

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Wednesday, January 15, 2020 | 7 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 22



www.pencitycurrent.com

Budgets take center stage



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Fort Madison City Manager David Varley starts his budget presentation to the City Council Tuesday.

CITY LEVY DROPS: Property tax levy could drop by as much 30 cents

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison residents could see a drop in their property tax levy, according to a preliminary budget presented Tuesday by City Manager David Varley.

The budget carries a city property tax, or mil, levy of \$15.07 which is down 29.1 cents/\$1,000 of assessed valuation. It's the fifth year in a row the city's budget formula has resulted in a lower tax rate.

However, county valuations have gone up in the past year, so overall property tax bills could still be higher based on the increased valuation of each property.

The general levy tax rate is still at the state maximum of \$8.10/\$1,000 assessed value. The city's debt service levy will drop slightly to \$1.63/\$1,000, down about 8 cents. The other city funds that make up the levy include:

- Local emergency management levy – 1.8

cents/\$1,000

- Employee benefits levy – \$4.81/\$1,000
- Emergency tax levy – 27 cents/\$1,000
- Aviation Authority (no levy was provided as Varley indicated no budget has yet been submitted by the Airport Commission)
- Tort liability levy – 25 cents/\$1,000

Varley told the council the biggest thing facing the city's finances

See CITY, page 7

COUNTY'S RISES: County looking at \$1M plus in deficit spending

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE – Lee County Budget Director Cindy Renstrom is threading the needle in the 2020-21 county budget to come in just under the 2% soft cap signed into law in 2019.

Governmental agencies are required to hold a special public hearing for any revenue growth over 2% and obtain a 2/3 majority of board or council members to exceed the cap.

On Tuesday Renstrom proposed a \$31.7 million budget for the next fiscal year that is right at 2% growth.

The county is looking at a levy increase of 29 cents per 1,000 assessed valuation at \$10.677/\$1,000, which is up from the \$10.388/\$1,000 assessed in 2019.

The county's general taxable valuation climbed over \$1.56 billion with a rural valuation of \$845 million.

Preliminary numbers also show revenue generation for general and rural service funds of \$15 million.

However, the county has not charged a levy for mental health and disability services since 2018 due to a state-mandated spend down of that fund's balance. That spend down was accomplished in 2019 and now the county has to levy



FEDLER

See COUNTY, page 7

CONDITION OF THE STATE Local officials react to address from governor

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DES MOINES – Reactions from local legislators was mixed over Governor Kim Reynolds condition of the State address Tuesday morning.

Reynolds called for bold budget changes to several programs and called for two constitutional amendments around

abortion and felon voting rights. She again reiterated her effort to reduce Iowa's income tax structure.

The second-term governor introduced the Invest in Iowa Act where she proposes to

cut income and property taxes, while creating sustainable funding for mental health issues and fully funding the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreational Trust.

"These changes will make our vision a reality. It's an investment in our future. And it's an investment in those who are our future," Reynolds said.

In 2010 Iowa voters created the outdoor trust based on a formula for distributing funds. Reynolds wants to adjust that formula to allow for 58% or about \$100 million annually, of the funds to go to water quality issues, while committing \$52 million to other efforts.

Sen. Rich Taylor (D-Mt. Pleasant) said there are already minor water quality programs going on in the state and the 58% may not be enough to address the major issues.

"I'm just afraid we'll see some of those go away and then we won't be putting much more into it than we have been, but I hope I'm wrong on that."

Taylor said, in general, he was pleased with what he heard in the Governor's speech, but said as in the past, she didn't say how she was going to pay for the programs.

"She has to be planning on cutting programs to pay for everything and still give more tax breaks," Taylor said. "You just can't do these things without money."

The state wrapped up 2019 with a \$289 million surplus of funds and full cash reserve, but has some mandates in play that haven't been funded including the state's mental health care



REYNOLDS

See REYNOLDS, page 4

INDEX

AREA NEWS..... P.3
Business Directory..... Ps.5-6
CLASSIFIEDS..... Ps.5-6
Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis..... P.3
Family Dentistry..... P.3
Edward Jones – Tony Fullenkamp..... P.7
Fort Colony Family Restaurant..... P.4
Fort Madison Family YMCA..... P.4
Fort Madison Neighborhood Watch Groups..... P.5

FROM THE FRONT..... Ps.4,7
Great River Regional Waste Authority..... P.7
IOWA NEWS..... Ps.3-4
Lee County Health Department..... P.2
LEE COUNTY NEWS..... P.7
LOCAL NEWS..... P.7
OBITUARIES..... P.2
• Dustin T. Colyer, 39
• Mary Margaret "Margie" Meierotto, 88
Pen City Current..... Ps.2,5-6

