City to rebid Hwy. 61 reconstruction

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A $3.3 million resurfacing of old Hwy. 61 through Fort Madison took another step back on Tuesday.

With a 3-2 vote at Tuesday’s regular Fort Madison City Council meeting, the council defeated a measure that would have approved the project at a cost of $3.326 million.

Despite the majority of the councilman present voting in favor of moving forward with the project, a resolution requires a majority vote of the entire council. With councilman Matt Mohrfield and Rusty Andrews absent, the three votes in favor of moving forward with the project wasn’t enough to pass it.

So with the issue not passing, the city now finds itself in a position to rebid the project.

But Andrew Marsh, vice president of HR Green, the firm contracted by the city to design and implement the project, said rebidding could possibly result in a more competitive bid for the city. He said summer bidding is typically a bad time because most firms are full into their work for the year, and squeezing in a project of that nature typically results in increased costs.

He said the biggest feedback he’s received from Pat Jones, of Jones Contracting, who was the lone bidder on the project, was that there were a lot of liquidated damages built into the contract, because the work could be pushed passed contracted deadlines due to

Sheaffer group plans museum grand re-opening

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The newly formed Board of Directors of the Sheaffer Pen Museum are happy to announce the re-opening of its exhibits in the original location at 627 Avenue G.

The museum closed last year due to concerns about the uncertain fate of the company archives which had been on loan from A.T. Cross, the owner of Sheaffer. The vast collection consists of a century’s worth of information, history and products produced by the company which was founded in Fort Madison by a local jeweler, Walter A. Sheaffer in 1913.

“We were thrilled that the Cross company agreed to donate virtually all of the company archives to the museum, allowing us to keep this part of Fort Madison’s rich history in our town indefinitely. Once it was determined that the collection would stay put, we were able to secure funding through grants and other financial pledges, making the re-opening possible,” said Tim Gobble, Executive Director, Fort Madison Partners and newly elected Sheaffer Pen Museum Board President.

SPORTS:
Lady Hounds go 2-4 at weekend tournament.

See PROJECT, page 8

EMPTY NEST

BY Curt Swarm

FINCHES, A GATOR, AND BIRTHDAY CAKE

The finches flew before us, hundreds of them, doing their “wave” flight pattern, their gold and black colors flashing, like fireflies in the day, leading us along their primrose path to glory. We had never seen so many gold finches (Iowa’s State Bird). It had to be the habitat: tree lined river on one side of the road, fields of hay, pasture, and row crops on the other—everything the finches need—food, water and shelter in the peaceful river valley.

It was Ginnie’s birthday—she’s 68. We loaded her Ga- tor (I gave it to her for a wedding present—ha, ha) onto the trailer, and towed it from Mt. Pleasant to Farmington in Van Buren County. From there we parked on the Des Moines River Road (Eagle Drive) for a scenic ride from Farmington, to Bonaparte, to Bentonport and back.

I parked on the side of the road and unloaded the Gator. A man pulled up beside us in his car and asked if we were broke down. We told him no, that we were just out for a drive in Ginnie’s Gator. He advised us that we should probably not leave the truck and trailer on the side of the road, and told us we could park on his prop- erty. That was right nice of him. People are so friendly in Van Buren County.

I even let Ginnie drive, after all, it is her Gator. We had a little lunch with us and stopped at a hilltop ceme-
Fort Madison Police Report
08/30/19 – 6:58 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2500 block of Avenue D. Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run at the intersection of 32nd Street and Avenue K. Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a theft in the 1200 block of Avenue L. Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 700 block of Avenue G. Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2300 block of Avenue H. Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 700 block of 7th Street. Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a theft in the 1500 block of Avenue H. On a warrant for contempt of court. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. Lee County Sheriff’s Report
08/29/19 – 8:35 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Megan Leigh French, 20, of Burlington, at the intersection of 17th Street and Avenue L. Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Stephanie Rae Marshall, 31, of Burlington, at the sheriff’s office on a warrant for contempt of court. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Adam James Huss, 30, of Fort Madison, in the 6000 block of Rev Court in Fort Madison on a charge of trespassing. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released and after paying a fine. 08/30/19 – 11:37 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Megen Leigh French, 20, of Burlington, at Wever Junction on a warrant for contempt of court. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on her own recognizance. 09/01/19 – 4:34 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Justin Robert Bowden, at the intersection of Hwy. 61 and Hwy 218, on a charge of being a fugitive from justice and possession of a controlled substance. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 09/02/19 – 8:51 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Ryan Matthew Banes, 19, of Keokuk, at the intersection of North 17th Street and High Street in Keokuk, on a warrant for domestic assault with bodily injury. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report
08/30/19 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to four medical calls. 08/31/19 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls. 09/01/19 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to six medical calls and a garage fire. 09/02/19 -Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls.

