

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Wednesday, March 3, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 52



www.pencitycurrent.com

VOTERS APPROVE RPS



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Fort Madison School District voters lined up in the Sheaffer Room at the Fort Madison Public Library to cast ballots to allow the district to borrow against state SAVE funds through 2051. The vote passed overwhelmingly, after four other attempts to build new facilities failed.

OVER THE MOON: School Board president thrilled with voter approval of plans

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison School District voters overwhelmingly approved a measure Tuesday that will allow a one-cent state education tax to be used to pay for facilities upgrades in the district.

District voters cast ballots at three locations and absentees totaling 822 in favor of an extended Revenue Purpose Statement, with 140 opposed to the move.

The approval allows the district to borrow against the Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (SAVE) funds

through 2051. The district used the funds 10 years ago to build the Fort Madison Middle School.

This time around the funds will be used to move PreK-6th grade students into the Middle School and combine 7th through 12th grades at the Fort Madison High School, with about \$51.4 million in improvements, construction, and site renovations.

About \$25 million of the work will get the students into the facilities and allow the retirement of Lincoln and Richardson elementaries in Phase 1. That phase will not require

See **BALLOT**, page 7

STREETS

City could bump street resurfacing

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Getting Fort Madison's streets up to speed may take a dozen years, but city officials say the process is coming quicker than they expected.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Fort Madison City Council Public Works Director Mark Boussetot said the city is putting close to \$300,000 per year toward asphalt and seal coating projects with the exception of the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Boussetot said the city is looking at about 88 blocks of resurfacing and 12 years to get the work done.

Boussetot said he separated the streets with asphalt and seal coating into four categories, with the Category 1 being the worst.

"The first four years will be focusing on category one streets, and then a category two would start in year 5," Boussetot said.

"I didn't plug in any streets in year two to allocate that money to sewer separation, but at year three we'll get back at it."

He's allocated about \$1.2 million over the first five years. Boussetot estimated the 12 years of work will cost about \$3.36 million to complete.

City Manager David Varley said the Road Use Funds are performing better than expected and that timeline could shrink to under 10 years with possibly being able to bump up annual spends to \$400,000.

Varley said the city's Road Use fund is doing better than expected during the pandemic, and the city could see an extra \$150,000 from the next stimulus package for fund earmarked to states for road projects.

In a related issue, the city approved entering into a contract with Jones Contracting for the reconstruction of Highway 61 from 6th to 10th streets for just over \$3.3 million dollars.

The project will be the same scope of work as the 2nd to 6th Street projects and carried an engineers bid of \$3.9 million.

See **COUNCIL**, page 7

FMCH

Guzman returns to FM as physical therapist at FMCH

Submitted article

FORT MADISON – Physical Therapist Nick Guzman has joined the staff of Fort Madison Community Hospital (FMCH) Rehabilitation Services.

Guzman went on to complete his Doctorate of Physical Therapy at St. Ambrose University in Davenport after graduating from Central College in Pella with a Bachelors

of Arts in Exercise Science degree.

"I was committed to becoming a physical therapist after going to physical therapy a few different times during college. My experiences with physical therapy were very positive and after being in clinics, both as a patient and a student observer, I decided this was the profession for me,"

See **THERAPIST**, page 4

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WEATHER

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Obituaries/Local News

OBITUARIES

MATTHEW C. CLEMONS

Matthew Clinton Clemons, 59, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, passed away at 6:53 p.m. Friday, February 19, 2021 at his apartment.

Matthew was born on March 11, 1961, at Sacred Heart Hospital in Fort Madison, Iowa the son of Jack Raymond and Eileen Rose (Kudebeh) Clemons.



CLEMONS

Surviving family includes two sisters: Laurie (Dennis) Dilley of Waukee, Iowa and Julie (Timothy) Rider of Lomax, Illinois; one brother: John (Kim) Clemons of Springville, Utah. Also, Matthew was blessed with many nieces and nephews.

Matthew was preceded in death by his parents, a nephew and a grandniece.

Matthew was a 1979 graduate of Central Lee High School in Donnellson, Iowa. He graduated with a Technical Engineering Degree from Kirkwood Community College. He later received a bachelor's degree in English Literature from the University of Iowa. Matthew's path in life brought him into the food service industry, from making pizzas in college to management with Arby's fast foods.

