



Pen City Current

Wednesday, June 28, 2017 | 10 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 157

Voters say no again to new elementary

WP, Wever oppose issue, FM voters short at 57%

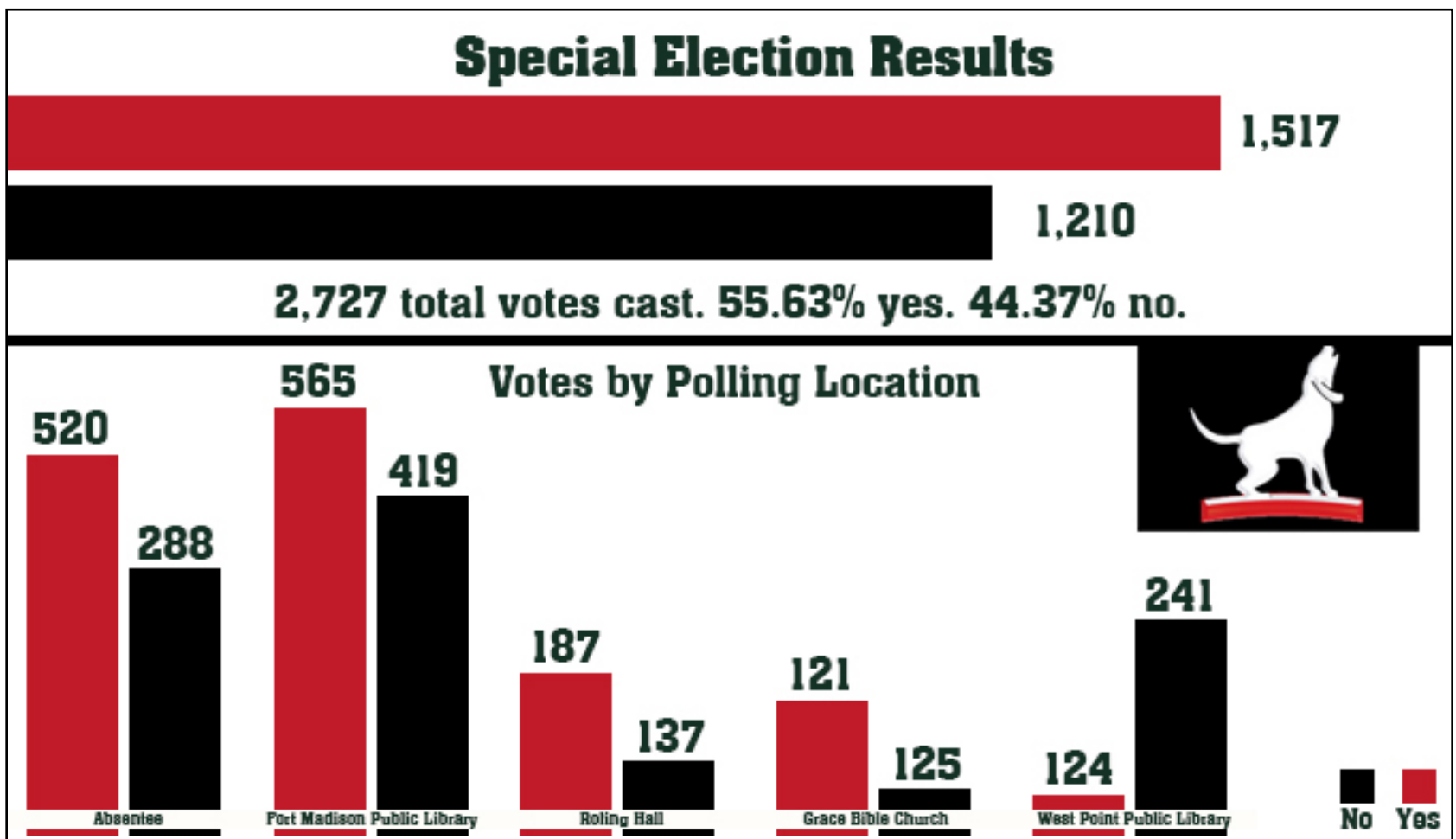
BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison school district voters again failed to pass a referendum to construct a new PreK-3rd grade elementary school.

At today's special election, the school district got a majority of the votes, but not a 60% super majority which is required by Iowa Code to pass the referendum, with 55.6% of voters voting in favor of the new school.

