

PEN CITY CURRENT

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Tuesday, January 24, 2023 | 8 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 24



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Supervisor wants action on property tax proposal

HOUSE FILE 1: Schulz says proposed bill could be “disastrous” for rural local governmental budgets

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A Lee County Supervisor wants to take action against a proposed property tax bill that would cap property assessments at 103% of current values.

House File 1, which is currently under heavy debate in the Iowa House, is a property tax reform bill that could hinder the county’s ability to provide essential services, according to Tom Schulz, a Republican on the Lee County Board.



SCHULZ

“The wonderful folks at the state capitol are about to screw with our funding mechanisms with property tax at a level that could be devastating to us,” he said.

“What I would like to be able to do is go to Des Moines with a unified point of view from this body telling them what we think of some of these proposed legislations and how this is seriously going to cripple our ability to raise funds necessary for essential services.”

Schulz said there is language in the bill that provides for backfilling with state aid, but he said the state’s history in fulfilling that prom-



SEYB

See TAXES, page 8

Superintendents react to Reynolds’ open letter on school choice

STUDENTS FIRST ACT: Slater, Crozier, and Huebner weigh in on proposal

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - Several school officials are responding to an open letter that Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds released on Friday addressing the Students First Act, which is being heavily debated as a top priority with Iowa legislators.

State Rep. Martin Graber released the following statement after a joint statement from the superintendents of the three public school in the county was issued late last week.

“Thank you for your letter of concern. I continue to research carefully and listen to all the points for and against this extremely important issue,” Graber wrote in an email to Pen City Current Saturday.

On Friday, the governor submitted the following letter in its entirety:

“A strong education system is foundational to Iowa’s future, which is why school choice continues to be a priority of mine and of families across our great state.

I believe in Iowa’s public schools. Kevin and I are both products of public education. It’s the choice we made for our daughters, and it’s the same path they’ve now chosen for their own children. One of our daughters is even a public school teacher.

School choice is not an anti-public-school movement. It’s pro-education, pro-student, and pro-family. And it has the potential to elevate education statewide for every student in Iowa.

As Governor, I’ve increased education funding year over year. In fact, under Republican leadership, it’s grown by more than \$1 billion since fiscal year 2012. And rightfully so.



GRABER

See BILL, page 5

OLD FORT PLAYERS

February auditions set for OFP’s May production

BY DOROTHY SCHULTE
Old Fort Players

FORT MADISON - It’s been a great season so far with audiences starting to tick up toward pre-Covid lockdown levels and Old Fort Players is riding the wave. So, there’s no time like the present to hold auditions for “The Odd Couple, Female Version” that will arrive onstage this May.

The cast calls for six women over 30 and two men aged 30-40. The two leads are Olive Madison and Florence Unger. Olive is a successful, intelligent and wisecracking television producer. She is also a total slob when it comes to house-keeping.

Florence is a fastidious and soon to be divorced woman who needs a place to stay. Where better than in the apartment of her best friend who is also her complete opposite in almost every way. What could go wrong?

Rounding out the cast is an assortment of characters of various types. Sylvie is trying to quit smoking and not succeeding; Mickey is a control freak; Renee is blunt and outspoken and the ditzy Vera is responsible for much of the play’s humor. Manolo and Jesus are the handsome brothers who live next door and show up just in time to spice things up.

This is the comic genius of the late Neil Simon at his best. One liners zing between the actors amid a heart-breakingly honest story of friendship and love. If you don’t recognize at least a few of these characters among your friends, you need to get more friends!

Whether you are familiar with theater or a stranger to performing, this production is the perfect way to express yourself. You’ll have a thrilling time on stage with your fellow actors with a script that brings out your inner comedian.

Drop by the OFP downtown location Wednesday, Febru-

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap

TUE 24 Jan.....Cold with chance of snow, 36° F/ 28° F
 WED 25 Jan.....Cold and snowy, 32° F/ 23° F
 THU 26 Jan.....Cloudy and cold, 29° F/ 18° F

