

The Times Editorial

Butch: An uncommon gift

Butch Pedersen was, in the spirit of Herbert Hoover, an Uncommon Man. He took what he did well and turned it into something great for the betterment of others.

The 73-year-old teacher and coach organized his own funeral, invited the speakers, and requested attendees dress in West Branch gear or school colors.

But the rest of us anticipated the crowd. Even with extra chairs that covered the basketball court, attendees filled West Branch High School's renovated gymnasium and a couple of families overflowed into the Performing Arts Center.

The head varsity football coach of the past 40 seasons worked hard to build up community support for the program and likely guessed his memorial would draw a large crowd. However, could he guess more than 1,600 people would attend on Easter weekend when many families travel for the holiday?

The turnout alone speaks to this man's positive impact on the West Branch and Iowa high school football community.

But look a bit further: The crowd began showing up at 11:30 a.m., some 90 minutes before the service began at 1 p.m. The service lasted nearly 2 hours and 45 minutes. When it was over, hundreds remained to join the receiving



From middle school to high school (above), dozens of West Branch pupils gathered at the Little Rose Bowl April 3 for three 7-on-7 touch football games as an impromptu way to remember Head Coach Butch Pedersen, who died around 3:45 a.m. that day. The three games grouped middle school, freshman-sophomore, and varsity players. Pedersen's greatest legacy was his ability to help boys become good men. The idea to meet on Butch Pedersen field and play the coach's favorite sport is a reflection of Pedersen's positive influence on these players. Gregory R. Norfleet/West Branch Times

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SOAPBOX PHILOSOPHY • WEST BRANCH TIMES EDITOR GREGORY R. NORFLEET

Butch's paramount legacy: Turning boys into good men

Butch Pedersen had a lot of gifts, but the most important was this: He knew how to turn boys into good men.

Some needed more help than others. A lot more. Sadly, some of his football players or students had either poor male role models or none at all.

Some struggled with self-control, easily losing their temper when things did not go their way. Others covered in the face of aggression, not understanding their own strength or their potential. They did not know the level of pain they could take or



Gregory R. Norfleet

the power they could dish out.

But the West Branch High School head football coach could see the problem in both: Misguided or misplaced pride.

For the boys who acted out, their pride was unjustified. They expected results that exceeded their work ethic.

For the boys who cow-

ered, Pedersen saw a lack of pride, an underappreciation of their potential and worth. They wrongly underestimated themselves and what they could do.

Yet Butch did not despise either of these groups. He loved them and said so in numerous interviews. He worked them hard, and when those boys saw the results — personally and as a team — they learned to love him back.

This "drill sergeant" knew they still had some growing up to do and gave them enormous amounts of

patience and grace.

And, yes, yelling. From the sidelines, Butch shouted two things more than any other: "Way to go!" or "That's on you!" The players knew he meant only to correct, not humiliate.

And in post-game huddles, the coach talked about potential, how the team is "never satisfied," and how there's always room for improvement.

Anyone who knows Butch knows his emphasis on hitting the right way and hitting hard.

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THE GRUENHAGEN GAZETTE
STATE SENATOR KERRY GRUENHAGEN

Help available after storms in Cedar County

Following the second major legislative deadline for bills, week 13 saw us working with the House on compromises and where we can find agreement on legislation.

The Senate also started the appropriations process, moving several budget bills out of subcommittee and committee. These bills generally addressed



Kerry Gruenhagen

the budget areas but left many details to be filled in after the Senate and House negotiate a budget agreement.

Senate and Governor Reynolds have set a budget target of \$8.486 billion.

This target represents a sustainable increase

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History

10 YEARS AGO • 2013

- **SCIENCE PRIZE**
A team of sixth-graders won first place in Iowa for their science project and earned one of four spots in the race for a regional prize in the annual eCybermission contest. The Lead Tacklers team includes Jayden Roth and Logan Norfleet of West Branch and Eric Doorn and Cole Sherman of North Liberty.
- **OPEN WITH WIN**
The West Branch girls golf team opened the season with wins over Solon and Regina at Pleasant Valley Golf Course. The Bears finished with 225, beating Solon's 230 and Regina's 234. Medalist was WBH's Ashley Finnegan with 51.
- **EDGED AT FINISH**
The West Branch boys golf team lost to the host Comets 168-170 in the season opener. West Branch's Mathis Kane and Matt McIlrath medaled, tying with 38 strokes.

