

Pocahontas RECORD-DEMOCRAT

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\$1⁰⁰



WEATHER

WESSELS OIL COMPANY, INC.

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DAY	HI	LOW	PRCP.	SNOW
Oct. 17	39	13		
Oct. 18	40	17		
Oct. 19	50	21		
Oct. 20	65	36		
Oct. 21	72	32		
Oct. 22	79	46		
Oct. 23	79	50		



Service to the community
Members of 4:12, the Methodist Youth Group, raked leaves in Pocahontas Oct. 22 as a service project. Here, youth group members are seen in action. photos courtesy of Sara Thorkildsen

Schossow: 'My biggest concern is the consequence of not passing EMS essential service

By Erin Sommers
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Editor's note: This article is the third in a four-part series about the proposed EMS essential service tax, which will be on the Nov. 8 ballot.

Dr. Darwin Schossow has one big reason to support Pocahontas County voters approving EMS as an essential service here. "My biggest concern is the consequences of not doing it," Schossow said. "As the funding streams come and go, there's potential to lose some of that capability."

Schossow has served as Pocahontas Community Hospital's EMS director for nearly 30 years. He's watched as technology has changed how emergency responders can handle a call and how technology has shifted his own role in an emergency room. Back when he started practicing medicine, if a patient needed a CAT scan, Schossow would read the results right there in the hospital. He'd send the image off to a radiologist, who would read it the next day.

Now, "we have radiologists in Des Moines and Cedar Rapids that read our film," he said. "We get scans done and reported out in a very short amount of time."

The change in technology has turned into a change in the standards of care. For heart attack patients, medical professionals have adopted the term "the golden hour" to refer to the first hour following the heart attack.

"When we have (ambulance) crews that are able to respond

to calls in 10 to 20 minutes, they can diagnose that right in the rig," Schossow said. "They skip Pocahontas Community Hospital and go straight to Fort Dodge. We've had patients that made it to Fort Dodge in under an hour."

EMTs and paramedics now routinely call the hospital once they arrive at the scene of an emergency call, talking with Schossow or other doctors to determine what can be done either in a patient's home or on the way to the hospital.

"They're my hands and my eyes on the scene," Schossow said. "It's really easy to call for a helicopter before the ambulance even gets back or call the helicopter to the scene. It can cut an hour or two off the triage time."

As the pool of ambulance volunteers has shrunk in recent decades, several Pocahontas County communities have stopped outfitting their own emergency rescue services. That may increase the response time some, Schossow said, but the 20 or so minutes the PCH ambulances take to get to most of the county is still a pretty quick response.

"If you look at the big cities, if they have a response time under 40 minutes, they think they're doing great," Schossow said.

Rick Winegarden, who has served on the PCH board for 22 years, also sells real estate in Pocahontas. As the owner of The Sale Barn, Winegarden oversees auctions that bring thousands of extra visitors to Pocahontas, too.

In each of those capacities, he

said he's grateful to have PCH in town and to be able to call on the EMS for emergency help.

During a recent auction, a man attended who was recovering from back surgery, Winegarden said. When the man began feeling unwell from overexertion, Sale Barn employees called for an ambulance. It was there in seven minutes.

Winegarden pointed to the amount of traffic crossing Pocahontas County on Highways 3 and 4. The Sale Barn runs a wrecker service that responds to reports of vehicle crashes.

"We get there pretty fast, but the ambulance is always there first," he said.

When the first videos promoting a yes vote on the EMS essential service funding hit social media, Winegarden heard from a few county residents who were complaining about another tax. In the next breath, one of the people unhappy about the tax talked about how a relative needed to go to a bigger hospital across the state.

How, Winegarden asked, did that relative get to that hospital? Often, those transports are provided by local ambulance services.

Funding EMS through an essential service tax, a combination of income and property taxes, isn't being done to buy fancy new ambulances, Winegarden said.

"It's for the people in the ambulance," he said.

He said he wants community members to understand that

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At the Rialto

Playing Oct. 28-Nov. 3 is "Don't Worry Darling" Rated R, Running time: 2 hr. 3 min. Starring: Florence Pugh, Harry Styles, and Chris Pine.

A 1950s housewife living with her husband in a utopian experimental community begins to worry that his glamorous company could be hiding disturbing secrets.

Schedule subject to change.

