

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Friday, April 1, 2022 | 12 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 67



www.pencitycurrent.com

## FMHS trades builds at CAC



Photo courtesy of Stephanie Brownlee/FMHS

FMHS Building Trades instructor Clint Kobelt talks with some of the Fort Madison High School's Construction Team at the Lee County Career Advantage Center this week in Montrose. The class is helping with remodeling efforts at the facility.

### REMODELING TEAM: Trades students take on learning, building at same time

MONTROSE - The Fort Madison High School construction team, led by construction trades teacher, Clint Kobelt, is currently remodeling the Career Advantage Center (CAC). The CAC is developing into a space in Lee County for students to learn and experience school and career opportunities.

The FMHS students in the FMCSO construction trades program have been on site in Montrose working to remodel the space.

"I'm proud of the twenty-four FMHS students that decided to work on this project. Their dedication to this remodel

will positively impact students from all of Lee County, not only next year when the center opens, but for generations to come," Kobelt said.

The Career Advantage Center (CAC) will allow students to expand their learning and gain crucial experience in various fields.

Students from Central Lee, Fort Madison, and Keokuk will be a part of this new opportunity for Lee County.

"Having students from the Fort Madison construction

See TRADES, page 8

### PRIVATE SCHOOL FUNDING

## Reichman supports Senate school bill

Senator says impact won't be felt locally, but public school officials disagree

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

DES MOINES – The Iowa Senate passed a bill down party lines Wednesday night that would provide private school scholarships allowing low-income families access to a greater choice of schools.

Senate Bill 2369 passed 31-18 with Democrats voting against the measure and one Republican, Sen. Annette Sweeney R-Alden joining the opposition. District 42 Sen. Jeff Reichman, who represents Lee County, voted in favor of the proposal.

The bill carries Gov. Kim Reynolds' push to create a "Student First Scholarship Program" authorizing up to 10,000 scholarships per year.

Scholarships would be divided between families at or below 400% of the federal poverty guideline, which is about \$106,000 for a family of four according to the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, and families with students on an individualized education program.

The state would fund the scholarships using 70% of the per-pupil funding that the student's public school would typically receive. Reynolds' office estimates that would be about \$5,360 per student. The remaining 30% would go into a fund to pay for shared services such as counseling, administration, mental health services, and school resource officers.

But Reichman said the bill wouldn't have a large impact locally because Lee County doesn't have the capacity for a large transi-

See SENATE, page 8



CROZIER



REICHMAN

### COUNTY NEWS

## County breeders meet with sheriff over illegal activity

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Four area licensed breeders joined six law enforcement officers Thursday evening to talk about how to curb illegal breeding in Lee County.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber invited

the group together to talk about the issues in the wake of the arrests of David and Gina Sams of rural Argyle who were keeping more than 300 animals in and around the couple's rural home.

They were charged with seven counts of animal neglect. Both Sams pleaded not

guilty this week on all seven counts.

The animals were taken by the Animal Rescue League of Iowa and are now being cared for in their custody.

Brian Mohrfeld, a USDA licensed breed-

See BREEDERS, page 3

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### WEATHER

FRI 01 Apr.....Sunny & Clear, 51° F/30° F  
SAT 02 Apr.....Rain, 49° F/40° F  
SUN 03 Apr.....Broken Clouds, 59° F/38° F

OpenWeatherMap

### IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 03/30.....16 23 35 36, Star Ball: 8 All Star Bonus: 2  
LUCKY FOR LIFE 03/30.....5 37 38 46 48, Lucky Ball: 9  
PICK 3 03/30 MIDDAY.....2 9 7  
PICK 3 03/30 EVENING.....7 0 4  
PICK 4 03/30 MIDDAY.....7 6 8 0  
PICK 4 03/30 EVENING.....4 3 0 3  
POWERBALL 03/30.....3 7 21 31 37, Powerball: 11 Power Play: 3

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### SHIRLEY A. LITTLE

Shirley Ann Little, 85, of Fountain Green, Illinois, formerly of Niota, Illinois, passed away at 3:20 p.m. Monday, March 28, 2022 at her home.



