State finds crack in city’s sidewalk plan

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A $1.5 million project to redo the sidewalks along the Main Street District on Avenue G took a stumble recently when the state officials said the south side of the avenue didn’t qualify for the project.

The project is being made possible because of the city’s waste water treatment plant overhaul. The city is allowed to use 10% of the cost of the project capped at $1.5 million, for another sponsored project aimed at further waste and storm water treatment.

The plan as originally presented would put what are called “permeable pavers” from the curbs on Avenue G in the Main Street District six feet into the sidewalks. The other six feet to the buildings on the street would be concrete. Storm water would be absorbed into underground tanks and as those tanks filled another pipe would let the water stream out into the underground where it would be absorbed and move through the natural filtering of the soil toward the river.

City Manager David Varley said state officials said the south side of the street didn’t qualify for the project.

“They’re saying the north side treats x percent of water, but the south side treats a much smaller amount, because it’s hooked up to lines that run to the river,” Varley said Friday.

“So we came up with a plan B and have resubmitted it. We haven’t heard back yet, but our goal is make the changes needed to make this happen. We included a couple inlets on the south side to pick up a higher

See PROJECT, page 8

Slater’s nomination has a bigger story

Sitting at a table Friday night at the Elliott Test Kitchen eating some of Kumar’s fresh-smooshed guacamole with chips, some horchata/meatballs, and finger sandwiches with about some hors d’oeuvres

Kumar’s food and drink was this packed house eating

I asked the mad scientist to the media table and

She worked her way over to hear a pitch on

Fort Madison Superintendent Erin Slater gets a hug from elementary teacher Rachelle Dravis, who just read nomination forms that resulted in Slater being selected for the Iowa State Education Association’s Together Educators and Administration Make it Happen Award.

Fort Madison boys and girls kick off indoor track season.

SPORTS: FMHS boys and girls kick off indoor track season.

See page 5

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Scan the code to Subscribe today
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WILLIAM H. KOELLNER

William H. Koellner, 82, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 5:23 p.m. on Friday, March 9, 2018 at the University of Iowa Hospitals in Iowa City. He was born on February 11, 1936 in Burlington, IA to Paul & Helen Krieger Koellner. He married Jane M. Pollmeier on August 30, 1958 in Fort Madison, IA. He was a hospital administrator for Sacred Heart Hospital & Fort Madison Community Hospital and hospitals in Bloomfield, IA; Bethany, MO & Scotland, SD. He was a member of Holy Family Parish, Knights of Columbus and the Fort Madison Rotary Club. He enjoyed gardening and yardwork.


Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. on Monday, March 12, 2018 where the family will receive friends from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. with a Christian Wake Service to be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday evening at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday evening at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. In lieu of flowers, memorials have been established for Holy Family Parish or Holy Family Catholic Schools or Holy Family Parish, Knights of Columbus and the Fort Madison Rotary Club. He enjoyed gardening and yardwork.

Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. on Monday, March 12, 2018 where the family will receive friends from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. with a Christian Wake Service to be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday evening at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The family will also receive friends from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday at St. Mary & Joseph Church with Rev. Mark P. Spring officiating. Burial will be held at Gethsemane Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials have been established for Holy Trinity Catholic Schools or Holy Family Parish. Online condolences and a video tribute of Bill’s life may be viewed at www.kinglynk.com.

FLOYD EDWARD HOHL

Floyd Edward Hohl, 93, of Donnellson, Iowa, passed away at 1:31 a.m. Friday, March 9, 2018 at The Madison in Fort Madison, Iowa.


Survivors include his three children: Thomas “T.K.” (Beth) Hohl of Dripping Springs, Texas, Karen Sue (Ron) Mace of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and Kevin (Judy) Hohl of Farmington, Iowa; eight grandchildren and fifteen great grandchildren.

