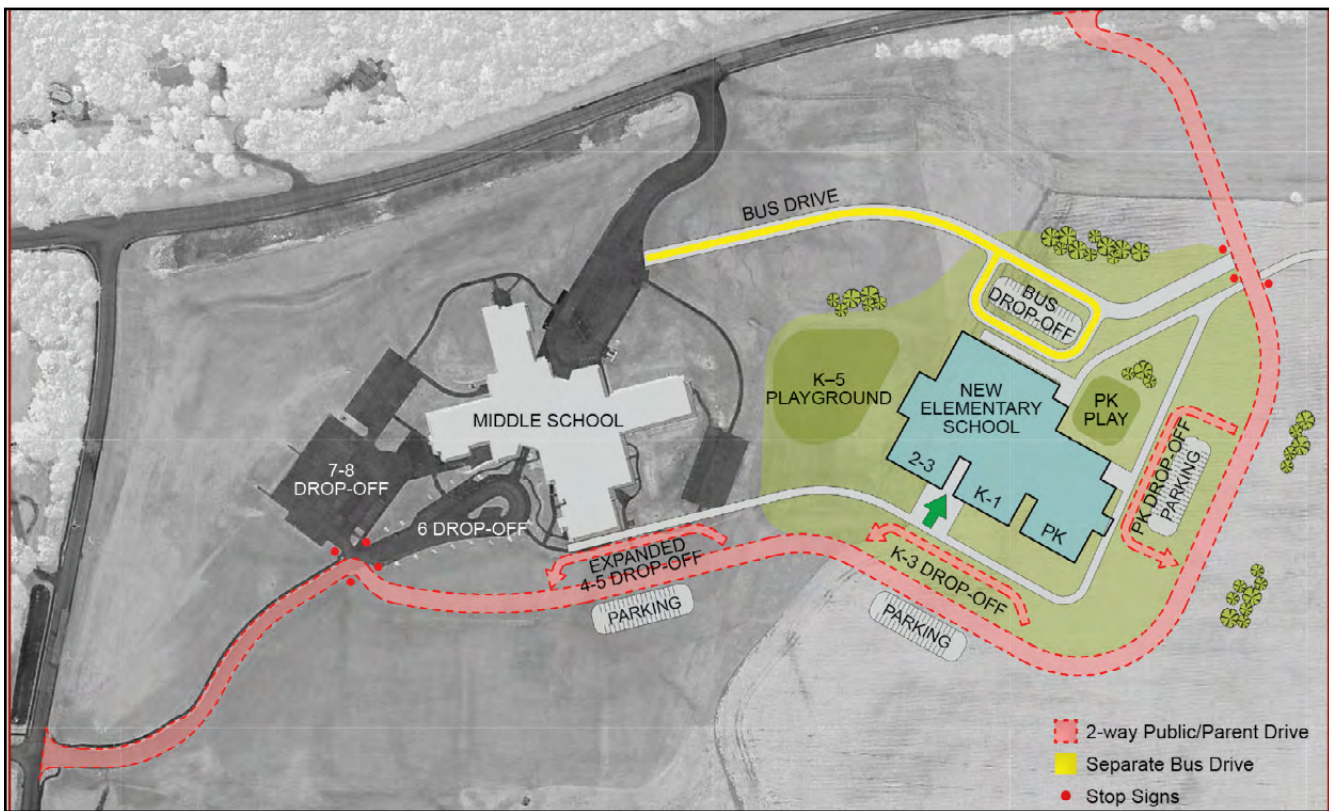




Pen City Current

Monday, March 4, 2019 | 6 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 62



Above is the revised plan for the proposed \$30 million new PreK-3rd grade elementary school on district property south of Bluff Road. The building is projected to cost \$24.7 million furnished, with site preparation including enhanced traffic flow on the campus pushing the tab to \$30 million.

With 16-cent levy bump, kids could have new school

State funding formulas put tab on 100K home at just over \$8 per year

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Just two weeks ago, Fort Madison school board officials were looking at a .30 increase in its annual property tax levy rate that would include costs of building a new elementary school. But favorable data from the state of Iowa has cut that increase in half.