Pothitakis Law Firm..... P.4
Public Notices..... P.5
Sonny's Super Market..... P.2
Test Kitchen Education Foundation..... P.4
Tony Wolfe Insurance Services..... P.3

WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
WED 15 Jan..... Overcast, 42.1° F/ 17.3° F
THU 16 Jan..... Scattered Clouds, 19.8° F/ 19.0° F
FRI 17 Jan..... Snow, 33.4° F/ 29.0° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 01/13..... 7 16 30 32 39, Lucky Ball: 17
PICK 3 01/13 MIDDAY..... 615
PICK 3 01/13 EVENING..... 892
PICK 4 01/13 MIDDAY..... 8668
PICK 4 01/13 EVENING..... 9927

SUBSCRIBE

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



Obituaries

SALE PRICES EFFECTIVE WED., JAN. 8TH THRU SAT., JAN. 18TH

NEW YEAR'S Savings to Celebrate

Best Choice
Baco READY TO SERVE FULLY-COOKED
 15 SLICES MICROWAVABLE
2/\$5

COOK'S Ham Steak
\$3.29 lb.

BEST CHOICE Pre-Cooked Bacon
 15 slice, 2.1 oz. **2/\$5**

FRESH FROZEN Flat Iron Steak
\$8.99 lb.

Best Choice
Avocados **2/\$1**

GALA Apples **99¢** lb.

Best Choice
Russet Potatoes **\$1.99** 5 lb. bag

Simply Orange Juice 52 oz. **2/\$6**

PILLSBURY READY TO BAKE Cookie Dough 12-16 oz. **2/\$5**

Best Choice
Cottage Cheese 24 oz. **\$1.99**

BANQUET Pot Pies Meat & Fruit 7 oz. **79¢**

TONY'S Pizza 18-21 oz. select **3/\$9**

Best Choice
Pasta 16 oz. **99¢**

Best Choice
Pasta Sauce 24 oz. **2/\$3**

Best Choice
Canned Beans 15.5 oz. **79¢**

OBITUARIES

DUSTIN T. COLYER

Dustin Thompson Colyer, of Dixon, formerly of Ft. Madison, Iowa, was born on August 2, 1980, at Ft. Madison, Iowa, a son of Gregory Miller Colyer and Sandra Lynn (Thompson) Lehrke and departed this life at 5:44 p.m., Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at his residence near Dixon. Dustin had attained the age of 39 years, 5 months and 6 days.



COLYER

Dustin was a member of the Boilermakers Union Local # 83, Kansas City, Missouri and the Fraternal Order of the Eagles Aeres Post No. 1287, Ft. Madison, Iowa. He had worked as a boilermaker and later as a timberbucker for the family owned tree service with his brother, Luke.

Dustin was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Leon and Ann Lee Thompson and his paternal grandfather, Basil Colyer.

Those left to mourn the passing of Dustin include: his daughter, Naomi Jane Colyer, Onalaska, Wisconsin; his father, Gregory Miller Colyer, Donnellson, Iowa; his mother, Sandra Lynn Thompson Lehrke, Ft. Madison, Iowa; his brother and sister-in-law, Luke Miller and Jenna Leigh Colyer, Dixon; several uncles, aunts, cousins and many other relatives and friends.

Visitation will be held for Dustin on Friday, January 17, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon with the family speaking at 12:00 noon at the Barr Memorial Chapel 1919 Avenue F, Ft. Madison, Iowa.

Memorials are suggested per the wishes of the family in memory of Dustin Thompson Colyer.

MARY M. MEIEROTTO

Mary Margaret "Margie" Meierotto, 88 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died Tuesday morning, January 14, 2020 at the Fort Madison Community Hospital, Fort Madison. She was born June 10, 1931, a daughter of Richard and Emma (Kessler) Coster. On December 29, 1952, she married Alvin Edward Meierotto in Fort Madison. He preceded her in death on October 10, 2015.



MEIEROTTO

Margie was a graduate of St. Joseph Catholic High School, Fort Madison. She graduated from nurses training in Burlington, Iowa. She worked as a registered nurse for more than 30 years, retiring in 1983 from the former Sacred Heart Hospital, Fort Madison. She was a member of Holy Family Parish. She enjoyed bird watching, music and singing. She was devoted to her family.

She is survived by three sons: Daniel Meierotto of Wever, Iowa; Brian (Barbara) Meierotto of Keokuk, Iowa; and Patrick Meierotto of Burlington; two daughters, Deborah Mapes of Montrose and Carol (Gary) Glasgow of West Point, Iowa; 19 grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren, 5 great great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her husband, two brothers, Richard and Alvin; four sisters: Mary Lucille, Mary Katherine, Mary Alice, and Mary Lois; two sons, Dennis and James, and one grandson, Spencer.

