

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Friday, March 19, 2021 | 9 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 64



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Mayor peddles marina to SIRCC

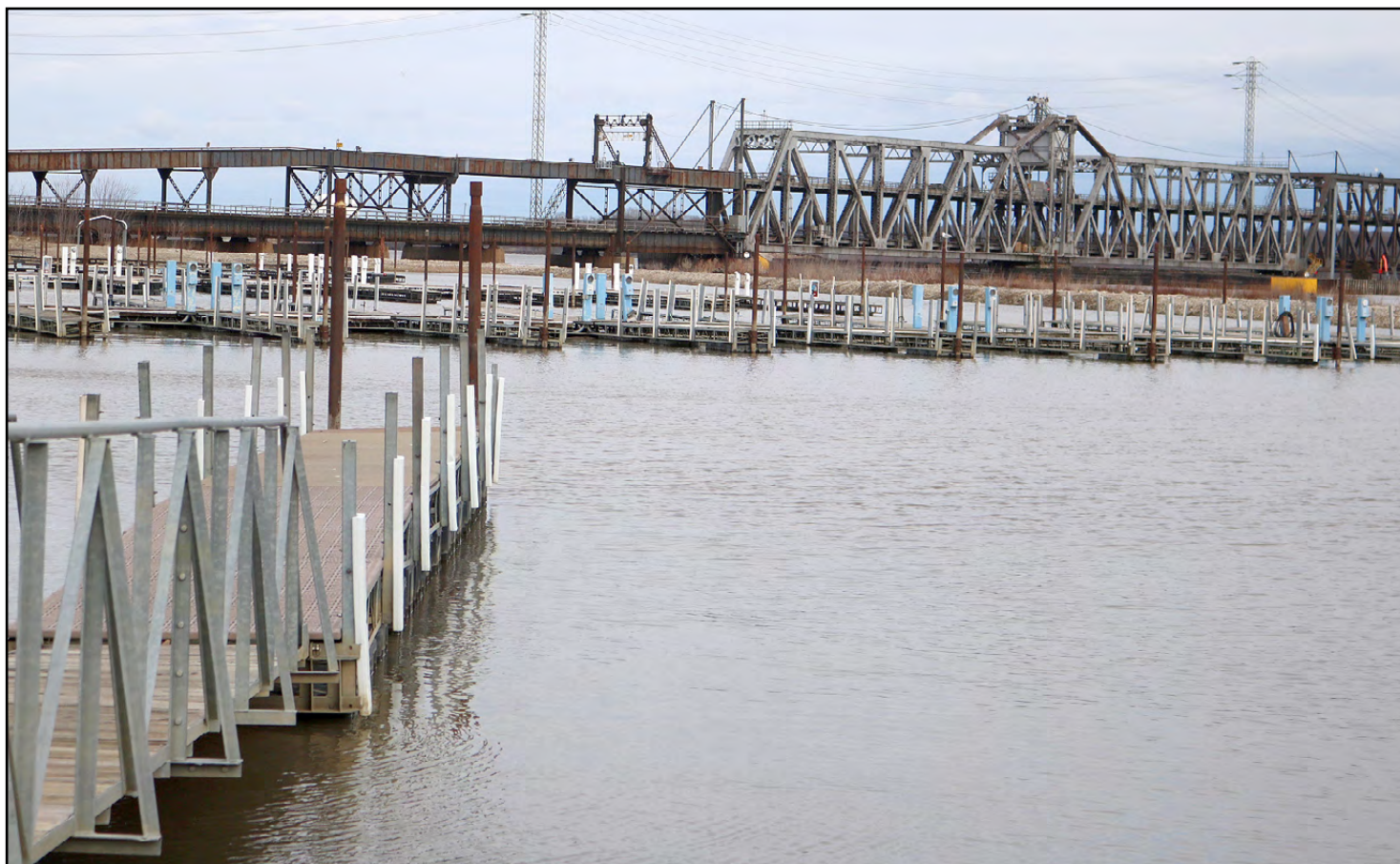


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

The Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission heard a pitch from Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld Monday about the city's vision for revitalizing the marina in Riverview Park.

DREDGING: Mohrfeld said more silt was present in marina than originally thought

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld continues to carry a renewed vision for the city's marina to local groups for funding.

Mohrfeld told the Fort Madison City Council on Tuesday that he met with the Southeast Iowa Regional Riverboat Commission about helping fund part of the vision.

The city is looking at what Mohrfeld has been dubbing a "5-Star" Marina that has a preliminary price tag of about \$6 million.

"I made a presentation to the SIRRC group (Monday) night



MOHRFELD

for the \$1.5 million for docks. They were very, very excited about the project," Mohrfeld said. "We've got a two-week period of them looking at where they will come in on that, but that was a nice discussion and a nice meeting – so that was the next step."