LITTLE

Shirley was born November 4, 1936 in Watertown, South Dakota, the daughter of George and Thelma Rowe. In 1962 she married Terrence "Sonny" Little. He preceded her in death on September 14, 1998.

In her younger years, Shirley's father was a water tower manufacturer and his work took the family all over the United States. Her husband, Sonny, had the same occupation which continued her travels across the country. She worked at various jobs, including caregiver, waitressing, and working at a glass manufacturing company in Streator, Illinois, where she was influential in organizing a female glass workers union.

She and her family moved to the Niota area in 1977. Shirley worked for many years at Riverview Supper Club in Dallas City.

Survivors include two sons: Cole (Debbie) Little of Fountain Green and Todd Little of Lomax, Illinois; five grandchildren: Raina (Blake) Dameron, Riley Little, Ryder Little, Aurora (Derek) Churchwell and Sonny (Gwen) Little and one great-granddaughter: Ada Churchwell.

Mrs. Little was preceded in death by her husband: Sonny; one brother: Jake Rowe and one sister: Margie Hughes.

Cremation has been entrusted to Banks & Beals Funeral Home

A Celebration of Shirley's Life will be held at a later date. Inurnment will be in Tull Cemetery, near Niota. A memorial fund has been established for Tull Cemetery. Memorial may be sent to the Shirley Little Memorial Fund, c/o Banks & Beals Funeral Home, P.O. Box 70, Dallas City, Illinois 62330.

To leave a condolence for the family, please visit Shirley's obituary at [banksand-beals.com](http://banksand-beals.com).

## OBITUARIES

### THOMAS A. HULL

Thomas Arthur Hull, 70, of Burlington, died at 5:40 AM Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in West Burlington.



HULL

Born June 15, 1951 in Fort Madison, IA, Tom was the son of Thomas E. and Evelyn Queisner Hull. He married Char Swisher in 1971. They later divorced. On June 21, 1985, he married Vickie (Johnson) Orth in Burlington, Iowa.

Tom was a self employed and gifted carpenter.

Tom loved reading and was a lifelong learner. He was also an accomplished drummer. He loved singing, being outdoors, hunting, doing crossword puzzles, and was a captivating story teller. Tom enjoyed cooking, adding hot sauce and pepper to everything. He loved spending time with his family and friends, especially his grandchildren. He had a contagious smile, a talent for making people laugh, always lighting up a room, was unfailingly kind, and if he couldn't explain it to you he would draw you a picture.

Survivors include his wife; 3 sons, Nick (Kayla) Hull of Missoula, MT, Dillon (Tabitha) Orth of Burlington, Kris (Logan) Hull of Maryville, TN; 2 daughters, Amy (Rod) VanNiewaal of Wapello, IA, Ann (Spencer) Hill of Davenport, IA; 10 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; 3 brothers, Rob (Nancy) Hull of Burlington, Dan Hull of Augusta, IA, Stan (Kim) Hull of Burlington; 5 sisters, Marge (Del) Groene of Tampa, FL, Beth (John) Myers, Elaine (Keith) Johnson both of Burlington, Val (Lance) Vennard of Mesa, AZ, and Diane (Steve) O'Brien of Mounds View, MN; and his mother-in-law, Doris Johnson of Burlington.

He was preceded in death by his parents and 2 sisters.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of Prugh Crematory.

A Celebration of Life for Mr. Hull will be held April 16, 2022 from 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM at the Burlington Moose Lodge. More details can be found on Facebook.

Prugh Funeral Service is in care of the arrangements.

Condolences can be sent to the family by visiting Thomas's obituary at [www.prughfuneral.com](http://www.prughfuneral.com).

Tom would like for all of you to remember; "If everyone pitches in, it will only take 10 minutes."

### PATRICIA A. YOUNG

Patricia Ann Young, 87, of Donnellson, Iowa, passed away at 4:10 a.m. Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, Iowa.



YOUNG

She was born on February 24, 1935, in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of William Alpha and Lula Belle (Reece) Worrell. On July 1, 1956, she married Robert Young in Franklin, Iowa. He preceded her in death on July 2, 2019.

