Central Lee voters pass $12.9M bond

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DONELLSON – Central Lee voters bucked a local trend of voting down school bond referendums and have passed a referendum to spend $12.9 million to upgrade facilities at the campus just southeast of Donnellson.

Absentee ballots carried the election with just under 80% of 475 absentee ballots breaking in favor of issuing the bonds. Day-of-voting still carried a majority in favor of the measure, but not at the state-mandated 60%-1.

Voters at the polls cast 278 votes in favor of the measure and 233 against for a 54% approval.

Central Lee Superintendent Dr. Andy Crozier said he’s a hometown kid and he gives credit to the community and parents who saw the value and need of the improvements.

“I’m a hometown boy and always credit our community and how they support us,” he said. “Central Lee residents will make you work a bit, but at the end of the day, they’ll support the district.”

The funds will be used for new classrooms for band and vocal programs, along with new preschool classrooms that would free up two additional classrooms to meet space needs at the elementary level.

There will also be a new competition and performance gym for elementary, middle, and high school events, and ADA-accessible locker rooms. Additional

Village gears up for start of Fiesta 2019

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The carnival is back, all the good “smells” are back…and Mexican Fiesta is back.

Starting Thursday night, the annual festival will run through Saturday night with the annual Queen and Princess pageant starting at 6 p.m. Friday night Scott Huffman, the president of the Fiesta Committee, said this year the festival is bringing back the carnival which was absent from last year’s event due to budget constraints.

“Things went pretty good last year, we had a little money left and we put a couple thousand in this year thanks to some fundraisers from Sunnybrook and Lutheran,” Huffman said.

“And we’re bringing the carnival back this year, so things went up and not down. This is a full-on carnival, too. There’s even some rides for the bigger kids.”

Last year the fiesta was mired in uncertainty when it was canceled the event, but it was brought back due to funding was stretched thin and the committee actually canceled the event, but it was brought back to life thanks in no small part, Huffman said, due to the generosity of the community.

“Our plan now is to grow from year to year. The only way it happened last year was local businesses that gave quite a bit of money. We were able to raise that money which helped tremendously. We didn’t pay for a carnival so that helped, but this year we’ve been able to build on that,” he said.

The first ordinance creates a new 20-mph zone from Avenue D south on Fifth Street to where Bel Air would intersect if extended to Fifth Street. The ordinance then extends the current 25-mph speed limit south to the north entrance of the South Park. From there, the city and county will again ramp up speed going out of town with 35- and 45-mph zones.

The second ordinance passed extends the current 35-mph speed limit on Avenue D past the newly created 20-mph zone.


**OBITUARIES**

**SAMMY E. MAYFIELD PIERCE**

Sammy E. Mayfield Pierce, 71, of Nauvoo, IL, died Saturday, September 7, 2019 at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City, IA.

He was born on April 7, 1948, the son of Ella Mayfield. He was raised by Hugh and Josephine Holiday Pierce.

Sammy graduated from the Panola High School in Batesville, MS. While in high school he played football, ran track and was active in the Boy Scouts. Sammy's interest and talent in the sciences gave him the opportunity to take his projects to the State Science Fair and he received a First Place Award. He went to college at Northwestern Mississippi Junior College and Brigham Young University and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

Sammy served his country in the Mississippi National Guard and attained the rank of First Lieutenant.

He was preceded in death by his mothers, Ella and Josephine, two brothers, Clif- ford Porter and Neil Porter and one sister, Phyllis Porter.

Nauvoo, and several nieces and nephews.

Corbin, Alicia and Connley Griffin, one brother, Jay Pierce of Amanda (Phillip) Griffin of Keokuk, four grandchildren, Alexis, Jake Mayfield (Claudia Utcke) of Raleigh, NC, one daughter, to the movies and watching football.

He is survived by his father, Hugh Pierce of Nauvoo, one son, Jake Mayfield (Claudia Utcke) of Raleigh, NC, one daughter, Amanda (Phillip) Griffin of Keokuk, four grandchildren, Alexis, Corbin, Alicia and Conley Griffin, one brother, Jay Pierce of Nauvoo, and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mothers, Ella and Josephine, two brothers, Clif- ford Porter and Neil Porter and one sister, Phyllis Porter.

A Gathering of Remembrance will be held on September 21, from 2 pm – 4 pm at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with family meeting with friends at that time.

