City to look at LCEDG contribution

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Lee County economic development officials will know Tuesday night what direction the city is going with regard to annual contributions to their efforts.

At Tuesday's regular city council meeting, councilmen will be considering a request from the Lee County Economic Development Group to return to the $50,000 annual contribution it was making prior to the 2017-18 fiscal year.

City Manager David Varley wrote in a memo to the council last week, city's revenues are at one of the lowest levels in recent history and for the city to continue to contribute to operating revenue at LCEDG would have an impact on already strained department budgets. However, Varley wrote the LCEDG is doing valuable work and the city should contribute an amount, the council believes "is the best for the city".

The city used to receive $300,000 in riverboat revenues, but that revenue stream ended prior to the 2017-18 fiscal year, so the city cut a $50,000 payment to LCEDG down to $25,000 that year.

"The City is well aware of benefits that can be gained from economic development efforts. However, we also need to balance that with the responsibility we have to deliver services to our citizens (Police, Fire, PW, Library, etc.) and be prudent with their tax dollars," Varley wrote in the memo.

According to city budget figures, the city was down $834,000 in revenue at the end of June. Varley indicated contributing at the level the city did when it had casino revenues is not in the city's best interests.

"Nobody disputes that LCEDG is involved with some..." See LCEDG, page 12

County OKs deal for Central Lee school officer

Deputy Oberman to be on-site during all student hours

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - A Lee County Sheriff’s deputy will now be stationed on the Central Lee school campus full time.

Lee County Deputy Tommy Oberman will be the Central Lee School District’s School Resource Officer for the upcoming year, according to the three-year 28E agreement approved Tuesday, the school district would pay the county $40,000 the first year, then $45,000 and $50,000 in years two and three, respectively, for the cost of Oberman’s presence in the district. Oberman would remain a county employee and member of the Lee County Sheriff’s Department.

The county would continue to pick up the rest of Oberman’s salary and benefits which are close to $70,000 when all benefits are included. See OFFICER, page 12
MARY JO SWALLOW

Mary Jo Swallow, 75 of Hamilton, IL died Sunday, August 12, 2018 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, IA. She was born May 17, 1943 in Ottumwa, IA the daughter of Earl and Josephine Bordeaux Beeler. She first married Rennie Kelley. They later divorced. On March 24, 1989 she was united in marriage to James Swallow in Memphis, MO. He survives. She was preceded in death by her siblings and brother-in-law, Dixie (Tom) Shalley.

SWALLOW

Other survivors include two sons, Scott (Pans) Kelley of Lebanon, MO and Mark (Tommy) Kelley of Keokuk, one daughter, Denise Kelley of O’Fallon, MO, one step daughter, Stacie (Kade) Earl of Niota, IL, one step-son, Steven (Sara) Swallow of Carthage, IL., grandchildren, Jason (Heather) Chastain, Derick Chastain, Taylor (Amy) Chastain, Brett Kelley (Abigail English), Kristi (Dayton) Spears, Abby and Alexis Ellison, Keaton and Kenneth Harl and Connor and Easton Swallow, nine great-grandchildren, and one sister, Leslie Clark of Memphis, MO.

LORRAINE ELLEN PAINTER

Lorraine Ellen Painter, 98, of Wever, Iowa died Sunday August 12, 2018 at The Madison, Fort Madison, Iowa. She was born July 22, 1920 at her home near Wever, a daughter of Carl August Robert and Mary Elizabeth (Murphy) Lange. On October 22, 1949 she married Robert Leo Painter in Fort Madison. He preceded her in death on March 30, 2006.

A Gathering of Remembrance will be held from 4-6 p.m., Thursday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with the family meeting with friends from 6-8 p.m. A Memorial service will begin at 2:00 pm at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with the family meeting with friends from 6-8 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Lee County Health Department, Great River Players, or E-Free Church.

Lorraine was a talented painter and enjoyed painting for several years. She was an avid gardener and loved spending time with her children and grandchildren.

JOHN B. JOBE

John B. Jobe, 78 of Keokuk, IA died Saturday, August 11, 2018 at his home.

He was born April 19, 1940 in Fairbault, MN the son of “Jack” John C. and Mary Florence “Floss” Bassett Jobe. On January 23, 1960 he was united in marriage to Nila Haage at St. Francis Catholic Church in Keokuk. She survives.

