Bill would apply soft cap to property tax

Legislation also puts retirement funds with general funds

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A bill that is currently in front of the Iowa House of Representatives is proposing to limit the amount governmental agencies can bump property taxes annually.

The bill, House File 773, imposes city and county property tax and fund balance limitations beginning in fiscal year 2021, which is July 1, 2020.

The bill would remove current property tax levy rate limits for general funds and county general and rural funds and replace it with a potential 2% annual cap. Cities and counties would be able to increase that rate under certain circumstances, but only by passing a resolution.

Then taxpayers could gather signatures to force a vote on the increase.

The move also would limit city’s general fund ending balances to 25% the funds budgeted expenditures.

According to the state’s Legislative Services Agency, the bill would directly impact county and city budgets and not indirectly impact any other local level of government including schools and townships.

Lee County Supervisor Rick Larkin said the new structure could have a serious impact on county revenues and services.

Lee County Budget Director Cindy Renstrom put together an estimate of the financial impact over the four fiscal years from 2021-24.

Renstrom’s figures indicate the county will lose $400,203 over four years in its General Basic Fund and an additional

County delays action on Argyle shed

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE – County officials have delayed the sale of county shed and a parcel of land in Argyle while county officials compile more information on the property.

At Tuesday’s Lee County Board of Supervisor’s meeting, a move to set a public hearing to sell the shed owned by the county, and a parcel of land that is actually owned by the Argyle Sanitary District.

The board of supervisors serves as trustees of the sanitary district.

Ron Burchett, a resident of Argyle has been pushing the county to sell the property to him. Burchett contends he has been mowing and keeping up the property for the past 12 years, allegedly without the knowledge or authorization of the county.

Burchett said the county has been moving forward as selling the property as one bid, and now they want two sealed bids.

“I don’t know….who’s responsible here if I have a heart attack. I’m serious, I mean, I know it’s all politics, but…” Burchett said.

“The thing of it is, I’m not getting paid to come up with these questions. I’m just trying to, let’s just say again, beautify America a little bit and help me out, and trying to get the horse out of your pen. And again, I don’t know if you knew it even existed.”

Supervisor Rich Harlow told Burchett to hang in there because county government moves slowly.

“Hang in there just a little bit longer, better days are coming,” Harlow said.

Board chair Gary Folluo said it was important that the county do things correctly.

“After further investigation, as I stated, the county attorney was still working on it and it has to be sold separately,” he said.

“We’re administrators for the water district, the water district owns the property and the county owns the shed, so it has to be disposed of by both entities.”

The property will be sold by sealed bid at a future meeting. Folluo said they were waiting on additional information from the county assessor’s office on what the property is worth, and he preferred to have that in hand before setting a date for the hearing.

Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise provided an assessment figure on Wednesday: “The amount governmental agencies can bump property taxes annually.

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See SALE, page 2
IVA S. McCARL-GEMMING

Iva S. McCarl-Gemming, 66, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 3:20 a.m. on Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at the Great River Hospice House in West Burlington, IA. She was born on February 16, 1953 in Fort Madison, IA to Marvin A. & Genevieve R. Tory McCarl. She did sewing and also worked at different factories over the years. She enjoyed sewing, spending time with her dog, Snickers & was very dedicated to her friends.

Iva is survived by: 3-children: Suzanne, Michael & Nicholas; 6-grandchildren; 1-great granddaughter & 1-sister: Nina Klesner. She was preceded in death by her parents & 1-son: Robert.

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

Charles S. Abell III of Keokuk, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Friday, April 12, 2019 in Birmingham, AL. Born in Keokuk on January 25, 1935, the son of Charles S. Abell and Helen Cameron Abell, Chuck attended Keokuk Schools, Marimond Military Academy and the University of Iowa. He was the descendant of families who came to Keokuk the latter half of the 19th Century. Chuck served in the U.S. Military from 1956 – 1959.

Survivors include his wife of fifty-eight years, Jane Foggy Abell, and three children, Charles S. Abell IV (Terri) of Keokuk, Michael Cameron Abell (Beverly) of Birmingham, AL and Heather Gorham (Doug) of Keokuk. Grandchildren are Lindsay Abell (fiance, Charley Young) of Quincy, IL, Nicole Miller (Dr. Dalton Miller) of Iowa Falls, Taylor Jobe, Makayla Stair, Teddy Gorham, and Katie Gorham all of Keokuk and Brent, Brock, Bret, and Morgan Brashear of Birmingham.