On-line condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

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**Unchanged property tax rate helps bid**

**BOND - Continued from Page 1**

- plans call for an expanded commons area for better student collaboration and improved building flow.
- With the increased valuation in Lee County, the district was able to present the bond issue without increasing the property tax rate for next year. The current rate is $12.19/$1,000 of assessed valuation and the district said the debt service will not increase that rate.
- Crozier has said all along that if the bond failed, that property tax rate would have dropped, but he said that dynamic helped get the bond passed.
- "I think the property tax issue was also a big reason this passed," Crozier said.
- “But I really attribute it to our community members who were out having conversations with parents and stakeholders and encouraging people to vote.”
- "Crozier said he wasn’t surprised at the low voter turnout based on attendance at community forums. Just under half of all the ballots cast were absentee.
- "We heard there were some long lines last time and this time we just wanted to make sure people had opportunities."

The district held three satellite voting locations in August to help the voter turn-out.

Crozier said the plan going forward will be to get with stakeholders.

“Our next step on Thursday will be to meet with the architect and construction managers and with the administration team with plenty of input from stakeholders on the designs,” he said.

“Will go out for bids in February or March and hopefully break ground in May or June. It may seem like it’s quiet for a while, but there will be a lot of work going on behind the scenes.”

School Board president Mark Hulsebus couldn’t be reached for comment.

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**Reichman to challenge Taylor for State Sen. seat**

**MONTROSE - Today Jeff Reichman announced his candidacy for Iowa Senate District 42. District 42 encompasses all of Henry and Lee Counties and portions of Jefferson and Washington Counties.**

“ ‘For nearly three decades I have served my country in the United States Marine Corps, and one of the things I was taught is if you’re not part of the solution, then you are part of the problem,’ ” said Reichman. “Southwest Iowa has been struggling for years, and it has been disappointing coming back from overseas to see businesses I visited often had shut their doors."

"We can do better. A different kind of leadership for our community is necessary to bring more opportunities and growth for the people who live here. I was born and raised in Keokuk, and I want to see it and every town across the district be successful." Reichman has served in the United States Marine Corps for 27 years, including two tours in Iraq. He graduated from Keokuk Senior High School, earned his associ- ate degree from Southeastern Community College and graduated from Iowa Wes- leyan with a business administration degree. Reichman is a small businesses owner and he lives in Montrose.

"I worked hard to start my own small business, but I also know what it’s like to be unemployed, and what struggles other families like mine have faced," Reichman said. "Key solutions to revitalizing our area are economic growth, educational op- portunities, and ensuring there are job opportunities for South East Iowa."

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**Broadband bill to be basis of subcommittee hearing**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Dave Loebsack today announced that his legislation, the Broadband Deployment Accuracy and Technological Availability (DATA) Act (HR 4229), will serve as the basis of the legislative hearing in the Sub- committee on Communications and Technology of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.**

The hearing is entitled, “Legislating to Connect America: Improving the Nation’s Broadband Maps” and will include discussion of five pieces of legislation, including Loebsack’s bipartisan Broadband DATA Act and the Mapping Accuracy Promotion Services Act (HR 4227), of which Loebsack is the original cosponsor. The hearing will be held on Wednesday, September 11 at 10:00am EDT (9:00am CDT).

“I am thankful that Chairmen Pallone and Doyle are holding this important hearing to examine how we can improve the nation’s broadband mapping system. In order to actually fix the problem and get highspeed broadband to where it is needed, especially in rural areas, we must have the best data available. Without that information, we cannot properly invest in building out broadband access. I look forward to hearing from the experts about what it will take to get the maps correct and the broadband to where the problems truly exist,” said Loebsack in advance of the hearing.
5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

WED 11 Sep
Light Rain
High – 86.8º F | Low – 72.8º F

THU 12 Sep
Heavy Intensity Rain
High– 83.2º F | Low – 70.3º F

FRI 13 Sep
Clear Skies
High– 78.9º F | Low – 64.9º F

SAT 14 Sep
Scattered Clouds
High – 82.1º F | Low – 71.5º F

SUN 15 Sep
Scattered Clouds
High– 87.5º F | Low – 72.1º F

Pen City Current - Wednesday, September 11, 2019 - 3

For the Record

Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1300 block of Avenue E.

09/09/19 – 10:30 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Raymond Paul Sourwine, 57, of Burlington at the BP Gas Station in Wever, on a warrant for violation of a no-contact order. 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
09/09/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medicals and one faulty smoke detector at Lincoln School.

09/09/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls and one vehicle accident.
No Plastic Bags in the recycling bins

When recycling, be it at one of our convenient drop off sites, or putting out your residential recycling bin for the pickup, please DO NOT put items in plastic bags. They are not recyclable at Great River Regional Waste Authority.