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

KENNETH K. HOFFMEISTER

Kenneth K. Hoffmeister, 88, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 2:04 a.m. on Saturday, January 21, 2023 at The Madison. He was born on April 19, 1934 in Chicago, IL to Kurt & Betty Feist Hoffmeister. He married the love of his life Dolores Jean Matthews on June 12, 1960 in Fort Madison, IA. He attended high school in Lakeland FL and then played football for the Florida University Gators. He later followed his family to La Harpe, IL where he worked with his father as a grocer and butcher in their family store for many years other than when he served in the U.S. Army in France. In 1966 Ken and Jean moved their growing family to Fort Madison where he worked for the First Mississippi fertilizer plant and was active in the community. He also ran a small business, home delivery of milk and dairy products and finally worked reading gas meters around Lee County before retiring. Ken always enjoyed an active community and social life; regardless of any work demands. He was active in the local Elks Lodge serving as



HOFFMEISTER

it's Exalted Ruler for 1988-89, a past president and founding member of the Lake Cooper Angling Association, and a former Trustee and Elder Emeritus at the First Christian Church in Fort Madison. He was also active in the Boy Scouts and inducted to scouting Order of the Arrow. As an avid outdoorsman Ken enjoyed hunting and fishing with his friends and supporting area conservation. His favorite getaway spot was being back in Florida on the beach and water around Sanibel Island; collecting shells, fishing, and relaxing in paradise with his beloved wife.

Ken is survived by: his wife: Jean Hoffmeister of Fort Madison, IA; sons: Kurt (Ellen) Hoffmeister of Marshalltown, IA & Trueman (Wendy) Hoffmeister of Manitowish Waters, WI; daughter: Joy (Bruce) Pankow of Farmington, MN; 6 grandchildren; his brother: Robert (Marsha) Hoffmeister of The Woodlands, TX and sister: Wilma (Phil) Nielsen of South Sioux City, NE. Plus his many nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Bill (Sue) of Mount Pleasant, IA.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A memorial service will be held at a later date at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. Burial will be at Oakland Cemetery. Memorials, in lieu of flowers, may be donated in Ken's name to the Fort Madison First Christian Church or the Lake Cooper Angling Association or may be sent to Jean Hoffmeister at 2210 Avenue H # 420, Fort Madison, IA 52627. If you should choose, you could instead make a donation in Ken's name to your favorite local conservation association. Online condolences to Ken's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.



Along with Ken's many activities and interests; he welcomed any opportunity to spend time with his family and many good friends. He was a humorous, warm, generous, and kind-hearted man; especially enjoying his morning coffee with the Ten Inch Club.

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Drinking Habits 2 set for Feb. 17-19, 24-26

OFP - Continued from Page 1

ary 1 and Friday, February 3 at 6:30 pm or Sunday, February 5 at 2 pm. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. No experience or preparation is necessary. Also needed are volunteers for Stage Manager and Sound and Lights positions. Experience is preferred but not required as training will be provided.

"The Odd Couple, Female Version" is produced by Special Arrangement with Samuel French, Inc. Performances are scheduled to run May 12-14 & 19-21, 2023.

Don't forget to attend a performance of "Drinking Habits 2: Caught in the Act." The show is scheduled to run February 17-19 & 24-26, 2023. Friday and Saturday shows begin at 7:30 and the Sunday matinee begins at 2:00 pm. Adult tickets are \$15, Senior, Vet & Military are \$12, and Students are \$10. Written by Tom Smith, the play is produced by Special Arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. (www.playscripts.com).

The theater is located in downtown Fort Madison at 725 Avenue G. Send a Facebook message, send an email to oldfortplayersfm@gmail.com or call 319-372-9559 for more information. Like them on Facebook (Fb@oldfortplayers) or visit www.oldfortplayers.com to keep up with everything that's going on at the theater.

Obituaries

OBITUARIES

DORIS J. SCHRADER

Doris J. Schrader, 83, of Ft. Madison passed away on January 21, 2023 at 2:03 AM at the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center Hospice House.



She was born on June 26, 1939 in Tiltonville, Ohio to Louis and Anna Jackson Reynolds. On June 9, 1958 she married William Schrader. Doris worked at Sheaffer Pen Company and Shellor Globe. She then worked for Pinkerton Security for several years. Doris was a member of Holy Family Parish. She enjoyed cooking, crocheting, reading books, playing cards, listening to music and working on puzzles. Her family was her greatest joy and she loved spending time with them.

