

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 | 7 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 20



www.pencitycurrent.com

## “Millie” turns 107 today

Mildred “Millie” Schulz turns 107 years old on Wednesday. She’s joined here by her grandson Tom, upper left, and her son Jerry, upper right. Schulz, who lives at The Madison, remains one of the oldest Iowans living in the state today.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Madison resident one of Iowa’s oldest living women

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - At 106 she sauntered quickly into the chapel to sit down and talk. On Wednesday Mildred “Millie” Schulz turns 107. She’s the first to tell you she probably won’t be around next year. Don’t bet on that. Her grandson Tom said he told his grandson Caden to keep the interviews with Mildred going after he and his wife Joanne pass, hinting that she would outlast them. Millie, who’s a resident at The Madison, said they are making a fuss over her birthday. “My vitals must be such that they don’t think I’m going to go on much longer,” she said with a smile. “They’re making an

awful lot of my birthday.” Her memory is impressively tight for someone who was born before radio and television at the end of WWI. She remembers WWII “and a whole slugga stuff after.” Schulz said she didn’t have special diets, but coffee and toast is what she’s had for breakfast. “I can’t say that I did anything special,” she said. “I had coffee and toast for breakfast for many and many a year. Papa would make a whole stack of toast in the morning. Two slices for me, two for my sister and four for each of the two boys and had it in the warming oven. And we kept on living.” Tom said Millie taught him how to skim the cream off the top of the milk for his cereal when he was younger.

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### FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

## FMHS students to manage 50 acres of farmland at FMMS

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A large group of Fort Madison High School students want to start farming land near the Fort Madison Middle School.

A group of Future Farmers of America (FFA) students from FMHS showed up at the regular meeting of the Fort Madison Community School District board of directors’ meeting Monday night. The group asked for the board’s

support in farming two sections of land south of the middle school. One on the southeast side of the property and the other on the south side of the P.O.R.T. recreational trail on the southern side of the property.

See FFA, page 7

### CITY COUNCIL

## City rethinks \$2 bump in property tax

### City proposes buying down mil levy by pulling funds from pension, benefits

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A preliminary budgeted city levy increase of \$2.73 has been reduced by a dollar in discussions for the 2023-24 fiscal year budget. At a budget workshop held on Tuesday night, City Manager David Varley told the council that he and Mayor Matt Mohrfeld discussed several options to bring the increase down.

The two came up with some savings in pension fund contributions that could be spread out over several years and were able to drop the fiscal year mil levy to \$16.08 from the \$17.08 that was proposed in Varley’s report sent to councilmembers late last week.

“The mayor came in and discussed with us and had some good ideas so we changed a few things around,” Varley said.

“He thought it would be a good way to stair step to go from \$15 to \$16 and then to \$17 and not make it such a huge increase.”

The mil levy is what property owners pay the city in tax-based \$1,000 of assessed valuation. So the city would collect \$16.80 per \$1,000 of assessed property valuations.

Varley said the main reason for the increase is the bond the city took out to borrow money for the Hwy. 61 project. The increase in the mil levy is seen in the city’s debt service portion of the combined levy.

Varley said savings were found in the employee benefits line item because the fund is healthy with \$509,000, so they

See BUDGET, page 7



VARLEY

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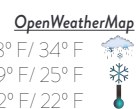
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### WEATHER

WED 18 Jan.....Chance of rain and snow, 38° F/ 34° F  
THU 19 Jan.....Cloudy with chance of snow, 39° F/ 25° F  
FRI 20 Jan.....Mostly sunny and cold, 32° F/ 22° F



### IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 01/16.....7 20 21 27 52, Star Ball: 4 All Star Bonus: 2  
LUCKY FOR LIFE 01/16.....11 17 25 31 38, Lucky Ball: 17  
PICK 3 01/16 MIDDAY.....3 8 8  
PICK 3 01/16 EVENING.....2 3 2  
PICK 4 01/16 MIDDAY.....17 6 5  
PICK 4 01/16 EVENING.....7 4 3 7  
POWERBALL 01/16.....4 14 33 39 61, Powerball: 3 Power Play: 3

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# Obituaries/Health News

## OBITUARIES

### STEPHEN D. LEAZER

Stephen "Steve" Douglas Leazer, 71, of Keokuk, Iowa, passed away on Monday, January 16, 2023, at Memorial Hospital in Carthage, Illinois.

