City planning for 2008 flood levels

Current models show waters should crest at around 20 feet

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – With river levels expected to crest at just over 21 feet on Wednesday, city and county officials are preparing for flooding along the Mississippi River that could compare to 2008 levels.

Fort Madison Public Works Director Larry Driscoll wrote in an email to Pen City Current on Friday that he is preparing for a 21-foot river level. However, he indicated the city isn’t at high risk looking at current flooding projections.

The National Weather Service flood monitoring outlet of the Quad Cities has the Burlington river flood crest at 20’1” on Tuesday, March 19 through March 20, before it starts to recede. That mark puts flooding in the “major flooding” category on the site. River levels are projected through Thursday and remain in the “major” flooding category with forecasts at over 19 feet on Thursday.

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Burlington has a flood stage of 15 feet and is currently 16’-9” as of Saturday morning. The NWS also tracks flooding in Keokuk, but doesn’t show a snapshot for Fort Madison.

Keokuk has a flood stage of 16 feet and is forecast to crest at 19’-7” on Tuesday, which is also considered “major” flooding by the NWS. As of 9 a.m. Saturday, the Mississippi was at 15’-2” in Keokuk.

Public Works Department employees tend to sand barriers around the Fort Madison Riverview Pavilion this week as flood waters are expected to surpass the 20-foot mark Tuesday. City officials are preparing for a level of 21 feet which would be similar flooding to 2008 levels. Photo courtesy of City of Fort Madison.

Driscoll wrote the city is currently sealing off property.

Holtskamp named Holy Trinity’s Teacher of the Year

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fourteen-year veteran Holy Trinity Elementary teacher Teri Holtskamp knew about 10 seconds into Lucy Arevalo’s nomination that she was going to be the teacher of the year.

The award was presented as part of the Holy Trinity Catholic school system’s annual Blue and Silver Celebration Saturday night to honor teachers and raise funds that contribute to, among other things, the holiday bonuses for teachers.

Arevalo was called up by School Board President Steve Link to read the nomination that was summed up by Arevalo telling Holtskamp she was, “the best teacher I’ve ever had.”

The Iowa Wesleyan University graduate has been teaching for close to 20 years and said she was shaking after hearing her name in the young girl’s nomination letter. “I was absolutely shocked and didn’t know what to say,” wrote Arevalo.

The award was presented by Arevalo telling Holtskamp she was, “the best teacher I’ve ever had.”

“Everyone was Irish Saturday

The Inaugural St. Patrick’s Day Parade was held along Avenue G on Saturday morning. The parade was kicked off by a bagpipe troupe presenting the American and Irish colors. At right, Weston Rhoer, 3, of Fort Madison gets into the spirit, while a family stands for the flag as the parade begins.

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MARY MAXINE SIMON

Mary Maxine Simon, 66, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 3:55 p.m. on Friday, March 15, 2019 at Fort Madison Community Hospital. She was born on May 6, 1952 in Iowa City, IA to Jacob & Doris Mundorf Stephenson. She married Michael M. Simon on May 8, 1986 in Fort Madison, IA.

She was the Christian Faith and enjoyed socializing, playing pool and spending time with her family. She was a professional arm wrestler and took 5th place in the World Wrist Wrestling Championships.

Mary is survived by: her husband; Michael Simon of Fort Madison, IA; 3-children: James, Karma & LeeAnn; several grandchildren, brothers & sisters. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and no services are planned. Online condolences may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

DELBERT H. BOHNENKAMP

Delbert H. Bohnenkamp, 83 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 1:10 pm Saturday, March 16, 2019 at the Van Buren County Hospital, Keosauqua, Iowa. He was born March 16, 1936 in Fort Madison, Iowa, a son of Aloys B. and Agnes (Pollmeier) Bohnenkamp. On May 10, 1959 he married Jeanette Casady in Fort Madison, Iowa.

Delbert was a lifelong resident of the area. He was a 1953 graduate of Catholic Central High School in Fort Madison. He was a veteran of the United States Army, serving during the Korean War, and he transferred to the reserves following his active military time. He managed Skerik Auto Parts for 32 years. He was a member of Holy Family Parish and served as an usher at Sacred Heart Church. During high school Delbert enjoyed square dancing, he and a group, led by Dr. Lyman, traveled to Texas and St. Louis where they competed and won in square dancing competitions. In the early 1960’s he was active with the Jaycees. He coached Little League when his boys were young. He was a lifetime 60 year member of the BPOE, Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks. He like woodworking, building things and working in his yard. He was an avid Cubs fan and enjoyed watching the Iowa Hawkeyes.

