



Pen City Current

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Daughter's legacy to benefit local sheltered animals

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - We're not supposed to outlive our children. It's an unwritten rule we expect as parents and we don't prepare for the flip of life when a child is taken from us.

Jenni Buechel, of Fort Madison, is navigating those rough seas as she lost her daughter, Kaitlyn Schlicher (Buechel) to a bone marrow disease in November. But Jenni is trying to keep her daughter's memory alive through pets that Kaitlyn was so fond of.

Buechel reached out to PAW Animal Shelter in Fort Madison in February, when Kaitlyn would have turned nine. The loss is so fresh that Buechel would think of taking cookies home or making other plans for a party and have to remember that her daughter wasn't there. But Buechel said that it's the pets that remind her so much of her daughter, so she wanted to do something on her birthday that would help the lives of other pets still looking for a home.

"It would have been her ninth birthday in February. No birthday party," Buechel said Thursday. "I was thinking people who would have been giving her gifts could donate instead to keep her memory alive. Kaitlyn just loved animals and when I called Sandy (Brown) at PAW she said

people could donate food or treats, but those would be gone quickly and maybe we could donate something more permanent that they could put a plaque on with Kaitlyn's name. I thought that was a good idea."

Brown said the shelter will always take the donations of paper goods, food, treats etc., but she wanted to help Buechel keep her daughter's memory going.

"Her mom wanted to honor her birthday," Brown said. "Usually when people have a memorial, I suggest they do something concrete and not do things that get used up because three weeks later it's gone. I always ask them if they want to do something in the way of a kennel or a tower. Or put their money toward something that people can go by and see."

Brown said initially they looked at play towers, but money has been coming in so the shelter is looking at something even more permanent like stainless steel units where adoptable pets can live during the transition to homes.

"Those things can run anywhere from \$150 to \$1,000 depending on what direction you go," she said. "But the ones we're looking at are kind of different, they're three-highs and have like a basement, a middle, and an attic. They run about \$300 or \$400."

See **KAITLYN**, page 2



Photo courtesy of Jenni Buechel

Kaitlyn Schlicher (Buechel) is shown here just two days prior to her death in November. Sheltered pets like Gilligan, also shown here, will benefit from Kaitlyn's legacy as donations are being asked for new homes for cats at Fort Madison's PAW Animal Shelter.

State unveils new database for apprenticeships

New website will function for employers and job seekers

DES MOINES - A new website launched this week encourages Iowa employers and job seekers to explore Registered Apprenticeship opportunities.

Earnandlearniowa.gov

focuses on helping employers understand how a Registered Apprenticeship Program works, the value it brings to their business and the resources available to help them set up a Registered Apprenticeship

Program. Job seekers can learn why a Registered Apprenticeship leads to a successful career.

Gov. Kim Reynolds was appointed to President Trump's Task Force on Apprenticeship Expansion last fall. She says the Registered Apprenticeship model is a proven solution for recruiting, training and retaining world-class

talent in Iowa. Growing Registered Apprenticeship opportunities will also help Iowa reach its Future Ready Iowa goal of 70 percent of the workforce having education or training beyond high school by 2025.

"Investing in Registered Apprenticeship is good for Iowa businesses and will help to fill the skills

gap so Iowa can have a future ready workforce," Gov. Reynolds said. "I encourage employers and job seekers to explore the website and learn more about Registered Apprenticeship opportunities."

Iowa Workforce Development Director Beth Townsend says Registered Apprenticeship Programs include jobs in energy,

information technology, health care, financial services, transportation, advanced manufacturing, food and beverage preparation and the building trades.

"Industries such as healthcare and advanced manufacturing are prime for starting Registered

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Celebrations/For the Record

Celebrations

JAXSYN MOREHOUSE

FORT MADISON - Jessica Boe and Bryan Morehouse announce the birth of their son, Jaxsyn Morehouse on Feb. 7, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. at the Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Jaxsyn is welcomed home by his parents and siblings Emily Morehouse, 13, Bryan Morehouse 4, and Natalli Morehouse, 3.

Grandparents are Ron Boe of Fort Madison, Patti Dobson of Fort Madison, and Kim and Bryan Morehouse Sr., of Fort Madison.

Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police report

03/21/18 - 12:12 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 500 block of 8th Street.

03/21/18 - 7:22 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 400 block of Avenue H.

03/21/18 - 7:25 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1000 block of Avenue E.

