

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Friday, November 12, 2021 | 10 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 206



[www.pencitycurrent.com](http://www.pencitycurrent.com)

**EDITORIAL**

## Veterans Day a day for heroes

Since the United States' founding, millions—including myself, my husband, my father, and six siblings—have answered the call of duty to defend our nation's valor. Each year, on November 11th, we honor their service and sacrifice.

My own call to service began when at 18-years-old, I enlisted in the United States Army. From the Vietnam Era to the Gulf War, I served the United States for 24-years both enlisted and officer, nurse and doctor, active duty to reserves. In my service, I attended to both the physical and mental wounds suffered by military personnel. I retired as a Lt. Colonel and have always looked back fondly on my years in the Army.

As a member of Congress, I am honored to have the opportunity to continue my service to this great nation and to the thousands of incred-

See **VETERAN'S**, page 8



MILLER-MEEKS



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Area veterans were honored Thursday morning with a free breakfast for veterans and their spouses along with Taps played and a pledge of allegiance with a large flag deployed on the building.

**EMPOWERING FAMILIES**

## Group sets community meetings on child neglect

*Meetings planned for Fort Madison, Keokuk, and Donnellson*

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A group advocating for children and families in Lee County wants to talk to you. All of you.

The Empowering Families group spearheaded by Breanna Kramer-Riesberg will hold three community meeting in the next week to have open-ended roundtable conversations with parents, uncles, grandparents, foster parents – whomever touches the lives of the children in Lee County.

The meetings will begin Tuesday, Nov. 16th at the Community Room in Donnellson. A meeting at the Fort Madison Library will take place on Wednesday the 17th. Both of those roundtables will start at 4:30 and run to 6 p.m.

A third meeting will take place in the Round Room at the Keokuk Public library from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Kids are welcome to attend and light snacks will be provided.

Kramer-Riesberg and the Empowering Families group began in Aug. 2020 when she was hired to lead an effort under a two-year grant from Prevent Child Abuse in Iowa through the Lee County Health Department.

The grant is renewable for up to three more years.

Kramer-Riesberg said the format of the meetings will be very informal and conversational.



KRAMER-RIESBERG

See **NEGLECT**, page 8

**FORT MADISON ARTS**

## Pick Your Fun fundraiser underway at FMAAA

BY LORI ILLNER GREENE

FORT MADISON – Pick YOUR Fun is the fall fundraiser for the FMAAA Art Center located at 825 Avenue G, Fort Madison, Iowa running until December 10th, 2021. This fundraiser includes a raffle and themed baskets.

Only 500 Pick YOUR Fun \$20 tickets are being sold with chances at over \$4500 in prize value including a week-long condo vacation stay (with 2400 destinations to choose from), a 25-person pizza party complete with

appetizers courtesy of CoalHaus and their mobile pizza oven, and a private party movie theater experience courtesy of Fox Theater. Or, come by the Art Center to buy \$5 chances for themed baskets for a perfect gift-to-self for the winner, or the best-gift-ever for another.

Winners for the baskets and the Raffle will be drawn at 7 p.m. on December 10th during the Member's Annual Exhibit Reception.

In October, the FMAAA pivoted away from the large indoor gathering

scheduled for what was to be a third attempt to hold the major annual fundraiser that makes up a large portion of the Art Center's funding needs. The end of September showed a large amount of community spread for Covid in Iowa, and it was decided that 150+ person event was again not appropriate. Instead, the replacement fundraiser hopes to engage with a wider cross-section of the community than would generally attend the Expressions Art Auction. You would have to attend the event to

See **FMAAA**, page 8

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**WEATHER**

*OpenWeatherMap*  
**FRI 12 Nov** .....Overcast and Cool, 45° F/ 32° F  
**SAT 13 Nov** .....Overcast and Cool, 42° F/ 29° F  
**SUN 14 Nov** .....Cool with Light Rain, 45° F/ 31° F

**IOWA LOTTERY**

**LOTTO AMERICA 11/10** .....12 20 32 39 49, Star Ball: 10, All Star Bonus: 4  
**LUCKY FOR LIFE 11/10** .....7 8 20 35 47, Lucky Ball: 1  
**PICK 3 11/10 MIDDAY** .....19 0  
**PICK 3 11/10 EVENING** .....8 2 6  
**PICK 4 11/10 MIDDAY** .....7 2 5 5  
**PICK 4 11/10 EVENING** .....7 8 4 7  
**POWERBALL 11/10** .....19 25 43 46 48, Powerball: 14, Power Play: 2

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### EARL E. MORRIS



MORRIS

Earl Edward Morris, 93, of Hamilton, passed away on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at his home in Hamilton.

