

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Thursday, February 24, 2022 | 10 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 45



www.pencitycurrent.com

Officials seize 42 dogs



ARL photo

Staff with Animal Rescue League of Iowa inspects an animal Tuesday after rescuing more than 40 dogs at a home in Argyle in rural Lee County.

ARGYLE: Lee County Sheriff executes search warrant on alleged illegal breeders

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A family in Argyle volunteered to surrender 42 animals that were caged in their home as part of an alleged illegal breeding operation.

Lee County Sheriff's deputies executed a search warrant on the property in rural Lee County after a tip was received about a possible unlicensed breeding operation at the home.

According to sheriff's investigators, the owners of the property were cooperative with law enforcement and workers with the Animal Rescue League of Iowa who came down to take custody of the animals.

Staff with Animal Rescue League of Iowa inspects an animal Tuesday after rescuing more than 40 dogs at home in Argyle in rural Lee County. Image courtesy of ARL

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said evidence from the search warrant was turned over to Lee County Attorney Ross Braden for possible charges.

Investigator Chad Donaldson said Iowa code regarding hoarding of animals for breeding is complicated, but did confirm that there were no permits or licensing for the breeding that was occurring on the property. He said the owners were cooperative with investigators and are presumed innocent until proven

See DOGS, page 8

PUBLIC FORUM

City to hold forum on property ordinance

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – City officials are revisiting a vacant building ordinance that was proposed last year and was put on hold.

City Building Director Doug Krogmeier said Wednesday that the city will be holding another public hearing at Fort Madison Public Library on March 3 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the ordinance with property owners.

The city met with some vocal opposition at a public hearing held in August because the ordinance establishes fees for buildings that sit vacant. The fees are based on the square footage of the buildings and are assessed after a grace period.

The ordinance takes a look at what a vacant property is, when it would have to be registered, and under what circumstances. A proposed fee schedule is also included in the proposal.

Krogmeier said the program was not to generate funds for the city, but to cover the cost of the program.

According to data from the city, there are currently more than 400 vacant properties in the city, including 50 properties that the city has tagged as needing demolished immediately, at a cost of close to \$1 million.

Properties that are vacant more than 90 days would have to register with the city. Properties sold that sit vacant more than 30 days after purchase, or foreclosed properties would have to be registered with the city per the proposed ordinance.

Inspection logs would be required monthly by the owner of the property and annually by the city. City Police would be listed as an agent of the owner to respond



KROGMEIER

See CODE, page 5

OPINION

Here's another place transparency is needed

There has been a lot of talk lately about why Iowa's K-12 school districts need to be more transparent, and more accessible and more accountable, to parents and the rest of the tax-paying people of Iowa.

That is the justification offered for a

bulging backpack full of bills introduced in the Legislature this year.

But lawmakers should not stop with their push for improved transparency in schools.

There are bills before the Legislature this year that would require a monitoring camera be installed in every

classroom, online lists of every book in every school library and every book used in every classroom assignment, posting of teachers' lesson plans and resource materials online months in advance, new criminal charges for teachers and school

See EVANS, page 8

INDEX

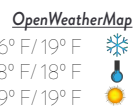
AG NEWS.....Ps.4-5
BeRecycled.org.....P.7
Business Directory.....P.6
CLASSIFIEDS.....Ps.6-7
Complete Rental.....P.8
Connection Bank.....P.3
EDUCATION NEWS.....Ps.4-5
Fort Madison Family YMCA.....P.3
FROM THE FRONT.....Ps.2,5,8
Fullenkamp Insurance.....P.3

Full Steam Staffing.....Ps.3,7
Getting Ahead.....P.10
IOWA NEWS.....P.5
Lee County K9 Association.....P.9
Lee County Health Department.....P.2
LEE COUNTY NEWS.....Ps.4-5,8
LOCAL NEWS.....P.5
OBITUARIES.....P.3
• Jesse W. Arnold, 73
• Vicki L. Larson, 75

OPINION.....P.5
Pen City Current.....Ps.3-8
Pilot Grove Savings Bank.....P.5
Pothitakis Dentistry.....P.4
Pothitakis Law Firm, P.C.....P.4
Public Notices.....P.7
RonDavoo.....P.5
Sonny's Super Market.....P.8
Southeast Iowa Regional Airport.....P.5
SPORTS.....P.4