For a complete listing of what we do recycle, contact your local City Hall, or one of our facilities for a service guide. Check with your local retail stores such as Hy-Vee or Walmart for their recycling capabilities. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation concerning this issue!!
CURRENT-LEE
Girl Scouts Discovery Night
All girls are invited to join in on a free Discovery night on Sept. 18 at the Fort Madison Public Library from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. For more information visit the website at www.girlscoutsofday.org or call 800-798-0833.

North Lee County Relay for Life
The annual Relay for Life takes place this year on September 27th from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. and will feature Maddie Poppe in Concert. This year’s theme is ‘idols of strength.’

Weekly Book Sale
Friends of the Fort Madison Public Library is holding a weekly book sale from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday at the Public Library.

Volunteer Fair
The United Way will be holding a RSVP volunteer fair on Thursday, Sept. 26, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Fort Madison Public Library.

The Fort Madison Public Library’s Sheaffer Memo-
Fair on Thursday, Sept. 26, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at The United Way will be holding a RSVP volunteer fair on Thursday's at the Public Library.

Funds can be used for a myriad of needs, including new protective equipment, health and safety modifications to stations and training for emergency personnel.

Loeb sacked announces $35,500 grant for Burlington Fire Dept.
WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Dave Loeb- sack (D-IA) announced today that the Burlington Fire Department received a $35,454.54 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as part of their Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program. The Burlington Fire Department will use these funds to purchase washer extractors to clean their gear.

“This funding will ensure the Burlington Fire Depart- ment has the equipment necessary to respond quickly to emergencies and keep our families and communi- ties safe.”

The AFG program allows our first responders to purchase firefighting equipment, implement wellness programs that focus on health, and improve facilities. Funds can be used for a myriad of needs, including new protective equipment, health and safety modifications to stations and training for emergency personnel.

Pen City Current - Wednesday, September 11, 2019 - 5
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Fiesta brings back carnival, live bands

Another addition to this year's show will be a live band on Thursday and then live music again on Friday and Saturday. Huffman said typically there is a disc jockey playing music, but this year the committee brought in Blizzillion out of Burlington to play Thursday night. Crooked Cactus, a well-known regional Latin band will play on the weekend.

Huffman said the schedule will run Thursday from 4 p.m. to midnight and Friday and Saturday the fiesta will run until 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.

The really big attraction -- the food, will run late into the night as well. Huffman said the fiesta is up from five vendors last year to eight this year. And the carnival will be selling funnel cakes, hot dogs etc., as well. "We'll have the homemade tacos, enchiladas, steach and chicken tacos. It's a pretty good variety, so everyone should be able to find something," Huffman said.

He said the committee has grown to 20 people who come to meetings every week, which he said was more than in past years.

Huffman took over as president of the committee last year, but has served on the Fiesta board for the past 10 years. He said he doesn't remember ever having a second band.

"So things are moving in the right direction. We're moving up. There'll be a next year for sure. We have a decent amount left over still and the beer profit is what makes us go. That and the sponsors and volunteers make it happen."

West Point looks at speed zones in town

West Point

structed Dollar General on the west edge of town. City Administrator Dennis McGregor said the annexation of Dollar General requires the city to extend the reduced speed limit.

"As you're going out of town and you're ramping up speed and you're trying to turn into Dollar General or Agrineed, we're just asking for trouble. So we want to push it out further. That's the whole thinking on that," McGregor said after the meeting.

He said the city has also alerted the county to the change and the county may have to address extending an acceleration zone by moving the 45-mph zone further west before setting the 55-mph current speed zone on 103.

"Basically where it's 35 mph will be extended to where it says 45 and then the county will extend the 55 out about another city block to the west," McGregor said.

"The same way coming in, because our city limits are between Agrineed and Merschman's.

The new zones will become effective as soon as the rules are published for the public in the Daily Democrat.

In a related issue, West Point Mayor Paul Walker asked police to start getting firmer on the golf cart ordinance issue.

"I talked with (Police Chief) Brad (Roberts) a little bit, but the honeymoon is over with. It's been two months now and I think we need a little bit of a grace period here but we need to start stopping some of the people and give a verbal warning that they've had time to do this and give them so many days before we have to issue a ticket," Walker said.

"I see quite a few yet that are running around that haven't done what they're supposed to. As far as the traffic itself I haven't seen too many bad things going on."

Walker said by the first of next month he'd like to see verbal warning for people to get the vehicles tagged.