



# Pen City Current

Friday, April 26, 2019 | 16 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 102

## Reactions mixed on property tax bill

*IPERS tweets bill won't affect public employees pensions*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – After debates that went full into early Thursday morning, a bill that requires Iowa's cities and counties to secure a supermajority before increasing property tax revenues is in front of the governor.

A protracted debate on Senate File 634 ended with the bill moving to Gov. Kim Reynolds' desk after it

was approved by the full House at about 3 a.m. Thursday morning.

The bill would require cities and counties to take extra steps before approving budgets that include more than a 2% increase in property tax revenues from the current year.

If Reynolds signs the bill, it would become effective on July 1, 2020.

The bill is a watered down version of bills that were still being debated as late as Wednesday night. Several stipulations, including a 3% hard cap on property tax revenues and a provision for a voter referendum to reverse the approved increase and a 25% cap on end fund balances, were all pulled from the final approved

version through amendments.

But local officials and Democratic legislators are still concerned.

Currently, municipalities and counties just vote on proposed budgets submitted from budget directors, city managers or administrators after public hearings are held on the budgets.

Under the new bill, the elected boards and councils of each city and county would be required to vote on any proposed increases in property tax revenues over 102% of the current budget year.

That vote would require a two-thirds majority. For

See REVENUE, page 8



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



Former Iowa State Cyclone Ryan Sloth talks with Fort Madison Middle School students Thursday afternoon. Sloth, who has had small roles as a football player in "Leatherheads" and "The Dark Knight" from the Batman franchise, is now a children's book author featuring "Sammy Sloth".



### Beside The Point

Chuck Vandenberg,  
Pen City Current - Editor

*What gives?....bill doesn't expand tax transparency*

As state legislators rubbed their eyes after debating into the early morning hours Thursday, a bill was being sent to Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds desk that will do little to increase the transparency the state GOP says we need.

Senate File 634 was passed by the Iowa House just before 3 a.m Thursday morning. The emphasis of the bill puts a soft cap on the revenue growth of cities and counties in Iowa. Any proposed revenues from property taxes that exceed 102% of the current year's budget must be approved with a supermajority of 67% of the elected board or council.

The bill is a shell of original bills proposed in an effort to make property tax information more transparent to taxpayers.

Rep. Lee Hein, R-Monticello told the Des Moines Register Thursday the goal was never to restrict elected officials' ability to do their job.

"I firmly believe that we need to allow the cities to operate. I mean, there are reasons why they need to raise the taxes," he told the Register. "I just want the transparency, so that whenever the taxpayer opens up his bill, he understands why it went up when the cities

See BILL, page 6

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# Obituaries/Lottery Numbers

## OBITUARIES

### MONA L. HAAS

Mona L. Haas, 80, longtime resident of Keokuk and loving mother died Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at River Hills Village in Keokuk.

According to her wishes she was cremated and there will be no services. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the family and mailed to the Vigen Memorial Home at 1328 Concert St., Keokuk, Iowa 52632.

The Vigen Memorial Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Online Condolences may be made to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

**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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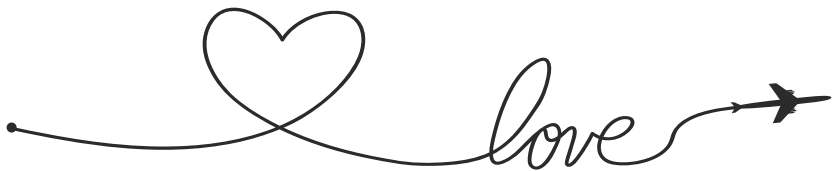


*we'll be right back!*

*Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Sunday, April 28 through Wednesday, May 1 so we can attend the wedding of a family member on the east coast.*

*The e-Edition will resume on Thursday, May 2.*

**Thank for reading!**



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## OBITUARIES

### SANDRA JEAN "SANDIE" VEST CAMPBELL

Sandra Jean "Sandie" Vest Campbell, 81 of Bowen, IL died Wednesday, April 24, 2019 Memorial Hospital in Carthage, IL.



CAMPBELL

She was born August 15, 1937 in Carthage, IL, the daughter of Francis and Virginia Thompson Vest. On May 19, 1956 she was united in marriage to Robert Campbell in Carthage. He survives.

