Central Lee $9.8 million bond to upgrade facilities, security

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DONNELSON - Central Lee school officials will be holding community meetings starting this week to talk about a $9.8 million referendum to update district facilities.

Projected improvements in the district total $13.3 million, but the district will use $200,000 already in place from one cent sales tax funds, coupled with $3.3 million in anticipated sales tax funds and the $9.8 million the district hopes to bond for the improvements.

Tara Sides, the public information officer for the community following the referendum, said the main focus is on security upgrades.

“Our main issue is safety. We have to build new main entrances that are locked. Today you can walk clear through the school and no one would stop you,” she said. “With what happened in Florida this week, we have to make our school safer.”

The referendum committee will be holding the first of three scheduled community meetings at the Central Lee High School Wednesday at 6 p.m. The committee has scheduled two other meetings, both beginning at 6 p.m.

Sides said the referendum will also help improve traffic flow at the building.

“Right now it might take you a 1/2 hour to get the through the loop out there picking up or dropping off your kids because you have parents and buses all in there together,” Sides said. “We have plans to put in two more lanes to make that more efficient and then add more staff parking space to help alleviate some of the congestion.”

Bond funds are also being earmarked for new agriculture/FFA classrooms, a new fine arts space, and a new 1,250 seat Performance/Athletic gymnasium. Plans also include a new early childhood center.

Sides said there has been some misinformation about the bond being specifically to get a new high school gymnasium. She said the high school will be getting a new gym, but that cost only represents 20% of the project funding.

The junior high will move activities into the high school gym which currently seats about 700 and the high school activities will be in the newly constructed gym.

“The one opposition we’re hearing is about the gym, which will also be a performance arts gym. At this point we’ve outgrown that gymnasium and, you know if you’ve been in there, that people are standing in the corners and on the

See BOND, page 2

Siemens firms up new FM blade plans for 2019

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Just three weeks after announcing more than 200 layoffs, Siemens Gamesa has announced today that a new line of wind blades is targeted to begin production at the Fort Madison facility beginning in early 2019.

A release this morning from the company indicated production on a new SG 2.7-129 state-of-the-art wind turbine will begin in the United States next year, with the blades for the new turbine being produced at the Fort Madison manufacturing facility. The nacelles, or cover housings of the turbines internal gears and drives, and hubs will be produced in Hutchinson, Kansas.

On Jan. 23-24 the company announced more than 200 layoffs at the facility and said some employees may be recalled if market trends show a need.

“Headcount is always based on the needs of the business. We are currently retrenching the factories to accommodate additional product lines. With these capital investments and expected increased delivery schedules, we do anticipate some employee recalls later this year,” Gurney said in January.

A spokesperson for the company reiterated Monday afternoon the company does expect to some rehiring, but declined to give any specifics on when or how many employees would be recalled, or at what status they would be rehired.

“There with these capital investments and expected in-
Adela Sandoval was a housekeeper at the Knights Inn for 15 years. She was a member of Holy Family Parish. She enjoyed shopping, bingo, her jewelry, and Mexican dancing. Most of all, she loved her family. She is survived by her husband, Pablo Sandoval Sr. of Fort Madison; her father, Felipe Gonzalez of Austin, Texas; one daughter, Enriqueta N. Sandoval (fiancé Robert Denten) of Fort Madison; one son, Pablo Sandoval Jr. of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; one brother, Sergio (Lucia) Gonzalez of Austin; two sisters, Angelica (Jose Jr.) Sandoval of Brownsville; Celia (Alto) Yaniz of Riverde, SLP Mexico; and one granddaughter, Isabella; aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her mother, two sisters, and two brothers.

A Rosary will be recited at 3:00 pm Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Her family will greet friends at visitation from 5:30 - 7:00 pm Wednesday at the funeral home, where a Christian Wake Service will begin at 7:00 pm Wednesday evening. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30 am Thursday, February 22, 2018 at the Sacred Heart Church, Holy Family Parish, Fort Madison, with Reverend Joseph Phung as Celebrant. Burial will be at Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison, Wednesday at the funeral home, where a Christian Wake Service will begin and two brothers.

Bike and Brew follows breakfast at Elks

YMCA - Continued from Page 1

Registration is open now. It is $50 for a team of five, or $15 per participant. One shirt and one free drink is included with the registration. Call the YMCA for registration at 319-372-2403.

Teams of six registering would need to pay the $50 for the team of 5 plus $15 for the extra participant.

