



Pen City Current

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Ty's hits a quarter century in the greenhouse

Like other area greenhouses, Louck started with Phil Beebe and set out on his own

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WEVER - As children, a scolding for playing in the dirt is in all of our pasts. But for Wever businessman Ty Louck, playing in the dirt has been a passion for more than 25 years.

Louck celebrated his 25th anniversary as owner and operator of Ty's Greenhouse in Wever this year. The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce paid a visit to Louck's business on Friday and were treated to a tour of the acres of plastic barns filled with seedlings and plants being readied for shipment for spring planting.

More than 25 years ago, Louck was working for Phil Beebe, and Beebe suggested that Louck start his own business.

"He had a greenhouse he wasn't using and said, 'If you want to tear it all down and move it away, you can have it'. So that's what I did. That was a lot of hard work. I'm not sure I would do it again," he said with a chuckle. "But we did it and we started looking at our customers and decided we didn't have enough space and that fall and spring we built another one. We added a little through the years and then we got a little land locked so without buying any property we're kinda stuck."

But the hard work has paid off. Louck has acres of greenhouses comfortably set at about 72 degrees and full of the smell of plant seedlings and fertilized soil.

"I started in 1992 and I had been working with Phil Beebe and he taught me everything I know. I don't know whether he liked to see people go off on their own, or he got too much work and wanted to stay small and would send us off on our own. I kept the customers I had when I was working with Phil and started from there.

Louck just does wholesale. He doesn't have any retail outlets in the area, but Hy-Vees in Burlington and Fort Madison are two of his biggest clients.

"I do, oh, all over the state of Iowa. I stand and look to the west and that's my area. Des Moines, Waterloo, Dubuque, Chariton, we've got all those places," Louck said.

Staffing reaches about 40 during peak times, he said.

"I have around 40 when we're loading and in full swing, typically from Mid-April to the end of May. There are probably 25 around here now that started at the first of the year and a couple of full-time employees," he said.

Louck said his history mirrors that of Matt Mohrfeld of Matt's Greenhouse, also in Lee County, and the two have



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Planting tomatoes

Ty Louck, of Ty's Greenhouse, stands with Dawn Fraise, a recent new hire, and demonstrates how a tomato seed machine uses tiny tubes to insert seeds into the seedling cups as part of the process at the facility.

"I do, oh, all over the state of Iowa. I stand and look to the west and that's my area..Des Moines, Waterloo, Dubuque Chariton. We've got all those places."

-Ty Louck
Ty's Greenhouse

remained friends since leaving Beebe's company.

"It really helps us, too, being friends, because it helps our customers and keeps them happy. If I'm out of something, I can

See **LOUCK**, page 2



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Growing up green

Louck's daughter, Sam, compares her current footprint to one she put in the concrete back when the foundation was poured. Fort Madison Ambassador Matt LaFrenz, Chamber director Laura Francisco and Matt Mohrfeld chuckle at the difference.

BESIDE THE POINT

Minimum wage efforts look moot

CHUCK VANDENBERG

Politics typically gets in the way of most progress, but as the old saying goes, "it may not be a perfect



C. VANDENBERG

system, but it's the only one we got."

The Raise the Wage committee that's been pushing the Lee County

Board of Supervisors to consider an incremental 95 cent wage increase has its heart in the right place. Looking out for other people's hearts, but it really is a moot point. This legislature is pushing their agenda with an ease and efficiency rarely seen before, but leaving in its wake a yet unwritten tale of where the Republican party lands.

But, as has been part of the discussion, since the inception of the committee, most businesses aren't paying minimum wage. As a former restaurant manager I know how that works first hand. There are some heavy considerations to make and you have to really know your subjects.

About 10 years ago, I had a shift supervisor I was looking at promoting to a salaried management position. More hours and responsibility for sure, but a better financial situation

See **WAGES**, page 7

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From the Front

Greenhouse business is becoming a family affair

LOUCK - Continued from Page 1

get it from them and if they're out they can get it from us. So far there's been plenty of business for both of us, we don't compete too much," Louck said.