Survivors include her four sons: Richard (Dixie) Young of Washington, Iowa, Scott (Connie) Young of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, Kent Young of Hamilton, Illinois and Bill (Tina) Young of Donnellson, Iowa; grandchildren: Jared (Amanda) Young, Jacob (Jessica) Young, Micah (Brice) Leslie, Jordan Wesely, Tyler Wesely, Kinley (Alex) Pacheco, Dustin (Amanda) Young, Taylor Young, Chandler (Kelsie) Young, Skylar Young, Whitney Young, Dylan Young, Chad Manning, Josh Manning, Matt Manning and Elicia Manning; great grandchildren: Marie, Bianca, Keelyn, Alton, Zain, Jackson, Felix, Ori, Lokie, Ayden, Emma, Miley, Michael, Samuel, Emmett, Athena, Alekos, Jordan, Xander and Idris; one sister: Dorothy Muntz; special niece: Tina Cale and several more nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; Robert; brother: Jack; half brother: Gene Worrell and son: Kevin.

Pat was a member of the former Donnellson Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Women and was a Cub Scout leader. She enjoyed watching the Hallmark Channel and was an avid Iowa State Cyclone fan.

The family will receive friends from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Saturday, April 2, 2022, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, April 2, 2022, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson with Tony Keefe officiating.

Burial will be at Evangelical Cemetery in Donnellson.

Memorials have been established in her memory for Donnellson Fire and Rescue.

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/From the Front

## OBITUARIES

### BRENDA S. BOYER

Brenda Sue Boyer, 60, of Fort Madison, Iowa, passed away at 5:09 p.m. Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in West Burlington, Iowa.



BOYER

Born August 11, 1961, in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of Robert Glenn and Rosemary Louise (Kramer) Boyer. She married Michael "Frog" Moore. They later divorced.

Survivors include her special friend: Jim Kempker; two daughters: Rachel (Anthony) Huber of Kansas City, Missouri, Alta Snook of Fort Madison, Iowa; five grandchildren: Savannah, Jacob, Emmerie, Athena and Edward; three brothers: Richard (Lori) Boyer of Argyle, Iowa, Gregory Boyer of Farmington, Iowa, Eric (Amy) Boyer of Franklin, Iowa; sister: Debra (Kenneth) Martinson of Franklin, Iowa and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers: Douglas and Christopher Boyer; nephew Levi Martinson and sister-in-law: Rita Boyer.

Brenda graduated from Central Lee High School in 1979. She enjoyed cooking, gardening, sewing and her grandchildren.

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

The family will receive friends from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point.

A graveside service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at Calvary Cemetery in West Point with Father Dennis Hoffman officiating.

A memorial has been established in her memory.

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.

#### 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.

## Breeders want business cleaned up

**BREEDERS** - Continued from Page 1

er and president of Select Puppies in West Point, Iowa said he came to the meeting because he wants to help southeast Iowa out of the image of illegal breeding.

"That's why we're here. This is just another southeast Iowa deal and this isn't what we want to hear," he said.

Mohrfeld said the illegal breeders don't hurt his business directly, but it makes the whole group look bad when illegal activity is taking.

He said anyone can come and look at his facility any time, and state and federal inspectors do random checks on the licensed facilities. Weber said he's also done random inspections of Mohrfeld's property and said he was impressed with the operations.

"It's the people that have hundreds who aren't going through the state like you guys have to, that we're looking to take care of," Weber said.

"Then we will address the hording because that needs to be taken care of, too."

Weber said Lee County has a stigma of having terrible puppy mills.

"When I get these calls from people from outside the area I say, 'Well, when was the last time you drove by and looked at this place.'"

He said those people haven't driven by any of the facilities but are calling on heresay.

PAW Animal Director Sandy Brown said driving by facilities does not always tell the story.

"Don't take offense, but driving by doesn't always tell the horror of what's inside of

some places," she said.

Mohrfeld said all four of the breeders in the room would agree with that sentiment.

"If anyone thinks that any of us four are not for getting rid of the operations like wherever this happened. We're for getting rid of that. We don't want that and that makes us look bad," he said.

