

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 | 12 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 56



www.pencitycurrent.com

## Smith to retire from FMHS



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

FMHS Principal Greg Smith stands in an empty office Monday as students and staff are on spring break. Smith announced this week that he will be stepping down after 28 years in education.

### STEPPING DOWN: After 28 years in education, 12 as FMHS Principal

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – For the past dozen years or so, most around Fort Madison knew him as Mr. Smith, or Principal Smith... maybe not Tony Night on the Overnight, or a city grave digger, or Deputy Smith, or even the front man for LMNOP.

But of all the gigs Greg Smith has had over his career, he's ending where as a child he thought he would – behind a desk.

Smith announced this week that this will be his final year

as Principal at Fort Madison High School, a position he's held since 2010, and not surprisingly, the longest he's ever held one job.

At the urging of then-Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Marang, the Fort Madison native took over for Bonita Gonzalez when she left the post in 2010. Smith said he'd fill in for a year until the district could do a thorough search for a replacement – but Marang had other plans.

"He said he was getting good vibes from the high school, and so he just never posted the position," Smith said. "He

See SMITH, page 4

### SUPERVISORS

## Redistricting throws wrench into election

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – The redistricting of county supervisor districts released last week initially looked to have little to no impact in Lee County, but a discovered four-block area in Keokuk may throw a wrench into the works.

Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise confirmed Monday night that both District 5 Supervisor Matt Pflug, a Democrat, and District 4 Supervisor Garry Seyb, Jr., a Republican, may have to run in this year's primary and general elections.

The four block area, which is in the area of 9th to 11th streets in Keokuk, moves from District 4 to District 5, but since both areas have incumbents and the residents in those areas are now in a new district, the seats appear to

See ELECTION, page 8

### BUDGETS

## Councilman says voters should get input on facilities

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – City officials are prepared to vote on the fiscal year 2023 budget on Tuesday.

If approved, city residents will essentially see a static property tax levy of \$15.07 compared to the current year.

However City Councilman Tom Schulz, who penned a letter to the editor published today by Pen City Current, is unhappy with a transfer of revenue from a fund set up to hold money paid to the city in 2012 by the state to take over responsibility of Hwy. 61 through Fort Madison.

The city is planning on taking between \$5

See COUNCIL, page 4

### EMPTY NEST

## Father and son debate the undebatable vaccine question

"I disagree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." - Attributed to Voltaire but actually from Voltaire's biographer, Evelyn Beatrice Hall.

Debate Topic: Should COVID vaccinations be required?

Curt Swarm: Yes. It's no different than any other vaccination, like chicken pox, rubella, polio, etc.: we were required

to be vaccinated in grade school. We didn't have a choice. We stood in line and were shot by a gun. I used to have a scar on my left shoulder that I wasn't supposed to scratch. Since my brother had polio, before the vaccination was available, I am thankful for the vaccination. I look at the COVID vaccination in the same light. True, it may have been developed awfully fast, and it may

be making pharmaceutical companies trillions of dollars, but it's proven to be effective. Will there be long-term effects? Possibly. I don't believe the conspiracy theorists that the COVID vaccination is a secret government plot to control the masses. I look at the vaccination like our seat belt law. We are

See SWARM, page 8

### INDEX

Business Directory.....P.6  
CLASSIFIEDS.....Ps.6-7  
Complete Rental.....P.2  
Connection Bank.....P.3  
EDUCATION NEWS.....P.4  
Fort Colony Family Restaurant.....P.3  
Fort Madison  
Bloodhound Booster Club.....Ps.9-10  
Fort Madison Family YMCA.....P.4  
FROM THE FRONT.....Ps.4,8  
Full Steam Staffing.....Ps.6,8  
IOWA NEWS.....P.3  
LCK Roofing.....P.4

Lee County Health Department.....P.5  
LEE COUNTY NEWS.....P.8  
LOCAL NEWS.....P.4  
OBITUARIES.....Ps.2-3,5  
• Wayne H. Bell, 73  
• Anna L. Conrad, 89  
• Tina R. Hattan, 54  
• Anton J. Houser, 81  
• Joseph P. Maag, 72  
• Dylan L. Pugliese, 30  
• Craig A. Smith, 54  
• Loretta A. Tillman, 83  
OPINION.....Ps.5,8

Pen City Current.....Ps.3,6,8  
Pothitakis Dentistry.....P.5  
Public Notices.....P.7  
RonDavoo.....P.4  
SaferCar.gov/TheRightSeat.....P.7  
Sonny's Super Market.....P.2  
Southeast Iowa Regional Airport.....P.4  
Southeast Iowa  
Regional Medical Center.....P.8  
United Way of the  
Great River Region.....Ps.11-12

### WEATHER

TUE 15 Mar ..... Broken Clouds, 62° F / 49° F  
WED 16 Mar ..... Partly Cloudy, 68° F / 49° F  
THU 17 Mar ..... Light Rain, 70° F / 51° F

### IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 03/13 ..... 4 7 9 15 28, Lucky Ball: 11  
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PICK 3 03/13 EVENING ..... 4 0 9  
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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### DYLAN L. PUGLIESE

Dylan Lee Pugliese, 30, of Fort Madison, Iowa passed away Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at his home. He was born July 25, 1991 in Texas, a son of Mario Pugliese and Jessica DeWitt. Dylan lived in Fort Madison most of his life, and attended the Fort Madison High School. He worked for Womack Roofing. He was an avid Dallas Cowboy and Texas Ranger fan. He loved fishing, reading, and playing baseball and football. Dylan's greatest love was his family.