Steve was born on February 3, 1951, at St. Joseph Hospital in Keokuk, Iowa, the son of Donald and Marjorie (Springer) Leazer. Steve was employed as a bartender at the Double Eagle in Keokuk, then worked for many years in construction, concluding his working career at the Riverside One-Stop. Steve enjoyed spending his free time searching for rocks, arrowheads and mushrooms. He was the definition of a people-person, with an easy-going and likeable personality. Steve proudly served his country in the United States Air Force from 1971 until 1975, and was honorably discharged.

Steve is survived by his sister Carol Scott of Fort Madison, Iowa; his brother Richard Leazer of Hixson, Tennessee; eight nieces and nephews: Sara (Todd) Menke, John (Jamie) Scott, Mike Scott, Mike Leazer, Marvin (Amanda) Leazer, Beckee (Ted Lafeber) LeMaster, Randy Leazer and Pegi Wise; and several great-nieces and nephews.

Steve is preceded in death by his parents and his brother Glen Leazer.

A graveside service with military honors will be held at 1 pm on Friday, January 20, 2023, at Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk, Iowa. A procession to the cemetery will leave DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk to the cemetery at 12:45 pm on Friday.

Memorials may be directed to Carol Scott for Steve's funeral expenses.

Tributes and condolences may be left at [www.dejongsfuneralhome.com](http://www.dejongsfuneralhome.com).

DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.



LEAZER



## OBITUARIES

### BARBARA J. GUNTHER

Barbara Jean Guinther, 68, of Saint Paul, Iowa, passed away at 1:27 a.m. Monday, January 16, 2023, at Southeast Iowa Regional Home Health and Hospice House in West Burlington, Iowa.

Born on October 3, 1954, in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of Lloyd and Catherine (Walljasper) Grelk. On December 12, 1978, in Fort Madison, Iowa she married Ken Guinther.

Barbara is survived by her husband: Ken; three daughters: Brenda Grelk, Dawn Cunningham and Andrea Guinther; three brothers: Bob Grelk, Ken Grelk and Gary Grelk; two sisters: Mary Umbarger and Eileen Vorwalt; eight grandchildren; twelve great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers: Dewayne, Tony and Norb Grelk.

Barbara graduated from Marquette High School and retired from Metromail. In her free time she enjoyed cross stitching, seek and find, t.v. shows and especially her grandchildren.

Her body has been entrusted to the crematory of Schmitz Funeral Home for cremation.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, January 28, 2023 at the Pilot Grove Bank Community Room in Pilot Grove.

A memorial has been established in her memory.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com). Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements.



GUNTHER

### Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

## HHS launches new website

DES MOINES – The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announces the unveiling of the combined health and human services website today. The new

website can be found at <https://hhs.iowa.gov>. This is the latest step in Iowa's HHS alignment initiative.

This new website is the first phase of a two-phased effort.

"Since the spring of 2022, our team has worked to bring together information from the legacy IDPH and DHS websites into one website," said Matt Highland, Chief of Strategic Operations for HHS. "The site will have a familiar look and feel for Iowans who are accustomed to visiting the previous sites. The new site is built using the same organization and architecture to ensure people can find information in the way they are used to finding it."

However, today's announcement is the first

step. There is significant work ahead. HHS is in the process of creating a human-centered website, making our website more user friendly and easier to navigate. This approach starts with designing for the end user and will include added functionality and enhanced accessibility.

"This human-centered design process includes hearing directly from stakeholders and assistance seekers, to ensure our website meets their needs. The goal is to have a website that is easy to use, is inclusive and accessible to all Iowans who rely on HHS," said Highland.

This next phase of work has already begun. We hope to launch the fully redesigned agency website in the coming year.

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## Business News

# SEIRMC nurses to get DAISY Awards

WEST BURLINGTON – Nurses at Great River Health, which includes Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center and Henry County Health, will soon be honored with The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses®. The award is part of the DAISY Foundation's mission to recognize the extraordinary, compassionate nursing care they provide patients and families every day. All three campuses held kick-off events to introduce this new program.

