

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's **Black & White** and **Read** all over

Wednesday, July 21, 2021 | 9 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 138



[www.pencitycurrent.com](http://www.pencitycurrent.com)

## Officials tour Ed center



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Lee County Economic Development Group President Dennis Fraise, and Southeastern Community College President Dr. Michael Ash, both center, were among officials who toured the Waterloo Career Center last week.

### **WATERLOO:** Lee County business, education officials tour career education center

BY ELIZABETH MEYER  
Special to the Pen City Current

WATERLOO — Lee County educators and business leaders on Tuesday toured the Waterloo Career Center to get a glimpse of what a work-based learning center for high school students could look like in Southeast Iowa.

Lee County Economic Development Group is spearheading an effort to create the Lee County Joint Education Center in cooperation with Southeastern Community College and the Fort Madison, Keokuk, and Central Lee school districts.

This summer, the Southeast Iowa Regional Economic and

Port Authority agreed to purchase the former KL Megla building in Montrose to house the potential project.

Tuesday's tour was a chance for local stakeholders to see a success story up close. The Waterloo Career Center opened in 2016 with 37 students from area high schools. The 2020-2021 school year concluded with about 400 students taking college-level classes and high-skill courses in the trades.

Jeff Frost, executive director of professional technical education at Waterloo Schools, and Amy Mieke, Waterloo Career Center administrator, led the tour.

See **TOUR**, page 9

### COUNTY PARKS

## LCCB to kick start Chatfield playground

*Three Rivers fund to chip in half of \$70K needed for upgrade*

BY ELIZABETH MEYER  
Special to the Pen City Current

MONTROSE — The Lee County Conservation Board on Tuesday agreed to contribute funds to help build a new playground at Chatfield Park in rural Keokuk.

The board voted unanimously to match funds raised by the Three Rivers Conservation Foundation up to \$35,000. Conservation Director Nathan Unsworth estimated the total cost of the playground project to be \$70,000. The foundation expects to begin soliciting donations for the playground in Fiscal Year 2022, Unsworth said.

Constructing new playgrounds — known as the Places to Play project — at county parks has been a priority for the foundation and conservation board. A roughly \$100,000 playground recently was completed at Pollmiller Park in West Point. Plans are also in the works to put a playground at Wilson Lake in Donnellson.

“We put a lot of money into Pollmiller because that is our most popular and the busiest park that we have,” Unsworth said, noting that the playgrounds at Chatfield Park and Wilson Lake will be smaller than the structure at Pollmiller Park.

Like the Pollmiller Park playground, funds for the projects at Chatfield Park and Wilson Lake come from the conservation trust fund, which fills its coffer with revenue generated by the conservation department.

Also at Tuesday's meeting, the conservation board agreed to continue discussions and planning for a disc golf course at Pollmiller Park. Board members acknowledged that the disc golf courses at Rodeo Park in Fort Madison and Rand Park in Keokuk are popular with area residents.

### HISTORIC TRAIN

## Historian spins tale of Mark Twain Zephyr at library

BY ELIZABETH MEYER  
Special to Pen City Current

FORT MADISON — Library Director Sarah Clendinning put it best when she said, “Fort Madison is a great place to live if you like trains.”

Not a day goes by without trains passing through the riverfront in this Mississippi River town.

It was no surprise, then, that more than two dozen people on Monday attended a presentation at Fort Madison Public Library about the historic Mark

Twain Zephyr.

Robert Tabern, director of passenger development for the Wisconsin Great Northern Railroad, educated locals on the history of the Mark Twain Zephyr

See **TRAIN**, page 8

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### WEATHER

WED 21 Jul.....Light Rain, 82° F/ 68° F  
FRI 10 Jan.....Light Rain, 83° F/ 70° F  
SAT 11 Jan.....Light Rain, 86° F/ 69° F

OpenWeatherMap

### IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 07/19.....11 38 42 46 48, Lucky Ball: 1  
PICK 3 07/19 MIDDAY.....763  
PICK 3 07/19 EVENING.....115  
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# For the Record