Survivors include her husband, William "Bill" Schrader Sr. of Ft. Madison; three daughters, Cheryl Ford of Ft. Madison, Sandy (Andy) Martinez of Ft. Madison and Kimberly (Marion Ferrell) Schrader of Keokuk; one son, Bill (Traci) Schrader Jr. of Ft. Madison; thirteen grandchildren; twenty seven great grandchildren and four great great grandchildren; one brother, Robert (Mary Ann) Reynolds of Brown Mills, New Jersey; one sister, Freda Trexler of Kannapolis, North Carolina and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; one son, Charles in infancy; one brother, Louis Junior; three sisters, Kay, Dorothy and Edna; two grandsons, Dante Stuekerjuergen and Matthew Kussman and a son in law, Jim Ford, Jr.

The funeral service will be held on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 11 AM at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Reverend John Stack officiating. A rosary will be recited at 9 AM and the family will meet with friends from 9:30 AM until the time of the service at 11 AM. She will be cremated following the service and burial will be at 11 AM on Thursday, January 26, 2023 at Soldiers' Circle, Oakland Cemetery.

A memorial has been established for the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center Hospice House and online condolences may be left at www.king-lynk.com.

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OBITUARIES

JERRY R. DRUMMOND

Jerry Ray Drummond, 85, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 3:43 p.m. on Saturday, January 21, 2023 at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City, IA. He was born on May 20, 1937 in Iowa City, IA to Wayne A. & Florence P. Courtney Drummond. He married Dorothy LaVelle and they later divorced. He then married Karen Sue Krieger on October 27, 1987 in Montrose, IA. He worked for the CB & Q and later Burlington Northern Railroads and then retired from the Iowa State Penitentiary. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, meeting with his family and friends and spending time at his campsite at Lake Wilderness.



DRUMMOND

Jerry is survived by: his wife: Karen Drummond of Fort Madison, IA; 1-son: Dennis (Grace) Drummond of Douds, IA; 4-daughters: Diana Robinson of Jacksonville, IL, Denise (Mark) Parks of Arenzville, IL, Donna Drummond of Roodhouse, IL & Lynn (Bill) Schorfheide of St. Peters, MO; 1-step son: Kurt Meyer of Fort Madison, IA; 1-step daughter: Lori (Thad) Hay of Fort Madison, IA; numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren & great great grandchildren; 1-brother: Bud Drummond of Farmington, IA; 1-Sister: Onieda Stansbury of Richmond, MO and numerous nieces & nephews. He was preceded in death by: his parents, 1-son: Duane

Drummond, 1-son in law: Dale Robinson, 1-grandson: Anthony Campbell, 1-great grandson: Damon Krogmeier, 1-great granddaughter: Lourdes Krogmeier, 1-step granddaughter: Meghan Hay, 1-brother, 1-sister and 1-sister in infancy.

A visitation will be held from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 26, 2023 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. He will be cremated following the visitation. A memorial service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 27, 2023 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Pastor Jeff Metcalf officiating. Burial will be at Oakland Cemetery. A memorial has been established for St. Jude Children's Hospital. Online condolences to Jerry's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

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Sports

Bloodhounds roll in double dual win Monday

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The 22nd-ranked Fort Madison Bloodhounds swept what ended up being a double dual at the Hound Dome in a rare Monday night wrestling meet.

The Bloodhounds rolled Centerville 54-27 and then downed Davis County 60-24. What was originally scheduled as a triangular turned into a double dual when Davis County and Centerville, who have seen each other several times during the year, decided to not wrestle each other.

At 126, Logan Pennock scored two pins the first period. He knocked off the Big Reds' Hayden Bratz in just :39 seconds and then in the Davis County, match he took quick control with a shot right off the whistle to take down the Mustangs'

Drake Hamm at 1:37. Hamm was able to wriggle out of Pennock's first shot, but then on a break from stalemate, Pennock was able to get Hamm's legs again, and this time rolled it over, taking control and scoring the pin.

Nolan Riddle, wrestling at 145, also scored a couple pinfalls on the night. Riddle pinned Centerville's Carsyn Edwards in just 32 seconds. The Mustangs' Morgan VanHemert made Riddle work into the second period, but the junior scored a pin about half-way through at 2:54.

Junior Teague Smith, wrestling at 172, got back on the mat after sitting for a couple events. Smith scored first period pins over Centerville's Jaeger Mendenhall at 1:21 and Davis County's Luke Farley with six seconds remaining in the first period.

Joe Hartman made quick work of both his

opponents at 160 lbs. with quick shots at the start. Hartman got Centerville's Leland Henderson in just 52 seconds and then got Davis County's Cason Dunkin in 26 seconds. Hartman scored a very quick take-down and then pulled Dunkin over as the two wrestled near the circle.