Matthew's passion in life was as a modeler. He achieved the title of Master Painter. He was involved in the building of what is known as "garage models". Many of his models were considered pieces of art. Matthew was published in several modeling magazines and was a guest along with his friends on Modeling TV. He received many awards at Wonderfest in Louisville, Kentucky. This was the highlight of Matt's year, traveling to the event with his friends. Matt was a huge fan of Primus, attending many of their concerts. Matt was known as Pigman at the concerts always donning a pig mask.

Matthew enjoyed his family time and being part of family debates. Matt had a zany sense of humor, sharing much laughter with friends and family. He will be deeply missed by his family and his many friends.

A private family service will be held at a later date. A memorial has been established in his memory and can be mailed to the family at: Schmitz Funeral Home, P.O. Box 56, Donnellson, Iowa 52625. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com. The Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements.

Pen City Current obituary policy

The 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.

OBITUARIES

SARA M. METZGER

Sara Margaret Metzger, 83, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 8:40 p.m. on Thursday, February 25, 2021 at the University of Iowa Hospitals in Iowa City. She was born on May 14, 1937 in Des Moines, IA to Marian & Lorene Fitzpatrick



METZGER

Hutchison. She was a beloved wife, mother, daughter, grandmother and teacher. She graduated from Northeast Missouri State Teacher's College (Truman State) and accumulated a 33-year career of elementary teaching. She was named Teacher of the Year in 1989 at Lincoln Elementary School here in Fort Madison.

She was joined in marriage with Larry Metzger on August 10, 1958 in Fort Madison, IA. Together, they had 3 children and enjoyed a life of travel, camping, reading and later spending time with their 8 grandchildren.

Margaret is survived and remembered by: her husband: Larry Metzger of Fort Madison, IA; her children: Julie (Randy) Bush of Flora, IN, Jeff (Kellie) Metzger of Fordland, MO, Jaime (Lynee) Metzger of Harlan, IA ; her grandchildren: Jonathan, Jacob & Jarin Bush, Matthew & Karlee Metzger and Lindsey, Lucy & Lilly Metzger and 1-sister: Mary Gustafson. She was preceded in death by: her parents & 1-sister: Marilyn Cross.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A private family burial will be held at Soldiers' Circle in Oakland Cemetery. Online condolences to the Metzger family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

City issues clean up order for cemeteries

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. Thank you for your cooperation!

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

IRVIN H. ROTH

Irvin Henry Roth, 100, of Farmington, Iowa, passed away at 10:15 a.m. Sunday, February 28, 2021, at the Fort Madison Community Hospital in Fort Madison, Iowa.



ROTH

He was born on February 22, 1921, in rural Lee County, Iowa near Farmington the son of Henry and Cora (Christy) Roth. On July 4, 1943, he married Edith Louise Martin in Kahoka, Missouri at the pastor's home. They were married for seventy-seven years.

Survivors include his wife: Edith; daughter: Cheryl DeMoss of Farmington; son-in-law: Alfred Fraise of Farmington; four grandchildren: Aaron DeMoss, Tammy DeMoss, Heath (Jacki) Fraise and Brett Fraise; two great grandchildren: Sydney DeMoss and Tanner DeMoss; three step-great grandchildren: Sam Weber, Josie Johnson and Lucas Johnson.

He was preceded in death by his parents; step-mother: Verna (Breitenstein) Roth; one daughter: Linda Fraise; one grandson in infancy; one brother: Melvin Roth; two sisters: Vernell Anders and Margie Wells.

Irvin was a 1939 graduate of Farmington High School. He was a member of the former United Church of Christ in Primrose. Irvin was a farmer, farming the farm that had been in his family for over 100 years. He enjoyed playing cards, reading, working in his garden, mowing grass and farming.

Friends may call from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Thursday, March 4, 2021, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington.

A private family graveside service will be held Friday, March 5, 2021, at Greenglade Cemetery with Reverend Gordon Hawkins officiating. After his funeral, the service will be posted on his obituary page under his "Tribute Wall" at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

Burial will be at Greenglade Cemetery in Farmington.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in his memory for Farmington EMT's or Greenglade Cemetery.

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

KAREN L. WOODLEY

Karen L. Woodley, 71, of Ft. Madison, passed away on Friday, February 26, 2021 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

She was born on June 30, 1949 in Keokuk to George W. and Neoma V. Thomas Fowler. On July 5, 1968 she married David R. Woodley in Argyle.



WOODLEY

Karen was an administrative assistant at the Iowa State Penitentiary and retired in 2010 after almost thirty years of service. She was a member of the First Christian Church. Karen loved her family, she especially enjoyed attending her grandchildren's events and babysitting for her great grandchildren. She enjoyed reading, being outdoors and was an avid Iowa Hawkeye basketball fan. Karen was the organizer of the Law Enforcement Torch Run through ISP that benefited the Special Olympics. She was also a SHIIP volunteer for several years.