## For the Record

### Fort Madison Police Report

07/09/21 – 11:59 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle reported at the police station.  
 07/09/21 – 1:24 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Brandon Ray Raszler, 30, of Fort Madison, in the 1500 block of 18th Street on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.  
 07/09/21 – 2:39 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Kai Luv Kempker, 28, of Fort Madison, at the police station, on a warrant for possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana and prescription medications. She was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 07/09/21 – 5:44 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft on Cindy Drive.  
 07/09/21 – 6:18 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of Avenue H.  
 07/09/21 – 9:20 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2000 block of Avenue B.  
 07/09/21 – 9:40 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Jason Scott Ward, 40, of Fort Madison, in the 1200 block of 23rd Street, on a charge of assault with bodily injury. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 07/09/21 – 9:40 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Darren Lee Taeger, 37, of Fort Madison in the 1200 block of

23rd Street, on a charge of assault with bodily injury. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 07/11/21 – 2:14 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Lindsay Nicole Cleesan, 43, of Carthage on warrants for 3rd-degree burglary, providing false identification, 3rd degree theft and escape from custody and forgery. She was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 07/11/21 – 11:01 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1700 block of Avenue H.  
 07/11/21 – 12:38 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3000 block of Avenue N.  
 07/11/21 – 5:11 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2700 block of Avenue G.  
 07/13/21 – 1:43 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1500 block of 18th Street.  
 07/13/21 – 3:42 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 3100 block of Avenue O.  
 07/13/21 – 2:41 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Travis Dean Burk, 35, of Fort Madison, in the 2900 block of Avenue I, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 07/14/21 – 6:27 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 700 block of Avenue G.  
 07/14/21 – 9:42 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Jeri Monique Fink, 42, of Fort Mad-

ison, in the area of Blackhawk Heights on a warrant service. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 07/14/21 – 9:54 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of property damage accident in the 1200 block of Avenue H.  
 07/14/21 – 1:34 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1700 block of Avenue H.  
 07/14/21 – 7:59 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a personal injury accident in the 1300 block of Avenue G.  
 07/14/21 – 8:12 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue C.

### Lee County Sheriff's Report

07/10/21 – 1:45 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested David Eugene Paris, 45, of Warsaw, at the Lee County Jail on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 07/11/21 – 2:10 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Obie Taylor, II, 42, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance.  
 07/13/21 – 9:43 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Ryan Paul Markey, 42, of Wever, in the 700 block of Avenue F, on warrants for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and

released on his recognizance.  
 07/13/21 – 9:19 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Francis William Wrieden, 25, of Keokuk, in the 3500 block of Argyle Road, on warrants for willfull injury and domestic abuse assault-2nd offense, and charges of false imprisonment, simple assault and domestic assault impeding air/blood flow. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 07/13/21 – 9:19 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Dylan James Clark, 21, of Argyle, in the 3500 block of Argyle Road in Keokuk, on a temporary hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 07/14/21 – 10:12 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Nathan Eric Washburne, 43, of Fort Madison, in the 1500 block of 18th Street on a warrant for domestic abuse assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 07/14/21 – 10:22 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Umad Elijah Ismail, 19, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on a charge of 5th-degree criminal mischief. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 07/14/21 – 6:45 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies Daniel Allen Matous, 38, of Keokuk, in the 3600 block of Iowa Road, on warrants for 1st-degree trespass and 3rd-degree theft. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 07/15/21 – 3:34 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Bryon Ray McCannon, 25, of Danville, in the 200 block of Hwy. 2 in Donnellson, on a

charge of OWI-1st offense. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 07/15/21 – 7:47 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Christopher Adam Barnes, 30, of Keokuk at the sheriff's office on a charge of violation of a sex offender registration restrictions. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

### Hancock County Sheriff's Report

07/05/21 – Ethan N Whitt, age 22, of Hamilton, IL was arrested and charged with Aggravated Battery and Unlawful Use of a Weapon. Whitt was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 07/08/21 -Lisa C Swafford, age 44, of Ottumwa, IA was arrested and charged with Violation of Bail Bond. Swafford remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting her next court appearance.  
 07/08/21 – Sara A Pauly, age 37, of Ft Madison, IA was arrested and charged with Unlawful Use of a Weapon. Pauly was released on her own recognizance and given a future court date.  
 07/08/21 – Tracy A Hermann, age 58, of West Point, IA was arrested and charged with Driving While License Suspended. Hermann was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 07/08/21 – Jazlynn A Wilkerson, age 39, of Ft Madison, IA was arrested and charged with Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Wilkerson was released