25 YEARS AGO • 1998

- **ENVIROTHON**
WBHS students Michael Maher, Erin Tucker, Val Pyle, Rachel Ahrens and Bobbie Stubbs have been working with Joy Carlson, WBHS science teacher, and Cathy DeValk, naturalist for the Cedar County Conservation Board in preparation for the third annual Iowa Envirothon contest.
- **EGGS-ACTLY 325**
The line stretched from the Town Green gazebo, where the Easter Bunny sat with a basket of plastic eggs promising Easter baskets and bags of candy, to the sidewalk along Main Street, west to Parkside Drive and then south at the corner. By the time everyone had met the special guest, the Bunny had passed out eggs for 213 baskets, 48 bags of candy and 64 rain checks for candy. The 325 children receiving eggs were more than the WB Chamber of Commerce had seen.

35 YEARS AGO • 1988

- **SPRINGDALE TWISTER**
Five homes were heavily damaged Saturday when a tornado ripped across the north edge of Springdale. Despite high winds that tore off roofs and siding, broke out windows, drove nails into a tree and overturned a five-ton motor home, there were no injuries in the storm. The storm's force caused extensive damage to the residences of Elmer and Marcia Malloy, Dick and Tana Sabourin, Dan and Penny Gafeller, John and Sara Paul, and Don and Lois Laughlin.
- **RUN PAST OLIN**
The West Branch girls track team opened the outdoor season by defeating Olin, 90-34. Three West Branch team members each won two individual events: Susan Jones in the 100-meter and 400-meter hurdles, Ann Dalton in the shot and discus, and Dana Meder in the 100 and 200.

50 YEARS AGO • 1973

- **MAKING TRACKS**
Bob Laughlin's R&R restaurant in downtown West Branch has begun to take on a "railroad" look, with the painting of a genuine railroad scene by Jose Carrillo, local artist. Jose himself can vouch for the authenticity of the scene, since he is employed by the railroad when he isn't painting.
- **PINEWOOD WINNERS**
Cub Scout Pack 156 held its annual Pinewood Derby race Marcy 17 at the Springdale school. Den winners were: Den 1, Doug Small; Den 2, Scott Hemingway; Den 3, Mark Ehnen; Den 4, Terry Stotler; Den 5, Trent Jensen; Den 6, Todd Cooper; Webelos Den, Scott Perkins. Overall first place, Scott Perkins.
- **LOCAL NEWS**
Mr. and Mrs. Dick Nelson and family were visitors in the John Sharpless home of Rochester.

100 YEARS AGO • 1923

- **SPRINGDALE NEWS**
School closed last Monday for the week on account of the bad condition of the roads. Most of the teachers left on Wednesday for vacation in their respective homes.
- **LOCAL NEWS**
C.W. Ware is temporarily engaged as clerk in the B.A. Gill drug store during the absence of Miss Frances Mize, who is caring for her sister, Mrs. Allison Kirby, who remains very ill.
- **SCHOOL NOTES**
The fourth grade has finished reading "Little Red Riding Hood" and is now dramatizing it. Later it will give the dramatization as they have written it.
- **FIRE CO. MEETS**
The West Branch Fire Company held its regular monthly business meeting in the city hall Monday. Three new members were elected: Earl Eves, D.E. Edwards and Jack Sturdy.

WEST BRANCH TIMES

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line, which took another hour or so.

The receiving line began in the Bear Den and wrapped around the corner, snaked past the gymnasium and to the next hallway. Many people who exited the gymnasium after catching up with friends and returning classmates joined the line to maintain its length.

Then Butch's wife, Jennifer, and the rest of the Pedersen family moved on to Herb N' Lou's for more time to share memories well into the night.

West Branch Community Schools Superintendent Secretary Laura Gongora dug into

Butch's files and came up with a list of the jobs he's had just at the school district since his hiring in the summer of 1975: Third-fourth grade combination teacher, third-grade teacher, sixth-grade geography teacher, high school physical education teacher, high school resource instructor, high school learning strategies teacher, high school head varsity football coach, high school assistant varsity football coach, high school junior varsity boys' basketball coach, high school assistant softball coach, middle school girls' basketball coach, middle school boys' basketball coach, middle school girls' track coach, athletic director, weightlifting coordinator, small vehicle driver, and substitute teacher.