Fort Madison also got wins on the mat from Hayden Woolever (132 lbs.), Aidan Pennock at (152 lbs.), Landon Rudd (182 lbs.) Hayden Segoviano (220 lbs.), Noah Swigart (120 lbs.), and Cory Arnett (285 lbs.).

Smith said Monday meets are always a bit iffy due to the weekend.

"There're teams where you come out on a Monday night, and if we're kind of groggy, they have enough good kids that they could've made it interesting, but to our kids credit, they came out excited to wrestle. We got some bonus



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison's Aidan Pennock tries to get an advantage over Centerville's Jax Mosley in his first match in a double dual. Pennock lost the match by a 9-3 decision at 152 lbs. Pennock would record a pin in his match against Davis County.

points that gave us a cushion."

The Hounds have qualified for the Class 3A dual wrestling regionals Jan. 31 at Linn-Mar High School. The Hounds get 11th ranked Dubuque Hempstead in the first round beginning at 6 p.m. The winner of that dual will face 7th ranked Linn-Mar for the right to advance to state.

Smith said he will evaluate who will make that event later this week.

"We got some guys that aren't hurt-hurt, but they're enough so that we won't wrestle them. We're not going to take a chance, especially with Burlington Thursday and districts after that. We'll evaluate that and be smart," Smith said.

Complete results of Monday's meet are below:

Fort Madison (FOMA) 54.0 Centerville (CENT) 27.0

126: Logan Pennock (FOMA) over Hayden Bratz (CENT) (Fall 0:39) 132: Hayden Woolever (FOMA) over Bain Weeks (CENT) (Fall 2:25) 138: Jason Morrow (CENT) over (FOMA) (For.) 145: Nolan Riddle (FOMA) over Carsyn Edwards (CENT) (Fall 0:32) 152: Jax Mosley (CENT) over Aidan Pennock (FOMA) (Dec 9-3) 160: Joe Hartman (FOMA) over Leland Henderson (CENT) (Fall 0:52) 170: Teague Smith (FOMA) over Jaeger Mendenhall (CENT) (Fall 1:21) 182: Isaac Messamaker (CENT) over (FOMA) (For.) 195: Isaac Thacher (FOMA) over (CENT) (For.) 220: Hayden Segoviano (FOMA) over Logan Caraccio (CENT) (Fall 1:41) 285: Cory Arnett (FOMA) over (CENT) (For.) 106: Clayton McDonald (CENT) over (FOMA) (For.) 113: Matt Genobana (CENT) over Tateum Schelich (FOMA) (Fall 1:37) 120: Noah Swigart (FOMA) over Ryan McDanolds (CENT) (Fall 0:59)

Fort Madison (FOMA)

60.0 Davis County (DACO) 24.0

106: Tucker Ball (DACO) over (FOMA) (For.) 113: Emmitt Newton (DACO) over Tateum Schelich (FOMA) (Fall 0:38) 120: Kade Martin (DACO) over Noah Swigart (FOMA) (Fall 1:00) 126: Logan Pennock (FOMA) over Drake Hamm (DACO) (Fall 1:37) 132: Deken Sorensen (DACO) over Hayden Woolever (FOMA) (Fall 2:55) 138: Calvin Johnson (FOMA) over (DACO) (For.) 145: Nolan Riddle (FOMA) over Morgan VanHemert (DACO) (Fall 2:54) 152: Aidan Pennock (FOMA) over Dean Bragg Jr. (DACO) (Fall 0:47) 160: Joe Hartman (FOMA) over Cason Dunkin (DACO) (Fall 0:26) 170: Teague Smith (FOMA) over Luke Farley (DACO) (Fall 1:54) 182: Landon Rudd (FOMA) over Aries Derby (DACO) (Fall 0:22) 195: Hayden Segoviano (FOMA) over (DACO) (For.) 220: Isaac Thacher (FOMA) over Parker Moore (DACO) (Fall 0:56) 285: Cory Arnett (FOMA) over (DACO) (For.)

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School Choice bill

Public school leaders express concerns with HF 1

BILL - Continued from Page 1

Iowa's education system is a worthy investment. But the time has come to put those dollars to work differently and deliver a bigger return for Iowans. I believe we'll do exactly that by putting students first.

Opponents argue that public dollars belong to public schools. I see it differently. Every dollar in Iowa's general fund was earned by hardworking, tax-paying Iowans. It's their money and it should be used for the good of the people. In the case of education, for the good of all students.

