



# Pen City Current

Sunday, April 8, 2018 | 12 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 96

## Soroptimists make fiction reality for FM youth

*12th annual Princess Tea party brings fairytales to life*

**BY AVA PEITZ**  
PCC Holy Trinity Catholic Intern

FORT MADISON - The local Soroptimists brought fiction to reality for many youth Saturday as local princesses gathered at Fort Madison Comfort Inn & Suites for the

annual Soroptimist Princess Tea Party Fundraiser. The Soroptimists are a 'global volunteer network of women working to improve the lives of women.' Soroptimist International has almost 95,000 members in over 120 countries. Dr. Lauri Wondra is a Soroptimist member, and was pleased with the success of the Soroptimist Princess Tea Party thus far. The group put on two tea parties on Saturday, one from 10 a.m. to noon and the other from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. with local volunteers. "I always think it's a success. You look at the little girls' faces and for us, that is a success," Wondra said.

When asked about a set monetary goal for the fundraiser, Wondra mentioned a different type of goal. "You know, we really don't have a set monetary goal. Our goal is to make every little girl feel special." The funds raised at the tea party will go towards other Soroptimist actions involving the community. "We give a scholarship to a woman head-of-household, we do a Golden Age Luncheon, and then we do the Academic Achievement Luncheon," she said.

See **PRINCESSES**, page 3

## Two Jakes, and Houser coming to Rodeo

*Owens, McVey to take main stage in Sept.*



Photo by Tri-State Rodeo committee/PCC

BURLINGTON - Country superstars Jake Owen, Randy Houser and Jake McVey will supplement the high-octane rodeo action at this year's Tri-State Rodeo in Fort Madison, Iowa.

At the rodeo's annual reveal party Saturday night that Boogaloo Sports Bar & Grill in the Pzazz complex, 2018 Rodeo General Chairman Josh Denning unveiled the lineup for this year's 71st event.

The annual Tri-State Rodeo will be held Sept. 5-8. This annual event showcases exciting rodeo acts as well as professional musical entertainment. And once again this year, new and exciting things are planned for audiences of all ages.

Wednesday night will once again feature

Country music star Jake Owen will be the Saturday night entertainment for the 2018 Tri-State Rodeo. The Tri-State Rodeo committee announced Owen, along with Jake McVey and Randy Houser, as this year's main stage entertainment Saturday night at the annual reveal party at the Boogaloo Sports Bar and Grill.

the top cowboys on the circuit in the CINCH Shootout. This exciting event is invitation-only for the cowboys and brings many World Champions to the Tri-State Rodeo to compete for over \$120,000 in prize money. This event is sponsored by CINCH Jeans and begins at 7 p.m. sharp.

The PRCA action will

start on Thursday with rodeo performances beginning at 7 p.m. The rodeo competition will be followed by the compelling Jake McVey. McVey combines his up-beat music and youthful enthusiasm with a seasoned eye for reading the crowd. With a loyal fan base, McVey will be sure to please the crowd with his fiery stage show

and arsenal of ear-grabbing songs.

Friday evening's PRCA rodeo performance begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be followed by country singer songwriter, Randy Houser. Houser brings his musical talents to life with "Like a Cowboy", and "How Country

See **RODEO**, page 10

## Businesses team up for ladies event

**ANIAH ROSS**  
PCC FMHS INTERN

FORT MADISON - More than 30 women and children joined Kempker's True Value Rental and Jim's Greenhouse for their first Miniature Garden Workshop held in conjunction with Kempker's first ever Ladies' Spring Event Thursday.

The workshop attendees were given a base containing soil and were instructed to choose at least six plants, both provided by Jim's Greenhouse. They were able to choose from a variety of plants to go into the pot, and decorate them with an assortment of figurines ranging from fairies to miniature picnic tables that are always available for purchase at Kempker's. The event was both enjoyable and educational.

Jamie Kramer, the Marketing and Public Relations Manager at Jim's Greenhouse, was there to instruct and teach the ladies a little something about putting together their own miniature fairy garden. She

See **LADIES**, page 6



Photo by Aniah Ross/PCC

Ladies from around the area took part in the first ever Ladies Spring event at Kempker's True Value Rental in Fort Madison Thursday.

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# GRAND OPENING

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## From the Front/Opinion

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## School board oblivious to community's voice

Dear Editor:

"The keys to brand success are self-definition, transparency, authenticity, and accountability"—Simon Mainwaring

Once again the voters in the Fort Madison community have said no to building a new grade school. This is the third time they've said no, which means it's the third time that time, money, and resources have gone towards trying to convince them to say yes. Time, money, and resources that could've been spent on something more worthwhile for our schools and students, possibly.

And instead owning the responsibility to PROVE to the community why we so desperately need this new school, those involved blame the community by stating things such as this by Board member Gayla Young, "We had tours, we had meetings, and our emails are public. Do you know how many people emailed me for information—zero. I can't believe there are people out there that don't want what's best for these kids."

To further this, Erin Slater stated "We still believe this is the right thing for Fort Madison and the younger students. We need to figure out how to correct the misinformation voters used to vote no."