That's 17 different jobs over 48 years at the same school. He worked other side jobs, like summer football camps, but through these many school responsibilities, he's touched the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of pupils, students, athletes, parents, community members, other coaches, and more.

Pedersen's memorial could only draw this many people — the equivalent of 64 percent of West Branch's population — if he appealed to something good and right and pure: The positive welfare of children.

Butch worked hard regardless of whether these were pupils assigned to his classes, players he recruited for his teams or adults who volunteered

to help. And he inspired them to find something greater inside themselves than some of them ever dreamed existed.

In 1948, roughly a year before Butch Pedersen's birth, West Branch native and 31st President Herbert Hoover gave an address to Wilmington College in Ohio, talking about uncommon men and women.

"It is a curious fact that when we get sick, we want an uncommon doctor; if we have a construction job, we want an uncommon engineer; when we get into war, we dreadfully want an uncommon admiral and an uncommon general. Only when we get into politics are we content with the common man," Hoover said.

"Whatever these forces may be, you are striving to become uncommon men and women. And the future of America will be in your hands. Our full hope of recovery in the moral and spiritual world is a wealth of uncommon men and women among our people. It is our educational institutions that must promote and train them."

Pedersen did what Hoover wanted. He served in an educational institution and promoted and trained young men and women to help with the recovery of our moral and spiritual world.

We need more men and women like Pedersen, who soberly weigh their skills and passions, find their good and right and true

purpose, and turn it into something great.

Pedersen showed us how to do it in practical ways with great effect. Even if we can only do a fraction of what he did, the combined effort would do wonders for the world around us, and even raise the bar for "uncommon."

Many of those speaking at Saturday's service thanked Jenny Pedersen and Lance Pedersen and Kari Zuniga and Kip Pedersen for "sharing" this husband and father.

On behalf of the West Branch and Iowa high school football community, may we be so bold as to join in that sentiment.

Coach Butch Pedersen was, indeed, a gift to so many.

An uncommon gift.

Storms

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in spending for education and public safety, while also ensuring tax relief for hardworking Iowans.

Iowa's income tax rates have decreased from 8.98% to 6% this year in addition to the elimination of the tax on retirement income. By 2026 the income tax rate will be a flat 3.9%.

This tax relief has been made possible because of budgets just like the one proposed this year. Disciplined spending ensures promises to K-12 education are kept, promises to public safety are kept, and promises to taxpayers are kept.

Governor Reynolds signed SF 514 last week, the state government alignment and reorganization bill. This bill was the first major reorganization of Iowa state government in 40 years.

Although this bill was long and had many moving parts, the governor's concept was pretty simple. If the federal government can operate with 13 cabinet level directors, certainly the State of Iowa can operate on 16 cabinet-level directors.

The bill seeks to increase efficiencies and the cost savings over the next four years estimated by the governor's office to be over \$200 million.

After the series of storms starting March 31, Governor Reynolds issued a disaster proclamation

for a number of counties that experienced severe weather, including Cedar County in Senate District 41.

The signing of the disaster proclamation means qualifying residents can apply for the Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program and the Disaster Case Management Program.

These grants can help with home or car repairs, replacing clothing or food, temporary housing expenses, and disaster-related hardships and injuries.

More information on these programs is available at dhs.iowa.gov/disaster-assistance-programs and www.iowacommunityaction.org.

Governor Reynolds also signed a disaster emergency proclamation, easing restrictions on the transportation of materials related to disaster response and repairs.

This will be in effect until May 1, 2023. Please reach out if you have any questions or are looking for assistance. Thank you to all volunteers who have reached out to help those who were affected.

To contact Senator Gruenhagen during the week, call the Senate Switchboard at 515-281-3371. E-mail him at kerry.gruenhagen@legis.iowa.gov. Gruenhagen serves on the following committees: Agriculture, Commerce, Education, and Government Oversight. He will also serve on the Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee.