Earl was born on May 18, 1928, in Keokuk, the son of Carl T. and Augusta (Nelson) Morris. On March 30, 1963, he was united in marriage to Mary Ellen Dillon in Muscatine, Iowa. She survives.

Earl was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Keokuk and was a facilities man for the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company for thirty-two and a half years. He was also a member of the Telephone Pioneers. Earl was a man of many talents, serving as a volunteer firefighter

in New Mexico and the search and rescue team well into his seventies. He was involved with the Boy Scouts and coached baseball for many years. In 1980, he helped plan the Pony League World Series and also served as president of the league. Earl proudly served his country in the United States Army in the occupation of Europe at the conclusion of World War II, serving in the signal corps.



Earl is survived by his wife Mary Ellen Morris of Hamilton; his son Warren Morris of Carthage, Illinois; and several nieces and nephews.

Earl is preceded in death by his parents and three brothers: Mel, Warren and Glenn.

A graveside service will be held at 10 am on Saturday, November 13, 2021, at Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk, with military honors rendered by the American Legion Post #41 and the United States Army. A funeral procession to the cemetery will gather at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk at 9:30 am on Saturday.

Memorials may be directed to Blessing Hospice.

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.

## OBITUARIES

### JOY M. ADAMS



ADAMS

Joy Marcine Adams, 91, of Keokuk, passed away on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, at her home surrounded by her family.

Joy was born on January 26, 1930, in Keokuk, the daughter of Edward E. and Einez G. (Smallwood) Dose. She graduated from Keokuk Senior High and on September 6, 1953, she was united in marriage to Clarence E. Adams in Hernando, Mississippi. He preceded her in death on September 29, 2019. She attended the 1st Baptist Church and more recently attended Trinity United Methodist Church. She worked for Benner Tea Company, A and P Grocery, St. Louis Diecast and Johnson Schmidt.

Joy was dearly loved by her family and had an abundance of friends. She and Clarence (C.E.) loved to travel all over the country, visiting forty-nine states in their camper, RV or van, occasionally bringing along a grandchild. She loved to share stories of the memories they made through pictures and souvenirs from all the places they visited and cataloged them with great detail. She had a love for music and frequented many country music concerts, musicals and plays over the years, often with a grandchild or two. She loved to dance the jitter-bug which she would try to teach her family, without much success. Her favorite hobbies were doing crafts with her grandchildren, playing cards or board games (especially Scrabble), and belonging to many bridge clubs. She also played poker with her beloved friends on a regular basis. Joy loved cooking and entertaining and hosted countless family dinners and lunches, always including a dessert followed by chocolate! She was a talented seamstress and was deeply interested in genealogy, putting together beautiful photo albums of the family history. She was fun, welcoming, kind, honest and incredibly strong. Her fierce spirit kept her with her family through many obstacles. Her family was so blessed to have her for ninety-one years but are thankful that she is finally free from pain and is dancing again.

Joy is survived by her daughter Lisa Carel of Keokuk; her sister Patricia Marlette of Monmouth, Illinois; six grandchildren: Melanie Adams of Charlotte, North Carolina, Lauren Adams of Keokuk, Hilary Carel of Charleston, Iowa, Jason (Becky) Carel of Hamilton, Illinois, Breun (Jeremy) Smeltser of Wentzville, Missouri, and Jessie (Mikayla) Carel of Warsaw, Illinois; her granddaughter-in-law Theresa Adams of Winter Garden, Florida; sixteen great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Joy was preceded in death by her parents, her son Mark Adams, and her grandson Brian Adams.

A graveside service will be held at 1 pm on Sunday, November 14, 2021, at the Montrose Cemetery in Montrose, Iowa. A luncheon celebrating her life will follow at The Montrose Sandbar, 19 Main Street, Montrose, Iowa.

