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SPORTS:

Fort Madison boys and girls get diamond wins Wednesday night.

See page 6

Friday, May 24, 2019 | 6 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 120

Reynolds makes property tax bill law

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

DES MOINES - Iowa governor Kim Reynolds signed a bill into law today that makes local government clear an additional hurdle in approving budgets with more than 2% revenue growth.

Senate File 634 was signed Thursday morning and Reynolds says the new law will add a layer of transparency to local budgeting processes.

"This bill creates an additional

public hearing prior to the approval of a city or county's budget, allowing more public input and helping increase awareness and transparency to the budgeting process and Iowa taxpayers."

But Fort Madison City Manager David Varley said it's just more of the state tying the hands of city staff across the state.

"It's ridiculous. they tie our hands behind our back. You govern the state and we'll run the cities and if the people don't like how we're doing they'll elect



REYNOLDS

different people," Varley said.

The bill requires local governments to add an additional public hearing in the annual budgeting process

of proposed budgets indicate a revenue growth of more than 2%. A two-thirds majority vote on a resolution by the elected officials of the governmental agency would permit the budget to be approved after the additional

public hearings and posting took place.

State school districts have a different state funding formula and are not affected the bill.

Lee County Budget Director Cindy Renstrom said it's extra work and could be impacted by the election cycle.

"I'm not looking forward to this. It's going to limit us to 2%and what we can do," she said. She acknowledged the process

See **IPERS**, page 3

DuPont launches rebrand June 1

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

FORT MADISON - Effective June 1st, an history rich corporation in Fort Madison will take on a new look and new branding.

DuPont will officialy become the new DuPont at the beginning of next month and event has been marked by a brand new sign that was installed at the front end of the property this week.

Plant manager John Hellige said the transition is actually to a brand new company.

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"Our new branding is one of many steps we are taking in DuPont's transformation and amplifies what we do - help our customers solve complex problems, and turn their best ideas into real-world products and solutions," Hellige said.

The new sign was about a month in the making with the disassembling of the previous sign and then putting in a stronger foundation. After curing, the new sign was brought in this week and set on the brick pedestal.

All the work was done locally by Sherwood Company, Seither and Cherry, Young Masonry and Hoenig Lawn Service.

Hellige said the Fort Madison facility is operating normally and couldn't comment on any future plans for the facilities or it's employee base, but said those issues are constantly evaluated.

"At this time, the Fort Madison site is operating under business as usual conditions. We are committed to the highest standard of safety and health at our site, and for our employees, contractors, and our community," he said.

"We will evaluate new investments and expansions as they make sense. We are committed to an



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

DuPont's Fort Madison facility unveiled a new corporate sign and logo this week at the plant. Plant Manager John Hellige said the image is part of the company's new DuPont structure that launches June 1.

innovation-driven business shape the world. model and customer-oriented approach, strengthened by a rich heritage of bringing transformational new products and insights to market."

He said the transition is a world-wide change and the company is again strategically positioning itself as a world leader in products that

"On June 1, we officially become the new DuPont. We're not simply declaring ourselves a new DuPont. In every dimension of our business, we are elevating our commitments and reinventing the ways in which we shape the world," Hellige said.

"This included the update to the DuPont oval. The new sign reflects our new logo design. The new DuPont mark features a simplified name that unites the two-word Du Pont. The type design expresses a bold, modern posture and perhaps most significantly, replacing the outline with a suggestion of an oval signals a collaborative and open flow of ideas and innovation."

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FMHS Color Run reset for Thursday

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON -The Fort Madison High School's first annual 5K Color Run that was originally planned for Saturday has been rescheduled for Thursday, May 30.

The FMHS Student Government is putting on the run and organizer Gracie Gobble said heavy rains forced the postponement of the event at Fort Madison Middle School on Saturday.

Registrations will still be accepted up until and including the day of the event, which will now take place at 6 p.m. at Fort Madison Middle School.

Registration forms are available at FMHS, Anytime Fitness, Rev Fitness, Ft. Madison YMCA, and The Fort Madison Partners office.

The form can also be found at http://www. fortmadison.com/event/ fmhs-color-run/ Early registration ended April 26, so anyone registering between now and race day will need to provide a white t-shirt to run in. Day-of registration fee is \$30.00. Check-in and dayof registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. The run will begin at 9 a.m.

The race will begin and end at FMMS. Light refreshments will be served

See 5K RUN, page 2

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Local News/Lottery Numbers

Scott, Rashid earn P.E.O. scholarships

FORT MADISON - Two local scholars have been awarded scholarships from the local chapter of the P.E.O Sisterhood.