She is also survived by her children, Steve (Julie) Campbell of Augusta, IL, Robin (Roy) Scott of Keokuk, Darla (Fred) Birkhofer of Camdenton,

MO, Marla (Rick) Berry of Hamilton, IL, Robert (Oknan) Campbell of Girard, IL and Donna Campbell Amandus of Ft. Madison, IA, grandchildren, Tawnya (Kent) Boyd, Megan Ritter, Michael Homan, Nathan Campbell, Nic (Samara) Campbell, Preston Scott, Isaac Seay, Trent Justice (Charla Holmes), Shannon Homan (Dustin Racen), Jacquelyn Scott, Gwen Scott, Whitney Vigen, Raven Campbell, Dylan (Corbyn) Schrader, Mike (Erika) Berry, Jackson Amandus, great grandchildren, Alivia Nelson, Saydee Boyd, Maddie Boyd, Isaiah Seay, Emerson Glasgow, Illona Seay, Kyliee Vigen, Irelynn Seay, Robin Lauren Glasgow, Kloe Homan, Mary Claire Ritter, Callan Vigen, Birdie Schrader, Greyson Justice, Evie Berry

and Miller Marie Racen, brother and sisters, Ronald (Marilyn) Vest of Bowen, IL, Terri (Pat) Sullivan of Colchester, IL and Ginger Rexroat of Colchester, IL.

She was preceded in death by her parents, sons, Chris and Randy Campbell in infancy, granddaughter, Deborah Ann Fuller, grandsons, Joshua Scott and Christopher Berry and her sister, Ann Whitaker.

Sandie graduated from Bowen High School.

She was a member of the Bowen Christian Church.

Sandie enjoyed being a homemaker and spent her life making a wonderful home for her husband and children.

Sandie was well known for her stunning handmade Santa Clause dolls known as "Sandie's Santas". She was a skilled seamstress and

made quilts for every newborn member of her family. Sandie also had a love for writing and was gifted in poetry. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren were the sunshine of her life and she loved spending time with them. Above all, her greatest pride and joy was her very large family.

She loved hosting family gatherings and bringing everyone together as often as possible, but her favorite of all was the annual Campbell family Christmas Eve.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, at Bowen Christian Church in Bowen, IL.

Memorials may be made to Memorial Hospital or the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).



## 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™	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



**4/24**  
6 32 35 36 65  
Powerball: 4  
Power Play: 5



**4/24**  
3 14 15 26 46  
Star Ball: 4  
All Star Bonus: 2



**4/24 MID-DAY**  
5 6 3  
**4/24 EVENING**  
4 0 5



**4/24 MID-DAY**  
7 6 9 2  
**4/24 EVENING**  
6 7 6 2

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## Pen City Current

Founded in 2016



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**For the Record/Area News**

**38 Special to headline Burlington event**

BURLINGTON – A series of outdoor concerts is planned for the Burlington Riverfront June 21 and 22.

Headliners for the two-day event were recently announced. Country music artist Granger Smith will headline Friday with Southern rock act 38 Special taking the premiere slot Saturday.

“Our goal is to showcase ten bands over two days,” said Mike O Neil, Executive Director of Burlington Riverfront Entertainment.

Burlington Riverfront Entertainment is organizing the concerts in collaboration with Peoria-based Inked Entertainment.

June 22nd’s event will have a rock focus. Several regional rock bands are still being finalized to perform in addition to 38 Special. With several Gold and Platinum albums to their credit, concert goers will recognize many songs from the featured band including “Hold On Loosely,” “Rockin’ Into



Courtesy Photo

National country rock band 38 special will headline a two-day summer concert series in Burlington in June.

the Night,” “Caught Up in You,” “Fantasy Girl,” “If I’d Been the One,” “Back Where You Belong,” “Chain Lightnin’,” “Second Chance.”

Friday’s concerts will all feature country music with Mitchell Tenpenny and Hardy joining headliner Smith in the lineup. Smith is best known for his number one smash hit “Backroad Song” which he followed with top five single “If the

Boot Fits.” His current full length album When the Good Guys Win has spawned the top fifteen hit “Happens Like That” and current fast-rising single “You’re In It.” Tenpenny will perform crowd-pleasing party songs like “Drunk Me” and “Alcohol You Later”. Hardy, a relative newcomer to the nationally touring country music scene, is making waves with his debut single

“Redneck.” Local artists David Kroll & Heartland and Stumptown will also play on June 21.