The project initially involves dredging the marina, which is already being planned for this fall, repairing and raising the jetty wall approximately five feet to take it out of the 500-year flood plain, and brand new docks and boat slips to accommodate additional boaters. About half

See **PROJECT**, page 9

TRUSTEES

Library board delays talks on possible levy

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Library board is going to create a 5-year plan, and then discuss a possible citywide levy to help pay for it.

At Thursday's monthly board of trustees meeting, the board decided to push the levy discussion past the creation of the five-year outlook. Plans for that are set to begin with some community meetings in September. The board had originally planned to start those meetings last year, but the pandemic delayed the process.

Thursday's discussion first focused on building repairs and maintenance on the library, which was remodeled from a former physicians clinic in 2007.

Trustee Kathy Burkhardt asked if the budget has ever included setting money aside for maintenance or repairs.

"Do we need to look at it more carefully and start planning for those things. I don't know we've ever budgeted for those kinds of things and I'm talking about maintenance on the building. Those are things we need to know so we have a better idea of what to do and how to build a 5-year plan," she said.

Trustee Tom Pollpeter asked what the city's role with the building was.

Fort Madison Library Director Sarah Clendineng said the maintenance of the building does come from the city's budget.

"That's my thought process – that this is a city building and the library is a renter or leaser... or squatter," Pollpeter said with a laugh.

Clendineng said that was a correct analysis.

"It is a city building and at the end of the day almost all the money we spend on maintaining the building comes from the city. We did have a trust for maintenance, but that has been spent over the years.



CLENDINENG

See **FUNDING**, page 9

TOP NURSES

FMCH's Burgus honored as top 100 nurse in state

Submitted article

IOWA CITY – The 100 Great Iowa Nurses program is proud to announce the 2021 honorees have been selected and announced. Nurses selected for this honor represent many sectors of health care, including hospitals, long-term care

facilities, and school and office nurses. These exemplary nurses are selected based on their concern for humanity, their contribution to the community and to the nursing profession, their leadership and mentoring.

Amanda Burgus, Quality Director/

Emergency Preparedness, at Fort Madison Community Hospital, was named to the 2021- 100 Great Nurses list of honorees. Starting as a staff nurse, Amanda has touched many areas of nursing

See **HONOR**, page 3

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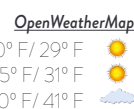
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WEATHER

FRI 19 Mar Clear Skies, 50° F/ 29° F
SAT 20 Mar Clear Skies, 55° F/ 31° F
SUN 21 Mar Overcast, 60° F/ 41° F



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PICK 3 03/17 MIDDAY.....6 9 5
PICK 3 03/17 EVENING.....4 5 2
PICK 4 03/17 MIDDAY.....9 7 9 2
PICK 4 03/17 EVENING.....6 6 5 8
POWERBALL 03/17.....34 38 42 61 62, Powerball: 19, Power Play: 2

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Opinion/Education News

Letters to the Editor

Time to reclaim status as Beacon of Light

Dear Editor

A new presidential administration is the chance for new opportunities. A fresh start. I can think of no better issue to address than immigration. It is time for America to regain the ground we lost as a beacon of light and home of the free. It is time we restore the American spirit that welcomed the immigrant and refugee ancestors of so many of us today

The people of our country have three histories: Indigenous, enslaved, and immigrant/refugee. My ancestors, like those of all white Americans, were in the latter category. They first stepped on these shores in the 1600s and continued arriving over the next few centuries. Their reasons for becoming Americans were varied, from economic opportunity, escaping poverty, and fleeing religious persecution. I believe it is important we learn our ancestors' histories. They are our stories. Our ancestors were new Americans like the new Americans of today. The stories have stayed the same.

My most recent immigrant ancestors were Jonathan and Harriet Atkinson. Jonathan came in 1874, leaving behind a wife and infant son so he could prepare a life in America for the family. They believed the hardship and separation were worthwhile. Eight years later, Harriet and their son arrived. Jonathan worked dirty jobs no one wanted, such as cleaning railroad cars. It provided a life in America for the family, albeit a difficult life. He and Harriet knew it was worth it for the future of their children, including my grandfather, Alexander. Jonathan became an American citizen in 1897, 8 months before he died at the age of 47. Harriet began taking laundry in the home as a widow. The children took difficult jobs beginning in adolescence to support the family. They became domestic servants, worked in cracker factories, and in construction. They took whatever work they could find with their limited education. The educational opportunity was saved for the youngest child.

My grandfather, Alexander, came to Hamilton as a young man. He married a local woman, Mildred Pilkington. Her ancestry in America ran deeper and longer than his, but the hopes and dreams were all the same, always looking toward tomorrow and making a better future for the next generation. Her Pilkington roots were recent in America, following a new religion. The rest of her tree was firmly set with roots in New Amsterdam and New Jersey. The Guldens became Goldens, adapting like immigrants do today. Huguenots fled religious persecution in France. One father even left a young son in America, their new home, while he attempted to rescue other family members from France. He did not return, but his son lives on in me. This is still the story of America. Parents instinctually bring their children to the land of the free with their own acts of bravery.