A walk through the facility is a tour though plastic half-circle units on cement pads with ventilation fans and metal framework. One simply pulls the plastic back to go between the units and the occasional door. Louck has most units complete-

ly full of seedlings, but on the north side of the facility there is some extra space for expansion.

The heavy grade plastic stretched over the metal frames are good for about four years and Louck said it takes about two days to stretch new plastic over the units.

One of the cement blocks in the greenhouse has footprints from Ty's two oldest daughters Samantha and Morgan. Ty and his wife Krystle, who

handles the bookwork for the company, also have two other children Kailey and Kyle and all four of them still live at home.

"They've all worked out here at one point or another," he said.

He said he has no plans for retirement anytime soon and hasn't really even thought about what happens next.

Readers interested in learning more can visit Ty's website or Facebook page.

JDRF event set for March 26

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Eagles Club will be the site of a fundraiser aimed at sending area youth battling Type 1 diabetes to a summer camp and helping fund research.

From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday March 26, the Eagles, 4821 Avenue O, will host the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

fundraiser with funds going to research and to help offset the costs of Camp Hertko Hollow, a fully functional camp that helps children deal with the daily battle that is Type 1, or Juvenile Diabetes.

There will be a silent auction, Tacos by Tina Garr (Caeser's style) and enchiladas by Pam Lozano. You can place orders

in advance by calling Laura Mason at 319-371-4906. Veggie enchiladas are \$20/dozen and beef enchiladas are \$25/dozen.

Camp Hertko Hollow is a camp for children with diabetes. The goals of camps are: recreation, education, regulation and FUN! Campers enjoy the traditional camp activities while learning about living with diabetes.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

On tour

Ty Louck talks about some of the plants growing in the greenhouse with members of the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce's Ambassador Club who, at top, presented him with a certificate of membership in the Chamber.

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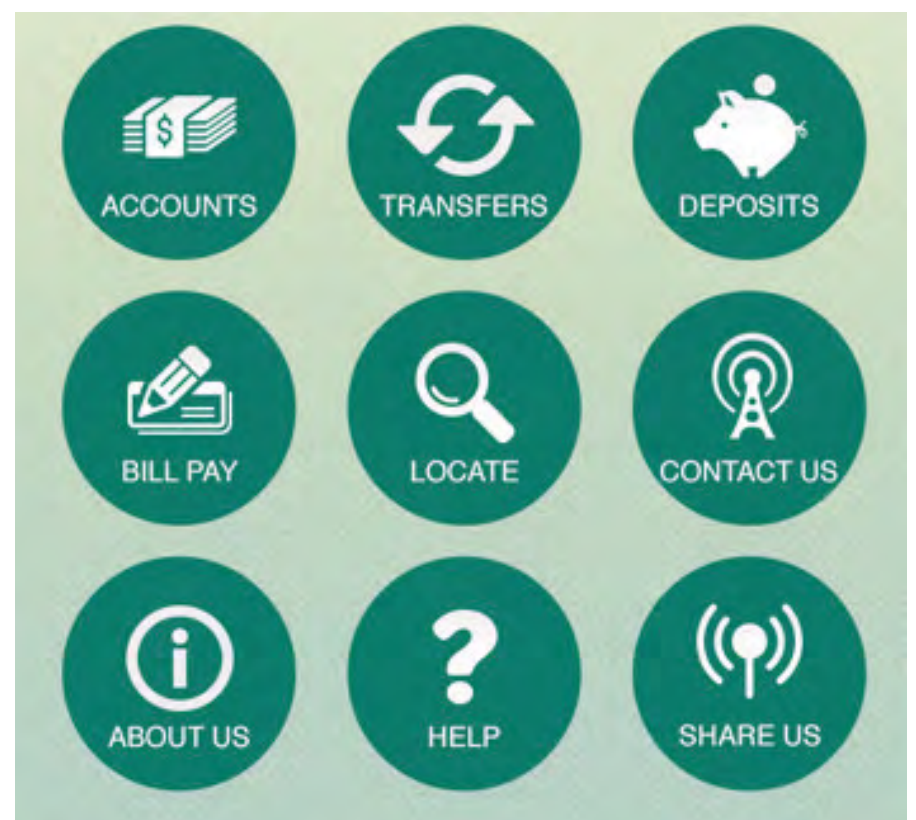
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Obituaries/Local News

OBITUARIES

LEATHA M. CROM

Leatha M. Crom, 82, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 3:37 p.m. on Friday, March 10, 2017 at Fort Madison Community Hospital. She was born on January 25, 1935 in Greenbay Bottoms in Wever, IA to Carl M. & Edna E. Allen Hayes. She married William P. Crom on November 5, 1973 in Fort Madison, IA.