Floyd was a 1942 graduate of Donnellson High School. He was a United States Navy Veteran having served in World War II and was a lifetime farmer. Floyd was a member of St. Paul’s United Church of Christ in Donnellson and the Donnellson American Legion for seventy-one years. He served on the Central Lee School Board for seventeen years, Rathbun Rural Water Board for twenty years, Lee County Farm Bureau, was Donnellson Saddle Club Charter member and was a member of the American Quarter Horse Association. In 1996 and 1997 he drove his team and wagon to Salt Lake City for the Mormon Trail Reenactment. Floyd enjoyed this family, farming, his horses, and having company stop by to visit.

His body has been entrusted to Schmitz Funeral Home for cremation. Friends may call after 12:00 noon Monday, March 12, 2018 at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson where the family will receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. A Memorial Service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at St. Paul’s United Church of Christ in Donnellson with Pastor Bob Molsberry officiating.

Burial will be at the Donnellson Cemetery with full military rites presented by the Donnellson American Legion. Memorials have been established in his memory.

Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.
FM youth charged with trying to rob home with knife

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Detectives from the Lee County Sheriff’s office have arrested a 15-year-old male juvenile from Fort Madison in connection with a Friday morning break-in in St. Paul.

According to Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber, the juvenile is being charged with burglary and assault and is currently in the Southeast Iowa Juvenile Detention Center awaiting a hearing.

Detectives Chad Donaldson and Clint Wray made the arrest and had the juvenile in custody shortly after 3 p.m. today.

Weber said the initial charges are forcible felonies, but declined to release the juvenile’s name. He said the juvenile has a Fort Madison address, but lives out in the country.

The youth allegedly broke into the home in the 1400 block of 210th Avenue at about 1:42 a.m. and confronted the residents with a knife demanding money. A release from the sheriff’s department says a struggle ensued where the homeowner was able to defend himself and disarm the intruder until he fled on foot to a truck that was waiting in the driveway.

“These guys picked the wrong house. The homeowners defended themselves rigorously,” Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said Friday.

Witnesses to the incident reported the vehicle could possibly be a single cab pickup with a decal in the rear window. The intruder was described as being approximately 5’10” to 6’ tall and wearing a dark hoodie.

According to the report, the vehicle drove away immediately as though someone was waiting for the suspect in the getaway vehicle.

No medical attention was needed at the home. Law enforcement released information on the incident and were looking for help in securing the perpetrator and anyone in connection with the escape.

Glo Crazy for Education run set for April 7

FORT MADISON - A 5K run/walk will be held on April 7 at Baxter Sports Complex beginning at 8 p.m. Proceeds from the event will go to the Elliott Test Kitchen in Fort Madison. The event is being put on by Fort Madison service clubs including Fort Madison Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary clubs as well as the Fort Madison High School key club. Registration can be done at www.penCityCurrent.com/glo-crazy7.

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game Drawings</th>
<th>Draw Days</th>
<th>Sales Cut-off Time</th>
<th>Approx Drawing Time</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Mon &amp; Thu</td>
<td>8:30 pm</td>
<td>9:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mega Millions</td>
<td>Tues &amp; Fri</td>
<td>8:56 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
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<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
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<td>9:56 pm</td>
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<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
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<td>10:00 pm</td>
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3/10
23 24 41 43 44
Star Ball: 3
All Star Bonus: 3

ARK ENCOUNTRE & CREATION MUSEUM

APRIL 24-27, 2018

Join Trailways Travel as we head east for this one-of-a-kind experience! Prepare to be amazed as we explore this life-sized reconstruction of Noah’s Ark and the Creation Museum. We’ll also visit the Newport Aquarium on the Levee as well as the Garden of Hope.

TOUR INCLUDES:
Tour includes:
• Deluxe Roundtrip Motorcoach
• Transportation
• On-board Friendly Host
• 3 Nights Hotel Accommodations
• 6 Meals (3B, 1L, 2D)
• Ark Encounter Admission
• Newport Aquarium Admission
• Creation Museum Admission
• Garden of Hope Admission

Single - $815 per person
double - $590 per person
$15 club membership discount
$15 club membership discount

To view a full day-by-day detailed itinerary, please visit us online at www.TrailwaysTravel.com

CHICAGO CUBS 2018
Wrigley Field // Chicago, IL

Trailways Travel is now taking reservations for our 2018 Wrigley Field tours! For a full list of available games, and to make reservations visit us online at www.TrailwaysTravel.com or give us a call M-F between 8:30 and 5:00.