Memorials may be directed to Trinity United Methodist Church or First Christian Church of Keokuk.

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.

### 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.

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# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### BERNARD LOGSDON



LOGSDON

Bernard "Bun" Logsdon, 93, passed away surrounded by family and his grand dog, Bonnie, on Saturday evening, November 6, 2021 at River Hills Village in Keokuk, Iowa. He was a devoted family man who was widely admired for his kindness, wonderful laugh, cheerful can-do attitude, gentle personality, and good advice.

The fifth of ten children to Gabe and Nora (Uhlmeyer) Logsdon, he enjoyed a happy childhood growing up in St. Patrick, Missouri with his seven brothers and two older sisters. From a young age, he was a strong student. He started first grade at age five and graduated at age 16 (Class of '45) from St. Patrick Catholic High School. He attended St. Louis University for one semester, but funds running short, returned to work home to work with his dad in the grain business. Soon he met the love of his life, Joan Schreck, at the 1946 Fourth of July dance in St. Patrick. They were married six months later on January 2, 1947 "to start the year off right." As the saying goes, the rest was history. They had nine children and stood together through life's many blessings and challenges for nearly 75 years. Most of their married life was spent in Keokuk, living on Carroll, Rainbow Drive, and Eicher.

Traveling and reading were great joys. Starting in 1958, he took the family on a driving vacation every August. He took an international trip in 1965, substituting for his brother Jim for an agricultural tour of South America. While on the trip, he visited his oldest sister, Sister Pauline Logsdon, a missionary in Chulucanes, Peru. The experience was a highlight of his life. He and Joan frequently attended the travelogues at the library. Bun was also an armchair traveler with his voracious reading of the Michener novels and the latest recommendations from family and friends. Baseball was yet another joy that began with playing as a youth and rooting for the St. Louis Cardinals throughout his life.

One of the founding members of the family business, Gabe Logsdon & Sons Elevator, Bun was in charge of loading grain on barges on the Mississippi River at Gregory Landing, Missouri until 1975. It's been said that after he left, when faced with a challenging problem, some would ask, "What would Bun do?" For a second career, he bought acreage near Alexandria, Missouri, and became a grain farmer. He enjoyed the work and felt a great deal of satisfaction and pride in helping to feed the world. At the farm, he taught his younger children how to work hard and feel a sense of accomplishment.

Bernard instilled a love of education in his children, all of whom graduated from Cardinal Stritch High School and went on to earn at least one college degree. He was active in helping the Keokuk Catholic Schools for several decades. He served on the board and worked on the annual fundraisers. He was a member of St. Mary's and then All Saints Parish and served as a lector at Sunday Mass for many years. He was also committed to being a good citizen, always voting and volunteering to get out the vote for many an election. He studied public issues and supported policies that strengthened fairness and opportunity for all.

Throughout his life, Bun loved hunting, fishing, and mushroom hunting with his brothers, nephews, and friends. Once he decided to do it, he was devoted to new health habits, such as giving up smoking and sugar, and walking around Keokuk up to five miles a day.

Bernard is survived by eight children: Jeanne (John Young) of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Susan Goldwood of The Woodlands, Texas; David (Carol) in Newport, Oregon; Teresa in Bothell, Washington; Philip (Sherri) of Edmond, Oklahoma; Caroline (Mike) Winston of Richmond, Virginia; Maria of Fort Collins, Colorado; and Amy (Tim) Taricco of Sammamish, Washington as well as thirteen grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren. He is also survived by two brothers, Don (Wanda) of Moline, Illinois and Steve (Georgia) of Keokuk and Temple, Texas. Bernard is predeceased by beloved wife Joan who passed away on September 2nd, his parents, brothers John, Joe, Jim, Tom, and Bob, and sisters Pauline and Alma Murphy, infant son Bernard Joseph, and granddaughter Caroline Goldwood. The family would like to thank the staff of River Hills Village for their loving care of our parents for the last five years.

A Funeral Mass will be held at 11 am on Monday, November 15, 2021, at the Shrine of St. Patrick in St. Patrick, Missouri. Visitation will be held from 2 to 6 pm on Sunday at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk, with family meeting friends from 4 to 6 pm. A Wake Service will be held at 3:30 pm on Sunday at the funeral home directly before the family visitation.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Keokuk Catholic Schools (2981 Plank Rd., Keokuk, IA 52632); Keokuk Public Library Foundation (210 N. 5th St., Keokuk, IA 52632); or the charity of your choice.