on her own recognizance and given a future court date.  
 07/09/21 – Ryley A Massey, age 18, of Warsaw, IL was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence. Massey was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 07/10/21 – Kevin C Taylor, age 54, of Hamilton, IL was arrested and charge with Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine. Taylor was released on his own recognizance and given a future court date.  
 07/10/21 – Glen M Roberts, age 51, of Biggsville, IL was arrested and charged with Driving While License Suspended/ Revoked, Possession of a Firearm without a FOID Card, No Valid Registration, and Operating an Uninsured Vehicle. Roberts was released and given a Notice to Appear at a future court date.  
 07/11/21 – Deacon M Egle, age 35, of Warsaw, IL was arrested and charged with Aggravated Battery. Egle remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance.  
 07/11/21 -Julia A Smith, age 35, Homeless, was arrested and charged with Battery. Smith was released after given a Notice to Appear at a future court date.  
 07/11/21 – Jordan TA Quintero, age 23, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. Quintero remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance.  
*Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

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# PEN CITY CURRENT

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### ANDREA D. MARSHALL

Andrea D. Marshall, 50, of Niota, IL and formerly of Ft. Madison, passed away on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL.

She was born on July 20, 1970 in Ft. Madison to David and Barbara Waider Hotop.



MARSHALL

Andrea married Charlie Marshall in September of 1989 and they later divorced. She worked at Sorrento's for several years with her Mom and also was a traveling payroll clerk for various construction companies. She was currently working at J.M. Huber in Quincy. Andrea loved gardening and doing crafts, especially with her grandchildren at holidays. She enjoyed doing home improvements and treating herself to Chinese food whenever she could. Andrea was an avid dog lover, especially her beloved TJ.

Survivors include four children, Justin Marshall of St. Louis; Allee Marshall of Ft. Madison, Jesse Beach of Ft. Madison and Quentin Beach of Ft. Madison; six grandchildren, Triston, Torey, Ariston, Landon, Madison and Arriyon; her mother, Barb (Brian) Meierotto of Ft. Madison; three brothers, Jared (Brandi) Hotop of Ft. Madison, Ethan (Alexis) Hotop of Hamilton, IL and Kory (Leah) Hotop of Keokuk; one sister, Laura (Tracy) Cleaveland of Oakland, IA; several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her Father, David, her maternal and paternal grandparents and her step sister, Samantha.

Friends may call after 2 PM on Monday, July 19, 2021 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory where the family will meet with friends from 4-6 PM. The funeral service will be held at 10:30 AM on Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at King-Lynk Funeral Home with Rev. Jon Heyland officiating. Burial will follow in Oakland Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Andrea Marshall memorial fund and online condolences may be left at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

#### Pen City Current obituary policy

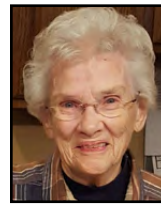
Pen City Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

## OBITUARIES

### NORMA J. BRASFIELD

Norma J. Brasfield (Enger) age 88 of Wever, went home to be with her beloved Savior on July 14, 2021 in her home surrounded by her family.

She was born on October 7, 1932 in Hamilton, Missouri to Rollo and Neva



BRASFIELD

(Wallis) Dale. On June 8, 1952 she married William Enger in Burlington. He died on June 12, 1990. On August 30, 1997 she married Michael Brasfield at the Little Brown Church in Nashua Iowa. She retired from the Lee County Auditor's Office with 25 years of service, including 15 years as Deputy. She attended First Baptist Church and was a member of the Monday afternoon study club.

Norma was a loving mother, grandmother and friend. She never had a harsh word to say about anyone and always had cookies ready for anyone that would stop by to visit. She loved doing crossword and jigsaw puzzles, traveling and yard sales. She made each holiday special for her family.

Norma is survived by her husband Mike, son Dale (Cheryl) Enger, son Dan (Jackie) Enger, daughter Denise (Jim) Fraise, step-daughters, Karen (Chet) Scott, Cheryl Bogart, Teresa (Daryl) Baker, Cindy Wilkerson and Peggy (Hank) Huffman, step-sons Michael Brasfield (Bob Simon) and David (Toni) Brasfield, 8 grand-children, 18 step-grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren, 29 step great-grandchildren and 1 step-great-great grandchild.

Besides her husband William, she was preceded in death by her parents, a brother Warren Dale, sister Lily Brookhiser and one infant daughter.