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.
LEE COUNTY - The following is the weekly Iowa Department of Natural Resources fishing report for the week ending March 14.

**Big Hollow Lake**
Some skim ice in the mornings. Lake is open otherwise.

**Lake Belva Deer**
The lake is ice free. Not much angler activity.

**Lake Darling**
The lake has been ice free for the last week. On the cold mornings, there is a little ice around the edges in the bays.

The boat docks are not in; be careful on the boat ramps, there is some ice on them from the waves coming in. Just a few anglers out, mostly to get the boats off the trailers.

**Lake Geode**
Drained for renovation work scheduled for later this year. With the warmer weather, the bottom of the lake will thaw out and get soft again; use caution when walking around on the bottom of the lake.

Skank River (Rose Hill to Coppock)
The river has been ice free since early last week. River level is running about 1/2 bank full. Have seen a couple of boats out on the river, but no reports on the fishing.

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

**Mississippi River Pool 19**
Tailwater stage is 6.12 feet at Lock and Dam 18 above Burlington and is falling. We have not received any tailwater fishing reports for walleyes and saugers.

River stages have been falling the past few days. Water clarity is poor. Tailwater fishing for walleye and saugers has been slow. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19, contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

---

**FM Elks bring national comedy talent to FM Friday**

**BY PCC STAFF**

**FORT MADISON** - The Fort Madison Elks Club will be hosting a Comedy Night Friday at the Elks Lodge featuring two national comedy acts.

Jamie Fritz will be the opening act, followed by Mike Moses with the laughs beginning at 8:30 following dinner.

Dinner will be comprised of tacos and enchiladas and will be served from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Tickets are $15 and can be purchased by calling the Elks Lodge at 319-372-3724.

---

**United Methodist put on Palm Sunday pit ham dinner**

**BY PCC STAFF**

**FORT MADISON** - The Ft. Madison United Methodist Church will host their annual Ham Dinner on Palm Sunday, March 25th from 11:30am-1:00pm.

The menu will include: Pit Ham, party potatoes, corn, green beans, a variety of salads, a variety of desserts, rolls, lemonade, ice tea or coffee for a freewill offering.

The Ft. Madison United Methodist Church is located at 9th St. And Ave. E.

A handicapped accessible elevator is located on 9th Street. There is also a door to the basement located in the alley. The dinner will be held in the church basement.

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**Spring temperatures opening up area fishing holes**

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MT. VERNON - Fort Madison High School senior Elijah Barnes set a personal best throw in the shot put at 50.1 and took first place in a 71-person field.

Barnes’ throw was almost two full feet ahead West Burlington’s Landon Greer at 48.03.5. Heath Hoenig took 47th place with a 37-foot throw and Alec Craft in Mt. Vernon.

MT. VERNON - Senior Sierra Howardson led a young group at the Fort Madison girls track team at the Washington Indoor meet Thursday at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon.

Howardson finished in 10th place in the 1500 meter run with a time of 5:25.93. 23 off the pace set by Cedar Rapids Washington’s Reagan Gorman. Howardson also ran the first leg of the girls 4x800-meter run which took 13th place. Freshman Lauren King ran the second leg followed by seniors Claire Mendez and Kamryn Bailey. The team finished with a mark of 11:05.14

Other place finishers for the Bloodhounds included sophomore Quentin Schneider who took 7th in the 400-meter run with a time of 56.06 and senior Alex Gully who took 20th in the 60-meter dash at 7.61 seconds. Freshman Caleb Maclaren, with a time of 8.38 seconds, finished 52nd.

The 4x800 team of junior Dayne Cordray, Schneider, Kuntz, and Cordray finished in 51st place with a mark of 9:13.64.