He is survived by his wife, Jeanette Bohnenkamp of Fort Madison; two sons, David Bohnenkamp of Fort Madison and John Bohnenkamp of West Burlington, Iowa; one brother, Richard Bohnenkamp of Fort Madison; one sister, Joann Troja of Fort Madison; several nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother, Richard Bohnenkamp of Fort Madison and John Bohnenkamp of West Burlington, Iowa; one sister, Joann Troja of Fort Madison; several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

His family will greet friends from 6:00 – 7:00 pm Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 am Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at Sacred Heart Church, Holy Family Parish, Fort Madison. Burial with full military rites will be at Keokuk National Cemetery, Keokuk, Iowa. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established for Holy Family Parish and the University of Iowa Department of Otolaryngology Foundation – Cochlear Implant Clinic, contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel or at the church on the day of services. Online condolences to the Bohnenkamp Family may be made from the Barr Memorial Chapel, www.barrmemorialchapel.com.
LEE COUNTY - Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor, announces that absentee ballots for the Special Fort Madison Community School District Bond Election to be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2019, are now available in the Auditor’s Office. You may vote in person at the Auditor’s Office in the North Lee County Office Building, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison, from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. through Monday, April 1st, when this office will remain open until 5:00 P.M.

Eligible voters wishing to vote early may complete THE IOWA OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST FORM available from the Lee County Auditor or by downloading the form at http://sos.iowa.gov/. The request for an absentee ballot may be hand delivered to the Auditor’s office in Fort Madison or mailed to the Lee County Auditor, PO Box 190, Fort Madison, IA 52627. Requests must be received by 5:00 P.M., Friday, March 22nd.

Fort Madison School District polls open at 7:00 A.M. and close at 8:00 P.M. Election Day Polling Locations are as follows:

FORT MADISON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Fort Madison Public Library….1920 Ave E Fort Madison

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2018 Contribution Deadline is April 15, 2019.

ISP’s Mike Barnes, far right, earned First Place Over-All with K9 “Justice” at the recently completed 2019 USPCA Dog Detector Trials held last week at the former Iowa State Penitentiary. ISP Handler Dustin Yager won 6th place overall with his K9 Maverick.

Fort Madison – K9 Teams from all over Iowa recently converged on Fort Madison to certify in the 2019 USPCA Dog Detector Trials. In addition, 63 K9’s and their handlers competed against each other in two main categories; narcotics searches of rooms and vehicles.

Numerous breeds of K9’s were present: Belgian Malinois, German Shepards, Labradors as well as Golden Retrievers. ISP has utilized K9’s since 1994, primarily utilizing the Belgian Malinois, but recently ISP Handler Michael Barnes, added a Golden Retriever. The Golden, named Zeus was recently certified in contraband, which consists of tobacco and electronics. Zeus is the first dog in the State of Iowa to be certified in those areas.

Iowa State Penitentiary’s own Michael Barnes won First Place Over-All with his dog Justice. ISP Handler Dustin Yager won 6th place overall with his K9 Maverick.

Other notable mentions from the Iowa Department of Corrections Teams:

10th Place Over All – Sgt. John Schumacher with K9 Storm from Newton Correctional Facility
2nd Place Vehicle Search – Sgt. Mike Brandt from Newton Correctional Facility
3rd Place Vehicle Search – Sgt. John Schumacher with K9 Storm from Newton Correctional Facility

In addition to individual certifications, K9’s and the Handlers were able to assemble teams to compete. Sgt’s Mike Brandt, John Schumacher and Damon Van Bogart from Newton teamed up with Sgt. Asa Beauchamp from Mount Pleasant to win first place for their team.
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Current-Lee/Education News

Teachers honored at HTC’s Blue and Silver banquet

AWARD - Continued from Page 1

“Thank you for thinking. I don't even think I heard the rest of her speech,” Holtkamp said after receiving a glass plaque and $250. She said the students, parents, and co-workers are what makes Holy Trinity a special place to work.

“I think it’s just great how much our parents support us here every year,” Holtkamp said. “This provides a good bonus for all the teachers here at Christmas time and I just want to thank everyone for that.” She said teaching has changed a lot in the past two decades with technology changing the education environment almost on a daily basis. “We don't even hardly use textbooks anymore. When we need to look up the meaning of a word, you just look it up on your computer. You don't even use a dictionary,” she said.

“It’s certainly brought a different dimension to teaching. Everything is right at your fingertips.” The wife and mother of four said the teaching model has changed a lot since she got into the profession.