He was preceded in death by his parents and son, John Cooper Abell.

Chuck was very active in civic affairs. He served on the Keokuk City Council for fourteen years in the capacity of Councilmen-at-Large, Finance Chairman and Mayor-pro-temp. In the 1960’s he was co-chair of a successful effort to change the form of government in Keokuk from the Commission Form to the Mayor Council Form. He also served on the first Southeast Iowa Regional Riverboat Commission, the State Central Bank Board of Directors, the Grand Theater Commission, the Grand Theater Foundation Board, Keokuk Area Hospital Board of Directors and the Eighth Judicial District Department of Correctional Services for Community Accountability.

Chuck was the plant manager for the Keokuk Griffin Wheel Plant and retired in 2000. Prior to the Griffin Wheel Company, he worked for C.S. Abell and Son Electrical Contractors, Cameron Joyce Construction Company, Army Engr. Corp and the Keokuk Steel Casting Company.

In retirement, Chuck enjoyed getting away in the winter months and spent many happy weeks on St. George Island, FL. He and his wife, Jane, also traveled extensively in the United States, Europe, the Middle East, Australia and New Zealand. He enjoyed hunting, bicycling, golf and hiking. Chuck particularly enjoyed his weekly golf outings with “the Geezers”, Nick Daskalos, Bob Kemp and Mike Kearns. They never kept score and always stopped at 11:30 for lunch. In his early years, Chuck showed American Saddlebred Horses competing in equestrian, three gaite and five gaite classes.

Those who knew Chuck Abell recognized he was a selfless man who dearly loved his family, friends and Keokuk. The essence of Chuck was not to think of yourself first, but to think of others.

A visitation will be held at Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk on Saturday April 27 from 1 – 3 p.m. A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, April 28th from 4 – 7 p.m. at the Smokin’ Gun Hunting Lodge and Event Center in Hamilton, IL.

In lieu of flowers memorial gifts may be directed to the Grand Theater or the John Abell Wrestling Camp Award at Keokuk Senior High School.

On-line condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.
United Way’s RSVP looking for volunteer gardeners

Submitted article

FORT MADISON – RSVP/United Way of the Great River Region is seeking Community Garden Volunteers.

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

We are seeking volunteers who will plant, cultivate, and harvest our Community Garden (garden is located at 2606 Avenue L, Fort Madison, Iowa behind Hy-Vee).

Must enjoy working outside, gardening and harvesting. 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 to residents in Clark, Hancock, and Lee Counties.

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

Bill changes where local IPERS funds are budgeted

$73,609 in it’s Rural Basic fund.

“These are the figures of how it will effect Lee County starting 2021. You can see the decrease in revenue that this legislation will demand if it passes,” Folluo said. Folluo said all employees and county officials and residents should be contacting their legislators and let them know how you feel about the bill.

“It’s a party thing right now and the majority party brought it out and I don’t know if their intent is to pass it or not. But they can make changes to it all through the session,” Larkin said.

The bill would also combine public employee pensions with the general fund, a move IPERS supporters says is a backdoor attempt at tinkering with Iowa Public Employees Retirement System.

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Pick 3 - Evening Daily 9:40 pm 10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday Daily Noon 12:00 pm
Pick 4 - Evening Daily 9:40 pm 10:00 pm

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Lampe wins 100 hurdles, Schneider takes two events

BY ETHAN LILLARD
PCC SPORTS

KEOKUK – Fort Madison’s boys track and field team placed second out of the seven boys’ teams that competed at the Keesippi Relays Tuesday at Keokuk High School, finishing with 94.33 team points. Mount Pleasant took first as a team on the men’s side with a total of 180 team points.

Fort Madison’s girls tied for ninth out of ten teams on the girls’ side with 74 total team points. Mount Pleasant’s girls also took first with 200 total team points.

Schneider, Hellige lead boys

Fort Madison’s Quentin Schneider was the lone Hound to find himself atop the leaderboards in his respective events. Schneider started his day by taking sixth in the 100-meter dash for a single team point. He followed up with two first-place performances. Schneider’s first gold of the day came in the 400-meter run, finishing with a time of 53.52 for 10 points. Garrett Hannum took fourth in the same event for four more points. Schneider then took first in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 58.42 for ten more points, adding 21 total points to the team score by himself.