## OBITUARIES

### FRANCIS KITE



KITE

Francis Kite, 94, of West Point, Iowa, formerly of Croton, Iowa, passed away at 9:39 a.m., Thursday, November 11, 2021 at her home.

Born January 1, 1927, in Nauvoo, Illinois, the daughter of Vernon and Anna (Ourth) Schneider. On March 5, 1946, she married William E. Kite, in Keokuk, Iowa.

She is survived by her son: Earl (Michelle) Kite of Hamilton, Illinois; daughter: Doris (Greg) Stuekerjuergen of West Point, Iowa; five grandchildren, sixteen great grandchildren, and three great-great grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, three sisters, five brothers, great grandsons Dante, and Teddy.

Francis worked for Shaffer Pen when she was 16 years old for two years. Then worked at Harrington's Grill for two years, followed by Knesskis Dime Store until she got married, and lived in Keokuk, Iowa until 1958. She then moved to Croton.

She was a member of the Farmington United Methodist Church, Ladies Aid of Croton, Croton Bunco, Croton Moose Club, Singers Club of Nauvoo- RSVP, the Farmington Cemetery Association, and enjoyed helping with dinners at Senior Citizens in Farmington.

Francis enjoyed camping, playing Bingo, Euchre, dancing and tending to her beautiful garden. She enjoyed watching soap operas and the Golden Girls.

Friends may call after 12:00 noon Sunday at the Schmitz Funeral Home West Point where family will receive friends from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Funeral services will be held 10:00 a.m., Monday, November 15, 2021 at Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point, with Reverend Ellis Andrews officiating.

Burial will be in the Croton Cemetery.

A memorial has been established in her name for the Saint Jude's Children Research Hospital, or the Farmington United Methodist 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.

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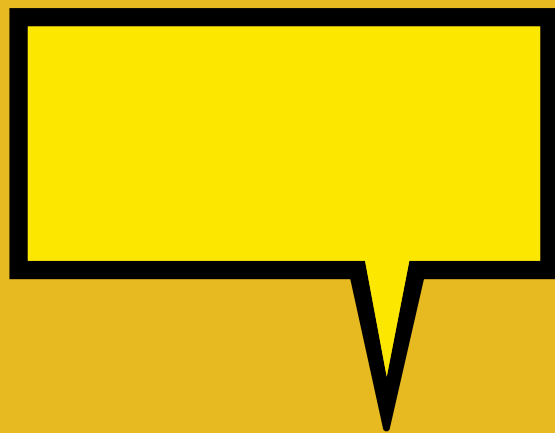
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# Classifieds/Public Notices

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICE FORT MADISON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC HEARING November 15, 2021 6:00 P.M.

Note: To view this meeting please see the link on the FMCSO Website Calendar or click on the link below

<https://zoom.us/j/92401903958?pwd=YXg0aVJzbjhENkZpUF-BOSko0U3lxZz09>

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. Approve the agenda
- III. Revision to District Calendar for 2021-2022 school year.
- IV. Receive written comments
- V. Receive oral comments
- V. Adjourn

### PUBLIC NOTICE FORT MADISON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING November 15, 2021 6:05 P.M.

Note: To view this meeting please see the link on the FMCSO Website Calendar or click on the link below

<https://zoom.us/j/92712304103?pwd=dXdvNVphTm1BUDFRT-2tJMmVTYVNWUT09>

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.

#### Finance: Ross/Hope AGENDA

- I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum
- II. Recognition of guests
- III. Reading of Foundation documents
- IV. Monthly communications
  - A. Student Rep Report - Nathan Bowen & Xander Wellman
  - B. Instructional Coach-

