

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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FMHS Hall inducts 3



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Fort Madison High School Principal Greg Smith talks with Bobbie Moline-Kramer, center, a new inductee into the Fort Madison High School Hall of Honor Wednesday night at the high school in Fort Madison.

HALL OF HONOR: Schulte, Smith, and Moline-Kramer newest additions

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Three alumni from the historic halls of Fort Madison High School mingled easily with about 40 people celebrating their inductions into the Fort Madison Hall of Honor Wednesday evening at Fort Madison High School.

This year's inductees included Paul Schulte – Class of 1994, Bobbie Moline-Kramer – Class of 1964, and Christopher Smith – Class of 1997.

Schulte is the owner and director of Seither & Cherry Co.,

an industrial manufacturing company. He said being selected for the Hall is honor and accolade for giving back to the community.

"I think it's a great thing to be honored by your peers and be giving back to the community. I've lived here my whole life," he said.

He said staying in the area and help building a successful business has been one of his greatest rewards, and he hopes that Fort Madison's current students give more consideration to staying and building careers here.

See HALL, page 8

STATE TRACK PREVIEW

Hounds, Hawks head to Des Moines

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Three vans full of Hounds and coaches left Wednesday afternoon for the Iowa High School State Co-Ed Track meet.

Fort Madison is sending four girls for two events and seven boys, along with several alternates, to the meet which kicks off Thursday morning at 9 a.m. at Drake Stadium. Central Lee will be sending two runners and a long-jump specialist for the Hawks.

Aija Jenkins is making the trip as a freshman for Fort Madison after finding out her 5-0" leap at districts was good enough to secure a spot in the high jump. Jenkins will jump at 11:30 a.m. Thursday morning. Keokuk's Miracle Ailes should be one of the favorites with a 5-4" leap at districts.

Jenkins said she's not anticipating placing in the top eight so her goal is to set a personal best of 5-2".

"I know I'm not going to win or anything. That's not my expectation – it's just to PR because I know I can clear 5-2". I've gotten my body over it before and it just seems like I catch it with my ankle or foot," she said.

She was surprised when her name appeared on the list Friday after placing 4th at districts in Mt. Pleasant Thursday night.

"I was up all night to see if I made it and the next morning it still wasn't put up. But I wasn't disappointed because there's next year, but I was really surprised when I saw I made it."

Jenkins will also join Taylor Barnes, Raquel Schneider and Reyna Lampe on the shuttle hurdle team that also won on time after failing to get the automatic bid out of districts. That event starts the meet on Thursday at 9 a.m.

Schneider who's been nursing a foot injury for the past few weeks still captured first place in the 400-hurdles Thursday and will be running in that event at around noon on Friday.

Schneider's 1:09 at districts puts her just out of the final heat in lane 7 of the 2nd heat.

Schneider said she iced her foot all weekend and then worked out Saturday and

See STATE, page 5

MENTAL HEALTH

New bill presents challenges for local governments

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A new bill that is sitting on Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds desk will put mental health services in the hands of the state starting in July 2023.

That bill, Senate File 619, will replace a

county levy that has helped fund regional health care authorities, with a state funding mechanism starting in Fiscal Year 2023.

The funding mechanism will be based on a complex formula of regional population multiplied by the sum of the dollar

amount used to calculate regional service payments for the immediately preceding fiscal year.