The two precincts in Fort Madison voted 752-546 in favor of the \$27 million referendum which would have paid for the construction of the school and two high school ball fields. However that only amounted to 57.5%.

Residents voting in West Point opposed the measure overwhelmingly



124-241, while voters at Grace Bible Church in Wever opposed the new facility 121-125.

The absentee ballots that came in about five minutes after the closing of the polls, gave those gathered at Atlas Steak and Smokehouse to watch the results reason to cheer when they came

in at 64% in favor of the new construction. But as voting precincts came in the percentage dwindled and stood at 58.9% with only West Point totals to come in.

"We were this close, unfortunately some people out there didn't believe in our kids," said Renee Ehlers, who

chaired the KIDS Committee spearheading the effort.

Superintendent Erin Slater told the gathering the district will keep fighting to provide for the kids of Fort Madison.

"The word got out, more people were engaged. It wasn't the percentage we needed,

but I'm very proud of the people who got us to where we are," she told the group.

When asked what happens next, Slater said that will be a discussion for the KIDS Committee and the Fort Madison School Board.

"I think we wholeheartedly still believe in the

question that was asked. The board will reconvene, the committee will reconvene, and we'll figure out what our next steps are because Fort Madison is not done doing what's best for our kids," Slater said.

"I'm very disappointed.

See ELECTION, page 9

Pothitakis to purchase Holmes dental practice July 1

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - With his parents and grandparents building the generational Palms Restaurant in Fort Madison, the Pothitakis children all had job security, but local dentist Dr. Mark Pothitakis said first and foremost the children all had to get college degrees.

Pothitakis just passed his 25 year mark in dentistry, but said it all started with the work ethic his parents instilled in him.

"Since I was 10 years old mom and dad said they wanted us to go to college. They were okay with us taking over the restaurant, but they wanted us to get our degrees first," he said.

The path to the dental chair was a curvy ride for Pothitakis, after graduating from Aquinas High School, Pothitakis enrolled at the Iowa State University for a year with the intention of pursuing a degree in engineering.

Pothitakis said he then went to Creighton in Nebraska and got his bachelor of science degree and by his junior year he realized that he wanted to go into either medical

or dental school and chose the University of Iowa College of Dentistry.

"My uncle (Jake Rashid) was a dentist in Fort Madison so I'd heard a bit about that. So I applied to dental school and was accepted."

He graduated in 1992 from dental college, the same time his future wife, Kara, graduated from law school.

"She went to work in Des Moines as a Lawyer for 3 years and we talked about where we were going to be

See DENTISTS, page 10

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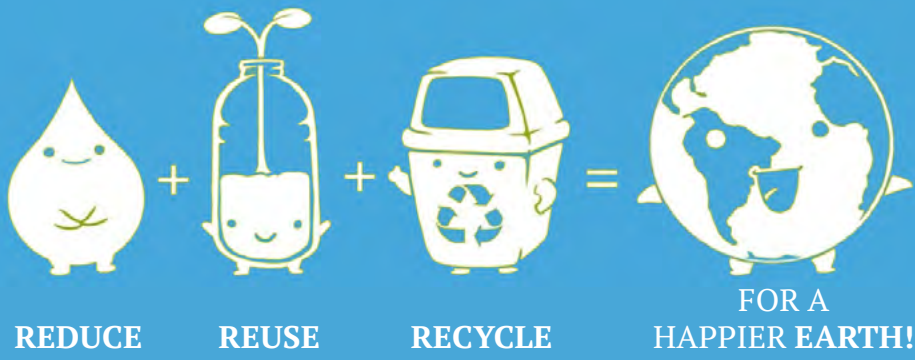
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SPORTS

Great River Regional Waste Authority reminds you to use the 3 R's!



Here are some helpful tips:

REDUCE

***Reduce the amount of waste produced in society**

The best way to manage waste is to not produce it. This can be done by shopping carefully and being aware of a few guidelines.

- Buy durable goods & products in bulk
- Avoid over-packaged & disposable goods
- Use cloth napkins/towels instead of paper napkins/towels
- Make 2-sided copies whenever possible
- Maintain central files for multiple individuals
- Use electronic mail/communications or a central bulletin board

REUSE

*** Reuse products for the same purpose or for a different purpose**

It makes economic & environmental sense to reuse products. Sometimes it takes a creative mind to do so.