Animal control officers Tom Crew of Keokuk and Karl Judd of Fort Madison were in attendance and said any new ordinance or legal language should include some teeth that allows them to have more authority. Judd said a tag ordinance helps get the animals minimal care.

"Because right now, unless a dog is literally on its death bed, it doesn't constitute abuse in Iowa," Judd said.

"I've had dogs that were in terrible shape given back to the owner by the judge. By enforcing the dog tag ordinance in Fort Madison, it is a start because at least they have to see the vet once every couple of years to get a rabies tag. It also lets everyone know we're watching."

Lee County Supervisor Garry Seyb said state law only allows for three animals that are breedable in any home, however if the animals are spayed or neutered, homes can have as many as they want as long as they are taken care of.

Anyone outside of those guidelines are subject to state fines, enforceable by local law enforcement. But Weber said veterinarians are the ones that determine whether the animals are healthy and that can be subjective.

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# Current-Lee/For the Record

## CURRENT-LEE

**Sam Lozano's FMAAA Art Exhibit** – Viewings open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday throughout March. The gallery is located at 825 Avenue G.

**Rebuild Nepal Education Foundation Adult Prom** – An adult prom is being planned at the Kingsley Inn in Fort Madison on April 1 with drinks and refreshments provided by River Rocks. Funds raised will go to help Central Lee students Sydney Jones and Paisley Grafton provide scholarships for Nepalese children.

**Fort Madison Elementary School Carnival** – Saturday, April 2, 1pm-3:30pm, Fort Madison High School gymnasium, hosted by Lincoln & Richardson Elementary Schools. An auction fundraiser, hosted by Fraise Auctions, in conjunction with the carnival, will be held online with bidding starting April 1 and closing April 8. A preview of auction items will be available at the carnival, along with assistance helping set up an account with Fraise's online bidding site.

**West Point Fire & Rescue Pork Loin Dinner** – Saturday, April 2, 2022, 4:30-7pm. To Go Only, No Dine In. Watch for Signs. Menu includes Pork Loin, Cheesy Potatoes, & Green Beans. No need to get out, as you pull up to the West Point Fire Station, the firefighters will place your meals in your vehicle! Free Will Donation. Proceeds go towards purchasing life saving equipment.

**Sunday Brunch at Green Acres Golf Club** – Now serving Sunday brunch 10am-2pm every week. Adults \$8.99, Children \$6.99. Ask about Senior & Veteran Discounts. 925 Fruit Street, Donnellson. 319.835.5011. Like them on Facebook for information about upcoming events & more.

**Gardening with Children Child Care Provider Training** – Thursday, April 7, 6:30-8:30pm, Learning Center 1100 N. Main St., Donnellson, IA 52625. Can digging in the dirt be good for children? Yes, when it encourages children to taste new vegetables that they've helped to grow. Gardening with children promotes a healthy lifestyle, early learning experiences, social development, and environmental stewardship. You'll engage in experiential-learning gardening activities through crafts, literacy, container gardening, and taste testing. Intended audience: Child care providers  
Format: One 2-hour class Certification: Approved by Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) for Child Care Professional Development Credit and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Contact Info: Whitney Weisinger [weisinge@iastate.edu](mailto:weisinge@iastate.edu) (319) 835-5116 Primary Instructor: Sara Sprouse [sprouse@iastate.edu](mailto:sprouse@iastate.edu) (319) 293-3039.

**Fort Madison 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament** – Saturday April 9, 2022, Fort Madison Middle School. Boys and Girls K – 12 & Open Men divisions. \$80/team. 3 game guarantee. Contact: TJ Sargent 319-795-3787 or Tony Sargent 319-520-5340. Sign-up deadline is April 1st.



**Lunch Specials**  
**March 28 - April 1**  
**11am - 1pm**

**Monday, March 28**  
**Scalloped Potatoes & Ham, Corn**

**Tuesday, March 29**  
**Meatloaf, Loaded Potatoes, Beans**

*Wednesday, March 30*  
*Sausage & Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes*

**Thursday, March 31**  
**Fried Chicken Dinners**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 1**  
**FISH & SHRIMP DINNERS**

## For the Record

### Fort Madison Police Report

03/28/22 – 5:32 a.m. – Fort Madison police cited Norman Monroe Bell, 61, of Fort Madison, in the 3900 block of Avenue O, on a charge of driving under suspension.