And it will take someone like Ryanne Wood, the CEO of Southeast Iowa Link,

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WEATHER

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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police report

05/17/21 – 6:55 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1600 block of Avenue H. 05/17/21 – 7:06 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism reported at the police station. 05/17/21 – 8:11 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the Fort Madison area. 05/17/21 – 9:31 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of 26th Street. 05/17/21 – 12:14 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 600 block of Avenue H. 05/17/21 – 7:25 p.m. – Fort Madison Police

responded to a report of a hit and run in the 2300 block of Avenue M. 05/17/21 – 10:38 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested James Eugene Lyman, 60, of Nauvoo, in the 1500 block of Avenue H, on a warrant for 3rd-degree harassment. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 05/18/21 – 11:15 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Cody Sheridan Collins, 31, of Fort Madison, in the 800 block of Avenue G, on a warrant for violation of a no contact order. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 05/18/21 – 11:24 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2000 block of Avenue B. 05/18/21 – 1:17 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 600

block of 13th Street. 05/18/21 – 10:36 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Erica Ann Boudreau, 31, of Fort Madison in the 1700 block of Avenue H, on warrants for 2nd-degree robbery, 3rd-degree burglary, 3rd-degree theft and driving while barred, and additional charges of 3rd-degree harassment and interference with official acts. She was taken to Lee County Jail. 05/19/21 – 4:37 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the Fort Madison area.

Lee County Sheriff's report

05/17/21 – 8:01 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Christopher Eugene Sparks, 27, of LaGrange, Mo., on Hwy.

61 at mile marker 61, on a warrants for being a fugitive from justice. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held. 05/17/21 – 1:29 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 2300 block of Johnson Street Road. According to reports a vehicle driven by William Charles Whitaker, 15, of Keokuk slid off the shoulder into a ditch. Minor injuries were reported. Whitaker was cited for violation of a restricted license. 05/17/21- 4:36 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Danny Earl Lama, Jr., 21, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 05/17/21 – 7:14 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a

report of a one-vehicle accident in the 2900 block of Hwy. 103. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Jaron Ray Blint, 37, of Fort Madison, crossed the northbound lane headed southbound and entered a ditch striking a residential fence. No citations or injured were reported. 05/18/21- 8:43 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Trevor Weston Joseph Mills, 36, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a warrant of 1st-degree harassment. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 05/17/21 – 10:46 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Christina Marie Weir, 41, of Fort Madison, at 343rd Avenue and Hwy. 61 on suspicion of providing false identification. 05/18/21 – 3:12 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Nicole Lee

Ahlen Prado, 40, of Donnellson, at Wever Junction, on a warrant for contempt of court. She was taken to Lee County Jail. 05/18/21 – 6:13 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a two-vehicle accident on Hwy. 218. According to the report a vehicle driven by Helen Louise Hursh, 87, of Linn Valley, Kan, pulled out from a stop sign and struck a vehicle driven by Ruger Travis Smith, 17, of Donnellson headed southbound on 218. Hursh was cited for failure to yield. No injuries were reported. 05/19/21 – 1:35 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Blake Andrew VanNess, 32, of Danville, Iowa, at the Henry County Line on a warrant for contempt of court. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond. 05/19/21 – 7:33 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Donn Gregory Lowney, 50, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office, on suspicion of domestic assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire and Rescue Report
05/17/21 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to one medical call, one report of stove burner left on. 05/18/21 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls, faulty smoke detector.

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From the Front

State moving funds to help pay for mental health

BILL - Continued from Page 1

one of 14 regional mental health authorities across the state, to explain untangle that mess.

Wood said Wednesday the bill is chalked full of policy for the Mental Health Disability Services regions.

“The most striking is that there seems to be an effort to disengage counties from the region financially and as employers of record, via elimination of the property tax levy and counties Fund 10 (designated MHDS fund),” Wood wrote in an email to Pen City Current.

“At the end of FY22, all balances and revenues will be allocated exclusively to the Region Fiscal Agent pooled fund which for SEIL is the Des Moines County Auditor’s office.”

Wood said a supervisor from each member county of the region will remain on the region’s governing board, which has oversight of the system regionally, along with other members defined by legislation.

But she said the eventual move to fully state-funded Regional MHDS systems in 2023 without the ability to transfer funds to county-level service, will require a restructuring of regions if there is no change in the current bill’s language.