A Rosary will be recited at 4:00 pm Thursday, January 16, 2020 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Visitation will follow and continue until 6:00 pm Thursday evening at the funeral home.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30 am Friday, January 17, 2020 at Ss. Mary and Joseph Catholic Church, Holy Family Parish, Fort Madison, with Reverend Joseph Phung as Celebrant. Burial will be at Soldiers Circle, Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison. A memorial has been established, contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Meierotto Family and an online guest book can be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

Touching the Community with Care



#3 John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison
 (319) 372-5225 . www.leecountyhd.org

SONNY'S
Super Market

(319) 837-6126
 327 5th St West
 Point, IA 52656

STORE HOURS:
 Monday-Saturday
 7:30 am-6:00pm
 Closed Sundays

We are not liable for typographical or pictorial errors. We reserve the right to limit quantities.

For the Record/Area News

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

01/13/20 – 5:27 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1800 block of Avenue A.
 01/13/20 -6:59 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1500 block of Avenue M.
 01/13/20 – 7:35 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the Fort Madison area.
 01/13/20 – 11:44 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Chris Harmeyer, 49, of Fort Madison in the 1000 block of Avenue H, on a charge of driving while barred. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 01/14/20 – 5:51 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Isaiah James Rutter, 32, of Fort Madison in the 5700 block of Avenue O, on a charge of driving under suspension. He was released upon citation.

Lee County

Sheriff's Report

01/13/20 – 4:50 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kenneth Michael Howell, 26, of Keokuk at the sheriff's department on 10 warrants of failure to obey sign/yield right of way, two warrants for careless driving, two warrants for eluding, two warrants for probation violation and one count of domestic assault with bodily injury. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 01/14/20 – 5:00 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Joe Cecil Saunders, Jr, 47, of Burlington at the Lee/Des Moines county line on a warrant for parole violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

01/13/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls.

SE Iowa Regional planning gets DOD award

BY PCC STAFF

WEST BURLINGTON – The Iowa Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Dept of Defense operational committee, announced today Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission (SEIRPC) was honored with a Patriot Award in recognition of extraordinary support of its employee serving as a reservist in the Iowa National Guard.

According to Mark Hennessey, Iowa ESGR State Chair, "the Patriot Award was created by ESGR to publicly recognize individuals who provide outstanding patriotic support and cooperation to their employees, who like the citizen warriors before them, have answered their nation's call to serve."

SEIRPC and Executive Director Mike Norris were nominated for being highly supportive of Iowa Army National Guard Specialist Steven Stransky,



Courtesy photo

From left to right: Mike Norris, SEIRPC Executive Director; is pictured with Zach James, SEIRPC Assistant Director; Steven Stransky, SEIRPC Planner, and Specialist in Iowa Army National Guard, Don T. Lane, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve with an award from the ESGR.

also a SEIRPC planner. Supportive supervisors are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the nation's Guard and Reserve units.

SEIRPC is one of 17 councils of governments (COGs) in Iowa and recognized in Chapter 28H of Iowa Code. SEIRPC is a

local government member-supported entity and serves Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa counties and provides planning, grant writing, technical services and program management for the region.

SEIRPC is governed by a 19-member board of

directors and also manages SEIBUS, Great River Housing Trust Fund, Mediapolis Housing Trust Fund, Southeast Iowa Housing, Inc., Southeast Iowa Regional and Economic Port Authority, Region 16 Regional Planning Affiliate, Southeast Iowa Economic Development District.

Got a news tip?
Call Chuck (319)371.1670

STABLE. PREDICTABLE.
 That's what you can expect from a Wellmark Medicare supplement plan.
 Call today to find coverage that's right for you.
319-246-1196



Tony Wolfe
 Insurance Services
 Fort Madison, IA 52627
 Tony@tawins.com

An Authorized Independent Agent for **Wellmark Iowa**

This is a solicitation of insurance. Wellmark Medicare supplement insurance plans are not affiliated with any government agency. To be eligible, you must reside in the service area of the plan. Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

W-2319024 11/18



Thank you for your votes!
 We are proud to be named your favorite dental office again this year.
 We look forward to seeing you soon for your next checkup – call today!