PUGLIESE

He is survived by his mother, Jessica DeWitt of Fort Madison; his father, Mario Pugliese of Burlington, Iowa; his Mom2, Christi (Eric) Lybarger of Denmark, Iowa; his father, John Downey of Farmington, Iowa; grandparents: Dean (Jody) DeWitt and Ann Cahoon, all of Fort Madison; and Joe Horn of California; great grandmother, Melva DeWitt of Wever; five siblings: Alyssa Pugliese (Auston Wissinger) of Burlington; Taylor Pugliese of Burlington; Daniel Downey (Tajja Hewitt) of Farmington; Chelsey Pugliese of Burlington; and Lcpl David Downey of Hawaii; a great aunt, Marissa Stewart; three nieces: Audriana McCann, Alessandra and Adahlynn Wissinger; numerous aunts, uncles, nephews, cousins, and friends. He was preceded in death his uncle, Devin Royer; great aunts and uncles; grandparents: Kevin "Pops" Cahoon, Marilyn Giffin, and Fulvio Pugliese; and great grandparents: Charles DeWitt, Bessie June Kinney, and Italo and Antonia Pugliese.

His family will greet friends 1:00 - 3:00 pm Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. A Celebration of Life will follow and begin at 3:00 pm Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, with Rick Kent officiating. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Pugliese/DeWitt family and an online guest book may be found at [www.barrmemorialchapel.com](http://www.barrmemorialchapel.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.



**Lunch Specials**  
**March 14 - 18**  
**11am - 1pm**

**Monday, March 14**

**Tenderloin, Cheese Potatoes, Baked Beans**

**Tuesday, March 15**

**Minit Steak, Mashed Potatoes**

**Wednesday, March 16**

**Burnt Ends Sandwich, Tater Tots**

**Thursday, March 17**

**Corned Beef & Cabbage, Potatoes**

**Friday, March 18**

**Tuna & Noodles, Blueberry Fluff**

## OBITUARIES

### JOSEPH P. MAAG

Joseph Patrick "Pat" Maag, 72, of Arbela, MO, formerly of Warsaw, IL, died Thursday, March 10, 2022.

He was born on February 15, 1950 in Keokuk, IA, the son of Al and Catherine Maag. On June 6, 1981 Pat was united in marriage to Janet Jean Miller at Trinity United Methodist Church in Warsaw. She preceded him in death on March 28, 2018.



MAAG

Pat owned and operated Maag Construction in Warsaw until his retirement in 2012. When not working, Pat enjoyed playing golf. He also enjoyed woodworking and making things for his grandchildren. Most of all he loved spending time with his children and grandchildren.

He is survived by his son, Michael (Meghan) Maag of Carthage, Illinois; his daughter Megan (Jamie) Mathes of Arbela, Missouri; four grandchildren, Kayleigh Mathes, Xander Mathes, Alden Maag and Emory Maag.

Besides his wife he was also preceded in death by his parents.

A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m., Monday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with Scott Baumann officiating. Burial will be in the Oakland Cemetery in Warsaw.

Visitation will be held prior to the service on Monday from 1 - 2 pm with the family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to Deer Run Golf Course. [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

### TINA R. HATTAN

Tina Renee Hattan, 54, of Farmington, Iowa, passed away at 5:21 a.m. on Thursday, March 10, 2022, at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Fort Madison, Iowa.

Tina was born on June 6, 1967, in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of Ronald Lee and Sandra Lee (Troutman) McIntosh. On June 18, 2009, she married Timothy Lee Hattan at the Church of Christ in Burlington, Iowa.



HATTAN

Tina graduated from Harmony High School. She worked for several years at Wal-Mart in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. Tina had a strong faith in God and was a member of the Apostolic Faith Church in Keokuk, Iowa.

Tina loved animals, flowers, picnics, doing arts and crafts, going to yard sales, and spending time with friends and family.

Survivors include her husband: Tim; one son: Timothy Lee Hattan, Jr.; one daughter: Taryn Renee Hattan; one step-daughter: Savannah Ashleigh Hattan; one brother: Todd Brian McIntosh; one sister: Gina Rae Lanman; one grandson: Matthew Allen Bihn-Hattan. She was preceded in death by her father and one grandchild, Rylan Lee Bihn-Hattan.

Her body has been entrusted to Schmitz Funeral Home for cremation.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Schmitz Funeral Home of Farmington is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com).

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com). Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements.

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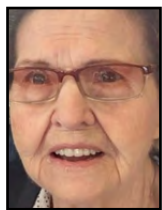
## Obituaries/Iowa News

### OBITUARIES

## LORETTA A. TILLMAN

Loretta Ann Tillman, age 83, of Jackson, TN, formerly of Donnellson, Iowa, passed away at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital on Wednesday, March 9, 2022.