“It's no longer teacher-to-student, but now a student-to-student model in a collaborative environment,” Holtkamp said. “We still have to teach state assessment goals, but the teaching role is changing.” Her children Kyle, Brant, Abby and Megan all attend or have attended Holy Trinity Catholic schools.

Teri Holtkamp, second from left, was presented the Holy Trinity Catholic Teacher of the Year award at Saturday’s annual Blue and Silver Celebration. Holtkamp is with from left to right, HTC Principal Michael “Shamrock” Sheerin, nominator Lucy Arevalo, and board president Steve Link.

Iowa Lottery Winning Numbers

Game Draw Days Sales CutOff Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life® Mon & Thu 8:30 pm 9:38 pm
Mega Millions® Tues & Fri 8:59 pm 10:00 pm
Powerball® Wed & Sat 8:59 pm 9:59 pm
Lotto America™ Wed & Sat 8:59 pm 10:00 pm
Pick 3 - Midday Daily Noon 12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening Daily 9:40 pm 10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday Daily Noon 12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening Daily 9:40 pm 10:00 pm

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

CURRENT-LEE

FORT MADISON – The following is a list of events and happenings going on in Fort Madison as submitted to the Pen City Current.

YMCA Little Tykes Spring Soccer
Registration is currently underway for the 2019 season, which runs March 26 - May 2. Registration deadline is March 10 for regular fees of $20 for members, $40 for non-members. Volunteer coaches are needed. Call the YMCA at 319-372-2403 for more information.

ISU Extension Estate Planning
Iowa State University Outreach and Extension will hold an estate planning session on March 19th at 6 p.m. at the extension office in Donnellson. The session is $20 per person and registration can be done by contact Whitney Weissinger at 319-835-5116. Deadline is March 15.

Community Blood Drives
A blood drive will be held at Lincoln Elementary on Thursday, March 21, from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the gymnasium. Call the blood center at 800-747-5401 ext. 1281 to donate.

Murder Mystery Dinner Theater
The Fort Madison High School Music Department will be presenting its annual Dinner Theater on March 22-23. Doors open at 6 p.m with the show beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets available at Dana Bushong’s at 805 Avenue G.

Caregivers Connection
The Kensington hosts this monthly gathering to help educate attendees about all dementia types. Held at noon the 4th Tuesday of every month in The Kensington’s private dining room, 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. Call 319-372-4233 to RSVP or for more information.

AWARD - Continued from Page 1

Teri Holtkamp, second from left, was presented the Holy Trinity Catholic Teacher of the Year award at Saturday’s annual Blue and Silver Celebration. Holtkamp is with from left to right, HTC Principal Michael “Shamrock” Sheerin, nominator Lucy Arevalo, and board president Steve Link.
The Hounds girls and boys track team competed in the Silver Streak Invitational Saturday in Monmouth. At far left, Raquel Schneider carries the baton on the back stretch of the 4x400 relay. At left, senior Shaymouhr Redd-Donald rises over the high jump bar. Complete results will be in Monday’s E-edition.

At left, HTC junior Matt Hellige runs with a pack in the 3200 meter run in Monmouth on Saturday. Above, Hayden Wolfe, center, runs in the second heat of the 3200 meter run. Hellige took 4th coming from 7th.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

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Thanks to improvements in prevention, early detection and treatment, more than a million people in the US count themselves as survivors of colorectal cancer.

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A colonoscopy done by FMCH General Surgeon Dr. Riggs Bagan or Dr. Rachel Knudson, is one option to find the polyps and remove them at the same time.

So if you are a person over the age of 50 talk to your health care provider about getting screened and become Colorectal Cancer Aware.

Dr. Rachel Knudson Dr. W. Riggs Bagan

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PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST POINT CITY COUNCIL
WEST POINT, IOWA
March 11, 2019
Mayor Paul Waller called the properly noticed regular meeting of the City Council of the City of West Point to order in the Conference Room of the Public Library, 317 Fifth Street, West Point, Iowa 52656 on March 11, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. In addition to Mayor Waller, the following indicated Council Members were present: Joe Loving; Brian Meierotto; Dan Waters; and, Bruce Wellman. Absent: None. The tentative agenda was approved by consensus. On motion opened public hearing on City Budget Estimate for FYE20. On motion closed public hearing on City Budget Estimate for FYE20. On motion adopted Resolution No. 76-19 adopting annual City Budget Estimate for FYE20. Upon invitation Deina Merschbrock representing Heifers, Hogs & Hens requested permission to utilize the City Square Park on April 13, 2019 which was approved by consensus. Upon invitation Police Officer Dustin Fullhart presented the Police Department report. Mayor reported on the following upcoming events: Bar Stool Open will be held on March 30, 2019; lagoon improvement project bid letting will occur April 4, 2019 followed by a public hearing to be held April 8, 2019; and, RAGBRAI will be held July 21-27, 2019. Mayor reported meeting date and time for meetings of Library Board; the upcoming Municipal Utility Board; and, next regular Council Meeting of April 8, 2019. On motion approved liquor license application for Brad’s Pad with no outdoor service. On motion approved liquor license application for Sonny’s Super Market. On motion approved City Clerk to attend user group meeting and IMFOA Conference in Des Moines from April 10 – 12, 2019. On motion approved right-of-way application from Iowa Communications Network for fiber optic cable work. On motion minutes of prior regular Council Meeting of February 11, 2019 were approved as presented. On motion Treasurer’s Report for February 2019 was approved as presented. On motion warrants payable for March 2019 were approved as presented. On motion meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m., March 11, 2019.