Fort Madison Family Dentistry West 319-372-4882	Burlington Family Dentistry 319-752-7993
Fort Madison Family Dentistry East 319-372-3614	Burlington Dental Associates 319-753.2515
Mediapolis Dental Care 319-394-3255	New London Dental Care 319-367-2311

Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis
Family Dentistry
www.drmarkdds.com



Charles Vandenberg, Editor
 (319).371.1670
 editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager
 (319).371.4125
 sales@pencitycurrent.com

Copyright © 2016 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 and www.pencitycurrent.com are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

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



From the Front

Local leaders would like to see more for broadband

REYNOLDS - Continued from Page 1

programs.

Reynolds said she is still set on reducing property tax and income tax burdens on individuals and businesses including reducing the state's top tax rate from 9% to 5.5% by 2023.

She also plans to reduce personal income taxes by 10% for almost every Iowan with lower income Iowans receiving as much as a 25 percent cut in 2021.

"If we're going to drop the top by 3.5% then we should drop the lower bracket by 3.5% as well. I doubt that will happen. This will be another issue where the rich get all the benefit," Taylor said.

State Rep. Joe Mitchell (R-Wayland) said he supports reducing people's tax burden as long as some of the commitments don't get lost in the cuts.

"I haven't seen the numbers directly and this is the first time I've heard the proposal from her or anyone else," Mitchell said.

"My concern is that our financials show we can afford to keep our promise to our schools, roads, bridges, prisons, and health care. In general I'm supportive but sometimes we jump the horse and we do the tax cuts and don't cut anywhere else and get in trouble."

Reynolds also wants to put an additional \$15 million into rural connectivity and restructure the state's match program to better leverage private and federal funds to connect the entire state.

"Broadband is not a luxury; it's critical infrastructure. From the farmer checking crop conditions to the Main Street business participating in the 24/7 marketplace, connectivity should be the expectation no matter where you live," Reynolds said.

Taylor said he has a bill on his desk that proposed to raise the state's commitment \$10 million, but would also add money to the state's Chief Information Officer's budget to help smaller Internet service providers secure federal grants to improve service.

"So many of our smaller Internet providers are people trying to provide service in rural areas and they just don't have the resources or the personnel to write the grants and qualify for them," Taylor said.

"I'm hoping we can mix our goals together and use the

good part out of mine and the \$15 million in hers and make a real program that will work for the little guy."

Mitchell said he'd like to see that number a bit higher.

"\$15 million is in the right direction, but in our rural areas we have to have access to high speed. No business will want to come to southeast Iowa if we don't have that," he said.



TAYLOR

Reynolds also talked about education funding and said she is proposing to put \$103 million in new funding into the state's public schools in the next budget. The state added \$90 million in 2019.

Taylor said that amounts to about 2 to 2.5% allowable growth, which he said still isn't near where it should be, but it's a big step forward from the past several years.

Reynolds also said computer science should be a basic skill taught in every school and is asking for the state to be at 100% of elementary schools teaching computer science.

Mitchell said it's the skill set of the future and we have to be teaching our kids to be competitive with the rest of the world.



MITCHELL

"It's a good initiative to have every school have computer science as something they are teaching," Mitchell said.

"At WACO they innovated it and have received grants for those programs. That's future coding, computer science and technology, so obviously we need to be preparing our kids for that skill set."

Reynolds said she wanted to get sustainable funding from the general fund to help pay for the state's mentally ill. Lee County spent down their mental health services budget in 2019, but will have to levy a property tax for those services in the next budget. Reynolds' move would eliminate that.

Taylor is skeptical that can be a permanent solution.

"I don't want to cut counties from levying and then decide in three years that's not working out and we have to pick that levy back up," Taylor said.

"If it's permanent I'm all for it, and our area supervisors would be in favor of that. But if it's not permanent, then we

better be leery of what we're signing up for."

Reynolds also said it was time for constitutional amendments addressing abortion and felon voter rights.

"We must protect life by making clear, through an amendment, that our constitution does not grant a right to abortion. It's time, and unfortunately it's necessary."

Mitchell said he didn't read that as a constitutional amendment banning abortion, but amending to say there's no constitutional right to an abortion under Iowa law.

"This is reversing the ruling and saying there's not a right in the constitution to have an abortion," Mitchell said.

"An amendment, if approved through the House and Senate, would go to a vote of the people and I'm fully supportive of letting people directly vote on it."

Taylor said it's an attack on women's health care in the state.

"I really have never thought anybody is in favor of abortions, but that is a women's health care issue and I think we should stay out of women's, and families', and health care decisions. It's another attack on woman's health."

The governor is also pushing for an amendment to restore voting rights for felons. Taylor said she could do it by executive order if she was really passionate about it, but Mitchell said he thinks Reynolds wants it in the state's constitution so it's not so easily reversed as another executive order.