She was a homemaker and a bookkeeper for many years for Bill's Towing. She enjoyed reading, watching birds, country music and especially spending time with her husband and family.

Leatha is survived by: her husband: Bill Crom of Fort Madison, IA; 3-daughters: Sandy (Stan) Pffingsten of Fort Madison, IA, Paula (Robbie) Myers of New London, IA & Beverly (Terry) Strah of New London, IA; 5-sons: John (Sheila) Gray of Missouri, Ronald (Mary) Gray of Fort Madison, IA, Jim Gray of Burlington, IA, David Gray of Arkansas & Jeremy (Kayla) Enke of West Point, IA; numerous grandchildren; several great grandchildren; 1-great great grandson; 3-sisters: Loretta Hayes of Donnellson, IA, Betty Smith of Donnellson, IA, Donna (Glen) Myers of Keokuk, IA; 4-brothers: Bill (Joy) Hayes of Fort Madison, IA, John (Linda) Hayes of Montrose, IA, Carl (Sharon) Hayes of Donnellson, IA & Tom (Barb) Hayes of Donnellson, IA. She was preceded in death by: her parents, 1-daughter: Shirley Howe and 2-brothers: Orville & Eddie Hayes.

Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 with the family to receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday evening at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory in Fort Madison. The funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at the Nazarene Church in Montrose, IA with Pastor Preston Smith officiating. Burial will be held at Soldiers' Circle in Oakland Cemetery. A memorial has been established in Leatha's memory. Online condolences and a video tribute of Leatha's life may be viewed at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

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Meth, ammo charges filed in Keokuk

Two separate incidents yield three arrests

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of three Keokuk, Iowa residents on misdemeanor and felony charges.

Tecarl Leroy Delano Steele, 26, of 1225 Fulton Street, Keokuk, Iowa and Jenna Lynn Whiston, 29, of Kahoka, Missouri, were arrested on felony and misdemeanor charges on March 9.

Steele is charged with two counts of unlawful possession of ammunition, a class D felony, maintaining a drug house, an aggravated misdemeanor, two counts of possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine and marijuana), a serious misdemeanor, interference with official

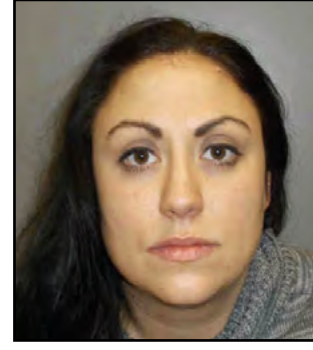


STEELE

acts, a simple misdemeanor, and possession of drug paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Steele faces up to 14 years and 60 days in a state correctional facility.

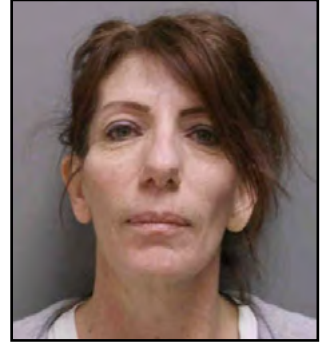
Whiston is charged with possession of methamphetamine, a serious misdemeanor, and possession of drug paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Whiston faces up to 1 year and 30 days in a state correctional facility.

The arrests of Whiston and Steele stem from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task



WHISTON

Force into allegations that they were involved in the use and distribution of illegal drugs in the Keokuk area. A search warrant was served in connection



POWELL

with this investigation and items that support the charges were discovered.