The bill would reduce the maximum funding of the SEIL Region from \$42.60 to \$37 per person, which will be a combination of a \$21.14 levy and a \$15.86 state contribution. In the next fiscal year that would bump up to a \$38 per person contribution. From there the contribution would increase to \$40 in Fiscal year 2024 and \$42 in fiscal year 2025.

After 2025 the funding mechanism would kick in and regions with diminishing populations could see reduced state contributions.

“As one may guess, a reduction of secured revenue, while simultaneously making an effort to develop legislated core services from the previous two legislative sessions is anticipated to be a challenge,” Wood said.

Those core services include Adult Complex Needs and Children’s Behavioral Health.

The state will also be setting benchmarks on those services in performance-based contracts that regions will hold with DHS. Wood said factors such as insufficient workforce, low service reimbursement rates, declining population

bases in rural Iowa, and limited access to services either in person or teleservice, will be additional complications to developing mandated services.

“SEIL has concern that the service system that has been developed with our partners that attend to the full spectrum of service, and continuity between services, may be disrupted because some of those services do not fall into the currently legislated core service array,” she said.

She said the legislation also includes an incentive fund that will be tied to the performance benchmarks.

“The Incentive fund developed in this bill is not fully understood in how access to those funds will be managed,” she said.

“It is recognized it will be tied to performance, however those specific indicators are not fully flushed out and there is the matter of prioritization for allocating funds based on outcomes, or needs, or first-come, first-served, etc. Sufficient and consistent data to be collected by all regions should be used to determine need for service and the development of service where need is indicated.”

The good news seems to be that access to services and income guidelines for assistance won’t change at the base level.

The bill would eliminate the levy county residents pay for mental health services, with the state picking up the tab. But Reynolds is also close to signing a bill that would phase out what is called a backfill of local government commercial property taxes.

In 2013 the state instituted a rollback on commercial property taxes statewide and committed to replacing that lost revenue. That phasing out would provide added revenue to help offset the added expenses of the mental health care.

Fort Madison City Manager David Varley said the city will have to just absorb the cuts since they are already maxed out at the \$8.10 general levy limit.

“The state has been backfilling the 10% to cities for several years to make up for the loss of revenue caused by their actions,” Varley said.

Varley said in fiscal year 2022-23 which begins on July 1, 2022 the city will lose \$128,710. The following year \$102,968, then \$77,226, \$51,484, and \$25,742 in fiscal year 2026-27, for a total of \$386,130 just during the phase out. Then the 10% they were backfilling will be completely up to local governments to absorb.

Some local governments not at the state’s \$8.10 general levy limit may have to then increase property taxes on their end to help recoup the lost revenues.

Fort Madison is already at that limit so they will have to absorb the phasing out and eventual loss of the rolled back taxes altogether.

“Unfortunately the state has limited cities’ general fund mil levy to the \$8.10 level. Because we are already at that level we cannot raise a mil levy at all in order to make up for the loss of revenue caused by the loss of the state backfill.”

Some legislators are saying the stimulus money currently on it’s way from the federal government to local governments will make up the difference. Varley said that’s not the whole story.

“The stimulus money we will receive is a one-time deal so it won’t help in coming years. The backfill loss will be felt every year,” Varley said.

“Also, the stimulus money is very limited in what it can be used for. We can’t just dump it into the general fund to make up for the backfill loss. It has to meet very specific guidelines. In fact, I just finished reviewing the 151 pages of guidelines the treasury department has already sent out which outlines the rules for spending the stimulus funds.”

Fort Madison also will start seeing payments on a 1% franchise tax in July. Varley said the loss of backfill money will eat into some of that franchise fee revenue.

“The easiest way to state it is that the state government cut taxes at the local level and we are left holding the bag,” he said. “They cut tax revenue without giving us a way to make up for it. That’s what the backfill was for, “to hold us harmless.””



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From the Front

Hawks' Eschman, Hocker, and Wellman making trip to state championships

STATE - Continued from Page 1

Monday.