03/21/18 - 10:00 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Kalifa Ayana Mae Devon McCaleb, 19, of Fort Madison, in the 4700 block of Avenue L, on charges of driving under suspension and possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was released

on a promise to appear. 03/22/18- 12:06 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Christopher Edward Guzman, 18, of Fort Madison in the 3400 block of Avenue N, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff's report

03/21/18 - no time listed - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jacob Allen Anderson, 28, of Keokuk, no location provided, on two warrants for failure to appear and a warrant for possession of methamphetamine less than 5 grams. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

03/21/18 - 4:34 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies ar-

rested Michaela Elaine Land, 23, of Keokuk at the sheriff's office on a court ordered hold. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

03/22/18 - 12:06 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Christopher Edward Guzman, 18, of Fort Madison in the 600 block of 34th Street, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

03/21/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls and one smoke alarm.

Mom still hoping for donations

KAITLYN - Continued from Page 1

Buechel said Kaitlyn was sick a lot with Neutropenia, which is a condition where the bone marrow doesn't produce enough neutrophils, which help the body fight bacteria and other foreign bodies that can cause infections. On Nov. 2, Buechel was called home when her daughter was unresponsive. EMTs performed CPR on Kaitlyn, but couldn't resuscitate her and the eight-year-old was pronounced dead at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

No autopsy was done, but Buechel believes her daughter was killed by the flu. That wasn't ever identified by doctors as the cause.

"She always had a flu shot, but this flu season's immunizations weren't as effective as they have been in the past... I think it was the flu."

She said Kaitlyn was different from other children because of the disease, but was the same when it came to her three cats and a dog.

"She was sick a lot for sure, but sometimes she would just act sick. The animals would let me know, because they would go by her and she would perk right up. Those animals would bring that out of her. Maybe...that's another reason people should adopt," Buechel said.

Donations can be made through the PAW Facebook page with PayPal or a credit card, or can be taken or mailed to the animal shelter at 2031 48th Street in Fort Madison between the hours of 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. A donation button is on the shelter's Facebook page located at: <https://www.facebook.com/PAW-Fort-Madison-Animal-Shelter-179648212052707/>.

"I hope it's a success, I really do," Buechel said.

Brown said the shelter plans on totaling up the donations at the end of the month and then getting with Buechel and deciding which way she wants to go. Brown is also hoping someone would donate a plaque with Kaitlyn's name on it to hang on whatever is donated.

"We'd have people walk in and say they saw it on television and donate in honor of her, and we have some people who are just walking and in donating in her honor. Obviously we will continue to take donations, but we'd like to have something for Jenni soon, so if anyone is still planning on donating, it would be great if they could do it before the end of the month."

The shelter can be reached by calling 319-372-2274.

Website caters to all job seekers

DATABASE - Continued from Page 1

Apprenticeship Programs," Townsend said. "I also encourage women, minorities, youth, veterans and people with disabilities to explore Registered Apprenticeship careers in both the emerging industries and in the trades."

On the website, job seekers can research occupations where Iowa currently offers Registered Apprenticeship Programs and find names and contact information for Registered Apprenticeship Sponsors who offer a program. Employers can learn about the process for setting up a Registered Apprenticeship Program and the state funding available to sponsors.

EarnandlearnIowa.gov is a collaboration between Iowa Workforce Development, the U.S. Department of Labor/Office of Apprenticeship in Iowa and Iowa Economic Development Authority.

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Sports/Lottery Numbers

Steffensmeier to wrestle in Saturday All-Star meet

BY PCC STAFF

CHARLES CITY - Central Lee's Harlan Steffensmeier, who won the 152 lb state wrestling championship earlier this year,



STEFFENSMEIER

wrestling for Fort Madison High School, will participate in the 40th Annual North/South All-Star Wrestling Meet on Saturday.

The meet, hosted by the Charles City Mat Club in conjunction with the Iowa National Guard, is planned for Saturday at 6 p.m. in the Charles City High School's new gym.

Steffensmeier will be facing West Liberty's Joe Kelly in the meet's 152 lb match.

Tickets available at the door for \$10. This year's N/S All Star Meet will be broadcast live on Track-wrestling's Trackcast with proceeds going to the Na-

tional Wrestling Hall of Fame Dan Gable Museum. Senior state champions and place finishers from all over the state of Iowa come together in one last match of their high school career. Meets in the past have seen many future All-Americans, NCAA Champions, as well as Olympic medal winners. For more information, contact David Williams by email at dwillia@charles-city.k12.ia.us.