Immigrants of today share the same story of dreams and sacrifice as my ancestors. We need immigrants because they are intrinsic to the American story and enrich the fabric of America through their sweat, sacrifice, and dreams. They take nothing for granted and hold a pride in America that relates to the best part of our history. Like my ancestors, they work the hard jobs we and our children do not want. They help our economy move. They do not always speak English, but they learn it just as my German, French, and Dutch ancestors did.

America is woven together with yarn made by the strength of dreams, tears, hopes, and joy. It always has and we should be proud. The descendants of slaves and Indigenous people add their unique story of pain and resilience, our strongest yarn. We should be proud of the multi-color fabric and diversity that is America. Let us ensure the American dream burns bright for all again.

Mary Jo Riesberg
Keokuk, IA



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Emmy Liu, Daniel Wilkerson, and Xandra Abel have all accepted an offer to attend the Bucksbaum Academy and will be graduating a year early from high school to pursue their college education beginning in the fall of 2021.

Central Lee students accepted into Bucksbaum Academy

Submitted article

DONNELSON – When our young people display firm commitments to excellence and promise to be positive forcers in the future, our communities will undoubtedly be the benefactors if we give them the support they deserve.

With that support and vision, three Central Lee High School students were invited into the Bucksbaum Early Entrance Academy at the University of Iowa.

Xandra Abel, Emmy Liu, and Daniel Wilkerson have all accepted the offer to attend the Academy and will be graduating a year early from high school to pursue their college education beginning in the fall of 2021.

To qualify for the opportunity, they each scored in the top 95%tile on the ACT (composite score 29+), completed an application and interview process, and made a plan for completing their high school credit requirements in only three years. Having three students meet all the qualifications is simply amazing.

This opportunity enables high school juniors and seniors who are ready for university-level work to skip their final years of high school and head straight to college. Program participants are regular University of Iowa students – taking classes, using libraries and labs, living in residence halls, and being involved in campus life.

Additionally, students are immersed in an enriched academic and social community for young students as they transition to university life.

The Belin-Blank Center provides extensive support to Bucksbaum Academy students, in the form of individual weekly meetings with first-year students, weekly seminars, advocacy across campus, cultural and recreational activities, and access to our staff and resources.

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PEN CITY CURRENT

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

OLIVER L. BLICK

Oliver L. Blick, 79 of Dallas City, IL passed away at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at his home.

He was born January 15, 1942 in Cedar Rapids, IA, the son of Harold and Hazel Jenkins Blick. In 1992 he married Rebecca Taylor in Milwaukie, OR. Mr. Blick attended school in Cedar Rapids and was the Iowa State Champion Wrestler in the 130lb class for Cedar Rapids High School in 1961. Following High School he served in the US Navy for 4 years. He worked as a machinist and retired from McKay Envelope in Mt. Pleasant. Following retirement, he worked as a greeter and in maintenance at Wal-Mart in Burlington, IA. He enjoyed woodworking, making clocks, watching basketball, metal detecting and hiking the mountains of Oregon. He especially enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, Andrew, Kaylee and Jainy.

Surviving are his wife, one daughter, Samantha Dalrymple of California, three sons, Robert and Matthew Nicholson, both of Sronghurst, IL and Jason Nicholson of Dallas City, four grandchildren, Brandon Joseph Scott, Andrew Nicholson, Kaylee Nicholson and Jainy Nicholson and one great-grandson, Johnny Christopher Dalrymple, three sisters, JoAnne Pick, Elaine Louise Blick and Elona.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, Gary Blick and one granddaughter, Kayla Karissa Scott.

No services are planned at this time. Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City is assisting the family. A memorial fund has been established to help with expenses. Contributions may be mailed to; Oliver Blick Memorial, c/o Banks & Beals Funeral Home, PO Box 70, Dallas City, IL 62330. To leave a condolence, please visit Oliver's obituary at banksandbeals.com.

Burgus makes "100 Great Nurses" list

HONOR - Continued from Page 1

supervision holding the position of house supervisor, case manager, Director of Inpatient Services, Director of Emergency Services and Annex Infusion Services leading to her current role as Quality Director/Emergency Preparedness. She has been with FMCH for twelve years.



"Amanda is a true reflection of the foundations of nursing. She exhibits strong critical thinking skills, always puts the patient first and utilizes the tools available to the medical team to appropriately diagnose and treat the patient," explained Vicki Kokjohn, Vice President of Patient Care Services at FMCH.

Amanda attributes her pursuit of a health care career to her mom who went back to school to earn a nursing degree when Amanda was ten.