- Sell or Donate old clothes, appliances, toys & furniture
- Use resealable containers rather than plastic wrap
- Reuse grocery bags or bring your own cloth bags to the store

RECYCLE

*** Recycle/convert common waste into reusable material**

Recycling is a series of steps that takes a used material and processes, re-manufactures and sells it as a new product. Begin recycling at home and work.

- Recycle all acceptable products at our recycling bins, stations & trailers
(see www.grrwa.com for a complete list of locations)
- Check for curbside recycling acceptable items & schedules on your local city websites
- Purchase and use recycled materials for the home & office
- Implement a composting process for your lawn & garden

Household Hazardous Waste

We accept household hazardous waste and electronic waste at the Fort Madison location. Appointments are encouraged to ensure a proper procedure are in place for disposal. Please call 319-372-6140 to schedule your appointment. For a full list of acceptable items please call or visit us online.

Electronic Waste

Please place all electronic waste in their appropriate bins, some electronic items are free to dispose. Please call for fees on TV's, Monitors, Laptops & Tablets.

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HTC may take another look at softball

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - With the recent success of the HTC junior high softball program, players and coaches alike are looking to the future and whether that holds a team at Holy Trinity Catholic High School.

A team of 11 incoming 7th and 8th graders are playing good ball and have worked to a 6-2 record with some games left this weekend, weather permitting.

But play or not, win or lose, the girls are having success under the coaching of Loren Menke and they would enjoy the opportunity to play for

“The biggest hurdle we have is we just need to show the numbers. We can't do it with 9 or 10 girls, we have to have 13 or 14 to make it a go....”

-John Goetz
HTC activities director

their own school if all goes well. If not, they're fine with trying to get on the Fort Madison High School team.

“The girls are just playing now and getting better,” Menke said. “I'm not sure they understand or are even thinking about the future. A lot of these girls have been playing together for years and

John (Hellige) and I have been their coaches since Little League days.”

But for small schools like HTC it's tough to keep numbers up with track and soccer and even tennis creeping into practice times.

Holy Trinity Athletic Director John Goetz

See **SOFTBALL**, page 8



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Kayla Box works on her bunt technique while Brook Mueller pitches during drills Tuesday as Coach Loren Menke looks on.

Lunch & Learn

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Area News/For the Record

County OKs tri-county ME agreement

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - After more than a year spent looking for a regular county medical examiner, Lee County has entered into three-county agreement to share the service.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors the board approved the agreement to share costs of a medical examiner with Des Moines and Henry counties.

The agreement is a Memorandum of Understanding between the three county boards and Great River Health Systems. GRHS would provide the physicians and any deputies and handle the administration of the examiners duties..

The agreement, which still requires full board of approval of all county boards and the GRHS board of directors, would require GRHS to provide a "doctor of medicine and surgery, a doctor of osteopathic medicine and surgery or an osteopathic physician to serve as County Medical Examiner for the benefit of Des Moines, Henry and Lee counties."

Lee County Supervisor Rick Larkin told the board the ME would probably be one of the Emergency Room doctors as 24/7 rotation so deputies could be appointed quickly if the approved ME is staffing the emergency room.

Under the agreement GRHS, or the approved Medical Examiner, would have authority to appoint deputy medical examiners, but the cost of those would come out of the agreed upon budget with no additional costs to the county.

The counties would each agree to pay the examiner \$150 for each death investigation with an annual total combined minimum of \$30,000 (200 deaths).

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

06/26/17 - no incidents to report for June 26

Lee County Sheriff's Report

06/26/17 - 2:02 p.m - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Hope Catherine Eid, 19 at the Lee County Jail on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. *It should be presumed*

those listed above are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law

Fort Madison Fire

& Rescue Report

06/26/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls

TEXTING AND DRIVING MAKES GOOD PEOPLE LOOK BAD.

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

WED 28 Jun	Heavy Intensity Rain Low – 70.5° F High – 72.6° F
THU 29 Jun	Heavy Intensity Rain Low – 66.2° F High – 84.0° F
FRI 30 Jun	Heavy Intensity Rain Low – 68.1° F High – 82.5° F
SAT 01 Jul	Clear Skies Low – 68.2° F High – 79.2° F
SUN 02 Jul	Moderate Rain Low – 66.3° F High – 77.5° F

OpenWeatherMap

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

6/27
4 21 45 52 57
Lucky Ball: 14
Megaplier: 4

6/27 MID-DAY
2 3 4 7 8 9
10 11 12 16 19 21
6/27 EVENING
2 3 7 10 11 12
13 14 16 19 20 21

6/27 MID-DAY
1 4 3
6/27 EVENING
2 5 1

6/27 MID-DAY
7 4 8 4
6/27 EVENING
2 1 1 2

JULY 4th COOKOUT HEADQUARTERS

8 oz. **New York Strips**
\$7.99 EA.