It is NOT the community's burden to hunt down information or to even ask for it as individuals, it is the Board's responsibility to make sure that information is fully provided to ALL voters in as many ways as possible, in as easily accessible ways as possible.

When the community cannot get straight answers through statements by the Superintendent and Board members, as quoted by area news sources, then why should they individually seek out additional information?

See LETTER, page 4



Photo by Ava Peitz/PCC

Claire Hellman "Tinkerbell" gives some time to one of the princesses at the annual Soroptimist Tea Party Saturday morning at the Comfort Inn & Suites. The children dressed up as princesses and got to spend time with fictional characters.

## Soroptimists help women promote women

**PRINCESSES** - Continued from Page 1

Wondra encourages others to join Soroptimist International.

"Anything we can do to encourage women promoting women is just an awesome thing. When we (women) band together, we are just unstoppable. I think that's a great reason to join Soroptimist."

The local princess was allowed to bring along a guest, or multiple guests, who can partake in activities with them such as crafts, dancing, and enjoying tea and cook-

ies.

Jillian Ireland attended with her daughter Evelyn for the first time. "My daughter is just obsessed with princesses, and seeing the light on her face when she gets to see Elsa and Anna really makes me happy."

Soroptimist International is always seeking new members, and if you would like to join, you can visit their Facebook page here for more information: <https://www.facebook.com/sioffm/>.

## Senior Community BINGO



2nd Wednesday of every month  
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**Chuck & Kayla**

## United Way Spaghetti Dinner

Hawkeye Restaurant  
105 North Park Drive  
Keokuk, Iowa

**Ticket Price \$8.00**

Monday, April 9, 2018  
DINE IN or DRIVE THRU or CARRY OUT  
5:00-6:30 PM or 6:30-8:00 PM

Dinner includes spaghetti & meatballs, garlic bread, side salad, drink, and homemade dessert.

All proceeds benefit

**United Way of the Great River Region**

**Ticket Locations**

Keokuk: United Way Office, Hawkeye Restaurant  
Fort Madison: United Way Resource Center, Hy-Vee  
Carthage: Carthage Community Development @ City Hall, 538 Wabash

Or any United Way of the Great River Region Board member

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## Sports/Opinion

# FMHS boys take 5th, girls 10th at Demon Relays

*Girls distance medley, Barnes, and Gehle all earn firsts at meet*

BY PCC STAFF

WASHINGTON - The Fort Madison boys and girls track and field squads combined for seven titles at Thursday's Washington Demon Relays.

Elijah Barnes threw 50'-1" in the shot put to continue his torrid pace to start the year with another first-place finish at the relays. The girls distance medley relay team of senior Kamryn Bailey, freshmen Taylor Barnes and Nadia Boeding, and senior Brett Schneider, also took a first-place finish with a time of 4:39.38.

Senior Caleb Gehle earned four first-place finishes in the 102 (33.24), 202 (1:03.67), and 402-meter (2:22.94) wheelchair dashes and the wheelchair shot put.

The Bloodhound boys distance medley team of senior Alex Gully, freshman Garrett Hannum, sophomore Quentin Schneider, and senior Aaron Steffensmeier earned another top finish with a time of 3:54.20.

Barnes took 3rd in the discus with a spin of 129'-5", while Steffensmeier took 3rd place in the 1600-meter run with a time of 4:55.10, just nine seconds off the pace.

The Bloodhound girls got fourth-place finishes from the 800-meter sprint medley team of junior Olivia Williams, Barnes, Boeding, and Schneider (2:01.20) and freshman Reyna Lampe in the 100-meter hurdles (18.24).

The boys 800-meter relay team of sophomore Matthew Meierotto, Gully, Hannum, and Schneider finished fourth with a time of 1:43.31. Sophomore Matt Hellige took 4th in the 3200-meter run with a time of 10:27.64. The 4x400-meter relay team of Hannum, Steffensmeier, junior Dayne Cordray, and Schneider finished fourth at 3:53.76.

Cordray captured a fifth-place finish in the 800-meter run with a mark of 2:16.75.

The Bloodhound girls finished 10th out of 15 schools with 25 points. Iowa City High won the relays with 130 points.

The boys finished 5th out of 12 schools with 59 points. Mt. Pleasant won the boys relays with 192 points.

**Girls results**

800-meter sprint medley: junior Olivia Williams, freshman Taylor Barnes, freshman Nadia Boeding, and senior Brett Schneider 2:01.20 (4th)  
 100-meter hurdles: freshman Reyna Lampe 18.24 (4th), freshman Madelyn Swigart 20.86 (18th)  
 3000-meter run: Claire Mendez 12:17.25 (10th)  
 4x100 shuttle hurdle relay: Lampe, Swigart, freshman Raigan Munson, and freshman Lauren King 1:20.51 (9th)  
 100-meter dash: Williams 14.69 (16th), freshman Emma Torgler 15:19 (21st)  
 400-meter dash: freshman Raigan Munson 1:15.92 (14th), sophomore Dalyn Wondra 1:19.52 (17th)  
 800-meter run: Mendez 2:56.47 (14th), King 3:01.86 (15th)  
 200-meter dash: Bailey 30.10 (13th), freshman Anna Schroeder, 40.68 (27th)  
 400-meter hurdles: Schneider 1:14.36 (8th), Lampe 1:16.66 (10th)  
 1500-meter run: Mendez 5:54.91 (14th), King 6:17.14 (18th)  
 4x100-meter relay: Barnes, Torgler, Lampe, and Cashman 59.26 (16th)

4x400-meter relay: Boeding, Schneider, Mendez, and Munson 4:46.14 (7th)  
 Discus: Wondra 83'-1" (9th), Johnson 81'-2" (12th)  
 Long jump: Cashman 13'-0", (17th) Williams 12'-4" (18th)  
 Shot put: Johnson 30'-6.5" (7th), Bailey 23'-4" (20th)

**Boys results**

800-meter sprint medley: sophomore Matthew Meierotto, senior Alex Gully, freshman Garrett Hannum, and sophomore Quentin Schneider, 1:43.31 (4th)  
 3200-meter run: Matthew Hellige 10:27.64 (4th), Miquel Trejo 11:25.46 (10th)  
 100-meter dash: Junior Trey Kuntz 13:06 (16th), junior Dominic Frantz 13.28 (18th)  
 400-meter dash: Meierotto, 59.48 (11th), freshman Shay Smith 1:06.52 (17th)  
 4x200-meter relay: senior Zander Schweiss, freshman Bryce Britton, freshman Calem Maclearn, and Frantz, 1:48.28 (8th)  
 800-meter run: junior Dayne Cordray 2:16.75 (5th), Trejo 2:29.75 (9th)  
 200-meter dash: Schweiss 26.92 (19th), Meierotto, 27.33 (20th)  
 400-meter hurdles: Schneider 1:03.04 (7th), Hannum 1:03.56 (8th)  
 1600-meter run: Steffensmeier 4:55.10 (3rd :09 off the pace), Hellige 4:56.61 (6th), Trejo 5:32.41 (17th)  
 4x100-meter relay: Gully, Meierotto, Maclearn and Kuntz 49.99 (9th)  
 4x400-meter relay: Hannum, Steffensmeier, Cordray, and Schneider, 3:53.76 (4th)  
 Discus: Barnes 125'-9" (3rd 17'-7" off the leader), Senior Heath Hoening 100'-9" (12th)  
 Long jump: Shay Smith 15'-4" (11th), Britton 14'-0" (13th)  
 Shot put: Elijah Barnes 50'-1" (1st), Alec Craft 37'-6.5" (8th)  
 Wheelchair shot put: Gehle 15'-6" (1st)

# District voter wants more transparency, authenticity from board

**LETTER** - Continued from Page 3

I've personally heard, from news sources and Board members, a number of different reasons for this great "need" to build a new school. Student safety, technology, accessibility, heating/cooling, etc. Ok, which is?

What we, the public/voters, have not seen is a thorough breakdown or itemization for what the costs are for building this new school in comparison to what the itemized costs would be to refurbish two separate buildings

(or possibly even one, depending on the current and prospective number of students over X amount of years).

How many quotes or bids were procured and where did they come from? What is a cost-analysis, based on a sustainability factor for the community, of leaving two empty buildings and adding a brand new one? How will this affect taxes within a community which cannot be considered anything but lower-middle-class when it

comes to wages versus cost of living? What alternative energy, technology, and even safety sources have they researched to determine if they're a feasibility? IF a new school is built, will the money from the sale or rental of the other properties be put fully towards the cost of the loan for the new school or will it just be imbedded into yet another "general" fund for the town; one where the citizens really see no added value for themselves?

We have now had three

votes on the same issue and the outcome has been the same each time. The responsibility or "blame", as it seems the Superintendent and School Board would like to infer, doesn't lie with the community at large; that lies directly on the shoulders of those who have continued to try to shove this measure down the public's throats without giving any consideration to the community they're actually supposed to be serving---because as the Superintendent and Board of our local schools, it's not just the students they serve,

it's the entire community. If they expect the voters to consider the best interest of the children, then they too need to consider the best interest of the voters. And the voters have thrice told them that they do not see this as something in their best interest. Tim Wondra called it a "me-first" society. Well, the "me's" in this community are both parents and non-parents who are looking out for their families and livelihoods first because that is what happens there aren't enough livable wage/benefit jobs to afford

even a small tax increase... they have to think of putting a roof over their heads, food on their tables, and clothing on their backs. It takes a great deal of privilege and lack of seeing the WHOLE community to be able to make the statements that Wondra, Slater, and Young have made regarding this issue. And it shows that, as representatives of our School District, they aren't giving us self-definition, transparency, authenticity, and accountability.

**Michelle Scott  
Fort Madison, IA**

**YOUR Heat & Air guy**

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## 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST


**SUN 08 Apr**

 Snow  
 High - 32.5° F | Low - 29.6° F


**MON 09 Apr**

 Snow  
 High- 36.9° F | Low - 31.8° F


**TUE 10 Apr**

 Clear Skies  
 High- 40.3 F | Low - 31.8° F

**WED 11 Apr**

 Light Snow  
 High -35.0° F | Low - 26.6° F

**THU 12 Apr**

 Clear Skies  
 High- 39.7° F | Low - 34.8° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

# Obituaries/Lottery Numbers

## OBITUARIES

### KAREN KAY COKE

Karen Kay Coke, 74 of Keokuk, IA died Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at Unity-Point Health-Keokuk in Keokuk, IA.

She was born November 18, 1943 in Waterloo, IA the daughter of Dean and Irene Christiansen Eckhardt.

Karen had been employed as an over the road truck driver.

Karen enjoyed working jigsaw puzzles in her free time. She adored her dog Fritz and loved his company.

She is survived by one son, Shawn Weaver of Gladstone, MO, one grandson, Zane Weaver of Gladstone, MO and one sister, Patricia Thedy of IA.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Jerry Eckhardt.

There will be no services.

Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA is assisting the family with arrangements.

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

### JAMES MICHAEL "MIKE" GROGAN

James Michael "Mike" Grogan, 69 of Keokuk, IA died Thursday, April 5, 2018 at UnityPoint Health- Keokuk in Keokuk, IA.

Funeral arrangements are pending at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA. Online condolences may be left for the family [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com)

## OBITUARIES

### SHERILYN KAY KAMP

Sherilyn Kay Kamp, 73 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 9:55 am Friday, April 6, 2018 at the Montrose Health Center, Montrose, Iowa. She was born September 23, 1944 in Fort Madison, a daughter of Russell E. and Nina F. (Zimmerman) Carr. On September 26, 1964, she married Jerry J. Kamp in Fort Madison. Sherilyn was a 1962 graduate of Fort Madison High School. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by her husband, Jerry J. Kamp of Fort Madison; one son, Cody (Sarah) Kamp of Oswego, Illinois; one daughter, Stacey (Brent) Gansy of Fort Madison; one brother, Ronnie (Janie) Carr of West Point, Iowa; one sister, Linda Thye of Fort Madison; five grandchildren: Canyon Gansy; Jaxson, Hayden, Landon, and Addison Kamp; several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents.

The body of Mrs Kamp has been cremated. A service and burial will be held at a later date. A memorial has been established and contributions may be left at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Online condolences to the Kamp family may be made at [www.barrmemorialchapel.com](http://www.barrmemorialchapel.com).

## CURRENT-LEE

### Lee County Bridges group to hold Keokuk community-wide meeting April 16

The steering committee is hosting the next community-wide Bridges out of Poverty training in Keokuk on April 16th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the First Lutheran Church located at 1101 Blondeau Street. The Public is invited to attend

Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for \$15. Add a photo for \$5. Non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of \$10 per 25 words and \$3 per photo. To place your listing, click here or call Lee at (319)371.4125.



## 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



4/7  
2 10 13 37 50  
Star Ball: 2  
All Star Bonus: 4



4/6  
16 33 51 54 67  
Mega Ball: 20  
Megaplier: 4



4/7  
2 17 29 38 39  
Powerball: 20  
Power Play: 2



4/6 MID-DAY  
1 6 4  
4/6 EVENING  
8 0 5

4/7 MID-DAY  
2 4 6  
4/7 EVENING  
1 4 4



4/6 MID-DAY  
8 4 8 3  
4/6 EVENING  
1 2 9 6

4/7 MID-DAY  
7 4 2 5  
4/7 EVENING  
7 4 8 7



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# Spring event helps ladies build Fairy Gardens

**LADIES** - Continued from Page 1

does these workshops throughout the spring and summer at different shops and with different local business and organizations.

"I love seeing everyone's [gardens] and how creative they are with the plants. Educating people on how the plants all grow together and how to plant them and care for them is just fun," Kramer said.

Kempker's gift depart-

ment manager, Cindy Dinwiddie, was in charge of organizing and putting the event together.

"I ran across little miniature garden decorations and I found a multitude of all the decorations you could buy, so I thought holding this type of event would be a good way for us to market our decorations. We decided to have the workshop and let other people know about how to plant a garden

and take care of them."

"I had a lot of fun, it was something different to do," said Connie Edgington, an attendee to the event. "My friends and I attend workshops like this one but this was the first Fairy Garden we've done. I learned a lot and may just try to make one on my own."

With warm days ahead, gardening and outdoor activities are kicking into gear. This workshop was a great start to the coming season. It was also a great promotion for Jim's Greenhouse, as well as for Kempker's True Value.



Photos by Aniah Ross/PCC Intern

Above, ladies lineup at the table where they can create Fairy Gardens at Kempker's True Value Rental, Inc. in Fort Madison. Below Teagan Cale, left, and sister Tessa pose with their Fairy Gardens Thursday.

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# Spring Cleaning

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# Classifieds/Public Notices

## HELP WANTED

### FULL-TIME MARKETER

The Kensington in Fort Madison, IA has an outstanding opportunity as a Marketer for someone who is compassionate, energetic and loves seniors. Successful candidate will have high energy, an ability to build relationships, an upbeat and positive attitude, excellent communication skills, and a VERY strong ability to multi task. This person must be dedicated to making a difference in the lives of both residents & their families.

**Requirements:**

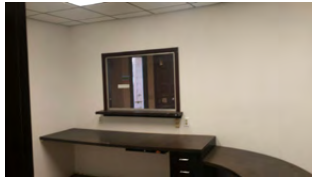
- Bachelor's Degree or equivalent in relative field required.
- Previous experience in healthcare, marketing, programming, nursing or related field required.
- Knowledge of the community and available networks.
- Must be detail oriented and accurate.
- Ability to work scheduled hours based on personnel and community needs including possible week-ends and evenings.
- Ability to work independently and/or interact with team members at all levels and promote team-work.
- Ability to travel periodically for corporate meeting and extensively within the first 8 weeks of hire.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

**Lee County Conservation Board Meeting Agenda April 10, 2018 6:00 p.m.**  
**Lee County Conservation Center 2652 Highway 61 Montrose, IA 52639**

1. Call to order
2. Approval of minutes from March 13, 2018
3. Public Input  
This is the time of the meeting that a citizen may address the Board on any matters pertaining to the Lee County Conservation Board. The Board cannot take formal action at the meeting on matters not included on the regular agenda, but may ask the staff to research the matter or have the matter placed on a subsequent agenda.
4. Approval of Bills
5. Approval of Financial Report
6. Land Records Correction from 2012 Ameren Property Purchase
7. LCCB Bylaws
8. Online Cabin Reservations
9. Staff Reports
10. Board Member Comments
11. Adjournment  
Next regular meeting will be May 8, 2018  
Hearing and vision assistance available upon request. Citizens are welcome to all LCCB meetings.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

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### PUBLIC NOTICE Lee County, Iowa Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Agenda

**DATE: TUESDAY, April 10, 2018**  
**MEETING CONVENING TIME: 9:00 A.M.**  
**LOCATION: Correctional Center 2530 255th Street, Montrose, IA**  
**AGENDA**

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approve Agenda
- Consider Approval of Tuesday, April 3, 2018 Board Minutes
- Consider Approval of Claims
- Public Input

Discussion with Midwest Construction Consultants on South Courthouse Project and Consider Approval of Change Order

Discussion of Policy and Procedures on Jail Kitchen Remodel and Jail Shower Remodel and Possible Contract with Midwest Construction Consultants

Consider Approval of Contract with Pitney Bowes for Postage Machine at DHS Building in Keokuk

Consider Approval of FY 19 Secondary Road DOT Budget

Consider Approval of FY 19 Secondary Roads Construction Program

Consider Approval of Resolution Setting Credit Card Limits for Engineer's Office Consider Approval to Replace Part-time Correctional Officer

Canvass of April 3, 2018 Special Election

Discussion of FY17 Audit

Consider Approval of Resolution Compromising Taxes on Property Located at 1688 Green Bay Road, Wever

Consider Approval of Class B Beer Permit for Appleberry Orchard

Consider Approval of Class C Liquor License for Harvestville Farm Personnel

Actions:

- A. Step Increase-Attorney's Office
  - B. Step Increase-Sheriff's Office
  - C. Transfer from Part-time to Full-time-Sheriff's Office
  - D. New Hire-Sheriff's Office
- Reports:
- A. Manure Management Annual Update-Schwartz Farms in Marion Township
  - B. Treasurer's Report of Fees Collected
  - C. Auditor's Report of Fees Collected
  - D. Manure Management Annual Update-T & VH LLC in Charleston Township
- Commission or Committee Reports
- Adjourn

**PUBLIC MEETING - CITIZENS WELCOME**

Workshop to follow

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Lee County Health Department is seeking a Licensed Massage Therapist. This is a contracted position. Massage Therapist will provide the client and caregivers with massage therapy for pain relief and relaxation. Some documentation is required. Licensure is required for Iowa and Illinois, or be willing to obtain the license. Submit resume to Margaret Cook via mail to LCHD P.O. Box 1426 Ft. Madison, IA 52627 or email [cook@lee-countyhd.org](mailto:cook@lee-countyhd.org). Resume deadline is April 30th, 2018. Lee County Health Department is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



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If you are interested in more information about this exciting opportunity visit [silgan-containers.com/careers](http://silgan-containers.com/careers) or contact:

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**From the Front**

# Stump Town to rock party pavilion nightly at 71st Rodeo

**RODEO** - Continued from Page 1

Feels". You will be sure to feel the country as his soulful voice fills the arena.

Saturday night's entertainment also gets underway at 7:30 p.m. with the PRCA rodeo performers taking center stage. Once the dust has settled from the cowboy competition the arena will come alive with ACM award-winner Jake Owen. Owen has six number one singles under his belt including "Barefoot Blue Jean Night", "Beachin'", "Anywhere with You", "Alone with You", "The One that Got Away", "American Country Love Song". No artist is more adept at summoning those times when a sunny day, good

friends and maybe a cold drink were all you needed to feel forever blessed. Owen will thrill the crowd with songs from his soon to be released new album, including the single "I Was Jack (You Were Diane)"

Local favorites, Stump Town will close out each night of the Tri-State Rodeo in the Coors Party Pavilion.

Rodeo fans will also be entertained by the thrilling feats of Wisconsin FMX during the Thursday, Friday and Saturday night Rodeo performances. Combining new age, portable ramps with the work ethic of farm life bears one of the most entertaining thrill-act

performances to ever hit the arena. The gap is set at 75 feet and a plethora of apparatus and humans are hurled across the sky.

"The Tri-State Rodeo Operating Committee invites you to come experience the 2018 Tri-State Rodeo. This year is lining up to be another fun and memorable experience. We are proud to once again earn a spot on the CINCH Shootout circuit, bringing the best cowboys in the country to compete at the Tri-State Rodeo. Jake McVey has a strong fan base in the Tri-State area and we are excited to welcome him to the main stage in the arena on Thursday night. Randy Houser continues to keep country music alive and well and I know fans of all ages will enjoy his show following the Friday night PRCA



RANDY HOUSER

action. And of course we couldn't be more pleased to bring award-winning Jake Owen to the main stage on Saturday night. His long list of No. 1 hits will not disappoint our country music fans. Every night of the Tri-State Rodeo will have something for audiences of all ages to enjoy, so we hope to see you there," said Josh Denning, General Chairman, Tri-State Rodeo.

The Tri-State Rodeo Committee is also pleased to welcome back clown and barrel man, Justin Rumford. Voted PRCA's Clown of the Year for the fourth time in 2015, Rumford is sure to entertain the crowd while keeping the cowboys safe. Ready for Rodeo events



JAKE MCVEY

will take place throughout the week leading up to the rodeo for participants of all ages starting on Saturday, Sept. 1st with the Special Kids Rodeo. The Grand Rodeo Parade is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 8th commencing at 9:30 a.m. and will travel down Avenue G. The Tri-State Rodeo is a community event that involves many hours of

manpower by community members and groups with all proceeds being put back into the community.

For a full listing of events, information and to purchase tickets go to [www.tristaterodeo.org](http://www.tristaterodeo.org). Tickets to the Tri-State Rodeo can also be purchased by calling 319-372-2550 or 1-800-369-3211.

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## Opinion

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# School Board president thanks voters for their voice

Thank You,

I wanted to take time after reflecting on Tuesday's efforts toward the Fort Madison Community School District elementary bond vote to say "Thank You". First, thank you to all those who took time out of your day to vote. Whether you voted yes or no, thank you for taking time from your day to exercise one of the greatest rights we have in this country. Thank you to the many community members who gave so much of their time to try and help the children of our community. Thank you to the KIDS committee for working so hard, for coming to so many meetings and trying to inform the community and debunk all the false information the uninformed vocal few were trying to spread. Thank you to our teachers who taught our children all day only to turn around and give up their evenings and weekends to fight for the students they love so much to have a better, safer building for ALL students (regardless of their physical abilities). Thank you to Superintendent Slater and all of our administrators for working so hard every day for our children.

The question now is where do we go from here? We cannot just drop this and wait another 10 or 15 years. I'm going to try and list all the options that have been considered and why we decided a new elementary school located on the same campus as the middle school was our best option (hint, hint --it saved the taxpayers the most money.) Please read over all the options and give us feedback. My email address is listed at the bottom of the letter. All school board members emails are available on the school's website. If you know a KIDS committee member tell them, even send a letter or email to either one of the local newspapers and I'm sure they will gladly pass it along to a school board member. Please help give us input so we can improve the learning environment for ALL of our students.

Before I begin, let me set the record straight, for the conspiracy theorists out there. Fort Madison Community School board members receive NO salary or reimbursement for their time spent. This elected position is strictly voluntary. None of us have or work for a business that would profit or even be able to bid for any of the construction contracts. We have nothing personally to gain from any building projects for the district. We have no ulterior motives. We all own homes and even some own commercial property so any property tax increase we will also directly feel. Our only goal is what is best for the children of the Fort Madison Community School District and trying to position our children and community and surrounding towns in our district, to grow and be successful for the next 50-plus years. When we make decisions, we try to look at the immediate impact they will have and also the long term impact on the district. None of the current school board members or the Superintendent had anything to do with the purchasing of the current land the middle school is on. The way that was done was a major reason why I initially ran for the school board. I have been on the board the longest and I was elected just as the construction of the middle school started. As citizens of the district, we all may have had issues with how the land was purchased or how the middle school was built but it is past the time to move forward. We, as a community have replaced the people responsible for those decisions.

It is time to quit punishing our current and future board members and district children for the decisions of people who are no longer associated with the district. Am I asking you to blindly trust what we say? No. But I am asking you to give us a fair chance, at least listen to what we are saying and then investigate for yourself. Do not just listen to your neighbor who is always against everything.

Please inform yourselves. There is information available on the KIDS facebook page, the school district website. Our local papers have done a good job covering the information. In the future we will have community forums. We ask you to show up, speak up and listen with an open mind.

Just for future information, by law the school board is not allowed to promote a bond issue. The board is only allowed to provide factual information. So here are some options we have considered:

Option 1.

Remodel and add on to current elementary buildings. Some of the comments I have seen do not believe the price tag of \$42 million. This option is more than just adding air conditioning to the buildings. It involves major renovation to the oldest parts of both buildings. Much of which are solid concrete which will bring issues Renovation will include taking the buildings down to the studs, moving walls and floors, remove and abate asbestos, new and additional wiring, new heating and AC units, new energy efficient windows and doors, adding security measures and moving the offices, adding classrooms including rooms for our pre-Kindergarten classes currently held off district grounds and a gym for Lincoln along with adding classrooms, elevators and a cafeteria area to Richardson. This option would take at least 2, more likely 4 years. We would have to purchase and use multiple mobile units to use as temporary classrooms, and pour concrete, run plumbing and electrical wiring for those. Where would we locate those so the children are not in the middle of a construction site? How conducive would this be to our learning environments? Renovation will not help with the pick-up and drop off problems currently faced at both buildings and it would greatly reduce the amount of green space and playground areas at both buildings. At the end of construction,

we would still have multi story buildings which would be ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant but not very ADA friendly. Any plan that involves multi story buildings relies on elevators for disabled children to move throughout the building. Elevators are not always reliable and in the case of emergencies or emergency drills, you are not to use elevators.

Option 2

Build a new high school at the middle school site and convert the current high school to an elementary school. This would give Fort Madison a more centrally located elementary school. The drawback is cost. The new Liberty High School in Iowa City cost \$75 million and construction for that started back in 2015, the bond for a new high

school in Waukee was for \$117 million. Our high school would not be as large as these two and we could still use most of the current athletic facilities but it would still cost well over \$30 million. To do an even swap of what we currently have at our high school would include regular classrooms and Multi Purpose Room for the cafeteria, a kitchen for preparing and serving the high school students lunch, science rooms with lab areas, band and choir areas, culinary classrooms and kitchen, small theatre for drama/ speech/debate class, automotive classroom and repair area, building trades class/shop areas, welding shop/class area, agriculture classroom/lab area, Creative Learning Center classrooms, weight room, mat room and a gym.

You could still use the current high school gym for competitions with the seating area but you would still need smaller gym for PE classes at a new high school. To continue services we would require a media center (currently housed in the High school library) and 21st century space that is currently very heavily used by our high school students. There would be a cost to convert our current high school to an elementary school. It is not just simply moving desks, the high school is set up for young adults. We would be bringing in our PreK, kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders. In the current building everything is much too tall for our young learners. Water fountains and

See WONDRA, page 2

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*President breaks down proposed alternative options***WONDRA** - Continued from Page 11

restrooms, for example, would need to be replaced with much smaller, shorter versions. This is something that could definitely be done but just adds to the total bond costs.

**Option 3**

Purchase the old Jefferson site back and build there. This option has several drawbacks. One is lot size. The current, single story building plan would not fit on that site and allow for off street parking along with playground areas. A response to that issue, would be to go a multi-story building. Couple problems with that: there are state rules and regulations that say certain grades have to be on the ground floor. Also, when you go to a multi-story building you are limiting the disabled students and volunteers to that level without additional ramps or elevators. We have to keep in mind long term maintenance and building upkeep. Elevators do not last forever, they have higher maintenance costs and cost more to operate. Another drawback to the Jefferson lot is traffic. I know this may surprise some of you but we really do pay attention to pick-up and drop off traffic flow and safety. Currently, it is quite an unsafe mess picking-up and dropping off at Lincoln and Richardson. Both locations have problems with cars parked where buses are supposed to be and often have cars double parking creating safety issues. Simple answer is to build parking lots. At the Jefferson site there would be no room for a parking lot big enough to hold the staff and parents cars and would parents really use them? Do the parents follow the traffic rules at the middle school now? It has two large parking lots. Do they park there to wait for their kids or do they park on the drive and block traffic? Plus, you would be greatly increasing the auto traffic in a very residential location. I am told that was the loudest, most often complaint about the old middle school location. All the traffic it created in a residential location and it wasn't just during school hours. In the evening and weekends when they had events at the school it created traffic issues as well. I also received the suggestion to close Ave G and add Victory Field to the Jefferson lot to get an area large enough. It has been a few years but the last time I checked with city officials about permanently closing Avenue G at the old Jefferson location, I was told that Avenue G is a major thoroughfare used by the emergency responders and need to remain a through street. As a side note, rodeo parade would have to be rerouted if Avenue G was closed. I've been told the water table is high in the Storms Court, 24th and G, 24th and H area and that is something that would also have to be dealt with. I understand that was a major reason for the storm drain and street collapsing at 24th and G.

**Option 4**

Pick a new location in town and purchase all the houses in the area, tear them all down and build a new school. To get an area large enough we are talking about multiple square blocks. That is a lot of houses to buy and tear down. In a town with a housing shortage the last thing we would want to do is remove a couple square blocks of homes and most of those homes would have had someone living in them for 10, 20, 30

plus years. I am not about to go kick someone out of their home so we can tear it down to build a school. Plus this option would be considerably more expensive because not only would you be building a new school but you would also be buying more land and homes. This option was eliminated immediately.

**Option 5**

Build a new elementary school on land the district already owned. This would put the two schools with the most students bused to them right next to each other making busing a one stop pick-up and drop off. This would allow our busing to be even more efficient and provide the district with the ability to offer busing to all students. Having both of these buildings on the same campus would allow the district to operate at a more efficient manor, saving taxpayers money in the long run. One concern is increased traffic on Bluff road, especially with all the buses stopping to turn left into the school. We quickly reached the decision that a traffic study would have to be done and at the very least we would have to expand bluff road and add a turning lane for the buses. This would, of course, be done in cooperation with the city of Fort Madison. We recognize that we have a problem with the traffic flow at the middle school at the point where the drive narrows and it becomes dangerous when cars are parked there waiting to pick up kids and another driver pulls around the parked cars to go to the parking lot. We know the elementary school would need a wider drive. New construction would also present us with the opportunity to widen the middle school drive and connect the two drives giving parents with elementary and middle school students the ability to pull up to one location and drop their students off or pick their students up. New construction also gives the opportunity to a build playground on site that 4th and 5th grade students from the Middle School could use. We would build a separate playground designated for the PreK and Kindergarten students. When we were considering this option, we also looked at what other district facility was our next biggest need and identified high school baseball and softball fields. Since the High School is landlocked there is no room to reconfigure the fields to fit there. The only piece of land the district owns where the fields could fit would be at the middle school site. Anyone who helped build the Baxter Sports Complex can tell you moving the dirt and leveling the land to become ball fields is one of the biggest expenses in building a new field. So, we realized it would save our district taxpayers quite a bit of money if we built the ballfields at the same time as the elementary school since all the large equipment would already be onsite and moving dirt. So, this option would allow the district to operate more efficiently and effectively saving taxpayers money in the long run. This option would also give the district 3 buildings that should last another 75 to 100 years (the high school is in good shape and with yearly improvements that have been underway for several years, we should be able to finish the last phase of window and wall replacement to have a completely air conditioned building in the next 3 years.) This option also would give us the opportunity and means to correct the biggest traffic flow issue at the middle school.

I know this letter is very long but I wanted to let the voters know, we do hear you. We have considered many

options before deciding on going down the path of building a new elementary school. We saw this as the option that would address the districts needs for the short and long term and save taxpayers the most money over the next 50 years while providing our students with the best possible learning environment. We also realize that our district is located in the county with one of the highest unemployment rates in the State. We also know our youngest learners need a building where they can learn safely and effectively and one in which ALL the districts young students can participate with their classmates and access every part of the building. Our administrators, educators, associates and support staff are outstanding and our students are performing at improving rates. A new school would undoubtedly assist and augment our student and their learning environments.

We have tried to answer all the questions posed to us. Some people may not like the answers we gave them but we have tried to answer questions as honestly as we can. We have tried to be very transparent with everything we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We cannot go back in time and change how they operated or decisions they made. We can only start where we are right now, at this point in time. I think everyone can agree the 2 elementary buildings, in their current state, cannot provide a safe comfortable learning environment for our youngest, most vulnerable students. Neither building can adequately accommodate our disabled learners who need our help the most. It is time for all the negativity to stop. We need to put our differences aside and come together to find a positive solution to this problem. The longer it takes to come together and come up with a plan that 60% +1 of the voters will approve, the more expensive the plan will be.

We are open to new ideas or just changing and fine tuning some of the options I listed above. We are open to all constructive, positive ideas and questions. If you have ideas, please contact us. If you have questions, please contact us. It does not help anyone if you have an idea but just sit back and wait to be asked. If you want to be a part of the process, please contact us. We are working on trying to have some kind of a community meeting but honestly we are running out of ideas of when and where to have them. We tried having community meetings in the evenings at the 2 elementary schools, we tried having meetings in West Point at the Library, in Denmark at the Firestation, in Fort Madison at the library, in St Paul, on weekends at various locations but usually it was the same small handful of people who came or no one shows up at all. We went to Rotary Club, Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, parent teacher conferences, all school band night, multiple community events, almost any district event in the past couple months has had someone from the KIDS committee there handing out information and answering questions. We started a Facebook page to try to be more interactive and reach a broader audience. We have information on the district website and for this last bond there was even a separate internet page just for the bond to answer questions and list information. To find board members email address go to the district website, [www.fmcsd.org](http://www.fmcsd.org) click on the school board tab and then roll down to about the board and there, listed on the right side of the page is all the board members and their email addresses.

Let's move forward together in a positive way and do what is best for the children of the Fort Madison Community School District.

**Dr. Tim Wondra D.C.**  
School Board President, FMCS D  
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