Fort Madison Main Street reverts back to Riverfront Business District

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison has once again dropped its Main Street Iowa designation. According to Tim Gobble, executive director of Fort Madison Partners, the Main Street board decided in December that Riverfront Business District, doing business as Fort Madison Main Street, would be dropping the d.b.a. and reverting back to the Riverfront Business District.

Denicia Wright, who took over as director of the Main Street program in July, resigned from the position in December when the group made the decision.

Gobble said it was important for the district and the community as a whole to know that efforts focusing on downtown Fort Madison will continue seamlessly and successful projects the Main Street board was involved in will continue as well.

"It's unfortunate that we are leaving the connection with Main Street Iowa, but then again, the entity is not dead. We are going to be moving forward, we're still going to be looking at doing projects and looking at beautification, revitalization, recruitment, and all that kind of stuff. We just won't have that Main Street Iowa attachment," Gobble said.

Stephanie Knoch, who served as president of Main Street before dropping the designation, said the reality was that the Fort Madison Main Street program wasn't going to be looking at projects and looking at beautification, revitalization, recruitment, and all that kind of stuff. We just won't have that Main Street Iowa attachment," Gobble said.

Wednesday night crash

Deputies with the Lee County Sheriff's Department check on a passenger in a vehicle that was involved in a two-car collision on Hwy. 218 at the 255th Street intersection near Charleston. At least one passenger was transported by ambulance for injuries sustained in the accident.

Loebsack votes to partially reopen services

WASHINGTON D.C. – Congressman Dave Loebsack today voted to start reopening the government with his vote in favor of the Financial Services Appropriations Bill. This legislation will fund the Department of Treasury and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to ensure the 1.1 million hardworking Iowans who are issued a tax return will be processed in a timely manner. This bill is virtually identical to the bill that passed the Senate last year by a vote of 92-6. It now heads back to the Senate for its consideration.

"We should not be in the position in the first place. There have been multiple bipartisan bills passed by both the House and Senate to reopen the government and passing this Financial Services Appropriations Bill is the largest budget, in terms of expenses for the year, for Lee County, doing business as the Lee County, would belong to the Secondary Roads which is projected revenues, and then ask department heads to combine for almost $13M. Crime fighters and roads combine for almost $13M.

County officials hear first round of budget requests

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Lee County Department heads continue to throw out their first pitches for 2020 fiscal year budget requests this week.

All the budgets presented were first-run preliminary budgets and are susceptible to cuts based on final revenue numbers for the county. Supervisors typically take all the budgets under advisement, balance them against projected revenues, and then ask department heads to refine budgets based on those projections.

Highlights of the 2020 fiscal year budget, which goes into effect, July 1, 2019, include adding a sheriff's deputy to replace one who's been assigned for three-quarters of the year to Central Lee school district as a resource/DARE officer; increasing the salaries in the County Attorney's office to accommodate four full-time attorneys instead of two full-time and two part-time, and beefing up staff in the secondary roads/engineering department.

The largest budget, in terms of expenses for the year, would belong to the Secondary Roads which is projecting expenses at $8.48 million for 2020, an increase of $900,000, or almost $1.5M, from the previous year.
HTC Homecoming Court

The 2019 HTC Homecoming court from back row left to right are: Sam Avery, Adam Rauen-buehler, Kyle Bredemeyer, Carson Schroeder, and Brant Hollkamp, Connor Holvoet. From row from left to right are queen candidates: Hannah Torgler, Elyse Pothitakis, Emily Box, Eryn Anderson, Taylor Boeding, and Katie Scoville.

DuPont employees honored for service

Fort Madison - In appreciation of their long commitment, the following employees at the DuPont Company were recognized in the 4th Quarter of 2018 for their service milestones.

Kelley Joe Clark, Jerry Merschman, and Joe Puga were honored for 40 years of service and Brett Workman was honored for 15 years of service.

OBITUARIES

DANIEL J. HUNDT


Survivors include his wife, Debbie Hundt of Cookville, TN; one daughter, Kendra Hundt of Henderson, TN; one step daughter, Lana Reagan ofick- man, TN; one grandson, Cade Reagan; two sisters, Pam (Sean) O’Donnell of Kansas City, MO and Julie (Vince Die) Noll of Kearney, MO; two brothers, John (Ellen) Hundt of Niota, IL and Ron (Kim) Hundt of West Point; several nieces and nephews and a sister in law, Leasa Hundt of St. Charles, MO. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Mark.

Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A graveside service will be held at 11 AM on Thursday, January 3, 2019 at Soldiers Circle, Oakland Cemetery with military rites conducted by the Ft. Madison Veterans Honor Guard. A memorial has been established for the American Cancer Society and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.
FM woman nabbed on meth charge

THE Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Fort Madison, Iowa woman on a felony drug charge.

Kristina Nicole Boe, 32, of Fort Madison, Iowa was arrested on Jan. 2nd, 2018 on a felony drug charge. Boe is charged with delivery of more than 5 grams of methamphetamine, a class B felony. If convicted, Boe faces up to 25 years in a state correctional facility.

Iowa Fertilizer Co., gathers winter gear for area students

“Every year, Iowa Fertilizer Company and its employees donated winter coats and other winter clothing items to students attending Richardson Elementary School and Lincoln Elementary School in Fort Madison. Through employee donations and the company’s matching contribution, a wide range of coats and snow pants were purchased or donated to the two schools to help students stay safe and active in the winter months.”

Over the past several weeks, Iowa Fertilizer Company employees donated coats and other clothing items or provided direct financial contributions. The company matched those donations dollar-for-dollar.
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Box blocks Bears comeback

Seniors five points and three blocks come at critical time

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Senior Emily Box was held scoreless for three and a half quarters Tuesday night, but the Holy Trinity girls basketball team rallied for a 29-26 win over visiting Danville in Southeast Iowa Superconference action.

Danville led the wild and physical game the entire way until Box got an inlet pass from Ashlynn Haas on the left side of the offense and forced up a jumper under the basket and was hacked in the act by the Bears' Ashley Pfadenhauer. The two battled all night for inside position in the lane. It was Box's first point of the game with 2:22 remaining. She converted the free-throw and HTC had its first lead 25-23, in a low-scoring affair.

Danville would call a timeout with 1:55 left in the game, but couldn't get a shot off before the time out. With HTC in a 3/4 court press, Box stole a pass at midcourt and fed Haas on the left side who missed from 15 feet and, after a scrum for the ball that ended up tied up, HTC Head Coach Tony Johnson called a time out with HTC in possession.

The Crusaders set up the half-court offense after getting the ball in and swung the offense to the left where Boeding found Box inside again. Box pulled up and hit a five-foot floater in the lane for a 27-23 lead. John-

son then used another full timeout to set up a press and call a defense. Danville would commit a turnover and Boeding would run the other way and get fouled on a missed layup attempt, but would convert both free throws for a 29-23 lead.

Danville would get the ball in and get through the press down the right side of the court where Isabel Smith hit a footer from the right wing to pull Danville within three 26-29 with just .27 seconds left in the game.

With Holy Trinity inbounding, Boeding took the inbound pass and fed the ball ahead just out of the reach of Eryn Anderson and Danville picked up the turn-over and headed the other direction where Danville's Bailey Morris missed on a 3-ball from the right side.

On Holy Trinity's next possession, Claire Pothia-

kis got loose behind the Bears' press and was fouled heading to the free throw line. She missed the first and made the second to tie the game at 30-30.

"I'll be honest, they played a tight 2-3. If they even thought she was going to get the ball, they had three girls on her," Johnson said of Box's night.

"It was just one of those games that you just have to play the opposite of what you want to do," he said. "It's just one of those nights, it was a back-to-back night and Danville - it's always a great game with them. They've always been aggressive and play great defense. The Pfadenhauer girl is very physical out on the end and it was a grinder." Johnson said he got on the girls throughout the night about boxing out. He said Box was having trouble getting to her spots inside and it was clear that the girls were frustrated.

Boeding opened the game with a 3-ball and finished with 11 points to lead Holy Trinity. The senior has hit at least three 3-pointers in the past three games and has 14 in that span.

The two teams chugged along in the physical contest finding scoring tough. Danville held an 18-11 first half lead capped by a long baseline jumper from the Bears' Smith as time expired. The two teams combined for four turnovers in the final two minutes with no one getting a shot until the buzzer beater. On the play, the ball changed possession several times and scooted between players with girls diving all over the floor trying to get possession. Danville finally scooped it up and pitched it over to Smith who just missed a three-pointer on the play.