10 lb. Roll 80% Lean **Ground Beef**
\$2.97 lb.
Limit 30 lbs.

Whole Beef **Filet Mignon**
\$15.88 LB.

8 oz. **Ribeye Steak**
\$8.88 ea.
Limit 10 Please
12 oz. Ribeye Steak...ea...\$11.98

Super Trim Whole **Pork Butts**
\$1.98 LB.
60-70 lb. Case...\$1.68

Value Pack **Baby Back Ribs**
\$3.99 lb.

Whole Boneless **Pork Loin**
\$1.97 lb.
Limit 2 Please

8 oz. America's Cut **Pork Chops**
7/\$11

Iowa **Pork Chops**
2/\$7
12 oz. EA.

Sandwich Cut **Ribeyes**
\$5.99 EA.
Limit 10 Please

5 oz. All Beef No Bacon **Filet Mignon**
\$7.97 EA.
8 oz.....ea...\$11.88

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Public Notices/Classifieds



PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

Pamela Houston
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 Email: houston.pamela@epa.gov

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



Pen City current

Pen City Current
 P.O. Box 366
 Fort Madison, IA

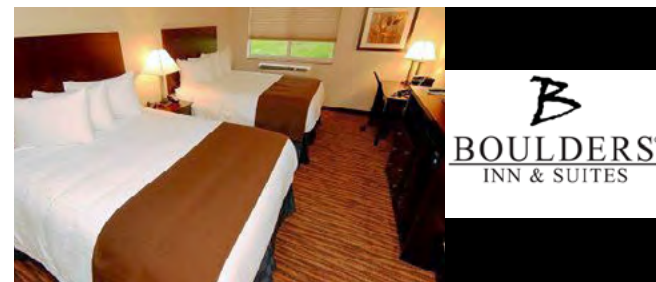
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2323 & 2327 Avenue C
3BR • 3BA • 1 car garage

2 well-maintained homes for the price of 1! Owners gutted both homes & re-modeled. Live in the bigger home and rent the other out. Fantastic opportunity! *Listing #20165268, \$124,900.*



631 Avenue D

4BR • 2BA • 2 car garage

Beautiful victorian home on a quiet street with an amazing wrap-around porch. All the modern conveniences. Quite a charmer! *Listing #20165372, \$124,900.*



620 34th Street

2BR • 2BA • 3 car garage

Motivated seller has reduced their asking price! Completely renovated home. This beautiful home won't be on the market long! *Listing #20165503, \$138,500.*



2160 Grand Venture Avenue
3BR • 4BA • 3 car garage

Amazing home in a private, wooded 7.5 acre setting just minutes from Fort Madison. Approximately 6 acres are timber and ravine woods. *Listing #20165295, \$309,900.*



939 Avenue G

Turn Key Office Space

Freshly finished office space in historic downtown Fort Madison with private offices, kitchen area, and phone system in place and ready to use! *Listing #20165675, \$79,500.*



2634 Avenue G

Very cute, well-maintained home in a great neighborhood! Perfect for a small family or retired couple. Come take a look as this one will sell quickly! *Listing #20165688, \$94,500.*



There are hundreds of great listings in the area and we can show all of them to you. Give us a call today or click here to search them!





2 BR • 1 BA • 1 car garage
 Quality and beauty! Many updates and upgrades including a new concrete patio/carport with surround sound and mood lighting, new kitchen, bath and lighting throughout. This is an AMAZING house that you MUST see to appreciate!!!
Listing #20164622 • \$88,000



3 BR • 2 BA • 2 car garage
1,168 sq. ft. • 0.54 acres
 Lovely family home comfortably situated at the end of a cul de sac, where you can enjoy the woods and the privacy! There is an inviting deck off the back of the home overlooking the woods and beautiful vinyl fencing. There are newer mechanicals and a newer roof, 2 fireplaces and lots of storage!! Don't miss out on this beauty.
Listing #20163951 • \$129,000