The Students First Act proposes that "per pupil funds" — \$7,598 per student next school year — which now cover a portion of the cost to educate public school students exclusively, would also be available for students who choose to attend accredited private schools. Today, that's about 34,000 students, just six percent of all K-12 students statewide.

The plan would be phased in for private school students, based on household income over the first two years, then available for all families in year three. All incoming kindergarteners and current public school students, regardless of household income, would be eligible starting next school year.

Iowa's public school districts will continue to receive state funding for the students they educate at the same level they do now. Together with other local, state and federal funds, public schools get more than \$17,000 total per student. With the Students First Act, districts will also receive \$1,205 in categorical funding for every student who lives in their school district but attends a private school. That's new money for students they won't even teach.

It also allows public school districts the flexibility to use unspent and ongoing funds for teacher leadership and compensation, professional development, and talent and gifted programs to supplement teacher salaries instead. Today, there's nearly \$100 million in these funds that remains unused, and nearly \$250 million is allocated to them annually.

To be clear, the Students First Act will not cut public school funding as opponents of this bill claim. And it won't result in families fleeing public schools. For most Iowa families, a public education will continue to be their first choice. But for families who otherwise can't afford a private school that may be a better fit for their children, it makes new opportunities attainable.

We've already demonstrated that state-funded school choice works in Iowa. The state's voluntary preschool program for 4-year-olds has been making a difference for Iowa families since 2007, and the Iowa Tuition Grant program makes our private colleges and universities more affordable for Iowa students.

But K-12 students have been left out. It's time to change that.

Putting students first will help young Iowans reach their potential. And that's a worthy investment in our

future."

LOCAL OFFICIALS REACT

Pen City Current reached out to leaders of the school districts to ask for a response to the Governor's letter.

CENTRAL LEE - Dr. Andy Crozier, Superintendent
"Lee County Students, Parents, and Community Members;

In my 12 years of serving as a superintendent, I have always stayed keenly aware of proposed legislation at the state level. I have witnessed several unpopular pieces of legislation in which local representatives have had to answer tough questions from their constituents in forums and through other communication channels. Collective bargaining, the gas tax, and the recent income tax breaks were all heavily vetted in our communities. I have never seen the governor write an open letter pleading with Iowans to support her idea.



CROZIER

What does this tell me? Governor Reynolds knows her idea is unpopular with the vast majority of Iowans. Unlike our local representatives, she campaigned on this issue, but she obviously fell well short on private school vouchers being a top priority for rural Iowa. At last week's public hearing, 75 percent of those speaking and posting public comments were against the voucher bill.

Additionally, there have been hundreds of thousands of dollars come into the state to fund commercials about the school choice bill. These dollars are coming from a hedge fund billionaire in Florida, who would ultimately profit from this school choice scheme through "online charter schools." These actors from outside the state of Iowa look to influence our decision-making. But Iowans have been very clear—public dollars should go to public schools only.

School vouchers remain unpopular in Lee County because they do not benefit rural communities. The governor proposes spending \$1 billion for her school choice program over the next four years. About 90 percent of these dollars will end up in metro Iowa in Polk, Johnson, and Linn counties. Lee, Henry, Van Buren, and most other rural counties will get left behind once again.

The governor's wealthy donors in Des Moines love this bill because it essentially gives them an additional tax break by allowing them to receive \$7,800 per child to continue to send them to private schools. Without any income restrictions like previous school choice proposals, the wrong families will reap the majority of these benefits. These dollars will be lost forever in our state budget, and little will be left over to support rural communities' hospitals, EMS services, and other critical needs.

Let's dig into a few of the details of the school choice bill. The governor claims the bill would raise teacher salaries. It does not. The governor suggests giving schools flexibility to use categorical balances for teacher salaries.

Unfortunately, these balances represent one-time funds. Once schools spend them, they are gone.

For example, if we commit \$200,000 from a categorical balance to teacher salaries, it works fine for one year. However, the next year, we would need to find \$200,000 in the budget to make up the difference, or else make cuts. The math does not work.

Governor Reynolds has proposed providing \$1,200 to public schools for every private school student enrolled. However, Central Lee has very few private school students, so like many other rural Iowa public schools, there's little benefit to us. All this does is create the illusion that this bill actually helps rural public schools. The dollars Fort Madison, Keokuk, and Central Lee would receive is a tiny fraction of what would go to private schools like Des Moines Christian, Cedar Rapids Xavier, and Iowa City Regina. Rural Iowa loses again.