A Celebration of Life for Norma will be Saturday, July 24th at the First Baptist Church, 301 24th St Fort Madison at 10:30 a.m. with Reverend Dean Graber officiating. Family will meet with friends from 9:30 AM until the time of the service at the church. There will be a meal afterwards in the Family Life Center. All are welcome. Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. Private burial will be at Claypoole Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established for Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice and online condolences may be left for the family at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

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## Sports

## Freshman hurler halts Bloodhounds run for state

FM boys end year with 24-9 mark two games short of state tournament

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP  
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison's hitters couldn't rattle the freshman pitcher who had the confidence to go with his stuff.

The Bloodhounds couldn't find a way to get to Central DeWitt starting pitcher Nic Reemtsma, and it cost them at the worst time.

The Sabers' 5-1 win over the Bloodhounds in Monday's Class 3A substate semifinal started with a lot of noise early from the bats of the visiting team.

And that was the spark Reemtsma needed.

"When I pitch with a lead, I'm pretty dominant," Reemtsma said.

It was an accurate description.

Reemtsma allowed just five hits over 5 2/3 shutout innings, striking out four. And he helped Central DeWitt (22-15), the third seed in the substate, advance to Wednesday's 7 p.m. final against top-seed Davenport Assumption.

Fort Madison, which finished 25-9, couldn't find



a way to break through. And even when the Bloodhounds loaded the bases in the sixth inning, eventually knocking Reemtsma from the game, they couldn't capitalize.

"We weren't going to be able to show up, go through the motions, and win," Fort Madison coach Ron Walker said. "But hey, we competed. Someone's got to win, someone's got to lose, and unfortunately we were on the wrong side tonight."

What Reemtsma did didn't surprise Central DeWitt coach Shane Sikkema.

"That's Nic Reemtsma," Sikkema said. "He's got the velo, he's got the curve, he's got the change-up. He's a three-pitch pitcher, and tonight was an example of how good his future looks."

"My whole life, I've pitched with a lot of confidence," Reemtsma said.

Reemtsma (3-2) struck out four — three in the second inning — and kept the Bloodhounds off-balance until they got three consecutive singles in the sixth.

"My fastball/change-up combo was pretty good," Reemtsma said. "I was really pounding the zone, trying to get first-pitch strikes."

It was all about trust in his defense, Reemtsma said.

"Those guys give me all of the confidence in the world," he said. "They're great teammates."

Reemtsma's best inning was in the fourth, when he

needed just five pitches to retire the side.

"Like I said, I trust those guys," Reemtsma said.

"They're great defensively."

"Their pitcher threw the ball really well," Walker said. "He mixed up his pitches well."

The Sabers had a noisy first inning. Boomer Jackson, the second hitter, drove a home run to deep center field for a 1-0 lead.

Every ball the Sabers hit was with solid contact.

"We just needed to not hit everything at them," Sikkema said, laughing.

Central DeWitt added a run in the second when Jacob Maher scored on a wild pitch, then Maher's home run nearly in the same spot as Jackson's gave the Sabers a 3-0 lead in the fourth.

"We jumped on some fastballs, hit them hard," Sikkema said. "Obviously took advantage of some small portions (of the ballpark) here, and that gave us a lot of confidence. And it gave Nic a lot of confidence."

Kaiden Muhl scored on a wild pitch in the fifth, and then Muhl scored on Kyle Bixby's single in the seventh for the Sabers' final run.

Fort Madison had three consecutive singles off Reemtsma in the sixth, and after getting Kane Williams on an infield pop-up for the second out, Reemtsma's night was done. Reliever Noah Thein got Reburn Turnbull on a fly out to left field to end the inning.

The Bloodhounds got their only run in the seventh when Jason Thurman's single scored Colton Engeman.

"We had chances, and that's what I told our guys," Walker said. "We're down 5-0, we're playing on our home field, our guys competed. We just tried to keep it close, keep competing."

It was a season in which the Bloodhounds contended for the Southeast Conference regular-season title until the final week. The final loss was filled with emotion, yet Walker knew of his team's promise for the future.

"It's a bright future for the Bloodhounds," Walker said. "We had a lot of younger kids. We had great seniors, great leaders, and you could see that there at the end, with a lot of emotions, a lot of heart. It's tough to see, but that's part of sports. It's good to see these kids respect the game the way that they do."

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# Sports

## SUBSTATE OPENER

# Williams throws gem in substate opener Friday

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP  
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON – Landes Williams wanted to finish what he started.

His coach thought it was best to leave the masterpiece intact.

