McGregor wants to continue WP growth

City Council, Utility Board both give thumbs up to hire

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WEST POINT - The new city administrator for West Point isn’t really that new. Dennis McGregor, a former City Councilman and past president of the West Point Community Club, was named as successor to Gary Menke after Tuesday night’s West Point Utility Board meeting.

McGregor said he sees West Point as a very strong community and probably one of the best smaller communities in the southeast part of the state. “We are a very progressive town and there has been a lot of improvement here since I’ve been here anyway,” he said Saturday.

McGregor is closing in on retiring as Controller for Frank Millard and Company out of Burlington and said he wasn’t sure he was ready for a full retirement. He said he wants to help the community continue to improve and strengthen the good work that’s already been done. “I live in West Point. I love the community and love everything we do,” he said. “I want to help to improve the community, to make things better not only for the residents, but the children and everyone involved with the city,” he said.

See ADMINISTRATOR, page 4

Septic contractor code in front of supervisors

County to put contractors on registered list for homeowners

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - The Lee County Board of Supervisors will hear the first reading Tuesday of a new ordinance that will require septic system contractors to be registered with the county.

The new language is being proposed for Title V of Lee County Code under Chapter 2 which oversees sewage treatment options and will require all contractors working within the county to be registered with the county. To be registered, contractors must provide a $15,000 bond or letter of credit payable to the Lee County Treasurer and be certified by the state.

At last week’s Supervisors meeting, Lee County Health Departments’ Environmental Services Program Director Rosa Haukedahl made the proposal in order to bring the county inline with other counties in the state. Haukedahl said the cities of Fort Madison and Keokuk also require a bond for County to put contractors on registered list for homeowners.

See ORDINANCE, page 8
OBITUARIES

ELSIE M. RICKER RICHARDSON

Elise M. Ricker Richardson, 92 of Keokuk, IA died Friday, July 13, 2018 at River Hills Village in Keokuk.

She was born May 19, 1926 the daughter of Leonard and Beulah Wilsey Ricker in Des Moines, IA. On June 23, 1946 she was united in marriage to Bennie L. Richardson. He preceded her in death on July 25, 1999.

Elise graduated from Keokuk Senior High School with the class of 1944. In her early years she worked for Meadow Gold Dairy on 10th and Main Street in Keokuk. After her marriage she was a stay at home mom throughout her children’s high school and college years. She then worked together with her husband at Artistic Cleaners until their retirement in 1991.

A faith-filled woman, Elsie was member of the New Testament Christian Church and was active in bible studies and small groups. She was an avid Keokuk Chiefs and Iowa Hawkeye’s sports fan. She was proud that her husband and she were awarded the lifetime award for faithful attendance to the Keokuk High School sporting events. Elise enjoyed any and all activities her grandchildren or great grandchildren were involved in. On July 2nd she was thrilled to be able to attend her great granddaughter’s softball game against Ft. Madison High School.

Elsie is survived by one daughter, Deborah (Tony) Sheffler of Swanage, GA, one son, Tom (Cathy) Richardson of Keokuk, three grandchildren, Stephanie (Eric) Craig of Keokuk, Kellie Sheffler of Alpharetta, GA and Joel (Becca) Richardson of Cypress, TX, six great grandchildren, Brenna, Gracie, Cassidy and Nathan Koeber of Keokuk, and Lydia and Ruth Richardson of Cypress, TX, along with her sister in law, Geneal Ricker and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Besides her husband she was also preceded in death by her parents, two grandchildren or great grandchildren were involved in. On July 2nd she was thrilled to be able to attend her great granddaughter’s softball game against Ft. Madison High School.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m. Wednesday with the family meeting with friends beginning at 3:00 pm. A light meal will follow. Please bring a dish to share. Her cremated remains will be buried privately at Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established for the Fort Madison Alano Corporation, www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

TERRI ANITA (DEWITT) WILSON

Terri Ana (DeWitt) Wilson, 54 years, of Birmingham, Iowa died Thursday, July 12, 2018 at her home. She was born August 11, 1963 in Fort Madison, Iowa, a daughter of Charles and Melva Jean (Menke) DeWitt. She was a 1981 graduate of Fort Madison High School. She worked road construction for 10 years for N.A.P. Co., Ottumwa. She loved riding motorcycles, and had her license and her own bike. She enjoyed gardening, canning, and traveling. She was a Mickey Mouse collector, an enthusiastic Fort Madison Bloodhounds fan, and she proudly achieved over 20 years of sobriety. She loved her family!