Other survivors include two daughters, Nancy Jobe Wheeler (Jim) of Tulsa, OK and Shari Jobe Boszorg- zad (Cameron) of Reston, VA, four grandchildren, Nicole Boszorgzad Quast (John) of Redwood, CA, Kaitlin Wheeler Custer (Andrew) of Tulsa, OK, Jessica Wheeler Larson (Kyle) of Broken Arrow, OK and Natalie Boszorgzad of Balknton, VA. One great-grandchild, Fredrik Larson of Broken Arrow, OK, two brothers and sisters-in-law, Steve and Joycelyn Haage and David and Ellen Haage of LaJara, CO and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his father and mother-in-law.

John graduated from Keokuk High School, Class of 1958. He attended Keokuk Community College where he majored in journalism. He had been employed as a reporter and in advertising sales by The Daily Gate City in Keokuk. He then moved to California and eventually moved back to Keokuk. In 1962, John began working for his father at Jobe Press, which he operated until his retirement. John was a member of the Lee County Health Board, Keokuk City Council, had been a past president of the American Legion Auxiliary and the Keokuk Yacht Club Auxiliary as treasurer and secretary.

John was a fun loving person who liked to stay active, although he enjoyed a good nap. He loved riding his bicycle, acting in plays and attending high school sporting events. He enjoyed Friday night dinner and cards with his friends. John was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan. John was a talented drummer and had played for several famous singers throughout the years and was inducted into four Hall of Fames. He recently formed J.B. & the Rhythm Rockers Band. John loved to travel worldwide and had visited fourteen countries as well as most of the United States. John considered himself a hamburger connoisseur and was always on the lookout for a good burger. Most of all, John adored his family and friends and loved spending time with them.

A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m., Thursday at E-Free Church in Keokuk with pastors Jack Klose and Jim Richardson officiating. Burial will be in the Oak-land Cemetery in Keokuk. In honor of John, please wear jeans or whatever is most comfortable.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Wednesday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with the family meeting with friends from 6-8 p.m.

DONALD D. FARRINGTON

Donald D. Farrington, 86, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 7:56 a.m. on Sunday, August 12, 2018 at the West Point Care Center. He was born on July 18, 1932 in Ottumwa, IA, his parents were Dale & Gladys Neuman Farrington. He married Betty Goldenstein on April 9, 1960 at the First Christian Church in Fort Madison, IA. He retired from Industrial Service Corporation in Burlington, IA as an accountant. He also owned and operated D. Farrington Tax Preparation in Fort Madison, IA for many years. He served in the U.S. Navy as a 1st Class Petty Officer from 1950 to 1959. He was a member of the First Christian Church and served as a deacon. He was a past member of the Fort Madison Jaycees and was a 47 year member of the Fort Madison Kiwanis Club, holding numerous offices throughout the years.

Don is survived by: his wife: Betty Farrington of Fort Madison, IA; 1-son: Steven (Laura) Farrington of Chicago, IL; 2-daughters: Kay (Steven) Wyatt Moellers of North Liberty, IA & Trish (Jeff) Scott of Mediapolis, IA; 3-grandchildren; 2-great grandchildren; several nieces & nephews and his 2-fur babies: “the girls”. He was preceded in death by: his parents & 1-sister: Patricia Richardson.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 14, 2018 with the family to receive friends from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday evening at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A memorial service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 15, 2018 with Rev. Dann Masden officiating. Burial will be held at a later date at Moss Ridge Cemetery in Carthage, IL. A memorial has been established for PAW Animal Shelter or First Christian Church. Online condolences to Don’s family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

RUSSEL LEE RANDOLPH

Russel Lee Randolph, 95, of New Boston, Iowa passed away at 8:55 a.m. on Monday, August 13, 2018 at the Donnellson Health Center.

Born May 4, 1923 in Argyle, Iowa the son of Ora and Adella (Beckett) Randolph. On December 20, 1953, at the Argyle Presbyterian Church, he married Bonnie Wilhelm.