"She wants this set in stone and is pressuring the legislature to do our job and pass that so it's forever instead of temporary," Mitchell said.

Other new proposals in the speech included:

- an additional \$2 million for Renewable Fuels Infrastructure and expanding the E-15 Plus Promotion Tax Credit
- expanding tele-medicine throughout the state to include public schools and birth facilities
- adding \$1 million for work-based learning coordinates to expand apprenticeships and learning clearinghouses
- add \$2.8 million each to the Last Dollar Scholarship program and the Employer Innovation Fund to help state workers upskill for new jobs
- double the income limit from \$45K to \$90K to qualify for Early Childhood tax credits
- reduce hurdles to professional licensing to include those with criminal records, as well as eliminating licensing fees for low-income Iowans

Next Exam
Saturday, February 8, 2020

ACT PREP

New Class begins Sunday, January 5
from 6 pm to 8 pm

Classes meet every Sunday until test date
Parents are welcome to attend the first day

Dinner served at 6 pm

Test Kitchen Education Foundation

Elliot Test Kitchen

www.tkef.org
319-250-9052

24 HOUR ACCESS

JUST \$5/MO

Learn More

220 26th Street
Fort Madison, IA
319-372-2403
fortmadison.org

the Y

For Youth Development
For Healthy Living
For Social Responsibility

Fort Colony Restaurant

Open 7 Days A Week

DAILY SPECIALS

Breakfast All Day

ROUTE 61

(319) 372-5759

5102 Ave. 0
Fort Madison, IA 52627

Best Lawyers
BEST LAW FIRMS
A WORLD REPORT
USNews RANKINGS

Pothitakis Law Firm Recognized for Professional Excellence

Firms included in the 2020 Edition of U.S. News-Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms" are recognized for professional excellence with consistently impressive ratings from clients and peers. To be eligible for a ranking, a firm must first have a lawyer recognized in The Best Lawyers in America, which recognizes the top 5% of private practicing lawyers in the United States. Achieving a tiered ranking signals a unique combination of quality law practice and breadth of legal expertise. Mr. Pothitakis has been named to The Best Lawyers in America every year since 2013.

320 North 3rd Street, Suite 100, Burlington, Iowa 52601-0337

1603 Main Street, Keokuk, IA 52632

www.PothitakisLaw.com

P
POTHITAKIS
LAW FIRM P.C.

Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
FORT MADISON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INFORMAL PRIVATE
HEARING
January 20, 2019
5:00 P.M.
AGENDA**

I. Informal Private Hearing pursuant to Iowa Code 279.19A

**FORT MADISON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
January 20, 2019
6:00 P.M.
Finance:
Hope/Wondra
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 – Dalaney Walker & Isabella Boeding
B. Superintendent Goal Report
C. “Did You Know?”
<https://www.fmcsd.org/kindergarten/>
D. Curriculum Corner - Assessing Student Learning

E. District Presentations
V. Approve the agenda
VI. Consent Agenda
A. Minutes
1. December 16, 2019 Regular Meeting
2. January 6, 2020 Work Session/Special Meeting
B. Financial reports
1. December Balance Sheet
2. December Revenue Summary
3. Expenditure report
4. Student Activity report
C. Accounts payable
1. December General Account Board Bills for Approval AMEX
2. January General Account Board Bills for Approval
3. Student Activity Account Board Bills for Approval
4. Nutrition Account Board Bills for Approval AMEX
D. Consider personnel resignations
1. Ashley Fraise, elementary health assistant
2. Stephanie Settles, associate at the middle school
3. Deborah McWhorter, bus driver
E. Consider employment of personnel
1. Christine Toubekis, associate at Holy Trinity Elementary
2. Mandi Eid, food service at Richardson

F. Consider contract modifications
1. Termination of Kyhlie Daughters, associate at Richardson
G. Consider leave of absence
H. Consider open enrollment requests
I. Other reports
1. Activity and athletic fundraisers
Director moved and director seconded the documents submitted in the consent section of the agenda be approved and/or filed as submitted.
VII. Action Items
A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services – Kim Harmon
1. Approve Modified Supplemental Amount Dropout Prevention/At Risk
B. Superintendent – Dr. Erin Slater
1. Consider approval of recommendation from Activities Director through Superintendent for termination of a 279.19A contract.
2. Consider approval of policy changes
208.1-R School Improvement Advisory Committee