She is survived by her significant other of 19 years, Mark Ebert; her parents, Charles and Melva DeWitt of Wever, Iowa; three sons: Ryan Wilson of Fort Madison; Michael Wilson of Blanchard, Oklahoma; and Tylar DeWitt of Des Moines, Iowa; one step-son, Adam Ebert of Libertyville, Iowa; one step daughter, Rebecca Ebert (David Talbert) of Wichita, Kansas; three brothers: Dean (Jody) DeWitt of Fort Madison; Alan DeWitt of Fort Madison; and Craig DeWitt of Wever, Iowa; two sisters, Lynette Stein of Williamsburg, Iowa and Diane (Howard) Vorwaldt of Wever, Iowa; seven grandchildren: Addelyn, Jaxon, Kynsley, Austin, Rhiannon, Teya, and Mariska; one aunt, nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by one brother, Bryan DeWitt, and one sister, Yvonne Metcalf.

Per her wishes, her body has been cremated. A Celebration of her Life will be held on July 28, 2018 at 2:00 pm at Shopton Park, Fort Madison, with Memory Sharing beginning at 3:00 pm. A light meal will follow. Please bring a dish to share. Her cremated remains will be buried privately at Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established for the Fort Madison Alano Corporation, contributions may be made at her celebration event or at the Barr Memorial Chapel website, www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy
The Current runs obituaries 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.

OBITUARIES

BACKYARD COMPOSTING

improves soil quality & makes for healthier plants!

These backyard compost bins were made by students at the Keokuk Christian Academy & are now available for purchase. Contact the administration building at 1-800-216-2370 to purchase one today!
Hauck takes 2nd in Iowa Games Strongman

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - He has a knack for art, and his canvass is paint, but Ian Hauck has found a new interest that may have him sculpting some muscle.

Hauck finished in second place in the lightweight master’s division at the Iowa Games Strongman competition this past weekend in Ames on the campus of Iowa State University.

In just his second official Strongman competition, Hauck completed every contest and in most cases was competing against men heavier that him doing the same tasks.

“One of the biggest reasons I was happy with the results was that I was competing with guys that were heavier than me,” Hauck said. “Weight-to-strength ratio I did pretty well and my goal was not to fail any of them and I didn’t”

Hauck executes one of the nine tire flips he completed in one minute as part of the Iowa Games Strongman competition Saturday on the Iowa State University campus. Hauck earned second place in his division.

Courtesy photo.

Not only did the 43-year-old from Fort Madison not fail, but in the overhead medley he finished first overall.

Hauck said that event is where you have to accomplish four overhead presses and then dash to a finish line. The first press was two kettle bells that are 60 lbs. each and you have to lift them over your head in each hand and then lock your arms. After that the bells are put down and a 145 pound barbell is lifted over the head, followed by a 2” diameter, 140 pound axle bar.

“That one’s harder on your hands because of the size of the bar itself, but the last one’s a log lift, which is a metal log bar that weighs 140 lbs. After you get that up and down then you race to the finish line and I did that in 27.7 seconds,” he said. “I think I had the fastest time out of everyone on that.”

Some of the other events included a 630-pound tire flip, which Hauck flipped nine times in one minute. He also pulled a Hummer SUV 100 feet in 35 seconds. There was a farmer’s carry where he had to carry 180 pounds in each hand 160 feet. He also competed in a load relay where different weighted objects had to be lifted onto a 28-inch platform.

“You can drop it as many times as you need, but you have to go the 160 feet and I did that in 37.29 seconds. That’s really more a grip/speed competition.”

It wasn’t Hauck’s first crack at official competition. He competed in Monmouth, Ill., in April and plans on competing there again in September and hopes to qualify for the National Strongman Competition in New York City, where the national finals are held.

Hauck works out at Anytime Fitness in Fort Madison and said he doesn’t really work out to bulk up, but more to focus on strength training.

“‘I’m not really looking for the big arm type workouts. I do strength training where you do a lot of squats and dead lifts. I’m not really a big person, but I really enjoy working on my strength.’

He said as long as he doesn’t get injured, he wants to continue to improve and get stronger and hopefully place at the national competition in New York.

“I’m pretty hooked on it so I’ll try to stick with it.”

See STRONGMAN, page 8

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

MON 16 Jul
Clear Skies
High– 84.0º F | Low – 64.2º F

TUE 17 Jul
Clear Skies
High– 83.3º F | Low – 73.9º F

WED 18 Jul
Heavy Intensity Rain
High– 67.3º F | Low – 66.5º F

THU 19 Jul
Moderate Rain
High– 75.1º F | Low – 71.4º F

FRI 20 Jul
Light Rain
High– 77.2º F | Low – 68.7º F
McGregor no stranger to West Point planning

McGregor managed the city's Sweet Corn Festival out of the Community Club for two years and served as the group's president four years ago. He's always believed in volunteering for projects in the city as well as being a member of the Optimist International Organization for close to 30 years.

Although not formally set, he said Aug. 1 may be his official start date. Menke, who also took the position in partial retirement eight years ago, had said he was hoping to have the position filled by Aug. 1st.

McGregor served on the West Point City Council for a four-year stint, and said he will be focusing on learning more about the city and the staff and the functionality of the position going forward.

"I was on city council for four years," he said. "That was something that was interesting to me at the time and I was able to find out more about the community I live in. I was considering doing a full retirement from Frank Millard, but then I thought this would be a perfect fit for me. And I wasn't sure I was ready for a complete retirement."