The boys distance medley team of freshmen Shay Smith, Bryce Britton, Shaker McClelland, and senior Zander Schweiss took 24th with a time of 4:23.10.

On Tuesday at the Dickinson Indoor meet in Cedar Falls, Barnes threw 46’ 5” and senior Caleb Gehle threw 17’ 5” from the wheelchair.

The 4x200 relay team of Gully, Kuntz, junior Dominic Frantz, and MacLaren finished at 1:49.44, while the 4x800 team of Hellige, Cordray, Hannum, and Schneider finished at 9:22.11. Hannum had the fastest split at 2:17.

Alex Gully ran the 60-meter dash at 7.64, while Kuntz ran it in 8.14, and Schweiss at 8.2. Schneider ran the 400 at 55.9, Hannum in 57.2, and Matthew Meierotto at 1:01.09.

Gehle ran the 200-meter wheelchair at 1:04.04. Gully led the Hounds with a 25.71 in the regular 200. MacLaren was behind Gully at 27.18 and Frantz ws just behind MacLaren at 27.44.

The boys travel to Iowa State on Tuesday for an indoor meet in Ames.
The Great River Regional Waste Authority is accepting bids for the mowing of its properties located at 2092 303rd Ave in Fort Madison and 111 Carbide lane in Keokuk.

Bids must be received by April 2nd by 4:00 p.m. It is recommended that all bidders look at the properties before submitting their bids.

Bids shall be for mowing services, weed eating, and also spraying weeds if needed.

Bids need to be sent to: Great River Regional Waste Authority, 2092 303rd Ave, Fort Madison Iowa 52627 and to the Attention of: Wade Hamm.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County Conservation Board
Meeting Agenda
March 13, 2018
6:00 p.m.
Lee County Conservation Center
2652 Highway 64
Montrose, IA 52639

1. Call to order
2. Approval of minutes from February 13, 2018
3. Public Input
   This is the time of the meeting that a citizen may address the Board on any matters pertaining to the Lee County Conservation Board. The Board cannot take formal action at the meeting on matters not included on the regular agenda, but may ask the staff to research the matter or have the matter placed on a subsequent agenda.
4. Approval of Bills
5. Approval of Financial Report
6. Approve Campground Host Contracts
7. Review/Approve Step Increase from Class V Step 2 at $18.08 to Class V Step 3 at $18.50 for Assistant Naturalist
8. LCCB Bylaws
9. Staff Reports
10. Board Member Comments
11. Adjournment
   Next regular meeting will be April 10, 2018

Hearing and vision assistance available upon request.
Citizens are welcome to all LCCB meetings.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors

Regular Meeting
Agenda
DATE: TUESDAY, March 13, 2018
MEETING CONVENING TIME: 9:00 A.M.
LOCATION:
2530 255th Street,
Montrose, IA 52639
AGENDA

Pledge of Allegiance
Approve Agenda
Consider Approval of Tuesday, March 6, 2018 Board Minutes
Consider Approval of Claims
Public Input
Consider Approval of Unpaid Leave for Sheriff’s Office Employee
Review Bids and Consider Awarding Bid for Semi Tractor for Secondary Roads
Consider Approval of Tax Abatement Resolution
Consider Approval of Resolution Setting Public Hearing to Enter into Non Current Debt to Purchase Pictometry GIS Photography, Software and Services
Personnel Actions:
A. Step Increase-Health
   Department
   Reports:
   A. Manure Management Annual Update for Kruse Bros. LTD in Marion Township
   B. Treasurer’s Report of Fees Collected
   C. Manure Management Annual Update for Pomberg Farms in Pleasant Ridge Township
   Commission or Committee Reports
   Adjourn

PUBLIC MEETING - CITIZENS WELCOME
Workshop to follow Vision and hearing assistance available upon request
Contact Title VI Administrator 319-372-3705
County Website: www.leecounty.org

Bids shall be for mow- ing services, weed eating, and also spraying weeds if needed.

