What was it? Then I realized, no one had drinks in front of them.

The bartender, a woman, was rubbing a circular hole in the bar top with her white rag, as she stared at me. Finally, she spit out what she had to say, "Sorry mister, we just got our liquor license pulled. Can't serve you. Got plenty of food though, and pop. What'll it be? Chicken fried steak, burgers, frog legs? I think there's some catfish left."

"Er, ah, gimme that chicken fried steak."

As I was eating (by the way, it was delicious) it hit me what had just happened. I had prayed for help in not drinking, and just like that, boom, God took care of everything. Why had I even worried?

Note: This is a true story. I've also written about it in my first book, "Protected."

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526 or email him at [curtswarm@yahoo.com](mailto:curtswarm@yahoo.com). Curt is available for public speaking.

SPORTS DIGEST

Ellie Lake scores seven goals in win

Lake scores seven goals in Lady Hawks' win

DONNELSON – Central Lee's Ellie Lake was 100% on shots on goal Tuesday night as the Lady Hawks rolled Wapello 9-1 at home.

The Hawks are 1-1 in SEI Super Conference play and 2-4-1 overall.

Lake scored on all seven of her shots on goal. The Hawks had 17 shots on goal for the night, converting on nine. The Lady Hawks travel to Muscatine for a match with Columbus Thursday night.

Lady Hounds fall to Keokuk by one stroke in county classic

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Lady Hounds golf team took second at the Lee County Classic Wednesday afternoon at Sheaffer Memorial.

Holy Trinity Catholic took 3rd, with Keokuk winning the event and Central Lee finishing fourth in the battle of county girls' high school golf teams.

Medalist was the Chief's Carrigan Morris who shot a 98 over the 18 holes to lead Keokuk. The Chiefs finished with 406 points for the title, just one shot ahead of Fort Madison's 407.

Kylie Lumino and Natalie Rae each shot 98 to tie for second in individual scoring. Morris won the top spot over the Bloodhounds on a cardback par on hole No. 9. Lumino and Rae each shot a bogey-5 on the hole.

The Lady Hounds' Jaycee Fullenkamp had the best front nine total of the day with a 47, but put up a 56 on the back nine to

finish with a 103. Ava Taylor rounded out the scoring golfers (top 4) for Fort Madison with a 108.

The Crusaders were led by Teagan Snaadt's 103. She shot a 53/50. Emma Mohrfeld and Adalyn Kruse each carded a 110 for HTC. Elizabeth Griffin's 112 rounded out the team scoring for the Crusaders with a total of 435.

Central Lee finished with a 483 led by Marie Young's 111. Young started the back nine with back-to-back pars on 10 and 11 and finished with 56 coming in. Reegyn Scott shot a 119 followed by Lily Smith's 124 and Sydney Gram's 129.

IGHSAU adds state dual wrestling meet

The Board of Directors at the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (IGHSAU) unanimously approved the implementation of a girls' wrestling state dual tournament for the 2026-27 season.

"A state dual meet tournament is something that our wrestling schools have wanted," said IGHSAU Executive Director Erin Gerlich. "The impressive growth of girls' wrestling in Iowa, along with more schools being able to field a full roster of wrestlers in every weight class, shows that girls' wrestling is ready for a dual team tournament."

The State Dual Meet will take place before the state qualifying and state individual tournaments. The tentative date for dual state qualifying meets is January 18, 2027, with the state dual tournament January 22, 2027. The number of classes and state meet venue will be determined at a later date.

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Iowa News/Classifieds

Final interviews set for April 30

SEARCH - Continued from Page 1

rience as a tech prep/school improvement coordinator and a science and industrial tehnology teacher.

As secondary principal at Columbus CSD, Wolter has provided instructional leadership to support teaching effectiveness and student achievement, while managing the recruitment and hiring for hard-to-fill teaching positions. He has also leveraged Professional Learning Communities to drive teacher collaboration and instructional improvement. Additionally, Wolter has collaborated with students, staff, families, and the community to strengthen the school culture.