Survivors include his wife: Bonnie of New Boston, Iowa; three daughters: Nancy (Jerry) Fett of Donnellson, Cindy (Kevin) Frueh of Donnellson and Lisa (Dave) Parker of Donnellson; grandchildren: Abby (Sam) Allworth, Adam (Emily) Fett, Ashley (Adam) Moeller, Eric (Liz) Frueh, Beth Nelson, Jonah (Abby) Parker and Lynnely Parker; one AFS daughter: Cristina (Riccardo Provato) Loguercio of Milan, Italy.

Russel was preceded in death by his parents, infant twin brothers, brother: Earl, sister: Lavrina Alexander and one grandson in infancy.

He was a member of the Donnellson United Methodist Church. He was a 1941 graduate of Argyle High School, a United States Army Veteran WWII. Through the G.I. Bill, he attended General Motors air conditioning and auto transmission school in Detroit, Michigan. He owned and operated Randolph Service Station in Argyle from 1963 to 1977. He later retired as Parts Manager at Donnellson Implement. Russ participated in Great River Honor Flight #4 on October 12, 2010 and attended the Honor Flight Ball on June 24, 2012. He enjoyed fishing, playing cards, traveling and watching RFD TV. He was an avid St. Louis Cardinals Fan.

Friends may call after 12:00 p.m. Thursday, August 16, 2018 at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson where the family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. that evening. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, August 17, 2018 at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson, Iowa with Reverend David Barrett officiating. There will be a flag presentation by the Donnellson American Legion. Following the service, his body will be cremated with a burial at a later date in the Charleston Cemetery. A memorial has been established for the Donnellson United Methodist Church or Great River Honor Flight.

Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences to the family may be left at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

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**FMHS girls looking for unity in 2018 campaign**

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**

PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison High School girls volleyball team will be looking to fill some big holes left by departing seniors from last year’s squad.

The Bloodhounds need to find replacements for 2017 2nd team all-stater Amber Dilsaver at the net and Leigh Johnson who led the Southeast Conference and was ninth in the state last year in assists with 791.

Johnson and Kamryn Bailey, who also graduated in 2017 were both in the top five in sets with just over 80 each. Bailey also led the conference in serves and serve efficiency last year.

But Head Coach Kent Bailey said this year’s numbers are very good and although the Hounds will be a smaller group than the 25-8 team that won the Southeast Conference last year, there will be no let down in play style.

“We’re gonna continue to be very aggressive at the net,” Bailey said. “We’ll be a little shorter, but we’ve got some girls that can really jump.”

Returning to anchor play at the net will be 5’-11” junior Jillian Wiseman, who as a sophomore came on strong in the latter half of the season on the opposite side of the rotation from Dilsaver. Wiseman finished with a lofty 25.6% kill efficiency recording 107 kills good enough for 8th in the conference.

Kaeli Hutson will also help offensively at the net. The 5’-8” senior finished fifth in the conference with 164 kills and 18.2% kill efficiency.

“We just need to come together as a unit and play that way,” Hutson said. “We’ll have good senior leadership and we’re talking about playing as a team.”

Josie Pumphrey will be the top returning server for the Bloodhounds. Pumphrey is coming off a 2017 campaign where she was second in the conference in successful serves at 352. Bailey was tops with 356.

Pumphrey had 61 aces and a 90.5% serve success rate.

Pumphrey also anchored the backline for Fort Madison with 480 digs, just 23 behind Fairfield’s Danae Drish.

Pumphrey said this year’s squad will need players to step in and fill roles and it will be more of a team concept.

“Attitude wise our seniors really want to make changes and make it overall a fun and positive environment,” Pumphrey said.

Other returning key players for the Hounds include Jassmine Bass, Olivia Williams, Braxtyn McGhghy.

Bass had 47 kills on 128 attacks in 2017 and had 17 solo blocks which was third on the team behind Dilsaver and Wiseman.

Photography courtesy of Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

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**Drisch.**

Pumphrey said the Bloodhounds should be able to compete for the conference title again but Fairfield will be one of the teams to beat in the five team conference.

The Trojans are losing just two seniors off a 24-9 squad that finished just a game behind Fort Madison and was eliminated by the Bloodhounds in post-season play.

“Fairfield will be very good this year,” Hutson said. “They may present some problems for us, but we’re definitely going to be aggressive this year and focus on playing as a unit.”