For the Record

Plans underway to freshen up exhibits, videos, and website

MUSEUM - Continued from Page 1

“Shortly thereafter, a group of volunteers went to working developing ideas to organize the opening, which is happening now,” Gobble added. A Grand Re-opening event is planned in conjunction with Fort Madison’s popular Rodero Weekend at 9:00 AM Friday, September 6.

Plans are underway for both new and refreshed exhibits, as well as never before seen video footage from the company archives. A digital communications and social media strategy will be launched in the coming weeks to create awareness about the museum’s re-opening and the history of the pen industry contained within it.

The museum’s regular hours are 10:00 – 2:00 Monday, Wednesday and Friday or by appointment for larger groups.

Anyone interested in volunteering to support this important community effort is encouraged to contact the museum at (319) 372-1674 or sheafferpenmuseum@gmail.com or via the website, sheafferpenmuseum.org. Former Sheaffer employees that have a working knowledge of the pens themselves, or how they were produced, are highly encouraged to reach out.

For the Record/Weather

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

WED 04 Sep
Partly Cloudy
High: 70.8º F | Low: 56.6º F

THU 05 Sep
Clear Skies
High: 76.8º F | Low: 66.5º F

FRI 06 Sep
Few Clouds
High: 81.1º F | Low: 59º F

SAT 07 Sep
Light Rain
High: 76.5º F | Low: 63.8º F

SUN 08 Sep
Clear Skies
High: 61.1º F | Low: 57.6º F

OpenWeatherMap

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Founded in 2016

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2019 Miss Iowa Rodeo Rachael Ostrem, of Radcliffe, Iowa, gives a helping hand to Callie Sage, after Sage was dropped off a lamb in the Mutton Bustin’ contest Monday afternoon at the C.E. “Eddie” Richards Arena on the Tri-State Rodeo grounds.

Below, Maddox Chapman holds on tight as his mutton changes direction in front of the rodeo clowns.

Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Lil’ Spurs Rodeo/Lottery Numbers

9/2 6 7 22 25 46
Lucky Ball: 14

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

<table>
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<th>Game Draw Days</th>
<th>Sales Cutoff Time</th>
<th>Approx. Drawing Time</th>
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<td>9:36 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mega Millions® Tues &amp; Fri</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pick 4 - Evening Daily</td>
<td>9:40 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
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</tbody>
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Iowa Lottery encourages you to play responsibly.
Kim Sawyer, 60, of Kahoka died, Friday, August 30, 2019 at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, MO.

He was born November 26, 1958 in Keokuk, the son of Gerald E. and Judith Ann Roller Sawyer. Kim graduated from Clark County R-1 High School with the Class of 1976. He graduated from the Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa, IA.

He had been employed as the Computer IT Tech at Illinois State University in Bloomington, IL until his retirement.

He enjoyed listening to classic rock music, watching movies and riding motorcycles. He was an avid hot wheels collector and has been collecting hot wheels all his life. He always had the list with him on a hunt for more.

Kim was a wonderful son, uncle and cousin and loved spending time with his family.

He is survived by his parents, Gerald and Judy Sawyer of Kahoka, four legged companion, Comet, his nephew, Dylan Mikel Wright of Peoria, his niece, Jade Ann Wright of Kahoka, aunts and uncles, Virginia Johnson, Darleen Mohr, Lanora Davis, Betty Sawyer, Timothy and Gerry Roller, Thomas and Sally Roller, Nancy and Jack Edlen, Gloria and Larry Kiger, Jacqulyn Boatman, Kelly and Darrell Varnold, Tina Roller and numerous cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Noble and Vivian Roller and Stella and Leslie Sawyer, sister, Kari Wright, cousins, Joe Kephart, Shawn Wright and Barbara "Bobbi" Edlen Blackburn, aunts and uncles, David and Jackie Kephart, Tony Roller, Susan and Keith Redding, Glenn Mohr, Jim Boatman, Richard Roller, Ken- neth Roller, Rex and JoAnn Roller, Dean Sawyer, Bobby Sawyer and Delbert Weller, Judy Sawyer Monich, Deloris Shannon and Vera and John McGirr.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, September 6 at the Bible Baptist Church in Kahoka with Pastor Glen Yoder and Pastor Tim Roller officiating. Burial will be in the Kahoka Cemetery.

Visitation will be held 1 – 2 PM Friday at the church with the family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to the Clark County Health Dept. in Kahoka.

On-line condolences may be made to the family at www.vironmemorialhome.com.
Outdoor splendor turned to indoor fellowship

Lee County Attorney’s Office has an immediate opening for a part-time collections clerk position (20 hours per week). The position’s successful applicant is preferred (but not required) to have the following:

1. Completion of some college level administrative support courses or any equivalent combination of training and experience.
2. Knowledge of legal terminology, legal format, and legal forms.
3. Knowledge of modern office practices, procedures, and equipment.
5. Knowledge of Iowa Courts Online.
6. Knowledge of Iowa Department of Transportation transportation transcripts.
7. Ability to prepare accurate and timely documents, correspondence, and reports.
8. Ability to learn and/or operate the county Attorney’s Office computer programs.
9. Ability to understand and follow written and oral instructions.
10. Ability to use Microsoft Outlook, Word, and Excel.
11. Ability to work in a fast-paced environment.
12. Ability to multi-task.
13. Ability to communicate with others using tact and diplomacy.
14. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with supervisors, attorneys, co-workers, and the public, as well as law enforcement personnel, Clerk of Court, Treasurer, and Iowa Department of Transportation.
15. Ability to maintain a large filing system of current and closed files.

