



# Pen City Current

Thursday, June 20, 2019 | 9 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 140

## Board tables Slater's contract approval

*Wondra says board may need several closed sessions to sort out how to move forward*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater's contract approval was tabled by the Fort Madison Community School District Board of Directors at Wednesday's June board meeting.

The school board held a closed session evaluation of Slater's performance for an hour prior to the regular



SLATER

board meeting. The board then reconvened the closed session after a 3-hour regular board meeting.

Slater is at the front of some controversy surrounding comments made public by Fort Madison Head Basketball coach Ryan Wilson this week. Wilson told Pen City Current Monday that

Slater demanded playing time for her son or he would be fired.

Slater also called into question the philosophy of shared athletic programs. She said the "heavy presence" of Holy Trinity Catholic student-athletes playing for the Bloodhound baseball team was taking playing time from Fort Madison athletes. Her son also plays



WONDRA

on the baseball team.

According to Iowa Code, Slater had to request the meeting be closed, which is common in public employee evaluations.

The Iowa code that governs the closed sessions is 21.5 (1)(i) which reads:

"To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session."

See **CONTRACT**, page 9

## FMAAA's Garden Tour this Sunday

**BY BRIAN RIGGS**  
Director Fort Madison Area Arts Association

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Area Arts Association has brought over 25 years of consecutive garden tours to the region without ever skipping a beat. Scotts Miracle-Gro is our event sponsor. The Scotts product raffle will be in full sway as always with one lucky garden-goer winning a myriad of products. Advanced tickets are available at Kempker's True-Value, HyVee, and FMAAA galley in Ft. Madison. Also at Zaiser's Florist and Greenhouse in Burlington or Gate City Seed in Keokuk for \$10 for maps and tickets. Available in the gardens day of event for \$13. Narratives and bottled water available in gardens. The red birdhouse sign marks the spot for each yard and the tour will run from noon to 4 p.m. at the following locations.

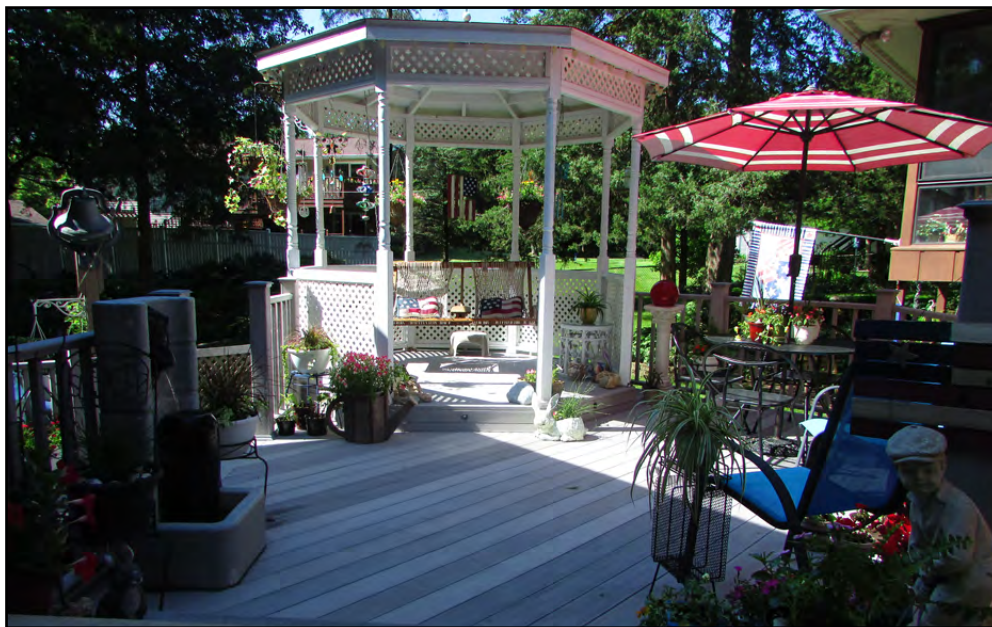


Photo courtesy of FMAAA

This backyard gazebo at the home of Gregg & Beverly Brockman, 2787 River Hills, is part of this year's Fort Madison Area Arts Association's Annual Garden Tour in Fort Madison. The tour runs from noon to 4 p.m.