According to Fort Madison Community School District Business Manager Sandy Elmore, the district is currently looking at a levy of \$14.60 per \$1,000 of taxable value for the next fiscal year. The district's current levy is \$14.44/\$1,000 and the extra 16 cents would be enough to pay for the proposed new PreK-3rd grade elementary school if approved by voters next month.

The district has set a bond election date for April 2 for district voters to vote on the \$30 million new facility on property the district already owns south of Bluff Road near 48th Street in Fort Madison.

Construction costs on the building hover near \$24.2 million, while site preparation and furnishings make up the additional \$5.8 million.

"Once we received the revised budget file from the Department of Management with the impacts related to what the Governor signed and the new income numbers from the DOM as well, the estimated tax rate impact with the bond included is \$0.16 cents per \$1,000 EAV (equalized assessed valuation)," Elmore wrote in an email Friday.

"The current year, FY18-19 rate is \$14.44 per \$1,000 EAV. Our new estimated rate is \$14.60 with a debt service levy rate of \$2.70 per \$1,000."

Residential homes in the district have a taxable value of about 55% of their assessed value, due to a 2013 state mandated rollback and homestead credits. So someone with a home assessed at \$100,000 would pay tax on approximately \$55,000 each year.

If the April 2 bond passes, the person with a

See **REFERENDUM** page 6

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swam



Bowling is part of their longevity

On Fridays they bowl, at 1:00 p.m. No napping for them! They are part of the 55+ League at Champion Bowl in Ottumwa. There are 60+ members of the over 55 league. Teams are cleverly named: "Sparetimes," "Ma's," "4 Splits," "Left Overs," "NewBIES," "Hi Hopes," "Lucky Strikes," "Has Beens," "Lonesome Four," "Unpredictables," "Vacant," "Pin Lips," "Rosebowlers," and "Gutter Kids." No, that's not the "Gutter Kids." I'll explain later.

Of the 60-plus members, three of them are over 90. Dick Crowe, Eloise DeMoss, and Bill Kramer, all from Ottumwa, can, "Show them upstart 80-year olds how to bowl, by golly!"

Dick Crowe, age 91, has been bowling since 1949. His average last year was 171, and his best game ever was 299. Dick bowls four times a week—twice on Friday. He will go to the state tournament on Saturday and the national tournament in Las Vegas in May. It will be his 39th year at the nationals. Beat that Millennials!

Eloise DeMoss, at 92, is the senior of the trio. She started bowling when bowling alleys had those little round pins called duck pins, the balls didn't have finger holes, and the pins were set up by hand. She's on Ma's team, but she isn't Ma. Ma preceded her, and no one knows for sure who "Ma" was. It doesn't matter. Her secret to longevity is, "Get going, keep moving, and don't sit down." She bowls twice a week, and loves to beat the men.

Everyone knows Bill Kramer. He's "ninety-and-three-quarters" and was a popular high school teacher and coach at Seton Catholic School in Ottumwa, coaching everything from football and basketball to wrestling, golf, baseball and track. He's been bowling at least 60 years. He is very familiar with Eloise DeMoss, as she was a school secretary, "And a good one!" Bill also bowls on two leagues.

The health benefits of bowling, both physical and mental, are well documented. A quick glance at the members of the Over-55 League shows very little obesi-

See **SWARM** page 6

Advertiser Index

Classifieds	Ps.4-5
Great River Regional Waste Authority	P.3
Griffin Muffler & Brake Center	P.2
Hope Associates Real Estate	P.4
Mobile Nursing Services	P.4
Pen City Current	Ps.3-5
Pilot Grove Savings Bank	P.6
Professional Services	P.5
Public Notices	P.4
The Kensington	P.4

News Index

Current-Lee	P.3
For the Record	P.2
From the front	P.6
Local News	P.6
Lottery Numbers	P.2
Obituaries	P.2
-Mary Ann Krogmeier	
Opinion	P.6
Weather	P.3