03/28/22 – 8:48 a.m. – Fort Madison police cited Sherri Lynn Beames, 37, of Fort Madison, in the 3200 block of Avenue N, on charges of driving while barred, possession of a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

03/28/22 – 9:14 a.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 500 block of Avenue F.

03/28/22 – 12:19 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2600 block of Avenue L.

03/29/22 – 1:39 a.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 800 block of Avenue E.

03/29/22 – 8:16 a.m. – Fort Madison police cited Belinda Lorene McWhortor, 33, of Fort Madison, in the 2000 block of Avenue M, on a charge of driving while barred.

03/29/22 – 4:02 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism at the intersection of 24th Street and Avenue N.

03/29/22 – 4:11 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1400 block of Avenue F.

03/29/22 – 4:45 p.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Andres Lee Diaz, 40, of Fort Madison, at the intersection of 14th Street and Avenue F, on a charge of disorderly conduct – threat. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/30/22 – 10:06 a.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1100 block of Avenue H.

03/30/22 – 11:20 a.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 400 block of Avenue E.

03/30/22 – 11:52 a.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the Fort Madison area.

03/30/22 – 1:19 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in

the 2300 block of Avenue H. 03/30/22 – 5:53 p.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Jessica Rebecca Boe, 31, of Fort Madison, in the 400 block of 22nd Street, on charges of domestic abuse assault and interference with official acts. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/30/22 – 6:16 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2300 block of Avenue M.

03/31/22 – 1:22 a.m. – Fort Madison police cited Holly Ann Mueller, 46, of West Point, in the 3000 block of Avenue N, on a charge of driving under suspension.

### Lee County Sheriff Report

03/28/22 – 4:53 p.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Nicholas Cage Marshall, 21, of Peoria, Ill., at the intersection of Hwy. 61 and Johnson St. Rd., Keokuk, on a charge of possession of a controlled substance. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on a promise to appear.

03/28/22 – 5:00 p.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Darrin Michael Fitzgerald, 20, of Hamilton, Ill., at the North Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/28/22 – 5:19 p.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Josie Ann Worley, 20, of Fort Madison, at the intersection of Hwy. 61 and Johnson St. Rd., Keokuk, on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on a promise to appear.

03/29/22 – 12:04 a.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested David Lee Shoup, 44, of Keokuk, at the South Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for failure to appear/contempt of court. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/29/22 – 1:36 a.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Ashly Ann Sholl, 38, of Cantril, at the North Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for ongoing unlawful criminal conduct and 4 warrants for felony forgery.

She was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/29/22 – 6:00 a.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Crystal Nichole Thomas, 36, of Keokuk, at the South Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for violation of probation. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/29/22 – 3:42 p.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Shannon Paul Bleything, 52, of Burlington, at the North Lee County Courthouse, on 2 warrants for failure to appear/contempt of court. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/29/22 – 6:41 p.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Russell Noel Garriott, 29, of Bonaparte, at the North Lee County Courthouse, on a judgment hold warrant and a warrant for voluntary absence from custody. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/29/22 – 7:22 p.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Christopher Dean Derr, 34, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on a judgment hold warrant. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/31/22 – 12:31 a.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Ronald Deen Kibbe, 31, of Danville, in the 2600 block of Hwy. 2, Fort Madison, on a charge of public intoxication. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/31/22 – 4:44 a.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Andrew Micheal Schiedel, 33, of Fort Madison, at the intersection of 35th Street and Avenue Q, Fort Madison, on a warrant for failure to appear and a charge of driving while barred. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

*Those listed above are charged with a suspicion of a crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

### Fort Madison

#### Fire & Rescue Report

03/28/22 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call, and one gas leak.

03/29/22 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls.

03/30/22 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to five medical calls.