COMING SOON:

"Lyle Lyle Crocodile" — PG
"Amsterdam" — R
"Ticket to Paradise" — PG-13

AUCTIONS

Hay Auctions
First and Third Saturdays of each month
November 5 & 19 @ 10:15 a.m.
@ the Fonda Sale Barn
Hammen Auction Company
Jerry Hammen ~ 712-299-2523

Pocahontas Machinery Consignment Auction
Start bringing items Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2022
Items need to be on the lot by 12 p.m. on Wed., Nov. 23 unless we are full before that date - please call ahead
Tues., Dec. 6 @ 8:30 a.m.
Located at 401 1/2 East Elm, Pocahontas, IA
Sale Barn Realty & Auction
401 1/2 East Elm, Pocahontas, IA
712-335-3117
www.salebarn.ncn.net

Litwiler named new County Economic Development director

By Erin Sommers
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A Laurens resident will serve as the next Pocahontas County Economic Development Director.

The Pocahontas County Economic Development Board selected Mary Jo Litwiler to take over the role of executive director.

"She's got a lot of great marketing talents," PCEDC Board President Curt Sindergard told the Pocahontas County Board of Supervisors Oct. 18. "She has all the passion for the county and everything we're looking for."

Sindergard also told the board about progress the Economic Development Housing Committee is making.

"We have leads on a potential contractor who can come in and spec build and remodel houses that have potential," Sindergard said.

All nine Pocahontas County cities have come on board

with the idea of the housing committee and with stepping up nuisance code violations, he added. The committee is discussing the feasibility of bringing in an enforcement officer to help enforce violations of those codes, Sindergard said.

Margo Underwood, the community coach for the Hometown Pride programs in Pocahontas County, brought an update to the board as well. In the decade since Hometown Pride started, the program has brought in nearly \$1.6 million to the county for projects and programs. Through the Pocahontas County Foundation Charitable funds for community programs, another \$181,000 has been donated and received, for a total of \$1.74 million.

"For every \$1 invested by the county, by the community, we are receiving back \$8," Underwood said.

That's an 870 percent return on investment for the county,

she added. In all, Pocahontas County cities and projects have received 242 grants in the past decade.

"I think you'll agree the communities and the county have gained from this program," Underwood said. "One of the things this program buys is technical and financial assistance with projects."

As a coach, Underwood works with the volunteers in each city to keep them on task and moving forward, she added. She's also watching for new grants and programs and passing that information along to community members.

"Some of these grants are quite complicated," she added.

"I would think after 10 years, somebody would be picking up the reins," Supervisors Chairman Louis Stauter said.

Underwood also told the supervisors about the upcoming Pocahontas County Leadership program.

Iowans to vote on gun amendment this November

By Erin Sommers
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If Iowa voters remember to flip over their ballots this fall, they'll find a question about adding language a right to keep and bear arms to the Iowa constitution.

They may not even realize the amendment is on the ballot, or have heard much about it.

Public Amendment 1 reads as follows: "Article I of the Constitution of the State of Iowa is amended by adding the following new section: Right to keep and bear arms. Sec. 1A. The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. The sovereign state of Iowa affirms and recognizes this right to be a fundamental individual right. Any and all restrictions of this right shall be subject to strict scrutiny."

Richard Rogers of the Iowa Firearms Coalition has been lobbying Iowa's legislators for years to amend the state constitution.

"We believe that the right to keep/bear arms is a fundamental right, it derives directly from everyone's right to life," said in an interview that was recorded by the Dubuque Telegraph-Herald and posted on YouTube. "The right to keep/bear arms is merely the right to pick up a tool, be it a rock, a 2x4, a stick, a firearm, a sword and defend your life and your family, the safety and integrity of your community and your state or your nation. The courts have

long recognized that, going back to the 1800s, it's a fundamental right."

Opponents of the measure said in a press conference Oct. 11 they didn't disagree that Iowans should have access to arms, including firearms. But it was the last line of the proposed amendment, which references "strict scrutiny" that is causing those opponents, including some sheriff's and county attorneys, pause.

"Proponents say it's about protecting shall issue and constitutional carry, but that's already the law," Linn County Attorney Nick Maybanks said in the press conference. "What they're really saying, and what would really happen, is that future generations, our children, would not be able to pass common sense gun laws because it wouldn't pass constitutional muster. There are already very little gun restrictions in the state of Iowa. This amendment is in no way being proposed to regain lost rights, but it will result in lost lives."

Rogers said the June 23 U.S. Supreme Court decision in another gun case is already requiring strict scrutiny for all gun laws across the country.

"I think this strict scrutiny that our opponents to the amendment are so concerned about is kind of moot since June 23," Rogers said. "Courts are to use a different and more difficult standard: is the area of action, whatever the controversy is at

law in a case, is that covered by the text of the Second Amendment? If it is, the only way it can be restricted is if you can show there is the same or analogous restriction back at the time of the adoption of the Bill of Rights. That's a very high bar. It's shaking up state and federal courts."