The group was formed in 1869 at Iowa Wesleyan College in Mt. Pleasant as an international philanthropic and educational organization, promoting educational opportunities for women.

Fort Madison High School senior LilliAnna Scott received a \$400 Nancy Wagner Memorial Scholarship and Notre Dame High School senior Kassidy Rashid received the \$2,500 P.E.O STAR Scholarship.

Scott is the daughter of Mary and Pat Scott and will be attending the University of Iowa where she plans to study business beginning this fall.

Rashid is the daughter of John and Kathy Rashid and plans to attend Creighton University where she plans to study biology this fall.

The scholarships are based on excellence in leadership, extracurricular activities, community service, academics and potential for future success.

The sisterhood has awarded more than \$321 million on financial assistance to more than 105,000 individuals.

P.E.O. chapter members from left Paulette Schrepfer, Libby Laughlin, Jane Sanford, and Ann Heitz stand with Kassidy Rashid, center, a recipient of a \$2,500 scholarship. LilliAnna Scott, below, received a \$400 scholarship.





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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 Pick 3 - Evening	Daily Daily	Noon 9:40 pm	12:20 pm 10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday Pick 4 - Evening	Daily Daily	Noon 9:40 pm	12:20 pm 10:00 pm

5/22 7 10 20 44 57 Powerball: 3 Power Play: 2

5/22 MID-DAY

366

5/22 EVENING

4 1 5



1 2 8 11 35 Star Ball: 1 All Star Bonus: 3



5/22 MID-DAY 0097 5/22 EVENING 9124

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

FMHS color run Thursday night at FMMS

5K RUN - Continued from Page 1

at the finish line. Cars may be parked at the Fort Madison Middle School parking lot. Sponsors for this year's event include: Shottenkirk Automotive Group, Axalta, Pilot Grove Savings Bank, Lee County Bank, Randolph Dental, Fraise Auction & Real Estate (Carla McEntee), FMCH, MidWestOne Bank, Holtkamp Floor's Decor & Furniture, Hope Associates Real Estate, Scott's Miracle Grow, Sub Arena, Fareway, and Hy-Vee.





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For more information about the Market events call (319)372-5225. All giveaways are while supplies last.

Charles Vandenberg, Editor

Pen City Current

Founded in 2016

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

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For the Record/From the Front

Law requires extra budget steps

IPERS - Continued from Page 1

has an out, but she said when supervisors are up for election, it could become an issue.

"When you have three supervisors that are up for election, do you think they'll be quick to vote for increased spending. If they don't approve it, now your looking at spending cuts."

Varley said the state doesn't seem to be considering that personnel costs alone increase more than 2% over year, that means cuts have to be made on the back of the rest of the budgets if the council doesn't approve the relief.

"It's going to be difficult for us to cap at 2%. Our personnel costs go up 3 to 5% every year including health care and benefits," he said.

"That means if you want to stay within that you have to cut or layoff. When 70-80% of your budget is personnel, you have to balance that on the 20-30% of the rest of the budget like supplies and equipment."

Varley agreed that you can get around the cap with an extra majority vote of the council, but he said they aren't always willing to do that. And since the bill requires a 2/3 majority, that means Fort Madison would require 5 of 7 councilmembers to approve the resolution.

"You can get around it, but it's an added hurdle. Council is sometimes hesitant to do things. I don't understand the thinking when they know that with health care salaries going over 2% how that even makes sense," he said.

"This is taking away from local control. Instead of cities running cities, they are trying to run cities for us. This is Des Moines trying to run all the cities of the state. That's the bigger issue.

The bill also requires cities and counties to certify their budgets by March 31. State employees have said the bill is backdoor attempt to manipulate the state's Iowa Public Employees Retirement System, or IPERS.

State Rep. Jeff Kurtz (D-Fort Madison) said the bill throws IPERS funds and 411 funds, which are the police and fire department retirement funds, into the general fund that is now facing a 2% soft cap.

"That's never happened before with a cap," Kurtz said. "An amendment to take those two entities out of that bill was submitted by Monica Kurtz of Des Moines, and the Republicans defeated it. The bill was much worse in it's original form, but that 2% softcap that can only violated with a super majority."