- es Corner
  - C. "Did You Know?:"
  - D. Superintendent Goal Report
  - E. District Presentations
    - FFA National Convention report
    - F. Approve the agenda
    - V. Consent Agenda
    - A. Minutes
      1. October 18, 2021 Regular Meeting
      2. November 1, 2021 Work Session
    - B. Financial reports
      1. October Balance Sheet
      2. Revenue Summary Report
      3. Expenditure Report
      4. Student Activity Report
    - C. Accounts payable
      1. October General Account Board Bills for Approval
      2. November General Account Board Bills for Approval
      3. Student Activity Account Board Bills for Approval
      4. Nutrition Fund Board Bills for Approval
      5. American Express Board Bills for Approval
    - D. Consider personnel resignations
    - E. Consider employment of personnel
      1. Bunt Recommendation to Hire
      2. Traxler Recommendation to Hire
      3. Ross Recommendation to Hire
    - F. Consider contract modifications
    - G. Consider leave of absence
    - H. Consider open enrollment requests
      1. Other reports
        1. Activity and athletic fundraisers
    - Director (blank) moved and director (blank) seconded the documents submitted in the consent section of the agenda be approved and/or filed as submitted.
    - VI. Action Items
      - A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services - Kim Harmon
      - B. Superintendent - Erin Slater
        1. Consider approval of proposed REVISED 2021-2022 calendar
        2. Policy changes:
          - A. Policies for Action (1st Quarter IASB)
            - 707.5 Internal Controls - **ADOPT**
            - 707.5-R-1 Internal Controls Procedures - **ADOPT**
            - 708 Care, Maintenance and Disposal of School District Records - **ADOPT**
            - 903.2 Community Resource Persons and

- Volunteers - **ADOPT**
  - B. Policies for Action (Chronological)
    - 600.1 Instruction - Objectives - **DELETE**
    - 3. Consider annual Board appointments
      - A. Kim Harmon, Title IIA, Title VI, Title IX, ADA and 504 coordinator
      - B. Kim Harmon, compliance officer (Step II) of grievance procedure as it relates to discrimination issues
      - C. Erin Slater, child abuse (Level 1)/harassment alternate investigator (Level I), AAO/EOE officer
      - D. Kim Harmon, child abuse (Alt. Level 1)/harassment investigator (Level I)
      - E. Nic Chiri, asbestos coordinator
      - F. Sandra Elmore, insurance trustee IEBP
      - G. Reconsideration committee
        - Licensed employee - Cory Byrne
        - Media specialist - Michelle Bentler
        - Administrator - Kim Harmon
        - Community member - Janice Burch
        - High School representatives - Lily Arnold, Kiley Bohenkamp
      - H. Affirmative Action Officer - Erin Slater
      - I. Bus Driver Testing Program - Nic Chiri
      - C. Board Secretary/ Business Manager - Sandy Elmore
        1. Consideration of sealed bids opened and reviewed by the Superintendent of Schools, Secretary of the Board and the Financial Advisor, Tim Osawald of PSC.
        2. Approve resolution directing sale of \$10,000,000 School Infrastructure Sales, Services and Use Tax Revenue Bonds, Series 2021
        3. Consider approval for DLR Architect services for Phase 4 HVAC at FMHS
      - VII. Discussion Items
        - A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services - Kim Harmon
          1. Building Instructional Tour
          - B. Superintendent - Erin Slater
            1. Policies
              - A. Policies for Discussion (Chronological)
                - 603.1 Basic Instruction Program - **changes; recommend move to IASB model**
                - 603.4 Multicultural/Gender Fair Education - **changes; recommend move to IASB model**
              - B. Policies for Discussion (2nd Quarter IASB)

- 206.1 President - **minor changes; recommend move to IASB model**
- 206.2 Vice-President - **minor changes; recommend move to IASB model**
- 213 Public Participation in Board Meetings - **OLD; recommend to delete**
- 213 Public Participation in Board Meetings - **NEW; recommend to adopt**
- 302.5 Superintendent Evaluation - **changes; recommend move to IASB model**
- 904.1 Transporting Students in Private Vehicles - **changes; recommend move to IASB model**
- C. Policies for Review only (Chronological)
  - 602.3 Curriculum Evaluation
  - 602.4 Pilot-Experimental-Innovative Projects
  - 603.2 Summer School Instruction
  - 603.3 Special Education
  - D. Policies for Review only (1st Quarter IASB)
    - 706.3 Pay Deductions
    - 707.2 Treasurer's Annual Report
    - 707.4 Audit
    - 801.4 Site Acquisition
    - 905.2 Tobacco-Free Environment
  - E. Policies for Review only (2nd Quarter IASB)
    - 200.3 Responsibilities of the Board of Directors
    - 213.1 Public Complaints
    - F. Policies for Review only (Attorney)
      - 704.2-R-1 Post Issuance Compliance Regulation for Tax-Exempt Obligations
      - 704.2-R-2 Bond Disclosure Policy