5BR • 2.50BA • 2 car garage
2,834 sq. ft.
14,868 sq. ft. lot
 Amazing family home on a large corner lot in Farmington, IA. 2 fireplaces, beautiful woodwork, a beautiful open front porch, a large yard and an oversized garage!!
Listing #20164117 • \$127,500



2BR • 1BA • 1 car garage
1,224 sq. ft.
7,250 sq. ft. lot
 A house with character! Wrap-around porch, original hardwood in formal dining room/living room combo, main floor laundry, nice size eat-in kitchen including appliances, dining room has original fireplace, basement and 1 car garage.
Listing #20162543 • \$53,000



5BR • 1.75BA • 1 car garage
1,904 sq. ft. • 1,903 sq. ft. lot
 Great family home on large corner lot in the middle of Ft. Madison. Large living / dining area with original craftsman woodwork and built-ins, 14 x 22 garage on the alley with 2 additional storage sheds. Nice front porch, rear deck, and a great sunroom on the East.
Listing #20162346
\$86,950



4BR • 1.50BA
1,706 sq. ft. • 7,250 sq. ft. lot
 This spacious home has it all, the character of a turn of the century home; beautiful woodwork, beamed ceilings, window seat, columns, and large covered front porch, yet also includes MANY updates. Call today for your private viewing!
Listing #20164725 • \$92,000



3BR • 1.75BA • 2 car garage
1,772 sq. ft. • 0.57 acres
 Great family home with LOTS OF NEW! New kitchen, bathroom, windows, most flooring, wrap around deck, ceiling fans, light fixtures, furnace and central air! Beautiful neutral decor and window treatments make this a must see! All this and a 2 car heated garage
Listing #20164861 • \$157,500.



3BR • 1BA • 1 car garage
928 sq. ft. • 1,087 sq. ft. lot
 Very nice maintenancefree home by Lincoln School with a 75 X 145 fenced yard, nice patio, fire pit and child's play set! Some very nice built-ins, some original hardwood flooring, full basement including laundry area. Also find extra parking, garage and carport area on the paved alley.
Listing #20164148 • \$72,500



3 BR • 2 BA • 1 car garage
2,260 sq. ft.
6,784 sq. ft. lot
 Lots of new! Semi open floor plan, new flooring, great open basement family space, and many updates including heat/air units, kitchen back splash, counters and more! Fenced in back yard with stamped concrete patio and awning. Call today to see this great home in a quiet neighborhood.
Listing #20164544 • \$139,900



4BR • 2BA • 2 car garage
1,260 sq. ft. • 4.59 acres
 Custom Designed, Energy Efficient home with an open floor plan, cathedral ceilings, on a hard surface road. Includes large deck extends the entire back length of the house, master bedroom that opens up to the back deck, jack and jill master bath and second bedroom. The property also includes an oversized 2 car garage with a heated workshop attached.
Listing #20164982 • \$191,500



3BR • 1BA • 2 car garage
1,488 sq. ft. • 16,247 sq. ft. lot
 Has been owned by this seller since 1960!!! Large eat-in kitchen with newly tiled floor includes stove, microwave, washer and dryer, main floor laundry (in bedroom), formal dining room with built-in hutch, and spacious living room. The house sits on a HUGE lot and has a nice 2 car garage in back. Home has Gas Heat and central air with maintenance-free siding on house and garage.
Listing #20165151 • \$55,900



2BR • 1BA • 2 car garage
930 sq. ft. • 7,280 sq. ft. lot
 This 2 bedroom home in Montrose has been a rental property and sells as is. Priced way below assessed value to sell quickly!
Listing #20164279 • \$38,500





NEW PRICE

**5BR • 3BA
3,119 sq. ft.**

14,500 sq. ft. lot

From the period wrought iron fencing to the amazing stained oak staircase...from the impressive arches to the large wrap porch, this beautiful turn of the century (20th) home offers all the beauty and elegance of that era. This is a beautifully appointed home with all the modern conveniences. There is an extra large lot for your family to enjoy!!

Listing #20162159 • \$149,500



**2BR • 1.75BA • 2 car garage
679 sq. ft. • 6,500 sq. ft. lot**
Nice, small home. Seller has purchased and remodeled. Excellent condition.

Listing #20164161 • \$62,500



REDUCED

**3BR • 3BA
2,754 sq. ft.
3,550 sq. ft. lot**

Gorgeous, turn-key home with large patio minimum maintenance. UPDATES GALORE!!! Practically perfect in every way, this 1841 home includes the latest improvements while keeping its Victorian charm.