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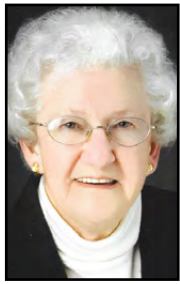


Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

MARY ANN KROGMEIER

Mary Ann Krogmeier, 91, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Saturday, March 2, 2019 at the West Point Care Center. Born August 15th, 1927 at home in Houghton, Iowa to Joseph and Eleanor (Merschman) Meierotto. Mary Ann Meierotto married



KROGMEIER

Francis "Charlie" Herman Krogmeier on a very warm Tuesday on September 9, 1947 in Houghton, Iowa at Saint John's Church followed by a reception at her parents' home. The young couple moved to Fort Madison and lived in the Chalk Ridge area their entire life. They built a successful dairy business and raised eight children.

Mary Krogmeier was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and had a myriad of interests. Mary loved the Christmas season and spent many weeks baking, cooking and decorating for the family Holiday. Never one to be idle, she enjoyed her needlework, sewing, embroidery, crocheting and quilting. Her legacy continues in the beautiful quilts, dollies and needlework

art she created. Mary loved to travel with her family. They went to Europe, Mexico, Cayman Islands, Canada and all corners of the United States. She delighted in touring botanical gardens throughout the country. Mary was President of the Alter and Rosary Society of Sacred Heart Church, 4H Leader and socially active with her Church, Card Club and local coffee klatch.

She is survived by her husband Francis "Charlie" Krogmeier, children, Daughters- Linda Bantz (Steve) Columbia, MO; Irene Lucas (Gene) Bettendorf, IA; Phyllis Seymour (Kent), Liberty, IL; Joan Moeller (Roger), West Point, IA and Julie Davis (John Head), Frisco, TX. Sons - David Krogmeier (Denise) Fort Madison, IA; Steve Krogmeier (Jane), Dubuque, IA; Ralph Krogmeier (Colleen), Donnellson, IA; and 20 grandchildren and 20 great-granchildren. A brother, Joseph Meierotto (West Point, IA) and sister Hilda Krogmeier (Fort Madison, IA) and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents Joseph and Eleanor Meierotto, 5 infant brothers and a grandson, Robert Francis Seymour.

Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 7, 2019 with the family to receive friends from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday evening at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The funeral mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, March 8, 2019 at Sacred Heart Church with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. Burial will be held at Sacred Heart Cemetery. A memorial has been established for the Iowa Chapter of ALS. Online condolences to Mary's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report
 02/27/19 - 10:56 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a gas drive off in the 5000 block of Avenue O.
 02/27/19 - 12:43 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism, reported at the police department.
 02/27/19 - 12:45 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested James Darin Boatman, 49, of Fort Madison, at the the police station, on charges of aggravate assault, assault causing bodily injury and simple assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 02/27/19 - 6:41 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Marty Joe Cochenour, 42, of Fort Madison, in the 4600 block of Avenue J, on a warrant for contempt. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 02/28/19 - 3:40 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Coyie Michael Marcano, 18, of Fort Madison

in the 900 block of Avenue F, on charges of burglary, domestic abuse assault (serious), criminal mischief. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 02/28/19 - 2:40 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1800 block of Avenue E.
 02/27/19 - 8:21 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2500 block of Avenue L.

Lee County Sheriff's Report
 02/27/19 - 11:20 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Keenan Lyle Glasgow, 37, of Keokuk, at the Des Moines County Jail in Burlington on a warrant for failure to appear. He was held in custody.
 02/28/19 - 12:26 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Christopher Dion Farnett, 40, of St. Paul, on a warrant for controlled substance violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

02//28/19 - 12:24 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident eastbound on Hwy 2 where according to the report, Christine Wilson, 53, of Fort Madison, fell asleep and lost control of her vehicle that slid into the right and spun striking a residence in the 2000 block of Hwy. 2 No injuries or citations were reported at the scene.
 02/28/19 - 2:38 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident on Hwy 2. A vehicle driven by Craig Jeffrey Davis, 61, of Keokuk attempted a left-hand turn from Hwy 2 onto the southbound Hwy. 61 on ramp striking a vehicle headed eastbound on Hwy 2 driven by James Richard Hardin, 69, of West Point. Davis was cited for failure to yield on left turn. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