"I am truly humbled and honored to have been nominated and could not ask for a better work family. I am successful because of this team! Thank you from the bottom of my heart! I love this organization, my team, co-workers, everyone here and couldn't ask for any better!" expressed Burgus.

This year, the 100 honorees represent 39 Iowa counties. Honorees were nominated by colleagues, patients, doctors, friends, and family members. The field of nominees was narrowed to 100 by a panel of reviewers, including nursing professionals and previous honorees.

A virtual celebration of the 100 Great Nurses will be held on Sunday, May 2. This is the 17th anniversary of the program. The celebration is an annual prelude to National Nurses Week, which begins on May 6 and ends May 12 (the birthday of Florence Nightingale).

OBITUARIES

CHARLES F. TROTTER

Charles Fredrick "Bud" Trotter, 83 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 12:32 pm Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at the Great River Medical Center, West Burlington, Iowa. He was born December 9, 1937 in Des Moines, Iowa, a son of Charles L and Margaret (Hussman) Trotter. He married Dixie Lee Owens. She preceded him in death. On October 8, 1999, he married Judith (Swanson) Heincy. She survives.



TROTTER

Charles served in the United States Air Force. He worked as an inspector at the Ordinance Plant (IAAP). He enjoyed fishing and was a commercial fisherman for years. He was an amateur radio operator and was known by his call sign, NW0X. He was also a beekeeper for a period of time.

He is survived by his wife, Judith Trotter of Fort Madison, Iowa; two daughters: Gwendolyn Nichols of West Burlington, Iowa and Dawn Trotter of Council Bluff, Iowa; four step-children: Cathy (Ken) Noblet, Gary Jr. (Lorna) Heincy, Scott Heincy, and Michelle (Dave) Jones; five grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, 12 step-grandchildren, and one step-great grandchild. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Dixie Lee, one brother Richard, and one sister Phyllis.

A private family burial with military rites will be held at a later date at Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Trotter family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.



LETHA M. SPIESZ

Letha Mae Spiesz, 72, of Farmington, Iowa, passed away at 6:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at Great River Hospice House in West Burlington, Iowa.

She was born on April 22, 1948, in Keokuk, Iowa, the daughter of Howard Henry and Dorothy Pauline (Horsey) Spiesz.

Survivors include her two brothers: H. Eugene Spiesz of Farmington and Francis L. (Kathy) Spiesz of Farmington; two nephews: Michael (Allison) Spiesz and Dean (Jean) Spiesz and two great nieces: Erin and Emma Spiesz.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers; Dale and Max and sister-in-law: Joanne.

Letha was a graduate of Central Lee High School. She worked at Sheaffer Pen Company for thirty-seven years. She was a member of First Christian Church in Keokuk. She enjoyed roses, mowing grass, working with calves and Christmas was her favorite holiday.

Letha's body has been entrusted to Schmitz Funeral Home for cremation.

Per her wishes, there will be no services.

A memorial has been established in her memory for Embury Cemetery and can be sent to the family at: Schmitz Funeral Home, P.O. Box 56, Donnellson, Iowa 52625.

Schmitz Funeral Home of Farmington is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

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Firms included in the 2021 Edition of U.S. News-Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms" are recognized for professional excellence with consistently impressive ratings from clients and peers. To be eligible for a ranking, a firm must first have a lawyer recognized in The Best Lawyers in America, which recognizes the top 5% of private practicing lawyers in the United States. Achieving a tiered ranking signals a unique combination of quality law practice and breadth of legal expertise. Mr. Pothitakis has been named to The Best Lawyers in America in 2020 and again in 2021.

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Lee County News/Local News

Lee County EMA planning drills for Severe Weather week

LEE COUNTY - The Lee County Emergency Management Agency, Local Fire and law enforcement agencies, Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD), National Weather Service (NWS), and Iowa Emergency Management Association (IEMA) have joined together to promote Severe Weather Awareness Week in Iowa.

Severe Weather Awareness Week, March 22-26, is an opportunity to highlight the importance of being aware of, and prepared for, severe weather.

For each day during Severe Weather Awareness Week, a different subject will be featured:

- Monday – Severe thunderstorms
- Tuesday – Weather warnings
- Wednesday – Tornadoes
- Thursday – Family preparedness
- Friday – Flash floods

The annual statewide tornado drill will take place on Wed., March 24, beginning at 11 a.m. At this time Lee County agencies will test the outdoor warning systems. Schools, businesses, individuals, and state and local governments may participate, keeping in mind COVID-19 safety guidelines, including:

- Staying at least 6 feet from other people outside of your household in your shelter location if possible
- Wearing a mask
- Washing your hands often, cover coughs and sneeze
- Avoiding touching high-touch surfaces, such as handrails, as much as possible

These guidelines also apply if you must go to a public shelter or stay with family or friends during, or following, severe weather or other emergencies.

Severe Weather Awareness Week is a good time to review your family's emergency plan and to check the contents of your emergency kit. Be sure to include in your emergency kit items you may need if you must shelter outside of your home, including masks, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant wipes.