501.6b Delete
505.5 Graduation Requirements
505.5-R Graduation Requirements
C. Board Secretary/Business Manager – Sandy Elmore
1.
VIII. Discussion Items
A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services – Kim Harmon
1. February Board Instructional Tour
B. Superintendent – Dr. Erin Slater
1. Consider policy changes
209.1 - Development of Policies - same as IASB, no change
209.2 - Adoption of Policy - same as IASB with minor change
209.3 - Dissemination of Policy - recommend to delete
209.4 - Suspension of Policy - same as IASB, no change
209.5 - Administration in the Absence of Policy - same as IASB, no change
2. Certified Employee Attendance
3. Board Member Attendance
C. Board Secretary/Business Manager – San-

dy Elmore
1. Discussion - Certified Budget FY20-21
IX. Comments from the audience
X. Legislative update
XI. Announcements
XII. Adjourn

Follow Us

@pencitycurrent



BUSINESS DIRECTORY


Darwin Bunger
Attorney At Law

Saunders/ Bunger
An Association of Sole Practitioners

610 Eighth St., Suite A, Fort Madison, IA 52627
Ph: 319-372-2100/ Fax: 319-372-2200

320 N. 3rd Floor 6, PO Box 223, Burlington, IA 52601
Ph: 319-671-7187
DB.Esquire@outlook.com

Visit: www.darwinbungerlaw.com for more info.

DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY
Est. 1877

Logo Design
Posters Art Supplies
Printing
Office Furniture
Trifold Brochures

Business Forms
Business Cards
Photo Correction
Flyers
Office Supplies
Vinyl Banners
Ink & Toner

621 Avenue G
Fort Madison, IA

319.372.2721
doddprinting.com

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

WEDDING & EVENT CENTER

Small GRAND Things
Grand Things Happen Here

Danielle Neaves & Ann Newton Neaves

319.837.8132

1903 West Point Rd | West Point, IA 52656
Facebook/Instagram/Pinterest | smallgrandthings.com

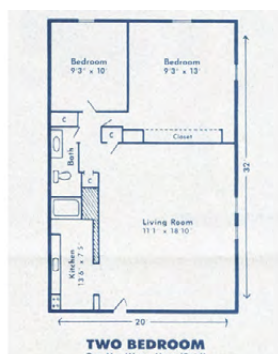
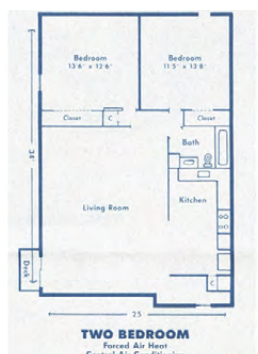
APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Chateau Apartments Extra Clean & Quiet Apartments for Rent



Extra clean & quiet with free YMCA membership included. 2 bedrooms, some with decks/patio. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, built-in microwave. Non-smoking, no pets. Very affordable security deposit \$300. Must pass background & credit checks (no felonies). Large

backyard with picnic tables & glider swing in very nice, quiet neighborhood. Rents range from \$585-\$635. Lease required. 850 sq. ft. units. All electric. Water, sewer, trash furnished. 650 sq. ft. units. Water, heat, sewer, gas, trash furnished. Laundry rooms have new coin-operated washers & dryers (located in all buildings). On-site manager. Call 319-372-9409 or 319-750-3115 for appointment to view. Owned by Alliance Realty Co.



Reporter/Stringer South Lee County

The Pen City Current is seeking a part-time to full-time stringer/reporter for south Lee County.

Candidates will have some writing experience and basic photography skills. Compensation based on story production. Coverage would include the city of Keokuk, Keokuk Public Schools, Central Lee Public schools, south Lee County breaking news, and features. Sports coverage would be considered as an additional beat for the right candidate. This is an excellent opportunity with a rapidly growing local independent news outlet.

Please send resume, writing/photography samples, and cover letter via email to:

Chuck Vandenberg
Editor - Pen City Current
editor@pencitycurrent.com

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

Do you have time - to help stop crime?

Visit any of these Facebook pages to learn more about what the Neighborhood Watch Program is & how to start your own group or join an existing group!


Join us today to help keep our communities safer!

DRY CREEK
34th PLACE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
We are the eyes and ears for the public

CAUTION
POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

Classifieds

Call Martha at 319.316.3621 today to advertise!



Protect your bottom line with The Power of AgMax®

Large commercial and diversified operations have distinctly different exposures than traditional farms and ranches. That's why we created AgMax specifically to serve the unique needs of commercial agriculture operations and related businesses, including:

- Producers who process, retail or direct market
- Equine and kennel operations, including boarding, breeding and training
- Agritainment and agritourism
- Hunting and other farm-based recreation

Contact me today to learn how I can help you maximize your insurance protection.