Tickets for either night are \$30. A weekend pass is available for \$50. VIP tickets are also offered at \$10 more per ticket. Tickets can be purchased at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com) or at the Burlington Memorial Auditorium Box Office. Box Office hours are Tuesday- Friday 10:30 am – 4:30 pm.

**For the Record**

**Fort Madison Police Report**

04/24/19 – 10 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested David Patrick Mortimer, 54, of Fort Madison at the Lee County Jail on a charge of 3rd degree burglary. He was held in custody.

04/24/19 – 10:22 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in progress in the 300 block of Avenue C. 04/24/19 – 11 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Josh Corcoran, 37, of Fort Madison, in the 500 block of 2nd Street, on a charge of 3rd degree theft. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

04/24/19 – 5:16 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a shoplifter in the 2600 block of Avenue L.

04/24/19 – 5:18 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2300 block of Avenue H.

04/24/19 – 6:10 p.m.

– Fort Madison Police arrested Erica Marie Bushinger, 34, in the 3100 block of Avenue K, on a charge of 5th degree theft and child endangerment. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

**Lee County Sheriff’s Report**

04/24/19 – 1:25 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Tab Andrew Bottger, 46, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff’s office on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

04/25/19 – 1:34 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Ashley Michelle Youngs, 23, of Savannah, Ga., in the 2600 block of Hwy. 2, on charges of disorderly conduct and public intoxication.

*Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*



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Sports

# Lady Hounds slide by Keokuk, 2-1

BY ETHAN LILLARD  
PCC SPORTS

ism. Make your Pen City Current subscription donation here.

The game began with gusty conditions at the 5 p.m. start time and half-way through the first half, rain added to the equation. That didn't stop Fort Madison's Brandy Walker.

Taking advantage of having the wind at their backs in the first half, the Bloodhounds kept the ball on the offensive side of the field for a majority of the first.

In the 19th minute, the Hounds offense got rolling when Braxtyn McGhghy found a crease in the Chief defense, placing the ball into an opening with space for Walker. Walker took possession of the ball and slipped past Keokuk's defense for the first goal of the game.

"That's one reason why



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

FMHS's Brandy Walker gets free in the middle of the field on the way to one of her two goals on the night in the Hounds' 2-1 win over Keokuk in girls soccer action Thursday night in Keokuk.

KEOKUK – Football players are known to get into a warrior-esque mindset when they step on the field.

Playing on a football field Thursday, Fort Madison's girls soccer team adopted that warrior like mentality and played through wind and rain for a 2-1 victory over Southeast conference foe Keokuk on the Chiefs' home field.

"We've played Keokuk 11 times since we started our program," Fort Madison Head Coach Sebastian Seifert said. "We've only won one game. This is just our second win against them and on their home turf is even better. I'm happy with that."

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we have her out there," Seifert said. "She is tall and physical and can muscle her way through the defensive line. She rewarded that with two

goals today."

Walker put that same speed on display 10 minutes later when the Bloodhounds advanced the ball to the offense half of the field with a little help from the wind. Walker was the first to the loose ball and kept her momentum rolling all the way to the Chiefs' front door for another goal, giving Fort Madison a 2-0 advantage. Walker was the only player to score in the first half, as both teams took a brief break from the conditions at halftime.

Coming back from the

half, Fort Madison and Keokuk flipped offensive sides of the field, as the Hounds were now facing the wind, giving the Chiefs the advantage.

Less than five minutes into the second half, the wind paid dividends for Keokuk, as Isabel Vandenberg sent a high flying shot over the head of Fort Madison keeper Josie Pumphrey.

Vandenberg's goal was the only good fortune the Chiefs found on the day, as Fort Madison continued to dominate time of possession the rest of the

second half, holding the Chiefs scoreless for 36 minutes for the 2-1 win.

"Getting the W is a good answer, but the way we played, I'm not satisfied," Seifert said. "This field is a little more narrow than ours. I think they struggled with spacing, but we got the win and that's what matters."

Fort Madison moves to 5-3 on the season and sit at No. 2 in the Southeast conference. The Hounds are back at the friendly confines of Baxter Sport Complex Tuesday as they take on Fairfield.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

FMHS senior Braxtyn McGhghy sets to throw in to Fort Madison Allysa Fincher in Thursday's soccer action at Keokuk. The Hound moved to 5-3 on the year with a 2-1 win.

## FMHS boys sweep singles at Keokuk

BY CHUCK  
VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

KEOKUK – The clouds opened up after Fort

Madison swept all six singles matches at Keokuk Thursday night, cancelling any doubles action.

But the Bloodhounds took all six singles matches from Keokuk highlighted by a tiebreaker at No. 5 singles.

Fort Madison's Bryce Workman took the first set at No. 5 with a 7-6 win after taking the 6-6 tiebreaker with a 7-3 win in the tiebreaker first-to-seven by two, over Keokuk's Will James.

James would turn the tables with an easier 6-3 win in the second set forcing another tiebreaker with each player winning a set. Workman won the

first-to-10 tiebreaker 10-5 to take the match.

At No. 1, Sam Avery downed the Chiefs Abbott Haner 6-2, 6-3 and then Jason Thurman shutout Kaiden Stoneking with identical 6-love sets at No. 2.

Vasin Thurman downed Callum Tackes 6-2, 6-1 at No. 3 singles and No. 4 Reed Fehseke gave up just one game in a 6-0, 6-1 win over Jared Evans. Levi Sissell cleaned things up at No. 6 with a 6-3, 6-1 win over Tucker Hannon to give the Hounds the win.

The boys host Mt. Pleasant on Friday at Fort Madison High School's courts.

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## From the Front/Classifieds

# IPERS tweets bill won't affect retirement pensions

**BILL** - Continued from Page 1

are saying they didn't raise the levy."

What will be in that tax bill? There's nothing in the legislation that requires a letter explaining the tax bill to the tax payer. The bill says a public hearing is required and a super majority vote if revenues are proposed at a 2% increase or higher.

There's nothing in here to provide transparency, that isn't already being done. People now, without the bill yet being signed by the Governor, have the right to question their property tax bill. They even have the right to contest their assessment.

City and county books are open records and any resident can walk in and ask any questions they want. I do it all the time. Of all the budget votes I've seen in the past two years most didn't exceed the 2% threshold and most were by unanimous votes.

This is a Republican controlled legislature telling local governments how to operate. They've already mandated minimum wages and mental health fund spend downs.

Democrats fought hard into the night to keep a 3% hard cap on growth which could have had immediate impacts on governments. They also fought off a 25%

end fund balance, which would have limited local government's ability to save for future needs.

The real winners in this fight appear to be the Democrats, unless of course something is buried deep in the legislation. A summary of the bill from the Legislative Services Agency wasn't available Thursday afternoon.

There is also a viral concern on social media that the bill is, what Rep. Jeff Kurtz (D-Fort Madison) called an "indirect attack on IPERS and 411, which are retirement funds for public employees, police and firefighters.

A tweet from IPERS on Thursday read, "Regarding recently passed property tax bill, SF 634: This bill does not alter the employers' obligation to pay the employer portion of IPERS' contributions as established annually under Iowa Code Section 97B.11. This bill does not affect a member's or retiree's pension."

But any revenue's that do get capped by councils or boards that can't meet the supermajority for whatever reason, could impact a local government's ability to pay fund those payments. Democrats contend now revenues for those contributions have to compete with other services.

I've listened to conversation with Lee County Super-

visors where they stress yearly trying to figure out what gets cut from the budget, what can't be done, and then prioritize what can be done with what's left.

The city of Fort Madison is in the middle of serious budget constraints that have almost derailed several important community economic projects and are squeezing budgets of several important community resources.

In a nutshell, cities and counties can breathe easier knowing they still have control on any potential growth in revenues. The concern on my end is where is the increased transparency. Nothing happened here that provides additional access to information.

Ignorance isn't bliss and the math isn't that complicated. If your city or county reports its tax levy, which sets their part of the total property tax bill, is the same as last year, but your bill went up, either some other entity's rate went up, or your valuation went up. But it's all explainable with a phone call to the governmental agency. That was in place yesterday...and today...and will be tomorrow.

This bill won't solve the problem of people not understanding their tax bill.

So it begs the question. What's this all about anyway? But maybe that's Beside the Point.


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# Classifieds/Public Notices

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICE Sale of County Owned Property

The Lee County Board of Supervisors is accepting sealed bids for two properties located in the unincorporated town of Argyle, Iowa.

The first property is located at 1808 294th Street. Lee County Assessor Teresa Murray has assessed this property at \$2,310.00 for the land and \$3,210.00 for the structure that is located on the land. Notice is hereby provided that the west wall of the structure abuts adjoining property to which there is no access or easement and the adjoining landowner will not allow access from his property.

The second property is located at 1806 294th Street. Lee County Assessor Teresa Murray has assessed this property at \$920.00.

There will be a Public Showing of these properties on Friday, April 26, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Questions can be addressed by contacting the County Auditor at the above phone number or email or by contacting Lee County Engineer Ben Hull at 319-372-2541

### PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE WEST POINT UTILITY SYSTEM WEST POINT, IOWA April 9th, 2019

The West Point Municipal Utility System Board of Trustees met in regular session at, West Point City Hall, West Point, Iowa 52656 on April 9th, 2019. Board Chairman Randy Welding presided and called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Board Member Brian Schmitz along with Board Member Ted Vonderhaar were both present. Tentative agenda was approved by consensus. Status of delinquent accounts was discussed and considered by Board Members in detail. Field operations report, as prepared by Utility Superintendent, was discussed by Board Members in detail. Board Chairman was reported on the following: The next regular Utility System Board Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, May 14th, 2019 at West Point City Hall 5:30 p.m. and is open to the public. On motion, minutes of prior regular meeting of March 12th, 2019 was approved. On motion, approved warrants payable for April 9th 2019 as presented. On motion, meeting adjourned at 6:15

p.m., May 14th, 2019.

### EXPENDITURES FOR MAY 2018

3rd GENERATION ELECTRIC - TRENCHING	150.00
ABOLT, RON - REBATE	100.00
AMAZON - COMPUTER HARDDRIVE	75.44
COMMUNITY ACTION - REFUND	271.62
DAILY DEMOCRAT- LEGAL PUBLICATION	90.79
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EMBELLISHMENTS & DESIGN - LOGO / DECALS	360.00
EFTPS - FED/FICA TAX	6,575.33
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FLOYDS EZWAY - TRASH PICK UP	120.00
FULLENKAMP INSURANCE - ANNUAL INS PREMIUM	17,381.58
G WORKS - D. SMITH USER GROUP MEETING	50.00
HOLTKAMP AUTOMOTIVE - F350 REPAIRS	3,413.79
HOLTKAMP, DAWN - MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT	14.79
HUFFMAN WELDING & MACHINE - BATTERY CHARGER	272.38
IOWA ASSOC OF MUNICIPAL UTIL - FY19-20 DUES	4,897.00
IPERS -RETIREMENT	3,935.57
KEMPKERS TRUE VALUE - FASTNER NUTS	59.39
MCFARLAND - SUPPLIES	22.04
MASTERCARD - MICROSOFT UPGRADE	487.22
MEDIACOM - TELE / INTERNET	174.87
MENKE AUTO PARTS - OIL,CHAINS,LIGHT,FILTER	221.20
METERING & TECH SERVICES - METERS	3,494.92
OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE- FYE 18 FEE	112.50

### HELP WANTED

#### COMMUNITY GARDEN COORDINATOR NEEDED

RSVP/United Way of the Great River Region is seeking a Community Garden Coordinator

Do you like to garden and work outdoors?  
Do you like to plan, plant and harvest food?

We are seeking an individual this Spring who will plan, plant, cultivate, harvest and lead other volunteers in our Community Garden (garden is located at 2606 Avenue L, Fort Madison, Iowa behind Hy-Vee).

Must enjoy working outside, gardening and harvesting. Will direct garden activities with other volunteers and may require some bending, stooping and lifting of 10 lbs. or less...Times: 1 hour, 2 times per week.

If interested and for more information, please call – Tammy at 319-372-8043.

United Way of the Great River Region supports non-profit organizations and agencies that provide programs addressing needs in health, education and financial stability to residents in Clark, Hancock, and Lee Counties.

United Way of the Great River Region serves all of Lee, Hancock, and Clark Counties. All donations are tax-deductible.



### HELP WANTED

#### WE'RE HIRING

Holy Trinity Catholic is a growing, future ready school in Southeast Iowa. Holy Trinity Catholic School seeks qualified, committed, and talented individuals for a variety of positions that will allow them to fulfill their unique potential within the context of faith based education.

- Junior/Senior High School Administrator – full time position that requires a Master's in school administration, experience in curriculum planning desired.
- Junior/Senior High Math Teacher - full time, degree and certification required
- Senior High School English Teacher - full time, degree and certification required
- Senior High School Spanish Teacher - full time, degree and certification required
- TAG Teacher – 0.5 time, degree and certification required
- Upper Elementary Music Teacher – 0.4 time, degree and certification required
- Business Manager – full time, degree in Business or Accounting required
- Janitorial Staff - full time

Please contact Judi Dinwiddie at judi.dinwiddie@holycatholicsschools.org for additional information in regard to all open positions.



QUAD CITY TESTING LAB - INSPECTIONS	1,267.95
RATHBUN REGIONAL WATER - WATER PURCHASE	4,692.50
RESALE POWER GROUP OF IOWA - ELECTRIC PURCHASE	58,278.74
RICHOH USA - COPIER / LEASE	65.32
SENSUS USA INC. - ANNUAL REPORT FEE	1,949.94
SONNY'S SUPERMARKET - SUPPLIES	19.42
STAPLES CREDIT PLAN - OFFICE FURNITURE	344.97
STATE HYGIENIC LAB- LAB FEES	13.00
STUART C. IRBY - INSULATOR	282.48
SUN LIFE FINANCIAL	96.59

### COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT

#### Office Space for Rent

Office / retail space available for rent at 1225 Avenue H Fort Madison. 875 square feet of open space. Ample parking, visible advertising sign, great location. Please inquire at 319-470-1384.

### HOUSES FOR SALE

#### NEW LOWER PRICE



IT MAY BE COLD OUTSIDE.....but it's nice and warm with this GEOTHERMAL FURNACE 3 bedroom home with garage and out building near the west edge of Ft Madison. Approximately 1,275 square feet upstairs and 1,140 square feet down stairs. This home has a large living area downstairs that sports a second kitchen. Also a second bathroom and a ground floor laundry. This home is newly remodeled with NEW Frig, New Stove, and New microwave, New Dishwasher New counter top and New light fixtures and ceiling fans thru out. Also has new carpet and new paint thru-out, Brand new roof and new garage door opener. With its GEOTHERMAL heating and air conditioning it will have a very conservative utility bill. Also has city water along with a sand point well and a septic leech field that was recently inspected. The address is 2311 263 ave Ft Madison. Priced at \$143,000 For a private showing call Todd at 319-470-8711.

TASCO - PAGER	122.95
TREASURER STATE OF IOWA - TAXES	4,513.08
USA BLUEBOOK - TEST KITS	114.48
US POSTAL SERVICE	101.74
VERMEER SALES -2007 MCLAUGHLIN V500	38,115.00
WELLMARK BC/BS OF IOWA - INSURANCE	2,178.55
WEST POINT LUMBER - SUPPLIES	40.18

WEST POINT UTILITIES - UTILITY CHARGES	2,425.41
WEX BANK - GASOLINE	144.36
WIEGAND, TED - CPA AUDIT FYE18	2,050.00
WINDSTREAM - TELEPHONE	179.46

/s/ Randy Welding, Chairman  
Attest: Dawn M. Holtkamp, Billing & Collection

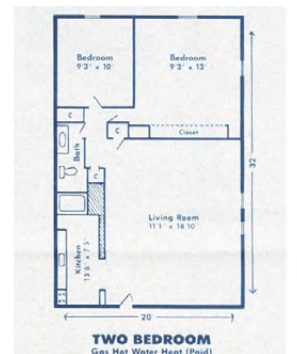
### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

#### Chateau Apartments Extra Clean & Quiet Apartments for Rent

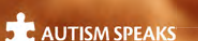


Extra clean & quiet with free YMCA membership included. 2 bedrooms, some with decks/patio. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, built-in microwave. Non-smoking, no pets. Very affordable security deposit \$300. Must pass background & credit checks (no felonies). Large

backyard with picnic tables & glider swing in very nice, quiet neighborhood. Rents range from \$585-\$635. Lease required. 850 sq. ft. units. All electric. Water, sewer, trash furnished. 650 sq. ft. units. Water, heat, sewer, gas, trash furnished. Laundry rooms have new coin-operated washers & dryers (located in all buildings). On-site manager. Call 319-372-9409 or 319-750-3115 for appointment to view. Owned by Alliance Realty Co.



Lack of speech is a sign of autism. Learn the others at autismspeaks.org/signs.



**From the Front/Weather**

# FM City Manager says state needs to focus on state

**REVENUE** - Continued from Page 1

the Lee County Board of Supervisors, that would mean three of the five supervisors would need to vote in favor of the increase.

Lee County Supervisor Gary Folluo said getting three of five supervisors to agree on a budget isn't abnormal, but he said election years could make things difficult.

For the Fort Madison City Council, which has seven councilman, five of the seven councilman would need to vote in favor of the increase.

"I don't think it would be a problem," he said. "But you've got election years in there and some people are different in election years."

He said the county is already facing shortfalls every year and this is just another potential pitfall for revenues to cover services to county residents.

"We're faced every year with cuts in the area of \$400,000 to \$1 million that we have to scale back for. If there are other shortfalls or mandates that are unfunded, that's problematic for the county and municipalities," he said.

"Then if you add in unfunded rollbacks, you're talking about a whole different story. We're just being asked to do more with less every single legislative year."

The rollback is the 2013 state property tax rollback that was implemented under the commitment that the state would "backfill" revenues to local governments for revenues lost as part of the rollback. State officials have been talking for the past several years

about scaling back or eliminating those backfill payments.

Fort Madison City Manager David Varley wrote in an email to the Pen City Current on Wednesday, the move is essentially the state telling local governments how to go about business.

"This is a local control issue. The state should not put an arbitrary growth limit on cities. They should take care of their own house and let us take care of ours," Varley wrote.

He said personnel costs, which represent about 70% of the city's budget routinely grow by more than 2%.

"Our personnel costs for wages, health insurance, etc. go up more than 2% every year so that means we would have to make cuts somewhere else or everywhere," Varley wrote.

"Over the long run you could end up with only enough money to pay for the employees but not enough for supplies for them to do anything or the reverse could happen. It just doesn't make sense at all."

State Rep. Jeff Kurtz (D-Fort Madison) said the bill hurts Iowa communities and is an indirect attack on public retirement funds.

"The thing is they group IPERS and 411 (police and fire retirement funds) into one general fund so it competes with things like public safety and puts IPERS and 411 in danger," Kurtz said.

"The bill hurts communities because of these soft caps. They talked about it being a bill for property

taxes, but it doesn't mean you're going to have lower property taxes. Other than us meddling in local business, I don't know what they thought was supposed to happen."

Varley said the remedy for citizens who don't like what a city is doing is solved at the ballot box.

"If the citizens don't like what a city is doing financially, then they could vote them out of office. You can't run a city well if you have such little control over your own destiny. Iowa has a state government that seems to enjoy restricting cities instead of taking care of state business," he said.

Fort Madison Mayor Brad Randolph said from his understanding of the changes, the bill doesn't have that much of an impact. He said he didn't think Fort Madison revenues had increased more than 2% since a Quality of Life bond was passed several years ago, but said during reassessments, like the county just experienced, you could find yourself in that situation.

He said the bill is being touted to increase transparency, but he said Fort Madison holds public hearings on budgets every year and residents have access to any information they need to educate themselves on their property tax bill.

"I think we do a decent job of being transparent and I would err on the side of being overly transparent," Randolph said.

"I don't want anyone to think we're hiding something. I think we do a pretty decent job of justifying what we're spending and why. People don't like being taxed in general, including myself. But to make government function and provide services there has to be some taxes assessed."

## FIRST IMPRESSIONS LAST

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### 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

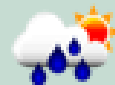
**FRI 26 Apr**



Clear

High- 60.2° F | Low - 52.3° F

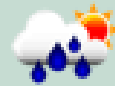
**SAT 27 Apr**



Light Rain

High- 60.4° F | Low - 38.6° F

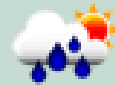
**SUN 28 Apr**



Light Rain

High- 54.6° F | Low - 51.7° F

**MON 29 Apr**



Moderate Rain

High- 60.4° F | Low - 55.5° F

**TUE 30 Apr**



Heavy Intensity Rain

High- 47.2° F | Low - 47.0° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)



## Hop in for fresh spring decor

**The Easter Bunny knows where to shop for Easter and Spring decor!**

Dishware, house plants and succulents in addition to our regular offerings.

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