WEATHER

THU 24 Feb.....Snowy & Cold, 26° F/19° F
FRI 25 Feb.....Cloudy & Cold, 28° F/18° F
SAT 26 Feb.....Clear, 39° F/19° F



IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 02/22.....7 23 24 28 48, Lucky Ball: 15
MEGA MILLIONS 02/22.....6 17 22 57 62, Mega Ball: 3
PICK 3 02/22 MIDDAY.....0 8 1
PICK 3 02/22 EVENING.....114
PICK 4 02/22 MIDDAY.....8 3 1 2
PICK 4 02/22 EVENING.....9 6 1 2

SUBSCRIBE

Scan the code to subscribe today
Paid & Free Options Available!



Touching the Community with Care



Lee County Health Department Hospice

Your Choice for Compassionate Hospice Care

in Lee, Des Moines, Henry, and Van Buren counties in Iowa
& Hancock and Henderson counties in Illinois

Hospice Services include

*24/7 on-call nursing staff • Skilled nursing services
Social worker visits • Music & massage therapy
Homecare aide assistance • Volunteer services
Spiritual & grief support*

Providing comforting end-of-life care since 1989



LEE
CHD

#3 John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison
(319) 372-5225 or (800) 458-6672
Medicare Certified

www.LeeCountyHD.org

Obituaries

OBITUARIES

VICKI L. LARSON

Vicki Lee (Aniskewicz) Larson, 75, of Donnellson, Iowa, passed away on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in West Burlington, Iowa.



LARSON

Vicki was born in Long Branch, New Jersey, on August 7, 1946, the daughter of Edward and Cecelia (Schmitz) Aniskewicz. She graduated from Pulaski High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1964. Vicki married Richard E. Larson on December 17, 1966, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He preceded her in death on September 27, 2017.

After starting their family in Rockville, Maryland, Vicki and Richard moved their three sons (and her cherished houseplants that filled a '67 VW Bug towed behind the family station wagon) to Richard's hometown of Keokuk, Iowa, in 1978. Vicki enjoyed cooking for her family and keeping a happy, caring home. As her boys moved on from elementary school, Vicki earned a teaching certificate. She was a pre-school Head Start teacher for twenty-six years. Vicki loved attending her children's and grandchildren's school and sporting events and capturing countless photos and videos. Vicki's favorite time of the year was the Christmas season. She had a large Santa Claus collection and loved decorating her home in the holiday spirit. Her favorite decorations would remain on display all year. Above all, she loved her family and always did whatever she could for them.

Vicki is survived by three sons: Eric Larson of Donnellson, Iowa, Kurt Larson of North Liberty, Iowa, and Scott (Michele) Larson of Coralville, Iowa; four grandchildren: Brant, Millie, and Caleb Larson of Donnellson, Iowa, and Kate Larson of Coralville, Iowa; one sister: Doreen (Larry) Walton of Neshkoro, Wisconsin; one brother: Edward Aniskewicz of Lyndon Station, Wisconsin; and one niece: Tanya (David) Bosshard of Neshkoro, Wisconsin.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, February 27, 2022, from 3 to 5 pm, at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk. A private graveside service will follow at Keokuk National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Donnellson Fire Department, 616 N. Main Street, Donnellson, IA 52625.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com.

DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk, Iowa, is providing 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.

#HyperLocalSuperFresh



CONNECTION BANK

We've got this.

www.myconnectionbank.com

Burlington • Fort Madison • Montrose • Keokuk

Member FDIC

OBITUARIES

JESSE W. ARNOLD

Jesse Wayne Arnold, 73, of Fort Madison, Iowa died Wednesday morning, February 23, 2022 at the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, Fort Madison. He was born February 4, 1949, a son of Fred B and Alatheia (Tollman) Arnold. He married Brenda Lumsden on November 16, 1991, she survives.

Jesse was a graduate of Fort Madison High School. He was a truck driver, driving for Shipley Construction/Lee County Ready Mix at his retirement. He enjoyed hunting and fishing.

He is survived by his wife, Brenda Arnold; one son Jesse Lee Arnold of Moline, Illinois; two siblings, Fred R (Sharon) Arnold and Debbie (Richard) Petty all of Fort Madison; one granddaughter, and other family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, three sisters: Helen Wyatt, Lydia Woods, and Naomi Hansen; two nephews and a niece.