The DAISY Foundation is a not-for-profit organization, established in memory of J. Patrick Barnes, by members of his family. Patrick died at the age of 33 in late 1999 from complications of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), a little known but not uncommon auto-immune disease. (DAISY is an acronym for Diseases Attacking the Immune System.) The care Patrick and his family received from nurses while he was ill inspired this unique means of thanking nurses for making a profound difference in the lives of their patients and patient families.

Nurses may be nominated by patients, families, and colleagues. The award recipient is chosen by a committee at Great River Health to receive The DAISY Award. Awards are presented throughout the year at celebrations attended by the Honoree's colleagues, patients, and visitors.


Each Honoree receives a certificate commending her or him as an "Extraordinary Nurse." The certificate reads: "In deep appreciation of all you do, who you are, and the incredibly meaningful difference you make in the lives of so many people." Honorees also receive a DAISY Award pin and a beautiful and meaningful sculpture called A Healer's Touch, hand-carved by artists of the Shona Tribe in Zimbabwe. "We are proud to be among the healthcare organizations participating in The DAISY Award program."

Nurses go above and beyond every day. It's important that our nurses know their work is highly valued, and The DAISY Foundation provides a way for us to do that." Commented Great River Health Chief Nursing Officer Hope Dunn. Said Bonnie Barnes, FAAN, Doctor of Humane Letters (h.c) and Co-Founder of The

DAISY Foundation, "When Patrick was critically ill, our family experienced first-hand the remarkable skill and care nurses provide patients every day and night. Yet these unsung heroes are seldom recognized for the super-human, extraordinary, compassionate work they do. The kind of work the nurses at Great River Health are called on to do every day epitomizes the purpose of The DAISY Award." Great River Health employs over 815 nurses, providing patient care at their Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center - Fort Madison and West Burlington - campuses; along with Henry County Health Center in Mount Pleasant.

More information is available at <http://DAISYfoundation.org>.

### ARE YOUR TEETH AND GUMS HEALTHY?



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## BURLINGTON TRAILWAYS

# Gardeners' dream awaits on next tour

Although it may be cold and blustery outdoors, now is the time when gardeners start dreaming about the vegetable or flower gardens they will be planting in just a few more short weeks. It's the time when the seed catalogs are arriving, and seeds will soon be started indoors with the hopes of a great outcome this summer. We have planned a great springtime tour this April 12 – 15, 2023 to help you along with those dreams.

Perhaps you have watched an episode or two of P. Allen Smith's Garden Home or P. Allen Smith's Garden to Table on PBS. How about seeing P. Allen Smith's Moss Mountain Farm and quite possibly have the opportunity to meet him yourself? Come along with Burlington Trailways as we make our way down to Roland, Arkansas where we will have a guided tour of his 3-story Greek Revival-style home and gardens while learning about his design approach. Enjoy lunch from one of Allen's personally selected recipes prepared from some of the freshest ingredients possible, right from the farm. For dessert, enjoy a slice of Allen's famous buttermilk pecan pie with homemade whipped cream! Visit the Terrace Garden, the Hidden Rose Garden, Hydrangea Alley and his one-acre vegetable garden. And last, but certainly not least, visit Poultryville where you get to meet the chickens and other animals. Learn why he started the Heritage Poultry Conservancy and get to say hi to your favorite farm animals from his TV show – Trudy, Moose, Smudge & Squeak, just to name a few. This is where he lives, and when there he will come out to meet everyone, answer questions, perhaps give a short seminar talk and always happy to sign books.


Then we are off to one of the American Bus Association's 10p 100 Events, the Charleston, Missouri 55th Annual Dogwood-Azalea Festival. Tour the 6-mile Dogwood-Azalea Trail when Charleston glows with the beauty of magnificent three-generation dogwoods and azaleas at peak bloom. While the dogwoods and azaleas are the true stars of this festival, there are many other activities to do and things to see. We join a step-on guide for our own private tour of some homes and gardens and then still have time for the many events held within a 3-block radius of the Chamber of Commerce including arts & crafts vendors, food vendors, a parade, plant sale, and plenty of shops offering antiques, gifts, and consignment items. This is truly a fun-filled day of flowers and more!