"It's going to hurt during the race, but I just need to push through it. Her personal best is a 1:08.

Her sister Brett and her mother Carrie both ran the 400 hurdles at state. Brett has the family girls' record with 1:06.22 good enough for 6th place at the 2018 state meet. Her brother Quentin placed 7th at state in the same event with a 55.62 in 2019.

Schneider, a junior, said her goal is to get the family record and place as high as she can.. "I'm thinking I'll just try to get it this year," she laughed.

Another late add to the Hound contingent is junior Tate Johnson. Johnson qualified on time in the 100- and 200- meter dashes. Johnson will run in the first heat of the 100 prelims at about 1:15 p.m. on Thursday and is seeded 12th. His 23.02 time in the 200 at districts has him seeded 17th. He will run in the 2nd heat Thursday at about 11:10 a.m.

Johnson was dejected following not qualifying with the automatic spots Thursday in Mt. Pleasant.

"I thought my season was done and with all the hard work I'd put in it was a let down. But then seeing I made it was kind of exciting," Johnson said.

After battling injuries throughout the season, districts was the first competition Johnson saw in close to a month. A third-place finish in the 100 didn't sit well with the junior.

"I was pretty angry after the 100 and then wasn't in the mood to run the 200, but I just manned up and ran it and I'm glad I did now."

Johnson said he doesn't think his 200 effort at district's was all there. Without a seeding time, Johnson got put in the first heat and didn't have anyone to compete with toward the finish.

"I think if I have some people with me it will push me a little harder."

He said in the 100 he'll have to do better than 11.3 to make it to the finals Saturday. He said a sub 23 time in the 200 will be needed to get to finals. He ran a 23.02 at districts.

Mikey DiPrima and Jakob McGowan are both making the trip for the Bloodhounds in the long jump. DiPrima leaped 20-9" on Thursday, and McGowan went 20-6.75" to take the two qualifying spots. They will compete starting at 9 a.m. Friday morning. DiPrima is seeded 8th and McGowan is at 14. But McGowan's PR for the season is 20-11". DiPrima set his season best at districts.

The Hounds will also run Dayton Davis in the 400 open. Davis will be seeded 10th with a 51.71 and will run at 10:45 Thursday morning in lane 5 of the second heat.

Davis will also run as part of the Hounds 4x400 team anchoring with Brock Califf, Garrett Hannum and Andrew Schaefer. That will be the final event of Friday morning's session. The Hounds are seeded 8th with a time of 3:29.80.

Fort Madison has the 11th best time in the 4x200 at 1:31.97. Less than one second separates the 3rd and 11th seed in that event. The Hounds will send Califf, McGowan, Schaefer and Hannum and will run in lane 3 of the 2nd heat at about 10:25 a.m. Friday.

Central Lee sends three to state

The Hawks will send Tommy Eschman to the sandpit for the 2A long jump. Eschman's jump of 20-5.75 just qualified as the 24th seed in a loaded 2A field. Cooper Dejean of OAB-CIG flew 24-2" at his district meet for the top mark. 24-3" is the state record.

Senior Chance Hocker also squeezed in in the 200-meter dash. Hocker is also seeded 24th with 23.61 and will run in lane 8 of the first heat at 11 a.m. Thursday.

The feel good story of the year maybe Abby Wellman's qualifying in the 400-meter hurdles. Wellman will run in the 7th lane in the first heat on Friday at 11:40 a.m. Wellman is seeded 22nd, but caught the last hurdle in her district meet falling to the ground. She rolled up quickly and sprinted to the end catching a qualifying time at 1:10.58.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Junior Tate Johnson will be trying to place in the 100 and 200-meter dashes this weekend. Preliminaries are on Thursday with the top eight competing in the finals Saturday.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE

City of Fort Madison Planning and Zoning Commission will meet on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, 6:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers, City Hall, 811 Avenue E to discuss the following

AGENDA

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of minutes 4/27 /21 meeting
3. Review of Final Plat for Kruse Subdivision.