**Lon & Shelly Spurgin: 316 Crescent Lane**  
Shelly really became proactive in her yard nine years ago after retiring from the public school system. She has over 40 container pots that go part in parcel with a part-time job at Matt's Greenhouse. She basically takes

her pay in plants. The dwarf Japanese Maple is the focal point of the garden and had precedence when the major project of the brick patio was added four years ago. It takes a good strong glaze every year to keep the shine. The massive fountain is a retirement gift from her

kids. Her perennial garden grows like a tree ring every year and she likes the chaos of it, without working it in row spacing. She has many Elephant Ears which trumpet until first frost when they come inside. She likes to

See **TOUR**, page 5

## City to keep courting Viking cruises

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – With the city getting more and more confident that American Cruise Lines will begin docking on the riverfront in 2019, officials are now setting their sites on the "miracle" of having two cruise lines stopping in Fort Madison.

At Tuesday's regular city council meeting, City Manager David Varley said he needed direction from the council on how to proceed with Viking's request for docking facilities that could run the city upwards of \$1.2 million.



GREENWALD

"It would be nice having two ships docking there. It would be like a miracle," Varley said Tuesday night.

"I believe in miracles," Councilman Chris Greenwald replied.

Engineering estimates have the cost of doing the upgrades Viking officials are asking for, at about \$1.7 million all-in including design, construction and contingency costs. Viking has agreed to put \$500,000 toward the costs.

Greenwald said he believes with that \$500,000 contribution, the city will have to pay that back to Viking and he would prefer to fund the whole \$1.7 million and have full control of the dock.

"I want the \$1.7 million, the whole amount," he said. "With the \$500,000, I believe we're going to have to re-

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# Obituaries/Lottery Numbers

## OBITUARIES

### FOSTER EARL CLINE

Foster Earl Cline, 74, of Farmington, Iowa passed away at 3:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 19 2019 at Van Buren County Hospital, Keosauqua, Iowa.

He was born on June 1, 1945 in Farmington, Iowa to Russell D. and Winifred (Foster) Cline. On September 23, 1972 he and Teresa Graham married, they later divorced.

Survivors include his children: Carrie (Greg Knight) Cline of Boston Massachusetts, Emily Cline of Galesburg, Illinois and William (Heather) Cline of Farmington, Iowa; four grandchildren: Savannah, Willow, Brynneleigh and Henry Foster of Farmington, Iowa; and one brother: Charles Cline of Bettendorf, Iowa. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Kenneth Cline; and one sister Ann Staats.

Foster was a 1963 graduate of Harmony High School, Farmington, Iowa. He worked for the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, International Harvester and retired from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Shimek State Forest. He was a member of the Farmington Rod and Gun Club. Foster enjoyed traveling, hunting, fishing, playing cards, going to auctions, gun sales, coin sales, and gardening. He loved attending his children's and grandchildren's sporting events and activities. Foster could often be seen cruising the streets of Farmington and out scouting wildlife in Shimek State Forest.

Friends may call after 12:00 p.m. Saturday, June 22, 2019, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington where the family will receive friends from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. that evening.

Funeral Services will be held at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, June 23, 2019, at the Farmington United Methodist Church with Pastor Michael Elrod officiating.

#### 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.



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## OBITUARIES

### MELVIN GENE HOLMAN

Melvin Gene Holman, 70 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died peacefully Saturday, June 15, 2019 at Great River Medical Center, West Burlington, Iowa. He was born March 6, 1949 at Fort Madison, a son of Ramona Juanita Holman. He married



HOLMAN

Valerie Adkins, and they had two sons, Shawn and Jason. They later divorced.

He was drafted into the US Army at age 17, and served in the Vietnam War. He loved fishing and was a commercial fisherman. He followed sports and was a CUBS fan. He liked mushroom hunting and reading.

He is survived by two sons, Shawn Holman of Norwalk, Iowa and Jason Holman of Carman, Illinois; three sisters: Alice Rebecca Holman of Fort Madison, Linda Rudd of Fort Madison, and Roseann Salerno of Springfield, Illinois; one brother, Harold Junior Hinchey of Springfield, Illinois; three grandchildren: Danica Maree Holman, Jayden Mikel Blake, and Brandon Scott Annegers; several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother.



