



Pen City Current

Monday, Nov. 4, 2019 | 6 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 231

Hope wants another term; Smrt seeks first office

BY CHUCK
VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

Editor's Note: This is the second of two previews on the Tuesday Fort Madison School Board election.

FORT MADISON – Dianne Hope is looking to build on her four years as a board member. Hope said she dealt with a huge learning curve in the first four years, specifically finances. “School finance is totally different than any other finance out there. Debits and credits are still the same, but with the majority of funds coming in from the state with mandates on the use of those funds, it’s been a huge curve,” she said.

“Now that I have a han-



HOPE

dle on that, another four years will be tremendous for me to try to do what’s best for our students and our community.”

Hope was a vocal advocate for the new elementary building and had a referendum voted down, despite having a majority of the vote, on two occasions during her first term on the board.



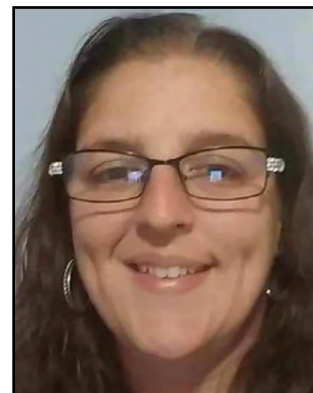
But she said a resolution to the problem has to become clear in the near future because the elementary schools are not a draw to the community.

“The interiors do not do what they need to do, but what it’s going to take I don’t know. The vast majority of people, whether they voted or not, know those facilities are outdat-

ed,” she said.

“Our educators are doing the best they can, but we can and must do better. We owe it to those students to do what we can to give them the best education.”

She said the recent release of news about a facilities assessment in the district could give the district the answers the community may be look-



SMRT

ing for.

Hope said the district always has to be mindful of finances and make sure each dollar is allocated for the best return.

“We’ve been fortunate of late that the valuation of the district has gone up but we must always be mindful of the community we live in.”

Hope had three children

go through the school district and said she’s proud of that, but the district needs to try and stem the tide of open enrollment out of the district. She believes family dynamics and facilities are part of the reason for families taking their children out of the district.

“Families are smaller and that’s a changed dynamic, but I think some of our students are leaving the district because of the facilities. I can’t substantiate that with data, it’s just a feeling,” she said. “I’m glad our parents have choices, whether it’s a home schooling or another district, but Fort Madison is a great district and I’ve very proud all three of my students

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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Trick or Treat with Officer Dalton

While dad gets a photo, Brooklyn Harvey, 8, (left), and Autumn Collier, 2, get some time with Fort Madison Police Officer Courtney Dalton at the Old Settler’s Association’s Trick or Treat at Old Settlers’ Park on Sunday afternoon. The event was delayed from Halloween due to weather.

Reynolds forms state census committee

DES MOINES – Gov. Kim Reynolds announced today that she is forming the Iowa Census Complete Count Committee (CCC) to increase awareness among Iowans about the importance of completing the U.S. Census in 2020. The Governor named Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg as chair of the committee and Secretary of State Paul Pate as vice chair.

“Iowans take their civic responsibility seriously,” said Gov. Reynolds. “In the last two censuses, we’ve been 2nd and 3rd highest in the nation in our initial participation rate. I’m hoping that this committee can help us be first in the nation in Census participation in 2020. In addition to being critical for reapportionment, the Census helps determine the allocation of an estimated \$650 billion each year in funding for schools, roads and other public services.”