Listing #23006122 • \$99,999



REDUCED

**4 BR • 1.75 BA
3 car garage • 2,052 sq. ft.
8,700 sq. ft. lot**

Beautiful 4 bedroom home with large rooms, recently redecorated and ready to move into. This home features stainless steel appliances, main floor laundry, eat in kitchen and formal dining room, main floor office or bedroom, open staircase, large living room and big bedrooms. Newer roof, siding and gutters on house. 24' X 36' insulated garage and workshop, plus carport. Large wrap porch great location near Old Settlers Park.

Listing #20163776 • \$129,500



**3 BR • 1 BA • 1 car garage
1,248 sq. ft. • 0.37 acres**

Well-kept ranch on a beautiful, large corner lot in West Point, IA. New wooden privacy fence surrounding the entire back yard. There is also an attached garage and storage shed. A large wooden deck leads to the front door where you can sit and enjoy those beautiful Iowa summer sunsets! PLUS a covered deck in the back for those rainy days. This house is a rare find.

Listing #20164234 • \$119,900



**2BR • 2BA • 3 car garage
1,404 sq. ft. • 1.42 acres**

Upgrades, improvements, updates...call it what you like, this home has had MANY in the last 2 plus years. This seller has completely refurbished the hill to the north of the home with new landscaping finishes. This is a must see property!!! It has enough room for your family and then some!!!

Listing #20164991 • \$129,900



**3BR • 1BA
1,432 sq. ft. • 5,500 sq. ft. lot**

This UPDATED, MOVE-IN READY, CHARMING 3 bedroom home will make an awesome family home!!! This gem has all new windows throughout, exterior doors, deck, plumbing, & NEW roof on house & garage. So come check it out! This is a MUST SEE!!!

Listing #20165237 • \$92,500



PENDING

2 car garage • 2,527 sq. ft.
UNIQUELY beautiful 9.38 river bluff acreage. This home boasts many updates including complete master suite, heat and A/C, Septic system, deck, roof & gutters, flooring, and the list goes on. This private property includes fenced in barn area for animal lovers, mature fruit trees plus trees have been dropped for a beautiful panoramic river view that will last for years! Owner also plans to leave a John Deer mower and new snow blower!!

Listing #20162733 • \$269,000



**3 BR • 2.50 BA
2 car garage • 1,194 sq. ft.
10,400 sq. ft. lot**

Great family home is move-in ready. Nice-sized kitchen with all appliances, dining area, and nice living room all on the upper level. Completely re-modeled family room with a wood burning fireplace on lower level. Many updates include newer flooring, roof and HVAC system.

Listing #20164531 \$114,900



Land

14.65 acres • 638,514 sq. ft.
Just outside city limits, perfect for housing development or small farm for horses or small livestock, over half tillable. City water is available. 30' X 60' building is totally insulated, heated and air conditioned with 200 amp service.

Listing #20162574 • \$249,000



**3BR • 1.75BA • 1 car garage
888 sq. ft. • 9,450 sq. ft. lot**

RARE RANCH with large fenced back yard and attached garage! Updated windows and kitchen, newer HVAC and water heater. Family Room in the basement. Just waiting for your own personal touch!

Listing #20163423 • \$74,900



Land

**50.82 acres
2,213,719 sq. ft.**
Ideal 50 acre m/l parcel to develop. Close to new 4-8 Middle School and Baxter Rec Plex. TREMENDOUS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY.

Listing #20162779 • \$559,020



Sports

HTC ended program five years ago due to numbers

SOFTBALL - Continued from Page 2

said he doesn't see a high school program next year, but he said two years out may be an option.

"The biggest hurdle we have is we just need to show the numbers," Goetz said. "We can't do it with 9 or 10 girls, we have to have 13 or 14 to make it a go. And we have to have those numbers year after year."

But he said he's excited by what's he seeing in the junior high program.

"I'm glad we're getting our program up and run-

ning again. Loren's doing a great job and the girls are working hard and enjoying their season."

Raquel Schneider, a newcomer to the program, said she's enjoying playing and would like to keep playing in high school. She also runs track. Her older sister Brett and older brother Quentin both ran at state this year.

"I'd like to keep playing. If we can play here that would be great, but, if not, I'd try to play with Fort Madison."

The Holy Trinity program ended about five years ago due to overlapping programs keeping numbers down as a lot of the girls were playing soccer and if the girls made it to substate or state then three to four weeks of practice time were lost.

