Baxter pulls funding over school bond

**Founder of Baxter Foundation upset with school board**

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**

**PCC EDITOR**

FORT MADISON — A local foundation that donates thousands of dollars every year to local youth sports activities is pulling its funding in a protest of sorts against the proposed school bond issue.

A letter released Monday night from the Baxter Foundation alerted past and present recipients of funding from the Foundation that it will not be funding any further requests in 2019 due to the Fort Madison Community School District’s decision to spend unnecessary amounts with an out-of-town construction firm for a new elementary school.

“Unfortunately, the School District elected to use an out-of-town firm to represent it in this year’s bond election with little history of supporting local youth athletics or the Sports Complex. Furthermore, the taxes imposed upon the payments to the selected firm will not benefit the Fort Madison Community School District, but will benefit another Iowa District…Since the School District has opted to disregard the plans presented by Baxter Construction, the Foundation cannot continue to supplement the School District’s efforts to grow its youth sports programs; especially, when the District itself chose to ignore the presented plans and waste available financial resources.”

The foundation was created more than 10 years ago by Tony and Cindy Baxter to help supplement costs for youth athletic programs in the local economy.

On Tuesday, Tony Baxter said it was time to take a stand.

“Am I upset because they didn’t select my company? Yes,” Baxter said. “I’m upset because they are wasting money and didn’t select a local company.”

**Resident wants jake brake signs moved**

**Azinger says current locations don’t solve the problem**

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**

**PCC EDITOR**

MONTROSE – A resident of Clearview Heights, just outside the city limits of Fort Madison, is upset with the locations the county has selected to post notices about its new Jake break ordinance.

Mike Azinger told supervisors at Tuesday’s regular Board of Supervisors’ meeting that the current locations don’t do anything to address the issues in their neighborhood.

“I see the signs are going up but they are not where we requested them being put,” Azinger said.

“Where we really need one is at the exit of Hwy. 61 south where they are coming off the bypass, and on Hwy. 2.”

Azinger said one of the signs is on Bluff Road which he said has no truck traffic.

County Engineer Ben Hull said Iowa Department of Transportation policy states signs for an ordinance like this are placed where traffic enters the jurisdiction.

“We basically followed suit choosing our locations the same way so we have placed them on paved roads on county entries and where traffic enters the county jurisdiction from Fort Madison or Keokuk,” Hull said.

Hull said that way notice is served when you enter the county. He said they have not considered every location.

The Kensington
School board silent on Baxter’s move to pull funding

YOUTH

I’m upset because they didn’t listen to the public the last time a $30 million proposal was voted down. That’s a big part of it. I know it can be built for a lot less money. There is a better program.

Baxter said he sincerely hopes a new school is built in Fort Madison, but he said he hopes the bond referendum on April 2 does not pass because there are less expensive ways to get the building built without wasting taxpayer money.

Pen City Current contacted Fort Madison School Board President Dr. Tim Wondra for comment on the letter. Wondra said he saw the letter Monday night, but said the district had no official comment on it.

Baxter said the foundation usually grants funding requests locally for anywhere from $25,000 to $40,000 per year.

The mission statement from the Baxter Foundation reads in part: “Founded in 2010 by Tony and Cindy Baxter, The Baxter Family Foundation was created with the goal of providing financial support to the youth athletic programs for all ages in the local community. The foundation assists local programs in many ways; it contributes monetarily to individual teams to help with costs of entry fees, uniforms, equipment, etc. It also grants funds to use for the creation or permanent betterment of athletic facilities, it can be a source of low/no interest loans for groups looking to raise money, and provide financial support to help further the athletic career of disadvantaged children.”

Baxter said he and his wife created the foundation so that no child in the area would be left out due to the inability to pay.

“You’d see parents every weekend during travel ball seasons talk about how expensive it was and we couldn’t get a lot of youth to play,” he said. “I wanted to help do something.”

He said the foundation created a board, which includes local businessmen / women and school members. When the board was created, applications were taken and funding requests were reviewed and granted.

“I’ve never done this for glory. Never talked to the media about it. Avoided these editorials. But this is a let down. You try to do what you can for the youth of the community and the school does what they do to you.”