Per his wishes, his body has been cremated. No services are planned. Contributions are being accepted to help pay for his final expenses. Checks may be made to Barr Memorial Chapel, 1919 Ave F, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Arnold family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

FSS PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
A FULL STEAM STAFFING COMPANY

HIRING EXCLUSIVELY
for
Scotts MiracleGro

\$100 SIGN-ON BONUS

319-376-5085
www.FullSteamStaffingNJ.com

Tired of the same old results from your advertising?

Call Lee Today!
(319)371.4125

PEN CITY CURRENT
It's Black & White and Read all over

LEARN. GROW. THRIVE!

FREE
4 Year Old Preschool

the Y

ENROLL TODAY

Fort Madison Family YMCA

Proud to Provide Exceptional Service and Professional Excellence
Since 1963

Home • Auto • Commercial
Bonds • Farm • Crop
Health • Life • Disability

FULLENKAMP INSURANCE

Trusted Choice

Independent Insurance Agent

307 5th Street West Point
319-837-6178 or 800-292-2208
Monday through Friday 7:30-5
& Saturday 8:30-11 or by appointment
www.FullenkampIns.com

Charles Vandenberg, Editor

(319).371.1670
charles.v@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager

(319).371.4125
lee.v@pencitycurrent.com

Copyright © 2022 by Pen City Current

All published materials are property of Pen City Current and cannot be used without express written permission.

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Member LION Publishers

www.lionpublishers.com



Pen City Current, www.PenCityCurrent.com, and Pen e-Saver are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Monday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

Founded in 2016
P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Lee County News/Sports

ISU Extension offers ag seminars

LEE COUNTY - Iowa State University Extension and Outreach of Lee County will host a Rain Barrel Workshop on Wednesday, April 20 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at the Lee County Extension Office, 414 North Main Street Donnellson. In this workshop we will discuss rain barrel basics, the benefits of rain barrels, and participants will install plumbing on a recycled plastic barrel to make a rain barrel to take home.

An average home with a roof size of 1,000 square feet will generate approximately 600 gallons of water from a one-inch rainfall. By collecting and using this water, to water plants, rain barrel users help reduce the demand on water supplies and reduce storm water runoff.

Whitney Weisinger, ISU Extension and Outreach Program Coordinator states, "This

workshop is a hands-on experience to help teach our community how to recycle water and use it to benefit yards and gardens."

There is a limited number of barrels available, please do not wait to register. Observers are welcome to attend for free. Registration is \$60.00/person. To register please call 319-835-5116 or email weisinge@iastate.edu. Payment for this workshop is due by Friday, April 15 at noon.

ISU Extension and Outreach is part of an educational network supported by Iowa State University, local county governments, and the United States Department of Agriculture. ISU Extension and Outreach works to provide learning opportunities for citizens of Iowa by providing unbiased, research-based information that will improve quality of life.



Fort Madison AAU State Qualifiers placed in the top 4 of their District Tournament in Washington, IA on Feb 6th. They will wrestle at Wells Fargo Area in Des Moines Feb 26-27th. Left to right are Tommy Watson, James Fuller, Ren Watson, Wyatt Day, Luka Grogan, Moses Thacher. Below is the list of Pee Wee wrestlers signed up for state in March 5-6 in Waterloo. Front row: Kayden Berquist, Soren Schelich, Finley Pence, Jager Fuller, Cameron Mahoney. Back row: Everett Hennigar, Evan Richers, Jaiden Warosh, Wyatt Brennan, Austin Nelson, Jackson Young, Easton Peitz, Wesley Hellige.

Follow Us @pencitycurrent



THANK YOU

We are grateful for the opportunity to care for your family's oral health & appreciate the trust you put in us to do so.

We are now accepting new patients.



www.DrMarkDDS.com

POTHITAKIS DENTAL GROUP

Ft. Madison East
(319) 372-3614

Ft. Madison West
(319) 372-4882

West Burlington
(319) 753-2515

New London
(319) 367-2311

Mediapolis
(319) 394-3255

Burlington
(319) 752-7993

ACCIDENT & INJURY LAW



Fighting to get you the compensation you deserve.