The consistent feedback public school advocates have provided regarding school choice is the need for fair play. If private schools receive public money, they should be required to meet the same standards of openness and transparency as public schools. They should be required to open their books, hold meetings in public, post student achievement scores, and offer and teach all the requirements that have been placed on public schools. This includes career and technical education, for which Central Lee and Fort Madison have become leaders statewide.

Additionally, if school choice is passed, private schools should be required to take all students. Currently, private schools are allowed to discriminate against students who don't "fit" their system. Public schools educate all students regardless of their race, gender, and/or socio-economic status. All Iowans have the right to know how their tax dollars are being spent and ensure equal opportunity from those dollars.

Lastly, the governor has asked that this debate not be between public and private schools. Public school advocates do not want that, either. Private schools serve a need for the public, and they already receive public money with transportation assistance and private school tax credits, among others.

It's important to point out that public schools have been subject to political attacks, especially over the past several years. This has been difficult on our teachers and staff here in Central Lee, along with districts statewide. This lack of trust and support trickles down and erodes

See SLATER, page 8

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Performs a variety of unskilled or semi-skilled maintenance work, operates a variety of equipment in the construction, operation, repair, maintenance and replacement of City street, sanitary and storm drainage facilities and systems.

DESIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS
Education and Experience:
• Graduation from high school education or GED equivalent and
• Two (2) years of experience relating to construction, maintenance, or repair, or
• Any equivalent combination of education and experience.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS
• Valid State Driver's license
• Class B CDL with the ability to obtain a Class A CDL within one year of hire

Necessary Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Some knowledge of equipment, facilities, materials, methods and procedures used in maintenance, construction and repair activities;
- Skill in operation of some of the listed tools and equipment;
- Ability to perform heavy manual tasks for extended periods of time; ability to work safely; ability to communicate effectively verbally and in writing; ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with employees, other departments and the public; ability to understand and carry out written and oral instructions.

Submit applications to Justina Cullen at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, IA 52627 or via email at jcullen@fortmadison-ia.com by 4:30pm on Friday, February 3rd, 2023.



PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF WEST BURLINGTON
Work Session
Wednesday,
January 25, 2023
6:00 PM
West Burlington
City Hall
122 Broadway Street

TENTATIVE AGENDA
DISCUSSION ITEM
1. Fiscal Year 2023-2024 - Budget Presentation and Review

PUBLIC NOTICE
PROCEEDINGS
FORT MADISON
CITY COUNCIL
1/17/2023

The Fort Madison City Council held a budget work session at 4:30 P.M. on Tuesday, 1/17/2023, at City Hall, 811 Avenue E.

Mayor Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Gray, Amandus, Rink, Andrews, Roller, Cangas and Bowker present.

City Manager David Varley outlined the proposed budget. The Budget Work Session adjourned at 4:26 P.M.

/s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor
ATTEST: /s/ Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE

THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE LEE COUNTY COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WILL BE ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023 AT KEOKUK AMERICAN LEGION LOCATED AT 727 MAIN STREET, KEOKUK, IA AT 12:00 NOON.

The agenda includes: 2 requests for Veterans financial assistance, December 2022 monthly financial report, minutes, and monthly client report.

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Lee County, Iowa is interested in entering into a professional services agreement with a construction management firm for architectural, engineering and construction management work for the construction of new living quarters and an ambulance bay for Lee County EMS in Keokuk. The project will use ARPA and other funds in all aspects of the planning, design, and construction. All work will be complet-

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ed under the authority of the Lee County Board of Supervisors.

In order for your company to be considered, you must submit your proposal in electronic form by 4:30 PM on Friday, February 3, 2023. The electronic proposal must be submitted via e-mail to Denise Fraise at dfraise@leecounty.org. An e-mail will be sent confirming receipt of the proposal. Questions can be address to Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise at 319-372-3705 or dfraise@leecounty.org.

To view the full RFQ, visit the County website www.leecounty.org.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
CENTRAL LEE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT
DONNELLSON, IOWA
52625
EDUCATIONAL
SERVICES CENTER
JANUARY 31, 2023
7:00 A.M.
WORK SESSION**

TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Elementary School

Report

3. Middle School Report
4. Adjourn

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- \$.45 2nd shift / \$.65 3rd shift pay differentials
- Position is continuous shift operation
- 3% annual pay increases per contract
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From the Front

Board looking for ISAC input HTC says fund schools equally

TAXES - Continued from Page 1

ise is not good.