Williams struck out 12 and allowed three hits in 6 1/3 innings as Fort Madison opened Class 3A substate tournament play with a 9-2 home win over Mount Pleasant in Friday's quarterfinal.

The Bloodhounds (25-8), the second seed in Substate 4, play third seed DeWitt Central (21-15) in Monday's semifinal at a site to be determined. Fort Madison will be the host school.

Fort Madison, which stayed in contention for the Southeast Conference title until late in the season, lost four of its last seven games heading into the postseason.

"I think one of the things we talked about late in the season, especially the last couple of weeks, was fatigue was setting in," Fort Madison coach Ron Walker said. "We really talked about, 'Guys, don't be setting with 20 wins, 22 wins, whatever we were at. What I said was they were going to remember how we finished, not how the season started. You say you went 24-8 and you come out and lose the first round of (substate), that's what people are going to remember. So we talked about the lot here in the last week."

"The kids did a great job."

"We had a little bit of a rough end of the season," Williams said. "Hopefully we can get a roll going in the postseason."

Williams kept the Panthers (7-25) guessing all night with a fastball-curveball combination. His only rough inning was the second, when Mount Pleasant got both of its runs, but even in that inning he allowed just one hit and struck out three.

Williams started the seventh inning by getting Dalton Gardner on a fly ball to center field, but he allowed hits to Jack Johnson and Trevor Wellington. His pitch count was in the high 90s, and Walker decided to let Jason Thurman finish the game.

"No sense in pushing it," Walker said.

Thurman struck out Zerek Venghaus, and then Johnson was thrown out trying to steal third to end the game.

Williams struck out two of the first three

hitters he faced. But he hit Gardner with a pitch to start the second inning, then Gardner scored on Johnson's double. He walked Wellington, but struck out Venghaus and Will Edeker and looked to be close to getting out of it.

But Williams tried to pick Wellington off at second base, and his high throw glanced off the glove of Thurman, allowing Johnson to score from third. Williams then struck out Cooper Keldgord to end the inning.

"It was a relief getting out of that," Williams said. "After that, our guys started swinging the bats, stringing some good at-bats together."

Fort Madison scored four runs in the third inning. Thurman's triple scored Williams, then Thurman scored on his brother Vasin's sacrifice fly. Reiburn Turnbull added a two-run double later in the inning.

The Bloodhounds got four more runs in the fourth. Garrett Hannum had a bases-loaded walk, Kane Williams had a sacrifice fly, and Turnbull delivered a two-run triple.

Tate Johnson's fifth-inning triple scored Vasin Thurman with the final run.

"I told them (after the second inning), 'You're not going to win a baseball game not scoring any runs,'" Walker said. "Even with the first couple of runs they got, we've still got to score to win. Zero runs isn't going to win a ballgame."

"We worked through and found a groove."

Williams allowed just two baserunners from the third through sixth innings. He walked Carter Amos with two outs in the third, but picked him off at first to end the inning. He walked Venghaus to start the fifth, but got a double play to end the inning.

"It was my fastball, getting ahead early in the count, and then just using my curveball to keep them off balance," Williams said.

"Landes was coming out, finding the strike zone early, working the count," Walker said. "He gets stronger when the night goes on. Tonight he was able to keep his (curveball) around the strike zone, keep them off balance. He did a great job of setting the tone."

Fort Madison had 12 hits. Turnbull had three.

"Reiburn had more hard hits, better contact, tonight than he's had all year," Walker said. "He's got great hands, makes a lot of contact, but he's been rolling it over a lot lately. He was getting the barrel on it tonight."

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Mayor Paul Walk-

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If you have any questions please contact Lee County Engineer, Ben Hull at (319) 372-2541 or email him at [bhull@leecounty.org](mailto:bhull@leecounty.org).



er called the properly noticed regular meeting of the City Council of the City of West Point to order in the Conference Room of the Public Library, 317 Fifth Street, West Point, Iowa 52656 on July 12, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. In addition to Mayor Walker, the following indicated Council Members were present: Joe Loving; Brian Meierotto; Will Stuekerjuergen; Dan Waters; and, Bruce Wellman. Absent: None. The tentative agenda was approved by consensus. Upon invitation SAFE and The Best You Coalition representative Melissa Mace presented information to the Council regarding substance