Loretta was born in Scotts Hill, TN on Thursday, June 23, 1938, to the late Bonnie Sykes. Other than her mother, she is preceded in death by her beloved husband, Arthur Tillman, daughter, Cathy Buck, and sister, Peggy Taylor.



TILLMAN

Loretta belonged to the 1956 Scotts Hill High School Class. She relished every opportunity to gather and reacquaint with those life-long friend. Loretta married Arthur Tillman, the love of her life, in 1982.

For more than twenty-two years Loretta and Arthur built and lived a life of love and happiness and made their family the center of every-thing important. She loved the Lord and was of protestant faith.

Loretta was a fun-loving person who enjoyed being a jokester from time to time. Her greatest work and enjoyment came from being a homemaker for her family. As loving as she was, those who knew her best knew she was a spitfire who was strong-willed and capable of getting things done. Those characteristics never allowed interference with those she loved as she held tight reigns on her family as their greatest protector. She always put her family first and enjoyed every aspect of her role in their lives. Loretta cherished her grandchildren and great-grandchildren with her entire being and looked forward to every opportunity to see them. Loretta took great pride in her ability to garden. She enjoyed planting, nurturing, and enjoying the fruits of her labor whether it be with the heartiest of vegetables or the most beautiful flowers. For almost eight years, Loretta shared her life and lap with her treasured dog companion Toby.

She will be forever loved and missed by her son, Harry Jackson, II and wife, Katheryn of Finley, Illinois; daughters, Kim Plohocky and husband, Jerry of Alpena, Michigan and Julie Oliver of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; 8 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren also survive.

A Graveside Service will be held Ridgcrest Cemetery on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at 1:00 pm. The family will receive friends at Arrington Funeral Directors on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. until the service time at 12:30 p.m.

Memorial Contributions are suggested to: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, P.O. Box 1000- Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38148; <https://www.stjude.org/>.

Online condolences can be made at <https://www.arringtonfuneralgroup.com>.

## Seasonal jobless rates drops to 3.7%

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 3.7 percent in January from the revised December rate of 3.9 percent. The state's jobless rate was 4.4 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate in January increased to 4.0 percent.

The total number of unemployed Iowans decreased to 62,700 in January, down 2,200 from revised December data. Iowa businesses added 3,000 jobs in January, and the total number of working Iowans increased by 6,900 to 1,617,700. The labor force participation rate increased slightly to 66.8 percent.

"These numbers show Iowa's economic recovery is continuing to press forward," said Beth Townsend, Director of Iowa Workforce Development. "IWD's role is to continue that momentum by getting unemployed Iowans back into the workforce as quickly as possible. Since January, more than 640 Iowans involved in our Reemployment Case Management program have found new jobs. We will work as hard as possible to keep that number growing."

The last five years of monthly labor force data (2017-2021) recently were revised as required by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. This "benchmarking" is the periodic process of re-estimating statistics as more complete data becomes available, such as updated data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Prior-year estimates for the Current Employment Statistics (CES) and Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) programs – key statistical measures of employment – are benchmarked annually. Revised data are incorporated in January employment statistics when they are released each March.

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### OBITUARIES

## CRAIG A. SMITH

Craig Allen Smith, 54, of Montrose, passed away on Friday, March 4, 2022, at Blessing Hospital in Keokuk.

Craig was born on March 28, 1967, in Moline, Illinois, the son of Charles R. and Carol Jean (DeBates) Smith. On September 23, 2011, he was united in marriage to Cecilia Hitch in Fort Madison, Iowa. She survives.



SMITH

Craig graduated from Rock Island High School. He later attended Western Illinois University for engineering and the Boyd School of Law at the University of Iowa. Craig was self-employed as a contractor and woodworker, owning ACH Improvements, and also owned his own business doing legal research and writing. With his job, he won 236 federal appeals. Craig loved science and was a complex thinker, holding patents for various devices. He had very diverse interests and was interested in learning about almost anything. Craig loved the great outdoors and engaged in hunting, fishing, gardening, geology, flint knapping and emergency preparedness. He loved animals, especially his dogs Sparky, Huckleberry and Boo, whom he talked about constantly. Craig was also the family historian and was very active in family history research. Craig could talk to anyone and never met a stranger; he was always thinking of others.

Craig is survived by his wife Cecilia Hitch Smith of Montrose, Iowa; three children: Alexis Smith, Caleb Smith, and Hannah Smith; six siblings: Christine (Michael) Lucas, Carol (Richard) Donovan, Charles Smith II, Cindy (Jeff) Baker, Chad Smith and Catherine (Timothy) Hay; his beloved grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Craig is preceded in death by his parents.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, April 9, 2022, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Fort Madison, Iowa. Burial at Oakland Cemetery in Fort Madison will follow at a later date.

Memorials may be directed to the family of Craig Smith in care of Cecilia Hitch Smith. Tributes and condolences may be left at [www.dejongsfuneralhome.com](http://www.dejongsfuneralhome.com).

DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.

## ANTON J. HOUSER

Anton "Tony" Joseph Houser, 81 of Keokuk, IA died Saturday, March 5, 2022 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL after a short illness.