On the return home with visions of your own garden plans for this year swirling in your head, we make a stop at Baker's Heirloom Seeds where their passion is saving, growing, and sharing rare seeds! Here you can shop for seeds and plants (some you may not find in other places), see their trial gardens, learn more about seed growing, enjoy the animals and visit the authentic pioneer village. It'll be hard to leave with so much to choose from, but just think about what you can enjoy this summer from all of your ideas you've gathered and the seed and plant purchases from this tour!

For more information visit us online at [Trailway-Travel.com](http://Trailway-Travel.com) or give us a call at 319-753-2864 ext. 162.



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# PEN CITY CURRENT

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Founded in 2016  
P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Member **LION Publishers**  
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Pen City Current, [www.PenCityCurrent.com](http://www.PenCityCurrent.com), and Pen e-Saver are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Monday through Friday mornings by 6AM.



## Sports/Classifieds

# HTC boys get needed win at Mepo

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP  
PCC Editor

MEDIAPOLIS — It was time, Holy Trinity coach John Hellige felt, that his team needed to beat one of the better boys basketball teams in the SEI Superconference. The Crusaders responded exactly the way Hellige wanted. Luke Hellige scored inside with two minutes left to break the last tie of the game, then made four free throws in the final 30 seconds as Holy Trinity defeated Mediapolis 55-50 on Tuesday night. The Crusaders (5-10 overall, 3-7 Superconference South Division) led almost the entire game, then got stops and crucial shots in the closing minutes to fight off the Bulldogs (8-6, 5-5). A team that was smarting from a last-second loss to city rival Fort Madison on Saturday was celebrating a critical win with postseason play looming. “You know, it’s a big one,” John Hellige said. “We’ve been knocking at the door to beat one of the better teams in the conference, and Mediapolis is coming off big wins (over Winfield-Mount Union and Danville).” Mediapolis had taken a 47-46 lead with 3:40 to play after a four-point possession that followed a technical foul on the Holy Trinity bench. But Conner Gehling, who had 14 points, tied the game by making the second of two free throws with 3:09 left. Luke Hellige then scored inside to put the Crusaders up 49-47. Mediapolis got to within 51-50 on Cole Lipper’s 3-point play. Hellige made two free throws with 22 seconds and the Crusaders, who had just two team fouls, had plenty of fouls to give to cut away at the clock. Mediapolis’ Max Griffin, though, got away for an open 3-point attempt, but missed. Lipper got the rebound, but lost the ball. Hellige, who led the Crusaders with 23 points, was fouled, and made two free throws with one second left for the final margin. “Our kids, we’re seeing a whole new level of toughness,” John Hellige said. “Not necessarily pushing-and-shoving toughness. But it’s talking on defense, it’s boxing out, it’s making stronger passes. It’s all of those tough things you have to do as a team. “It was nice after that tough loss to Fort Madison to bounce back and not hang our heads. All credit to the kids, they were phenomenal.” Lipper led Mediapolis with 23, 10 off his total from the Bulldogs’ 74-52 win over Holy Trinity on December 6. Hellige considered playing a zone to try to contain Lipper. “We decided right before the game that we’re not going to back down, we’re not going to crawl into a zone and let them bomb away from three,” Hellige said. “We’re going to get our butts down and play defense with our feet, keep guys in front of us, and be tough, and that’s what we did tonight.”