In an unrelated matter, See **CHARGES**, page 9

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Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE
Fort Madison
Community School
District
1930 Avenue M
Minutes of the
Regular Meeting
February 21, 2017

I. The meeting was called to order by President Lamb at 6:00 p.m. Directors Ross, DiPrima, Hope, Young and Wondra were present. Also present were Superintendent Slater and Secretary Elmore. Director Hotop was absent.

II. Recognition of guests – Honoring the Fort Madison Community School District Parent Teacher Organizations. Superintendent Slater presented each Parent Teacher Organization with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the Board.

Break: 6:21 p.m.

End Break 6:27 p.m.

III. Reading of Foundation documents. The Board read and reviewed the Foundation documents consisting of the vision, mission and belief statements for the Fort Madison Community School District.

President Lamb welcomed members of the audience and explained the procedures for the meeting.

IV. Monthly communications

A. Student Rep report. There was none.

B. Curriculum Corner – National FFA Convention Presentation – Courtney Woodley, Abby Wieman, Milo Orton and Cheyanne Fedler.

C. “Did You Know?” The “Did You Know?” document was accepted as presented.

D. Superintendent Report. Superintendent Slater gave a Superintendent Report which included clarification regarding the High School Schedule for trimester beginning and ending dates.

V. Approve the agenda. It was moved by Young and seconded by DiPrima to approve the agenda as amended. Item VIII.A.1 Winter Map Data was deleted. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

VI. Consent agenda. It was moved by Ross and seconded by DiPrima to approve the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda consisted of minutes from the January 16, 2017 public hearing, January 16, 2017 regular meeting, and the February 6, 2017 work session; financial reports for the monthly balance sheet, revenue summary sheet, expenditure report and activity report; accounts payable for the January weekly warrants, February computer warrants, activity warrants and nutrition fund; resignation from Joyce Bergman as custodian at Lincoln, Teresa Peitz as food service delivery driver and Jan Winnike as Middle School associate; employment of John Nagel as associate at Lincoln, Trisha Hager as Truant Officer and Andrea Crooks as High

School Spanish teacher; and contract modifications for Geraldine Zumdom, middle school food service, increase in hours from 5.5 to 6 hours per day, Lisa Kibby, Middle School kitchen, increase in responsibilities and salary, Betty Sokolik, Richardson food service, increase in hours from 2 hours to 3.5 hours per day and Todd Watts, food service, increase in hours and pay, transfer to delivery driver position; and leave of absence request for Andrea Peterson, Middle School teacher. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

VII. Action Items

A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services.

B. Superintendent.

1. Consider approval of the request for travel from Chris Schelich and Erin Slifer to travel to Chicago, IL for training March 13-16, 2017. The Board reviewed the trip request. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Wondra to approve the request from Chris Schelich and Erin Slifer to travel to Chicago, IL for training March 13-16, 2017 as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

2. Consider approval of the request for travel from the High School Key Club to travel to Oak Brook, IL to attend a conference March 10-12, 2017. The Board reviewed the trip request. It was moved by Young and seconded by Wondra to approve the request from the High School Key Club to travel to Oak Brook, IL to attend a conference March 10-12, 2017. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

3. Consider approval of the request for travel from Tracy Madsen for the HS/MS music department to travel to Quincy, IL on March 11, 2017. The Board reviewed the trip request. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Wondra to approve the request from Tracy Madsen for the HS/MS music department to travel to Quincy, IL on March 11, 2017 as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

4. Consider approval of the request for travel from Tracy Madsen, High School Band department to travel to Chicago, IL March 16-18, 2018. The Board reviewed the trip request. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Wondra to approve the request from Tracy Madsen for the High School Band department trip to Chicago, IL March 16-18, 2018 as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

5. Consider approval of the request for travel from Julie Yurko to attend a conference in Kansas City, MO on March 3, 2017. The Board reviewed the trip request. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Young to approve the request from Julie Yurko to at-

tend a conference in Kansas City, MO on March 3, 2017 as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

6. Consider approval of the renewal of existing sharing agreement in various sports. The Board reviewed the sharing agreements.