- 704.2-E-1 Disclosure Agreement Inventory
- C. Board Secretary/ Business Manager - Sandy Elmore
  1. Discussion on Design Deliverable and Cost Estimates from CANCO
  - D. Board Member Attendance
  - E. Staff Attendance
  - VIII. Comments from the audience
  - IX. Legislative update
  - X. Announcements
    - A. Special Meeting (via Zoom) December 6, 2021, 6:00 p.m. Board Room, Central Office
    - B. Regular Meeting December 20, 2021, 6:00 p.m. Board Room, Central Office
    - XI. Adjourn

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Please send resume to:  
Tamara Dietsch  
[tdietsch@leecountybank.com](mailto:tdietsch@leecountybank.com)

DEADLINE  
November 26, 2021



### HELP WANTED

### LINEMAN/ GROUNDMAN

The West Point Municipal Utility System has an immediate opening for a Lineman/ Groundman.

Applicant must be able to assist with electrical power line construction, maintenance, and repair. You install both aerial and underground lines and monitor transformer function. Your duties include assembling and preparing the line apparatus, digging holes, operating utility vehicles, reading and recording meters, stocking trucks, using hand and power tools, and cleaning up the area after project completion. A lineman/ groundman works regular hours, but you must also be available for any after hour call outs and emergencies.

Must be willing and capable to work on water distribution maintenance and repair and to be or become Grade 1 water distribution certified.

Must either have or be willing to obtain a CDL and comply with Iowa CDL regulations.

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West Point Utility System  
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**From the Front**

# Meetings planned to open dialogue on child neglect

**NEGLECT** - Continued from Page 1

“These are meant to be conversational and not a presentation. We’re not here to lecture anyone by any means,” she said.

“I want to learn from parents and get their feedback on ideas we have identified as top priorities. We’re developing these plans for families but we can’t do that without family input.”

The Empowering Families effort is led by a steering committee of community members, physicians, counselors, economic development experts, and child advocacy officials.

The group was formed when the state recognized the county as the bottom performing county in the state with regard to child neglect, and toward the bottom in child abuse. But the state also recognized the foundation in place in the county to take advantage of resources to combat the problem.

Kramer-Riesberg said the recent tragedies that have taken place in Lee County, including the shooting of Deeunta Ceaser, 15, by a school mate and a stabbing downtown, make the group’s efforts even more critical.

“We can come up with a lot of ideas ourselves, but if it’s not supported – if parents don’t think it will be helpful, it won’t be successful no matter how great the idea is,” she said.

“We want to look at creating happy, healthy spaces but we need to have that community connection. These recent shootings now have people fearful of what their community is and what it will be in the future. It makes people trust others less. COVID has isolated us and we really need to go in the other direction.

“We need each other more than ever.”

Kramer Riesberg has spent the past six weeks reaching out to parentS in a different ways, through assistance clinics and parent-teacher conferences trying to reach people where they are. She said there will be other focus groups planned and possibly some town hall meetings, but she said the community meetings are the right place to start.

“These are the right placeS to gather feedback to bring back to the group,” she said.

“I want people to know that their comments will be anonymous. I’m just going to have a conversation with them with a pen and paper and jot things down to create some ideas around what people are telling us they need.”

She said some parents are intimidated by going to meetings and that may keep them from attending, or more importantly, contributing. So the community meetings could help garner interest for tighter focus groups in the future.

“I’m hoping to set up a parent leadership committee to touch base and make sure we’re staying connected with the families. From these community meetings, we’re hoping to identify people who are concerned and want to move forward.”

# Lots of events to round out the year at FMAAA

**FMAAA** - Continued from Page 1

have a chance at obtaining these marvelous items and experiences.

There are many opportunities for a chance to Pick YOUR Fun. The Art Center is open Tuesday – Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and we be hosting several other onsite events during the month of November including Lunch ala Art on Friday, November 19th from noon to 1:30 p.m. featuring an artist talk with Jim Topic.