“Every ten years since 1790, the U.S. has taken a detailed count of the people, as required by the Constitution,” said Lt. Governor Gregg. “Not only does it guide congressional redistricting, but it is foundational to our representative government, being used to

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For the Record/From the Front

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

10/31/19 – 11:27 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Hailey Noel Gilman, 20, of Montrose, in the 2200 block of Avenue H, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 10/31/19 – 1:07 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the Fort Madison area.
 10/31/19 – 4:43 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2000 block of Avenue L.
 10/31/19 – 9:58 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 100 block of 2nd Street.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

10/31/19 – 7:58 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at Hwy. 61 and Mississippi River Road. According

to reports, a vehicle driven by Salvatore Didino, 65, of Dingman's Ferry, Penn., was stopped at the intersection when he entered the path of a vehicle driven by Ethan Lillard, 27 of Hamilton, Ill., who was headed northbound on Hwy. 61. Didino was transported to Fort Madison Community Hospital with minor injuries and Lillard was treated and released at the scene. Didino was cited for failure to yield.
 10/31/19 – 1:41 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Michael Damien McNitt, 28, in the 3100 block of Mississippi River Road in Montrose, on charges of violation of probation, contempt of court, providing false identification, burglary in the 3rd and interference with official acts. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 10/31/19 – 1:41 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Joseph Duane

Robert Leeper, Jr., 22, in the 3100 block of Mississippi River Road in Montrose, on a charge of 3rd-degree burglary. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 10/31/19 – 2:20 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Cristyna Louise Rivers, 30, of at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 10/31/19 – 3:36 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Malinda Lorri Parsons, 29, of Keokuk, on Mississippi River Road on a charge of 3rd-degree burglary. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 10/31/19 – 5:20 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Lynn Albert Lirette, 56, of Ottumwa, at the Wapello County Jail on a charge of 1st-degree theft. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

10/31/19 – 5:31 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Shaukim Uriah Redd, 26, of Des Moines, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for violation of parole. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
Those listed are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

10/30/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls.
 10/31/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call.
 11/1/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to six medical calls.

CCC to raise state's census awareness


CENSUS - Continued from Page 1

bring fair representation at the state and local levels. By responding to that initial Census mailing, Iowans can help ensure our state is completely counted and fairly represented."

"Iowa is consistently among the top 10 states in the nation for voter registration and participation, and I'm committed to Governor Reynolds' goal to make us number one in Census participation," said Secretary of State Paul Pate. "I have no doubt Iowans will step up once again."

The CCC will work to raise awareness of the Census and its importance and also provide a way to share best practices from the estimated 30-40 local complete count committees that have formed in Iowa. The Census date is April 1, 2020 and this will be the first Census that people are able to respond to online.


More information on the 2020 U.S. Census can be found at www.2020census.gov.




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



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 1 10 31 40 50
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11/2
 3 23 32 37 58
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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
OCTOBER 8, 2019**

The Lee County Board of Supervisors met on Tuesday, October 8, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. at the Correctional Center.

Present: Gary Folluo, Rick Larkin, Ron Fedler, Rich Harlow and Matt Pflug.

All votes are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

The Board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

On motion the Board

voted to approve the agenda, removing items three, four and five, relating to a public hearing for sale of real estate located in the 911 block of 15th Street to the City of Fort Madison; to approve the Tuesday, October 1, 2019 Board minutes; to approve payment of claims; to approve a Farm Lease Bid Sheet for property located by the Jail; to approve Resolution #2019-89- a resolution abating taxes for Stephen and Patsy Smith 1953 300th St Montrose IA 52639; to approve a step increase for County Attorney's Office employee Roslyn Garcia, Paralegal Fine

Collector, from \$16.50/hr. to \$16.95/hr., effective 10/1/19 and step increase for County Attorney's Office employee Lindsey Lofthus, Legal Secretary, from \$17.44/hr. to \$17.95/hr., effective 9/25/19. Received and filed a Manure Management Annual Update for Knee Deep Solutions in Cedar Township and the Commission of Veteran Affairs Minutes of Meeting for August 19, 2019.

At 9:30 a.m., a motion was made by Harlow to adjourn.

The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Correc-

tional Center.

/s/ Gary Folluo, Chair.

Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor.

Full text of this meeting can be found online at www.leeconomy.org or at the Lee County Auditor's Office, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
OCTOBER 22, 2019**

The Lee County Board of Supervisors met on Tuesday, October 22, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. at the Correctional Center.

Present: Gary Folluo, Rick Larkin, Ron Fedler and Rich Harlow. All votes are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

The Board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

On motion the Board voted to approve the agenda; to approve the Tuesday, October 15, 2019 Board minutes; to approve payment of claims; to approve replacing two full-time Correctional Officers; to approve a Tax

Suspension for property located at 1712 Avenue D in Fort Madison.

At 9:08 a.m., a motion was made to adjourn.

The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be Tuesday, November 5, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Correctional Center.

/s/ Gary Folluo, Chair.

Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor.

Full text of this meeting can be found online at www.leeconomy.org or at the Lee County Auditor's Office, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison.

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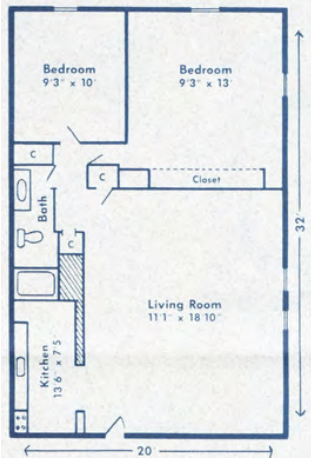
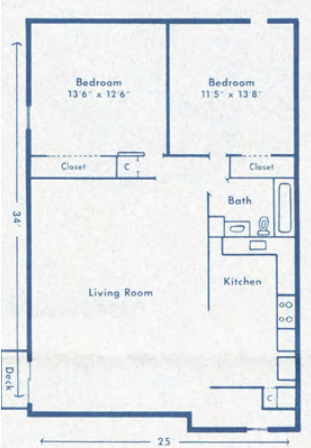
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From the Front/Weather

Smrt wants to look at specialized learning programs

ELECTION - Continued from Page 1

went through the school system.”

She said she'd like to see additional emphasis at the middle school with coding, robotics, STEM programs, and career fairs to open students' eyes to the opportunities they have in front of them.

Candice Smrt said she's had a passion for serving on the board for some time, but it wasn't until someone walked in with a petition for her to sign that

it hit home.

“It just happened to be someone walked with a petition and I was like ‘oh, that's how you do that,’ Smrt said.

“Schools have been important to me my whole life. After coming here and seeing things that I think could be better.”

Smrt came to Fort Madison from the Chicago metro area and compares how things were done there to what is being done here.

“I know that there are great strides to be made, but I believe things are slowly coming around. With the referendums, I understand both sides of people's beliefs and I've been on both sides of the fence on that.”

But now Smrt said she believes the district needs to address the deteriorating Richardson and Lincoln elementaries.

“I'm saying for the kids... if a new school is what the kids need, then that's what they need,” she

said.

“I don't care for the mentality that I don't have kids, or my kids went to that school and it's just fine. Our kids are our future so why are we holding back our future.”

Smrt admits the learning curve is big, but she said it's no bigger than most other people who come onto the board for the first time.

“The first board meeting that I went to was pretty deep. A lot of information was shared and they went into a breakdown of how

things went financially. I'm on the library board and I understand that certain funds are allocated, but there's a lot to learn there,” Smrt said.

“Before I get in there, do I have all the knowledge? I do not. But I want to be a part of that and put my two cents in.”

She also has a passion for individualized education programs for students with learning disabilities.

“That's an area that is near and dear to my heart. I think there are many ways to improve those programs and sometimes it takes a fresh pair of eyes and a fresh brain to bring out those ideas,” she said.

“Trying to get an IEP is difficult because there are

a million loops to jump through and some communication issues. I think that is an area that we can and should do better. I feel very strongly about that.”

Smrt said open enrollment is also an issue that is hurting the district but said she hasn't done a lot of research into that.

“That was said at one of the meetings and they had talked about that. To me, that tells me that the community feels we should be better. I really hope we can get there and the community feels like it can send our students to our schools.”

Repeated attempts to reach school board candidate Lois DiPrima for this article were unsuccessful.

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Submissions are due by the end of the day Friday, November 8th.

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