EXPENDITURES FOR FEBRUARY, 2019
3rd Generation Electric, lights........................................ 347.51
Alice McCannon, assistance
16.00
Baker & Taylor, books
........................................ 265.65
Cathy Schwartz, assistance.
64.00
City Clerk – Ft Madison, fees........................................ 320.00
Daily Democrat, publications
........................................ 85.12
Delta Dental, premiums
........................................ 109.22
Floyd’s E-Z-Way, trash pickup........................................ 40.00
Garden & Associates, engineering
........................................ 750.60
GRWA, fees........................................ 432.00
Hempen Industrial, services
1275.00
Huffman Welding, uniform
........................................ 51.99
IAMU, dues........................................ 353.00
IMFOA, dues........................................ 25.00
Iowa History Journal, subscription
........................................ 18.95
J&M Kornet, supplies........................................ 3.96
Jet Gas, diesel........................................ 637.92
Kempker’s True Value, supplies........................................ 3.49
LI Neuesg Rental, fees........................................ 65.00
Mary Jane Pranger, cleaning
120.00
Mastercards, supplies........................................ 242.47
McFarland-Swan, supplies........................................ 40.47
Mediacom, telephone........................................ 382.67
Menke Professional Auto-supplies........................................ 15.55
Olympia Book Corp, books
207.57
Petty Cash, supplies/postage
76.60
Ricoh USA, copier........................................ 204.06
Sonny’s Supermarket, supplies........................................ 3.99
Sun Life Financial, premiums........................................ 243.82
Treasure – St of IA, taxes
159.00
US Cellular, telephone........................................ 69.91

PUBLIC NOTICES

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DAILY DEMOCRAT-LEGAL PUBLICATION ... 43.51
DELA TRANS - INSURANCE ... 135.96
ETPS - FED/FICA TAX ... 4,116.00
FLETCHER-REINHARDT - SUPPLIES ... 7,871.70
FLOYDS EWEAY - TRASH PICK UP ... 120.00
HOLT KAMP AUTOMOTIVE - F350 REPAIRS ... 543.68
HUFMANN WELDING & MACHINE - STEEL, LIGHT BAR ... 395.28
IMOA - DUES ... 25.00
IOWA ASSOCIATION OF MUNIC UTIL - WORKSHOP ... 450.00
IOWA COUNTY OF REVENUE - PROPERTY TAXES ... 21.69
IOWA DEPT OF AGRI RETIREMENT ... 9,621.27
J&M - OUTAGE MEAL ... 3.95
MATTINGLY - DUES ... 265.00
MCFARLAND - SUPPLIES 40.44
MACHINER - TIGWELDING, TESTING, SUPPLIES ... 212.09
MEDACOM - TELE, INTERNET ... 175.86
MENKE AUTO PARTS - OIL ... 15.00
PAUL’S PLUMBING & HEATING - RELAY, LABOR ... 119.88
PETTY CASH - TRUCK WASHES ... 20.00
RATHEBON REGIONAL WATER - WATER PURCHASE ... 5,428.00
RESALE POWER GROUP OF IOWA - ELECTRIC PURCHASE ... 62,337.90
RICCHIO USA - CONTRACT LEASE ... 132.12
SKARSHAUG TESTING LAB - TESTING ... 296.25
SUN LIFE FINANCIAL ... 105.37
SUN LIFE FINANCIAL ... 97.74
TASCO - PAGER ... 122.95
TREASURER OF IOWA - TAXES ... 3,900.04
USA BLUE BOOK, RATCHET, DIEHEAD ... 259.61
US POSTAL SERVICE ... 252.98
UPS - DELIVERY ... 20.50
VAN METER - BALLASTS ... 82.36
WELLMARK BC/BS OF IOWA - INSURANCE ... 2,182.83
WEST POINT LUMBER SUPPLIES ... 228.19
WEST POINT UTILITIES - UTILITY CHARGES ... 1,787.36
WEX BANK - GASOLINE ... 596.02
WINDSTREAM - TELEPHONE ... 79.73
.../s/ Randy Welding, Chairman
Assist: Diane E. Smith, City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE WEST POINT UTILITY SYSTEM

WEST POINT, IOWA
March 12th, 2019

The West Point Municipal Utility System Board of Trustees met in regular session at West Point City Hall, West Point, Iowa on March 12th, 2019.