It was moved by Wondra and seconded by Hope to approve the renewal of the athletic sharing agreements as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

7. Consider approval of policy changes

a. 604.1 – Competent Private Instruction. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Ross to approve policy # 604.1 as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

b. 604.2 – Individualized Instruction. It was moved by Hope and seconded by Wondra to approve policy # 604.2 as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

c. 604.6 – Instruction at a Post-Secondary Education Institute. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Wondra to approve policy #604.6 as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

d. 604.7 – Dual Enrollment. It was moved by Wondra and seconded by DiPrima to approve policy # 604.7 as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

8. Consider resolution of Intent to grant a second easement to the PORT and establish the public hearing date for March 20, 2017. The Board reviewed the resolution of intent to grant a second easement to the PORT and set the public hearing date for March 20, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. The motion was read. It was moved by DiPrima and second by Wondra to approve the resolution of intent. A roll call vote was administered with directors DiPrima, Wondra, Young, Hope, Ross and Lamb all responding aye.

Whereupon the President declared said Resolution duly adopted as follows:

RESOLUTION
OF INTENT

Director DiPrima introduced and caused to be read the Resolution hereinafter set out and moved its adoption; seconded by Director Wondra; after due consideration by the Board, the President put the question upon the adoption of said Resolution and, the results of the roll call vote were:

Aye: DiPrima, Wondra, Young, Hope, Ross, Lamb, DIRECTORS

Nay: DIRECTORS

Whereupon the President declared said Resolution duly adopted as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board deems it desirable to participate in the establishment of a multi-use trail system by granting to the City of Fort Madison, County of Lee,

Iowa, a Multi-Use Trail Permanent Easement on the real estate located near the Fort Madison Middle School 502 48th Street, Fort Madison, IA 52627 (“Property”) and legally described as:

The permanent easement hereby granted shall be part of the West ½ of Section 6, Township 67 North, Range 4 West of the 5th Principal Meridian, Lee County, Iowa, described as follows:

COMMENCING AT THE CENTER OF SAID SECTION 6; THENCE S 01°05’39” E ALONG THE EAST LINE OF THE S.W. ¼ OF SAID SECTION 6, A DISTANCE OF 93.40 FEET; THENCE S 88°54’21” W,

50.00 FEET TO A POINT 50 FEET WEST OF THE EAST LINE OF THE S.W. ¼ OF SAID SECTION 6; SAID POINT BEING THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUING S 88°54’21” W, 18.11 FEET;

THENCE CONTINUING S 88°54’21” W, 18.11 FEET; THENCE S 57°33’45” W, 113.53 FEET; THENCE S 89°32’49” W, 541.76 FEET; THENCE N 82°32’32” W, 533.50 FEET TO A POINT ON THE PROPERTY LINE BETWEEN THE FORT MADISON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF FORT MADISON;

THENCE N 68°00’43” W ALONG SAID PROPERTY LINE, 112.88 FEET; THENCE S 88°47’22” W ALONG SAID PROPERTY LINE, 1,194.04 FEET;

THENCE N 37°04’18” W, 66.29 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST ROW LINE OF 48TH STREET; THENCE N 05°22’46” E ALONG SAID ROW LINE,

74.08 FEET; THENCE S 37°04’18” E, 95.39 FEET; THENCE N 88°47’22” E, 984.36 FEET; THENCE S 82°32’32” E, 828.87 FEET; THENCE N 89°32’49” E, 523.97 FEET; THENCE N 57°33’45” E, 113.23 FEET;

THENCE N 88°54’21” E, 32.14 FEET TO A POINT 50 FEET WEST OF THE EAST LINE OF THE S.W. ¼ OF SAID SECTION 6; THENCE S 01°05’39” E, PARALLEL TO THE EAST LINE OF THE S.W. ¼ OF SAID SECTION 6, A DISTANCE OF 50.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 2.861 ACRES.

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to set forth its proposal specifying its intent to grant a Multi-Use Trail Permanent Easement to the City of Fort Madison, County of Lee, Iowa (“Grantee”), a copy of which is attached to this Resolution of Intent;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Directors of the Fort Madison Community School District, State of Iowa, as follows:

The Board of Directors of the Fort Madison Community School District, State of Iowa, shall hold a public hearing to consider its resolution to grant a Multi-Use Trail Permanent Easement to the City of Fort Madison, County of Lee, Iowa on March 20, 2017. The Board Secretary is hereby directed to cause publication of the time and place of the public hearing at least once not less than ten days but not more than twenty days prior to the date of the hearing

in a newspaper of general circulation in the District. After the public hearing, the Board will adopt a resolution to grant a Multi-Use Trail Permanent Easement on the Property.