He said the letter was to let people know why the funding wasn’t available, because the district was going against its own mission statement.

Baxter also said he’s upset that the district is still touting a $30 million bond without the ballparks included. The ballparks were in the last attempt, which was also $30 million. The difference in this bond is that additional traffic control systems are being included to alleviate past traffic concerns.

“I’m just letting people know why we are not funding it. It’s time to take a stand,” he said.

Baxter said he also would have taken profits his company would gain from being the construction manager on the project and donate it to the Baxter Sports Complex to make those fields compatible with Iowa High School Athletic Association and the Iowa High School Girls Athletic Union specifications for high school play.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS LAST

A beautiful smile helps make a great first impression.

Make sure yours does.

Now accepting new patients.

Call Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis Family Dentistry now to schedule your 6-month checkup or click anywhere on this ad.

Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis

Family Dentistry

www.drmarkkdds.com

Fort Madison Family Dentistry East
319-372-3614

Mediapolis Dental Care
319-394-3255

New London Dental Care
319-367-2311

Burlington Family Dentistry
319-752-7993

Burlington Dental Associates
319-753-2515

Fort Madison Family Dentistry West
319-372-4882

CONNECTION

Dedicated to learning about all dementia types

Held at noon the 4th Tuesday of each month in our private dining room.

Call 319-372-4233 to RSVP or for more information.

Click this ad to visit our website.

2210 Avenue H • Fort Madison • 319.372.2243

Pen City Current

Founded in 2016

P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Member LION Publishers

www.lionpublishers.com
Obituaries/Current-Lee

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.

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.

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 Weisinger at 319-835-5116. Deadline is March 15.

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.

Step into Iowa History
A presentation on prisoner of war camps in Iowa during World War II will be held on Tuesday, March 26, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Fort Madison Public Library. Linda McCann will be presenting.

Senior Community BINGO
Each month on the second Wednesday of the month, The Kensington hosts Senior Community BINGO at 2 p.m. in their dining room at 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. All seniors are welcome and cash prizes are awarded.

Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for $15. Add a photo for $5. Non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of $10 per 25 words and $3 per photo. To place your listing, click here or call Lee at (319)371.4125.

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game Draw Days</th>
<th>Sales CutOff Time</th>
<th>Approx. Drawing Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lucky for Life®</td>
<td>Mun &amp; Thu</td>
<td>8:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mega Millions®</td>
<td>Tues &amp; Fri</td>
<td>8:59 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powerball®</td>
<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
<td>8:59 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lotto America®</td>
<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
<td>8:59 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick 3 - Midday</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick 3 - Evening</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>9:40 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick 4 - Midday</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick 4 - Evening</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>9:40 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

OBITUARIES

KAREN LYNN MCCLELLAND

Karen Lynn McClelland, 64, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 9:05 a.m. on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at Fort Madison Community Hospital. She was born on February 3, 1955 in Chicago, IL to Betty A. Miller. She was a homemaker and a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. She loved to do puzzles, color, do crafts and watch horror movies.

Karen is survived by: 1-daughter: Penny Flores of Fort Madison, IA; 2-sons: Michael (Rosa) McClelland of Schereville, IN & Theodore Marks of Fort Madison, IA & 3-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her mother.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and no services are planned. Online condolences to Karen’s family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report
03/18/19 – 9:15 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 5800 block of Avenue O. 03/18/19 – 11:15 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1800 block of Avenue L. 03/18/19 – 1:05 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 4000 block of Avenue O. 03/18/19 – 3:22 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 900 block of 29th Street. 03/19/19 – 7:52 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a personal injury accident in the 3400 block of Avenue L.

Lee County Sheriff’s report
03/19/19 – 2:00 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Joshua Lee Stark, 34, of Hamilton, III., at the Lee County Jail on a warrant for theft in the 3rd degree. He was held in custody. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report
03/19/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls, and one burn permit. 03/17/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls, one burn complaint, and one small oil spill. 03/15/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls.

BE COLORECTAL CANCER AWARE IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!