He was born July 21, 1940 in Iowa City, IA the son of Walter and Helen Shimon. Houser. Tony graduated from Iowa City High, in Iowa City, IA with the class of 1958. He was a talented football player and was a walk-on player for the Iowa Hawkeyes during the Evashevski era until he suffered from a knee injury that ended his career.



HOUSER

He was first married to Susan Becicka on January 7, 1963. They later divorced. Tony and his wife, Gina Cramer had been together for thirty-four years. She survives.

Other survivors include his children, Wally Houser, Ken Houser, Dennis (Vickie) Houser, Chris (Jodi) Houser, Julie Houser (Tina Love), Kimberly Houser, Zoe Houser, Luke Houser, Brice Houser, Noah Houser and Grace Houser, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. He is also survived by a brother, Woody Houser and a sister, Bonnie Forbes (LaVerne) and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a daughter, Brenda and two brothers, Larry Houser and Bill Houser.

Tony enjoyed tinkering with things to see how they worked and putting them back together to make them better. He especially loved farming and had been farming all his life since he was a kid.

Tony had been employed by the University of Iowa as the supervisor of custodians for twenty-five years and made many wonderful friends during his time there.

Services will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Heifer International or Feed the Children.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).



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## From the Front

# Smith's last 12 years as principal was longest he held same job

**SMITH** - Continued from Page 1

always knew – I think from day 1. He saw things other people didn't see.”

Smith said Marang is still a mentor and a friend and they stay in touch.

Education, students, and families have been his passion during the past 28 years in education, but Smith said the balance is starting to get out of whack.

“I think the balance, and I've talked to others who say the same thing, but the balance gets to where the passion and love for what you do starts being overshadowed by how tired you are and how things frustrate you more quickly,” he said.

“Part of it's age and part of it's the stress of this job. I mean it's crazy stressful, I think, and you don't realize it until you start looking at it from the outside.”

Smith was named one of the top 100 teachers in the United States his first year teaching at Clarence-Lowden as a junior high social studies teacher. That award put him on the radar for other educational positions in school systems, as well educational programming and sales.

But his love was Fort Madison where he grew up in a trailer just east of the high school in a blue collar family. After doing his student teaching here, he was ironically passed over several times for openings in the district before finally landing a spot in Keokuk, after a three-year stint with a Moline educational publisher.

“I really enjoyed Keokuk. I stayed there for several years and taught fifth, fourth, and second grade. Second was my favorite by far. Just had a ball and really

enjoyed that,” he said.

He then moved to the local Area Education Association and did that for a couple years as a reading specialist and was eventually promoted to a professional development position working with teachers on licensures and certifications.

When Marang came to Fort Madison, he contacted Smith at the AEA to write a job description for a Curriculum Director at the FM central office. It turns out Marang had Smith writing his own job description as Smith ended up taking the job when Marang couldn't find the right person.

“I told him I didn't think I was his guy, but he said he knew people and he thought I was the right guy and I would fit. But I told him no,” Smith said.

But Marang persisted and in 2005 Smith accepted the position and would obtain an administrative license, which he said he “didn't really want”.

Four years later, Smith was on a beach in Mexico with his wife Sandy, when Gonzalez resigned and Marang came calling again. Smith agreed to fill in as principal for a year.

“I was scared to death. I remember standing out front the first week or so and, oh my God, these kids were bigger than me – I don't know anything about them – they were all smarter than me. I was just freaking out,” Smith said.

“The teachers were all being professional and friendly but yet I could tell it was like, ‘You're an elementary teacher... what are you doing here,’ he said. “That first year was kinda rocky until the spring and then I thought, ‘You know, this is kind of cool’ and I loved the

fast pace of it all.”

He said the staff started getting on board with his philosophy of the whole child instead of just academics and that was working.

“This has just been the best position. I would have never thought about doing this. It just flew by, every year just flies by,” he said.

“The kids and I – I just really connect with them I think – I feel like I do, anyway. And the staff we are just centered on Social Emotional Learning. And that's been a big change in the culture of the building.”

He said moving to high school was night and day from his time in elementary schools and working at the AEA.

“It's a totally different world, how they prioritize things and what they feel they need to get kids ready to go,” he said. “They taught me that. And I taught them how it was to look at kids like they're second graders that shave. We both had something to throw on the table and I think it's worked really well.”

But the coming years for the 63-year-old former military police officer, infantry down-proof instructor, California deputy sheriff, night time DJ, lifeguard, street worker, pizza chef – will in all likelihood include some easier breathing and traveling.

Smith said he wants to stay in Fort Madison and work in some volunteer efforts. But avoiding the winter weather of Iowa will probably be part of the plans.

But he doesn't want to venture too far away from his roots. He said finding time to continue to work with area kids and families would be something rewarding to do with his second life.

# City manager says city can spend highway money on other items

**COUNCIL** - Continued from Page 1

million and \$6 million from the \$7.5 million currently in the fund to build new fire department and public works facilities.

The city has already spent about \$13 million reconstructing the stretch of highway from 2nd to 10th streets. The next phase of 10th to 18th is being estimated at about \$8 million.

City Manager David Varley said today if that is the direction the city goes with the new building, the city's property tax levy will likely go up in 2024.