9. Consider personnel matters. There were none.

C. Board Secretary/Business Manager.

1. Consider Resolution of Intent to Participate in the Instructional Support Levy and Set Public Hearing Date for March 6, 2017.

RESOLUTION
OF INTENT

Director Wondra introduced and caused to be read the Resolution hereinafter set out and moved its adoption; seconded by Director DiPrima; after due consideration by the Board, the President put the question upon the adoption of said Resolution and, the results of the roll call vote were:

Aye: Young, Ross, Wondra, Lamb, DiPrima, DIRECTORS

Nay: DIRECTORS

Whereupon the President declared said Resolution duly adopted as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board deems it necessary and desirable to provide additional funding for the Fort Madison Community School District; and

WHEREAS, in order to consider participation in an Instructional Support Program, the District must hold a public hearing on the question of participation, setting forth its proposal following publication of the notice of the time and place of such hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to set forth in a Resolution its proposal specifying the method and amount to be used to fund the Instructional Support Program, the purposes within the general fund for which the Instructional Support funds will be used, set a date of public hearing, and direct the Board Secretary to publish notice of the time and place of hearing;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Directors of the Fort Madison Community School District, in the Counties of Lee, Des Moines, and Henry, State of Iowa, as follows:

Section 1: A public hearing on the question of the Fort Madison Community School District’s participation in the Instructional Support Program is hereby set for March 6, 2017, at 6:00 o’clock p.m. in the Central Office Board Room at 1930 Avenue M, Fort Madison, Iowa and the Secretary of the Board is hereby authorized to give notice of the time and place of the public hearing by publishing said notice in the Fort Madison Daily Democrat not less than ten (10) nor more than twenty (20) days before the date of the public hearing.

Section 2: At the pub-

Section 1: A public hearing on the question of the Fort Madison Community School District’s participation in the Instructional Support Program is hereby set for March 6, 2017, at 6:00 o’clock p.m. in the Central Office Board Room at 1930 Avenue M, Fort Madison, Iowa and the Secretary of the Board is hereby authorized to give notice of the time and place of the public hearing by publishing said notice in the Fort Madison Daily Democrat not less than ten (10) nor more than twenty (20) days before the date of the public hearing.

Section 2: At the pub-

Public Notices/Classifieds

lic hearing the Board will announce the date, no longer than thirty (30) days after the hearing, on which it will take action to adopt a resolution to participate in the Instructional Support Program. At the public hearing the following proposition, as may be modified as a result of discussion and input, shall be considered for inclusion in the resolution to participate in the program, to wit:

The Board of Directors of the Fort Madison Community School District in the Counties of Lee, Des Moines, and Henry, State of Iowa, does hereby resolve to participate in the Instructional Support Program for a period of five (5) years, to levy annually, as determined by the Board, an instructional support property tax which will be levied annually upon the taxable property within the District, commencing with the levy of property taxes for collection in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017, and an instructional support income surtax imposed annually for each budget year, the percent of income surtax (not to exceed twenty percent (20%)), to be determined annually by the Board for each budget year to be imposed upon the state individual income tax of each individual income taxpayer resident in the District on December 31, 2017, and each year thereafter.

The funds thus collected, when combined with Instructional Support State Aid shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the regular program district cost, including the budget adjustment pursuant to Iowa Code section 257.14 for any budget year. Instructional Support Program funds may be used for any general fund purpose.

Section 3: All resolutions or orders or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

VIII. Discussion Items
A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services

1. Winter Map Data. This agenda item was deleted.

B. Superintendent

1. Truancy Report – 1st Semester – Trisha Hager. Trisha Hager gave a Truancy Report for the 1st Semester. Discussion followed.