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Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America™	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm

3/2
2 10 15 26 49
Star Ball: 8
All Star Bonus: 2

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3/2
1 19 25 27 68
Powerball: 21
Power Play: 2

PICK 3
iowa

3/2 MID-DAY
2 3 8

3/2 EVENING
2 2 0

PICK 4
iowa

3/2 MID-DAY
8 7 0 8

3/2 EVENING
4 3 9 0

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

Current-Lee/Weather

CURRENT-LEE

FORT MADISON – The following is a list of events and happenings going on in Fort Madison as submitted to the Pen City Current.

Community Blood Drives

A blood drive will be held at the Fort Madison Public Library from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Friday March 8. Lincoln Elementary will be the site of a blood drive on Thursday, March 21, from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the gymnasium. Call the blood center at 800-747-5401 ext. 1281 to donate.

YMCA Little Tykes Spring Soccer

Registration is currently underway for the 2019 season, which runs March 26 – May 2. Registration deadline is March 10 for regular fees of \$20 for members, \$40 for non-members. From March 11-17th participants can register but fees are \$10 higher. Volunteer coaches are needed. Call the YMCA at 319-372-2403 for more information.

United Way Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser

The United Way of the Great River Region is hosting its 9th annual Spaghetti Dinner at the Hawkeye Restaurant on March 11. Carry out or dine-in options available. Serving times are from 5 p.m. to 6:30, and 6:30 to 8 p.m. For more information contact Director Karen Thie at 319-524-4504.

Senior Community BINGO at The Kensington

Each month on the second Wednesday of the month, The Kensington hosts Senior Community BINGO at 2 p.m. in their dining room at 2210 Avenue H in Fort

Madison. All seniors are welcome and cash prizes are awarded.

St. Patrick's Day celebration

The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce will be holding a St. Patrick's Day celebration on March 16 including a parade, games, music and fun. Parade entry forms are available by contact the Chamber at 319-372-5471.


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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST


MON 04 Mar

 Clear
High– 3.3° F | Low – -0.7° F


TUE 05 Mar

 Light Snow
High– 13.0° F | Low – 0.0° F

WED 06 Mar

 Light Snow
High– 28.9° F | Low – 20.0° F

THU 07 Mar

 Light Snow
High– 22.8° F | Low – 21.5° F

FRI 08 Mar

 Light Rain
High– 38.5° F | Low – 34.7° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)



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Thank you to all our customers who worked to reduce their environmental footprint last year. We're looking forward to helping you continue your efforts and to educating our communities on more ways to help this year.

Here are just a few ways you can help:

- Don't put plastic bags in recycling bins
- Rinse & clean all food jars & cans before recycling
- Flatten empty boxes for better storage & volume reduction
- Place all recyclables loose in bins
- Don't recycle wrapping paper
- Properly dispose of all electronics and household hazardous waste



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Founded in 2016



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PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
FORT MADISON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WORK SESSION
March 4, 2019
6:00 P.M.
Richardson Elementary
AGENDA**

I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum
II. Recognition of guests
III. Approve the agenda
IV. Richardson Elementary Guiding Coalition discussion
V. Certified Budget 2019-2020 update
VI. Announcements
March 18, 2019, 6:00 P.M. - Regular Meeting, Board Room, Central Office
VII. Adjourn

HELP WANTED

COMMUNITY GARDEN COORDINATOR NEEDED

RSVP/United Way of the Great River Region is seeking a Community Garden Coordinator

Do you like to garden and work outdoors?
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EOE

We are seeking an individual this Spring who will plan, plant, cultivate, harvest and lead other volunteers in our Community Garden (garden is located at 2606 Avenue L, Fort Madison, Iowa behind Hy-Vee).

Must enjoy working outside, gardening and harvesting. Will direct garden activities with other volunteers and may require some bending, stooping and lifting of 10 lbs. or less...Times: 1 hour, 2 times per week.