“Quin ran pretty good,” Fort Madison Co-Head Coach Mike Schneider said. “He also PRd in the 100 with an 11.7 good for 6th.

“Quin is a really good runner and was going to be the person to beat tonight.”

The only other event that saw the Hounds crack the top two was the shuttle hurdle. Fort Madison placed second out of the two teams competing in the event with a time of 1:11.99 for eight points.

The Hounds medley and relay events added on 24 more total points to the team score before it was all said and done. Fort Madison placed one behind in fifth and added on six team points, bringing the Hounds to collect a first-place finish, adding on six more points, while the 4×200 team placed fourth with a time of 1:37.00 for four points.

The Bloodhounds top thrower in Ethan Deacon chipped in five more points. Deacon placed sixth in the shot put for a single point, but was able to put four more on the board in the discus with a final throw of 115-00.

Isiah Miller placed fourth for the Hounds in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 18.40, while Gage Fullenkamp placed one behind in fifth and added two more team points. Andrew Schaef fer placed third in the 200-meter dash for Fort Madison with a time of 24.06, adding on six team points, bringing the Hounds a second-place team finish.

The boys next meet is this Thursday at Waco High School.

Lampe captures first in 100-hurdles for girls

It was very close, but Fort Madison’s Reyna Lampe walked away with the gold in the 100-meter hurdles Tuesday, besting Mount Pleasant’s Karsyn Lamm by .02 seconds with a 16.96 time.

“Reyna’s win was good for her confidence,” Fort Madison girls Head Coach Brian Mendez said. “It’s important that her fastest races are in the SEC championships and the state qualifying meets (District meet ). Running her fastest time of the season thus far, coupled with the win at Keokuk is a positive move in the right direction for Reyna.”

Raquel Schneider also took top honors, taking first in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 1:14.65 for 10 more points. Katie Dennis was the last of the Hounds to collect a first-place finish, taking first in the 1500-meter run with a time of 5:37.14.

Claire Hellman picked up the next best finish for Fort Madison Tuesday, placing third in the 3000-meter run with a time of 13:16.30 for six points, while Lauren King finished right behind in fourth with a time of 13:23.96 for four more points. Hellman also took fifth in the 1500 for two points, while King took sixth in the 800-meter run for one point.

The girls 4×100-meter relay team also collected a bronze medal, finishing the race with a time of 1:16.93. Fort Madison’s distance medley team also took third with a time of 4:55.53 for six more points.

Three more fourth-place finishes helped to bolster the Hounds’ overall team score on the day.

Aleaya Kleiner placed fourth in the 400-meter dash with a time of 1:11.49 for four points. Fort Madison’s 800 sprint medley placed fourth with a
Holy Trinity boys overcome physical Columbus squad

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

WEST POINT – It took an extra hour to get started, but the Holy Trinity Catholic boys’ soccer team was rating to go in a 2-0 shutout of Columbus Tuesday night at South Park.

In a physical game from the outset, the Crusaders took advantage of some serious midfield ball skills from freshman Mitchell Pothitakis and senior Audrae Vincent, to offset play from the bigger Wildcats.

Vincent would get the scoring started at the 21-minute mark of the first half when he boot a grounder off a penalty kick after he was tripped up charging the net. Vincent slid the ball left and low past a diving Columbus’ Bryan Miranda to put HTC up 1-0.

Senior Audrae White puts on a move at midfield in the Crusaders 2-0 win over Columbus Tuesday night. HTC is now 6-4 on the season and travels to Highland on Thursday night.

Vincent was in one-vehicle rollover on Chalk Ridge Road just hours before the start of the game and it was uncertain if he would play. He sustained minor cuts, but no serious injuries in the incident.

Senior Blake Crabtree was busy all night preserving the shutout. Columbus had three shots on goal in first 10 minutes of the game, but deflected them all. Senior Adam Rauenbuehler kept pressure on the offense end. Rauenbuehler, who took nine shots on the net is one of the toughest team around, and tonight, Senior Ryder Brune had two shots, junior Jason Rees, Pothitakis and Vincent all had one shot each. The Crusaders take their 6-4 mark on the road Thursday to Highland.

No. 1 Charoenkul, Lady Trojans down Fort Madison

FAIRFIELD – The last time Fort Madison’s girls tennis team faced Fairfield, the Bloodhounds were swept on their home court 9-0. Tuesday the Hounds took to the road to face Fairfield on their home court.