Chairman Randy Welding presided and called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. on March 12th, 2019.

Chairman Wade Vonderhaar was absent. Tentative agenda was approved by consensus.

Member Ted Vonderhaar was present. Board Members in detail. Field operations was discussed. Status of delinquent was absent.

Tentative agenda was approved. On motion, meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m., March 12th, 2019.

EXPENDITURES FOR MAY 2018

3rd GENERATION ELECTRIC - TRENCHING ... 150.00

COMMUNITY GARDEN COORDINATOR NEEDED

RSVP United Way of the Great River Region is seeking a Community Garden Coordinator.

Do you like to garden and work outdoors? Do you like to plan, plant and harvest food?

We are seeking an individual this Spring who will plan, plant, cultivate, harvest and lead other volunteers in our Community Garden (garden is located at 2006 Avenue L, Fort Madison, Iowa behind Hy-Vee).

Must enjoy working outside, gardening and harvesting. Will direct garden activities with other volunteers and may require some bending, stooping and lifting of 10 lbs. or less. Times: 1 hour, 2 times per week.

If interested and for more information, please call – Tammy at 319-372-8043.

United Way of the Great River Region supports non-profit organizations and agencies that provide programs addressing needs in health, education and financial stability for residents in Clark, Hancock, and Lee Counties.

United Way of the Great River Region serves Lee, Hancock, and Clark Counties. All donations are tax-deductible.

DESIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Must have a current Iowa driver’s license.

6 months Customer Service / Cashier Experience (Marina / Fuel Dock Preferred)

Perform physical labor.

Stand for long periods of time.

Able to lift at least 50 lbs.

Position is seasonal, 28 hours a week Monday through Sunday.

Applications can be picked up and submitted at Fort Madison City Hall 811 Ave. E, Fort Madison, Iowa.
Temps will have biggest impact on area flooding

FLOODING - Continued from Page 1

along the riverfront.

“We have sealed off the city owned building at Riverview and Monday we will be dropping off sand bags for the Old Museum location along Avenue H and 10th street. We will also be setting up material at the Waste Water Treatment Plant,” he said.

“At this time and projected level we are not at much risk. The ground is wet and spring is just getting here and I think the river will be high much of the spring season. But we’ll be ready for flooding up to or around the 2008 level.

Steve Cirinna, the Lee County Emergency Management Agency Coordinator, said the forecast flood crest for Burlington raised a foot from 19’-4” Thursday night to a 20’-4” forecast Friday morning, which was a surprise to him.

He said a Wednesday conference call with the NWS indicated that crests shouldn’t get over 20 feet with projected weather models, but things can change.

“As long as we don’t have any rain or heavy snow melt, which they weren’t seeing on Wednesday, it shouldn’t get above 20 feet,” Cirinna said Friday.

“I don’t think it’s a major issue right now. It will bring in some high water, but I think the problem is going to be fluctuating temps up north. If they remain colder that should ease the snow melt,” he said.

“But they must have seen something Friday morning that indicated possible more snow melt because we don’t see any rain.”

Cirinna said if the temperatures warm up quickly in the north, that’s when problems could start.

“If that pack melts all at once, obviously we’re going to have a lot of water that could match or exceed 2008 or even 1993 numbers. It will be dependent on what that snow pack does up north at end of March and the first part of April. With water as high as it is now, it wouldn’t have time to get back down.”

He said if there is anything good about this type of snow melt flooding, it’s that the officials can see it coming.

“Everybody is making preparations now, so we’re not going to get caught with our hands in our pockets,” Cirinna said. “If there’s anything good about this type of flood-

As long as we don’t have any rain or heavy snow melt, which they weren’t seeing Wednesday, it shouldn’t get above 20 feet.”

-Steve Cirinna, LCEMA coordinator

City workers evaluate sand barriers installed recently at the Riverview Park Pavilion to hold back Mississippi River flooding that is expected at the beginning of the week. City officials are preparing for 21-foot floodwaters, but said the risk is not high with current forecasts.