His body has been cremated. Private family burial with military rites will be held at Keokuk National Cemetery, Keokuk, Iowa. Online condolences to the Holman Family may be made at [www.barrmemorialchapel.com](http://www.barrmemorialchapel.com). Barr Memorial Chapel is assisting the family.

### ELAINE KAY TRAMAN

Elaine Kay Traman, 73, of Keokuk, IA died Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at her home. Born on June 11, 1946 in Keokuk, Elaine was the daughter of Frank Boone and Minnie Taylor Boone.



TRAMAN

Elaine retired from the Keokuk Area Hospital after twenty years. For the past seven years she worked at Cato Fashions in Keokuk.

She was a member of the First Lutheran Church in Keokuk.

Elaine enjoyed her time working at Cato. She liked visiting her many friends, but above all she loved spending time with her family.

She is survived by her son, Shawn (Angie) Traman of St. Charles, MO, her daughter Theresa (Chuck) Korschgen of West Point, IA, seven grandchildren, Kyla Traman of St. Charles, MO, the twins, Emily Korschgen of Burlington and Carter Korschgen of West Point, Austin Hamilton of St. Charles, MO, Jenni Sansgaard of Ankeny, IA, Andrea Korschgen of Paducah, KY, and Victoria Korschgen of Harrisburg, IL, a brother-in-law, Bob Long of West Point, IA and nieces, nephews, cousins and many, many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, sisters Maxine Winkler, Charlotte Long and Wilma Knipe



## IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

### Lotto Drawings

Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life®	Mon & Thu	8:30 pm	9:38 pm
Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America <sup>SM</sup>	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



6/18  
12 14 22 24 48  
Mega Ball: 21  
Megaplier: 2



6/18 MID-DAY  
5 3 6  
6/18 EVENING  
6 3 1



6/18 MID-DAY  
3 4 0 4  
6/18 EVENING  
5 6 3 8

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.



**Local News/Area News**

# Greenwald: "I want the whole \$1.7 million"

**CRUISES** - Continued from Page 1

pay that and, until we do, they retain certain controls." Greenwald said he and Mayor Brad Randolph have been working the phones to try and see if there is other funding sources out there to offset the city's cost. The two did the same thing when they found money to offset a city shortfall in relocating the Amtrak Depot to its original location in Riverview Park earlier this year. "That's the direction I'm going. This is just like Amtrak to me. Amtrak was a 'no' until it became a 'yes'. I'm going to these same the sources and when I run into a source that says I don't have any money. I say do me a favor and start talking it up," Greenwald said Wednesday. "That's what happened on the Amtrak deal. It wasn't necessarily the people we were calling, but the people they are talking to." Greenwald told the council Tuesday that he would

rather see the funding go to a bond election, before the council would vote no on working with Viking. "Before I would say no to Viking, I would want to present a bond to the voters and allow them to decide. If I had a chance as a voter I would vote yes. But we need to get this in front of the two voters, those that would say "yes" and those that would say "no"; he said. Randolph said the city should have an agreement in place for the council to vote on at it's next meeting. American's demands are much more manageable at about \$30,000. American has committed \$15,000 to the work and the rest will come from city funds and resources. Varley said he was concerned with the city signing any agreement to work with Viking and the not having the funding to follow through. City Councilman Kevin Rink said he didn't think the

chance of getting a bond referendum passed was very good. "I don't see this going through with a (general obligation) bond for \$1.2 million. Then we fail on the back side it," Rink said. Varley said he didn't want to drag Viking along if the city wasn't going to be able to come up with the funds. "They are holding us up as their first choice, but they've been very upfront about saying if we can't afford it to let them know so they can look at other options," he said. Councilman Bob Morawitz suggested looking to other cities and counties in the area including Nauvoo, Burlington and Keokuk, who could also stand to benefit from the cruise ships docking in Fort Madison. Varley told the council at the end of the discussion they would continue to negotiate with Viking. He said the cruise line has not been receptive to financing or paying for all the improvements.