Wolter previouslsy served as assistant principal and

activities director in the Mediapolis Community School District. He began his career in education as a math teacher and instructional coach in Fort Madison, and was named at-large state coach of the year in 2013.

As a next step, the board and stakeholder interview teams will conduct formal interviews with each finalist on Wednesday, April 30. A final decision is expected to be reached soon after the formal interviews.

The next superintendent will begin leading Fort Madison CSD effective July 1, 2025.

Current Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater’s resignation was accepted by the board Wednesday night. Slater was hired as the new superintendent at a Tennessee school district earlier this year.

Iowa weekly fuel report released

DES MOINES, Iowa (April 23, 2025) – The price of regular unleaded gasoline held steady, averaging \$2.98 across Iowa according to AAA.

The price of global crude oil fell this week on the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) by \$.65 per barrel over last week, currently priced at \$61.92.

Brent crude oil fell by \$.08 and is currently priced at \$65.76.

One year ago, WTI crude sold for \$84.17 and Brent crude was \$88.29.

As of Wednesday, the price of regular unleaded gaso-line averaged \$2.98 across Iowa according to AAA.

Prices held steady from last week’s price and are down 31 cents from a year ago.

The national average on Wednesday was \$3.17, steady from last week’s price.

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE  
MINUTES OF THE  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
BURLINGTON, IOWA  
CITY COUNCIL  
Meeting No. 30  
March 17, 2025

The Burlington City Council met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. in the Thomas J. Smith Council Chambers, City Hall, 400 Washington Street, with Mayor Billups,

Council Members Bailey, Graham-Murray, Scott and Weiss present.

BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: None

CONSENT AGENDA: To the Public:

All matters listed under Item I., Consent Agenda, having been discussed were considered to be routine by the City Council and were enacted by

one motion. There was no separate discussion of these items. If discussion was desired, that item was removed from the Consent Agenda and was considered separately.

Introduced By: Graham-Murray Seconded By: Scott

MOTION: To approve all items listed under Item I., Consent Agenda.

DISCUSSION: Mayor Billups reviewed the items

listed on the consent agenda to the viewing audience. He announced those individuals appointed to various City commissions and boards.

All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

(VOTE: 5 - “AYES”)

CARRIED

HEARINGS:

1. Statement: Consideration of Sale of Property

Locally Known as 1213 Franklin Street, City of Burlington, Iowa with Conditions

COMMENTS: Eric Tysland, Community Development and Parks Director, stated the house at 1213 Franklin Street was demolished and the lot has a steep grade making the lot relatively unbuildable. The neighbor to the south at 1020 Osborn Street has submitted

a bid to purchase the lot and would combine it with their property. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

Introduced By: Weiss Seconded By: Bailey

Motion to Close CARRIED

Introduced By: Weiss Seconded By: Scott

Resolution Approving Sale of Property Locally



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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

Known as 1213 Franklin Street, City of Burlington, Iowa with Conditions  
DISCUSSION: None.  
(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")  
ADOPTED  
2. Statement: Consideration of Sale of Property Locally Known as 1211 Franklin Street, City of Burlington, Iowa with Conditions

COMMENTS: Eric Tysland, Community Development and Parks Director, stated that the property at 1211 Franklin Street is similar to 1213 Franklin Street. He stated the lot is minimally sized and not buildable due to topography. The neighbor at 1020 Osborn Street has submitted a

bid to purchase this lot and expand their lot and maintain the property. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.  
Introduced By: Bailey  
Seconded By: Weiss  
Motion to Close CARRIED  
Introduced By: Bailey