The pre-registration deadline is March 2nd if they want to be guaranteed a shirt. We will be accepting late registrations and day of registrations. Again, those people will not be guaranteed a shirt.

SIEMENS - Continued from Page 1

creased delivery schedules, we do anticipate some employee recalls later this year. Headcount is always based on the needs of the business and will be adjusted accordingly. At this time, we cannot provide any numbers.

“We are very excited to introduce the new SG 2.7-129 to our portfolio – the next generation in a fleet of turbines with a proven track record and high availability. With an increase of more than 8% in annual energy production compared to its predecessor, this turbine will deliver greater returns and is another important step in reducing the levelized cost of energy,” says José Antonio Miranda, Onshore Americas CEO, Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy. “This product is also unique in that it was co-designed to include best practices from both former companies, making it a best-in-class wind turbine for the U.S.”

According to the release this morning, the SG 2.7-129 was developed with an eye toward increasing energy production for sites with medium to low wind conditions in the U.S. It features modularized components for increased flexibility and reliability. It also employs advanced technology with a 129-meter rotor, boasting an increased swept area of 16% compared to its predecessor, the SG 2.6-120. Additionally, the SG 2.7-129 features a state-of-the-art drive train that has been optimized to deliver maximum energy capture.

The product design also incorporates several added safety and operational benefits related to the service and maintenance of the turbines, including increased accessibility of key components and access to the weather station from inside the nacelle. The SG 2.7-129 is the latest addition to the Siemens Gamesa 2.X product platform. Combined with the SG 3.4-132 and the SG 4.2-145 wind turbines, these products can address all of the diverse needs of the U.S. market.

Security, upgrades top bond need

BOND - Continued from Page 1

stage trying to watch the events,” she said. “But 80% of these funds are going to be spent on education and traffic improvements.”

According to an information sheet provided by the committee outlining the tax impact to district, property owners would pay $2.70/$1,000 of assessed valuation. That valuation is currently reduced by a Jan. 1, 2017 55.6% roll back and homestead credit of $4,850 to create a net assessed valuation. A home assessed at $100,000 would only be taxed on $50,752 according to the sheet. That $100,000 home would see a net change in their tax bill of $11.42 or $137.03 per year at current levy rates. Commercial property with the same assessed valuation would see an increase of $20.25 per month. Agricultural land would see an increase of .11/per acre. “80% of these funds are going to education and traffic updates,” Sides said. “We want people to get as much education as they can. After our meeting Wednesday night, we will have on our Central Lee webpage, a virtual reality link of what this thing will look like. They can see the additional lanes and what the building will look like. Everyone will be able to see it and that should help people understand more about the project.”

“My biggest thing is our high school has not been updated since the late 60s or early 70s and the middle school hasn’t been upgraded since the 80s. The school district decided to put the referendum issue in front of voters in April, so, if passed, bids could be let in the spring and construction could possibly begin in the fall.

Some may be recalled when new blade production begins

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

TUE 20 Feb
Heavy Rain
High – 43.6º F | Low – 39.7º F

WED 21 Feb
Partly Cloudy
High– 24.4º F | Low – 21.4º F

THU 22 Feb
Light Snow
High– 34.7 F | Low – 21.9º F

FRI 23 Feb
Light Snow
High– 35.0º F | Low – 33.1º F

SAT 24 Feb
Light Rain
High– 40.6º F | Low – 25.8º F

High– 40.6º F | Low – 25.8º F

Pen City Current - Tuesday, February 20, 2018

OBITUARIES
ADELA SANDOVAL

Adela Sandoval, 46, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 11:10 am Sunday, February 18, 2018 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, Iowa. She was born June 21, 1971 in Mexico, a daughter of Felipe and Natalia (Diaz) Gonzalez. On March 26, 1993, she married Pablo Sandoval Sr. in Brownsville, Texas.

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Cresswell scores 18 2nd half points in win

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MOUNT PLEASANT - FMHS senior Kaleb Cresswell said he didn’t want anyone else to be responsible for losing the game in the Hounds’ 50-47 win over Iowa City Liberty, but he wouldn’t take credit for winning it either.

With the exception of a 13-13 tie at the 6:04 mark in the second quarter, the Bloodhounds trailed the entirety of Monday’s substate 5 bracket opener at Mt. Pleasant. They took their first lead with just :48 left in the game at 46-45 on a two-point scoop shot down the left side of the lane by junior Logan Rashid.

Cresswell got FMHS to within a point when he got loose on a crossover from the right side and stroked a 3-ball to make it 44-45. The shot came after a :30 timeout by Liberty, who then committed an offensive foul, which prompted another full timeout by the Lightning.