It’s possible to achieve the retirement of your dreams. Prepare now, so that when the time comes, you can enjoy retirement on your own terms. It’s possible to achieve the retirement of your dreams. Prepare now, so that when the time comes, you can enjoy retirement on your own terms.
City officials still hope to get project done in 2018

PROJECT - Continued from Page 1

percent of storm water to get into the tanks for the slow release, and get the whole project qualified." Varley said the city and HR Green Associates of Cedar Rapids, who’s helping the city get approval for the project, think the numbers are high enough now.

"Everyone else says we’re good to go, but if it’s still not enough to qualify the project, we’ll find a way around it. I think they’ll get back with us soon. Our plan is to get started and we should be able to get it completed this year.”

Varley said the $1.5 million is grant money and comes from the interest paid on the waste treatment plant. However, there may be a slight increase in the cost. Preliminary estimates on the original plan were $1.8 million.

"The cost might be slightly higher, because of the cost of concrete or curbing, but we’re trying to keep it under $1.8 million."

The project comes as the city is set to begin redoing the thoroughfare through 20th Street. The city also has plans to redo Avenue G downtown and separate the storm and waste water lines under timelines from the Environmental Protection Agency.

District improving in spite of Chapter 20

HONOR - Continued from Page 1

answered that question jam-packed with confidence, and a barely noticeable hint of emotion.

"It’s a huge honor and I have so much respect for everyone in this district. Everyone that puts our kids first... everyone,” she said.

“We have made a distinct effort to sit around the table and collaborate. That comes from everybody. We want to promote that we work together and that it’s just for the betterment of our students. So we have a common goal. Chapter 20 did not change the collaborative spirit of this district.”

Board member Gayla Young, who’s a teacher in the Danville district, said Fort Madison is kind of fluttering its own path in the wake of the sweeping changes of the law.

“With all the changes with Chapter 20, I know of so many districts where the administration and the board and the teachers are at odds. Erin was able to take Chapter 20 and guide us through it.”

“They don’t feel this mentality of ‘us against them’ and they know she’s got everyone’s best interest at heart. She wants to do what’s best for kids, but also what’s best for the staff. I think one of the great things right now is her transpar-

ancy. There’s no hidden agenda here. We’re putting it out there, and probably to me, that’s one of the biggest things we have going right now.”

Sitting through many hours of school board meetings, I see the status quo is not good enough...not even close. For certain, everything’s not perfect. But we’re in a growth mode here. If not in enrollment, most assuredly in our approach to students and their daily needs in and out of school. There’s a majority sense of fostering improvement, and dare I say, friendships with the employees of the district. Slater is extremely visible and engaged in the community. And the nomination forms of teachers in the district speak volumes to the future they see.

She’s trying to get a state-of-the-art preK-3 elementary school built to impact students first and foremost, and the community as a whole. She’s steering a ship that was launched before her time...on some pretty rocky seas. With the help of a great crew of advocates, the district almost landed that ship last year. It really is in the best interest to bring that ship home this year.

“What sets her apart is that we were behind in best practices that weren’t researched or implemented as a district,” said Dravis, reading from the nomination forms that secured the state selection for Slater.

“She came in when our education community seemed to be falling behind in many ways. Our district is now working towards where highly effective districts already are. We are proud of where we are headed and looking forward to the changes to enhance the learning environments of all.”

“This is an honor. Gosh... I’m speechless,” Slater said. “Everybody here is a team and nobody does it alone. I feel very lucky to have landed here. We picked a great place... it’s a great match, and I can’t imagine not working with each and every one of you,” Slater told the room.

“I don’t know I deserve this. I’m just flattered and honored.”

The ISEA awards dinner will be held July 30 at Alotta Prairie Meadows Center.

Spring Cleaning

Keep it green!

This year, do your part to keep our environment clean, too! Here are just a few of the ways you can help:

- Properly dispose of your household hazardous waste materials, construction debris, & electronic waste
- Use environmentally-safe cleaning products
- Reduce • Reuse • Recycle
- Check our website for proper disposal methods, acceptable materials, & more

Great River Regional Waste Authority

Visit Us Online! www.grrwa.com facebook.com/grrwa