## Hospice Mystery Ride set for July

WEST BURLINGTON - Plans are underway for the 15th annual Mystery Ride, a fundraiser for Great River Hospice in West Burlington and Lee County Health Department-Hospice in Fort Madison. This year's event will be held on Saturday, July 20th starting at Noon at Doris' Tavern, 733 S. Roosevelt St., Burlington, Iowa. Motorcycles and automobiles may participate in this event. Participants can register and pay the \$10 ABATE member/\$12 nonmember entry fee from 10:00 a.m. until the Noon start time the day of the ride. The route will be given on ride day. Participants will search for hidden objects along the way to complete the "mystery" portion of the ride. While supplies last, t-shirts are available for \$20 apiece at Great River Hospice, 1306 S. Washing-

ton Road, West Burlington. Limited quantities of t-shirts will be available at Doris' Tavern the morning of the July 20th. Advance purchase is recommended. The ride will end at the Fraternal Order of Eagles, 2727 Mt. Pleasant Street, Burlington by 6 pm. The public is invited to the Eagles Club for a fundraising dinner and live auction at 6:15 p.m. All proceeds raised benefit both Great River Hospice and Lee County Health Department-Hospice. ABATE, A Brotherhood Aimed Towards Education, is a not-for-profit organization of motorcyclists. Lee County Health Department-Hospice and Great River Hospice are also not-for-profit organizations. The money raised at the mystery ride will help to provide hospice services for the uninsured or underinsured residents in southeast Iowa and

West Central Illinois. For more information on the Mystery Ride, contact ABATE member Randy Hiland, 319-572-5733. For more information on Great River Hospice, please call Missy Allen at 319-768-3352. For more information on Lee County Health Department-Hospice, contact Jeri Giebelhausen at 319-372-5225.

## Rotary sponsors Sunday's City Band in the park

FORT MADISON - This Sunday, June 23rd, the Ft. Madison City Band will be in concert at 7:30 pm in Central Park (in case of weather the concert will be held in the Methodist Church at 9th and E). This week you will want to bring a picnic or a lawn chair and enjoy the one hour concert. The band would like to thank the Fort Madison Rotary Club for sponsoring this week's concert which will be featuring: Rhythm of the Winds by Frank Erickson; Legacy by James Swearingen; Blue Tango by Leroy Anderson; Clear Track Polka arranged by Alfred Reed; Sandpaper Ballet by Leroy Anderson; Midnight Beguine

by Mark Troxell; The NC-4 March by FE Bigelow; On the Square by Frank Panella; and special guest at the concert is Mr. Taylor Stoddard singing Blue Moon arranged by Warren Barker and Ms. Mary Patten singing Embraceable You and As Time Goes By arranged by Warren Barker. Each concert is supported by community sponsors; if you would like to be contributor to a long standing tradition in Ft. Madison please contact the city office for more information. Bring a picnic, a lawn chair or enjoy the concert from one of the provided benches at 7:30 pm; let the kids enjoy the playground while listening to the City Band. Hope you can attend.

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

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

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## Local News/Current-Lee

# FEMA extends aid eligibility

DES MOINES--Gov. Kim Reynolds today received word that additional damage caused by the severe weather and flooding that began March 12, 2019, will be eligible for federal disaster assistance.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has granted Iowa's request to reopen and extend the incident period for the Presidential Disaster Declaration that was granted for Iowa by President Trump on March 23. The incident period, which defines the period of time during which damage occurred is eligible for federal assistance, had previously been March 12-May 16. That incident period has now been extended to June 15.

"With this extension of the disaster's incident period, assistance will be available for more Iowans and communities to help them recover from this spring's destructive flooding and storms," said Reynolds. "The damage didn't stop on May 16, and neither has the need for our citizens and towns that need so much help to rebuild and recover."

Iowa requested the incident period be reopened and extended as the result of heavy rains that began May 17 that caused additional major flooding along the Missouri River, where the failed federal levee system afforded no level of flood protection, and also the Mississippi River.

Iowa's incident had been closed May 16 when projections from the National Weather Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pointed to slowly receding flood levels throughout the watersheds of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. However, additional heavy rains caused river levels to increase and flooding to progressively worsen.

"FEMA doesn't often reopen and extend an incident period for a Presidential Disaster Declaration," said Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) Director Joyce Flinn. "This speaks to the magnitude of this disaster and the enormous need that exists for continued assistance. I thank our FEMA partners for working with us on this extension."

HSEMD will continue to work with impacted counties and FEMA to identify damage to infrastructure and determine eligibility for funding under the Public Assistance Program, and if the amount of damage to homes and businesses warrants assistance under the Individual Assistance Program.