320 North 3rd Street, Suite 100, Burlington, Iowa 52601-0337
1603 Main Street, Keokuk, IA 52632

www.PothitakisLaw.com

Education News/From the Front

STEMFest returns to SCC on March 12

WEST BURLINGTON – The annual Southeast Iowa Regional Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Festival (STEMFest) will take place at SCC's West Burlington campus on March 12 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. The family-friendly event is a joint effort among SCC, the Southeast Iowa STEM Region, the Lee County Economic Development Group, Greater Burlington Partnership, local businesses, manufacturers and area educators.

STEMFest presents careers and opportunities in STEM-related fields through hands-on activities led by exhibitors across the region. Participants explore these pathways through robotics and healthcare simulations, as well as electronics and renewable energy exhibits.

SCC Work-Based Learning Specialist Leanne Krogmeier says this is a great event for everyone in the family.

"Bring the little ones and bring your teenagers," she says. "STEMfest showcases activities for students in every grade from elementary through high school."

With the increasing demand for jobs that require digital and technical skills, a background in STEM has become essential for an expanding variety of fields. Krogmeier says the festival is a great way for students

to discover a range of careers in southeast Iowa's growing industries.

"STEM careers are projected to grow faster than all other careers over the next ten years," says Krogmeier. "That's why it's so important we get kids interested while they're young. STEMFest is a fun and creative way to introduce kids to concepts and career paths they may never see or consider."

Along with the traditional Saturday event that is open to everyone, the STEMFest planning committee added a special STEM Day just for high school students on the West Burlington campus on March 11.

Hundreds of families attend the Saturday event each year, and Krogmeier hopes the trend continues.

"My hope for this year's STEMFest is that we can keep teaching parents and children about how fun STEM can be. We've got dozens of exhibitors from across the region and state with plenty of hands-on activities and items for kids of all ages to take home."

STEMFest is free and open to the public.

To learn more about the Southeast Iowa Regional STEMFest, visit <http://se.iowastem.org>.

For questions about STEMFest at SCC, contact Leanne Krogmeier at (319) 208-5053 or email lkrogmeier@scciowa.edu.

Penalties, fees would be part of code

CODE - Continued from Page 1

to criminal trespass, and the owner would have to consent to emergency inspections and repairs.

Fees begin at structures with 576 square feet or more and are incremental based on the size of the building. Fees start at \$10 per year and max out at \$1,000 per year. Failure to comply penalties start at \$50 per month and cap out at \$1,000 per month.

Exemptions would be for structures with active building permits for six months, estates in probate, homes for sale, property occupied by individuals who winter in the south – snow birds, and homes with substantial damage for 90 days.

The city considered an adjustment last year to the ordinance that if property owners have insurance on the property, they wouldn't have to pay the fees, but would still be required to register the property.

Under Iowa law, insurance companies have to hold back \$20,000 on policies to cover city responsibility for cleaning up the property if it caught fire or was damaged and the ownership abandons the property.

Ag risk program sign-ups end March 15

WASHINGTON – Agricultural producers who have not yet enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2022 crop year have until March 15, 2022, to sign a contract. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers these two safety net programs to provide vital income support to farmers experiencing substantial declines in crop prices or revenues.

"The Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs provide critical financial protections to many American farmers. As producers continue to weather a bruising pandemic and new, climate-induced disasters, these programs are all the more important," said Zach Ducheneaux, Administrator of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). "I am encouraging producers to reach out to their county offices to learn about program eligibility and election options today, so that they can begin the enrollment process as soon as possible."

Producers can elect coverage and enroll in ARC-County or PLC, which are both crop-by-crop, or ARC-Individual, which is for the entire farm. Although election changes for 2022 are optional, producers must enroll through a signed

contract each year. Also, if a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm and makes an election change for 2022, it will be necessary to sign a new contract.

If an election is not submitted by the March 15, 2022, deadline, the election remains the same as the 2021 election for crops on the farm. Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the crop.

Producers have completed 976,249 contracts to date, representing 54% of the more than 1.8 million expected contracts.

For more information on ARC and PLC, producers can visit the ARC and PLC webpage or contact their local USDA Service Center. In those service centers where COVID cases exceed safety levels, staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email and other digital tools. Producers with level 2 authentication access can electronically sign contracts or may make arrangements to drop off signed contracts at the FSA county office. Because of the pandemic, some USDA Service Centers are open to limited visitors.