Varley, who oversees the Fort Madison city budget, including all IPERS contributions, said he didn't see the bill having an impact on the current IPERS structure.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

5/22/19 - 4:35 a.m - Jeannie Marie Kristina Svejda, 32, of Keokuk was arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, registration violation and no insurance in the 100 block of Formad Industries Dr. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held. 5/22/19 - 2:14 p.m -Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident at the intersection of 27th St. and Ave. L. 5/22/19 – 4:33 p.m – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a gas drive off in the 1200 block of Ave. H. 5/22/19 – 8:30 p.m – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/ theft

in the 3000 block of Ave. N. 5/22/19 - 8:53 p.m - Ronald Lynn Bevard, 70, of Keokuk, was arrested on the charge of an OWI, first offense in the 6100 block of Reve Ct. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held. 5/22/19 - 10:05 p.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in progress in the 1500 block of 39th St. 5/22/19 - 10:15 p.m -Bette Lou Royer, 52, of Fort Madison, was arrested on charges of public intoxication, second, and interference with official acts, in the 1500 block of 39th St. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

5/23/19 - 1:59 a.m -

Demetrius Ernest Alexander, 20, of Denmark was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct- fight/ violence at the Lee County Sheriff's Office. He was held in the Lee County Jail. 5/23/19 - 2:00 a.m - Allen Tremaine Thomas, 18, of Burlington was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct - fight/ violence at the Lee County Sheriff's Office. He was held in the Lee County Jail. 5/23/19 - 6:03 a.m - Sasha Mariah Noel, 27, of New London was arrested on one count of a false report - 911 call, and one count of accessory to felony in Montrose. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.







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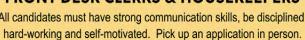






urrender of the contract may be subject to surrender charges. Withdrawals before age 59 1/2 may result in a % IRS penalty tax. Additionally, there is a charge for the Simple? Income Rider once it is activated. alifications and restrictions apply for activation. Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company*/West Des Moines, IA ompany provider of Farm Bureau Financial Services A141 (9-17)







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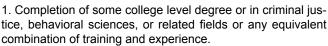
Victim Witness Coordinator Lee County Attorney's Office

Keokuk and Fort Madison

Lee County Attorney's Office has an opening for a Victim Witness Coordinator position (40 hours per week) with a start date of July 1, 2019.

The Victim/Witness Coordinator position is responsible for managing, coordinating, monitoring, and providing case assistance for juvenile and criminal cases within the County Attorney's Office. The Victim Witness Coordinator will establish communications with victims and witnesses and/or their advocates, notify victims of their rights, keep victims and witnesses informed of the status of files/cases, provide victims and witnesses with information, locate witnesses required for effective prosecution, and assist with case management.

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



2. Knowledge of legal terminology, legal format, and legal

3. Knowledge of modern office practices, procedures, and equipment.

4. Knowledge of Electronic Document Management System (EDMS).

5. Knowledge of Iowa Courts Online.

6. Ability to prepare accurate and timely documents, correspondence, and reports, including documentation and data for grant funding.

7. Ability to learn and/or operate the County Attorney's Office computer programs.

8. Ability to work in a fast-paced environment

9. Ability to multi-task.

10. Must be a self-starter and motivator.

11. Ability to communicate with the public and act as a liaison for the victim to attorney staff in order to facilitate the communication of the victim as the case progresses.

12. Ability to provide emotional and educational support to victims and witnesses of crimes.

13. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with supervisors, attorneys, co-workers, and the public, as well as law enforcement personnel and Clerk of Court

14. Ability to maintain a large case load.

15. Must be able to travel all over the County.

The position is a grant-funded position with a salary of \$35,000 annually plus benefits

For more information about duties email request to bbowden@leecounty.org

Please send resume to Ross Braden, Lee County Attorney 25 N. 7th St., PO Box 824, Keokuk, IA 52632 or e-mail rbraden@leecounty.org by May 28, 2019



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Sports

Lady Hounds start season with win at WB

BY ETHAN LILLARD PCC SPORTS

WEST BURLINGTON – Fort Madison's staved off a seventh inning rally to get their first win of the season on the road at West Burlington, 7-6.

West Burlington recorded three runs in the bottom of the first inning, putting pressure on Fort Madison. The Bloodhounds responded in the top of the second. Dalyn Wondra started the inning with a walk, before back-to-back outs put the inning in doubt.

Jassmine Bass rebounded for Fort Madison with a walk, before Kylee Cashman logged a single. Olivia Williams followed with a ground ball and reached base safely on an error. The error allowed Wondra and Bass to come in and score for the Hounds, closing the gap to 3-2

Both teams went scoreless for a couple of innings, before a big fifth inning put the Bloodhounds in control. Williams hit a ground ball and once again reached base safely thanks to a Falcon error. Williams stole second base and advanced to third on a wild pitch during Logan Johnson's at bat, as Johnson ended the at bat with a walk, putting runners on the corners.

Cassie Powers came to the plate next. Williams was able to score on a ball that got by the catcher during Powers' at bat, while Johnson moved over to third on the same pitch. Powers then delivered with a single, scoring Johnson for a 4-3 lead.

Maycee Featheringill followed with a single of her own, advancing Katelyn Dennis (who came in to pinch run for Powers) to second. Wondra laid down a sacrifice bunt to move Dennis to third and Featheringill to second

With just one out, Vanessa Golowach grounded into a fielder's choice, as Featheringill was tagged out at third, but Dennis came across to score, making it a 5-3 Fort Madison lead. Ivy Geerdes and Bass recorded back

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to back walks to load the bases, but a strikeout put an end to the threat, as the Hounds left the bases stranded loaded.

Leaving the bases loaded didn't hurt the Hounds in the bottom of the fifth, as they recorded a three up three down bottom of the fifth. Williams grounded out to start the sixth before Johnson got on base with a walk. Johnson then stole second during Powers at bat and later moved to third after Powers grounded out to the short stop.

Featheringill delivered for Fort Madison with the runner in scoring position, singling on a fly ball to center field to bring in Johnson for a 6-3 lead.

The Bloodhounds added to their lead in the top of the seventh inning. Golowach walked to start the inning, before Geerdes singled to move Golowach over to third with no outs. Bass struck out for the first out the next at bat, but Neeley Rehm (who came into run for Geerdes) was able to steal second base during the same at bat.

Kylee Cashman grounded into a double play following the strikeout, but not before Golowach crossed the plate to put the Bloodhounds in the driver's seat with a 7-3 lead.

Despite being down four runs with just one inning left to play, West Burlington was far from done. The Falcons started the home half of the seventh off with back-to-back singles before the Hounds recorded the first out of the inning on a pop out. With two runners on base, the Falcons delivered with a home run over the left field fence to bring them back within one run of the lead

Fort Madison was able to put an end to the threat, collecting another pop out followed by a groundout to end the game for the first win of the season.

Powers, Featheringill and Golowach each had an RBI for Fort Madison. Johnson led the way with two runs scored. Powers pitched all seven innings on 99 pitches, striking out five batters, allowing seven hits and giving up five earned runs.

Fort Madison's next game is scheduled for Friday against Washington at home.



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FM boys off to 2-1 start on campaign

BY ETHAN LILLARD PCC SPORTS

WEST BURLINGTON – Three games into the 2019 baseball season and Fort Madison already has almost half the wins it had over the course of a 25-game season last year.

The Bloodhounds picked up their second win of the season on the road against West Burlington Wednesday night by the final of 9-4.

It was the third consecutive game Fort Madison has scored at least seven runs. The Bloodhounds scored seven runs or more in just three games total last season

Big innings continued to be the theme for Fort Madison, as the Bloodhounds started the game with a seven-run first inning despite collecting just two singles. The rest of the base runners reached on walks and errors.

Fort Madison extended the lead to 8-0 in the top of the second on a Tate Johnson single, before West Burlington responded with three runs in the bottom of the second, trimming the lead to 8-3.

Only two more runs were scored over the final five innings.

Johnson led the way for the Bloodhounds, knocking in two RBIs, while Landes Williams and Reed Fehseke each collected two walks. Jason Thurman had the best day at the plate overall for Fort Madison, going 3 for 5 with a run scored. Brandon Reichelt picked up the win, coming on in relief for Jason Thurman. Thurman threw 5 1/3 innings, giving up 10 hits and two earned runs while striking out three. Reichelt allowed one hit and no earned runs over his 1 2/3 innings striking out one batter.

The Hounds are 2-1 on the year with one win qualifying but pending completion in a six-inning affair with Burlington that was called due to rain. They host Washington in twinbill on Friday starting at 5:30 p.m.

Through three games junior Jace Burgher is leading the Bloodhounds at the plate hitting .429 with three hits in seven plate appearances. Jordyn Gerdes is carrying the heavy bat going .417 on five of 12 hitting including a homer and 3 RBI. Brandon Reichelt is hitting .333 with a homer and leads FM with 5 RBI.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

FRI 24 May



High– 80.0° F | Low – 72.3° F

SAT 25 May



Heavy Intensity Rain
High– 79.6° F | Low – 70.7° F

SUN 26 May



Moderate Rain High- 72.3° F | Low - 65.6° F

MON 27 May



Heavy Intensity Rain High– 71.7° F | Low – 70.1° F

TUE 28 May



Heavy Intensity Rain High– 80.0° F | Low – 71.2° F

<u>OpenWeatherMap</u>