# Bendlage scores 32, but Lady Crusaders fall at Mediapolis

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP  
PCC Sports

MEDIAPOLIS — There were enough defensive solutions for Holy Trinity’s girls basketball to try to slow Mediapolis’ inside-outside game. There weren’t enough rebounds to make the stops work better. The Crusaders rallied in the fourth quarter, but couldn’t get key shots late in a 64-58 loss on Tuesday night. The Bullettes (12-2 overall, 10-2 SEI Superconference South Division) scored from the outside in the first half, and on the inside in the second half. Payton Bush led Mediapolis with 20 points, 15 coming in the first half off five 3-pointers. Haley Steffener had 17 points, scoring on the inside as well as on the perimeter. Hanna Wagenbach had 12 points and Liz Lane had nine points in the second half scoring inside. “We had three or four different defenses ready for tonight,” Holy Trinity coach Tony Johnson said. “In the second half (after the Bullettes had eight 3-pointers), we decided we were going to go to man-to-man and I thought we were better. But if we rebound a little better, we would have had a better chance.” That showed on the offensive end, Johnson said. “We didn’t get a lot of second-chance points, like we usually do,” Johnson said. Still, Holy Trinity (7-7, 5-6) had chances in the closing minutes after rallying from 12 points down at the end of the third quarter. Holy Trinity got to within four points on four occasions in the final three minutes, the last time at 62-58 with 58 seconds to play. Teagan Snaadt forced a turnover on the Bullettes, giving Holy Trinity a chance to get closer, but Anna Bendlage missed a 3-pointer. After Lane missed the front end of a one-and-bonus with 26 seconds left, the Crusaders had another opportunity to cut the lead, but Presley Myers missed an inside jumper. Bush was fouled on Mediapolis’ next possession, then missed the front end of her one-and-bonus chance. But Bush chased the down the long rebound in the right corner and was fouled again. She made two free throws for the final margin. “There were a few rebounds we let loose there in the second half we should have had,” Johnson said. Bush’s first-half 3-pointers stretched the Crusaders’ defense. “She makes shots nobody else makes,” Johnson said. “Usually you don’t have to tell someone to go guard out at 25 feet. There aren’t many girls who would take those shots. We knew coming in she would be a problem. Our second-half defense on her was much better.” Mary Kate Bendlage, who finished with 32 points, had 17 of the Crusaders’ 19 points in the fourth quarter. Snaadt had seven points.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE AGENDA**  
**FORT MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Date: Thursday, January 19, 2023**  
**Time: 5:30 P.M.**  
**Place: Sheaffer Meeting**

**Room and Online Meeting**  
Optional Electronic Meeting  
The option of attending the meeting electronically is being offered. You can participate in the meeting via telephone and can comment on an agenda item by joining the Zoom meeting. Using your telephone, dial (312) 626 6799 and enter the meeting ID (865 5871 5897) when prompted. If you have trouble connecting to the meeting, please call (319) 372-5721.

**Council**  
IX. Unfinished Business  
X. New Business  
a. Review Behavior Policy  
b. Review Unattended Child Policy  
c. Desk barriers  
d. Magazine and Newspaper Collection Discussion  
e. Budget Discussion  
XI. Trustee Education  
a. Overview of Iowa Government Website  
XII. Upcoming Events and Information  
a. The Iowa Libraries Online Conference (ILOC) will be on Thursday, January 26. The evening session is typically geared toward library board interests and this year is, “Not From Around Here: Partnerships with and for New People in Your Community”  
Next Meeting February 16, 2023



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PUBLIC NOTICE Meeting Notice

CITY OF FORT MADISON Planning and Zoning Commission



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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**WILL MEET ON Tuesday, January 24, 2023 6:00 PM AT THE Council Chambers, City Hall - 811 Ave E TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING : AGENDA**

1. Welcome New Members: Matt Emmett, Barbara Asay, and Tom Schulz.
2. Roll Call
3. Nomination, Acceptance, and Vote in new Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

4. Approval of Minutes – December 19, 2022 Meeting
5. Public Comments
6. Overview of the Responsibilities of the Planning and Zoning Commission
7. Zoning Code Updates – Discussion regarding extent of research required to complete zoning code updates.
  - Changing District uses, codes. Discussion regarding allowing a more lenient approach to allow new development to grow while being cognizant of neighborhood and neigh-

- boring citizens rights
- Changing District locations. Remove B-4 Highway Business District. Shift districts out creating a new more lenient B-2 Downtown Business District.
  - a) What steps are needed to rezone property/ documents needed.
  - Public Forums: Once code is prepared multiple public meetings should be held to inform the public of the proposals prior to P&Z recommendation/ approval to council.
  - 8. P&Z Training scheduled for Thursday January

26th, 2023  
 • To register visit: <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?meetingRef=17R58x-nDGr1RZYTPepl7R58x-VqQQ>

**PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING MINUTES Fort Madison Public Library Board of Trustees Minutes of the regular meeting held**

**December 15, 2022, 5:00 p.m. in person.**

Board members present in person: Sharon Groene, Jane Bartlett, Ron Welder, Anne Heitz, Tom Pollpeter, Lon Spurgin, Candice Smrt and Kathy Burkhardt.  
 Others present: Sarah Clendineng, library staff.  
 Meeting called to order with a quorum present at 5:00 pm.