2018 North South All Star Meet Matchups
113/120- Dillon Gottschalk Dubuque Hempstead vs Zachary Thompson Perry
126/132- Philip Ihde Decorah vs Brady Fritz South Tama

132- Matt Robertson Assumption vs Donny Schmit Wapsie Valley, Fairbank

138- Gable Fox Don Bosco vs Zach Stewart Perry

138/145 Jarret Miller Ballard vs Brock Parker

Waukee
145- Chance Thronson Riceville vs Tanner Abbas Clarion Goldfield Dows

152 Harlan Steffensmeier Fort Madison vs Joe Kelly West Liberty
160- Tate Battani Ballard vs Wilfred Kadhou Iowa City High

170- Noah Glaser New Hampton vs Thaddeus Breitsprecker SE Polk
182/195- Brandon Tessau Waukee vs Tyrell Gordon Waterloo East

195- Tanner Sloan Alburnett vs Tessau/Gordon winner

220- Jordan Baumler North Fayette Valley vs Tom Rief Missouri Valley
220 Zack Santee Central Springs vs Areon Day New Hampton

220 Zach Santee Central Springs vs Josh Halligan Charles City
285- Dylan Olson Dubuque Hempstead vs Baumler/Rief winner

Coaches: Tom Hogan Don Bosco, Chad Vollmecke Waukee

CURRENT-LEE

HTC TAPS 8th Annual Bunny Hop Event – March 31st, 2018



WEST POINT - HTC Bunny Hop 5K Run/Walk or 10K Run event. Saturday, March 31st beginning at the West Point Library. Registration begins at 8:00a.m. The race begins at 9 a.m. Pre-registration before March 23rd is \$20 & includes t-shirt. Registration on or after March 23rd is \$25. Drinks and light snacks will be provided for participants. Medals will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place finishers in each age group. Registration forms can be found here or www.holytrinityschools.org. [Click here](#) to download & print your registration form.

Glo Crazy for Education run set for April 7



FORT MADISON - A 5K run/walk will be held on April 7 at Baxter Sports Complex beginning at 8 p.m. Proceeds from the event will go to the Elliott Test Kitchen in Fort Madison. The event is being put on by Fort Madison service clubs including Fort Madison Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary clubs as well as the Fort Madison High School key club. Registration can be done at www.pencitycurrent.com/glo-crazy/.

Lee County Bridges group to hold Keokuk community-wide meeting April 9

The steering committee is hosting the next community-wide Bridges out of Poverty training in Keokuk on April 9th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the First Lutheran Church located at 1101 Blondeau Street. The Public is invited to attend



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Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
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Opinion

School referendum - How can folks vote yes?

Editor:

Taxpayers should be seeking (and getting) a lot more clear answers about the proposed new elementary school. I've heard it said the reason the bond referendum failed twice so far was due to a poor PR job. Really? What if the promoters in fact don't have good answers and we're being scammed?

I don't really know, but I'd sure feel better if I could see a lot more clarification – i.e., facts without generalities and hype. Taxpayers don't need a sell job; they need truth.

First, why is it that our newest, shiniest school (FMMS) continues to be rated "Needs Improvement" by the Iowa Department of Education? They're not giving that rating for no reason, are they? They do know what they're talking about, don't they? Out of 6 possible ratings, there's only one worse – "Priority," which essentially means total disaster. How has that new building helped? How's busing working out for everyone?

This makes me wonder if/how building a hugely expensive new elementary school is going to assure (as

some promise) a "quality education" for our little ones. Perhaps some taxpayers have forgotten that both Lincoln and Richardson schools are rated "Commendable" by the Iowa Department of Education. Yes, there are 2 higher ratings, but does anybody really think a new school building is going to be a primary factor for improvement? Oh, and nearly universal busing of wee ones won't really help all that much either, will it?

It just so happens that the two present (by far the oldest in town) facilities are rated as most effective of ALL of our public schools (FMHS is rated "Adequate"). Why is that?

Seems to me \$30 million or so could turn Lincoln and Richardson into palaces, and many kids would still be able to walk to school. Plus, we could continue concentrating on real education.

The high school athletics thing is also a curious item. That tells me there might be an as yet unspoken scheme to ultimately build a new high school out there in the swamp, as well. Surely, our local powers-that-be wouldn't be thinking that in the back of their mind,

would they?

I always thought where Jefferson Elementary used to be would've been an excellent spot for the new FMMS (assuming we really needed one), but it's a bit too late for that, isn't it? Our multi-million dollar library would've been nearby – oh gee whiz.

I'm really curious: What do you suppose will happen to the east end of Fort Madison when all the swamp construction plans are finally consummated? Are there some additional plans we're not being told about? I'm not trying to be snarky; I just really believe taxpayers should be provided much more solid information up front. If we aren't fully informed, we risk being burned by unintended consequences.

There are sooooo many unanswered questions. Meaningful answers are long overdue, and begging for them shouldn't be required. April 3 is rapidly approaching. What's a voter to do?