Bailey said he’s looking for daughter Lauren Bailey to step in and fill Johnson’s setup role. Bailey is just a sophomore and saw minimal varsity action last year.

“We’re looking for her to step into that role,” Bailey said. “So far this year, she’s shown some potential to be able to fill that position for us.”

Pumphrey said this year’s squad will need players to step in and fill roles and it will be more of a team concept.

“We definitely need someone to step up and be hitters and someone to step into that setting position. We’re gonna have to have contributions from a lot of girls this year,” she said.

“Attitude wise our seniors really want to make changes and make it overall a fun and positive environment,” Pumphrey said.

Williams had 81 sets and 158 digs last year working predominantly from the back row.

FMHS was eliminated last year in a 3-set loss at Cedar Rapids Xavier in substate action.

The girls kick off the 2018 season in high gear next Saturday with at trip to Bondurant for a 14-team tournament that includes state 4A powerhouses Waverly-Shell Rock and Pella, and Class 5A powerhouses Dubuque Hempstead and Des Moines Roosevelt.
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**Sports**

Gehle brings tips back from World Games

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Just a day removed from returning from Spain and the Cerebral Palsy World Games, Fort Madison's Caleb Gehle is already thinking - "What's next". Gehle, in a phone interview with the Pen City Current, was packing for a Wednesday departure for the University of Northern Iowa where he will be pursuing an education degree in the fall.

But now he's catching his breath after jet-setting to Spain and competing with more than 300 athletes from 24 countries.

The 2018 FMHS graduate was reclassified when he went to Barcelona from a F33 in the United States, to an F34 in international competition.

"Two years ago at junior nationals they have you perform certain tests which classify you according to your disability," he said. "That got me nationally classified, but I was never internationally classified and had to do that over there. They had me perform pretty much the same tests hand-eye coordination, muscle elasticity and that kind of thing. The classifier said I had good symmetry in my arms and they weren't as spastic as they were a couple years ago."

He said the higher the classification, the more bodied you are and you compete against stronger athletes.

The reclassification also resulted in Gehle having to throw a ball 33% heavier than he had been throwing and reduced his throws by about four feet or just a good thing.

"This was basically the Olympics but for people with Cerebral Palsy," Mike said.

"It was a big shock. When we talked to the head coach, she said it was a good thing. Even thought he would be behind, because of his age it gives him that much more to work for to prove that's where he belongs."

Mike said in 2020, Caleb will be up for an international reclassification and they could reset him to 33, but they would had to watch and see how he did against the higher level competition.

Gehle finished the 100-meter wheelchair race in 28.43 seconds good for ninth place had his second fastest time every in the 400-meter at 1:47.62 also good for ninth place. He then set personal records in the 200-meter race at 52.45 (9th place) and the discus with a throw of 9.45 meters or 31.01 feet.

He took 7th place in the shot put even with the heavier shot.

"What I learned mostly, is that there is a lot is technique that I need to work on," he said. "Racing and throwing these athletes are a lot more built muscle wise, they are a lot older and more experienced. Hitting the weight room is gonna be a big part of that improvement."

He said he also learned that he has a tendency to lean back and throw the shot off his neck using his arms. But he's learning that it's an incorporation of chest and arm movements that will yield farther throws with the shot put.

He also got tips in the racing events.

"In racing we moved my hands. I was starting at 1 if you look at the wheel like a lock and I kept popping my front wheels off the ground. When I moved my hands to 3, then I was able to get quicker and more stable starts."

Caleb said his coach is looking for him to consider longer distance racing because his build allows for him to power longer distances where shorter lankier racers would have an advantage in the shorter sprint races.

"One of my coaches was talking to me about doing..."

See SPAIN, page 6
Cerebral Palsy competition gives Gehle incentive to improve

**SPAIN - Continued from Page 5**

some of the longer distance races. I'm not to keen on that, but we were looking at some of the events and maybe I should look at training for the 800 and 1500 races," Caleb said.

Mike said his son has probably built for power and not so much speed.

"He’s a lot broader and bigger. With his long arms he would get longer strokes and longer stamina. As big as he his he won’t be able to get speed as much as he can power through a race and pass other people.