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## Classifieds/Public Notices

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

### PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
FORT MADISON  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
WORK SESSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
April 4, 2022  
6:05 P.M.**

**3QT09.**  
Public Comments are welcome. They are limited to 3 minutes. Any member of the public who wishes to participate in public comments must be physically present at the meeting and follow the appropriate sign in procedures.

**AGENDA**

I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum  
II. Recognition of guests  
III. Approve the agenda  
IV. Approve Budget Guarantee Resolution: "RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of FORT MADISON Community School District, will levy property taxes for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the

regular program budget adjustment as allowed under section 257.14, Code of Iowa."  
V. Consider approval of Certified Budget for the FY2022-2023  
VI. ESSER Budget workshop

VII. Public Comments  
VIII. Announcements  
April 18, 2022, 6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting, Boardroom, Central Office  
April 19, 2022, 10:15 a.m. Board Instructional Tour, FMMS  
May 2, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

Work Session, Boardroom, Central Office  
May 16, 2022, 6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting, Boardroom, Central Office  
IX. Adjourn

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# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
FORT MADISON  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
PUBLIC HEARING  
April 4, 2022  
6:00 P.M.**

<https://zoom.us/j/93849866900?pwd=N2xERXZGUDNrU-WR5MEV1NTR0S0Y->

**3QT09.**

Public Comments are welcome. They are limited to 3 minutes. Any member of the public who wishes to participate in public comments must be physically present at the meeting and follow the appropriate sign in procedures.

### AGENDA

- I. Call Public Hearing to order and determination of a quorum
- II. Approve the agenda
- III. Certified Budget FY2022-2023
- IV. Receive written comments regarding Certified Budget FY2022-2023
- V. Receive oral comments regarding Certified Budget FY2022-2023
- VI. Adjourn

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The LCCVA is looking to hire a part time assistant to the Administrator. Expected hours of work would be 20 hours per month. The selected candidate would assist with general office help, assist veterans and their families with County level assistance, and help coordinate scheduling rides for veterans with VA van. Selected candidate can plan on starting July 5, 2022. Anyone filling this position will be an employee of Lee County with salary and benefits commensurate to current County policy. Starting wage is \$15.00 hr.

Duties include but are not restricted to: Computer skills, an ability to communicate with tact and understanding, must have a valid Iowa drivers license, must pass drug/alcohol screen, must be a US citizen, must reside or be willing to locate to Lee County and is subject to a post-offer pre-employment physical. Veterans will be given preference but all candidates will be considered. Applications may be picked up at the Lee County Auditor's Office or downloaded from the county website – [www.leecounty.org](http://www.leecounty.org). We will begin taking applications at the Auditor's Office on April 1, 2022 until 3:00 p.m. April 29, 2022. For further information, call the Lee County Auditor at 319-372-3705 ext.4 or the LCCVA Chair at 319-470-9434. Lee County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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**Classifieds**

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## From the Front

## Supers say bill devalues public school teachers

tion.  
**SENATE** - Continued from Page 1

“It’s not going to hurt our schools,” Reichman said Wednesday night after the vote. “There’s not a capacity for it. We have one private school in Holy Trinity and I think one Christian school in Keokuk.”

Reichman said the bill was bipartisan on many levels, but that spirit gets lost when you talk about expanding open enrollment or the scholarships.

“I hope people understand it’s not our districts here at home. There are districts that have some really poor families and that’s it. You have to be at 400% of the national poverty level to qualify for these,” he said.

He said State Sen. Amy Sinclair R-Allerton, who managed the bill on the Senate floor, said in her closing statement on the bill that families with the means to enroll students in private schools are doing it. But those without the means can’t.

“These are poor people stuck in an environment they can’t get out of. It’s racist at worst and class warfare at best,” Reichman said.

Central Lee Superintendent Dr. Andy Crozier disagreed with that assessment.

“We’ve always had school choice,” he said. “Central Lee has 400 students open enrolled in our district and although we’re collaborative on a lot of things, as districts we’re extremely competitive for students. They have a choice.”

Crozier, who said he doesn’t oppose a voucher system on the merits, said this bill creates an uneven playing field.

“This creates systems with two different sets for rules. Private schools have no public board meetings. They don’t have to post staff salaries, no achievement scores,” Crozier said. “They’re not held to the same accountability. It’s not same playing field.”