Learn more on sheltering safely and protecting yourself and others from COVID-19 at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/covid-19/public-disaster-shelter-during-covid.html>

Additional information about the tornado drill can be found on local NWS websites. For more information on severe weather preparedness, visit www.beready.iowa.gov.

Follow HSEMD and NWS on social media using the hashtag #IAwx and #ReadyIowa.

Fort Madison one of 11 counties to host Live Healthy 5K

FORT MADISON - Live Healthy Iowa (LHI) is partnering with 11 communities across Iowa to host the 7th annual Live Healthy Iowa 5K. The events, scheduled for Saturday, May 1, will be held in Bondurant, Britt, Carroll, Dickinson County, Dike, Fort Dodge, Fort Madison, Monroe County, Sergeant Bluff, Spencer, and Story City. A virtual option is also being offered for 2021. Proceeds from the events will benefit local wellness efforts in these communities, as well as Live Healthy Iowa Kids initiatives.

"The Live Healthy Iowa 5K will be the first in-person LHI event since COVID-19 forced us to cancel many events in 2020," said Director of Live Healthy Iowa, Nicole Kennedy. "This will be a great and safe opportunity for participants as we kick off Go The Distance May."

The Fort Madison LHI 5K event will begin and end at Baxter Sports Complex, utilizing the PORT trails for the route. The 5K portion of the event will begin at 8:00 am with the 1K kid's run following at 9:00 am.

All participants will receive a Live Healthy Iowa 5K T-shirt, race number, finisher medal, and the opportunity to win door prizes. The cost is just \$25 online until April 12; and \$30 up to the race. The 1K kid's run, for ages 12 and younger, is \$5 through race day. For additional event details, or to register, visit www.livehealthyiowa5k.org.

Live Healthy Iowa and Live Healthy Iowa Kids provide challenges and events throughout the year to promote healthy and active lifestyles. To learn more about these programs, please visit www.livehealthyiowa.org or call (888)777-8881.

About Live Healthy Iowa

Live Healthy Iowa, formerly Lighten Up Iowa, was created in 2001 by the Iowa Sports Foundation as a strategic health initiative to address the state's growing obesity problem. Live Healthy Iowa brings together friends, families, businesses, and communities in team-based wellness challenges and events designed to promote positive lifestyle change. Since 2018, more than 250,000 adult and youth Iowans have participated in a Live Healthy Iowa challenge or event. To learn more, visit www.livehealthyiowa.org.

About PORT of Fort Madison

PORT of Fort Madison is a volunteer organization that operates as a committee under the Parks & Recreation Board of the City of Fort Madison. It was organized in 2014 with the vision to create a system of multi-use trails in Fort Madison to encourage healthy living activities such as walking, running, and biking. To date PORT has successfully completed two sections of the initial three phase project with the third phase slated for completion by June 1, 2021. An additional trail, majority funded by the GRHS-FMCH Community Health Foundation, is also being developed to connect Rodeo Park with Bluff Road. To learn more, find them on Facebook-PORT of Fort Madison.

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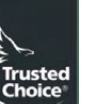
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Random Acts of Kindness

The Fort Madison and Keokuk Area Chambers of Commerce are recognizing Friday March 19 (3-19) as Random Acts of Kindness day in the 319 area code. They are encouraging good acts of neighbors, businesses and individuals through the day on Friday.

Legislative Luncheon

LEE COUNTY – The monthly Legislative Luncheon sponsored by the Fort Madison and Keokuk Area Chambers of Commerce will be held Friday at noon. Register at <http://bit.ly/leeleg3192021>. State Reps. Joe Mitchell (R-84th District) and Martin Graber (R-83rd District), and State Sen. Jeff Reichman (R-42nd District) are scheduled to join virtually.

Egg-Stravaganza

FORT MADISON – Shug's Tiny Town in Fort Madison will be holding a children's Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 27, from 10 to noon for 4 and under, and from 1 to 3 p.m. for ages 5 to 8. Space is limited and cost is \$25 per child. Prizes and treats for the egg hunters.

Family Fixins

LEE COUNTY – ISU Extension and Outreach will be hosting a one-skillet meal cooking class for the whole family on March 27, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Fort Madison YMCA. The class is free for the whole family and the family will prepare one recipe to take home. To register, call the ISU Extension office at 319-835-5116.

Understanding Dementia

FORT MADISON – The Kensington will be hosting a virtual event featuring Cheri Theesen on "Understanding Changes as Dementia Advances". Theesen will offer insights for those who love and care for someone with dementia. The event is Monday, March

29 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. RSVP to Cindy Greer at cgreer@kensington-evergreen.com to receive an event link.

Read Across Iowa

WEST POINT – Preschool story time through the Iowa State University Extension is being held on Mondays in March beginning at 10 a.m. at the West Point Public Library. This year's theme is agriculture.