4. Adjournment

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids for the 2021 ASPHALT OVERLAY PROGRAM will be received by the City Clerk at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, until 3:00 P.M., on Tuesday, June 8, 2021.

Any bids received after this time will be returned unopened.

All bids properly received will be opened and publicly read aloud in the

Council Chambers at City Hall.

Specifications and instructions are available at City Hall, Public Works Department, Fort Madison, Iowa or at fortmadi-son-ia.com. For more information, please contact the Public Works Director, Mark Bousselot at (319) 372-7700, ext. 204.

The City of Fort Madison reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive minor technicalities, and to accept the proposal which the City Council deems to be in the best interest of the City.

Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk
City of Fort Madison
(319) 372-7700 ext. 206

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids for the 2021 STREET SEAL-COAT PROJECT will be received by the City Clerk at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, until 3:00 P.M., on Tuesday, June 8, 2021.

Any bids received after this time will be returned unopened.

All bids properly received will be opened and publicly read aloud in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Specifications and instructions are available at City Hall, Public Works Department, Fort Madison, Iowa or at fortmadi-son-ia.com. For more information, please contact the Public Works Director, Mark Bousselot at (319) 372-7700, ext. 204.

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To apply, download an application from our county website, www.leecounty.org or request one from the Conservation Office, and return your completed application, along with a resume and cover letter to: Lee County Conservation Attn: Nathan Unsworth, 2652 Hwy 61, Montrose, IA 52639, or email to nunsworth@leecounty.org. All applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, June 4, 2021.

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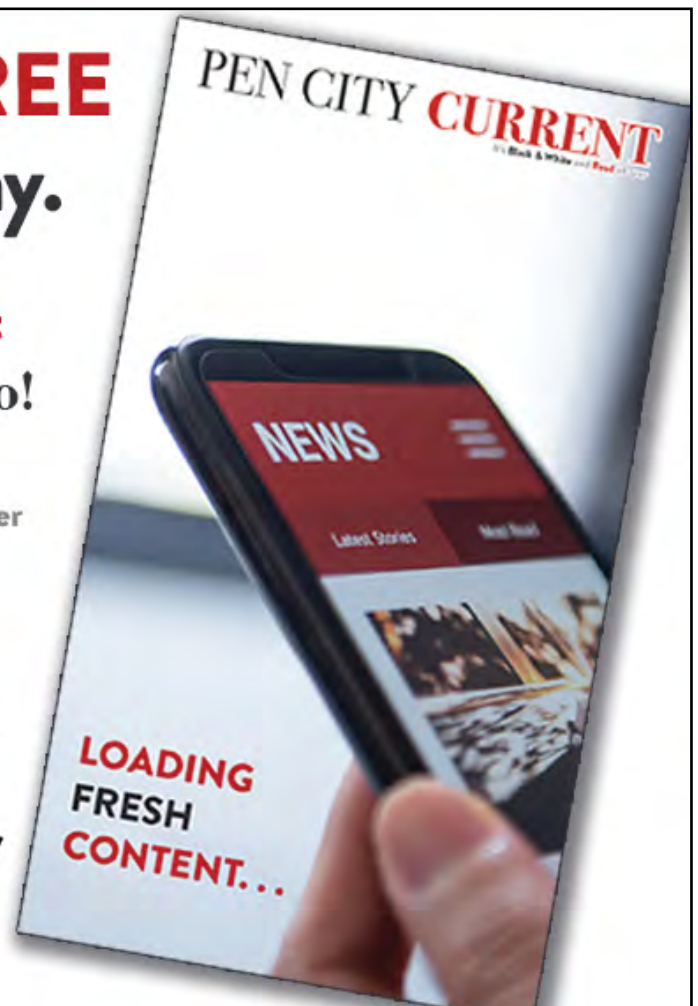
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Business News/From the Front

Advice from honorees touts community, experience

HALL - Continued from Page 1

“At the end of the day, I hope the seniors decide to come back to Fort Madison and southeast Iowa and engage in business endeavors,” Schulte said.