Iowa repealed the requirement to have a permit to carry a weapon last year, several years after the state Legislature changed the law to instruct county sheriffs that they "shall issue" permit carry for Iowans, with limited exceptions. Under the current Iowa laws, felons, people convicted of domestic violence and a few other categories of people are currently not allowed to have a permit to carry a weapon. Maybanks, the Linn County attorney who spoke at the press conference on behalf of the Iowans for Responsible Gun Laws group, said he noted an increase in the number of people his county is charging since Iowa has eased up on gun ownership and carrying restrictions.

From 2019 to 2022, he's seen a 300 percent increase in gun crimes in Linn County. In 2019, for example, Linn County charged 15 people with being a felon in possession of a firearm; this year, that number is on track to reach 52.

In Missouri, which enacted a "strict scrutiny" amendment to its constitution, Maybanks said state officials are spending

millions of dollars to defend gun laws that were already on the books and that state residents had been following.

"This is not just an effort to enshrine the Second Amendment," Maybanks said. It's an effort to make sure that future gun laws will be harder to pass and that current gun laws will be challenged. For a law to pass strict scrutiny, the end must be compelling and the means must be narrowly tailored. Compelling means a necessary ends. ... Strict scrutiny would make almost all gun laws difficult if not impossible to pass."

Such laws that could be challenged aren't just law prohibiting felons from having guns, but also laws that prohibit guns in school zones, possessing a gun while drunk and laws that allow businesses to limit guns on their own property, Maybanks said.

"There's a myriad of popular laws, not only in Iowa, but across the nation, that would likely not pass strict scrutiny: universal background checks, requiring safety courses, extreme risk protection orders, capacity limits," Maybanks said, adding that more than 80 percent of Americans have said they support most of those measures.

For Rogers, though, the important thing is that individuals have the right to

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Pumpkins at PAC
Students at PAC MS/HS enjoyed decorating pumpkins and scarecrows for Fallfest on Oct. 13. Thanks to Dan and Cindy Murphy for the donations of pumpkins. Stop in during conferences this week to vote for your favorite one. Winners will be awarded a prize. photos courtesy of Ann Boysen



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With You Through Life

MONDAY, OCT. 31 IS HALLOWEEN!
Stop in our office on Monday to be terrified!!!
Trick or Treat?!?
ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK!

American Legion Post #18 to hold meeting November 9

Fonda Craft Show will be held November 13

Pocahontas Area Business Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat

SERVICE: Concerns about not passing service

From Page 01
The cost of availability — having an ambulance equipped and stocked with crew members ready to respond the minute a 911 call is made — isn't covered by insurance payments to the hospital or to the ambulance service, if it's run by a city.

Hospital Ambulance Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast October 30

Volunteers Needed for Congregate Meals

Donations Needed for Coats for Kids

Applications Open for Coats for Kids

Those aren't the only programs to keep an ambulance program available in the local hospital.

Trunk or Treat in Pocahontas will be Monday, Oct. 31

Walking at the Expo

Trunk or Treat in Pocahontas will be Monday, Oct. 31

American Legion Auxiliary will meet November 1

Hope UMC's Kings Kids will be held on Wednesdays starting November 16

Haberl resigns; county seeks new assessor

By Erin Sommers
Pocahontas County officials may consider sharing an assessor with another county after the current assessor's resignation.

Mallard Public Library HALLOWEEN Saturday, Oct 29 • 5-8:30 p.m.

Midwest Land Management Land For Sale

191 Acres m/I Rush Lake Township, Sec. 29 Palo Alto County, IA

Overnight Motor Coach to Jackpot Casino Tues., Dec. 6-Wed., Dec. 7

Pocahontas Community Hospital Auxiliary's Girls Night Out Thursday, November 3 | 4-7 p.m.

Creations by Charlie and Pam • K and E Beads • Rural Route 230

KING'S Kids of Hope United Methodist Church presents... GOD'S INCREDIBLES

ODD FELLOWS 119 N MAIN STREET, POCAHONTAS VERY ODD HALLOWEEN PARTY

Soup & Pie SUPPER Wednesday, Nov. 2 4:30-7 p.m.

DEADLINES • DEADLINES • DEADLINES for the Pocahontas Record-Democrat & County Advertiser

TRICK OR TREAT! Here is a listing of trick or treating dates and times for area communities

Attention Machinery Wanted Start bring items November 1, 2022

Auction Date: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 @ 8:30 AM

For registration information, please visit hopeumcia.org or stop by/call the church office Tuesday-Friday from 1-5 p.m.

Pocahontas Community Hospital Ambulance Service Biscuits & Gravy BREAKFAST

Please be courteous and only go to homes with their welcoming lights on. Drive defensively and watch for goblins darting into the roadway.