Faeth's Annual Tractor Show

FORT MADISON – The event will be held at Faeth's Cigar Store in Fort Madison on Saturday, April 3, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a parade at 1 p.m.

YMCA registering for programs

FORT MADISON – Little Tykes Soccer and Lee County Soccer registration is now open through the Fort Madison YMCA. Call 319-372-2403 to register and for more information. The YMCA is also scheduling private youth gymnastics lessons for boys and girls ages 10 and up.

Y Kids & Company preschool enrollment is now open for the 2021-22 school year. Call the YMCA for additional information.

Blue and Silver Celebration

FORT MADISON – Holy Trinity Catholic will hold it's annual Blue and Silver celebration, an annual tribute to teachers. This year's event will be Saturday, March 27, 2021 and limited to teachers and guests only. The HTC Teacher of the Year will be announced.

Community Clean-up

FORT MADISON – The annual community clean up has been set this year for April 24. Contact the Chamber at 319-372-5471.

United Way Golf Outing, Virtual 5K

LEE COUNTY – The United Way annual golf outing

will be held on May 7 this year with a noon shotgun start. Registration and sponsorships are now available by contacting Karen at 319-524-4504 or at director@unitedwaygrr.org. The group is also sponsoring a virtual 5K event from May 21, to May 31. Registration is ongoing with a cost of \$20 per person including a t-shirt, \$15 to participate with no shirt. Shirts can be picked up at 511 Blondeau St. in Keokuk or you can include an additional \$5 to have it shipped to you.

Jack Morris Florida of Iowa

LEE COUNTY – After being canceled due to COVID in 2020, the annual Jack Morris Memorial Florida of Iowa Golf Outing is set for June 11. Sponsorships are available and registrations are being taken by contacting the Chamber at 319-372-5471 or by email at chamber@fortmadison.com.

FMCH Foundation Golf Classic

LEE COUNTY – The Fort Madison Foundation golf outing will be held Friday, June 18 at Sheaffer memorial Golf Course with morning and afternoon flights. Sponsorship and Team opportunities are now available. All money raised benefits Fort Madison Community Hospital. Contact Carrie at 319-376-2747 or cgreen@fmchosp.com for more information.

Green Team Fundraiser

The Fort Madison Green Team is soliciting funds for One Tree Planted, a non-profit whose mission is to plant trees in every corner of the world. To make a donation, click on the link provided: <https://www.bonfire.com/the-green-team-fundraiser/>.

Fort Madison Public Library

All Booked Up! is held Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. This week discussion will focus on the Underground Railroad. At 3:30 each Thursday is Thursday Crafternoons at the library. Facemasks are required.



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LEE COUNTY SECONDARY ROADS ASSISTANT TO ENGINEER

Lee County is taking applications for an Assistant to Engineer to work out of our Fort Madison, Iowa office. Duties will include conducting National Bridge Inspection Standards inspections of in-service bridges, preparing engineering plans and specifications for road-related construction or maintenance projects and serving as project lead inspector on construction projects, including directing and supervising contractors and County employees. Wage based on experience and qualifications.

Lee County provides equal opportunity in employment to all persons regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion or disability.

To apply, download an application from our county website, www.leecounty.org or request one from the Engineer office, and return your completed application, along with a resume to: Lee County Engineer, P.O. Box 158, Fort Madison, IA 52627, or email it to engineer@leecounty.org. Applications will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., Monday, March 22, 2021.

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



Got a news tip?
Call Chuck (319)371.1670



Human Service Position Opportunities Available

Optimae LifeServices, a progressive mental health provider in Iowa, is seeking qualified individuals to fill a variety of roles working with individuals to achieve life goals in their daily living.

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Applicants can apply in office or online at www.optimaelifeservices.com

For questions, please reach out to HR at 319-237-1730 (Burlington) or 319-372-3566 (Lee Co.)

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ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY

JOB DESCRIPTION:

The Lee County Attorney is accepting applications for a full-time Assistant County Attorney. Primary duties involve all aspects of trial work including daily court appearances, assistance with investigations; charging of criminal cases; interaction and training with law enforcement, victim and witness contact, representing the State at hearings, trials, and in other legal proceedings; and other duties as assigned. The duties of this position may change as determined by the County Attorney.

REQUIREMENTS:

Graduation from an accredited law school and admission to practice law in the State of Iowa with a law license in good standing and no history of discipline.

Must be able to simultaneously handle multiple areas of responsibility with minimal supervision, properly prioritizing tasks and duties as dictated by changing demands. Must be able to simultaneously advance all assigned cases in a large trial case-load.

Prior trial experience and prosecution experience is preferred but not required.

SALARY:

Salary range to start at \$71,300.00 per year commensurate with experience, as well as a competitive benefits package.