Larry Holtkamp
1301 37th St
Fort Madison, IA 52627
319-372-9145
larryholtkamp.com

FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

Western Agricultural Insurance Company / West Des Moines, IA. *Company provider of Farm Bureau Financial Services CAD19 (12-14)

Open Mic Night

Wednesdays 7:00pm

Hill Side Inn

1135 Ave. E - Wednesday-Saturday - 6:00pm

Stewart Automotive

- Transmission Repair
- Alignments
- Coolant/Transmission Flush
- Major/Minor Engine Repair
- Tune-Up

3136 Avenue M
Ft. Madison, IA
Junior Stewart, Owner
(319) 371-4509




REHABILITATION & SKILLED NURSING WHEN GOING HOME AFTER A HOSPITAL STAY ISN'T AN OPTION.

YOUR LOVED ONES DESERVE THE BEST

Call to schedule your personal tour
319-372-8021

THE MADISON
EXPERIENCE IN NURSING AND CARE

Medicare, Medicaid, Private Insurance, and Private Pay Accepted

1701 41st Street Fort Madison, IA 52627

Short-term Rehabilitation - Long-term Care
Memory Care - Ventilator Support

Like us on Facebook 

COMMUNITY HEATING & COOLING

SALES * SERVICE * INSTALLATION

ICE MACHINE LEASING

319-372-1095

Help GRRWA Keep Your Community Hazard-Free!

Household Hazardous Waste Unit is open Monday through Friday 8am - 4pm

800-216-2370
Call for an appointment



GRRWA
Great River Regional Waste Authority

Fl. Madison Main Office: 2092 202nd Ave Fort Madison, IA 52627 319-372-6140
Keokuk Transfer Station: 111 Carlisle Lane Keokuk, IA 52627 319-524-6175
Visit Us Online! www.grrwa.com facebook.com/grrwa

Martha Hawes, Sales Consultant

martha@pencitycurrent.com
319.316.3621

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

Your Community | 24/7 | Your Information - www.pencitycurrent.com

Jim BAIER, INC SINCE 1971

JIMMY KEENAN
Sales Consultant

Hwy. 61 West, Box 540 Fort Madison, Iowa 52627
www.jimbaier.com

Toll Free: 888-372-1012
Call: 319-470-9299

LIKE JIMMY ON FACEBOOK  jimmy@jimbaier.com

FORD • LINCOLN • CHRYSLER • DODGE • RAM • JEEP

YOUR AD HERE

319.316.3621

American Family Insurance

Crystal Bivens
Office Manager
Carlos Capdevila Agency, Inc.
Email: CBIVENS@AmFam.com

Melissa Pech
Customer Service Rep
Carlos Capdevila Agency, Inc.
Email: MVICE@AmFam.com

601 Jefferson St., Burlington, Iowa, 52601
Bus: (319) 752-1479
Fax: (319) 752-6164
Web: http://www.ccapdevila.com
Anytime Access: 1-800-MYAMFAM (800-692-6326)

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

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 **Cranial Adjustment**
Myofascial Relaxation **Muscle Facilitation**

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?"

KEMPKER'S

True Value RENTAL

Treating our customers like family since 1970

Fort Madison • Burlington • Mount Pleasant

www.kempkerstruevalue.com



Here to help you retire.

Thomas Klann CLU RICP FSCP LTCP LUTCF, Agent
2623 Avenue L, Fort Madison, IA 52627
Business: 319-372-5982
www.fortmadisoninsurance.com

I'm not just here for insurance. I can also help you look at your retirement goals and build a plan for tomorrow. Let's start today.

Here to help life go right.®

State Farm

State Farm
Bloomington, IL

1708167.1

Dirty Dog Detailing & Boarding

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

2090 250th St, Donnellson, IA 52625 Owners Barb Ball & Natalie Dauma
Family owned & operated

Over 51 Years Combined Professional Animal Experience

Bridge Cafe & Supper Club

101 Olive Street
Farmington, IA 52626

Rick Saunders
Owner **(319) 878-4000**



LOST DUCK BREWING CO.

Great Atmosphere! Fabulous Food! Quality Handcrafted Brews!

duckbrewing.com 319.372.8255

Kitchen Open 3:00-9:00 PM
Wednesday thru Saturday
Make a Duck Call!!!!

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



From the Front

Franchise fee still part of budget talks

CITY - Continued from Page 1

is how to maintain services that are paid from the General Fund.

“Revenue has dipped below expenditures and this looks to continue into the future unless some significant changes are made,” he wrote in his budget report.

“Also, our reserve has dropped to an unacceptable level of around 0% and that puts us in a precarious situation.”

Councilman Mark Lair asked Varley what solutions he had come up with to solve some of the problems, and Varley referred back to the franchise fee on gas and electric users in the city.