County sex offender dies in prison

LEE COUNTY - Charles Leroy Zipprich was pronounced dead due to natural causes at 9:21 a.m. on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at the Iowa Medical and Classification Center. Zipprich was 70 years old at the time of his death.

Zipprich had been serving a 25-year maximum term for the crimes of SEXUAL ABUSE - 2ND DEGREE - 85% from Lee County. His sentence began on October 17, 2000.

THE MIDWEST MADE EASY.

Traveling from Burlington just got easier with daily flights to St. Louis & Chicago O'Hare. For seamless connections, book both your Cape Air flight and your connecting flight directly on aa.com or united.com.



SOUTHEAST IOWA REGIONAL AIRPORT | **DAILY FLIGHTS Chicago and St. Louis**
capeair.com / 800-CAPE-AIR

Subscribe to #PCC today
 Free and Paid Options Available.



PEN CITY CURRENT
It's Black & White and Red all over

BEST OF S.E. IOWA 2018

Ron Davoo
 always fresh, always friendly
 fried chicken & pizza pies



JUMBO
 MARINATED TENDERS
 hand-breaded with our special seasoning

Open Monday-Saturday 11AM - 8:30PM | Closed Sunday

Ron Litchfield
 Owner/ Pizzapreneur
 605 South 10th St. Burlington, Iowa 52601
 Phone (319) 752-5767 / Cell (319) 572-2495
 Email: RonLitch4176@msn.com <https://www.facebook.com/RonDavooPizza/>

Past. Present. Future.




Pilot Grove Savings Bank was established on May 12, 1911 when 23 investors pooled \$10,000 to meet the banking needs of the local community. Since that day, the Bank has continued to grow and prosper, serving customers in Southeast Iowa and the tri-state area as well as many other locations across the country. With customer loyalty on its side, Pilot Grove Savings Bank has prospered throughout the years. Now, with 14 offices, more than 100 employees, over \$760 million in assets and some of the most technologically advanced banking systems available, Pilot Grove Savings Bank's main goal remains as it was in 1911 – to serve the customer well.

Donnellson Fairfield Fort Madison
 Houghton Keokuk Mt. Pleasant
 Packwood Pilot Grove West Burlington
 West Point Winfield

110 Years

Pilot Grove Savings Bank
Member FDIC

Working for Southeast Iowa
Est. May 12, 1911

319-469-3951

www.PilotGroveSavingsBank.com

Member FDIC

Classifieds

Call Lee at 319.371.4125 today to advertise!



Patrick Profeta
General Manager

Keokuk Auto Credit
We Tote the Note

No Credit Check Low Weekly Payments
www.keokukautocredit.com

1728 Main Keokuk, IA 52632 Office: 319-524-2334 Fax: 319-524-2373



Service to Burlington starts February 1st, 2022!

St. Louis
from **\$39** each way

Chicago
from **\$49** each way

capeair.com | 800-CAPE-AIR



Don't Let Your Business Slip Away

If someone is hurt on your property, is your business protected?

Umbrella coverage can help reduce the risk of paying claim costs beyond where your business insurance liability limits stop. Schedule a SuperCheck® today because when your world is protected - it's business as usual.



Larry Holtkamp
1301 37th St
Fort Madison
(319) 372-9145
(319) 470-1927 Cell
LARRYHOLTkamp.COM



FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

Auto | Home | Life | Annuities | Business | Farm & Ranch

Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company, *Western Agricultural Insurance Company, Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company/West Des Moines, IA. *Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services PC109 (4-17)

KEMPKER'S

True Value  **RENTAL**

Treating our customers like family since 1970

Fort Madison • Burlington • Mount Pleasant

www.kempkerstruevalue.com

YOUR AD HERE
for as little as **\$50 per month**

Call Lee at 319.371.4125
or email classifieds@pencitycurrent.com



Surprisingly great rates right around the corner.

Jess Sutcliffe, Agent
2623 Avenue L
Fort Madison, IA 52627
Bus: 319-372-5982
www.fortmadisoninsurance.com

I'm your one-stop shop for the service you deserve at a price you want. Call me for surprisingly great rates and Good Neighbor service right in your neighborhood.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

Individual premiums will vary by customer. All applicants subject to State Farm® underwriting requirements.