2. Lee County Board update – Director DiPrima updated the Board regarding the recent Lee County Board meeting.

3. Review policy #200.1-R, 411.2, 604.8 – 605.3-E-1, 606.5, 701.3 and 711.14-R.

The listed policies were reviewed. These policies will be brought back at a future meeting for final approval.

4. Schedule March building tour. The Board will tour YMCA and Carousel Preschools on March 7, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

5. Certified employee attendance report. The employee attendance report was accepted as presented.

C. Board Secretary/Business Manager.

1. Facilities Committee report – Kevin Moon. President Lamb gave the Board an update on the work of the Facilities Committee.

IX. Comments from the audience. There were none.

X. Legislative update. The Board received a Legislative update.

XI. Announcements.

Next work session/Special Meeting, March 6, 2017, 6:00 p.m.

Next regular meeting, March 20, 2017, 6:00 p.m.

XII. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

President

Date

Secretary

Exempt Session: The

Board held an exempt

session as provided

in Iowa Code Section

20.17(3) for the purpose

of a negotiations session.

Lee County, Iowa Board of Supervisors

Regular Meeting Agenda

DATE: TUESDAY,

March 14, 2017

MEETING

CONVENING TIME:

9:00 A.M.

LOCATION:

Correctional Center,

2530 255th St.,

Montrose, IA 52639

AGENDA

Pledge of Allegiance

Approve Agenda

Approve Tuesday, March

7, 2017 Board Minutes

Consider Approval of

Claims

Public Input

Consider Approval of

First Reading of Minimum

Wage Ordinance

Discuss Status and Possible

Future Plans for Lincoln

Ridge Property

Review Bids and Consider

Awarding Contract for PCC

Overlay on 243rd Avenue

Consider Approval of

Contracts with Administrative,

Secondary Roads and

Sheriffs Unions Consider

Approval of Tax Abatement

Resolution

Consider Approval of

Class A Micro Distilled

Spirits Permit for Green

Frog Distillery

Personnel Actions:

A. Step Increase-Conservation

Reports:

A. Recorder's Report of

Fees Collected

Commission or Committee

Reports

Adjourn

PUBLIC MEETING -

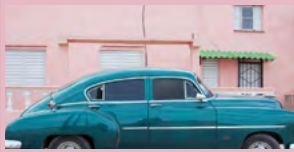
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The Holy Trinity Catholic Early Childhood Center has openings available for preschool/pre-kindergarten substitute teachers. The following qualifications are required:

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- Ability to have a flexible schedule, on call
- Able to complete training as required by DHS.

Please contact Stefanie Drollinger at 319-372-6428 or stop by the ECC at 2213 Ave. J to complete an application



HELP WANTED

Holy Trinity Catholic Early Childhood Center has positions available

The Holy Trinity Catholic Early Childhood Center has 2 part-time positions available for our Child Care Programs. We are also seeking child care substitutes to fill in as needed. The following qualifications are required:

- Able to pass background check
- At least 16 years of age
- Excellent communication skills with children and adults
- Promote the social and emotional well being of children using patience and care
- Work collaboratively as a team with program staff
- Able to complete training as required by DHS.

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Opinion

Raise the Wage group should be commended for efforts, but handwriting is on the wall

WAGES - Continued from Page 1

for her, also to be sure.

I offered the woman the promotion, she had a daughter at home, she declined. Not because of child care or the increased responsibility, hours, but because of the increase in wage.

Putting her at a salaried position increased her income too much. "I'll lose my food stamps," she said.

I didn't know what to say to that. I just moved on. But I thought about how to react. Our family was on federal aid when I was a young child. But my mother worked hard to get us out of the position. Sometimes working two jobs so she could provide for us. That's how I was brought up. You work hard for what you want and sometimes you make sacrifices.

But if there are people who refuse to make a sacrifice to better the grasp of their own finances, then the government maybe needs to take a different tact.

It's really up to the businesses to value their employees enough to want to keep them around. It's always been my experience, and this isn't my philosophy, I stole it from someone, but it escapes me at this point who that someone was, that you train your people well enough to work for anyone, but you treat them well enough that they don't want to.