But Varley and Mayor Matt Mohrfeld said there were no encumbrances on the money received by the state for the highway, and the city can use those funds as they see fit.

A bond referendum to pay for the new facilities would have to go in front of voters, however, the city does not need a referendum to issue bonds to pay for street and highway improvements.

So moving the funds would allow the city to save on the election, as well as get both projects completed, a move that Schulz said sidesteps the voters in making the decision to build the new facility.

“The funds did not come with any legal requirement to utilize the money for highway work only, but the citizens were told this would be the case multiple times. The city council at the time openly promised this as well,” Schulz wrote in his letter to Pen City Current.

“While the current council is under no legal obligation to honor the promise of a previous council, I think we have a strong moral and ethical responsibility to do so.”

Varley said any time the city gets money in that fashion they just don't dump it in the general fund, they usually create a special fund.

“When it came I wasn't around here, but I'm assuming that's what they did. That's what we normally do, but when the state gave it to the city, there were no strings attached to it,” he said.

Varley said the payment was created based on an assumed amount at the time as to what it would cost to repair it over so many years and they offered that to the city when the state relinquished control of the stretch of highway.

He also said the city doesn't have answers yet as to what the

new building would cost, but he's probably going to have a projected number on Tuesday for the council.

“We don't have all those answers yet. The consultant and architect working on the two buildings are working on a conceptualized design with cost estimates and we should have those in a couple weeks. But between that and finishing the highway, we really don't know what those dollars look like yet,” he said.

Varley said he's heard feedback on both sides of the issue of using money out of the U.S. Highway 61 fund outlined in the budget, for the construction.

“There's feelings on both sides of that issue. There are some that feel these are funds that the city received and the city can use them as they best see fit. Other feelings are that it should be spent for that purpose.”

Schulz wrote his opinion isn't a popular one, but an ethical one. He said he supports building the new facilities and completing the highway project, but the voters should be convinced it's appropriate.

“In short, we promised the people that the money given to us for the highway would be used for the highway and it should. If we move forward with the other project, as I believe we should, it is because we have convinced the taxpayer it is the right thing to do and they support it. I doubt this opinion will make me popular around city hall, but I think it is the right thing to do.”

Also on the agenda for Tuesday, the council is scheduled to:

- vote to set a public hearing on a proposal to sell two properties at 2709 and 2713 Avenue J to Craig and Margaret M. Abolt for \$1. The hearing, if approved, would be set for April 5 at 5:30 p.m.
- hold a discussion without action on downtown streets and sidewalks and how America Rescue Plan Act funding could be a potential funding source.



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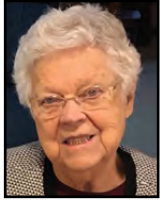
# Obituaries/Opinion

## OBITUARIES

### ANNA L. CONRAD

Anna Lee Conrad, 89, of West Point, Iowa, passed away at 2:22 p.m. Saturday, March 12, 2022 at her home.

She was born on October 12, 1932 the daughter of Clem and Anna (Jacobsmeier) Rauenbuehler. On February 5, 1951, she married Willis Conrad in Ottumwa, Iowa. He preceded her in death on May 11, 2010.



CONRAD

Survivors include two sons: Steve (Sue) Conrad of West Point, Iowa, Greg (Shari) Conrad of Springfield, Illinois; five daughters: Lois (Dennis) Obert of Louisville, Kentucky, Leah (Bernard) Link of West Point, Iowa, Carol (Robert) Welding of Quincy, Illinois, Ann (Patrick) Bira of St. Louis, Missouri, Gina (Darrell) Obert of Quincy, Illinois; twenty-six grandchildren and thirty-three great grandchildren. Also surviving is one brother: Carl (Mary Ann) Rauenbuehler of Sterling, Illinois, and one sister: LaVina (Carl) Hellweg of Houghton, Iowa.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, three daughters: Vicki Morris, Marlene Garretson, and Mary Conrad in infancy; six sisters and three brothers.

Anna Lee was a graduate of St. Mary's Catholic School in West Point and a member of St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church. She enjoyed crocheting, quilting, gardening, playing cards and her grandchildren.

Friends may call after 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point, where the family will receive friends from 3:30:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. A parish rosary will be recited at 4:00 p.m. and a Christian wake service will be held at 5:30 p.m.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, March 17, 2022 at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point with Father Dennis Hoffman as celebrant.

Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery in West Point, Iowa.

A memorial has been established in her memory to St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com). Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements.

### WAYNE H. BELL

Wayne Herman Bell, 73, of Burlington, died at 5:36 AM Friday, March 11, 2022, at the Klein Center in West Burlington.

Born October 26, 1948, in Burlington, he was the son of James William and Mildred Ethel Hart Bell. On March 27, 1993, he married Gloria Geraldine Brock in Burlington, Iowa. She died January 12, 2014.



BELL

He was a 1968 graduate of Burlington High School. Wayne retired after 27 years, working for The American Ordnance. He was a big baseball and football fan especially when it came to the Metz and Cowboys. He was an umpire for Little League baseball and helped his brother with auctions.