Next summer, however, the training will go on hold as Gehle has both his patellas surgically repositioned. Gehle said it would probably be two to three months before he can get back in a racing or throwing chair as doctors told him he’s looking at a six-week heavy in-patient rehab stint and then an additional six weeks before he would be weight-bearing.

He said the overall experience has left him wanting more in the way of competition and he’s willing to compete in whatever classification they put him in.

"The classification kind of shocked me a little bit, but it was such a neat experience meeting so many different people from around the world and to see who they compete. I even got some advice from a paralympian racer from England. I am just so happy I was able to compete over there."

As a freshman at UNI, Caleb is hoping he can grab the attention of the track coach Dave Paulsen and possibly help the team with a paralympic events.

"He does want to talk to coach at UNI to see if he can compete in paralympic events for the school. So when they go to Drake Relays he would be able to compete. A buddy of mine told me that he saw a few racers but didn’t know about throwers," Gehle said of the UNI.

With many southeast Iowa runners on the men’s Panther’s squad including two from Mt. Pleasant, two from Burlington Notre Dame and one from West Burlington, Gehle’s hope is to get a chance to talk with Paulsen.

"It would be nice to race under the Panthers flag," Gehle said.

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**Fraise tapped to serve on rural Iowa taskforce**

**KIOUK - Dennis Fraise, COO of the Lee County Economic Development Group,** was appointed Thursday to one of Gov. Kim Reynolds’ Empower Rural Iowa task forces.

Gov. Kim Reynolds announced members of the three task forces on Thursday. Iowans had two weeks to apply, and in that time, the Governor’s Office received nearly 180 applications.

Fraise said he was excited to be a part of the Connecting Rural Iowa Task Force.

"I am excited to be part of the Connecting Rural Iowa Task Force and look forward to collaborating and learning from my peers across Iowa. Rural Iowa is facing some serious challenges in the future. I applaud the Governor and Lt. Governor’s proactive approach to ensure a prosperous future for all Iowans," commented Fraise.

"As a product of rural Iowa, it’s a passion of mine to preserve and celebrate our state’s rich rural heritage," Gov. Reynolds said.

"I am very proud of the success of the rural task force members I’m appointing to-day. They are solutions-oriented, experienced and passionate about rural Iowa."

The initiative will kick off in September with three Ideas Summits. Task force members will be asked to come with a developed proposal on how to address the topic.

"The Governor has been very supportive of our Grow Lee Initiatives," said Fraise. "This appointment is the direct result of the hard work and dedication of the entire Lee County EDG team to move Lee County and southeast Iowa ahead."

"With the governor’s appointments to the task forces today, our work can begin in earnest," Lt. Gov. Gregg said. "The governor said she was looking for solutions-oriented Iowans. We found them, and now we’re going to get to work!"

There are also several ways the public can get involved. The Ideas Summits will be open to all Iowans and include time for public comment.

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For the Record

Fort Madison Police Reports
12/13/2016 - 9:37 a.m. - FM Police arrested Robert Eaule, 35, of Burlington, at Avenue G, on a warrant for willful injury - causing serious injury. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

8/9/2018 - 10:07 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Matthew Ryan Hobert, 34, of Fort Madison, in the 1100 block of Ave. G, on warrants for FTA driving under suspension and FTA no insurance. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

8/9/2018 - 5:40 a.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Aysa Elizabeth Kettle, 16, of Fort Madison, in the 1100 block of Ave. L, on a charge of public intoxication. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

8/10/2018 - 3:42 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Cody Scott Glasgow, 26, of Fort Madison, in the 2800 block of Ave. O, on a charge of possession of controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, and carrying weapons. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on personal recognizance.

8/10/2018 - 7:58 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Joseph Lee root, 18, of Keokuk, at MM 9 on Hwy. 2, on charges of possession of controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of alcohol under age - first. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

City issues parking regs for Rodeo parade
FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Police Department would like to remind residents about the Tri-State Rodeo Parade’s “No Parking” restrictions on Saturday, September 8, 2018. These intersections will return to two-way stop intersections on Monday, September 10, 2018.

The parade’s staging areas, which include Richards Drive to 30th Street and adjacent side streets.

On Saturday, all parking will be prohibited in the following areas beginning at 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and these areas will have “No Parking” signs posted.

Avenue G from 27th Street to 2nd Street.