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

misuse in our area and its effect on our youth. The Public Works report was reviewed. Upon invitation Police Chief Roberts presented the Police Department report. Mayor reported on the following: Farmers Market will be held on August 7, 2021; Shuckfest will be held on August 11, 2021; Sweet Corn Festival will be held August 12 – 15, 2021; and, City Election nomination papers are available and may be submitted beginning August 23, 2021 for the Election being held November 2, 2021. Mayor reported meeting date and time for upcoming meetings of Library Board; Municipal Utility Board; and, next regular Council Meeting of August 9, 2021. Upon invitation Dennis McGregor presented the City Administrator's report. Councilor Loving discussed several safety concerns at South Park with bleachers, etc. and a roof will need to be replaced on a shelter house. Councilor Stuekerjuergen thanked law enforcement and the public works department for their efforts with the annual Fireworks. On motion approved liquor license application from Phil's Pub with outdoor service. On motion approved the first reading of Ordinance No. 297-21 amending Council Member compensation. On motion approved the first reading of Ordinance No. 298-21 amending Mayor compensation. On motion minutes of prior regular Council Meeting of June 14, 2021 were approved as presented. On motion Treasurer's Report for June 2021 was approved

as presented. On motion warrants payable for July 2021 were approved as presented. On motion meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m., July 12, 2021.

**EXPENDITURES FOR JUNE 2021**

3rd Generation Electric, repair .....	730.96
Agrineed, hose .....	74.43
Armstrong Small Engine, repair .....	110.05
Baker & Taylor, books .....	708.44
Cessford Construction, rock.....	1382.61
City Clerk – FM, fees .....	320.00
City of Fort Madison, services .....	600.00
Daily Democrat, publications .....	233.98
Delta Dental, premiums .....	101.02
Diane Smith, reimb .....	29.43
Drake Hardware, laptops .....	5031.43
Floyd's E-Z-Way, trash hauling .....	47.00
Garden & Associates, engineering.....	3974.58
GRRWA, fees .....	432.00
Huffman Welding, pump .....	104.99
IA Dept of Revenue, taxes .....	243.00
Iowa Finance Authority, SRF loan.....	84985.04
Iowa League of Cities, dues.....	425.00
J&M Korner, supplies .....	22.98
L J Neuweg Rental, fees .....	65.00
Lee Co Secondary Roads,	

snow removal .....	3251.16
Mary Jane Pranger, cleaning.....	132.00
Mastercard, supplies .....	1214.90
McFarland-Swan, supplies .....	133.45

Mediacom, telephone .....	261.65
Menke Prof Auto, supplies .....	2.29
Midamerican Energy, utilities .....	12.20
Petty cash, supplies .....	39.64

Pilot Grove Savings Bank, principal .....	9800.00
Pioneer Heritage Library, DVD .....	2.00
Randy Cook, reimb .....	200.00
Ricoh USA, copier .....	171.77

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## Classifieds/Education News

# School board gives initial approval to facility upgrade ‘pre-design’

BY ELIZABETH MEYER  
Special to Pen City Current

FORT MADISON — The Fort Madison school board on Monday got an update from DLR Group on Phase 1 of the project to expand the middle and high school buildings as the district moves toward its completion date of August 2023.

The Des Moines-based DLR Group provides architectural services for the project and Burlington's Carl A. Nelson Co. oversees construction management. Phase 1 includes expanding the high school building to accommodate 7th-12th grade students (the building currently holds grades 9-12) and adding on to the middle school so it houses Pre-K through 6th grade, up from the current 4th-8th grades. Once the project is complete, Lincoln and Richardson elementary schools will no longer be in use.

Monday's presentation represented the "pre-design" stage of the project. DLR Group will attend the school board's next regular meeting on Aug. 16 to present the "schematic design."

The board voted unanimously to approve the pre-design concept.

"This pre-design phase is really to gather as much information as we possibly can and then starting to mold that into what this space is going to be," said DLR Group's Nick Hansen, noting he recently spent several hours with the district's elementary and middle school teachers learning what they would like to see in the new facilities.

"Next board meeting we'll be presenting our schematic design," Hansen said. "You'll be able to see things that are a little bit more, I'll say, written with a pencil; you can still erase a little bit, but it will start to get more real."

Phase 1 will be paid for by borrowing SAVE (Secure an Advanced Vision for Education) funds and utilizing the district's Physical Plant and Equipment Levy. Tapping into these existing revenue streams required voter approval but does not require additional taxpayer support.

"In 25 months, we will have kids walking in that door and we're all going to celebrate," Hansen said.

