

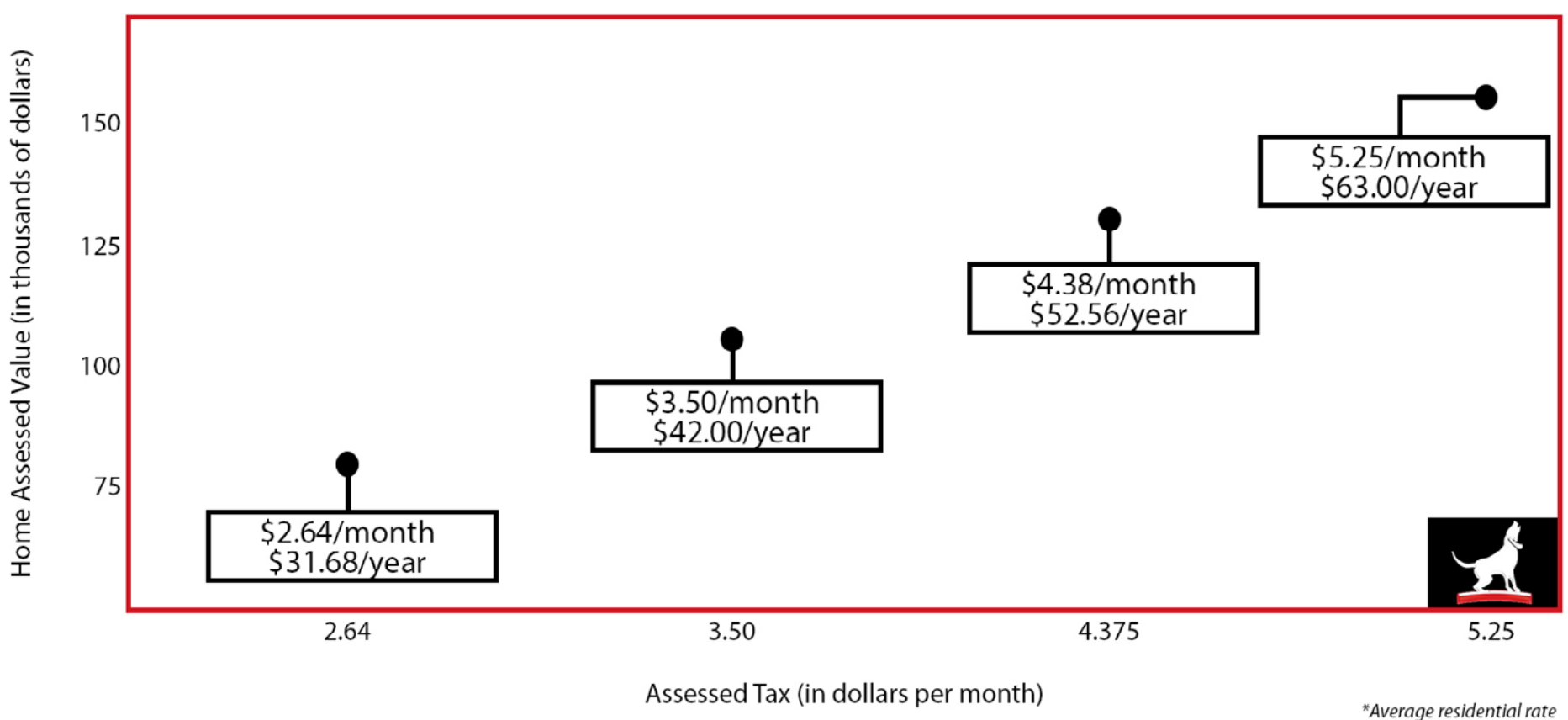


# Pen City Current

Sunday, June 25, 2017 | 8 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 154

## FMCS D Bond Referendum – What Does It Mean For You?

Proposed Bond = 3.5¢ per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation per Month for 20 Years\*



## Teachers discuss value of new school

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A glimpse at the past six decades through the eyes of a group of current and former Fort Madison School teachers gives an insider's look at the school district's current elementary school status.