If interested and for more information, please call – Tammy at 319-372-8043.

Full-Time Cook – Evenings
Responsible for preparing and serving food to residents, maintaining food and sanitation quality and participating in all dining services as directed.

Requirements to Apply:

- » Ability to maintain confidentiality of verbal and written information pertaining to residents, prospective residents, facility operations and personnel
- » Ability to recognize improvement opportunities
- » Ability to prioritize, multi-task, and maintain flexibility in a fast-paced, service oriented, environment.
- » Work scheduled hours based on personnel and Community needs; may be required to work weekends.
- » Maintain constructive relationships with co-workers, residents and families.
- » Maintain confidentiality of information pertaining to residents, Community operations and personnel.
- » Promote residence and the Company in a positive way.
- » Participate in staff, resident, family or marketing activities and events as directed.
- » Compliance with State and Federal food handling and safety regulations.
- » Excellent verbal/written communication and problem solving skills.
- » At least 1 year of prior food preparation and service experience preferred.
- » Previous experience working with elderly population preferred; not required.
- » Previous experience as a server or wait staff.
- » Regular and punctual attendance is required.

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Classifieds

HELP WANTED

NOTICE OF JOB OPENING Collections Clerk Lee County Attorney's Office Keokuk, Iowa

Lee County Attorney's Office has an immediate opening for the collections clerk position (40 hours per week).

The position's successful applicant is preferred (but not required) to have the following:

1. Completion of some college level administrative support courses or any equivalent combination of training and experience.
2. Knowledge of legal terminology, legal format, and legal forms.
3. Knowledge of modern office practices, procedures, and equipment.
4. Knowledge of Electronic Document Management System (EDMS).
5. Knowledge of Iowa Courts Online.
6. Knowledge of Iowa Department of Transportation transcripts.
7. Ability to prepare accurate and timely documents, correspondence, and reports.
8. Ability to learn and/or operate the county Attorney's Office computer programs.
9. Ability to understand and follow written and oral instructions.
10. Ability to use Microsoft Outlook, Word, and Excel.
11. Ability to work in a fast-paced environment
12. Ability to multi-task.
13. Ability to communicate with others using tact and diplomacy.
14. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with supervisors, attorneys, co-workers, and the public, as well as law enforcement personnel, Clerk of Court, Treasurer and Iowa Department of Transportation.
15. Ability to maintain a large filing system of current and closed files.
16. Must be able to travel to North Lee County Office and/or courthouse on occasion.

The position is represented by the Public Professional & Maintenance Employees Local No. 2003, IUPAT. The starting wage is \$16.02 per hour. Great County Benefits.

The deadline for submitting a resume is March 11, 2019

Please send resume to
Ross Braden
PO Box 824
Keokuk, IA 52632
or e-mail
rbraden@leecounty.org

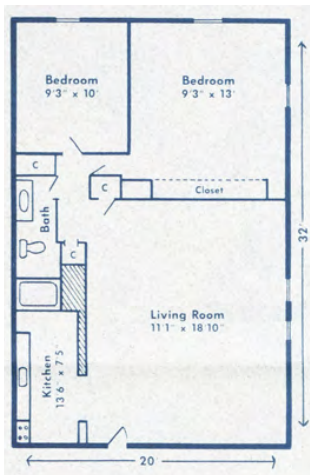
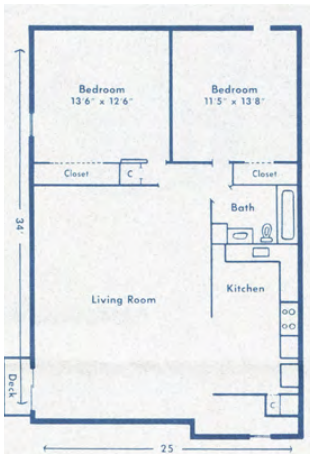


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From the Front

Two school board seats also on April 2 ballot

REFERENDUM - Continued from Page 1

\$100,000 home would pay \$8.33/year toward the construction of the new building. Agriculture land is estimated at just 18 cents per year per \$2,000 in assessed land value.