# Train ran through FM for 12 years

TRAIN - Continued from Page 1

— which at one time made stops in Fort Madison, Wever, Montrose, and Keokuk in Lee County — and the \$4 million renovation currently underway.

Tabern's presentation in Fort Madison was one of 14 he is making along the train's original route in Galesburg, Illinois, Southeast Iowa, and Missouri.

His stop in Fort Madison included a one-hour PowerPoint presentation, small memorabilia display and a book signing. Tabern and his wife, Kandace Tabern, authored the three-volume book series "Mark Twain Zephyr: History, Restoration & Re-birth."

Described as "one of the Burlington's (Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad) premier trains," the Mark Twain Zephyr began carrying passengers and cargo on Oct. 25, 1935 and did so until 1958. The train's route changed several times during its 23 years in service and passed through Fort Madison off and on for about 12 years.

Family-owned Wisconsin Great Northern Railroad, located in Trego, Wisconsin, purchased the Mark Twain Zephyr in 2020 and is in the process of renovating the five-car train for recreational use. Beginning in the spring of 2022, passengers can take a ride on the historic train and enjoy dining and a museum aboard.

"This is just the beginning of a new life for a train that passed through your town and is a big part of your Fort Madison history," said Tabern.

When the Mark Twain Zephyr ceased

operations in 1958, it spent about two years at the CB&Q railroad shops in West Burlington before passing through numerous individual owners, including Iowans Charles "Frank" Dashner of Glenwood and Ernie A. Hayes of Mount Pleasant. The train sat on the grounds of the Midwest Old Settlers & Threshers Association from 1962-1979 where it fell into disrepair.

One of the train's distinguishing features, a large medallion displaying the bust of Mark Twain and a copy of his signature, was taken off the train during its years in West Burlington. The CB&Q worker who took the medallion was identified and it was given to Hayes, the Mount Pleasant businessman.

When Wisconsin Great Northern Railroad purchased the train last year, Tabern noticed the medallion missing and began trying to track it down. Eventually he traced its whereabouts to the home of a Hayes relative in Texas. The medallion is now under the care of Wisconsin Great Northern Railroad and will be displayed at the train depot in Trego.

"That's what I like telling in the books and the stories, is not just the history of the train, because anybody can tell that," Tabern said. "I like delving deep and finding some of the family stories. It's the personal stories that I enjoy telling."

To follow the Mark Twain Zephyr's restoration journey, visit [marktwainzephyr.com](http://marktwainzephyr.com) or the Mark Twain Zephyr page on Facebook.

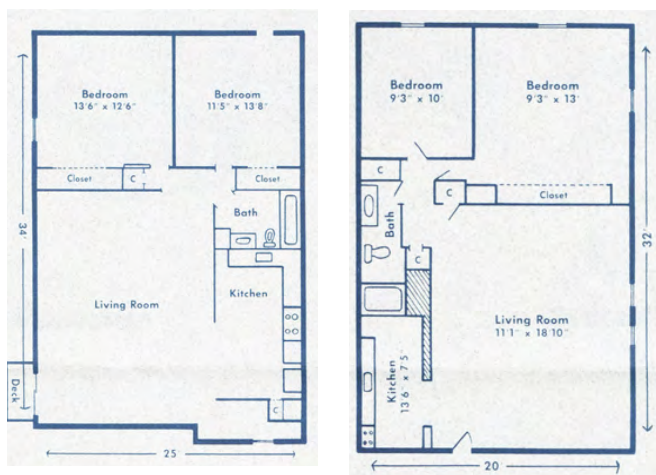
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## HELP WANTED

**Volunteer Services Program Director**

**United Way** United Way of the Great River Region

United Way of the Great River Region is seeking a full time Volunteer Services/AmeriCorps Seniors Program Director in our Fort Madison office to manage all aspects of the Volunteer Services Program. Director will oversee a long standing AmeriCorps Seniors program. Ideal candidate will be a proven self starter, creative, outgoing, have excellent leadership and interpersonal relationship skills; grant management and writing skills; fundraising experience; strong office, computer and budgeting skills; and ability to work with and manage volunteers and the organizations and businesses who utilize volunteers. The ability to multi-task is a must. Some travel may be required. COVID protection measures include personal protective equipment, sanitizing supplies, low office traffic, some virtual meetings. EOE