Former teachers Angie Sodey, Dawn Schnicker, Mary Beth Walker, Sally Denning, Dana Rhein-schmidt, and Kate Lamb, and current Lincoln Elementary teacher Wendy Bailey sat down to discuss the imminent need for a new PreK to 3 facility in Fort Madison.

These teachers represent close to two centuries of combined elementary instruction and said they are very concerned with the current status of the district's Lincoln and Richardson elementary schools.

Issues such as technology, safety, learning culture, environmental distractions, and others prompted the ladies to get behind the effort to build the new \$27

“  
*What I keep coming back with is - Would you want to be doctored the way they doctored 20 years ago. I mean, things change, but we aren't changing and that leaves these children behind.*”

-Kate Lamb  
retired FMCS D teacher

million school on the current middle school campus at Bluff Road and 48th Street. The school is proposed to sit east of the current middle school. The referendum will also include two IHSAA and IGHS AU baseball and softball fields. School Board President Timm

Lamb said the fields were part of the initial public hearing held to discuss the possibility of building the new school.

The referendum vote is set for June 27 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. with four polling locations at the Fort Madison Public Library, Roling Hall in Fort Madison, Grace Bible Church in Wever, and the West Point Public Library. Anyone 18 and over who resides within the district is eligible to vote in the election.

“These schools were state of the art, back in the the 50s and maybe even before that,” said retired teacher Sally Denning. “They just aren't fit anymore to teach these children. They aren't fit to teach these kids if this were the 70s.”

Schnicker said during the hot days of the school year there are so many distractions that learning is constantly interrupted.

“There are times when we'd have five to seven box fans running. Think about that, you've got all that

See **SCHOOL**, page 8

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# Obituaries/Opinion

## 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

**SUN 25 Jun** Clear Skies  
Low – 61.0° F | High – 73.2° F

**MON 26 Jun** Clear Skies  
Low – 55.3° F | High – 71.6° F

**TUE 27 Jun** Clear Skies  
Low – 67.1° F | High – 76.8° F

**WED 28 Jun** Light Rain  
Low – 79.3° F | High – 79.4° F

**THU 29 Jun** Moderate Rain  
Low – 78.6° F | High – 89.4° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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### Letter to the Editor

## New school has right impact on our future

Dear Editor;

Undertaking construction of a new school is a once in a generation event. Its not very often when two communities come to the decision that for a better, competitive education, new infrastructure becomes essential in making that happen. I appreciate that forward thinking and would hope that our communities would rally behind those leadership decisions.

Recognizing the limitations that older school buildings have and realizing that trying to improve on those old buildings would be money not well spent, is just plain fact and makes the decision to vote yes and contribute very simple for me. Our school systems are wanting to invest not only in our children's future, but in our communities' futures as well. We all want our communities to thrive and be successful.

In order for that to happen our school systems must be part of that success plan. We must step up, get excited about the possibilities and do

our part to ensure that it happens! 21st century education is an integral piece of the puzzle that makes the big picture so important. Its decisions such as these that can have such a lasting impact on the future of our communities - one that we can be proud of, and should be part of whether or not you have children in the school system.

Education is competitive just like in business. If we fail to offer our children the latest in technology in an environment conducive to advanced learning, we are assuredly short changing our kids and educators, and as our students fall behind, our communities suffer as well. Maintaining what we have only makes it more difficult for the next group of students and teachers to try and achieve what they can dream.

The time has come. It's what best for our communities. Count me in for the Fort Madison and Holy Trinity school projects!

Brad Randolph  
Fort Madison

### OBITUARIES

## MILDRED GUENTHER

Mildred Guenther, 102, passed away on Wednesday, June 21, 2017 at Life Care Center in Evergreen, CO. She was born in St. Paul, Iowa on October 21, 1914. She and her husband, Walter, raised 5 children together, and was a proud grandmother of 13 grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren and 12 great great grandchildren with 3 expected soon.