Excused Absences: Motion to excuse the absences of Mary Whitcomb and Candice Smrt– Welder; 2nd – Burkhardt. Motion carried unanimously.  
 Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda – Burkhardt; 2nd – Heitz. Motion carried unanimously.  
 Public Comments: No public comments.  
 Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the



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# Classifieds/Public Notices

## PUBLIC NOTICES

minutes of the November 17 meeting – Spurgin; 2nd – Bartlett. Motion carried unanimously.  
Approval of the Bills:

Trustee Bartlett inquired about the GoDaddy bill, this was for the new redirect address for the calendar and was listed as “rpt only” as it was a credit card payment and will be reflected on the city reports a month late. There was also a question about the heat work, this was just due to a thermostat that seemed to not be working, the technician found a corroded battery and the issue seems to have been resolved.

Trustee Burkhardt inquired about the new janitorial supplies vendor. They have the potential to be cheaper, if we adjust our ordering process since they charge a flat delivery fee. Our janitorial service doesn’t provide consumable things like paper products, trash bags and soap.

Motion to approve the December bills – Heitz; 2nd – Bartlett. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence: No correspondence.

New Business Budget Discussion: [Candice Smrt arrived during this discussion]

The director requested additional direction from the library board about the request for a new part-time employee in light of information she received from the city about the city’s financial situation. Trustee Welder withdrew the request as the board member who had suggested it.

Trustee Burkhardt stated that if you don’t ask for the funds, then we don’t know what the city would say and wondered what the harm would be in asking so that they know

we are thinking about it. The director stated that up until she received the budget memo from the city she was fine with putting that idea forward but, in light of the information she has received does not think that this is the correct time. Trustee Burkhardt emphasized that she is not suggesting asking for funding this year but finding a way to let the city know that this is something we want. The director stated that she will include this in the budget narrative that is included with the budget request.

There was a request for additional information about the \$.27 levy. The director replied that it has to go to a vote at a city election and those occur in odd numbered years. The proposal can ask to

levy up to \$.27 per \$1,000 valuation to support library services. There is also a public safety levy that the city does currently have and use to benefit the fire and police departments. The director believes that at the maximum, it would bring in about \$80,000. This would only benefit the library and could not be used for other city departments. Trustee Spurgin asked if it would require 60% to pass, the director wasn’t sure. Trustee Smrt commented that the board would have to promote this themselves and raise funds for any promotional materials.

Trustee Bartlett asked how many other libraries of our size have Tier 1 status. The director doesn’t know but will check.

Director’s Report  
The director corrected some information under the financial section. We only budgeted for 26 pay periods and there are 27 pay periods in this budget year. This means we may need to underspend in some areas to come in under budget.

There was brief discussion of staffing levels. The director mentioned that she has budgeted for money for security cameras out of the trust fund for next year. The current system is aging and does need to be updated, also there are areas where it would be nice to have additional cameras, including the parking lots.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm until January 19, 2023.

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## From the Front

# FFA needs board memo to provide crop insurance

**FFA** - Continued from Page 1

Jay Lampe, the Vice President of the FMHS FFA Foundation, a support group for the program, pitched the program to the school board with about 20 students in tow.

Lampe and other members of the FFA Foundation approached the board in November to consider different options for farm ground around the middle school.

The project will impact the FFA budget at about 35% to get the program up and running, but Lampe said they would in all likelihood make that money back in October during harvest.

“We’re kinda looking at this as a two-year commitment as the foundation managing this ground,” Lampe said.

They also want to rewrite the curriculum to include the ground and turn it over to students to manage on their own.

“We’re committed to support this into the future as long as it takes.”

He was asking the school board to allow the foundation to manage the property along with the students in the program.

He said he needs a memorandum from the district giving decision-making control of the land to the foundation for crop insurance purposes.