Fred Bindewald
Fort Madison

Get informed, Pay it forward, and vote YES for school

Dear Editor:

The time has come, once again, for us to have the opportunity to provide a New Elementary School for the youngest members of our community. The safety and security of our youngest citizens is of utmost importance. School shootings are on the rise and people always think "that

won't happen here", But guess what, it can and has happened in communities that they too thought could never happen there either. All students, regardless of physical ability, should be able to get to their classroom on their own. We owe it to our community to make all of our buildings handicap accessible so that every-

one entering those doors (young and old) feel that they are welcome and not a nuisance. At one time, our community stepped up and made this happen for our youth and now it is our turn to do the same for the next generation and the generation that will follow. Our schools reflect directly on our community and the

reflection we are showing right now is not the one that any of us want, a reflection of the past and not a path forward to the future. A new elementary school will show prospective employers and citizens how much we all really care about the place that each of us calls home.

A few people have been outspoken about how

THEY believe the school misuses funds, but really does that make them right? Others don't think that the school should be built where we have the land to put it. Does that make them right? Before making these statements, please take some time to ask and receive the correct information. School funding is a very compli-

cated animal, I am sure that the district would be happy to sit down with you and show where all the funds are spent, and I know you will be pleasantly surprised to see they are doing the very best with the limited amount of money they have. The land that the district

See YES, page 8

Spring Cleaning

Keep it green!

This year, do your part to keep our environment clean, too! Here are just a few of the ways you can help:

- Properly dispose of your household hazardous waste materials, construction debris, & electronic waste
- Use environmentally-safe cleaning products
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- Check our website for proper disposal methods, acceptable materials, & more



GRRWA
Great River Regional Waste Authority

Ft. Madison Main Office: 2092 303rd Ave, Fort Madison, IA, 1-319-372-6140
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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Great River Regional Waste Authority Is accepting bids for the mowing of its properties located at 2092 303rd ave in Fort Madison and 111 Carbide lane in Keokuk.

Bids must be received by April 2nd by 4:00 p.m.

It is recommended that all bidders look at the properties before submitting their bids.

Bids shall be for mowing services, weed eating

every week (Unless not recommended by GRRWA) and also spraying weeds if needed.

Bids need to be sent to: Great River Regional Waste Authority, 2092 303rd Ave. Fort Madison Iowa 52627 and to the Attention of: Wade Hamm.

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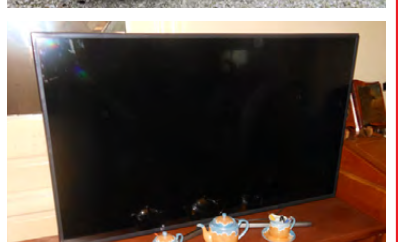
Take a look at this spacious two story home built in 1890 with 1,888 sq.ft. on two levels. The main level features a kitchen with refrigerator & electric stove, spacious living room and an adjoining bedroom with washer/dryer hookups and updated carpet. Also on the main level is a handicap accessible bathroom. The open stairway leads to two bedrooms and a bath. The attached breezeway has a workshop area which attaches to the single car garage. The garage also has a storage room. All situated on a 75'x123' corner lot.

VEHICLE: 2011 Chevrolet Impala LT, 106,305 miles, 4dr, V6 Flexfuel, automatic

ANTIQUE FURNITURE: Secretary with glass front bookcase; Glass front pie safe; Kitchen cabinet w/ flour bin; (4) Glass front sectional bookcase; 4 drawer dresser w/ mirror; 3 drawer dresser w/ mirror; Vanity w/ mirror; Accent table; 6 gal. crock; Antique pictures; Antique wall phones; Stamp collection

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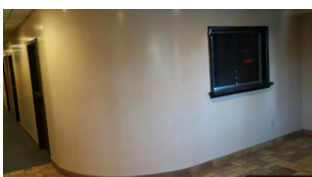
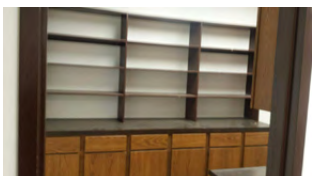
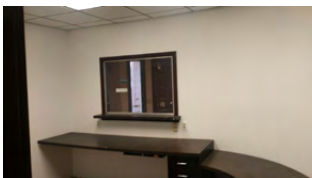
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Letters to the Editor

District residents, when informed will make the right decision April 3

Editor:

Tonight I reviewed two letters in The Daily Democrat letters to the editor. Both letters have many good points in them. The first was written by William H Napier. He makes a good case about providing for the future, and that our fore fathers have done that. He points out in the over 80 years he has been in Fort Madison that many of the schools he had attended had been removed from the school system. Some to be reused for other purposes. He Said "My point is that schools wear out or become inadequate for the purposes for which they were originally built." To that I say if we plan and save for the future these short comings can easily overcome and if you tell me you cannot maybe it is because you do not have the desire to. So to voters I say read and understand what is being said. To the school board I say share what you're thinking clearly and with good reasoning to make your point. On taxes he makes good points about why we pay taxes but, he does not bring the point that we are paying higher taxes because we do not get the full use of the one cent sales tax for education. Because almost \$900,000 out of the 1.1 million dollars we get every year goes to pay for the middle school which the tax payers did not approve.

The next letter was written by Fred Bindewald and was also well written. He starts out by asking the following," Taxpayers should be seeking (and getting) a lot more clear answers about the proposed new elementary school. I've heard it said the reason the bond referendum failed twice so far was due to a poor PR job. Really? What if the promoters in fact don't have good answers and we're being scammed? That is a good question but scammed may not be the right word. He also says" I don't really know, but I'd sure feel better if I could see a lot more clarification - i.e., facts without generalities and hype. Taxpayers don't need a sell job; they need truth. Generalities and Hype are advertising terms not good reasons.

Another good point he makes is how our schools are rated for quality of education and I do not know where he got his facts. Here is what he had to say.

First, why is it that our newest, shiniest school (FM MIDDLE SCHOOL) continues to be rated "Needs Improvement" by the Iowa Department of Education? They're not giving that rating for no reason, are they? They do know what they're talking about, don't they? Out of 6 possible ratings, there's only one worse, "Priority," which essentially means total disaster. How has that new building helped? He also points out," Perhaps some taxpayers have forgotten that both Lincoln and Richardson schools are rated "Commendable" by the Iowa Department of Education. "

There could be many reasons for this but getting this school right first should be a priority. He is making good points here and I commend him for that. I believe the taxpayers of the Fort Madison School District given truthful and complete information and remembering all the things they had to go through to borrow money in their past, and the example of the County Board of Supervisors in regards to the new court house bond, the taxpayers will make the right decision on April 3.

Thank all of you for taking the time to read this.

James Lair

HTC parent supports new public elementary referendum

Dear Editor,

To all my friends and FMCS D, please make your voice heard at the polls April 3rd for the future of Fort Madison with a new elementary school. While my youngest is a student at HTC, I understand and still support the vote for a new elementary school even though my child won't benefit. The benefit will be your child, grandchild, or neighbor child. The benefit will be employers looking for a place to bring their company to Fort Madison and bring more jobs for those kids' parents. Kids yearn for and dream of an education where they can learn in a setting with literally walls and climate control unlike in other countries like Nepal or other third world countries. Our children in this country are so blessed to live a free and democratic society, but in parts of our country are those who want education in a setting that allows for uninterrupted learning and without impediment. We have now in Fort Madison elementary schools not meeting the standards we should expect and the kids deserve. HTC did an amazing job of raising funds to build a new elementary school through private donations, because they believed. Public school parents believe as well and come from all walks of life to experience one thing, education in a place free from life's distractions. For some kids, school is an oasis or place for seven hours they can be free of a home life that may not be conducive for learning, let alone free of any type of other distractions. I don't have a lot of money, but I have a lot of heart and passion for education in the youth, the future, my future because my future is in the youth and their education. Please vote YES on April 3rd!

Thank you from a parent of child who won't benefit from a new school, but believes in education and giving every opportunity for intellectual growth even if it means a slight increase in my taxes.

Brian Wright

Community needs to trust in those we elected to serve

YES - Continued from Page 3

already owns is not a swamp and the middle school is not sliding down the hill, and again, I am sure that the district would be happy to sit down with you and show you the studies. We, as a community, need to put trust in Superintendent Slater and the School Board to make our schools great again, we did elect the board to do just that. I don't have all the answers and I'm not portraying that I do, but I do know that for me it is time for our community to "Pay it forward" and vote YES for our youth and the betterment of our community, and I ask that you all will do the same.

Teresa Young,
Fort Madison

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FRI 23 Mar



Moderate Rain
High - 51.1° F | Low - 41.4 F

SAT 24 Mar



Light Snow
High - 38.4° F | Low - 33.4° F

SUN 25 Mar



Moderate Rain
High - 41.4° F | Low - 38.6° F

MON 26 Mar



Heavy Rain
High - 62.1° F | Low - 47.1° F

TUE 27 Mar



Moderate Rain
High - 47.7° F | Low - 43.1° F

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