The track season can also take athletes as can tennis, both programs that are currently being shared with Fort Madison public. HTC girls can also try out for the Fort Madison team.

Mary Hellige, the HTC junior high's top pitcher said she wants to keep playing and is open to playing at either school.

"If we have a team here then I would play here, but if not, I played with a lot of the girls that play at Fort Madison and I'd be ok trying to play there, too."

Menke said right now the team got t-shirts to play in but they all wear different pants. He said



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

HTC junior high head coach Loren Menke works with his squad on hitting Tuesday before putting the girls on drills at South Park in West Point. The program currently ends at junior high and HTC doesn't have a high school program, but interest is starting to surface again for the sport.

there would be minimal cost issues with the program at the high school level. The former field used for softball at South Park is where the team would play so it would just be a matter of some equipment.

Goetz said the main issue would be just keeping the numbers high and

getting teams to play.

"Just in our conference WACO didn't have a team, Notre Dame shares with West Burlington. We would start with a conference schedule and then go out and get a couple others," Goetz said.

He said people in West Point would welcome the

games and cost wouldn't be an issue.

"It's not going to be anymore than any other sports, that's not a big deal. The people at South Park would enjoy having the kids play out there. I don't think we'll get it at the high school next year, but maybe two years from now."

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Election Coverage

Officials to regroup, look at options

ELECTION - Continued from Page 1

We did get closer than we did last time and people gave an affirmative response, but it's disappointing that we didn't get it done."

Fort Madison School Board president Timm Lamb said he thought the absentees would come in better and carry the issue in favor of the new building.

"I was hoping the absentee ballots would be closer to 80% yes - and that set the tone right there. A lot more people voted and you pass it, but you don't pass it by enough," he said.

He said the result was disappointing and didn't have an answer for where the district would turn.

"It's disappointing and I think - you know, when are we going to worry about the kids in this town. We got 100-year-old buildings that we can't even renovate without a bond.

If we want to be progressive, when are we going to start doing things in this community. I don't want to pay



LAMB

“
It's disappointing and I think - you know, when are we going to worry about the kids in this town. We got 100-year-old buildings that we can't even renovate without a bond.
”

-Timm Lamb,
FMCSB School Board president

more taxes either but if we want to get things done that's the American way. It's depressing from a standpoint of what are we doing for our kids. What are we doing here?" Lamb said.

Ehlers said as a parent she will keep advocating for the children, but said she's not sure where the opposition is coming from.

"I don't know, I feel like we tried to hit all the bases. We did door-to-door, mailings, social media. Nobody wants their property taxes raised, they're on a tight budget, but we have to have progress. If we don't support these kids now, we're going to be supporting them forever. We have one of the highest

unemployment rates in Lee County. We have a high child abuse rate in Lee County so when are we going to do something for these kids," Ehlers said.

"We need to get our kids what they deserve - whether that's a new school or an improved school. Since this has failed twice, we may have



WONDRA

to look at renovating. And I'm told we don't have the money to do that," she said.

School board member



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

FMCSB Superintendent Erin Slater enters numbers into the spreadsheet that is displayed on the wall at Atlas Steak and Smokehouse in Fort Madison as election results from Tuesday's special election are released. The district failed to pass a 2nd try at a \$27 million referendum to build a new PreK-3rd grade elementary school just east of the new middle school on Bluff Road.

Tim Wondra said he's at a loss as to how to get 60%.

"I'm just very frustrated and disappointed with the outcome of this vote. I don't know what more we can do to show the voters we are not trying to pull anything past them and to show them there truly is a need for a new elementary school," he said.

"Construction costs will not go down and material costs will not go down."

The school district has indicated it will cost close to \$34 million to renovate the two current elementary schools, an amount they say that can't get

without another bond referendum.

"I thought this was one step in bringing this whole district in the right direction. All the people

who look at coming into town ask what are the schools like. They may come here but they sure aren't going to live here," Lamb said.

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From the Front

Holmes retiring after 40 years serving Fort Madison

DENTISTS - Continued from Page 1

and decided we wanted to be back here. So we came back to Fort Madison in 1995 and got married. Kara worked at a law firm in Burlington for 2 years and we had our first child, Lauren in 1997," Pothitakis said.

Kara quit her practice to become a full-time mom and the two had four more children over the next seven years.

"Watching Kara..that's hard work. My work is not nearly as hard as that," he said.