Survivors include her husband, David R. Woodley of Ft. Madison; two daughters, Angela (Troy) Scholl of Cedar Rapids and Jill Johnson of Ft. Madison; three granddaughters, Brianna Pentzien of Ft. Madison, Leigh Johnson and Logan Johnson of Ft. Madison; three great grandchildren, Jaxon Welborn, Emree and Cooper McCormick of Ft. Madison; two sisters, Irene (Kurt) Kress of Burlington and Barbara (Dale) Cobb of Conrad, IA; many special nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Per her wishes, Karen donated her body to the University of Iowa Deeded Program for anatomical research. The family will meet with friends from 10-11 AM on Tuesday, March 2, 2020 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with a memorial service to follow at 11 AM with Rev. Leslie Dalstra officiating.

A memorial has been established in her memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

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Sports/From the Front

FMCH adds new staff to PT department

THERAPIST - Continued from Page 1

expressed Guzman.

Guzman was born and raised in Fort Madison so when it came time to choose an organization to begin his career, the choice was an easy one.

"I was born and raised in Fort Madison and have plenty of friends and family in the area today as well as my wonderful fiancée who works as a music teacher in the Keokuk school district. On top of that, my first student observation experience was at FMCH as well as my final clinical experience as a physical therapy student. From those experiences, I came to know the staff as extremely helpful to me as a student and a new graduate. I could not be happier to start my career as a physical therapist at Fort Madison Community Hospital!"

Physical Therapists work with patients in the treatment of movement disorders including muscle, bone and neurological concerns.

Guzman will see patients by appointment in the FMCH Outpatient Rehabilitation Services Center.

About FMCH Rehabilitation Services

FMCH Rehabilitation Services employs a dedicated group of professionals who share a common goal to get their patients back to an active life. They provide treatment for both inpatients and outpatients. Working with patients of all ages, they cover a full range of services including physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and aquatic



GUZMAN

therapy. The Outpatient Rehabilitation Services Center includes state-of-the-art equipment and a warm water aquatic therapy pool.

SPORTS BRIEFS

FMMS girls down Burlington, Ottumwa

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison 7th grade girls basketball team beat Burlington 34-17. Dayonna Davis was the leading scorer with 13 points, followed behind by Hadley Wolfe with seven. Mara Smith had six points and Addison Rump had four points. Halle Menke and Jaycee Fullenkamp each chipped in with 2. Davis led in rebounds with 11 and Wolfe handed out three assists.

Fort Madison won the B game 18-1. Addison Rump led the scoring with 10 points followed by Avery Rump with six points. Jaycee Fullenkamp pitched in with two points. Both Rump girls had four rebounds to lead the Hounds.

On Monday the 7th grade Lady Hounds beat Ottumwa in the A game 45-3. Davis led in scoring with 14 followed by Dynasty Bell-Washington with eight. Mara Smith added seven points while both Halle Menke and Addison Rump scored four each. Hadley Wolfe, Ellie Huebner and Jaycee Fullenkamp each chipped in two. Bell-Washington led in rebounds with six. Wolfe and Davis added five assists each.

Fort Madison also won the B game 22-2. Bell-Washington led the Hounds with eight points, followed closely behind by Addison Rump with six. Brooke Johnson scored four with Megan Curtiss and Jaycee Fullenkamp added two points each to finish the scoring. Johnson led in rebounds with five.

The A team is 8-1 on the season and the B team is 7-1.

FMMS 8th graders finish year 7-2

MT. PLEASANT – Aiden Mitchell scored 16 to lead Fort Madison's A team to a 45-33 win over Mt. Pleasant to finish the year 7-2.

Julian Dear had nine points followed by Dayton Lamar's seven. Justin Maither and Cayden Barnes each had four, Brody Cashman had three and Jackson Guzman scored two to round at the A team scoring.

The B Team also won 30-27 on a dramatic half court shot at the buzzer from Kendon Bowie, Bowie finished with 11 points followed by Noah Swigart with six. Chandler Fullenkamp and Kaleb Heidbreder each had four points. Hunter Cook added 3 and Joseph Fuller had two in the win.

Central Lee boys fall to Notre Dame

BURLINGTON – Brayden Wyrick poured in 20 for the Central Lee 8th graders in a 38-27 loss to Burlington Notre Dame on the road.

Kegan Damico had three, Drake Weber had two and Kayden Calfee and Hunter Edlin each scored a point in the loss.