Holy Trinity got a 3-pointer from Haas to open the scoring in the third and then went on a 9-3 run in the period where the only points were scored on 3-balls, two from Haas, one from Boeding and one from Smith at the other end. The Crusaders closed the gap to 20-22 at the end of the period.

Haas finished with nine points on the night to go with Boeding's 11. Box finished with five points, all in the final 2:23, and Eryn Anderson scored four to round out the scoring.

The Crusaders (8-5) are off until Saturday when they play host to cross-town rival Fort Madison in a four-game Saturday set with both girls/boys junior varsity playing before the girls/boys varsity double header. It's also cake auction night and cakes will be auctioned starting at halftime of the girls varsity contest.

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Sports/Weather

Danville snaps HTC's 3-game streak

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Crusaders struggled to get anything going on the perimeter Tuesday against Danville in a 65-46 loss that snapped a three-game winning streak that started before the holiday.

In Southeast Iowa Superconference basketball action, the Bears' physical style of play kept the Crusader's heads.

The closest HTC would get in the first quarter points, but Danville would lead 12 at 44-32 with Taylor Kerns leading scoring in the post in the lane.

The closest HTC would get in the fourth quarter would be 12 at 39-51 with Hellige scoring again inside with the Bears guarding heavily on the arc to keep any runs at bay.

John Hellige said the Bears got good performances from their bench with 12 players getting in on the scoring.

"They were super hot from the field tonight," Hellige said. "I didn't anticipate some of those roll players stepping up and hitting those shots. Wilcox was real hot in the first half so we kind of changed things up in the second half to key on him."

He said the physical play may have gotten into the Crusaders heads.

"There was a lot of contact early that caused us to miss shots we normally make, and that shook our confidence a bit, but I thought we had some good momentum in the second half, we just ran out of gas in the fourth quarter."

Matt Hellige led all scorers with 19 points to go with Fehseke's seven. Holkamp had six points and Schneider added four. Crabtree and Kyle Brede- meyer each finished with three points, while Thur- man and Rauenbuehler both had two. Schneider led the Crusaders with nine rebounds on the night. Wilcox led Danville with 16 points and Bryce Carr had 12.

The Crusaders fall to 3-9 on the year and Dan-

ville improves to 6-6 on the season and play Sat- urday against cross-town Fort Madison as part of four-game junior varsity varsity double header. The Holy Trinity annual cake auction will also take place on Saturday with the first cakes being auc-

tioned off during halftime of the girls varsity game.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 10 Jan

Sunny

High– 23.7º F | Low – 20.0º F

FRI 11 Jan

Light Snow

High– 30.5º F | Low – 26.8º F

SAT 12 Jan

Sunny

High– 42.6º F | Low – 27.5º F

SUN 13 Jan

Sunny

High– 41.3º F | Low – 29.3º F

MON 14 Jan

Sunny

High– 42.6º F | Low – 26.0º F

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BUDGETS - Continued from Page 1

d of $1.15 million or 16% from the re-estimated budget numbers of 2019. The department is expected to bring in $7.23 million in revenues, which is a projected increase of about $800,000.

County Engineer Ben Hull said the department is currently advertising to replace the assistant engineer position, which he held before being promoted to county engineer after the retirement of Ernie Steffensmeier in December.

He said he is still trying to fill another position on the Engineering staff and wanted to increase salaries of those employees.

“I really want to emphasize the importance of those positions. These are the guys that work with contractors from sun up to sunset and we have about $4 million in contract work scheduled this year. I’ve done some wage research on these guys and their positions with comparable counties in the state and I found I believe that it would warrant a 10% wage increase.”

In the Lee County Attorney’s office, County Attorney Ross Braden and 1st Assistant Jonathan Stensvaag’s salaries will remain the same as the previous year, but salaries of the two new full-time assistant attorneys will increase from a combined $164,000 in 2019 to $180,000 in 2020.

Kim Auge came on as a full-time assistant attorney at the beginning of the year and Amy Beavers, the former Des Moines County Attorney, has been approved to start in March, both with $90,000 salaries.