Currently, 71 counties are eligible to apply for funding through the Public Assistance Program. These counties are: Adair, Adams, Allamakee, Audubon, Boone, Bremer, Buchanan, Buena Vista, Butler, Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Cherokee, Clay, Clayton, Clinton, Crawford, Dallas, Decatur, Des Moines, Dickinson, Emmet, Fayette, Franklin, Fremont, Greene, Guthrie, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Harrison, Howard, Humboldt, Ida, Iowa, Jasper, Jackson, Jones, Kossuth, Lee, Louisa, Lyon, Madison, Mahaska, Marshall, Mills, Mitchell, Monona, Montgomery, Muscatine, O'Brien, Osceola, Page, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Pocahontas, Polk, Pottawattamie, Ringgold, Sac, Scott, Shelby, Sioux, Tama, Union, Webster, Winnebago, Winneshiek, Woodbury, Worth, and Wright.

Residents and businesses in nine counties are currently eligible to apply for federal Individual Assistance: Fremont, Harrison, Louisa, Mills, Monona, Pottawattamie, Scott, Shelby, and Woodbury.

# FM Kiwanis' Back-to-School fair set for July

The Fort Madison Kiwanis Back to School Fair will be held earlier this year, on July 27 from 10 - 12 @the Fort Madison High School.

Forms are available for registration at The Fort Madison Food Pantry.

Students in grades K - 8th may register for a free back pack with most grade level school supplies, and tennis shoes.

Haircuts will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

A change this year is that limited informational booths will be in attendance so participants will not have to visit a certain number of booths like in the past. If you are interested in participating to share what your organization does in our community, please contact Denise Fraise. Information Booth Chair @ [jdfraise@mchsi.com](mailto:jdfraise@mchsi.com).

As always we are looking for donations to help support our efforts. Our partnership with Payless shoes has ended with the closing of their stores. We are trying to secure a new partnership in the area, however, anticipate a higher cost per shoe. If you are interested in donating please, contact Shirley Hoenig, Fundraising Chair @ [sjhoenig78@gmail.com](mailto:sjhoenig78@gmail.com).

To learn more about our event or ask questions please visit our Facebook page @ <https://www.facebook.com/FMKBSF/>.

## CURRENT-LEE

### Special Needs Prom

A Special Needs Prom has been set for June 28th from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at First Christian Church 3476 Main Street in Keokuk. The evening will include a promenade, dinner and dancing with events sponsored by area businesses.

### Downtown Summer Market

Fort Madison businesses will be hosting a Downtown Summer Market from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. June 13, July 11, and Aug. 15 along Avenue G. For more information contact Darla at 319-371-8385 or by email at [darlarae71@yahoo.com](mailto:darlarae71@yahoo.com).

### Weekend at the Bees

Lee County Weekend at Community Field in Burlington will be held on Friday through Sunday June 21-23. Pre-ordered tickets are just \$4 each when buying 10-plus tickets. Pre-order must be done by June 14. Sponsors can become a fireworks sponsor for \$400 and get 50 tickets to the game and ad in the

program.

### Farmer's Market

Farmer's Markets at the Fort Madison Depot will start Monday June 3 and run every Monday through Sept. 30 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Old Santa Fe Depot. Every second Monday is Kid's Day at the Market.

### Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course

Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course will be offering junior and women's beginning clinics on Thursdays during the Month of June with the junior golf from 10 to 12 p.m. and the women's class from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. \$50 entry fee for both clinics. Contact Ryan at 319-528-6214 for additional details or email at [rmcmillan@sheaffergolf.com](mailto:rmcmillan@sheaffergolf.com).

### Kensington events

The Kensington is offering Senior's Only Community Bingo on the second Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m. The event is free for seniors and cash prizes

are awarded. Caregivers Connection is held the 4th Tuesday of every month at noon. Call 319-372-4233 to reserve your seat.

### Riverfest 2019

Fort Madison's annual summer music festival and carnival hits the Fort Madison riverfront Aug. 1-4 with national rock music acts, family-friendly events and shows, carnivals, vendors, games, food and non-profit charitable events all weekend along.

### Old Settler's Concerts

The Old Settler's Park "Music in the Park" kicks off on June 21 with "Amarillo" and the Pen City Cruiser's Car Show. The Fort Madison Lion's Club will be serving dinner.

### Rotary Picnic in the Park

The annual Picnic in the Park fundraiser to help raise money for the upkeep of Central Park is Sunday, June 23 in Central Park.



## Friends of Geode

# 2nd Annual Family Fun Day

## Geode Challenge

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## From the Front/Weather

# Six area yards, gardens on display Sunday

### TOUR - Continued from Page 1

space astilbe in between the hostas in the shade garden around two sides of the garden.

Artist in the Garden: Pastel artist Lori Illner Greene will accentuate the setting.

#### Jordan & Kaity Price: 21 Richards Drive

These folks have held sway for 6 years at Richards Drive, with only lilies-of-the-valley in play prior. Kaity is serious about her planting, keeping a garden art journal for the last 5 years. She follows many plant groups on-line and trades plants via the net like baseball cards. "Plants are my thing. I am obsessed with yard art and like to spend time looking for the best deal. I am really into Flamingos. When I look for plants, I look for oddballs and color combinations." Her newest entry is a cinderblock stenciled plant stair well in the corner of one end of the backyard. The arbor in the center of the back was there wedding alter threaded with Trumpet Vine.

Artists in the Garden: Kaity pops her top with metallic pop-can flowers. Steve Helling will bear the weight with his sturdy benches and other wares.

#### Gregg & Beverly Brockman: 2787 River Hills

Theirs is one of the first homes built in the second edition development of River Hills in the 1970's. Gregg built the house and all of the architectural elements over time, in fact he is man of many skills. You will glance award winning stained glass, beautiful baskets, and an uncanny resemblance to Shoeless the Rodeo Clown. He began the multi-platform gazebo in 2016 with his go to octagon shape formation, as he loves to build with angles. Bev was born on the 4th of July; thus, the major red, white, and blue theme to her shade garden. Over 20 individual floral beds and 65 container pots adorn this property. The 45'x30'x30' massive shadebed is like a humidior, spawning huge ferns, hostas, and elephant ears. "Chunking and splitting" is an essential for her and she always has new beds under development. She has spread the original ditch lilies to other parts of the neighborhood. Her background as a physical education instructor keeps her outside much of the time.....splitting and chunking.

Artist in the Garden: Plein air painter Ginny Lamert of Van Buren County graces the stage. Gregg Brockman will display his skill at basket weaving as well.

#### Sheryl Eid: 2420 Avenue G

At 79 years young Sheryl assures us that gardening is her primary source of relaxation and housework is secondary to the outdoor nest. In fact, this is a woman that would rather garden that go shopping or go on vacation! Birdhouses are her favorite type of décor and many are inhabited. She always wanted an old water pump for her spot. This one came from Nebraska via Arizona. The unique cement chicken came from Arizona as well. It is so heavy that it will anchor the spot for years to come. She has Martha Stewart's favorite clematis blooming strongly on rail. Sheryl is particular to change the soil on her numerous container pots every 3 years.

Artist in the Garden: Glassblower Jim Topic will add a shine to the scene.

#### Marilyn Settles: 1409 33rd Street

Marilyn began working a bald yard 22 years ago always adding new projects over the years. The front side of the house was initially all brick and too tough to plant. She had to bring several loads of dirt in order to begin. Now impressive Weigela hold court as well as other shrubs that create a natural privacy fence. The newer white fence that encircles the home was a project from 7 years back. As one winds past the geode display to the backyard, most of them collected in the Tri-State area, several flower beds emerge into view. The initial main bed had to be eradicated due to an invasive grass plant that proved too difficult to manage every year. The concrete pathways that emerged took 2 years to complete.



Photo courtesy of FMAAA

This decorative fenceline is on the property of Sheryl Eid at 2420 Avenue G and gives a sneak peek into some of the ornamental gardens as part of this year's Garden Tour taking place this Sunday in Fort Madison.

Artist in the Garden: The Lost Canvas owner Ginny Henson will bring her talents to show painting on-site and the possible parties at her shop.

#### Kelly Peters: 3001 Avenue J

With 17 years under her belt, Kelly's is another tale on this tour of starting from nothing but the house in the beginning. Hers has been described as an eclectic yard, full of whimsy. Her sidewalks are curved as she "doesn't like straight lines". She has made 50% of the garden décor with the sun and flamingo crafted at SCC classes. She collects from other artists as well. She likes rust&rocks, anything unique. She likes her color tones to reflect the colors of Mexico. The waterfall element to her pond is a newer project and she just started the succulents this year. She has her veggie garden with varieties she likes to eat, trying some googi berries this year. Her go-to for plants are perennials, but many container pots adorn the space as well. The corkscrew willow if a favorite for many at Kelly's outdoor oasis.

Artist in the Garden: Plein air painter Carlene Atwater will hold court and pick her spots.

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FRI 21 Jun



Moderate Rain  
High- 73.3° F | Low - 72.4° F

SAT 22 Jun



Moderate Rain  
High- 86.5° F | Low - 75.8° F

SUN 23 Jun



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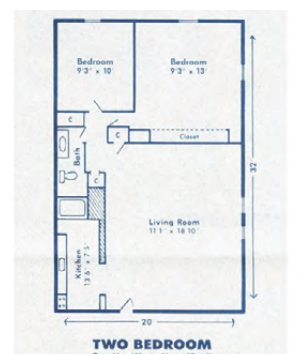
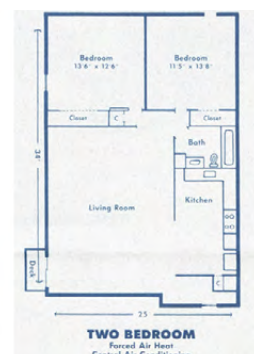
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**Lee County News/From the Front**

# Letter from family has board puzzled

**CONTRACT** - Continued from Page 1

Before going back into the closed session, Board President Dr. Tim Wondra said the board has a lot of information to go through.

"We're just scratching the surface and trying to figure out where we're going to go and how this is going to progress," Wondra said "As you can see tonight, we brought down the district's attorney to guide us through this process."

The board received a letter via email on Sunday from an email address that appears to be a Slater family email account, but was unsigned. The email came from an 'S.S.' Her husband's name is Scott Slater.

The letter was in response to a Pen City Current editorial questioning Dr. Slater's opinion of the shared programs with area schools. The editorial also pointed to behavior of her husband caught on video Saturday at a basketball camp in Quincy, where Mr. Slater was seen confronting Wilson and calling him "vindictive". The rest of the video is slightly audible.

The letter indicated that Dr. Slater would not be extending her contract, but Wondra said the validity of the letter is up in the air.

"We haven't gotten that far yet. At this point we don't even know who for sure wrote it," he said.

He said the incident is a setback from the positive gains the district has been making and adds strain to the district's relationship with the community.

"We work very, very hard to build that relationship. It's unfortunate that for every 20 positive things we do, one negative thing outweighs that 20 times and overshadows all the positive stuff that happens and... it goes on," he said.

Wondra said he didn't know when the contract would be back in front of the board. He said he didn't think everything would get worked out at the Wednesday night continuation of the closed session.

"I have no idea. It depends on how these next closed sessions go and how far tonight goes. I have no idea when another one would be scheduled yet."

Slater started with the district just prior to the start of the 2016-17 school year and will be entering the fourth year of what Wondra said were two-year rolling contracts, which are standard for most superintendents.

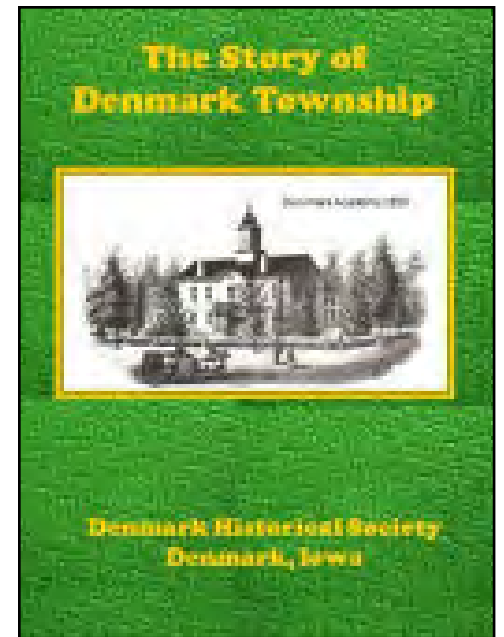
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