“I really hope that happens and continues to happen. A lot of my friends are the same friends I have had since grade school. Most have come back to the area and run businesses and worked for different businesses. It really is a good friend group with a strong sense of community.”

Smith is a 1997 graduate and is now the Commissioner for the Michigan Supreme Court.

Smith said he’s not a justice but does make recommendations to the Michigan State Supreme Court justices and he prefers the behind the scenes work.

“This is just a tremendous honor and there

have been so many others. Paul was just a few years ahead of me in high school and to be considered on that same level is quite rewarding,” Smith said.

Smith engaged in a lot of extracurriculars while at Fort Madison High School and said that contributed to his current success by giving him exposure to different social groups.

“I was class representative for student council and I did a lot of Key Club work. My last year I was president of the Key Club, which was a community service organization,” he said.

“I did lots of music, show choir, and speech and debate. The part helped with the lawyer part of things. Speech and debate transitions easily into practicing law and even theatrical part of the

chorale music helped with that.”

He said being well-rounded in high school is one of the best ways to get ahead out of high school.

“I think the biggest advice is to just put yourself out there, get in a lot of organization and activities,” he said.

And if you throw enough darts – some of them are gonna stick.”

The third honoree is 1964 graduate Bobbie Moline-Kramer, who is a working artist with two galleries in the New York City area and is represented by museums and art dealers out east.

Moline-Kramer said being nominated was ‘a little weird’.

“On one level it’s really a little weird,” she said. “I was without a doubt, the most strange person in high school. I just did not



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

From left to right Bobbie Moline-Kramer, Paul Schulte, and Christopher Smith stand with the plaques they were honored with as inductees into the Fort Madison High School Hall of Honor Wednesday night

fit and I was certainly not popular with the girls. I hung out with the boys.”

Moline-Kramer was born in Fort Madison but moved away from the area before coming back for her sophomore year at FMHS.

She said she didn’t even feel accepted at the school – until her 45th reunion several years ago.

“I was not accepted. However, the leader of the gang when I was here for our reunion actually came

up and apologized to me and that changed my attitude. So when Kieth Heffner called and said he wanted to nominate me I said, ‘Are you sure? I spent a lot of time in the hallways,’ and he said “Yes.”

She earned her degree in biomedical illustration and then left that field to sell her art and said the transition was made easier because she had already made those business connections.

Her advice for students today?...

“I would honestly tell them to shut up – and learn something,” she said.

“If you can cultivate manners, if you can cultivate being able to talk to somebody, if you can apprentice yourself to a gallery or in your field, do it. Work for free. Waitress at night, but that’s how your going to learn and you will get miles ahead of your roommates,” she said.

FMCH to hold Medicare seminar

FORT MADISON Are you going to be eligible for Medicare in the near future? Have you been on Medicare for awhile and want to better understand what it offers? Do you have a family member you help with Medicare issues?

“Welcome to Medicare” is for you! This two hour seminar will be held Tuesday, May 25, 2021 starting at 5:30 p.m. It will be presented by Great River Health SHIIP counselor with support from the FMCH SHIIP counselors. The seminar will be held in the FMCH Business Center Conference Rooms. Participants can enter through the Business Center doors and be screened for COVID-19. Masks will be required.

“Welcome to Medicare” will cover Medicare Part A and Part B benefits, the prescription drug benefit (Part D), Medicare Advantage plans and Medicare supplement insurance. For more information or questions call 319-768-3342.

SHIIP, the Senior Health Insurance Information Program, is a service of the State of Iowa. SHIIP counselors are trained by the state and do not sell or promote any insurance companies, policies or agents. Fort Madison Community Hospital is a local sponsor for SHIIP in Lee County.



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