GUENTHER

She used a horse and buggy when she was a girl, on her parent's farm, and never drove a car. She was a busy housewife and mother, always active in her church's Catholic Ladies Auxiliary, and involved in the lives of her family, relatives, neighbors and friends. She, constantly, said that she lived a fortunate life and wanted nothing else as she had everything she wanted and needed. She enjoyed art therapy while in the care facility. She was quite an artist and painted several pictures for her family at the young age of 100. She kept up on the Ft. Madison local news through newspapers, church bulletins and mail greetings from relatives and friends.

She is survived by daughters Maribeth Guenther and Bev Schmitt (John), sons Gary Guenther and Michael Guenther, brother Brother Wilbert Leveling, sister Dorothy Delaney, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband Walter Guenther, daughter Shirley Jeffries, baby grandson Jeffries, great granddaughter Sara Guenther, great great grandsons Emmett Michael and Wyatt Henry Jeffries (twins), sisters Betty, Irene and Gen and brother Fr. Carl.

A memorial mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, July 21, 2017 at Ss. Mary & Joseph Church with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. The family will receive friends from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. just prior to the mass at the church. Burial will be held at Gethsemane Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established for St. Jude's Children's Hospital and may be left at the church that day or mailed to St. Jude's Children's Hospital at 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Online condolences to Mildred's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com). The family feels fortunate that we had this sweet, caring and loving mother in our lives for almost 103 years. She will be missed! King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family with the arrangements.



**Joe Sanford**  
Friday, June 30th  
7:30pm



1135 Ave. E  
Wednesday -  
Saturday 5pm

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**Fort Madison Main Street Presents:**

FORT MADISON MAIN STREET'S  
7TH ANNUAL  
**BIG BUCKLE BASH**  
AUGUST 26, 2017  
4 PM - 12 AM

Main Street's Premier Summer Event kicking off Rodeo season welcomes all ages to join in on the fun!  
\$5 Per Person • Food Vendors  
Beer Tent (must be 21 w/ valid ID)  
**DOWNTOWN SHOPPING AT IT'S FINEST!**

Big Buckle Bash 2017 brought to you by:  
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Matt Lafrenz - Country Financial,  
Hy-Vee, J&S Electronics

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**Cruise-In**  
Starting at 4pm

 *The Voice*  
**Singing Competition**  
Starting at 5pm

**Country Musician**  
  
**JAKE DOODS**  
Starting at 8pm

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Click here for more details!

Have Questions?  
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# For the Record/Local News



Photo courtesy of Cynthia Steffik

About 40 residents showed up at the Amtrak depot in Fort Madison Friday evening for a rally to create awareness for the federal government budgeting process on passenger rail service throughout the country. Volunteers also manned voter registration booths.

## For the Record

**Fort Madison Police Report**  
 06/22/17 - 11:13 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 600 block of Avenue D.  
 06/22/17 - 2:33 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident at the intersection of Avenue E and 9th Street.  
 06/22/17 - 4:57 p.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident on Richards Drive.

**Lee County Sheriff's Report**  
 06/22/17 - 11:54 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Jon Michael Zak Sestito, 29 of Keokuk at the Jacksonville Correction Center on a warrant for violation of probation. He remained in custody.  
 06/22/17 - 5:00 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Joshua Vail Welborn, 30, of Fort Madison at the Lee County Sheriff's office on warrants for contempt - resisting a court order, burglary-1st degree,

criminal mischief-2nd degree and assault while participating in a felony with injury. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

*It should be noted that those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law*

**Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report**  
 06/22/17 - Fort Madison firefigther responded to one fire investigation, one burnt food on stove call, and one false alarm on Avenue O.



## IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS



**6/23**  
 12 20 53 66 74  
 Mega Ball: 11  
 Megaplier: 2



**6/24**  
 10 22 32 36 58  
 Powerball: 10  
 Power Play: 4

## 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
Hot Lotto®	Wed & Sat	8:18 pm	9:40 pm
All or Nothing™ - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:45 pm
All or Nothing™ - Evening	Daily	8:00 pm	8:45 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:50 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	8:00 pm	8:50 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:50 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	8:00 pm	8:50 pm



**6/24**  
 11 19 34 35 36  
 Hot Ball: 15  
 Sizzler: 3



**6/23 MID-DAY**  
 1 2 3 4 7 8  
 10 11 15 18 19 22

**6/23 EVENING**  
 2 7 10 13 14 17  
 18 19 20 21 22 23



**6/24 MID-DAY**  
 2 4 5 6 8 9  
 11 13 15 16 18 24

**6/24 EVENING**  
 6 8 9 10 11 12  
 13 15 16 17 19 24



**6/23 MID-DAY**  
 6 1 0  
**6/23 EVENING**  
 2 7 8

**6/24 MID-DAY**  
 4 0 9  
**6/24 EVENING**  
 6 9 8



**6/23 MID-DAY**  
 9 0 5 4  
**6/23 EVENING**  
 5 3 5 3

**6/24 MID-DAY**  
 2 1 4 0  
**6/24 EVENING**  
 9 3 4 3

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**Sports**

# FMHS hosts annual Camp for Champs

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Registration is now open for the annual Fort Madison Wrestling Camp of Champs.

The event will be held July 5-7 at the Fort Madison High School Wrestling Room and is open to all wrestlers in grades 3 through 12.

Featured clinicians this year include Wartburg College national champion T.J. Miller. Miller is also the head coach at Loras College. He was named the Iowa Confer-

ence Coach of the Year and National Rookie Coach of the Year for Div. III this year. Fort Madison's own FMHS coaching staff Ryan Smith is the Camp Director. Derek Doherty, Luke Rickelman, and other staff will also be on hand at the three-day

event. The Camp runs from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. each day and campers registered by the end of the day Monday will receive a free camp shirt and shorts.

A copy of the camp flyer can be accessed by clicking the link below. The

cost of the camp is \$35 and is limited to the first 50 campers so register this weekend to secure your spot at the camp.

Wrestlers must bring their own wrestling gear, headgear is optional but recommended. Street shoes are not allowed on

the mats. The Camp of Champs will focus on all aspects of wrestling and will provide campers with a better understanding of the sport of wrestling that includes the mental, physical, and nutritional aspects of training.

**"BEING A CHAMPION IS AN ATTITUDE"**



(2X STATE CHAMPION RUSSELL WEAKLEY)

**"SUMMER WRESTLERS MAKE WINTER CHAMPIONS"**

Coach Smith  
1990 341<sup>st</sup> Ave.  
Wever, IA 52658

**FORT MADISON WRESTLING CAMP OF CHAMPS**



July 5-7, 2017  
9:30-11:30 a.m.

at the Ft. Madison High School Wrestling Room  
For wrestlers entering 3<sup>rd</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade

**CAMP PHILOSOPHY**

This camp brings proven champions with different wrestling styles as counselors to assist in preparing young wrestlers for higher levels of competition. The camp will focus on all aspects of wrestling and will provide campers with a better understanding of the sport of wrestling that includes the mental, physical, and nutritional aspects of training.

**CAMP DIRECTOR**

Ryan Smith  
(319) 470-2246

**WHAT TO BRING**

Wrestlers must bring their own wrestling gear and are responsible for the gear. Headgear is optional, but recommended. (Street shoes are not allowed on the mats)



(Luther College All-American Dakota Gray)

*"Hard Training, Easy Combat; Easy Training, Hard Combat"*

*\*The featured clinician for this camp has not been determined yet, but guaranteed it will be an All-American/National Champion caliber wrestler.*

*In the past we have had:*

- Mark Ironside: 2X NCAA Champ for Iowa
- Mark Perry: 2X NCAA Champ for Iowa
- Jeff McGinnis: 2X NCAA Champ for Iowa
- Cliff Moore: NCAA Champ for Iowa
- Mike Mena: 4X All-American for Iowa
- Bobby Telford: 3X All-American for Iowa
- Mike Evans: 3X All-American for Iowa
- Gary Steffensmeier: 3X All-American for UNI
- Russell Weakley: 3X All-American for UNC-P
- Dakota Gray: All-American for Luther
- Daniel Dennis: All-American/US Olympian

\*\*\*\*\*

Due to space limitations, only the first 50 applications will be accepted - sign up early!