Braden’s budget will exceed the $1 million mark for the first time, showing a $100,000 increase in expenses from 2019 re-estimated budget figures. Revenues for the county attorney’s office spurred by a program showing success in collecting county fines, is also increasing with a projected $132,000 vs. $93,500 in 2019.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber turned in a budget with $4.23 million in expenses and $712,000 in revenues. Included in that is a Lee County Jail budget of $1.38 million representing a $44,000 increase over 2019 numbers. However, revenue figures from care of prisoners is projected to double from $175,000 in 2019 to $350,000 due to Lee County housing inmates from other counties.

Weber said he wanted to replace Deputy Tom Ollerman, who was assigned to the Central Lee School district as a resource/DARE officer. The school district is paying a portion of the salary reflective of the school year, with the county picking up the rest of the tab.

“There are a couple things we’d like to do, First on our list would be to backfill the 18th deputy knowing that is paying a portion of the salary reflective of the school district as a resource/DARE officer. The school district is paying $1.15 million representing a $140,000 increase that is a Lee County Jail budget of $1.38 million or 16% from the re-estimated budget numbers for 2019. Revenues on that budget drop from $93,200 to $87,000 mostly due to a projected $3,000 reimbursement for the county to help with the balance of $600,000.

The agreement is a 3-year deal with the school district.

Other county departments with hefty budgets include the Lee County Health Department which is projecting expenditures of $3.96 million vs. $3.90 million in 2019. However, the LCHD is a revenue heavy department showing budgeted revenues of $3.36 million and asked for the county to help with the balance of $600,000.

LCHD director Michele Ross said participation from the county would be just 15% of her budget with 74% coming from 3rd party payors and state and federal grants.

One combined budget represents mental health expenditures along with court administration and county housing initiatives was projected with expenditures of $2.1 million. No revenues were projected because of a state law that was passed that mandates a spend down of reserve funds by July 1, 2021. Lee County is part of Southeast Iowa Link, an eight-county consortium set up by the state to handle mental health programs on a regional basis. That group has about $1 million to spend down for mental health and developmental disabilities programming by the targeted date.

County officials are concerned that the state could change directions after the spend down and then leave the fund balances at dangerously low levels.

The Lee County Conservation Department submitted budgets of $1.22 million compared to $1.17 re-estimated numbers for 2019. Revenues are expected to hold steady at $133,000 vs $132,000 re-estimated numbers.

The Lee County Auditor’s office turned in a budget with $875,000 in expenses vs. $802,000 in 2019. Auditor Denise Fraise said she would like to have her staff at 40 hours a week instead of the 35 currently allowed. The Lee County Recorder and Treasurer’s office also asked that staff be allowed to go to 40 hours as are other county department staffs. The Auditor also oversees county maintenance and Fraise asked to have a $2,500 stipend recently recommended by the County Compensation Board to go to the maintenance director to handle some of the duties Fraise was taking on.

The Building Repairs and Maintenance budget includes $413,000 in repairs and upkeep for 2020, but that figure does not include the cost of refurbishing the North Lee County Courthouse including tuck pointing and other repairs. Those figures will be included in the final budget submission.

Lee County Treasurer Chris Spann submitted a budget with $772,000 in expenses and $440,000 in revenues. The expenses reflect a $58,000 increase, mostly attributable to employees going from 35 to 40 hours.

The County Recorder, Nancy Booten, turned in a budget with $560,000 in expenses compared to $473,000 in re-estimated budget figures from 2019. Most of that increase is a $50,000 record preservation upgrade that Booten voluntarily pulled from her budget last year. It also includes the hourly wage increases from 35 to 40 hours per week.

The Board of Supervisors’ budget shows expenditures of $1.56 million compared to $1.57 million in 2019. The preliminary budget does still include a $210,000 contribution to Lee County Economic Development group. Revenues on that budget drop from $93,200 to $89,900 mostly due to a projected $3,000 reimbursement from the Southeast Iowa Area Crime Commission.

Many federal employees won’t get paid Friday

WEBSHUTDOWN - Continued from Page 1 Another step in the right direction,” Leebach said.

“It is time for Republicans and the President to stop their political games and ensure the 1.1 million Iowans who are expecting a refund will get them in a timely fashion. It is important that this legislation be passed immediately to reopen these important agencies, so folks can get back to work and guarantee the American people will not face delays getting their tax refund.”

This coming Friday, January 11th, will mark the first missed paycheck for many of the federal employees who are part of the shutdown.

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