State Farm
Bloomington, IL
2001878



Dirty Dog Detailing & Boarding

Grooming by appointment
Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday
319-371-9044

2090 250th St
Donnellson, IA 52625

Over 51 Years Combined Professional Animal Experience

Owners Barb Ball & Natalie Dauma
Family owned & operated



Auto Detailing • Car Wash • Sign Rental

Turbo Wash

(319) 372-WASH (9274)
Fort Madison

Gift certificates available

Locally owned & operated



Never Shiver. Don't Sweat.



Just call



Ft. Madison: 319-372-4328
Burlington: 319-752-4328
All Areas: 877-380-4328

24 Hour Service • FREE Estimates • Servicing All Makes

www.YourHeatAndAirGuy.com

General Insects
Termites

Mice
Bed Bugs

Cullen
PEST CONTROL

(319) 372-1060

Toll Free 1-888-818-7378
Email: cullenpest@hotmail.com
www.cullenpest.com

Residential
Commercial

"Cause who needs bugs?"

How can chiropractic therapy help you?

BENEFITS OF CHIROPRACTIC

- Improved joint mobility, function, and health
- Decreased degeneration of joints and connective tissues
- Improved circulation
- Increased energy, vitality, and improved sleep
- and many, many more

DR. ROBERT BROCKMAN
Brockman Chiropractic

2311 Avenue L, Suite 3, Fort Madison • 319-372-3800
<http://brockmanchiropracticdrbob.com/>

Extremity Adjustment
Myofascial Relaxation

Cranial Adjustment
Muscle Facilitation

Buying or Selling?
Call **Karen** first!

- Real Knowledge
- Real Experience
- Real Dedication




Real Results!

Karen Hope
(319) 372-4040

DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY
Est. 1877

Photo Correction
Business Cards
Flyers
Office Supplies
Vinyl Banners
T-Shirt Printing

Coffee Mugs
Posters
Art Supplies
Printing
Office Furniture
Trifold Brochures

621 Avenue G
Fort Madison, IA

319.372.2721
doddprinting.com

ENJOY FREE DELIVERY TO FORT MADISON, KEOKUK, BURLINGTON & THE SURROUNDING AREAS!

Advertise in a brand new way.

Reach thousands of potential customers each day & grow your business. Call today!

Lee (319)371.4125 • Chuck (319)371.1670

PEN CITY CURRENT
It's Black & White and Read all over

Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

FSS PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
A FULL STEAM STAFFING COMPANY

HIRING EXCLUSIVELY
for
Scotts Miracle Gro

\$100 SIGN-ON BONUS

319-376-5085
www.FullSteamStaffingNJ.com

We're Not Southeast Iowa's
Favorite Dental Office
Without Our Great Team

APPLY TODAY TO JOIN US!

Pothitakis Dentistry currently needs a Full-Time Hygienist.

Complete an application at or mail your resume to
1223 S. Gear Avenue,
Eastman Plaza, Suite 302
West Burlington, IA 52655
or email burldental@gmail.com
EOE



POTHITAKIS DENTISTRY
Burlington • West Burlington • Ft. Madison West • Ft. Madison East • New London • Mt. Pleasant

JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN

The West Point Municipal Utility System has an immediate opening for a Journeyman Line Mechanic. Applicants must have a strong journeyman rating and must be able to perform all duties with regard to overhead and underground electric line construction.

Must be willing and capable to work on water distribution maintenance and repair and to be or become Grade 1 water distribution certified. Must live or be willing to live within 15 minutes of West Point, comply with on-call requirements and possess and comply with Iowa CDL regulations.

We offer a comprehensive benefit plan including health and dental coverage, plus IPERS retirement. Pre-employment physical and drug screening will be required.

Send a confidential resume to
West Point Utility System
313 5th Street
P.O. Box 69
West Point, IA. 52656
or to
cityofwestpointiowa@gmail.com
No phone calls, please



PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE Fort Madison Public Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes February 17, 2022

Minutes of the regular meeting held February 17, 2022, 5:30 p.m. in person and electronically via Zoom.

Board members present in person: Sharon Groene.

Board members present online: Tom Pollpeter, Kathy Burkhardt, Ron Welder and Anne Heitz.

Others present: Sarah Clendineng, library staff, in person.

Meeting called to order with a quorum present at 5:30 pm.