Survivors include his daughters, Shelly Marie Bell and Shannon M. Bell of Colorado, and Lisa Marie Bell of Burlington, IA; step-sons, Scott McCumin of Denver, CO, Micheal Ray Guthrie of Kingsville, MO, Terry Lee Guthrie, and Christopher James "C.J." Guthrie of Burlington; 10 grandchildren, two brother, James William Bell, Jr. of Danville, IA, and Darrell Bell of Dallas City, IL; two sisters, Jean Reeves of Burlington and Sue Albert, of West Concord, MN; sister-in-law, Debbie Bell; brother-in-law, Emil Schneider; dear friend, Linda Hand; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Besides his wife, he was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers, Kenny, Dan and Ernie; one sister, Janice Schneider and one granddaughter, Tiffany.

Visitation will be from noon until 8:00 PM with the family to receive friends from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at Prugh~Thielen Funeral Home.

The funeral service for Mr. Bell will be 10:00 AM Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at Prugh~Thielen Funeral Home with officiating. Burial will be in Aspen Grove Cemetery.

A memorial has been established for cancer research.

Prugh Funeral Service is in care of the arrangements.

A photo tribute can be viewed and condolences can be sent to the family by visiting Wayne's obituary at [www.prughfuneral.com](http://www.prughfuneral.com).

## Letter to the Editor

### Councilman wants voters to decide on new facilities

To the Editor;

On Tuesday of this week the Fort Madison City Council will be considering this year's budget. While I support the programs and initiatives brought forth in this budget, I do not support the methods being used to pay for them. While what I am discussing in this letter may not be solidified in this budget vote, it is clearly the intent moving forward based on the budget workshop.

When I ran for office, I promised the citizens that I would be their watchdog when it came to public policy, spending and taxation. I think the way we propose to fund projects within the city, even good or needed projects, does not pass the smell test and violates public trust.

I will attempt to explain. A few years ago, the city took over maintenance and improvement responsibility for Old Highway 61. At that time the state provided funds for that purpose even though those funds might not have been adequate for the task. I am assured by those negotiating at the time that we received the maximum the state would provide. I was not involved but let's assume that is true. The funds did not come with any legal requirement to utilize the money for highway work only, but the citizens were told this would be the case multiple times. The city council at the time openly promised this as well. While the current council is under no legal obligation to honor the promise of a previous council, I think we have a strong moral and ethical responsibility to do so. That brings me to the current dilemma.

See LETTER, page 8

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- DATE CHANGE - Tuesday, March 15, 2022 - Donnellson Public Library from 3:30-5:30pm, Moderna only
- Wednesday, March 16, 2022, \*\*LCHD from 12:00-4:00pm, Moderna, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson

\*\*Appointments appreciated

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
AGENDA  
FORT MADISON  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
Date: Thursday,  
March 17, 2022  
Time: 5:30 P.M.  
Place: Sheaffer Meeting  
Room and Online

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An electronic meeting is being held because a meeting in person is impossible or impractical for the health and safety of Library Board members, library employees and the public presented by COVID-19. You can participate in the meeting via telephone and can comment on an agenda item by joining the Zoom meeting. Using your telephone, dial (312) 626 6799 and enter the meeting ID (860 2990 6259) when prompted. If you have trouble connecting to the meeting, please call (319) 372-5721.

- I. Excused absences
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Approval of minutes
- V. Approval of the Bills
- VI. Correspondence
- VII. Director's Report
  - a. Financial
  - b. Personnel
  - c. Programming
  - d. Collection Development
  - e. Operations
  - f. Facilities - landscaping
  - g. Professional
  - h. Reports to City Council
  - i. Aarin Guzman Update
- VIII. Unfinished Business
  - a. Request to table discussion of the Newspaper Database until a recom-

mendation is received from the Genealogy Society.  
b. Amending Library Board By-Laws  
IX. New Business  
a. Board Members with Expiring Terms  
b. Nomination of Officers  
c. 2022/2023 Holidays  
d. Library Building Issues  
i. Relocating thermostat  
ii. Rekeying exterior locks  
e. Closing Library on April 14 from 11:30-2:30 for Staff Beanstack Training  
f. Carol Sandrock Donation  
X. Trustee Education  
a. Accreditation  
XI. Upcoming Events and Information  
Next Meeting April 21, 2022

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
CITY OF  
WEST BURLINGTON  
Regular City Council  
Meeting  
Wednesday,  
March 16, 2022**

**6:00 PM  
West Burlington  
City Hall  
122 Broadway Street  
TENTATIVE AGENDA**

- CALL TO ORDER
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- ROLL CALL
- PERFECTING & APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- CONSENT AGENDA  
Approve minutes from the Regular City Council meeting on March 2, 2022  
Approve Clerk's Monthly Financial Report for December 2021  
Approve payment to Sandry Fire Supply - \$6,420  
Approve payment to Snyder & Associates for engineering services related to the Luers Park Water Resource Restoration Project - \$3,700  
Approve payment to Two Rivers Insurance for property and liability insurance - \$80,560

Approve payment of Claims as listed on the March 16, 2022, Expense Approval Report for \$405,775.42

- COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS
- ADMINISTRATOR:
  - PUBLIC WORKS:
  - POLICE DEPARTMENT:
  - FIRE/BUILDING DEPARTMENT:
  - CLERK/FINANCE/IT:
  - OTHER STAFF REPORTS:
  - COUNCIL REPORTS:
  - COMMUNITY REPORTS:

CITIZEN INQUIRIES  
PUBLIC HEARING  
Presentation and Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023

NEW BUSINESS  
1. Consider a Resolution adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023  
2. Consider payment to Boomerang Corporation for work completed on the Mt. Pleasant Water Tower

- Project -
- 3. Consider Change Order #2 from Fye Excavating for the Luers Park Water Restoration Project
  - 4. Consider a Resolution authorizing and approving a Loan Agreement, providing for the issuance of \$525,000 General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds, Series 2022, and providing for the levy of taxes to pay the same
  - 5. Consider proposal from Bohnsack & Frommelt LLP for Auditing Services
  - 6. Consider entering into a contract with Civic Plus for Website Hosting
  - 7. Consider the purchase of Microsoft Office 365 Premium
  - 8. Consider the first reading of an Ordinance limiting parking on Division Street from Broadway to S. Gear Avenue

OLD BUSINESS  
CITIZEN INQUIRIES  
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## Opinion/From the Front

# Son believes there's a difference in vaccines generationally

**SWARM** - Continued from Page 1

required to wear seat belts. Does it guarantee that in a serious accident we won't be injured or killed? No. But our chances of survival are much greater by wearing seat belts. Same with the COVID vaccination.

Jack Swarm: No. While the COVID and traditional vaccines are similar, they do have differences. Traditional vaccines are fully FDA approved, proven by time, thoroughly tested, and effective in a different way – once vaccinated for polio, for example, you won't get polio. COVID vaccines can't say the same, and there hasn't been enough time for complete testing to get full FDA approval.

Just because children in the 50's were required to get vaccinated and lived to tell the story, doesn't mean everyone now must also be vaccinated. A deed done long ago doesn't make it okay now, just ask children in the 50's who grew up riding in cars without seat belts.

The concerns relating to profits and long term effects are brushed aside because the "vaccines are effective", reasoning that the end justifies the means. Meanwhile, folks are getting a third shot of the "effective" vaccine,



but still contract, transmit, and die of COVID, all while risking long term effects. One should consider that long term effects weigh differently in the lifetime of a young person compared to an older person.

While required vaccines and seat belts both intend to decrease harm and are both mandated, there are major differences. Seat belts are undeniably effective for all wearers of all ages, as proven by testing on non-humans and decades of use, they have no negative or unknown consequences when they aren't needed for protection, and they are completely reversible when not needed. Conversely, COVID vaccines are not undeniably effective, they don't benefit the young equally to the elderly,

they could have negative consequences which can be proven only by still incomplete human testing, and they are not removable/reversible when no longer needed.

This is just a snapshot of the debate. One should be able to thoughtfully oppose a mandate and not be labeled a conspiracy theorist or a dabbler in misinformation.

Rebuttal, Curt Swarm: Alright already! My son convinced me. I have no legal or moral right to require that everyone be vaccinated. I especially like my son's reasoning when saying, "once vaccinated for polio you won't get polio" "long term effects weigh differently in the lifetime of a young person compared to an older person" (he had to get that dig in there) and vaccinations don't "benefit the young equally to the elderly." Shows-to-go-you what can be accomplished when two people discuss a subject without screaming at each other.

Watch this space for future father-son civil discussions on such hot-topic subjects as gun control, abortion and transgender rights.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, find him on Facebook, email him at [curtswarm@yahoo.com](mailto:curtswarm@yahoo.com), or visit his website at [www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com](http://www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com).

## Democrats to look for candidates in shakeup

**ELECTION** - Continued from Page 1

be back in play in 2022.

Both Pflug and Seyb said they were disappointed that the redistricting came in so late and such a small change prompted a campaign season for each of them.

Fraise said they both have just about 10 days to gather the needed 100 signatures to get on the primary ballot.

"It's definitely a surprise, there's no doubt about that," Seyb said Monday night. "But I'll get to work and get the signatures and go from there."

Pflug also said he doesn't see a problem getting the required signatures in time.

"It was sure news that I didn't want to hear," Pflug said. "You run for a four-year term and it's not right they come in late like this and change things and then you have to run again."

Pflug said the interesting thing is that it opens it up for anyone to challenge them now in the primary and in the general election.

Mary Jo Reisberg, chairwoman of the Lee County Democrats, said the party has identified a couple people to run

in District 3, which is an open seat with Rich Harlow not seeking another term. But she said she hasn't talked with any other candidates about a run for the other districts due to the late information on districts.

"I haven't had a chance to talk to anyone but Matt (Pflug), Jerry (Kearns), and Denise," Reisberg said. "This just doesn't make much sense. Getting this information down to the counties was very slow. Auditors across the state have been waiting."

The county lost a potential candidate in the redistricting when Peter Seyb's residence got moved into District 4, currently represented by his brother Garry. Peter Seyb had collected enough signatures to get on the ballot in District 3 before the boundaries were reset.