So Dr. Mark went to work building his dental practice. He said at the outset he never thought about having multiple locations, but he envisioned a more traditional single-office environment.

"I wanted to come back to Fort Madison right away but an opportunity happened where one of my teachers in dental school had an office in New London and he asked me if I wanted to buy it, so I bought it after I graduated. I worked there for about seven years before another dentist in Burlington contacted me about purchasing his business and I did. From there people have approached me or I've approached them and since then have purchased nine or ten separate offices," he said.

Since that time, he has consolidated the practices into five locations in New London, Mt. Pleasant, Burlington, Fort Madison, and Mediapolis. His current

office in Fort Madison is at 726 Avenue G.

He says he still enjoys the work and has a staff of about 30 including four other dentists and is looking forward to expanding his business in the south.

Local dentist Dr. Charles Holmes is retiring at the end of this month and will be selling his practice at 4723 Avenue J in Fort Madison to Pothitakis.

Holmes started his career in dentistry in 1977 when he passed his dental exam in Hannibal and had to send it. He graduated in 1977 and immediately set to getting his license.

"After graduating from dental school in 1977, I drove down to Hannibal and took the Missouri dental code exam on June 2nd, which was then mailed to Jefferson City for grading. I called the Missouri Dental Board office in Jefferson City every day to learn if I had passed. When I was informed on June 6th that I had passed, I asked them to hold it and not mail it to me, as I would drive there to pick it up that day, which I did," Holmes said.

"Three hours later, with my Missouri dental license in hand, I returned to Hannibal and went to work the next day. I guess I was eager to get started.

He worked in Hannibal for six months as an associate before moving back to Fort Madison.

With a \$30,000 unsecured loan from Fort Madison Bank and Trust President Anthes Smith, Holmes opened his first practice in Fort Madison in the lower level of Medical Arts Building with 850 square feet. Holmes says today you're looking at



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Drs. Mark Pothitakis, left, and Charles Holmes chuckle at old x-ray technology that has become digitized now. Holmes sold his practice to Pothitakis effective July 1.

10 times that amount at a minimum to get started.

After being there for four years Holmes found a weedy lot on 48th Street and started construction in 1981 on his current location.

"I think Mark had a vision years ago when he started hiring associates," Holmes said. "That's the way dentistry is going not just in southeast Iowa but all over the country," Holmes said.

Holmes reminisced about a time when Fort Madison had seven dentists in town and had formed the Fort Madison Dental Society that would meet monthly at Pothitakis' folks restaurant the Palms Supper Club. But he said overtime the numbers dwindled and the society was discontinued.

He said he will enjoy his retirement.

"I've putting off home improvements for several years, which I intend to get started on immediately and will also spend time gardening and visiting the grandchildren in Des Moines."

He commended Pothitakis on his vision and seeing how the dentistry

industry is going.

Pothitakis said he's excited about the future.

"He's retiring and when he finishes I'm going to start renovating that space. I'm very excited about that and I have big plans for that office. There are a lot of people on that side of town or even in Missouri. My goal is to have both offices running and I would see patients downtown and then start to branch out," he said.

Technology has the biggest impact on dentistry in the 25 years Dr. Pothitakis has been practicing.

"The biggest thing is technology. Digital x-rays have made things much more efficient and anesthesias are more efficient and wear off faster," he said. "Even the sound of the drill is quieter and the materials are better so that makes the situation more pleasant for the patient, but it's not perfect. Lasers have found there way in to dentistry for certain procedures but i think they will play even a larger role in the next 10 years. I also think you'll see records become more automated. Digital impressions are another exciting part of

dentistry that has made treatment much easier."

"You can scan the teeth, hit a button and send that to a lab or to a computer chair-side where you can make a crown right there. That's cutting edge. Stuff like that. But you still need regular dental care. You would've thought that fluoride would just come and take care of everything, but people are living longer lives and then you have pop, candy, and energy drinks. There's still a lot of need out there and demand for dentists."

The Pothitakis' have five children including Lauren, who's in her junior year at the University of Iowa. The other children are Nicholas, 18, Elyse 16, Claire 14, and Jacob 12. Nicholas graduated from HTC this year and will be attending the University of Iowa next year and the others are in the Holy Trinity Catholic system in Fort Madison.

When asked if any were coming on board with the company, Dr. Pothitakis said he hopes so at some point.

"I just tell them I want them to work hard and be happy. Me and Kara are very proud of them."



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