Approval of Agenda: Due to the weather, a motion was made to amend the agenda to the single item of paying the bills and move the remaining business to a special meeting to be held on February 24 at 5:30 by Ron Welder with a second by Anne Heitz. Motion was carried unanimously.

Approval of February 2022 Bills: There was a question about the Spark Joy program and the director replied that this is a program in the style of Marie Kondo's "Magical art of tidying up". The event will predominantly be virtual and participants will have access to a recorded program to watch at their convenience over the course of two days, as well as other resources, and the library will be hosting a viewing on Thursday for anyone who may not have access on their own. There was also a question about why the folding tables were purchased. The director explained that these were intended for programs that may have messy elements that we don't want to do inside over a carpeted, or even tiled floor. However, they already came in handy to help with work stations for the DIY snack program that had a much larger attendance than expected.

Motion to approve the February 2022 bills – Heitz; 2nd –Burkhardt. The motion was carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm until the special meeting 5:30 pm, February 24, 2022.

PUBLIC NOTICE AGENDA FORT MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES Special Meeting Date: Thursday, February 24, 2022 Time: 5:30 P.M.

Place: Sheaffer Meeting Room and Online

Electronic Meeting (Pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.8)

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 meet-

ing ID (847 1235 7809) 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 a. Regular Meeting January 20 b. Regular Meeting February 17
- V. Correspondence
- VI. Director's Report - be sure to include trust fund end of year summaries
 - a. Financial
 - b. Personnel
 - c. Programming
 - d. Collection Development
 - e. Operations
 - f. Facilities - landscap-

- g. Professional
 - h. Reports to City Council
 - i. Aarin Guzman Update
 - VII. Unfinished Business
 - a. Newspaper Database
 - b. Library Board By-Laws Secretary Position
 - VIII. New Business a. Review Study Room Policy b. Weeding XX book from Special Collections
 - c. Review and Add Digital Resources i. Bridges ii. BeanStack iii. A to Z World Travel d. Strategic Plan Objectives
 - IX. Upcoming Events and Information
- Next Meeting March 17, 2022

RECYCLING IS CREATING

When you recycle, you create something new.



Got a news tip?

Call Chuck
(319)371.1670

BeRecycled.org



From the Front

ARL looking for adoptive homes, donations for dogs

DOGS - Continued from Page 1

guilty.

The Animal Rescue League posted today that they are looking for homes for the 42 dogs that were taken from the property. They also posted a fundraising mechanism on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ARLIowa> and have raised more than \$6,000 for the animals in less than two days.

Local authorities were provided a tip about the alleged operations last week and went to work notifying appropriate agencies that would be involved in investigation, as well as obtaining the search warrant.

The search was conducted Tuesday morning at about 9 a.m.

This ARL photo shows hamsters that were taken from the property in Argyle that was investigated by Lee County Sheriff's office on a tip of alleged illegal breeding.

According to the ARL's Facebook page, the groups Mobile Rescue Team not only pulled more than 40 dogs from the scene, but they also rescued 41 hamsters that were piled into two cages.

Additional animals on the property included ducks, chickens, turkeys, and peacocks.

"Nearly every room in the house was packed with dogs and puppies in wire cages – everything from Great Danes and Weimeraners to Dachshunds and Corgis. The cages were stacked on top of each other, sometimes with two or three adult dogs to a cage, or moms with litters of puppies barely able to move. They were living in their own waste and the smell of urine was overpowering."

"One by one, our rescue team moved all of the dogs into clean kennels for the drive back. Our Miracle Medical Team was waiting when they arrived and immediately began examining, vaccinating, and treating the dogs. Many are thin – some very thin. Their teeth are rotten and they were crawling with fleas. Nearly all will need spay/neuter surgeries. Our animal care team worked into the evening to get the dogs settled into warm, clean beds with full bowls of fresh food and water and immediately sent the most vulnerable – moms with nursing puppies – to foster homes for round-the-clock care."

ARL staff worked into the evening on Tuesday to get the animals evaluated, cleaned, and into safe accommodations.

Legislature should be required to open its doors to sunshine laws

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

librarians who put sexually inappropriate books into the hands of students, and another bill that would create what is called the Parents Bill of Rights.

Leaders in the Iowa House and Senate have nixed some of these bills. But a proposal is not truly dead until lawmakers finish their work for the year. I will leave it to you readers to decide whether these proposals are good ideas or not.