He said legislators told public schools this year in budget discussions there wasn’t funding for more than 2.5% growth, but this bill creates a unilateral system at a cost of about \$50 million.

Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater, who oversees Fort Madison’s public system, also said the bill would have an immediate impact on public schools.

“Private school scholarships, which decrease enrollment in public schools, will have a negative financial impact on the public school system. The state financial formula, which is essentially kids x state amount for school districts, is impacted when either or both of those numbers change. Less students and/or lower (Supplemental State Aid) amounts both negatively effect the resources a public school system has to utilize to educate public school children,” she said.

“The philosophy and purpose behind the bill is implementing a statewide law which is an intentional statement on public education.”

The state’s non-partisan Legislative Services Agency has projected that if all scholarships are utilized it will cost the state about \$55 million initially funded by the 70% formula. The 30% remaining is estimated at \$24 million the first year, for a total cost of about \$79 million.

“That tells me right there that their priorities are not public schools right now, which is disappointing as a superintendent of public schools.”

Reynolds said Wednesday night that the bill shows lawmakers are listening to parents.



SLATER

“The Senate made clear tonight that parents matter. Iowans want and deserve school choice and educational freedom for their children and I urge the House to get this across the finish line and send a bill to my desk,” she said.

“If education truly is the great equalizer, we should create opportunities for more families to provide their children with the education choice that’s best for them. That’s exactly what this legislation does.”

Reichman pointed to dropouts in Des Moines as an example of why the scholarship program is needed.

“This is targeted at 755 students in Des Moines who dropped out of a failing school, with a failing superintendent,” Reichman said.

“That system failed those students, who the overwhelming majority were minorities on reduced or free lunch. Those people are going to be disadvantaged forever, by not being able to finish their education.”

Crozier said that shows the issue is a political one and not an educational one.

“A lot of this stems from schools in the Des Moines metro that legislators have wanted to go to war with, and all the other schools across the state are caught in the middle,” he said.

The bill also contains transparency language that requires schools to post curriculum materials, library catalogs, and flagging content that qualifies as sexually explicit. The House passed a similar transparency bill Tuesday night, but it did not include the private scholarship program.

Reichman said he’s shown some content from books to many people who contest the bill and only one person didn’t have a change of heart. But Crozier said the tightening is unnecessary at a time when hiring is already difficult.

“The transparency bill is an unneeded burden on public teachers when it’s tough enough to incentivize people to go into the profession,” Crozier said.

“In six years, not one person has questioned curriculum. We’ve had parents come to us and talk about things, but this is a fabricated issue of the political system.”

Slater said this is another step of distrust in the public system and it will affect teacher retention.

“As I complete my 30th year in education, I have seen a significant shift in respect and trust in the profession of educating youth. That is disheartening. Choosing to be in education is because of the opportunity to make a difference in our future...our kids. The shift has created shortages in teacher positions not only locally but nationwide.”

## Students excited to be part of bigger effort

**TRADES** - Continued from Page 1

trades program help remodel the Career Advantage Center is an exciting opportunity for the students and a tremendous help in making the CAC a reality,” said President of the Lee County Economic Development Group Dennis Fraise.

FMHS student Jeremiah Chapman is looking forward to the center improving students in the program.

“I am excited to see how this (The Career Advantage Center) will bring more students out of school with knowledge that will help them create their lives and save money from doing it themselves,” Chapman said.

FMHS students are ready for this center to open. Emmett Kruse, who is currently working on the remodel said, “I am excited to see the way it’s going to turn out (the remodel), and I am excited to be a part of something that will affect future CTE kids.”

His classmate, Cameron Nabors agreed.

“I enjoy working on this with my classmates and being a part of something that will have an impact on the future CTE students.”

Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater said, “FMCS is a proud partner of the Career Advantage Center. What a great opportunity for our students to be in on the ground floor by using their skills to remodel the CAC. The CAC will provide more students in our system the opportunity to understand, learn and experience so many career fields in partnership with our valuable local businesses and industries.”

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# 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**  
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**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.**

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

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

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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.

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