Seconded By: Graham-Murray  
Resolution Approving Sale of Property Locally Known as 1211 Franklin Street, City of Burlington, Iowa with Conditions  
DISCUSSION: None.  
(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")  
ADOPTED  
RESOLUTIONS:  
Introduced By: Scott  
Seconded By: Billups  
1. Resolution Awarding Bid for Fire Station No. 3  
DISCUSSION: Chad Bird, City Manager, requested that Council continue this resolution to the April 7 Council Meeting. He explained that bids were received on March 13, but they were too high or close to budget, and more time is needed to look at savings and efficiencies. There were 14 bid packages with 48 separate bids received. Bird suggested that Council make a motion to rescind and then make a motion to continue the resolution to the April 7, 2025 City Council Meeting. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing

additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.  
Introduced By: Scott  
Seconded By: Bailey  
Motion to Rescind the  
**YOUR AD HERE**  
Call Lee 319.371.4125  
Resolution Awarding Bid for Fire Station No. 3  
DISCUSSION: None.  
(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")  
CARRIED  
Introduced By: Scott  
Seconded By: Graham-Murray  
Motion to Continue the Resolution Awarding Bid for Fire Station No. 3 to the April 7, 2025 City Council Meeting.  
DISCUSSION: None.  
(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")  
CARRIED  
Introduced By: Scott  
Seconded By: Graham-Murray  
2. Resolution Approving

the Purchase of a Ford Transit 350 EL for the Burlington Public Library  
DISCUSSION: Brittany Jacobs, Library Director, presented information on the proposed bookmobile purchase. She stated that the Library Foundation has gifted \$150,000.00 for the purchase and retrofit of a Ford Transit EL. Jacobs discussed the benefits of mobile library services, including disaster recovery support, programming, internet access, faxing, and notary services. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.  
(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")  
ADOPTED  
Adjournment: 6:08 p.m.  
Approved: April 7, 2025  
Stephanie Boeding Jon D. Billups  
Deputy City Clerk  
Mayor  
(See recording on file in the office of the City Clerk for complete discussion and documentation.)

**VROOM. VROOM.**  
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From the Front

Steak Fry will include raffle for \$4,000 vacation credit

TICKETS - Continued from Page 1

potato, green beans, a dinner roll, and a delicious dessert. For families with young children, a Kids Meal will be available, consisting of a hot dog, chips, a cookie, and bottled water.

In addition to the meal, beverages will be available for purchase, including tea, water, beer, seltzers, and wine - ensuring there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Entertainment & Auctions

Attendees will be treated to live music from the Noisy Neighbors Band, creating a fun and lively atmosphere for all. The event will also feature both live and silent auctions, giving participants the chance to bid on exciting items while contributing to the local community.

How to Attend

Tickets for the Steak Fry Fundraiser are available for purchase online by visiting [fortmadisony.org/steakfry](https://fortmadisony.org/steakfry) through May 8th, 2025, at a price of \$25 per person. Tickets can also be purchased at the door for \$35 (subject to availability). For families, Kids Meal tickets are available for just \$10.

Online ticket purchasers will receive hardcopy tickets. These tickets can be picked up at the Fort Madison Family YMCA with a printed receipt of proof of purchase after completing the online transaction.

Alternatively, tickets can also be purchased directly at the YMCA during regular business hours or by contacting a Fort Madison YMCA Board Member or a Fort Madison Rotarian.

WIN A \$4,000 VACATION CREDIT TOWARDS THE VACATION OF YOUR CHOOSING!

A fantastic new addition to this year's event is the opportunity to win a \$4,000 vacation credit, generously provided by Jim Baier, Inc. and Shottenkirk Fort Madison. One lucky winner will have the chance to design their dream getaway, with the freedom to choose anywhere in the world they would like to go, accommodations, and activities. Any trip costs exceeding the \$4,000 credit will be covered by the winner, ensuring they can create a personalized vacation experience within their budget.

Once the winner is selected, they'll have up to 12 months to plan and book their dream vacation with the guidance of Tanya's Travel Voyage, with a booking deadline of May 15, 2026. This offers plenty of time to find the perfect destination and work with the travel experts at Tanya's Travel Voyage to craft the ultimate trip.

Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our Premier Sponsors for their generous support of the 4th Annual Steak Fry Fundraiser: Climax Molybdenum, Complete Rental, Connection Bank, Huffman's Farm & Home and Kempker's True Value and Rental. As well as our Raffle Sponsors: Jim Baier, Inc. and Shottenkirk Fort Madison.

Their contributions help make this event possible and allow us to continue supporting important community initiatives.

Supporting Local Causes

The funds raised from the Steak Fry Fundraiser will benefit two important local organizations:



the Fort Madison Family YMCA and the Fort Madison Rotary Club.

- Fort Madison Family YMCA: The YMCA's Annual Sustaining Campaign provides scholarships and financial assistance to over 400 individuals each year, enabling families to access YMCA programs, memberships, childcare, swim lessons, summer camp, and more.
- Fort Madison Rotary Club: The Rotary Club supports numerous charitable initiatives in the community, including donations to local school children (such as coats, scarves, and mittens), leadership training programs (RYLA and YRYLA), scholarships to local high school students, Miles of Smiles (MOST), and improvements to Central Park,

among others.

About the Fort Madison Family YMCA & Rotary Club

The Fort Madison Family YMCA has been a vital part of the community, helping over 400 individuals annually with financial assistance to access essential services and programs. From fitness programs to childcare and summer camps, the YMCA plays a crucial role in supporting local families.


The Fort Madison Rotary Club is dedicated to making a positive impact on the community by supporting various local organizations, including the Iowa Fertilizer Company and Lee County Crime Stoppers. The club is also involved in a variety of community events, such as the Old Settlers Park Trick or Treat and the Parade of Lights.

Join Us for a Night of Fun and Giving Back

The 4th Annual Steak Fry Fundraiser promises to be a fantastic event for all who attend. Not only will you enjoy a delicious meal and live entertainment, but you'll also be supporting two important local organizations that make a real difference in the lives of Fort Madison residents.

For questions or to find out how you can help make this event successful contact YMCA CEO Ryan Wilson at [ryan.wilson@fortmadisony.org](mailto:ryan.wilson@fortmadisony.org) or Fort Madison Rotary President Abby Eaves at [abby.eaves@myconnectionbank.com](mailto:abby.eaves@myconnectionbank.com).





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# JUNE 6,7,8, 2025

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TOWN WIDE YARD SALES 8 AM  
FLEA MARKET/CRAFTS 8 AM  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM AT BANK 9AM-3PM  
LIVE MUSIC IN SHELTER HOUSE 6 PM- 9 PM  
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### SATURDAY

BISCUITS & GRAVY IN FIRE STATION 7 AM  
BY FIRE DEPARTMENT AUXILLARY  
TOWN WIDE YARD SALES 8 AM  
FLEA MARKET/CRAFTS 8 AM  
FLAG RAISING BY BOY SCOUTS 8:30 AM  
STATE HISTORICAL BUS 8:30 AM  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM AT BANK 9AM-12PM  
PEDAL TRACTOR PULLS 9 AM  
SIDEWALK CHALK DRAWING CONTEST 10 AM-12 PM  
K9 DEMONSTRATION(SMALL DIAMOND) 10:30 AM  
CUSTOM CARS & PICKUPS 10 AM - 3 PM  
TRACTOR PARADE 1 PM  
SILVER STEPPERS 1:30 PM  
LIVE AUCTION IN SHELTER HOUSE 2:30 PM  
LIVE MUSIC IN SHELTER HOUSE 6 PM - 9 PM  
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### SUNDAY

BREAKFAST AT CHURCH 7:30 AM  
FLEA MARKET/CRAFTS 8 AM  
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HAM BALL DINNER AT CHURCH 11 AM  
TRACTOR PARADE 1 PM

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