That includes a decent wage. Even the fast food places are starting higher than minimum wage, and if not right away, typically within 90 days. They have to be competitive to hold onto employees. A \$7.25 employee can go anywhere and make \$7.25 so that market influence should be pushing people's wages up.

The government wants a higher minimum in most cases because it puts more money in the coffers from payroll tax. They're willing to swipe aside the fact that the increased wage results in increased prices because the ownership is going to pass it on. They pass it on to customers, clients and families.

We have to look at how hard people are willing to work and what they are and aren't willing to do to better themselves. Fort Madison City Councilman Rusty Andrews was right when he said that some people just want to do those low wage jobs. And they are comfortable receiving the state aid.

That scenario has to be considered, especially when there are higher paying jobs available in the area.

But, that being said, everyone would agree that \$7.25, and according to Lee County supervisors Matt Pflug and Don Hunold, who both sit on the committee, even \$8.20 isn't a workable wage.

I'm not sure what the answer is. If you see a state increase, then the state probably needs a sliding scale on benefits to help keep people from falling off, well, the cliff.

A word that Hunold used to describe how when increasing wages, without a sliding benefit scale from the state, you risk hurting people financially who now make too much money to qualify for aid. But the loss in aid is more than the increase in the wage and now they are worse off than they were before the increase.

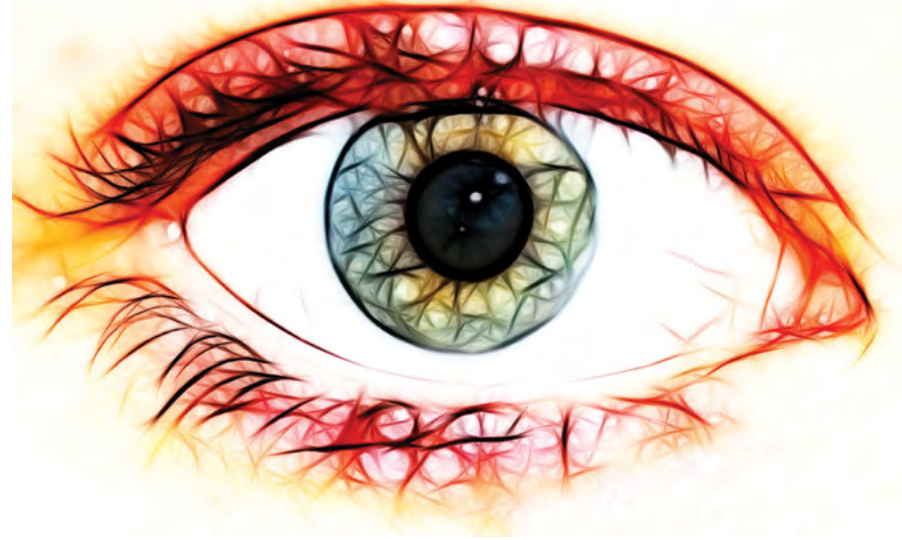
Either way, it's pretty clear that the local movement will be a moot point as the House bill was approved and the Iowa Senate will be taking it up this week, but Sen. Rich Taylor says the Senate has the numbers to pass it.

So if that's the course we're headed, it's going to be a couple years before the course even has a chance of being corrected.

I guess, in the absence of companies stepping up, we get to hang on for a while.



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Area News

Task force continues high arrest activity

CHARGES - Continued from Page 3

the Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrests of Denise Wray Powell, 28, of Keokuk, Iowa at the Keokuk Police Department on a misdemeanor drug warrant. Powell is charged with possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), a serious misdemeanor. If convicted, Powell faces up to 1 year in the Lee County jail.

The arrest of Powell stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that she was involved in the use of illegal narcotics in the Lee County area.

The Lee County Attorney's Office, Keokuk Police Department, and the Tactical Response Unit comprised of Fort Madison and Keokuk Police Officers assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds are administered by the Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy.



Great River Regional Waste Authority would like to remind you to properly dispose of your Household Hazardous Waste, Construction Waste and Electronic Waste. Call GRRWA's Household Hazardous Waste Regional Collection to schedule your appointment Monday - Friday 8am - 4pm



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