Legacy

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Hitting the right way means using good technique and following the rules: Drive through your shoulder pads. No chop blocks. No blocking in the back. Make it clean.

Hitting hard means getting the ball carrier down on the first try and, if possible, making them reconsider ever coming your way again.

This also applied to offense. Whether a blocker or ball carrier or receiver, Butch taught them to hit hard to break a tackle, gain an extra yard, or clear a path.

To do this, they must first have strength. It is better to have too much power and keep it under control than to be powerless or helpless. He wanted players lifting at least three times a week — twice a week only maintains one's level; any less meant losing it.

Of course, we can see how this translates into adulthood: Men should, first

and foremost, be providers (offense) and protectors (defense) of their families.

Otherwise, what good are you? The family unit — a husband, a wife, and children — is the most important institution God has established. Without families led by strong men who understand their purpose, our society will crumble.

This is not hyperbole. Studies show that good men leading their families means less of a chance those families fall into poverty, less chance of teen pregnancy, less chance of childhood behavioral problems, less chance of childhood obesity or drug abuse, less of a chance that a mother faces the risk of infant mortality, and more.

Did Butch know all this? I don't know, but it's an understatement to say that he knew what makes good men — and that they are far better than weak or insecure men.

There's a Bible verse, 1 Timothy 5:8: "Anyone who does not provide for their

relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

Butch, a Christian, apparently believed this. I don't think he quoted Bible verses to his players, but he certainly stressed the fundamentals: Good men take care of their families, whether that is a football family or a biological family.

He's right. In addition to providing and protecting, good men speak hard truths with love and teach wisdom. They show honor to their wives. They seek justice, walk humbly, and love kindness. And they help when needed.

Pedersen coached his players to act like a family, to treat each other with deep respect and caring, and to work together to accomplish goals.

Outside of games, Butch rounded up players to clear storm debris, visit the elderly and listen to their stories, serve as examples to the young, attend funerals, and more.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING -- PROPOSED BUDGET Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 County Name: CEDAR COUNTY County Number: 16

The County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year County budget as follows:

Meeting Date: 4/25/2023 Meeting Time: 09:00 AM Meeting Location: Board of Supervisors Room

At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of revenues and expenditures on file with the County Auditor. A copy of the supporting detail will be furnished upon request.

County budgets are subject to protest. If protest petition requirements are met, the State Appeal Board will hold a local hearing. For more information, consult dom.iowa.gov/local-budget-appeals

Average annual percentage changes between "Actual" and "Budget" amounts for "Taxes Levied on Property", "Other County Taxes/ TIF Tax Revenues", and for each of the ten "Expenditure Classes" must be published. Expenditure classes proposing "Budget" amounts, but having no "Actual" amounts, are designated "NEW".