Overseeing the utility is something McGregor said is an area he'll need to build a knowledge base on.

"Part of the job is with the city Utility Board. That's something that I'm going to have to learn about. Other than listening to things that happened during my tenure with the city council I really don't know that much about the utility board. That's something I'll have to dig into."

He said the city's upcoming $1.5 million lagoon upgrade will also take some of his time getting familiar with that project.

"Most of it's going to be learning really. I've not been in government before. Learning the other aspects I didn't know on council and learning who the employees are so I know more about them as far as managing the city. I know their names, but I don't know them very well so I want to get to know them better."

McGregor's background is in accounting. He moved to West Point in 1994 after living in Burlington for about five years prior to that. He's had several stints with accounting firms as a CPA and then settled in with Frank Millard for the past quarter of a century, moving up to the position of controller.
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319-372-4882

Fort Madison Family Dentistry East
Appointments with Dr. Dingeldein available
Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Fridays, 8am-5pm
726 Avenue G Fort Madison, IA 52627
319-372-3614

Both offices are open Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm and are now accepting new patients.

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I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum
II. Recognition of guests
III. Reading of Foundation documents
IV. Monthly communications
A. Superintendent Goal Report
B. District Presentations
C. Viva la Vida for the Foundation
V. Approve the agenda

VI. Consent Agenda

VII. District Presentations
A. Superintendent – Erin Slater
B. Student Services – Kim Troxel
C. Business Manager – Sandy Rusie
D. Finance:
   - Authorization to Publish: District Website
   - Notice of Board’s intent to fill School Board Vacancy

VIII. Budget
A. Regular Meeting for Approval

IX. Other reports

X. Legislative update

Pen City Current: Monday, July 16, 2018 - 7

Download our free mobile app today.
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New code outlines forfeitures, appeal processes

ORDINANCE - Continued from Page 1

any septic system work within their respective city limits.

Haukedahl told supervisors the new ordinance will give the county more authority to help homeowners who may run into problems with septic system repairs or installation.

“What we want is for the homeowners to look a little deeper into the contractors that they’re hiring,” she said Tuesday. “We want to make sure the contractor is registered with the county and that we have the information. Then the homeowners know how to get a hold of this person if something goes bad.”

The new ordinance would add definitions for “Contractor” under the chapter on sewage treatment as well as “Registered Contractor”.

It also adds a section that outlines how contractors are now to be registered with the county, under what circumstances the Lee County Board of Health can forfeit the bond or letter of credit, as well as how an appeal process would work in the event the county did find reason to forfeit a contractor’s bond or letter of credit.

The ordinance also provides a $65 annual registration fee with the county, in addition to the bond or letter of credit.

In other action Tuesday morning, supervisors will consider:

• approval of a Lee County Personnel Policy
• approval of a tax abatement resolution
• approval of several county employee step pay increases

San Antonio Holiday

NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 2, 2018

Highlights:
- San Antonio City Tour
- San Jose Mission
- The Mercado Marketplace
- IMAX Theatre
- The Alamo
- Riverwalk Cruise
- Hill Country
- LBJ Ranch
- Fredericksburg
- Fiesta de las Luminarias
- 4 nights at one hotel

Inclusions:
- Motorcoach Transportation
- On-board friendly host
- Roundtrip Airfare - MLI
- 6 Meals
- Professional Tour Director
- Hotel Transfers
- Baggage Handling
- 4 Nights First Class Hotel

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STRONGMAN - Continued from Page 3

he said. “This is getting in my blood and I’ve got a new challenge and we’ll see how it goes. Next year I’d really like to try and make it to New York.”

Qualifying would require him to finish in the top 3. He said it’s not really hard if the numbers are low in qualifying events. But he said the New York event will attract the top competitors from around the country and that will be a challenge he’s looking forward to.

“That’s a big deal there,” Hauck said. “There are lots of people there and anyone who’s a USS Strongman member will be there. My weight class would have 15-30 people in it.”

He credits Dave Swafford, who he started working out with Anytime, for his passion for the new hobby.

“He got me into this and got me interested in getting better. He won the Iowa Games two years in a row.”

Gold in the barn?

That farmer needs to start looking around for the pot o’gold, as this rainbow was caught at about 5 p.m. looking west off Hwy. 218 just north of Pilot Grove on Saturday evening. Intermittent rains gave crops a bit of a drink as temperatures hovered near 95 for most of the weekend.

Hauck looking to build on Games success

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Hauck looking to build on Games success

Got a news tip? Call Chuck
(319)371.1670

Do you have time-
to help stop crime?
Use these Fort Madison neighborhood watch groups at RiverFest Fort Madison 2018 for more information.

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- Wellness
- Senior Health
- Environmental Health
- Child / Adolescent Health
- 1st Five
- HOPES
- I-Smile Silver*
- Immunizations
- Emergency Preparedness

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