But as long as lawmakers are exploring ways to make government more accountable and more open to citizen oversight, there's another part of Iowa government that would benefit from this desire to bring more "sunshine" to the state's K-12 school districts.

The Legislature should require itself to follow the same laws that cities, counties, public school districts and state executive branch agencies now must follow that guarantee citizen access to their meetings and their records.

An Iowa school board cannot vote on a contract to buy those little bottles of milk for school lunches without first posting the agenda for its meeting a minimum of 24 hours in advance. That proposed contract is available for review by anyone who asks to see it.

If a majority of the members of the school board gather to discuss and deliberate on policies for the district, that gathering has to be open to the public.

In contrast, the Legislature gets to decide how much, or how little, advance notice to give for meetings of its subcommittees and committees before members vote on a particular legislative bill — such as those requiring more transparency by K-12 school districts.

This year, for example, some widely anticipated bills have been introduced late in the afternoon, with the first vote scheduled for 8 a.m. the next day. And some bills have been cleared through the entire committee process and are ready for a vote by the full House or full Senate less than 24 hours after being introduced.

Lawmakers defend that small window of advance notice by talking about how it would reduce their flexibility and tie their hands if they had to provide more notice to the tax-paying public.

Except for few limited situations involving confidential matters, a local school board must allow the public to attend whenever more than half of its members gather to discuss school business.

In contrast, members of the Iowa House or Iowa Senate belonging to the same political party can go behind closed doors for private discussions on any topic, including proposals that affect every taxpayer.

If you want to see the correspondence sent to the local school superintendent or members of the local school board by groups on all sorts of controversial topics, the public records law allows you to submit a request for those letters and emails.

But if you want to see the correspondence sent to senators and representatives by well-funded interest groups or business executives, save your stamp. There is no use asking, because lawmakers are not required to share that.

The Legislature does not have to follow those requirements in the open meetings law for one simple reason: The Legislature chose to exempt itself when lawmakers wrote the state's open meetings and open records laws 40+ years ago.

This loophole deprives the people of Iowa of adequate time to study and carefully analyze proposals that are moving through the House and Senate.

This loophole keeps the public in the dark — about the grease that is being applied, and by whom, to hasten passage of some piece of legislation, or to torpedo its passage.

These "sunshine" laws are an important foundation for our government in Iowa. These laws enable citizens to understand the basis and rationale of decisions their governments make, as well as those decisions themselves, even though the requirements may cause inconvenience and embarrassment for officials.

As long as lawmakers are interested in bringing more transparency to the operation of Iowa's 327 public school districts, let's not stop there. Let's throw open the drapes of the Legislature and let more of that sunshine fall on the legislative chambers, too.

Randy Evans is the Executive Director of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council can be reached at DMRevs2810@gmail.com. Pen City Current is a member of the IFOIC.

Follow Us @pencitycurrent



Lunch Specials
Feb 21-25
11am - 1pm

Monday, February 21
BBQ Brisket Sandwich, Cheese Potatoes

Tuesday, February 22
Beef Enchiladas, Spanish Rice

Wednesday, February 23
Spaghetti, Garlic Toast

Thursday, February 24
Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, February 25
Ribeye Sandwich, Fries, Baked Beans

Complete Rental Price Beat Guarantee

Show us an advertised price or quote
We'll beat it by 15%

5636 Avenue O, Fort Madison, IA

319-372-8105

Located right across the road from Jim Baier in Fort Madison

*Not valid with any other discounts

Lee County K9 Association and **FMPD**

Hy-Vee Chili Supper



Support your local **Lee County K9 Unit** and **FMPD** by enjoying a wonderful chili supper

- **February 24th**
- **4:00-7:00**
- **Fort Madison **Hy-Vee****



Free Will Donation!



Getting AHEAD



MEET & GREET

COME AND MEET GRADUATES OF *GETTING AHEAD IN A JUST GETTIN BY*
WORLD

- TALK WITH GRADUATES AND LEARN WHAT THE PROGRAM HAS DONE FOR THEM
- SEE WHAT *GETTING AHEAD IN A JUST GETTIN BY WORLD* CAN DO FOR YOU
- LEARN HOW YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

1101 BLONDEAU

KEOKUK

6-8 PM

Refreshments will be served