Avenue E from 15th Street to 3rd Street.

North side of Avenue E from 15th Street to 2nd Street.

North side of Avenue F from 5th Street to 9th Street.

The Fort Madison Police Department would also like to remind motorists about the temporary four-way stop intersections on Avenue E at 9th Street, 15th Street and 18th Street beginning Friday, August 1, 2018. These intersections will return to two-way stop intersections on Monday, September 10, 2018.
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319-372-3614

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

Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis
Family Dentistry

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Central Lee Superintendent Andy Crozier addressed the board at its regular meeting Tuesday.

“We had several discussions with Sheriff (Stacy) Weber and Chief Deputy (Will) Conlee about the importance of a school resource officer,” Crozier said. “In a normal situation, the 2A and 3A-type school is partnering with their local municipality law enforcement, and we don’t have that luxury. Donnellson and Montrose don’t have the capacity to support that.”

Crozier said he reached out to a couple other school districts, including Medapaolis, where they have a relationship with the county sheriff department and they helped coordinate providing a school resource officer in the building.

“We are about eight minutes from the sheriff’s office and that’s with them driving about 100 mph. So heaven forbid there was ever an incident at Central Lee schools, we would be at the mercy of whatever is taking place, without the protection of a school resource officer.”

He said the district had made a decision prior to a failed bond referendum this spring, to move forward with increasing safety at the school and an SRO was a high priority in those discussions.

Oberman is already well known in the district as he’s currently the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) officer. Crozier said the student body has built a trust with Oberman and he can provide additional support to the students. Crozier said Oberman would be at the K-8 and the high school buildings.

Putting Oberman in the district full time while students are in the buildings could put a strain on the department’s staff, but it’s something Weber said they would work through.

“We’re working on a grant,” Weber said. “We’re waiting on a COPS grant to be opened up federally to help backfill that money so we can go back and ask for another deputy. It will ramp us a little bit and there will be some overtime accrual, but it’s a priority. With the staffing we had, we were comfortable and guys were able to take vacations, but Central Lee came to us, and with all the school shootings we just had to do this.”

Conlee, who handles the department’s scheduling, said Oberman will still be available to the sheriff’s department during the summer months, and any other days when students aren’t in the building.

“Early outs, In-service, Thanksgiving, anytime when students are out, he’s back out on the road,” Conlee said. “The COPS hiring grant, which is what we banked on getting right now, is held up in litigation over immigration. It’s usually awarded by July.”

Weber said that’s why he wants to go to Washington D.C. this summer.

“I wanted them to know from us that that grant is going to backfill the position that we’re going to put into our schools to protect our kids,” Weber said. “They need to get that going now and I said that directly to Matt Whitaker, who’s right under Attorney General Jeff Sessions.”

Whitaker, who originally from Iowa, is Sessions Chief of Staff and Senior Counseler.

Conlee said there are no extra deputies on staff and he might have to put detectives into the regular rotation to staff the sheriff’s department.

He said other local contractors were also gracious in helping with the finer code changes.

“He said this is his 16th year with the Greater Keokuk Habitat for Humanity and he has lead the local group for about three years. He said the group could use more community members and leaders to step in help.

We need more people interested in moving the organization forward,” he said. “I’m a little afraid that if we don’t get people to rotate in and step up to the plate, it may be hard to continue. The main thing is that we want people to know that we are active, and we remain interested in this community.”

Personnel policy back on Tuesday agenda

Habitat to dedicate home Thursday

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“This was a concerted effort from a lot of people,” Wolfe said. “There’s a core group of about four of us that were there from the time school ended until it got finished up.”

As part of the approval process for homeowners, the family must also put in a little sweat equity and Wolfe said the Chapman family was on the scene a lot doing painting with family and friends and helping install insulation.

Funds for the project come from previous homeowners, and interest made on some restricted investment funds the chapter holds. The new homeowners pay a mortgage just like any other homeowner, but the principal of the payment goes back to the chapter and is invested for future homes. The chapter also gets money from private and public groups as well as donations of products and supplies.

“We usually average a house every couple of years. We have all the money ready when we start building. Whatever the total cost, the homeowner pays all that back. It’s an interest free loan and we escrow taxes and insurance. It’s a regular mortgage,” he said.

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST