



Pen City Current

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 | 8 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 78

FMCS D looks at mix to help keep levy down

Rate reflects ISL, income surtax, Cash Reserve Levy

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison school district's finance director is recommending a mix of property tax, income surtax, and additional cash reserve levies to help fund the 2017-18 school year.

FMCS D Director of Finance Sandra Elmore informed the board the district is looking at a



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Meet us in St. Louis

Three members of the FMMS Student Council address the school board Monday night to request a trip to Six Flags at the end of the year. From left to right are Maddie Rashid, Kylee Cashman and Madelyn Swigert.

\$14.45 levy for the next fiscal year. The tax rate is compromised of the current rate of \$13.27 plus a 67-cent increase just to maintain the current level of funding. District enrollment has dropped which changes the amount of state aid the school receives, so increasing the rate results in a status quo. The levy will generate roughly \$8.44 million for the next fiscal year.

Then the district adds in another .01 increase for an Instructional Support Levy, coupled with a state income surtax, making the rate \$13.95. Adding an additional \$300,000 in cash reserve levy pushes

the rate to \$14.45.

Elmore said that rate would be the rate she publishes as part of the budgeting process prior to the board finalizing the budget. It still needs to be published and certified to the state before it is finalized.

The state reduced its allowable growth for the next year to 1.1% which is below the prior year's growth formula. That reduction, coupled with the declining enrollment, has resulted in the district looking at alternative means to fund its services and programs into the near future.

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Mohrfeld to open seasonal retail outlet by historical society

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Workers from Matt's Greenhouse took advantage of the easy weather on Monday to start putting up the retail outlet for the local bedding plant wholesaler on the south side of the 900 block of Avenue H.

Owner Matt Mohrfeld, who for years had retail space on the County Market property, had to move the location due to the obvious construction going on at that location.

"We're a spring bedding plant garden center, so we're gonna have annuals, perennials, hanging plants, soil, seed, all the stuff that you'd need on your deck, that's what we grow and provide," he said.

Hours will be from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily and Mohrfeld said he will also have a space at Fareway Grocery in Burlington this year with the same hours. Weather permitting he hopes to have the Fort Madison facility open by April 1.

Mohrfeld said he was able to lease space from the North Lee County Historical Society to set up shop this year.

"We paid them about \$10,000 to use that parking lot and I think that's a good lease. We really appreciate the historical society helping us out," Mohrfeld said.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Going up

Justin Kirchner, foreground, and Shawn Eid, back, along with a crew of about three, work Monday to get structures in place for Matt's Greenhouse's retail outlet in the parking lot on the south side of the 900 block of Avenue H. Matt Mohrfeld said he hopes to have the spring bedding garden center open by April 1 weather-permitting.

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Celebrations/Education

Celebrations



Harry and Linda Hoenig

Harry and Linda Hoenig will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house on April 1 at Rolling Hall from 1:00-4:00PM in Fort Madison. Friends and relatives are invited to attend; however, the couple request no gifts.

Harry Hoenig and Linda Lee were married April 1, 1967, at Sacred Heart Church in Fort Madison by the Rev. Donald L. Waldschmidt. They were attended by Roger Hoenig, brother of the groom; Sheryl Lee Decker, sister of the bride; Dick Wyett, friend of the couple; Beverly Hoenig Brown, sister of the groom; Jim Strunk, friend of the couple; Cyndee Schachel Wenke, friend of the couple; Shelly Tierney Poppell, sister of the bride.

They have four children: Lisa (John) Pomberg of West Point, Terry (Jenni) Hoenig of Denmark, Matthew Hoenig of Fort Madison and Heather (Kevin) Harter of Fort Madison. They also have 9 grandchildren.

HTC speech students "Outstanding" at state

FORT MADISON - A trio of Holy Trinity speech team members have been selected by judges at the Iowa High School Speech Association speech contest as All-State "Outstanding Performers".

Senior exchange student Yang-hee Kim was selected in the category of Original Oratory for a presentation she created entitled "My Life as an American Teenager."

Sophomore Sam Avery was selected

for All-State status in Radio News Announcing, and freshman Mason Holvoet earned all-state recognition for an original Expository Address called "Learning the Chant" concerning his budding career as an auctioneer.

The three will be performing and receiving, "Outstanding Performer" medals at the IHSAA All-State Festival on March 27th and the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls.



Outstanding Performers

From left to right, Yang-hee Kim, Sam Avery and Mason Holvoet, were named "All-State Outstanding performers" at the Iowa High School Athletic Association's speech contest last week. They will perform and be recognized at the state festival March 27 at UNI.

Courtesy Photo

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Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

DARLENE L. BENGTON



BENGTON

Darlene L. Bengton, 84, of West Point, IA passed away on Sunday, March 19, 2017 at 2:45 p.m. at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics.

She was born on August 21, 1932 in West Point, IA to Thomas and Amanda Sweeney Bradford. On March 14, 1953 she married Bernard D. Bengton in Ft. Madison and he passed away on June 10, 2012.

Darlene was a long time secretary at Denmark Elementary School and also worked at Wever Savings Bank in Denmark. She attended Harmony Church and went to the Community Bible Study. She was an excellent seamstress, cook and gardener. Darlene especially loved spending time with her family.

Survivors include a son, David (Connie) Bengton of Bozeman, MT; three daughters, Kathy (Steve) Buechel of West Point, Kim (Evan) Parrott of Shell Knob, MO and Kelley (Bob) Wingate of Danville, IA; twelve grandchildren; ten great grandchildren and two on the way and one sister, Nadine Bonar of Wever. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband; a grandson, Brent Buechel; two sisters, Helen Wellman and Agnes Bradford and a brother, Edward Bradford.

The memorial service will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 26, 2017 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Dan Dingus officiating. The family will meet with friends from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the funeral home. A private family burial will be held in Denmark Cemetery.

A memorial has been established for Denmark Cemetery and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Department Report

03/17/17 - 12:17 p.m. Fort Madison police arrested Daniel Robert Morrison, 24, of Fort Madison in the 1200 block of Avenue H on a warrant out of Oquawka, Ill., for failure to appear on a burglary charge. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 03/18/17 - 1:53 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Donn Gregory Lowney, 46, of Fort Madison in the 1200 block of Avenue D on charge of simple domestic abuse assault. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 03/18/17 - 10:47 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Anthony Richard Ireland, 31 of Fort Madison at the intersection of Avenue L and 27th Street for following too closely. He was cited and released.
 03/18/17 - 8:10 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Derek Roscoe Bradham, 24, of Fort Madison in the 2000 block of Avenue L on two warrants for probation violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 03/18/17 - 1:22 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Nathan Edward Johnson, 45, of Fort Madison in the 3400 block of Avenue L on a charge of OWI-2nd offense. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

03/18/17 - 3:11 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1100 block of Avenue I.
 03/18/17 - 10:47 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2700 block of Avenue L.
 03/18/17 - 11:39 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft on Oak Drive.
 03/18/17 - 2:29 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2700 block of Avenue C.
 03/18/17 - 8:25 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 3400 block of Avenue L.
 03/18/17 - 8:52 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2500 block of Avenue I.
 03/18/17 - 9:41 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2700 block of Avenue C.
 03/19/17 - 6:48 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1400 block of Avenue G.
 03/19/17 - 10:18 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1400 block of Avenue E.
 03/19/17 - 7:54 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2500 block of Avenue L.

03/19/17 - 8:31 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny in the 700 block of Avenue G.
 03/19/17 - 10:34 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit and run at the intersection of 12th Street and Avenue E.

Lee County Sheriff's Department Report

03/17/17 - 9:25 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Angel Jaime Garcia, 34, of Fort Madison on a judgement hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released Sunday.
 03/17/17 - 11 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested John Robert Burlingame, 38, Kahoka, Mo., at the Lee County Sheriff's office on a charge of OWI-1st offense, failure to maintain control, driving on wrong side of the highway and wearing no seatbelt. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 03/18/17 - 12:24 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Stephanie Rose Beliel, 29 of Burlington at the Des Moines County Jail on a warrant for failure to appear/contempt of court.
 03/19/17 - 1:38 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Craig Michael Barker, 43, of Fort Madison

at the Lee County Sheriff's office on charges of trespass and 5th-degree theft. She was cited and released.
 03/19/17 - 11:28 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Tyler Craig Rooney, 19, of Burlington in the 1700 block of Hwy 61 in Wever on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance-marijuana. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 03/20/17 - 6:04 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Rachel Gennelle James, 47 of Keokuk, at the Lee County Jail on a warrant for possession of a controlled substance. She was held at the jail.

It should be noted a criminal charge is merely an accusation and the defendants listed above are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Fort Madison Fire Department Report

03/17/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls, and 1 burn permit complaint.
 03/18/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one container fire, 2 lift assists, and two medical calls.
 03/19/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls.

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Chuck Roast, Arm Roast, Ribeye Steak, Brisket & Ground Beef

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From the Front

School board OKs \$100K in roof work at FMHS

BOARD - Continued from Page 1

“ We have to be able to feed this through our media so when (the general public) look at this \$14.45... we have to be clear.”

-Dianne Hope, FMCSB Board

School board member Dianne Hope said it was important for the district to be able to articulate the budgeting process to the public.

“We have to be able to feed this through our media so when (the general public) look at this and they see \$14.45 you know, this is going to impact our

discussions going forward as we pass our bond,” Hope said.

In other action, the board

- voted 5-0 to approve a trip for Claire Hellman to Anaheim, California. Hellman placed second in the state DECA competition for her presentation on Human Resources Management and qualified for the trip. She will make the trip with DECA instructor Liz Weisinger.

- voted 5-0 to approve a trip for two district math instructors to attend a Guided Mathematics seminar in Pittsburgh. Board member Gayla Young requested the district have a way for the teachers to be able to share the information in professional development with the rest of the district math teachers.

- voted 5-0 to approve a \$103,000 roof renovation

at the Fort Madison High School. The fund will come from the one-cent sales tax option.

- voted 5-0 to approve a trip for the FMMS student council to visit Six Flags in May, an annual trip paid for by fundraising of the student council.

- heard from Richard Hand, the district transportation director who indicated additional transportation costs with a new combined elementary school on the middle school campus would amount to roughly \$15,000 per year and provide three additional bus routes to move all the students to the campus. He said with Bluff Road currently closed due to construction, all traffic has been diverted to 48th Street and there have been no problems with that so far.

Earned a trip to California

Claire Hellman addresses the Fort Madison School Board regarding earning a trip to California after taking 2nd place at the Iowa DECA competition earlier this year. The board approved the trip and DECA instructor Liz Weisinger will accompany Hellman on the trip.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

Lee County, Iowa Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Agenda Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Convening Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Correctional Center, 2530 255th Street, Montrose, IA 52639

AGENDA

Pledge of Allegiance
Approve Agenda
9:01 a.m. Public Hearing for Purpose of Incurring Non Current Debt and Entering into Lease Purchase Agreement for Car and Body Cameras
Consider Approval of Resolution Approving Non Current Debt and Entering into Lease Purchase Agreement for Car and Body Cameras
Approve Tuesday, March 14, 2017 Board Minutes
Consider Approval of Claims
Public Input
Consider Approval of Sec-

ond Reading of Minimum Wage Ordinance Reports:
A. County Commission of Veteran Affairs Minutes of Meeting
Commission or Committee Reports Adjourn

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The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, the world's largest marketer of branded consumer lawn and garden products, is seeking a **Maintenance Electrician** for the Fort Madison, Iowa location.

The Maintenance Electrician will perform detailed mechanical, instrumentation, and electrical troubleshooting, repair, and preventative maintenance on plant process, utility, and packaging equipment. This position will perform multi-discipline maintenance and electrical work and maintain appropriate documentation.

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Education



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



Bloodhound Boost

At top, more than 20 FMMS fourth and fifth graders descended upon Elliott Test Kitchen on Tuesday as part of the Bloodhound Boost program. FMMS instructors Misty Koser, Amy Diewold and FMHS instructor Debora Hentzel were assisting students with reading exercises during this session. The students stopped in rotation for a group photo. At left, Koser works with a group, while at top right, Diewold finishes with a task.

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