To be considered, send your cover letter and resume with three references, on or before July 30, 2021 to: United Way of the Great River Region, PO Box 251, Keokuk, IA 52632 or email [director@unitedwaygr.org](mailto:director@unitedwaygr.org)

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## Lee County News/From the Front

# WCC showcases career pathways

**TOUR** - Continued from Page 1

Those in attendance included Michelle Brown, director of high school relations at Southeastern Community College; SCC President Dr. Michael Ash; Fort Madison High School Co-Principal Greg Smith; Fort Madison High School Co-Principal Adrian McKay; Stephanie Brownlee, marketing specialist at Fort Madison Community School District; Angie Fransk, curriculum director at Central Lee Community School District; Central Lee High School Principal Nicole Herdrich; ConAgra employee Andy Snod; and Dennis Fraise, president and CEO of Lee County Economic Development Group.

At the conclusion of the tour, Fraise remarked on the “energy that a center like this creates.”

“If you build it they will come,” he said. “The instructors are so passionate and to see the collaboration between the different modalities that they have here is really exciting. The level of work together just blows me away.”

The tour took the Lee County group through the two-story building (also home to Central Middle School) to see a kitchen classroom, health careers equipment, manufacturing, plumbing, and electrical shops, and graphic design studios.

Career pathways at WCC include advanced manufacturing, culinary, digital graphics, digital interactive media, early childhood education, electrical, entrepreneurship and finance, health, hospitality and tourism, information technology, marketing, plumbing, and sustainable construction and design.

“What we’re seeing an increase of is the work-based learning, the internships,” Miehe said. “The kids are acquiring these skills and interested in these fields and businesses and employers are reaching out to us wanting to take on kids and giving them those opportunities to take the skills they’re learning here and apply them at

the workplace.

A primary driver behind the WCC was Waterloo Schools’ low graduation rate of 74.3% in 2012, Frost said. In 2020, Waterloo Schools’ graduation rate was 85.8%, according to Iowa Department of Education data.

“[A task force] identified what districts our size were doing that were having success and a common theme emerged,” Frost said. “Districts that were having success graduating students typically had some sort of strong CTE (Career and Technical Education) component within their district, whether that was a career academy, whether that was a school within a school, working with community colleges, working with businesses; there was some kind of theme that, this is what you need to do.”

The WCC has become an extension of Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo, allowing area high school students to earn college credit and reduce the amount of time and money spent on post-secondary education. Frost said the center has proven to be a “huge win” for the community college because it helps attract students early and retain them.

Though the Lee County Joint Education Center still has a long road ahead, Fraise said Lee County residents should be excited about its potential because “it helps focus our efforts.”

“We have these great manufacturing careers, we have health care, we have all these things that are available at different high schools, but I think there’s an efficiency of scale,” Fraise said. “When you bring those things together — and they do a really good job right now — but I think we could do an even better job if we would just bring them all together. We would do it at one place and we could really be great at what we do.”

Fraise said LCEDG “would love to fill up the building right away” but they intend to “stair step” and “start small.”

# Back-to-School Festival Aug. 7th at Keokuk church

KEOKUK - The 17th Annual Back to School Festival will be held on Saturday, August 7 from 9 AM to 11 AM at Trinity United Methodist Church, 2330 Plank Road in Keokuk. We will remain as a curbside event again this year, but we have the same goal - to help families get ready for school. Each year, area churches, organizations, and businesses come together to support this event. It’s free and open to the public regardless of income or school district. Backpacks with selected school supplies will be distributed for students pre-kindergarten through high school on a first come first serve basis.

Due to COVID-19, backpacks will be distributed “CURBSIDE”. Participants should drive to Trinity United Methodist Church. Once there, participants will stay in their car and receive instructions on how to receive backpacks and a meal. Participants should not arrive before 9:00 AM. Other event activities such as visits with area agencies and outdoor games will be suspended again this year out of caution for everyone’s safety.

There are plenty of ways to get involved and help support this annual event:

- Become an event sponsor
  - Sponsor a backpack for \$20 each or purchase supplies (contact us for the most updated list)
  - Volunteer to pack backpacks with school supplies (August 3, 4, 5)
  - Volunteer on August 7 to help distribute backpacks.
- Watch for Facebook posts about the event, volunteer opportunities and a list of our sponsors.

For more information or to sign up as a volunteer, contact Sue at United Way at 319-524-4504 or [vc@unitedwaygrr.org](mailto:vc@unitedwaygrr.org).

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