During the Wine Walk, also on the 19th, Hy-Vee will be on site to provide samples of their wares.

Make a point to stop by the Art Center during Mistletoe on Main Street Saturday, November 27th. The FMAAA will have a sandwich luncheon available for take-out along with gift wrapping for purchases made from the Art Center. FINALE, the monthly performance series will be held that evening from 6 to 9 p.m. Join us Friday, December 10th from 5-7 p.m. for the opening of the annual Members’ Art Exhibition. At the end of the evening, the Pick YOUR Fun winning raffle tickets and basket item winners will be drawn and announced.

# Miller-Meeks sponsors veterans’ bills

**VETERANS** - Continued from Page 1

ible veterans I represent in Iowa.

I have seen firsthand the crises that our servicemembers and veterans face through my experiences in the military and in health-care. My top priority in Congress will always be to advance issues and legislation that ensures every veteran is given the same care and dedication that they have shown to this country. This is the minimum that we can do to honor them.

Since taking office, I have been humbled to serve on the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee where I have had the opportunity to hear from several veteran advocates, service organizations, and government officials.

I was proud to join my colleagues in introducing bipartisan legislation to honor and serve our veterans such as the Sgt. Brandon Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act, the GI Bill NEED Act, the Save our Servicemembers (SOS) Act, Veterans in Parks Act, and the Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Improvement Act, to name a few.

Like many others, I am proud to have served this great country and I am forever grateful for the millions of men and women who have served under the United States flag defending our freedom and our values.

On Veterans Day we take time to pay tribute to the countless men and women who have sacrificed in service to our country, giving their last full measure of devotion. While we should honor their sacrifice every day, Veterans Day is just that: a day for our heroes. We will never forget their sacrifice in the name of justice, life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and the American dream.

*Mariannette Miller-Meeks is a 24-year Army veteran and member of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee who currently represents Iowa’s Second District in the United States House of Representatives.*

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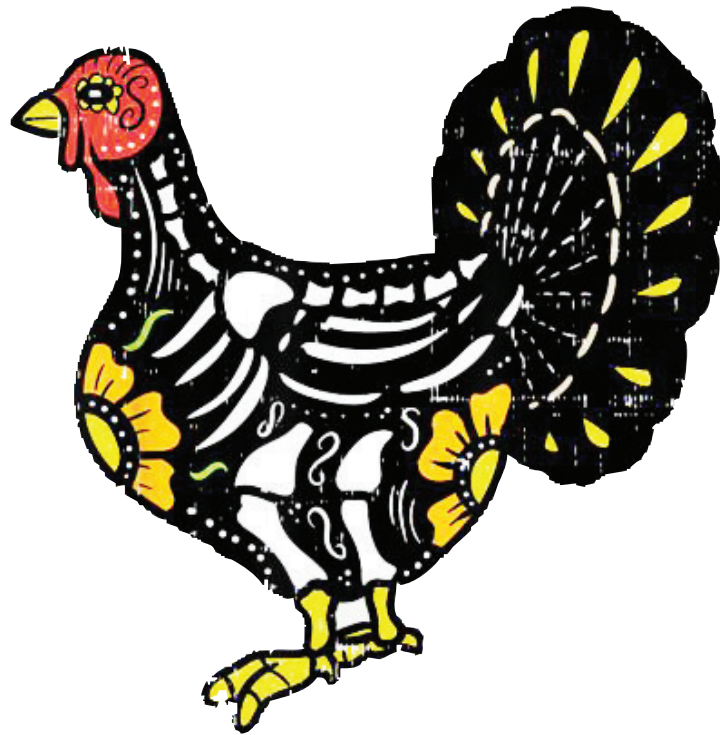
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## COMMUNITY MEETING NIGHTS

Nov. 16th between 4:30-6PM

Donnellson Community Room (across from Pilot Grove)

Nov. 17th between 4:30-6PM

Ft. Madison Public Library

Nov. 18th between 5-6:30PM

Keokuk Public Library (Round Room)

QUESTIONS? Can't  
attend a meeting  
night?

Contact Breanna  
Kramer-Riesberg  
319-372-5225  
bkramer-riesberg@  
leecountyhd.org

Kids are welcome and light snacks will be provided!