Fraise, who said she just realized the change today, said she has reached out to the Secretary of State's office for confirmation of the findings. She also asked for clarification on how long the terms will be for the districts.

As it stands now, districts 2, 3, 4, and 5 will all be up for election at the same time. The supervisor districts are traditionally staggered with three in one cycle and two in the next two-year cycle.

## Money should be spent as intended

**LETTER** - Continued from Page 5

Depending on how you count projects the city has a couple of big ones we are looking at funding. The first and best known is of course the completion of the old highway reconstruction. The second is either one or two projects but for the purpose of discussion, let's consider it one. The construction of a new fire station and public works facility. If you are aware our public works set up is little better than some old badly worn pole barns that are literally falling apart. Our fire station is undersized and not set up to meet current guidelines to service a modern fire department and in bad need of an upgrade. If we are to move forward on these projects it will require the city to borrow money through bonding and this is the process that I think lacks transparency. While plans do not violate the letter of the law, I believe we would definitely violate the spirit.

It has been proposed that we take the remaining five plus million dollars from our highway fund and divert it to the building construction budget. The law allows our city government to bond highway projects without a public vote but issues like building construction require public support and voter approval. I think we need a fire station and public works project but I also think we need to honor the spirit of the law and require voter approval of this funding and use the highway money for the highway lowering the amount we will need to bond on that project.

We also have about \$1.4 million in COVID relief money that I would be happy to put toward the building project.

In short, we promised the people that the money given to us for the highway would be used for the highway and it should. If we move forward with the other project as I believe we should it is because we have convinced the taxpayer it is the right thing to do and they support it. I doubt this opinion will make me popular around city hall but I think it is the right thing to do. As always, I invite public opinion and everybody has a right to try to change my mind.

Tom Schulz  
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TO THE **90'S**



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DOORS OPEN 6PM - TRIVIA AT 7:00 PM  
\$150 Table (8) - Walk Ins \$20 & will be placed on a team



**Thank you for joining us for 90s Trivia Night  
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**Date: Saturday, March 26, 2022**

**Location: Eagles Club, Fort Madison**

**Time: Doors will open at 6:00, Trivia starts at 7:00**

**Theme: Back to the 90's**

\* Be sure to come dressed accordingly - most 90's dressed team wins a prize!

\* There will be 6 rounds of general 90's trivia and 2 bonus rounds of 90's  
BLOODHOUND trivia.

Bring Snacks and get ready for a night of fun!

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Number of total team players\* \_\_\_\_\_ (\$150 for 8 members max, if you cannot fill a team of 8 - the cost is \$20 per person. If you would like, we could assign walk ins to your team on the night of the event)

- Yes! Give us some more teammates if we still need them!  
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\*Must be 21 years or older

# United Way of the Great River Region



**Friday, May 6, 2022 • Sheaffer Memorial Golf Park • Fort Madison, Iowa**

**Team Registration—\$400** Deadline for Team Registration is **Monday, April 25, 2022**  
Includes carts, lunch, free soda & water, snacks, 2 mulligans per golfer &  
5 drink tickets per golfer (drink tickets not good for mixed drinks)

**Packet pick-up will begin at 10:00 am.**

**Waiver & release must be signed before play begins.**

**Lunch at 11:00 am.**

**Shotgun start at 12:00 Noon.**

Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Name (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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Golfers (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Please note, all golfers will sign a waiver and release before play begins.\*\***

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# United Way of the Great River Region



**Friday, May 6, 2022 • Sheaffer Memorial Golf Park • Fort Madison, Iowa**

## Golf Outing Sponsorship Opportunities

There are many sponsorship opportunities available. Feel free to mix and match. Have questions?  
Contact Karen at United Way of the Great River Region at 319-524-4504.

- Corporate Sponsor—\$1000**      Maximize your sponsorship with the first deadline of **Monday, March 21, 2022**. Some advertising will already be done before the second deadline of **Monday, April 11, 2022**  
Includes name & logo on advertising, banner hung at the golf course, hole sponsor sign, opportunity to be at the golf course to market to players, can have a four person golf team but not required. Please provide a jpeg file of your logo to the United Way. Use team registration page if entering a team in.
- Hospitality Sponsor—\$300**      Deadline **Friday, April 29, 2022**  
Includes name & logo on beverage carts, at the buffet line and throughout the golf course. Please provide a jpeg file of your logo to the United Way.
- Hole Sponsor—\$100**      Deadline **Monday, April 25, 2022**  
Includes sign by green and opportunity to be at your green to market to players. Please provide a jpeg file of you logo to the United Way.
- Team Sponsor—\$400**      **See team registration page.**      Deadline **Monday, April 25, 2022**  
Includes: cart, lunch, free soda & water, snacks, 2 mulligans/golfer & 5 drink tickets/golfer (drink tickets not good for mixed drinks)

If you wish to be invoiced, please contact Karen Siefken at the United Way office at 319-524-4504.

Be sure to check the box by the sponsorship you are interested in.  
If you are sponsoring a team, please use the team registration page.

For Corporate, Hospitality or Hole Sponsorship please email a jpeg file of your logo to [director@unitedwaygrr.org](mailto:director@unitedwaygrr.org) on or before the appropriate deadline.

Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_