\*\*\*\*\*

*"Once you've wrestled, everything else in life is easier!"*

-Dan Gable

**CAMP REGISTRATION**

**\*\*Registration (\$35) is due by June 26\*\* to guarantee a camp t-shirt & shorts! (Make checks payable to FMHS Wrestling)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade (2017-18): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**T-SHIRT/SHORT SIZE (circle one):**

YM YL SM MED LG XL XXL

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CONTACT:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

Health Related Info: \_\_\_\_\_

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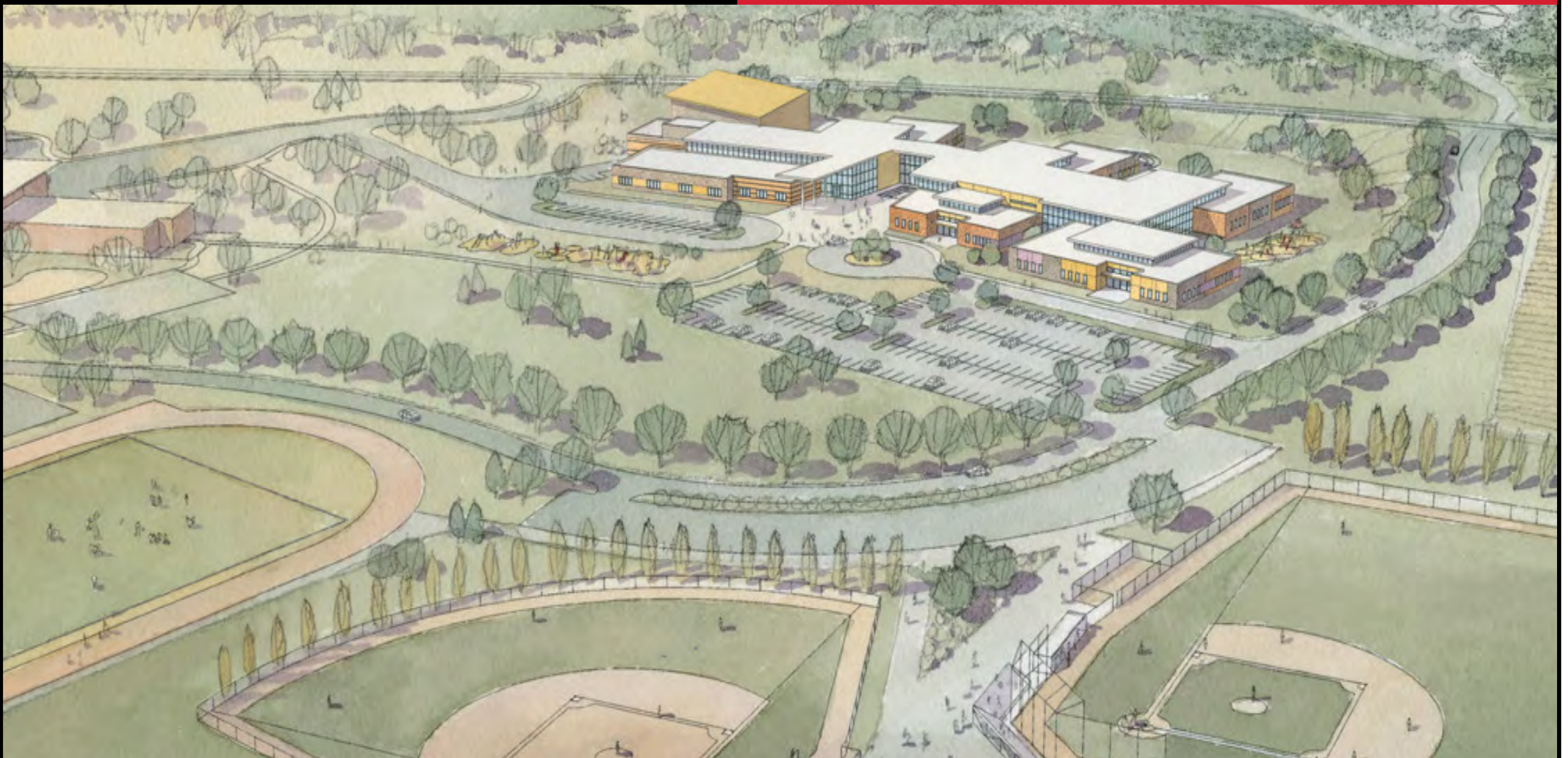


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### EVENT TEAM LEADER

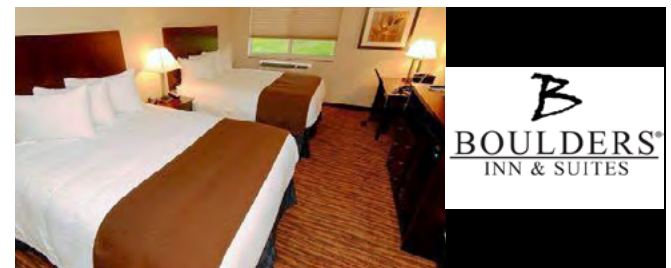
Kempker's True Value Rental is currently seeking a self motivated individual to lead our Event Team. Duties consist of setting up tents, tables and chairs at customer's requested locations throughout the Tri-State area. Starting wage for this position is \$14.00 per hour. Must have a valid drivers license and be able to move and lift heavy objects. Apply in person at 1904 Avenue H in Fort Madison, Iowa. No phone calls please.



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Call (319)371.4125



### PUBLIC NOTICE

Completion of Five-Year Review  
E.I. Du Pont de Nemours & Co., Inc.  
County Road X-23 Superfund Site  
Lee County, Iowa

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed the fifth Five-Year Review for the E.I. Du Pont de Nemours & Co., Inc. County Road X-23 Superfund Site. The review is required to assess whether the remedy continues to be protective. EPA has determined that the remedy at this site is protective of human health and the environment. This report was signed May 12, 2017.

EPA has assessed the ability of the local public to access the Five-Year Review report through an internet-based repository, and has determined that the local community has this ability. As a result, the Five-Year Review report for this site is available through the following website:

<https://semsub.epa.gov/src/collection/07/SC35765>

Questions or requests for site information and/or the five-year review process can be submitted to:

Pamela Houston  
U.S. EPA Community Engagement Specialist  
Toll-free: 800-223-0425  
Email: [houston.pamela@epa.gov](mailto:houston.pamela@epa.gov)

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Pen City  
current

## Real Estate/Classifieds

<b>A</b>  <b>11 Harmony Court</b> Cynthia Otte, Host Listing #20162304	<b>A</b>  <b>35 Oak Drive</b> Jill Kruse, Host Listing #20163626	<b>A</b>  <b>1236 Avenue B</b> Judy Holterhaus, Host Listing #20162810	<b>A</b>  <b>56 Oak Drive</b> Nicole Panther, Host Listing #20165827
<b>A</b>  <b>2723 Avenue C</b> Lori Sproul, Host Listing #20165619	<b>OPEN HOUSES</b> <b>TUESDAY, JUNE 27</b> <b>A 4:30-5:30PM</b> <b>B 5:40-6:40PM</b> Click this ad to visit our website to learn more about these great homes or to view all the listings in the area! <a href="http://www.keepinglivesmoving.com">www.keepinglivesmoving.com</a>  <b>610 Avenue G, Fort Madison, IA</b> <b>319-372-1919</b>  		<b>A</b>  <b>610 Avenue G</b> Kara Morrow, Host Listing #20165559
<b>B</b>  <b>2508 Avenue G</b> Cynthia Otte, Host Listing #20165160	 <b>610 Avenue G, Fort Madison, IA</b> <b>319-372-1919</b>  		<b>B</b>  <b>2116 290th Avenue</b> Jill Kruse, Host Listing #20164245
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## From the Front

# Sodey: New building has changed students' mindset

**SCHOOL** - Continued from Page 1

noise, drop cords all over the place and windows open with all the outdoor noise coming in. It's extremely difficult to teach in those environments with all those distractions.

Lamb, another retired instructor said that she hears people say, 'It was good enough for me and my kids - it's good enough for this generation.'

"What I keep coming back with is, 'Would you want to be doctored they way they doctored 20 years ago,'" Lamb said. "I mean, things change but we aren't changing and that leaves these children behind."

Bailey referred to the technology needs that have long suffered in the district saying that, even in the days of overhead projectors, the schools were behind. She said the school designs weren't conducive to even sharing the technology, not to mention having the money to afford it.

"In most cases we had to share those and you had to keep them on one floor because you couldn't carry them up and down the stairs. And even then technology was chalkboards and rows of desks and that's not the way children are being taught now," she said.

Schnicker said even in the 70s the buildings weren't sufficient to support technology of that time, specifically overhead projectors.

"To see those screens you had to turn off the lights, and that would turn off the ceiling fans and it would just be awful in there. Then you'd have the fans going again and you couldn't hear. We need to address that heat issue for these kids so they can learn unencumbered."

Sodey said one of the worst experiences of her teaching career was when she was helping a student with a paper and sweat dripped off her onto the



SLATER

student's paper.

"I was mortified," Sodey said. "That was one of my most

embarrassing moments teaching and we have to get those kinds of distractions out of the process."

Superintendent Erin Slater showed a picture of a child laying their head on a desk, exhausted from heat on a day that school had to be dismissed. Slater, who's been giving presentations at local groups, service clubs, governmental agencies, etc., said due to busing issues, when she has to dismiss school for excessive heat, she has to do it for all the district.

"Even the schools that have HVAC have to be dismissed because of busing. So the distraction isn't just at the elementary level, it affects each and every one of our students."

The teachers also indicated some concern that the misinformation is being spread about the tax impact of the building.

"There are still a lot of people out there that are misinformed and we've had many many meetings to provide them with the correct information," said Walker.

"I think it's just misinformation and I don't think they bother to find the truth," Denning said. "I was at a baseball game in West Point and someone told me this was the fourth time we were trying to get a bond passed. It's the second time."

Sodey said people need to see what impact the new middle school has had on teaching, and students' mindsets in general.

"If those people would only bother to see what we have at the middle school, it's a wonderful facility, and what those children are able to do in that middle school is amazing. I have taught at



LAMB

a lot of the different schools. I did go back to the middle school at the older place and I

spent some time working with the kids and observed the behavior and I was very concerned about that behavior. I had seen it there before, but I thought it was worse," Sodey said.

"Then I went to the new school and did some volunteering there and you do not see that behavior there. Those kids appreciate that new building and they respect it and what they are doing in those classrooms with that technology is just amazing."

Schnicker said there is also misinformation about the cost of renovating the buildings and that it will cost more to renovate than it will to build and the district will still need a referendum to raise the money to do

that.

Board President Timm Lamb told the Fort Madison Rotary group that it will take \$34 million to renovate the current buildings which would include bringing them up to code, as they are currently grandfathered in on city code as they stand.

Kate Lamb said the cost to the average citizen if the referendum passes is less than nine cents a day.

According to literature from the district, the property tax impact for homeowners in the district would be \$2.64 a month on a home with a \$75,000 assessed valuation or \$31.68 per year. Agricultural land would be taxed at a lower impact to the owner.

If passed, the school is tentatively set to open at the beginning of the 2020 school year and both Lincoln and Richardson school students would attend that new building.

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