The starting wage is $14.96 per hour. The deadline for submitting a resume is September 6, at 4:30 p.m. Please send resume to Ross Braden, Lee County Attorney at P. O. 824, Keokuk, IA 52632 or e-mail to rbraden@leecounty.org.

For more information, visit www.pencitycurrent.com.
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City hopes to save by rebidding project

Project - Continued from Page 1

several factors including the state historical society observing the work due to the location of the road, and weather.

Liquidated damages are potential costs to the contractor as a penalty for going past the contracted deadlines.

“There are quite a bit of liquidated damages here and there’s a potential savings of about $100,000 if we rebid at a more favorable time,” Marsh said.

He also pointed to about five other potential savings that could have been worked out had the contract been approved. Those included railroad flagging that needs to be done due to the proximity of the rail lines south of the work; a $75,000 Welcome sign that could be scaled back; construction fending along the corridor at about $30,000; decorative lighting; and changing from sodding to seeding for grass replacement.

Marsh said those savings could total about $230,000 which would bring the project to about $3.1 million.

City Councilman Chris Greenwald asked City Public Works Director Larry Driscoll if asphalt could be substituted at this point in the process to cut savings. Driscoll said there was probably a 0% chance the project would be supported by the state at this point changing to asphalt. Driscoll also said Jones, who's done many projects for the city, "always beats asphalt" on his price for concrete.

Jones, who was at the meeting, said he was willing to negotiate with the city, but reminded the council that the last engineer to present at a council meeting, Tim Cutsforth, said the project estimate from HR Green was probably 10% low considering the time that has passed since the project was originally designed. The original bid was $2.76 million to reconstruction the stretch of the highway from 2nd to 6th Street.

But Jones said he couldn't tell the city what would happen if the project was to be rebid.

City Councilman Bob Morawitz said he was voting in favor of moving forward with the project, because there was no guarantee rebidding would result in lower costs. Councilman Mark Lair also voted in favor of the measure.

"City residents are ready to get that project done, they're tired of waiting on it," he said.

In an unrelated issue, the council voted to begin efforts to acquire property currently owned by the county where the former and dilapidated Town and Country Mobile Home Park is located on 15th Street.

The city has requested a tax abatement on the property and any dwellings on it from the county, and then intends to sell the property to Michael Mohrfeld, owner of Mohrfeld Electric, for $1. Mohrfeld will then pull all the old trailers off the lot, restore the property and plans to use it for storage of Mohrfeld equipment. Mohrfeld has estimated the cost of that clean up to be between $40,000 and $50,000.

The Lee County Supervisors approved the tax abatements on the property at its meeting Tuesday morning.

In other action, the council:
• approved 5-0 the 2018-19 fiscal year Street Finance Report.
• approved 5-0, a $14,700 bid to replace the roof on the Street Department building in the 2200 block of Avenue M.

Fort Madison girls get two wins at Bondurant tourney

Lady Hounds start conference action Tuesday at Fairfield

BY PCC STAFF

BONDURANT — The Fort Madison Lady Hounds dropped three games in pool play and were sent to the consolation bracket where they rebounded to take two of three to end the day.

"It was a good tournament for our players to see the level of competition around the state," head coach Kent Bailey said. "We found we can compete and have to work to finish to the end. We had positive contributions from each player and will continue to grow."

In morning pool play, the Bloodhounds lost to Woodward Granger 14-21, 18-21; North Polk 17-21, 21-18, 14-16 and then to host Bondurant-Farrar 21-19, 16-21, 12-15.

In consolation play, Fort Madison fell to Des Moines Roosevelt 8-21, 16-21 before winning their final two matches over Boone 14-21, 21-9, 15-11 and then Burlington Notre Dame 21-18, 21-18.

Senior Jillian Wiseman led the Lady Hounds at the net going 67-76 attacking with 34 kills and seven blocks. Reyna Lampe and Kailyn Guzman were also active at the net, with Lampe going 35-38 attacking with 50 in attacks with 13 kills. Guzman was a bit more efficient with 26-38 hitting and 13 kills. Lampe was also 35-38 serving with six aces.

Junior Lauren Bailey led all FM girls in assists with 56. She was also 36-39 serving with five aces and pulled out 30 digs in the six games. Senior Gracie Pumpelly was 36-43 serving with six aces on the day.

Fort Madison is now 2-4 on the year and travels to 13th-ranked Fairfield tonight in a freshman/junior varsity/varsity matchup starting at 5:45 p.m.