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

Colorectal cancer always starts with a small growth polyp, which if found early, can be removed – stopping colorectal cancer before it starts.

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.

Pen City Current - Wednesday, March 20, 2019 - 3
Back taxes paid on battlefield park

He made the motion for the audit, but included language that would allow the city to request audits for any entity receiving city funds. Greenland seconded the motion.

Councilman Bob Morawitz, who's a member of the NLCHS voted against the audit because he wanted other entities like Fort Madison Area Arts Association to be audited as part of the process.

Andrews abstained from the vote. Greenland, Kevin Rink, Mohrfeld, and Mark Lair all voted in favor of having the audit conducted.

Mayor Brad Randolph said the audit could cost the city between four and five thousand dollars.

Andrews said the city should be allowing private organizations to conduct their own business. Randolph said that’s when we get a lot of trucks. But these drivers will go from the fertilizer plant to Mer occupancy of the city and if he had to take blame, Greenland wanted people aware of the good things Andrews does.

He said the money to pay the back taxes came from Federal Emergency Management Agency funds that were in a savings account from the 2008 flood. Andrews said because flood fighting and rebuilding efforts in 2008 were done by volunteers, those hours were able to be counted at a volunteer rate set by the state and reimbursed.

City Councilman Matt Mohrfeld said it’s a good practice for governmental bodies to ask for audits or audited financials from groups that it shares revenues with.

Looking for less volatility in your financial plan?

Go with a safe & secure deposit account.

Secure Certificates of Deposit at Competitive Rates

319-469-3951

Pilot Grove Savings Bank

www.pilotgrovesavingsbank.com

Click this ad for details.

County took cues from IDOT

BRAKES - Continued from Page 1

Azinger said truck drivers in the county may not ever see the signs because they go from the fertilizer plant to other places in the county.

“It hasn’t been terrible yet, but the liquid fertilizer has not started yet. That’s when we get a lot of trucks. But these drivers will go from the fertilizer plant to Mer-

schman’s or Agrineed and won’t ever see the signs,” he said.

Azinger said the current posting locations won’t help solve the problems the Clearview Heights neighborhood is experiencing. Those residents brought the issue to the board last fall.

Hull said it would be the state DOT that would make the determination of putting additional signs up. Hull said the DOT did not indicate they would be willing to put additional signage up.

He said he would request the signage to the state, but he wasn’t sure if they would add signs.

Hull said it was reasonable to note that Fort Madison and Keokuk are entrance points to other states and maybe signage there would help. He said maybe something from the cities on roads where people are leaving their jurisdiction would be a better way to go.

“I would take that route rather than asking for a sign wherever we feel there is a problem,” Hull said.

Azinger said they were looking for two signs.

“One coming off of Hwy. 61 and one coming down Hwy 2. That’s what we’re looking for,” Azinger said.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

WED 20 Mar

Clear

High– 48.2º F | Low – 33.9º F

THU 21 Mar

Mostly Clear

High– 48.6º F | Low – 38.3º F

FRI 22 Mar

Light Rain

High– 44.2º F | Low – 34.1º F

SAT 23 Mar

Light Rain

High– 54.8º F | Low – 42.3º F

SUN 24 Mar

Clear

High– 49.2º F | Low – 35.0º F

OpenWeatherMap

LEARN. GROW. THRIVE.

FREE Pre-School 2019-2020 Enrollment Open

Call or click for details!

220 26th St • Ft. Madison, IA • 319-372-2403

From the Front/Weather

CITY - Continued from Page 1

he said.

At Tuesday’s meeting, Greenland said Andrews is involved in a lot of projects for the betterment of the city and if he had to take blame, Greenland wanted people aware of the good things Andrews does.

He said the money to pay the back taxes came from Federal Emergency Management Agency funds that were in a savings account from the 2008 flood.

Andrews said because flood fighting and rebuilding efforts in 2008 were done by volunteers, those hours were able to be counted at a volunteer rate set by the state and reimbursed.

City Councilman Matt Mohrfeld said it’s a good practice for governmental bodies to ask for audits or audited financials from groups that it shares revenues with.
As we enjoy our time away with family and friends, we thank you for your support and patronage.

Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Sunday, March 24 & Monday, March 25, 2019 so our #PCCFamily can take a small spring break. Breaking news will continue to be published on our website 24/7.

Thank you for reading!
HELP WANTED

**Fuel Dock Attendant**

**Public Works Parks and Marina**

Will provide retail service to customers at the fuel dock and handle the day-to-day dock store responsibilities. Carry out the day-to-day maintenance of the marina facility and grounds using discretion and independent judgment. Provide information and assistance to the boating public as needed.

**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

**Lee County Conservation**

**Part-Time Conservation Aide (Temporary)**

Lee County Conservation Center, Montrose, IA

**Hourly Starting Pay:** $10.00

Visit [www.leecounty.org](http://www.leecounty.org) for a job description and qualifications.

Applications: All applications should be directed to Lee County Conservation, 2652 HWY 61, Montrose, IA 52639. Deadline to apply is 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 29, 2019. Applications are available online at [www.leecounty-ft.org](http://www.leecounty-ft.org).

Lee County is an equal opportunity employer.

**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, harvest food?

We are seeking an individual that can plan, plant, cultivate, harvest and lead other volunteers in our Community Garden (garden is located at 2606 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.

Lee County Conservation

**Part-Time Beach Concessionaire**

Polmiller Park Beach, West Point

**Hourly Starting Pay:** $10.00

Visit [www.leecounty.org](http://www.leecounty.org) for a job description and qualifications.

All applications should be directed to Lee County Conservation, 2652 HWY 61, Montrose, IA 52639. Deadline to apply is 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 29, 2019. Applications are available online at [www.leecounty.org](http://www.leecounty.org).

Lee County is an equal opportunity employer.

**United Way of the Great River Region**

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

**Extra Clean & Quiet Apartments**

Chateau Apartments

Extra Clean & Quiet Apartments for Rent

Click here to place your ad online 24/7

**Follow Us @pencitycurrent**

---

**Do you have time - to help stop crime?**

Visit any of these Facebook pages to learn more about what the Neighborhood Watch Program is & how to start your own group or join an existing group!

Join us today to help keep our communities safer!
Additionally, there is a charge for the Simple7 Income Rider once it is activated.

Reach your customers wherever they are with digital ads.

Call Lee today! (319)371.4125
Education Association gets behind school bond referendum

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Fort Madison Education Association, I would like to encourage you to vote YES for a unified elementary school. There are many factors to take into consideration when voting. I would like to encourage you to educate yourself on the facts surrounding this issue. You can find updated, factual information on the FMCSD website (fmcsd.org).

Education is the most important gift that you can give to your child as it can help in developing character and enhance his or her academic abilities. By having the right kind of education, a child of today can achieve great mastery over a variety of areas in life that in turn can work towards personal and career success in the years to come. Quality education can impact the way your child works on his or her personal development while at the same time enhance his or her academic abilities.

Student success is at the forefront of who our organization is and what our organization does. Obtaining a unified elementary will help meet the diverse needs of all of our learners. Students will gain instruction to help ensure success in the 21st century and help make the goals of college and career readiness a reality through their public education.

The Fort Madison Education Association – FMEA works to ensure our schools provide students with ample opportunities to succeed. Gaining a unified elementary school will ensure that the conditions in which students are learning is positive and leads to successes beyond the classroom. The learning environment would be designed to build opportunities for cooperative learning, group learning, and better meet the needs of every learner. Please watch a short video that highlights the direction of how learning will take place, and/or request an absentee ballot form when you go. Request an absentee ballot form and mail it to the Auditor's office. It must be postmarked by March 22nd.

March 22nd you may vote at the Fort Madison High School Media Center from 12:30 PM - 6:30 PM. You must request an absentee ballot form when you go.

March 29th you may vote at the Fort Madison Community Hospital Foggy Room from 7:00 AM - 2:30 PM. You must request an absentee ballot form when you go.

April 2nd – go to your voting site: Grace Bible Church in Wever, West Point Public Library or Fort Madison Public Library.

Sincerely,

Dawn Johnson,
FMEA President