“Being a senior, this being my last go around, I didn’t want anyone else to be responsible for losing that game,” Cresswell said. “If someone was going to miss a shot at the end, I wanted it to be me.”

Cresswell also converted two free throws with :24 on the clock to make it a three-point game at 48-45.

On Liberty’s next possession down, Treavor James-Kokjohn blocked a shot inside by Ethan O’Donnell that caromed off O’Donnell’s leg out of bounds. Rashid then took the next transition with :48 left through the lane for a driving layup.

Liberty’s Iziah Paulsen scored on the next possession down the floor with a one-handed drive down the right baseline that just went over the top of Jayden Fedler’s fingertips. Paulsen’s bucket prompted another full timeout by the Lightning, who were behind by just one point 47-48.

Rashid took the inbound pass and raced through a trap attempt at half-court and buzzed into the land but was fouled by Paulsen. Rashid calmly laced the two freebies with just :03.8 left on the clock.

Liberty got an uncontested throw into about half court where 6:5. Andre Brandon was able to dribble past the Hounds’ Treavor James-Kokjohn and get a nice look from about 2 feet beyond the 3-point arc and clanked the ball off the back of the rim at the buzzer.

Cresswell said the Hounds were debating on whether to foul or let the chips fall.

“We just talked in the huddle and Coach Wilson was thinking about fouling but then you have the clock stopping and possibly being down by one and have to inbound. So we decided to just play defense and if they were lucky enough to drain a 3 at the buzzer we go into overtime and beat them by 15 like we were supposed to,” he said.

Cresswell finished with 20 points to lead all scorers. Rashid had 13, nine in the fourth quarter.

The Hounds got down by as much as 11 in the first period when freshman Ethan O’Donnell converted a couple free throws with 3:10 left in the period. Fort
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Mt. Pleasant looms again in substate bracket

HOUNDS - Continued from Page 3

Madison was experiencing some chilly shooting in the first quarter going just 2 of 6 in the early going. Head Coach Ryan Wilson then subbed in Brandon Keester who cured the condition by hitting on a 3-ball off the bench to bring the hounds back within four 7-11. Keester hit again on the Hounds’ next possession down the floor to make it 10-11 at the end of the period.

Ethan O’Donnell scored inside for Liberty to extend the lead to 10-13, but Keester stroked another 3-ball to tie the game at 13 with about five minutes remaining in the half. Fort Madison would only get one more field goal in the period as the Lightning’s defense held the Hounds to just six attempts in the 2nd quarter, extending their lead to 26-17 at the half. Liberty went six of eight from the field in the second and committed just one turnover.

Cresswell, who had just two points on some free throws in the first half, took over for the Hounds in the third quarter despite a pesky Liberty man-trap defense. Cresswell was able to get free off the dribble for three 3-pointers in the quarter and a bucket for 11 points. Sheymouhr Redd-Donald and Fedler each also had a bucket as the Hounds closed the gap, setting up the fourth quarter dramatics.

James-Kokjohn, who’s fifth in the state in rebounds, was held without a board or a point in the game.

"They were really face guarding me the whole game and stretching things," the senior said. “I was struggling - I couldn’t get anything going at all but we had Kaleb and some other guys step up and got it done.”

“Trevor didn’t play his best basketball game,” Wilson said. “You have those nights, but that’s gonna to have to change if we going to have a chance Thursday. They did some things different, but he had a big block there at the end and I give him credit for that.”

Wilson said Cresswell’s second half shows how he can take over a game.

“That’s what you need. Every team needs one of those guys to take over. He’s not afraid to step up and take those shots as a senior and we needed that tonight.”

Cresswell said the sparking second half wasn’t what helped the Hounds back into the game and the eventual win.

“What won this game was defense and hard work,” he said. “I was able to get some shots, but that was because others were working their bums off to get me some open looks. I had some shots go off the back of the rim in the first half and made some adjustments because everything seemed long, but once I got the first one to go down, I knew we’d be able to shoot ourselves out of it.”

Junior Brandon Keester ended up with nine points on the night, while Redd-Donald and Fedler each had four.

The Hounds will now go up against Mt. Pleasant at 7 p.m. Thursday in Mt. Pleasant. Mt. Pleasant has an eight-game win streak over the Hounds, the closest game in the streak was a meeting in the same substate bracket last year where the Hounds fell 51-62.

Logan Rashid gets body bumped driving the lane in the first half of the Hounds’ game against Iowa City Liberty Monday night.