Applicants should submit, by email or mail, a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and three references to:

Ross J. Braden
Lee County Attorney
710 Avenue F
Fort Madison, Iowa 52627
rbraden@leecounty.org

Applications must be received by March 19, 2021 at 4:30 PM.

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LEE COUNTY SECONDARY ROADS

ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN SUPERVISOR

Lee County is taking applications for an Engineering Technician Supervisor to work out of our Fort Madison, Iowa office. Duties will include: to direct and oversee the work of a small crew of engineering technicians, perform research and fieldwork for land surveys, engineering surveys, and construction surveys; drawing plans and preparing specifications, conduct inspections of work performed by contractors, and preparing right-of-way descriptions and drawings for the purchase of land to improve and construct roadways and operate survey equipment.

Lee County provides equal opportunity in employment to all persons regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion or disability.

To apply, download an application from our county website, www.leecounty.org or request one from the Engineer office, and return your completed application, along with a resume to: Lee County Engineer, P.O. Box 158, Fort Madison, IA 52627, or email it to engineer@leecounty.org. Applications will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., Monday, March 22, 2021.

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



NOW HIRING

Lee County Commission on Veteran Affairs Director/Administrator

The Lee County Commission on Veteran Affairs is looking to hire a replacement for our current Director/Administrator. Position includes providing assistance on obtaining benefits and services available to local veterans and their families.

High school diploma or equivalent required. Must be certified or able to obtain certification from Federal and State of Iowa Veteran Affairs. Must have excellent computer skills, valid driver's license, be eligible to work in the United States, reside in or be willing to relocate to Lee County. Must be willing to work flexible hours. Government budget experience is a plus.

Position will start July 6, 2021. Position will be part-time (20 hours per week) until January 1, 2022 then will be a full time position (30 hours per week, per Iowa Code). Certification must be reached by January 1, 2022. Starting wage will be \$14.00/hour and will increase to \$18.00/hour at full time status. Lee County benefits will be available. Veterans will be given preference but all candidates will be considered.

Application and job description may be found online at www.leecounty.org and may also be obtained at the Lee County Auditor's Office, 933 Avenue H Fort Madison Iowa or by calling the Auditor's Office at 319-372-3705 or the Lee County Commission on Veteran Affairs Chairperson at 319-470-9434. Please submit cover letter, resume, and completed County application to:

Lee County Auditor
933 Avenue H, PO Box 190
Fort Madison IA 52627
Or email to dfraise@leecounty.org

*Applications accepted through May 1, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.
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PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Fort Madison
Community School
District
1930 Avenue M
Minutes of the
Public Hearing
February 16, 2021,
6:00 p.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER. The public hearing was called to order by President Hope at 6:01 p.m. Directors Wondra, Ross, DiPrima, Menke, Wykert and Steffensmeier were present. Also present were Dr. Slater, Superintendent, Director of Curriculum and Student Services Harmon and Secretary Elmore.

II. APPROVE THE AGENDA. It was moved by Steffensmeier and seconded by Wykert to approve the agenda. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

III. HOURS / DAYS OF INSTRUCTION FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR. President Hope explained the purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive written and oral comments regarding the Hours vs. Days of Instruction for the 2021-2022 school year.

IV. RECEIVE WRITTEN COMMENTS. President Hope asked for any written comments. There were none.

V. RECEIVE ORAL COMMENTS. President Hope asked for any oral comments. There were none.

VI. ADJOURN. The public hearing was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Dianne Hope, President
Sandra Elmore, Secretary
February 16, 2021

I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum. The meeting was called to order by President Hope at 6:00 p.m. Directors Wykert, Ross, Menke, DiPrima, Wondra and Steffensmeier were present. Also present were Superintendent Slater and Secretary Elmore.

II. Recognition of guests. President Hope welcomed members of the audience in attendance.

III. Approve the agenda. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Steffensmeier to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

IV. Certified Budget Discussion – Sandy Elmore. Secretary Elmore led a discussion session around the Certified Budget process and contents for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

V. Discussion of Superintendent Evaluation Timeline. The Board discussed the Superintendent evaluation process and timeline.

VI. Announcements March 15, 2021, 6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting, Board Room, Central Office

VII. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

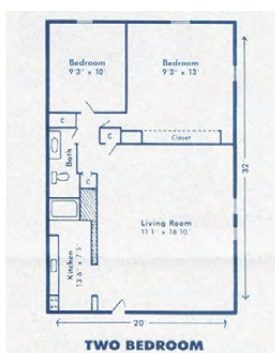
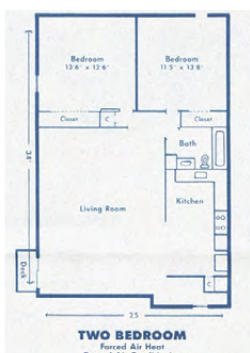
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6:00 P.M.
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LEE COUNTY CERTIFIED EMS PROVIDERS**