“We want to manage risk. Manage risk for students, manage risk for us. We’re gonna want to do some crop insurance in case there’s crop devastation,” Lampe said.

He said the process will include a traditional corn and soybean rotation.

“We want this to be representational of the industry today. We don’t have plans for any experimental crops. We want this to be representational so the students can learn, and it can be applicable after school,” he said.

The program would bring custom operators in to plant, fertilize, and harvest the crops. Lampe compared it to having someone come in and landscape your yard.

He said local elevators will be used to store and market the grain.

There already has been strong support for the program with people in the industry asking to be part of it, Lampe said.

The profits will be used by the FFA program to benefit the students.

Sophomore Alex Hellman said he thinks the hands-on experience is not only good for students that have a background in agriculture, but could raise the interest of others.

“FFA is not just about country kids coming in joining a school club. This will have an impact on FFA because kids will be able to see what goes into the farming process,” Hellman said.

“There are kids here in Fort Madison who don’t have the opportunity to get their hands on farming stuff and looking at the crops.”

Hadley Johnson said he was looking forward to the project because of the learning process.

“I don’t do a lot myself with farming but I’m very interested. I’m the treasurer for FFA so I speak to a lot of members and there’s a lot of interest in it.”

Lampe said plans include getting the land ready for spring planting if they get support from the board.

The board said they would put formal action for the foundation in support of the project, on February’s board agenda.

# Council sets another budget workshop for end of month

**BUDGET** - Continued from Page 1

took \$100,000 out of there to “buy down the mil levy”.

“The second place we’re doing it is with the police retirement where there was \$413,000, so we took \$110,000 out of there. You’ll see we have a healthy balance in those. You levy for x amount of employees and if you don’t have all those employees it builds up over the years,” Varley said.

Councilwoman Rebecca Bowker asked if Varley thought those adjustments were realistic in the current economy.

“Realistically speaking, are these little changes from one account to another realistic,” she said.

Varley said they were realistic because the funds that took the money from were in healthy shape and it helped to accomplish the mayor’s goal of making the levy increase smaller.

“Fair enough,” Bowker said.

One budget aspect Varley deferred on was the Old Fort. He said there was a task force that is making some recommendations on the Fort.

After the meeting, Mohrfeld said a group of officials went and toured the facility last week and discovered some disturbing structural issues and overall condition of the Fort.

Mohrfeld said the future of the Fort will require some investigation, and was non-committal on whether The Fort was on the chopping block.

“I can’t say that’s being considered... but I can’t say it’s not being considered, either.”

The council will be holding another budget workshop on Jan. 31 at 4:30 p.m.

# Schulz remembers war, depression, and soccer

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“So I don’t think she was on a low-fat diet,” he chuckled.

Millie grew up in Normal, Illinois, the daughter of a house painter.

“We knew him as a painter, but to Papa, he was an ‘interior decorator,’” she said with a little sarcasm.

Her father then took a job with the C&A (Chicago and Alton) Railroad and worked on the interiors of the railcars including dining rooms. One of her biggest memories is the depression and her father coming home in tears because he couldn’t afford groceries for the family.

“He had arthritis in his feet and legs and he walked all over looking for work,” she said.

“I told him to just go down and sign up for help. He was a very proud man and cried because he couldn’t pay for groceries. He ended up doing it, but he didn’t like it.”

She also remembers being very athletic as a youth, loving track and soccer.

“I could play soccer. I was good at it. I could beat everyone down that field and shoot it right in the goal, but then my coach added a rule. He said I couldn’t beat everyone to the line and shoot. I had to wait,” she said.

“I also used to go out to the track and set up the high hurdles and then I would run them. One day on the way home, a young man came up to me and said I had to stop running the hurdles. I asked why and he said because the coach was timing and I was faster than most of the boys.”

Millie has a son, Jerry, and a foster daughter, Pat. Jerry works with Tom at Your Heat and Air Guy, the local HVAC service company. Millie’s other grandson on Jerry’s side, Tim, lives in Florida.

Iowa has only one living resident over the age of 110 and that is Hazel Young, according to Wiki’s Gerontology list of supercentenarians, making Millie one of the oldest living Iowans.

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