The results were much better for Fort Madison this time around, with the Bloodhounds No. 3 – No. 5 five players all collecting singles wins in the Lady Trojans 6-3 win.

At No. 3, Zoe Ramatowski defeated Nellie Higdon 9-7. At No. 4 Kirklyn Nafziger came away with an 8-2 victory over Abby Schafer. The last girl to pick up a win for Fort Madison was Lily Cadwallader at No. 5, defeating Tess Paton to the tune of 8-4.

Again facing two of the better players in the state, La-nie Kunz came up short against Anatta Charoenkul in an 8-1 loss, while Fairfieled’s Tana Gaskel swept Larissa Ferrill 8-0. Alyse Schmidt put up a fight at No. 6, but dropped her match to Destiny Gridley 8-4.

Fort Madison wasn’t able to collect any more wins in doubles action, as the combo of Gaskell and Higdon took the 8-0 win against the duo of Ferrill and Kunz. Charoenkul and Schafer ousted Ramatowski and Nafziger 8-1. Cadwallader and Schmidt put up a good fight against Fairfield’s Paton and Gridley forcing a tiebreaker, but Paton and Gridley gritted through the extra court time, coming away with the 7-2 tiebreaker victory.

“We are moving the right direction as a team,” Fort Madison Head Coach Jeremy Swink said. “Again, Fair-field is one of the toughest team around, and tonight we gave them a good battle. I believe it was their closest match all season.

“We still have some things we need to work on, most importantly being our offense. We need to seek out more opportunities to be aggressive and charge the net. Too many times we are stuck in our defensive mindset and let our opponents beat us to the punch. That, on top of a few strategies tweaks, and we will be in good shape.”
For the Record

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fort Madison Police Report</td>
<td>04/22/19</td>
<td>6:06 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2500 block of Crescent Lane. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.</td>
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<tr>
<td>– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2500 block of Avenue L, on a warrant for failure to appear out of Des Moines County. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.</td>
<td>04/22/19</td>
<td>4:04 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2500 block of Hwy. 61.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lee County Sheriff’s Report</td>
<td>04/22/19</td>
<td>1:38 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Fort Madison Police arrested Daymoe Daymeon, 18, of Fort Madison at the police department on two warrants for violation of probation. He was taken and held at the Lee County Jail.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>– Fort Madison Police arrested Joshua Paul Vantiger, 35, of Pontoon-su, Ill., in the 2400 block of Avenue O, on a warrant for five medical calls, one false alarm, one burn complaint, one medical, one false alarm.</td>
<td>04/21/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>– Fort Madison Police responded to one false alarm.</td>
<td>04/22/19</td>
<td>2:51 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Fort Madison Police arrested Renee Alice Kimbrough, 52, of Fort Madison in the 4100 block of Avenue O, in Fort Madison, on a charges of interference with official acts and public intoxication. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Fort Madison Police arrested Austin Van Alstine, 17, of Fort Madison, on a warrant for failure to maintain control and he suffered a minor cut to his hand.</td>
<td>04/24/19</td>
<td>4:03 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 300 block of Avenue N.</td>
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<tr>
<td>– Fort Madison Police arrested perspective Daymoe Daymoe Daymoe</td>
<td>04/23/19</td>
<td>1:38 p.m.</td>
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For the Record/Sports

Wade shoots 84 at Osky

OSKALOOSA – Out of the 15 teams that competed at the Oskaaloosa Invitational Tuesday, Fort Madison finished 12th with a combined team score of 362. Nevada won the meet with a team score of 296.

Will Simpson of Pella was the top medalist, finishing his 18-hole round with a 72.

Senior Tommy Wade was just four strokes off from finishing inside the top 20 at the meet, carding an 84 for the Hounds’ best round on the day. Wade shot a 46 on the front nine and improved to a 38 on the back.

Junior Blake Algrim didn’t finish far behind Wade, carding an 88. Algrim shot one stroke better than Wade on the front nine, carding a 45 before finishing with a 43 on the back nine.

Tyler Wade had the third best score for Fort Madison Tuesday, finishing his day with a 92. Logan Rashid was fourth best with a 98, while Brandon Keester shot a 104 and Max Slater shot a 108.