Owen Swan led Central Lee's 7th grade boys with 11 points in 37-20 loss on the road to Notre Dame. Will Hayes put in five, while Brody Moeller and Carter Ellingboe each had two points.

The Hawks are 8-3 on the year and wrap the season up Tuesday against Danville at home.

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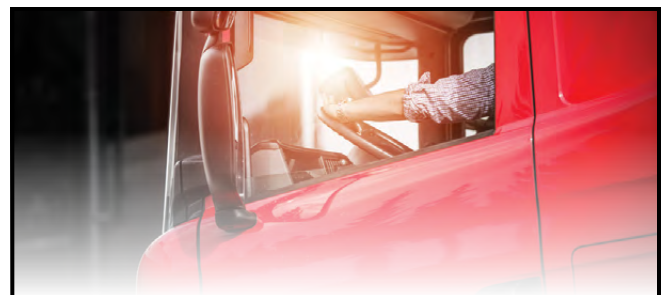
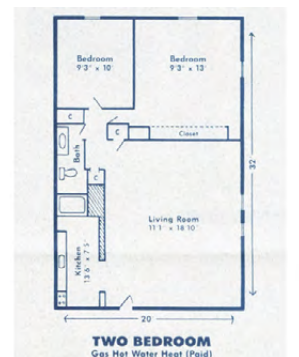
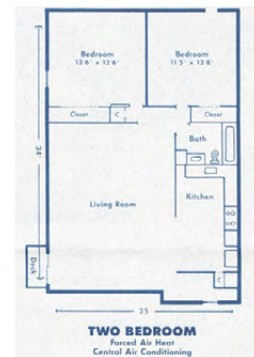
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From the Front

Board to accept committee plan on March 15

BALLOT - Continued from Page 1

additional property tax increases.

Phase 2, which will finish off the work at the high school may need to be bonded, but options for that funding are still on the table including a possible third extension of the SAVE funds by the state, another voted PPEL levy, a general obligation bond, or the district's cash reserves – or a combination of those.

Fort Madison Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater was finally able to extend heartfelt thank you to the voters, after district voters had put down five other attempts to pay for new construction.

“The Fort Madison Community School District is extremely grateful to the voters of the Fort Madison Community School District for the passage of the Revenue Purpose Statement (RPS) at the polls this evening,” Slater said.

“Voter support of the RPS gives the Fort Madison Community

School District access to borrow (SAVE) funds for building improvements at no additional cost to taxpayers.

“On behalf of the board, administration, staff, parents and students, FMCS D is proud to be able to upgrade the learning environments for all PreK-12th grade students over the next several years.”

Fort Madison School Board President Dianne Hope said “bring on the fireworks”.

“I’m just over the moon,” she said Tuesday night. “It’s been five long years, five different votes and a lot of different people working to get this done.”

Hope said everyone knew the district needed new educational facilities, they just couldn’t get over the supermajority required in Iowa for issuing construction bonds.

“I can’t thank the people enough – all the people – who’ve put in the time to look at this in



so many different ways, upside down, sideways, backwards and outside of the box.”

Hope said she’s all in on the new plans vs. the past efforts to construct a new PreK-3rd grade elementary on the middle school campus.

“I’m sold on it. After hearing the process they went through and how they looked at it and the data they used. I’m in.”

The board will vote to accept a recommendation for the transition of students and facility upgrades at it’s March 15th meeting. Then, assuming that passes the board, Hope said the hard work

starts with the construction process.

Slater has indicated she would like to have the transition completed by the start of the 2023 school year. Hope said their should be shovels in the ground about a year from now.

“I really want to thank the district voters and supporters and the ad hoc committee and the whole district. I really feel good,” she said.

“Bring on the fireworks.”

City agrees to 3-year deal with water dept. teamster employees

COUNCIL - Continued from Page 1

The Iowa Department of Transportation opened bids on the project Feb. 16 and city officials can’t speak with Jones about the work until the contracts are signed. Mark Bousselot said he’s expecting a fall 2021 completion date.

In other action, the council:

- approved, 6-0, a resolution to allow the city to find light duty work in handling on the job injuries.
- approved, 6-0, a three-year contract settlement with teamsters Local 238 workers at the city water department, 2.5% increase for each of the next two years.
- approved agreement with Klingner & Associates for jetty wall improvement at the Marina to raise it up over the 500-year level.
- approved, 6-0, a supplemental agreement (third) with Klingner & Associates for redesign of storm/sewer separation in the new Amtrak Depot area.

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