County Website (if available)
www.cedarcounty.iowa.gov

County Telephone Number
(563) 886-6413

	Budget 2023/2024	Re-Est 2022/2023	Actual 2021/2022	AVG Annual % CHG	
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES					
Taxes Levied on Property	1	10,025,832	9,673,543	10,490,404	-2.24
Less: Uncollected Delinquent Taxes - Levy Year	2	0	0	0	
Less: Credits to Taxpayers	3	365,942	365,942	396,170	
Net Current Property Taxes	4	9,659,890	9,307,601	10,094,234	
Delinquent Property Tax Revenue	5	400	400	545	
Penalties, Interest & Costs on Taxes	6	22,300	22,200	57,971	
Other County Taxes/TIF Tax Revenues	7	1,313,655	1,336,353	1,454,006	-4.95
Intergovernmental	8	6,696,671	6,163,689	9,134,813	
Licenses & Permits	9	41,939	43,689	42,801	
Charges for Service	10	1,296,728	1,258,596	1,443,460	
Use of Money & Property	11	103,906	153,712	152,936	
Miscellaneous	12	134,648	189,500	228,666	
Subtotal Revenues	13	19,270,137	18,475,740	22,609,432	
Other Financing Sources:					
General Long-Term Debt Proceeds	14	0	0	38,237	
Operating Transfers In	15	3,307,002	2,849,513	4,587,859	
Proceeds of Fixed Asset Sales	16	82,000	27,500	18,100	
Total Revenues & Other Sources	17	22,659,139	21,352,753	27,253,628	
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES					
Operating:					
Public Safety and Legal Services	18	5,606,589	4,994,721	4,332,251	13.76
Physical Health and Social Services	19	2,042,911	1,945,905	1,544,735	15.00
Mental Health, ID & DD	20	0	0	885,021	
County Environment and Education	21	2,323,744	2,387,974	1,856,380	11.88
Roads & Transportation	22	7,820,500	7,529,015	7,153,313	4.56
Government Services to Residents	23	700,355	624,327	523,522	15.66
Administration	24	3,372,507	2,761,080	2,764,324	10.45
Nonprogram Current	25	8,400	8,400	7,230	7.79
Debt Service	26	718,155	719,255	718,846	-0.05
Capital Projects	27	5,770,600	5,128,832	3,592,857	26.73
Subtotal Expenditures	28	28,363,761	26,099,509	23,378,479	
Other Financing Uses:					
Operating Transfers Out	29	3,307,002	2,849,513	4,587,859	
Refunded Debt/Payments to Escrow	30	0	0	0	
Total Expenditures & Other Uses	31	31,670,763	28,949,022	27,966,338	
Excess of Revenues & Other Sources over (under) Expenditures & Other Uses					
Beginning Fund Balance - July 1,	33	12,942,851	20,539,120	21,251,830	
Increase (Decrease) in Reserves (GAAP Budgeting)	34	0	0	0	
Fund Balance - Nonspendable	35	0	0	0	
Fund Balance - Restricted	36	2,205,806	9,679,713	16,548,386	
Fund Balance - Committed	37	0	0	0	
Fund Balance - Assigned	38	0	0	0	
Fund Balance - Unassigned	39	1,725,421	3,263,138	3,990,734	
Total Ending Fund Balance - June 30,	40	3,931,227	12,942,851	20,539,120	
Proposed property taxation by type:					
Countywide Levies*:	7,496,994	Proposed tax rates per \$1,000 taxable valuation:			
Rural Only Levies*:	2,528,838	Urban Areas:			
Special District Levies*:	0	Rural Areas:			
TIF Tax Revenues:	0	Any special district tax rates not included.			
Utility Replacement Excise Tax:	90,979				

Explanation of any significant items in the budget or additional virtual meeting information:

Instagram: WB Times • Facebook: West Branch Times

Mexico Lindo Grill & Cantina

Open Daily
Lunch Specials

711 Downey St.
West Branch
(319)877-8025

Danny Steggall Estate Auction

Saturday April 22 at 10:00 am
3264 Coral Ave NE, Solon, IA 52333

Real Estate consists of 1964, 2 bdrm, 2 bath, central air, recent siding, 1008 sqft upper level, same lower level w/ bar, wood stove, walk out basement, nice 111'x 150'+ corner lot, fenced yard, low traffic, very quiet neighborhood, (H.O.A. fees cover community water, snow removal, garbage and streetlights approx \$230/quarter), 2 stall attached garage and 1 stall attached that is heated and cooled for total of 3 stalls

Terms of real estate: 15 % down day of sale, non-refundable, with closing in 60 days or sooner if agreed to by both parties

Open House: Sunday April 2nd from 2-4 pm
Thursday April 6th from 4-6 pm

Boat/Trailer/Side by Side/lawn mower - Taxidermy
- Household - Collectible/unique - Fishing equipment/outdoor related - Beer Lights - Radio controlled cars/planes/drone
- Tools - Garage - Woodworking tools

Auctioneer's note: Information provided herein is for informational purposes only and the auction company makes no guarantees to its accuracy. Prospective bidders are responsible for their own research and conclusions. Announcements made the day of the auction will take precedence over previously printed material. Seller reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. Closing agent for real estate: Barner Realty, Anamosa, IA

Be sure to check autonzip.com for pictures & more info

Sale conducted by
Tony Wagner Auctioneering Stanwood, IA
319-521-0013 (AZ ID #26603)
Jeff Wallick Auctioneering Tipton, IA
563-886-4953 (AZ ID #25821)

Not responsible in case of accident, theft, or printed material. Everything sold As-is. Announcements the day of the sale take precedence over printed material. Cash or good check for payment. Lunch and restrooms on site.