Varley presented options to the council in 2019 that included a 2 and 3% franchise fee. Iowa law caps the franchise tax at 5%. But if cities are currently collecting the 1-cent local option sales tax, that would no longer be collected on the utility bills in lieu of the franchise tax. State law prohibits collecting both from utility users.

A 2% franchise fee would generate a net \$479,000 per year. A 3% tax would net the city \$759,000 annually.

Varley and city finance director Peggy Steffensmeier, are projecting total general fund revenues for 2020-21 to come in at \$5.93 million, while expenses total \$6.12 million.

City officials are planning on closing out a \$6 million quality of life bond that has been used to improve streets, playgrounds, and parks. There is about \$100,000 left in the fund and that will be used to find a solution for the Victory Park tennis courts and to make needed repairs at the city’s pool.

The city’s hotel/motel tax is expected to see a decrease. Revised numbers for 2019-20 show revenues at \$230,120, with next year’s projections at \$209,300. Hotel/Motel tax revenues are used for programs, facilities, and salaries of tourism-oriented functions and for approved donations to events in the city limits.

Other issues that cropped up during the workshop included keeping a full time investigator on the police department staff and possibly holding off on some bridge repairs to keep money flowing into street repair.

Councilwoman Rebecca Bowker asked for additional time to look and said she would like to see numbers on different proposals.

“I need some more numbers and we need to work on projections, and we need to see the proposed revenue,” Bowker said.

“We want to do the investigator, and pave more streets, and we want to do all these things, which are great things, but where is this money coming from? We need some more spreadsheets and need more data in order to look at that revenue.”

She said to have good numbers and not stress out staff the council needs more time.

Mohrfeld said he was after a quality budget and not rushing through the process.

Another budget workshop was set to follow the Feb. 4th regular council meeting.

Supervisors table elected official raises

COUNTY - Continued from Page 1

for that fund at a rate of 92 cents/\$1,000.

Without that increase the county could possibly have seen a decrease in the levy, however the proposed budget includes \$1.1 million in deficit spending which reduces the county’s ending balance June 30, 2021 to \$8.74 million.

It’s important to note that the budget numbers are not final and budget workshops continue to be held. The

county has until March 31 to submit its budget to the state, but must hold mandated public hearings and publish the budget prior to submitting it.

Several items were tabled including approving elected department heads’ salary increases. Those were recommended at 2% by the county compensation board in November.

A motion was also made by Supervisor Matt Pflug to

turn down a recommended 3% raise for the board of supervisors. Pflug and Gary Folluo voted in favor of motion, but Rick Larkin and Rich Harlow both voted against the measure leaving Chairman Ron Fedler to break the tie, and Fedler voted against the move, which leaves the raise included in the budget.

However supervisors can vote later to decline the raise after numbers are firmed up on the budget.

“Rick brought something

up that’s important and that is let’s wait until we come closer to what we decide our budget is looking like and have another discussion and vote on it,” Fedler said. So I’m voting no for that reason, not saying I’m supporting or opposing it, but just to see where we are.”

Larkin then moved to table the elected department heads’ salaries until the budget is clearer. Folluo voted against tabling the salaries.

Now is the Time to Start Preparing Our World for a Better Future

JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

Implement these simple steps to create a healthy footprint!

Reuse
Instill new life into items you would normally throw away.

Go Paperless

Decrease your need for paper products. Choose paperless statements, use digital shopping lists & other documents.

Go Waste Free

Make a conscious effort to stop using your waste bin. Recycle or compost any items that have an end-of-life solution.

Buy Recyclables

Only purchase what’s made to be recycled. Look for the recycling symbol on the packaging.

Create Space

Create an indoor space for all your recyclables. Recycling bins available at our Fort Madison & Keokuk facilities.

Compost

Build or purchase a composting bin for food & yard waste. Use your composted goods to build a healthy garden in the spring.

Backyard composting improves soil quality & makes for healthier plants!



Ft. Madison Main Office:
2092 303rd Ave
Fort Madison, IA
1-319-372-6140

Keokuk Transfer Station:
111 Carbide Lane
Keokuk, IA
1-319-524-6175

Visit Us Online! www.grrwa.com facebook.com/grrwa



If You Aren't at Your Last Job . . . Why Is Your 401(k)?

At Edward Jones, we can explain options for your 401(k), including leaving the money in your former employer’s plan, moving it to your new employer’s plan, rolling it over to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or cashing out the account subject to tax consequences.

To learn more, call today.



Tony Fullenkamp
Financial Advisor
1233 Ave H
Ft Madison, IA 52627
319-372-8001

edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING