



# Pen City Current

Friday, April 21, 2017 | 10 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 103

## Education Director cites FMCS D's vision

### Tour ends with visit to Elliott Test Kitchen

BY CHUCK  
VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - He saw a Madagascar "Hissing" cockroach, a fish-sharing experiment, was served a pickled zucchini slaw with a chicken breast and some linguini, and left impressed with his visit to Fort Madison's public school system.

Ryan Wise, director of the Iowa Department of Education, was hosted by FMCS D superintendent Erin Slater on Thursday as he toured the Fort Madison High School, Lincoln Elementary School, and the Fort Madison Middle

School. His day in Fort Madison ended with a program dinner at the Elliott Test Kitchen where education entrepreneur and on-the-side chef, Kumar Wickramasingha, shared the programming of the test kitchen in Fort Madison, as well as the newly expanded programming in Burlington.

Wise left for Burlington after the dinner to meet with officials in that district and to meet with Southeastern Community College officials and Mediapolis school officials on Friday.

Wise's day in Fort Madison started with a visit to the high school where



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison High School Culinary Arts student David Goebel serves Iowa's Director of the Department of Education Ryan Wise lunch as part of Wise's tour of FMCS D buildings Thursday afternoon.

Principal Greg Smith showed him a video on the 21st Century Room that has been built over the past two years. Smith told Wise local and state funds totaling \$100,000 have been used to create the room and the school's new Maker Space Room.

"I always look at the vision of the project," Wise told Smith. It's always easiest when you have a vision and what do you want the space to be rather than getting all the new cool things and then figure out what we want to do with them."

Wise asked the students if they had a vision for the room and Maker Place.

"We hope to have it open for projects. We have classes already using it but we hope to have things organized for classes with sign in and sign out sheets. We've had a few issues of things missing," said Sierra Howardson, an FMHS student who attended the lunch

“It's always easiest when you have a vision, and what do you want the space to be, rather than getting all the new cool things and then figure out what to do with them”

-Ryan Wise  
Director, Iowa Dept. of Education

with a group of students. "We also have projects in line. Last month was our green room and this month is book art."

Wise said that other skills than just knowledge were at work on the

projects.

"One of the things I talk about is college and career readiness. The content knowledge is just one component. Do you know what you need to know," he said. "But the others are transition skills... are you ready to go from high school to college to the workplace. Then you have learning skills...working collaboratively and team research. And then leadership skills. Those last three... you can clearly see all of those come out in this video. You've actually built this from a student vision, so congratulations. This is a great example of learning."

Board member Gayla Young asked Wise if he thought more projects like this would be seen if the 1-cent sales tax extension is passed. There has been conversation at the state level of extending the sunset on the 1-cent sales

See WISE, page 9

## Concern prompts temporary LCHD relocation

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Lee County Health Department is moving their staff temporarily to the North Lee County Office building as of today.

On Tuesday, a concern was brought to the attention of the Health Department.

Based on the advice of County Attorney Ross Braden, the Health department staff are relocated to the County Office Building at 933 Avenue H in Fort Madison until further notice.

"It wasn't as a result of any threats or anything like that, Braden said. "I advised them to relocate temporarily until we can get some further information. Hopefully we'll have more information next week."

He said he couldn't elaborate any further on the issue and said it had nothing to do with the upcoming referendum.

For official Health Department business, the Health Department can be reached at 319-376-1065 or 319-371-8947. Environmental can be reached at 319-470-5047. Any inquiries with respect to the temporary relocation or concern will be referred to the County Attorney, Ross Braden.



BRADEN



Director Ryan Wise looks at a "Hissing" Cockroach in the Early Beginnings class at Lincoln Elementary school with Principal Tracy King far left, a reluctant Superintendent Erin Slater, right, and FMCS D Curriculum and Student Services Director Kim Harmon at far right.

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**Sports**

# FMHS goes to 3-1 with tennis win over WB/ND

*Shin shuts out Martin at No. 5 singles 6-0, 6-0.*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - It was windy tennis on Thursday, but the winds were favorable, as the saying goes, as the Fort Madison Bloodhounds downed visiting Burlington/Notre Dame 7-2 in boys high school action. The Hounds took the first three singles matches at Nos. 1-3 highlighted by a 6-2, 6-0 win from Austin Krueger at No. 3 singles. Krueger downed the Falcons' Jacob Fritz 6-4, 6-0. Sam Avery knocked down WB/ND's Daniel Crooks after splitting the two-set match 6-4, 2-6 Avery prevailed in the tie-breaker 12-10. At No. 2 singles FM's Johnny Hernandez pushed away Mason Shullaw 6-4, 7-6

with a 7-3 tiebreaker in the second set to get the win. At No. 4 singles the Hounds suffered their first loss when Blake Feuerhammer was downed in a very close tiebreak by the Falcons' Travis Willis. Feuerhammer won the first set 6-4, but fell 4-6 in the second set and dropped a tight tiebreaker 10-12. The Hounds got back on the board at No. 5 singles when Tim Shin shut out Taylor Martin 6-0, 6-0. The Falcons would get their only other win on the night when Dillon McElderry defeated Gage Hind 6-2, 6-1 at No. 6. Fort Madison swept the visitors in doubles play when Avery/Krueger knocked off Crooks/Shullaw 7-5, 6-3. Hernandez/Feuerhammer defeated

Fritz/Willis 6-4, 7-6 (7-3). Shin/Hind downed Martin/McElderry 6-4, 7-6 (7-5). "The boys did a nice job on their ground strokes and net play and used good tactics tonight," said head coach Dean Hogan. "They all seem to be improving here as the season goes on." The Hounds are 3-1 in dual play this year and travel to Burlington for a make-up match Friday night.

Junior Austin Krueger uncorks a serve against Jacob Fritz in a two-set 6-4, 6-0 win in boys high school tennis action Thursday night. The Hounds dropped WB/ND 7-2 including a full sweep of doubles action.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



## Great River Regional Waste Authority's Earth Day Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event Saturday April 22nd, 2017 ~ 9:00am to 12:00pm Located in Central Park



Fort Madison Residents Only, No Businesses Please



Great River Regional Waste Authority will be accepting the following Household Hazardous Waste items during the Annual Community Clean Up Event. We encourage you to call ahead and make an appointment for the collection.

- Fertilizers, Herbicides, Insecticides, Pesticides
- Oil Based Paints, Paint Thinners & Solvents
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## Obituaries/Local News

### OBITUARIES

# VAL DEAN VINCENT

Val Dean Vincent, 61, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 5:15 a.m. on Thursday, April 20, 2017 at his home. He was born on February 14, 1956 in Fort Madison, Iowa to Earl & Lorraine Geisen Vincent. He married Sheryl A. Keel on August 31, 1974 in Muscatine, Iowa. He enjoyed watching the Chicago Cubs over the years.

Val is survived by: his wife: Sheryl Vincent of Fort Madison, IA; 2-sons: Alan Vincent of Fort Madison, IA & Tim (Lori) Vincent of Fort Madison, IA; 1-daughter: Valerie (Eric) Beckman of Fort Madison, IA; 9-grandchildren; 3-great grandchildren; 1-brother: Lewis (Debbie) Vincent of Fort Madison, IA; 2-sisters: Pam Simon of Hamilton, IL & Candi (Fred) Yaeger of Excelsior Springs, MO. He was preceded in death by his parents, 2-brothers & 1-sister.

Cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A celebration of Val's life will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 30, 2017 at Vinnie's Santa Fe Avenue Tap in Fort Madison. Online condolences to the Vincent family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

# HTC boys get second win in a row

BY PCC STAFF

DONNELSON - The Holy Trinity Catholic boys soccer team has found their winning stride again.

The Crusaders knocked off Central Lee 1-0 in a Southeast Iowa Superconference matchup Thursday night.

The Crusaders had lost four in a row through April 11th, but bounced back with a 1-0 win over Mediapolis a week ago.

Nick Pothitakis scored for the Crusaders on a penalty kick in the second half. Bailey Merschman had four saves in the game.

"We had 12 shots and 6 shots on goal so we really struggled with the placement of our shots," said head coach Ryan Culbertson.

"The defense played solid which really kept the confidence up with the rest of the team."

In the Mediapolis game, Adam Rauenbuehler scored the only goal of the game with four shots on goal. Pothitakis had two shots on goal and Merschman had two saves.

HTC plays again at home Friday night against Wapello with a 5 p.m. start.

# FM Library plans Family Fun day

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Friends of the Fort Madison Public Library, in partnership with Lee County Leadership participants, will host Friends and Family Fun Day on Saturday, April 29 from 10am to noon at the Fort Madison Public Library, 1920 Avenue E.

The event will feature oversized games, stories, and crafts, and will highlight the services and programs provided by the library, many of which are possible due to the financial support of the Friends.

Individual stations will be set up throughout the building where visitors can explore the library's collection of e-books, learn about upcoming summer activities for all ages, or look up their family ancestry in the genealogy room.

Those who visit each station will be entered to win a Grand Prize Amazon Kindle Fire,

provided by the Friends. Refreshments will be available, courtesy of Hy-Vee in Fort Madison, and admission to the event is free. Additional sponsors include Chuong Garden, Family Video, and Kelly Cakes, all of Fort Madison, and Fun City in Burlington.

In the Fall of 2016, local organizations were invited to submit partnership projects to work with Lee County Leadership Participants. The Friends project was one of three chosen by the steering committee.

"When I heard the Lee County Leadership Class was looking for projects, I thought that they might be able to provide some fresh ideas to help the Friends continue to promote themselves to the community," said Sarah Clendening, director of the Fort Madison Public Library. "This new event will help share information about the Friends with a wider group of people."

Lee County Leadership participants Jacob Cook, Operations Manager with Independent Can, Melissa Derr, Senior Branch Administrator with Edward Jones, and Kira Kruzsynski, Office Manager of the Keokuk Chamber have been working with the Friends of the Fort Madison Public Library since late fall to develop an event aimed at letting community members know about the programming and resources offered by the Library and the support the Friends provide.

"Working with the Library has been a great experience to utilize the skills we have learned through the class," said Derr. Participants are typically encouraged to apply by their employers.

Lee County Leadership is a joint program of Iowa State University Extension & Outreach Lee County and the Keokuk and Fort Madison Chambers of Commerce. The program seeks to train and equip

emerging leaders to be active players in their communities by combining classroom curriculum with a real-life community project.

The Friends are a 501(c)3 organization committed to providing services for and funds to the Fort Madison Public Library. Funds raised by the Friends support the Library's overall programming and have been used to pay for performers and guest speakers, computers and software, microfilm machines, literacy stations, library materials, board games, and Legos among other things.

These important assets allow the Library to offer a vast array of resources, services, and events at minimum, or in many cases, no cost to the public.

Anyone interested in joining and/or supporting the Friends can contact the Library at 319-372-5721 to learn more or visit their website.

The Fort Madison Public Library and Lee County Leadership committee are planning a Family and Friends Fun Day at the Library on April 29, including games, crafts, stories and a Kindle will be given away.



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## Sports/Classifieds

# Lady Hounds get four first-place finishes at Washington

BY PCC STAFF

WASHINGTON - Despite four first-place finishes, and a handful of other top five finishers, the Lady Hounds finished 5th of 6 teams at the Washington Invitational Thursday night in girls high school track action.

Brett Schneider and Sierra Howardson led the way again for the Lady Hounds.

Howardson had two first place finishes in her dual

distance runs of 1,500 and 3,000 meters with times of 5:18.34 and 11:12.26, respectively. Schneider motored to first again in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:23.62.

The distance medley relay team of Schneider, Claire Mendez, Maddy McVey and Howardson grabbed a top spot with a time of 4:45.99.

Elizabeth Miller captured her first top three finish in the 400-meter

hurdles with a time of 1:20.29. The 800-meter sprint medley team of Britiney Harris, Brynn Schroeder, Maddy McVey, and Schneider also grabbed a third-place finish with a mark of 1:59.70.

The Lady Hounds travel to Van Buren for the Van Buren Invitational on Monday.

Complete results for the Lady Hounds are listed below with top 5 finishers in bold.

Shot put  
 FM - **Brittiney Harris 33-11 (5th)**, Elizabeth Fincher 25-05.5 (18th), Shelby Wright 19-03.5 (21)

Discus Throw  
 FM - Harris -79-05 (12th), Wright 66-00 (17th), Daylyn Wondra 54-10 (20th), Fincher 53-04 (21st)

Long Jump  
 FM - Ellie Baxter - 12-08.5 (7th), Paige Munson 11-04.5 (8th), Bella Baier 9-05 (9th)

800 sprint medley  
 FM - **Harris, Brynn Schroeder, Maddy McVey and Brett Schneider - 1:59.70 (3rd)**, Elaine Gilpin, Wondra, Anna Kester and Lexi Miller - 2:15.10 (10th)

3000-meter run  
 FM - **Sierra Howardson 11:12.26 (1st)**, Cayleigh Smith 13:13.10 (7th), Claire Hellman 13:55.79 (8th)

4x800-meter relay  
 FM - **Schroeder, Kamryn Bailey, Mendez, McVey - 11:08.43 (5th)**, 4x100-meter shuttle relay  
 FM - **Elizabeth Miller, Harris,**

**Munson and Miller - 1:29.23 (4th)**  
 100-meter dash  
 FM - Baxter 15.24 (15th), Nadine Scheafer - 15.63 (16th), Brittney Sanford 15.67 (17th), Camila Almeida -19.47 (19th)

Girls Distance Medley  
 FM - **Schneider, Mendez, McVey and Howardson - 4:45.99 (1st)**

400-meter dash  
 FM - Anna Kester 1:13.24 (6th), Smith 1:18.00 (9th)

4x200-meter relay  
 FM - Schroeder, Mendez, Gilpin and Sanford - 2:07.05 (8th)

100-meter hurdles  
 FM - Elizabeth Miller 19.43 (11th), Munson 23.58 (15th)

800-meter run  
 FM - **Schneider - 2:23.62 (1st)**, Lexi Miller - 2:51.18 (7th), Kester - 2:54.51 (8th), Bailey 3:10.44 (14th)

200-meter dash  
 FM - Bella Baier - 31.72 (11th), Gilpen - 33.57 (16th), Wondra 35.54 (20th)

400-meter hurdles  
 FM - **Elizabeth Miller - 1:20.29 (3rd)**

1500-meter run  
 FM - **Howardson 5:18.84 (1st)**, Cayleigh Smith 6:09.74 (10th), Hellman 6:24.04 (15th)

4x100-meter relay  
 FM - Bailey, Gilpen, Sanford, Elizabeth Miller - 1:00.15 (9th), Scheafer, Wondra, Fincher and Almeida - 1:08.12 (10th)

4x400-meter relay  
 FM - McVey, Mendez, Howardson and Schneider - 4:42.25 (6th), Smith, Baier, Baxter and Lexi Miller - 5:10.32 (8th)

Team Rankings  
 1- Benton VH - 139, 2 - Mt. Pleasant - 122, 3 - Washington - 101, 4 - Clear Creek-Amara - 88, 5 - FM - 69, 6 - Albia - 60.

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Learn more about your local YMCA at [www.fortmadison.org](http://www.fortmadison.org)



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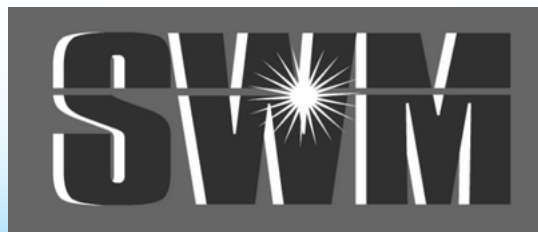
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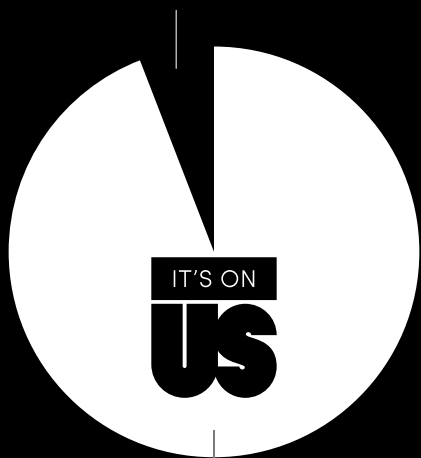
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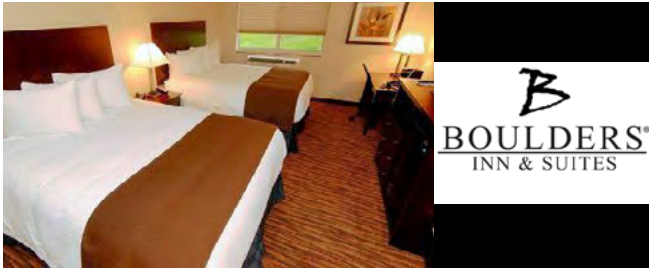
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Lee Vandenberg, Sales manager  
319-371-4125  
[sales@pencitycurrent.com](mailto:sales@pencitycurrent.com)

Charles Vandenberg, Editor  
319-371-1670  
[editor@pencitycurrent.com](mailto:editor@pencitycurrent.com)



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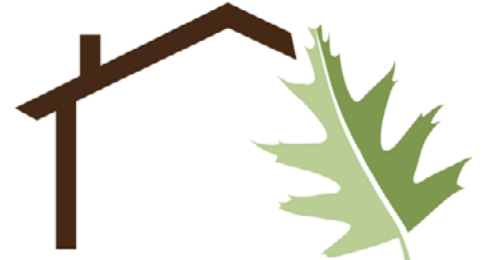


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**1703 Avenue L**  
Listing #20165151 • \$55,900



**3BR • 1BA • 2 car garage**  
1,488 sq. ft. • 16,247 sq. ft. lot

Has been owned by this seller since 1960!!! Large eat-in kitchen with newly tiled floor includes stove, microwave, washer and dryer, main floor laundry (in bedroom), formal dining room with built-in hutch, and spacious living room. The house sits on a HUGE lot and has a nice 2 car garage in back. Home has Gas Heat and central air with maintenance-free siding on house and garage.

**1712 Avenue E**  
Listing #20164725 • \$92,000



**4BR • 1.50BA**  
1,706 sq. ft. • 7,250 sq. ft. lot

This spacious home has it all, the character of a turn of the century home; beautiful woodwork, beamed ceilings, window seat, columns, and large covered front porch, yet also includes MANY updates. Call today for your private viewing!

**3098 County Road 103**  
Listing #20164991 • \$129,900



**2BR • 2BA • 3 car garage**  
1,404 sq. ft. • 1.42 acres

Upgrades, improvements, updates...call it what you like, this home has had MANY in the last 2 plus years. This seller has completely refurbished the hill to the north of the home with new landscaping finishes. This is a must see property!!! It has enough room for your family and then some!!!

**4911 Bluff Road**  
Listing #20164861 • \$157,500



**3BR • 1.75BA • 2 car garage**  
1,772 sq. ft. • 0.57 acres

Great family home with LOTS OF NEW! New kitchen, bathroom, windows, most flooring, wrap around deck, ceiling fans, light fixtures, furnace and central air! Beautiful neutral decor and window treatments make this a must see! All this and a 2 car heated garage.

**1708 Avenue G**  
Listing #20165237 • \$92,500



**3BR • 1BA**  
1,432 sq. ft. • 5,500 sq. ft. lot

This UPDATED, MOVE-IN READY, CHARMING 3 bedroom home will make an awesome family home!!! This gem has all new windows throughout, exterior doors, deck, plumbing, & NEW roof on house & garage. So come check it out! This is a MUST SEE!!!





**3 BR • 2 BA • 2 car garage  
1,168 sq. ft. • 0.54 acres**

Quality and beauty! Many updates and upgrades including a new concrete patio/carport with surround sound and mood lighting, new kitchen, bath and lighting throughout. This is an AMAZING house that you MUST see to appreciate!!!

**Listing #20164622 • \$88,000**



**3 BR • 2 BA • 2 car garage  
1,168 sq. ft. • 0.54 acres**

Lovely family home comfortably situated at the end of a cul de sac, where you can enjoy the woods and the privacy! There is an inviting deck off the back of the home overlooking the woods and beautiful vinyl fencing. There are newer mechanicals and a newer roof, 2 fireplaces and lots of storage!! Don't miss out on this beauty.

**Listing #20163951 • \$129,000**



**5BR • 2.50BA • 2 car garage  
2,834 sq. ft.**

**14,868 sq. ft. lot**

Amazing family home on a large corner lot in Farmington, IA. 2 fireplaces, beautiful woodwork, a beautiful open front porch, a large yard and an oversized garage!!

**Listing #20164117 • \$127,500**



**2BR • 1BA • 1 car garage  
1,224 sq. ft.**

**7,250 sq. ft. lot**

A house with character! Wrap-around porch, original hardwood in formal dining room/living room combo, main floor laundry, nice size eat-in kitchen including appliances, dining room has original fireplace, basement and 1 car garage.

**Listing #20162543 • \$53,000**



**5BR • 1.75BA • 1 car garage  
1,904 sq. ft. • 1,903 sq. ft. lot**

Great family home on large corner lot in the middle of Ft. Madison. Large living / dining area with original craftsman woodwork and built-ins, 14 x 22 garage on the alley with 2 additional storage sheds. Nice front porch, rear deck, and a great sunroom on the East.

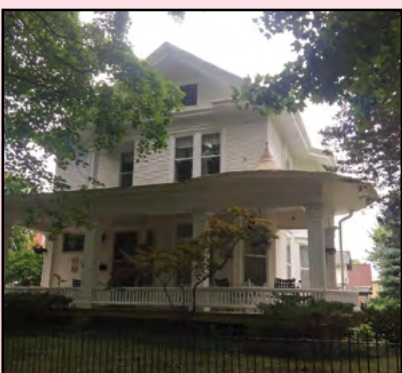
**Listing #20162346  
\$86,950**



**3BR • 1BA • 1 car garage  
928 sq. ft. • 1,087 sq. ft. lot**

Very nice maintenancefree home by Lincoln School with a 75 X 145 fenced yard, nice patio, fire pit and child's play set! Some very nice built-ins, some original hardwood flooring, full basement including laundry area. Also find extra parking, garage and carport area on the paved alley.

**Listing #20164148 • \$72,500**



**5BR • 3BA  
3,119 sq. ft.**

**14,500 sq. ft. lot**

From the period wrought iron fencing to the amazing stained oak staircase...from the impressive arches to the large wrap porch, this beautiful turn of the century (20th) home offers all the beauty and elegance of that era. This is a beautifully appointed home with all the modern conveniences. There is an extra large lot for your family to enjoy!!

**Listing #20162159 • \$164,000**



**3 BR • 2 BA • 1 car garage  
2,260 sq. ft.  
6,784 sq. ft. lot**

Lots of new! Semi open floor plan, new flooring, great open basement family space, and many updates including heat/air units, kitchen back splash, counters and more! Fenced in back yard with stamped concrete patio and awning. Call today to see this great home in a quiet neighborhood.

**Listing #20164544 • \$139,900**



**3BR • 3BA  
2,754 sq. ft.**

**3,550 sq. ft. lot**

Gorgeous, turn-key home with large patio minimum maintenance. UPDATES GALORE!!! Practically perfect in every way, this 1841 home includes the latest improvements while keeping its Victorian charm.

**Listing #23006122 • \$99,999**



**2BR • 1BA • 2 car garage  
930 sq. ft. • 7,280 sq. ft. lot**

This 2 bedroom home in Montrose has been a rental property and sells as is. Priced way below assessed value to sell quickly!

**Listing #20164279 • \$38,500**





**2BR • 1BA  
1,144 sq. ft.  
3,625 sq. ft. lot**

Move-in ready with many updates including kitchen WITH appliances, fresh paint, newer electrical (100 AMP breaker), new water lines at street and more! The home is clean as a whistle and ready to move in!

**Listing #20161431 • \$42,500**



**2BR • 1.75BA • 2 car garage  
679 sq. ft. • 6,500 sq. ft. lot**  
Nice, small home. Seller has purchased and remodeled. Excellent condition.  
**Listing #20164161 • \$62,500**



**2 BR • 1 BA • 1 car garage  
528 sq. ft. • 5,600 sq. ft. lot**  
Super deal on this cream puff home, offering 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, new roof, newer windows, siding and REALLY nice garage!  
**Listing #20164597 • \$29,900**



**4 BR • 1.75 BA  
3 car garage • 2,052 sq. ft.  
8,700 sq. ft. lot**  
Beautiful 4 bedroom home with large rooms, recently redecorated and ready to move into. This home features stainless steel appliances, main floor laundry, eat in kitchen and formal dining room, main floor office or bedroom, open staircase, large living room and big bedrooms. Newer roof, siding and gutters on house. 24' X 36' insulated garage and workshop, plus carport. Large wrap porch great location near Old Settlers Park.  
**Listing #20163776 • \$129,500**



**Let Hope help  
you find your  
next home!**



**3 BR • 1 BA • 1 car garage  
1,248 sq. ft. • 0.37 acres**

Well-kept ranch on a beautiful, large corner lot in West Point, IA. New wooden privacy fence surrounding the entire back yard. There is also an attached garage and storage shed. A large wooden deck leads to the front door where you can sit and enjoy those beautiful Iowa summer sunsets! PLUS a covered deck in the back for those rainy days. This house is a rare find.

**Listing #20164234 • \$119,900**



**2 car garage • 2,527 sq. ft.**  
UNIQUELY beautiful 9.38 river bluff acreage. This home boasts many updates including complete master suite, heat and A/C, Septic system, deck, roof & gutters, flooring, and the list goes on. This private property includes fenced in barn area for animal lovers, mature fruit trees plus trees have been dropped for a beautiful panoramic river view that will last for years! Owner also plans to leave a John Deere mower and new snow blower!!  
**Listing #20162733 • \$269,000**



**3 BR • 2.50 BA  
2 car garage • 1,194 sq. ft.  
10,400 sq. ft. lot**

Great family home is move-in ready. Nice-sized kitchen with all appliances, dining area, and nice living room all on the upper level. Completely re-modeled family room with a wood burning fireplace on lower level. Many updates include newer flooring, roof and HVAC system.

**Listing #20164531 \$114,900**



**Land**

**14.65 acres • 638,514 sq. ft.**  
Just outside city limits, perfect for housing development or small farm for horses or small livestock, over half tillable. City water is available. 30' X 60' building is totally insulated, heated and air conditioned with 200 amp service.  
**Listing #20162574 • \$249,000**



**3BR • 1.75BA • 1 car garage  
888 sq. ft. • 9,450 sq. ft. lot**  
RARE RANCH with large fenced back yard and attached garage! Updated windows and kitchen, newer HVAC and water heater. Family Room in the basement. Just waiting for your own personal touch!  
**Listing #20163423 • \$74,900**



**Land**

**50.82 acres  
2,213,719 sq. ft.**  
Ideal 50 acre m/l parcel to develop. Close to new 4-8 Middle School and Baxter Rec Plex. TREMENDOUS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY.  
**Listing #20162779 • \$559,020**



## From the Front

# Wise impressed with district's overall engagement

**WISE** - Continued from Page 1

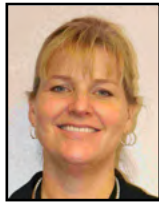
tax funding option. Wise said he could see that being part of that overall picture.

After the meeting, Wise said funding is going to be an ongoing conversation at the state level.

"I think it's going to be an annual conversation between the legislature and the governor," he said. "From the department perspective, we certainly can't ignore the funding issues because it's a reality in whatever school I go into. At the same time, as director I'm focused on the programming and implementation of these big, ambitious state policies and how we can support districts in their local implementation."

After the lunch, Wise was then shown the Makers Space and discussed with senior Jack Marek the work currently going on in the room. He was then shown the 21st century room and the Internet connected study tables and the open space configuration that encourages collaborative learning.

The tour moved to Lincoln Elementary where Wise visited an early beginnings room where students were engaged with a "Hissing" cockroach. He then moved through the hallways and spoke with Principal Tracy King, who discussed programming and the condition of the building.



SLATER

"You know what I always look for in buildings is what is happening with the

kids. And are the teachers able to reach the kids and create a good learning environment. We only had a chance to go to one class, but clearly engaged students with a thoughtful enthusiastic teacher. There are physical plant needs, but some good learning going on."

One area that hurts the district is open enrollment and Wise said that issue is good for some and bad for others.

"It depends on perspec-



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Iowa Director of the Department of Education Ryan Wise, seated next to FMHS Principal Greg Smith, standing, listens to FMHS's Sierra Howardson far right foreground, talk about the 20th Century Room and how the students vision was incorporated into the project.

Slater told Wise the Fort Madison district has one of the largest footprints in the state so there are families within the district that live closer to other districts so families move students to those closer districts. But overall Wise said he was very impressed with the students at the high

school and their engagement.

"I'm always impressed with students and the student group here was no exception," he said. "Being able to visit with the handful that came into speak with us about the Makers Space at the high school was a highlight, but I always love it when board members come to the visit and it doesn't always happen. Today they had great, thoughtful questions and were really easy to engage. Seeing that board support was really exciting. Seeing all that...the student voice and the administrator and the board support all together and engaged was really good. Now it's just a question of how we can help."

*"Seeing all that, the student voice and the administrator and the board support all together and engaged was really good. Now it's just a question of how we can help."*

-Ryan Wise  
Director, Iowa Dept. of Education



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

FMHS student Jack Marek talks with Wise about the Maker's Space Room and how Marek is helping organize and inventory the room in preparation for upcoming projects. There is also a little Iowa. vs Iowa St. ribbing in the conversation.

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