Lee County is now accepting applications for full and part-time Iowa certified EMS providers. We are a county owned and operated ambulance service providing emergency services to Lee County, Iowa as well as critical care transport services. Our primary full-time schedule is based on a 24-48 rotation with a Kelly Day, flexible scheduling for part-time employment. Strong progressive protocols, new fleet power load equipped. Starting wage EMT \$15.82 per hour, \$42,777.28 per year. Starting wage paramedic \$20.16 per hour, \$54,512.64 per year, based on a 48-hour full-time work week. 2% wage increases annually for three years. 10 cents per hour increase for every year of EMS experience after your first year. Benefit package includes health insurance through Blue Cross Blue Shield (80/20 plan), chiropractic, prescription plan, annual wellness, vision, dental, life, protection class IPERS, optional 401K, Aflac, Lee County Credit Union. Annual uniform allowance provided. In house continuing education provided. Positions will start July 1, 2021.

Paramedic Qualifications:

- High School Diploma (GED or High School Equivalence Certificate)
- Current IDPH-BETS EMS Certification at the Paramedic level
- Valid Driver's License/insurable
- Current BLS
- Current ACLS
- Current PALS

EMT Qualifications:

- High School Diploma (GED or High School Equivalence Certificate)
- Current IDPH-BETS EMS Certification at the EMT level
- Valid Driver's License/insurable
- Current BLS

Applicants must be eligible to work in the U.S. Veterans will be given preference but all candidates will be considered. Applications and job descriptions may be found online at www.leecounty.org and may be also obtained at the Lee County Auditor's Office, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison Iowa. Applications accepted through April 5, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. Complete background check, drug screening and post-offer physical required. Lee County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Please mail or email applications to or for more information:

LEE COUNTY IOWA

Lee County EMS
Attn: Dennis Cosby, EMS Director
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Fort Madison, Iowa 52627
dcosby@leecounty.org

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From the Front/Local News

City will need to contribute to marina project

PROJECT - Continued from Page 1

of the new docks would be covered.

Future plans include raising the north road out of the 500-year-flood plain.

Plans also include a new hospitality center with amenities, fuel and convenience items, food and beverage services, additional repairs to the marina wall, and upgraded parking services.

The project is being planned as a public-private partnership with both for-profit and non-profit entities involved with several lease relationships.

Proceeds from the new dock and slip rental, with a goal of 110 new docks, would be used to maintain the new docks and dredging as needed. The higher jetty wall would reduce the silt that currently settles in the marina causing boater issues.

Mohrfeld said a recent examination of the marina showed more silt had settled after recent flooding that had been originally estimated, so deeper dredging could take place.

The mayor credited Public Works director Mark Bousselot for getting FEMA to take another look at the Fort Madison project.

Mohrfeld said the next conversations will be with other investment groups and then where and how the city contributes.

"The coming weeks will see meetings set up with the private investor side. The important thing there is that we're moving forward," he said.

The Fort Madison City Council has been receptive to the idea, but the city may have to contribute up to \$1.5 million to get trigger the other investments.

"There will have to be a jump on spot and I don't know when that is, but I will continue to update you on that," he said Tuesday night.

City cemetery clean up next week

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Cemetery Department will begin Spring Clean Up at Sacred Heart, Elmwood, Oakland & City Cemeteries on Monday, March 22 through Friday, March 26, 2021. ALL items must be removed from the gravesites before

Monday, March 22. Any items left will be disposed of during cemetery clean-up. No items are to be placed on the graves until Monday, March 29, 2021.

For further information, call (319) 372-7700, ext. 206 or email mblind@fortmadison-ia.com.

Levy would probably create fund for library upkeep

FUNDING - Continued from Page 1

The money to maintain the library comes from the city's general fund," Clendineng said.

"But like other departments we need to budget for that. Building maintenance is one thing that the city has struggled with since I've been here."

Burkhardt said she still thinks those things should be part of the library's 5-year plan.

The board then decided to move discussion on the levy until after the 5-year plan has been created so the board has a better understanding of what revenues and expenses will look like.

"It would be easier to sell the levy if we have a concrete plan," she said.

Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld met with the board during its February meeting to discuss the possibility of a .27/\$1,000 levy that is allowable under Iowa law, if approved by city voters.

Mohrfeld told the group that would generate about \$80,000 and would inject need cash into the facility and the library board would have control over those funds. Part of that February discussion was to use some of those funds for curb appeal and building maintenance.

Mohrfeld told the board in February that the library's percentage of expenses was outpacing increases in city revenue. The levy, if passed during a regular city election, would give the board control over that portion of the budget.

Clendineng also suggested Thursday night that the library board create a building committee. No action was taken on the creation of the committee because it wasn't listed as an agenda item for Thursday.

The building committee would make recommendations to the full library board, and if approved those recommendations would be considered by the city.

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