If the bond were not to be approved, the \$2.70 debt service levy would not be included in the levy, however the district is still weighing its options on issues such as cash reserves and other funding

that could impact the levy incrementally.

The district's budget won't be approved until after the bond election is held, so where the district's levy will be when the budget is certified in April is still unknown, unless the bond passes.

Elmore said the district levy rate could go down if the bond is not passed, but she cautioned taxpayers that, due to the increased

valuation of the county, tax bills could go up despite the lower rates, because many properties in the county have increased in valuation.

She said the district's levy rate is a compilation of formulas and funds, and isn't set by county valuations. The formula is set by the state's cost per pupil and this year Iowa allowed that value to be set 2.06% higher than last year.

The district can tax based on that formula and

other fund demands such as PPEL (Physical Plant and Equipment Fund) funds, debt service, and others. The levy rate is a compilation of the needs of those district funds.

The debt service levy is the portion of the levy that goes to pay the bonds each year that the bond is financed, typically 20 years. However, depending on market rates, the district could potentially refinance the bonds at a lower rate after a predetermined

amount of time, typically 10 years minimum.

The district is currently in the process of refinancing bonds on the six year old Fort Madison Middle School at a potential savings of \$1.3 million over the next 10 years.

The FMMS building was constructed without using property tax dollars and was paid for out of the state's 1-cent SAVE fund. District voters approved being part of the SAVE program in August of 1999. The program, once approved by voters, allows districts to bond against those revenues for projects such as the construction of new schools.

SAVE funds come from 1 percent of the state's 6 percent sales, services, and use tax. The Local Option Sales Tax that is used to calculate funds distributed to cities and counties is the extra 1 percent of the 7 percent paid on qualified purchases.

New plans for the elementary school include addressing traffic concerns with dedicated bus lanes and traffic lanes for increased efficiency

and safety, with expanded and segregated drop offs for PreK, K-3, 4th and 5th grade, 6th grade, and 7th and 8th grade drop offs planned.

Plans also include a K-5 shared playground, and a dedicated PreK play area. New athletic fields have been dropped from the plans, but Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater said there is still room to move the fields to the campus if there was support for that move at a later date.

As part of the April 2 election, two Fort Madison School board seats will be up for election. The board seats currently held by Josh Wykert and Brian Steffensmeier will be on the ballot.

Wykert was appointed by the board earlier this year to fill Gayla Young's spot. Gayla died from health complications on Jan. 1. Steffensmeier was appointed to replace Jillian Troxel whose family moved to Wisconsin last year.

Elmore said Friday she had not received any board candidate filings. The deadline to file to run is March 8 at 5 p.m.

Bowling is a lifetime sport

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

ty within the group. Compare that to a cross-section of our population today.

The best part about bowling is that there are almost no limits as to who can bowl. It is low impact, easy-to-learn, and a great activity for all ages (witness the 90-year olds). Bowling burns from 175 – 300 calories per hour. The 14-pound bowling ball tones the shoulders, arms, chest, legs, hands and fingers. The twisting, lunging, and stretching that bowling requires improves balance and flexibility. Hand-eye coordination sharpens. A bowler throws a bowling ball further than an NBA basketball player going for that game winning shot from half court. And, during a three-game series, a bowler throws that ball 54 times. Most importantly, bowling is a social sport. People who socialize even once a week tend to have a stronger immune system, and are less likely to suffer from depression and certain types of cancer. The physical exercise and socialization from bowling far outweigh any negativity associated with the occasional gutter ball.

Speaking of gutter. There was a family of four bowling with the 55+ League, three brothers and one sister, the Guiter family—Jack, Bob, Dick and Jo (Jody Petermann). They have their own team, the "Guiter Kids," and have been bowling together for years. Imagine that. A family that gets along well enough to play together routinely. I kept hearing what I thought was "gutter!" It was, "Guiter!" They were throwing strikes and spares, and having a "ball."

The bowling ball is a sphere, the shape of the world—everything in order, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com or visit his website at www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com.

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