PRs continue to fall for Hound runners

TRACK - Continued from Page 1

time of 2:08.01 for four team points as well, and the 4x400-meter relay team placed fourth with a time of 5:01.52 for six points.

The Bloodhounds picked up four more points thanks to a sixth-place finish in the discus by Dalyn Wondra and a fifth-place finish in the 4x100.

“Every time we pull up to a meet we focus on running best race to date,” Mendez said. “We were fortunate to have two strong wins along with PRs with Reyna and Raquel in Keokuk, but all of our kids have been working hard these past few meets to chip away at their race times. We’ve been pleased.”

Complete results from the Relays can be found at this link. https://www.pencitycurrent.com/keosippi-results-and-scores/

The girls next meet is this Thursday at Waco High School.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 25 Apr

Moderate Rain
High– 66.5º F | Low – 50.0º F

FRI 26 Apr

Clear
High– 60.8º F | Low – 49.8º F

SAT 27 Apr

Moderate Rain
High– 59.5º F | Low – 38.8º F

SUN 28 Apr

Light Rain
High– 54.4º F | Low – 49.4º F

MON 29 Apr

Heavy Intensity Rain
High– 52.4º F | Low – 50.6º F

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PRs continue to fall for Hound runners

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

04/22/19 – 6:06 p.m.

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– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 100 block of Crescent Lane.

– Fort Madison Police arrested perspective Daymoe Daymoe Daymoe
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Sports

Pothitakis gets 3rd hat trick

BY CHUCK VAN DENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WEST POINT – Claire Pothitakis scored another hat trick, her third of the season, and Sam Pothitakis threw a shut out in the net as Holy Trinity moved to 6-1 on the year with a 4-0 win over Columbus in a late night affair at South Park Tuesday night.

The game was played in a rare switch putting the girls under the lights as the boys took the pitch first, starting an hour late after a referee failed to show up for the meet and a replacement had to be located.

The Lady Crusaders started knocking on the door early and often with Pothitakis and Nicole Pothitakis launching a couple shots early on that were deflected by Columbus’ keeper.

But at the 26:16 mark of the first half, Claire Pothitakis, who’s third in goals in the state in Class 1A and fifth overall with 14, pushed a shot in from the center left so I sent it in and it just faded left and slipped into the net high right above the keeper.

Pothitakis said that was an “ooops” goal.

“I was looking for Taylor (Boeding) coming in from the other side. I’m naturally right-footed, but I can kick with the left so I sent it in and it just faded left and went in the net;” she said.

Head Coach Michael Sheerin said Pothitakis is a giving player and wants the whole team involved.

“Seriously, she could score six goals a game, but it’s important to her for the whole team to succeed and she shares the ball very well,” he said.

At 18:56, Pothitakis would get her second goal of the night from the right side at the north end of the field, and neither team would be able to find the net the rest of the half.

Senior Taylor Boeding about got in the scoring with 10:43 left in the half, when Pothitakis slid a pass on the ground from the left side into the box about five feet center in front of the goalie, but Boeding got under the ball and popped it straight up over the goal.

Opening the second half with the ball in south part of the field Pothitakis set up about 20 feet off the end line and launched a left-footed crossing pass to the center of the box, that failed to the left and slipped into the net high right above the keeper.

Holy Trinity would score their final goal when junior Ashlynn Haas had a free kick from about 22 feet left of center.

Columbus set up a wall and Haas drilled it off the shoulder of one of the Wildcats, causing the ball to pop up and sail over the head and right of the keeper for a 4-0 lead.

The Crusaders had 14 shots on goal, including two each from Nicole Pothitakis and Lulu Zhang. Boeding, Elle Rashid, Elyse Pothitakis, Haas, Mya Lawlor, Eryn Anderson, and Taylor Crabtree all had shots on goal.

Holy Trinity travels to the Burlington this weekend for the coveted, and loaded, Adidas Tournament of Champions, where 500 soccer players from five states throughout the Midwest will descend on the Rec Plex Friday and Saturday.

The Crusaders start with Pekin, Illinois on Friday at 1:30 p.m. on Field 5. Also in the bracket is Burlington Notre Dame, Lockport High of Lockport, Ill.; Olathe North, of Olathe, Kan.; Richwoods High, of Peoria, Ill.; Homewood-Flossmoor, of Flossmoor, Ill.; and Pewaukee High of Pewaukee, Wis.