In 2013 the state voted to cut property taxes but implemented a backfill on the lost revenue to local governments. In 2021, the legislature voted to phase those payments out, costing local governments across the state \$152 million.

HF1 was originally introduced on Jan. 11 and is currently in front of the House Ways and Means committee according to Iowa Bill Tracker. The bill was introduced by 34 members of the House, including Martin Graber (R-Fort Madison).

Schulz said he was getting tired of officials rewriting tax code to affect local government.

He said he was contacting the Iowa State Association of Counties on Monday to see if they have a unified stance on the bill. He said he would inform the rest of the board with any response he gets.

"We need to study this and come up with some unified position, and I think we need to be forceful about it. They've already done things with our property tax valuations that we're still trying to figure out - because they're still trying to figure it out."

Supervisor Chairman Garry Seyb said he hasn't gotten deep into the bill, but it appears on the surface that the state wants to cap local governments' ability to raise funds.

"This could be to the point that it caps our ability to raise funds, to include school boards, to the point where we won't even be able to keep up with inflation, so I don't understand the end game of that," Seyb said.

"If we're unable to keep up with inflation, then I don't know how a county reacts except for constriction. The only way to constrict is through services or through personnel."

Schulz said the end game Seyb was referring to is the state wants to recognize Home Rule in name only.

"They want to become micromanagers of every individual expense at the

county level without having any idea of what those expenses are," Schulz said.

"They will come up with some mathematical formula that will apply to rural counties and metro counties and it will be an absolute mess."

Seyb said there are more than 30 Iowa counties that will be impacted in a negative way, including Lee County, if the bill is passed.

Board member Matt Pflug said he's reached out to the Governor's office on several occasions over the past week wanting an explanation on the money that the Governor's office is still "sitting on", referencing the state's portion of federal America Rescue Plan Act funding.

"It's pretty slow coming. We have needs down here, but they can put \$12 million into a baseball field at Dyersville."

Ron Fedler said he agreed that the state has backed out of backfill obligations on many occasions, but holds the mandate in place.

Seyb said the state is stepping on home rule.

"It's not the state's job to come down and tell us what we have to make work. It's our job to look at the county and run the county. Our boss is the taxpayer, they say you're doing a good job or a bad job."

The bill would reduce all applicable school foundation taxes by .50 to \$4.90/\$1,000 from the current rate of \$5.40. Again the proposed legislation would back fill those revenues.

The bill also limits county and city assessors' ability to set reasonable assessment increases at 103% of the current value. That portion of the bill would directly impact city and county government revenue generation.

Another aspect of the bill would increase requirements for entities wishing to pass bonds. The bill would require the local government to send a mailing to every district resident outlining the bond and its impact to each taxpayer.

SLATER - Continued from Page 5

the relationship between classrooms and parents.

I have the privilege of seeing how hard our public school teachers work each day. I witness the time they put in beyond their contract hours during the school year and throughout the summer. I see what they do outside of the classroom to grow and improve professionally. I also hear their frustrations when they get zero respect from the legislature, the business community, and others. It is exhausting for educators, as politicians and the media have made it part of our culture to continuously question and criticize the work of educators. It's no wonder why there are dramatically fewer people going into education. It has truly become a thankless job that deserves much more respect.

If Governor Reynolds truly loves Iowa's public schools, she needs to do more than just use her words. We are looking for actions that support public schools. We have read stories from Nebraska and South Dakota on how their governors—both



SLATER

Republican—are fully funding public schools and supporting them more than ever. Here in Iowa, it's quite the opposite. This school choice bill is another way our state is prioritizing private schools over the vast majority of students who attend public schools.

Sincerely,
Dr. Andy Crozier,
Superintendent of Schools
Central Lee CSD

FORT MADISON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT - Dr. Erin Slater, Superintendent

Dr. Erin Slater, Superintendent at FM-SCD issued the following statement over the weekend.

"A state's public's funds are intended for public uses: public libraries, public education and infrastructure improvements like roads and bridges. Diverting money away from public schools does not meet that public intent. The costs for this bill which was offered by the governor's office, over \$900 million in three years, could be utilized in the public school system for public school students.

School choice is already offered in Iowa

through multiple facets including open enrollment, virtual schools, Home School Assistance Programs, and private school tuition tax credits.

Private schools are allowed to deny a student's admission. Public schools educate everyone. Private schools are unaccountable for state testing, state curriculum requirements, public fiscal reporting, and public open meeting laws. Public schools must meet all these criteria. They are not optional. Funding an inequitable comparison does not invoke competition.

With a state-backed guaranteed funding stream, new start up private schools will begin to further drive decreases for public and current private schools alike.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC - Craig Huebner, HTC Principal

HTC Principal Craig Huebner issued the following statement on Monday.

"In response to Governor Renolds' statements and stance on education, I have to agree that we need a robust education system to ensure the future of Iowa.

This future needs to focus on the education of all students in our state. As educators, we all entered the profession to do what is best for our students. I believe the plan the Governor has proposed will establish a quality education for all students no matter the location.

As a person who attended both a public and private school as a child and taught in both the public and private schools, I can see the value in both systems. In the end, our goals are the same: to provide the best education for all students in our system. The proposal from the Governor would allow non-public schools to expand the opportunities for students they work with. It also gives families the opportunity to choose a school setting they feel best fits their child.

Holy Trinity Catholic prides itself on staying on the cutting edge of education. We follow all of the state guidelines, take state tests, report data to the state, and serve students of all needs and economic backgrounds.

The bottom line is that if we want all students in the state of Iowa to have the best education possible, then we need to fund them equally no matter where they attend school."

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APRIL 5, 2023 - GRUMPY OLD MEN THE MUSICAL

Fasten your seat belt, it's going to be a grumpy ride!

Based on the classic 1993 Warner Brothers film starring Jack Lemmon, Walter Matthau and Ann-Margret, this hilarious new show was penned by Dan Remmes, with music by Neil Berg and lyrics by Nick Meglin.

Two aging neighbors, Max and John, have been feuding for more than fifty years until the beautiful and charming Ariel moves in across the street - raising the rivalry to new heights! Can her love and compassion reunite their friendship?

Don't miss this laugh-out-loud story of family, friendship, love and romance in a fresh new musical that's guaranteed to delight!

MAY 24, 2023 - MAMMA MIA!

A mother. A daughter. Three possible dads. And a trip down the aisle you'll never forget! Writer, Catherine Johnson's, sunny and funny tale unfolds on a Greek island paradise. On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover the identity of her father brings three men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited 20 years ago.

The story-telling magic of ABBA's timeless songs propels this enchanting tale of love, laughter and friendship, creating an unforgettable show. A large cast, nonstop laughs and explosive dance numbers combine to make Mamma Mia! pure joy for audiences!

JULY 20, 2023 - A LIVE TRIBUTE TO DOLLY

Karen Hester, first place winner of Jimmy Fallon's CLASH OF THE COVER BANDS, is the "Best Tribute Artist in America," and her tribute to country music icon Dolly Parton is legendary! She has been the opening act for recording artists Trace Adkins and Ricky Van Shelton, and currently performs in Legends Live in both Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and Las Vegas, Nevada paying tribute to the great Dolly Parton. Her solo show has taken her throughout the world with performances in Sweden, Finland, Australia and aboard the Country Music Cruise. She also has performed on the live AXS television show, "WORLDS GREATEST TRIBUTE BANDS."

SEPTEMBER 6, 2023- ESCAPE TO MARGARITAVILLE

Set your mind on island time and plan your escape to Circa '21's premier of Escape to Margaritaville, the new musical comedy about choices we make - and the people we become - once we've had a change in 'latitude.'

Escape to Margaritaville features both classic Jimmy Buffett and original songs with a story that revolves around a part-time bartender/singer who falls for a career-mind tourist.

Welcome to Margaritaville, where people come to get away from it all - and stay to find something they never expected. Get ready for a hilarious and heartwarming musical with the most unforgettable songs from one of music's greatest storytellers. This hilarious, heartwarming musical is the party you've been waiting for!

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Oh, but the food...we did mention there'd be delicious food, right?! Start your morning off right with fresh fruit and the best homemade sticky rolls you can find cruising on the Mississippi! Lunch will not disappoint, and, just in case you may get a bit hungry in the afternoon...some very tasty snacks will be put out for you to enjoy. But, be sure to save some room as you will be dining on a delicious Prime Rib dinner before docking in Hannibal. Once in Hannibal, you will depart, say farewell to the Captain and crew, then board one of our luxury motorcoaches waiting to whisk you back to the Port of Burlington where you began your day.

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