

PEN CITY CURRENT

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Friday, January 27, 2023 | 8 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 27



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Local supers react to law

STUDENTS FIRST: Crozier, Slater say ESA law builds mistrust with public schools

BY **CHUCK VANDENBERG**
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Area public school officials are reacting with some consternation about the new law signed by Gov. Kim Reynolds this week that allocates public funding for private Educational Savings Accounts.

Reynolds signed the Students First Act into law earlier this week establishing the savings account with approximately \$7,600 in annual funds contributed to the accounts that can be used for private school tuition and expenses.

The law is capped at families living at 300% of the federal poverty level, the first year and 400% of the federal poverty level, just over \$111,000 for a family of four, in the second year. The third year there are no income restrictions allowing anyone in the state to access funds when transferring to a private or online school.

The law also gives public districts \$1,205 for each child



CROZIER



SLATER

that leaves the district for a private school. State Sen. Jeff Reichman (R-Montrose) voted in favor of the bill saying he wanted to do what was best for students across the state. He said the impact to rural areas of the state will be minimal and discussed that with Dr. Erin Slater of Fort Madison Community School District; Dr. Andy Crozier of Central Lee Community Schools; and Dan Mart of Keokuk Community School District.

“I heard their concerns about it not doing much for rural schools,” Reichman said, “I made some calls to Holy Trinity Catholic and Vincents in Keokuk and we talked about their capacity and tuition. I agree we aren’t going to see a lot of movement here.”

See **REACTION**, page 4

ILLINOIS NEWS

Carthage warrant nets 100 g of meth

PCC Staff

CARTHAGE - A Carthage man was arrested after Illinois authorities found more than 100 grams of methamphetamine following a traffic stop.

According to release from Hancock County Sheriff Travis Duffy and Carthage Police Chief Derek Himan, on 1/25/2023 at approximately 9:08 pm deputies conducted a traffic stop at the corner of Buchanan Street and Marion Street in Carthage.

The driver Jeffrey J. Schofield of Carthage was arrested for possession of methamphetamine and obstructing justice.

At approximately 9:20 p.m. officers with the sheriff and police department executed a search warrant at 303 Hansford in Carthage. The residence belonged to Schofield. At the residence approximately 106 grams of methamphetamine was located. Schofield was subsequently charged with possession of more than 100 grams of methamphetamine with the intent to deliver.

The following people were also arrested at the residence:

Michael J. Miller of Carthage, was arrested on a failure to appear/failure to pay warrant from McDonough County. Miller was lodged in Hancock County Jail awaiting extradition to McDonough County.

Isaac A. Deshong of Carthage was arrested on a Lee County, Iowa warrant for delivery of a controlled substance.

Deshong was lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting extradition to Iowa.

Susan E. Veach of Carthage was arrested and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. She was given a notice to appear and released.

Both Schofield and Deshong are on parole with the Illinois Department of Corrections. All subjects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

The investigation is ongoing and more arrests are expected.

Assisting in the investigation was the Hancock County States Attorney Bobi James.

DREAMBUILDING

Entrepreneurship program deadline extended

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison Partners, along with Americas Small Business development Center (SBDC) are please to announce the return of the DreamBuilder Program- an in person/on-line business training program for aspiring entrepreneurs.

The deadline for registering for this years program has been extended to Friday.



GOBBLE

DreamBuilder, developed by Freeport-McMoRan and the Thunderbird School of Global Management, equip participants with the practical skills needed to start or grow their own business. While the program was initially developed for female entrepreneurs, all aspiring entrepreneurs are encouraged to participate in the program. When community members gain skills, they gain confidence, increase their productivity, mentor others, raise their income levels and reinvest in their children’s education, their family’s health and economic activities as the community level.

DreamBuilder combines interactive online course and access to helpful tools and resources, including

See **PARTNERS**, page 8

The application deadline for the Fort Madison Partners’ DreamBuilder program has been extended through Friday. The program helps foster business ideas and develops entrepreneurships.

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
FRI 27 JanSnowy and blustery, 37° F/ 24° F ❄️
SAT 28 JanMostly cloudy and snowy, 34° F/ 15° F ❄️
SUN 29 JanCold and snowy, 22° F/ 9° F ❄️

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 01/259 15 28 47 49, Star Ball: 7 All Star Bonus: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE 01/2519 22 29 41 43, Lucky Ball: 13
PICK 3 01/25 MIDDAY6 9 9
PICK 3 01/25 EVENING1 4 6
PICK 4 01/25 MIDDAY3 0 4 6
PICK 4 01/25 EVENING8 8 2 3
POWERBALL 01/259 17 20 38 40, Powerball: 18 Power Play: 2

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Sports/Scene Around Town



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Lee County Conference Board met to go over the proposed budgets for the Lee County EMS Agency, the Assessor's Office, and the E911 Board Thursday at the Lee County offices.

Snaadt pours in 25 as Lady Crusaders roll Wapello

CRUSADERS' OFFENSE FIRING: HTC girls averaging 60-plus over last seven games

WAPELLO – Teagan Snaadt had just five points in the first half Tuesday night in the Crusaders' 82-39 win over Wapello on the road.

But the sophomore then put up sixteen in the third period on her way to 28 points to lead Holy Trinity to the SEI Superconference win.

The win puts HTC back over .500 on the year with a 9-8 overall mark. They are 5-7 in the SEI Superconference South. Wapello plays on the north side of the conference.

Junior Mary Kate Bendlage followed up her record-setting 41-point performance with 25 points in the lead, nine in the Crusaders' 25-point second period.

Bendlage only had one 3-ball on the night after converting a school-record seven on Tuesday against the Nikes.

Holy Trinity jumped all over the Arrows, taking a 15-8 lead into the second quarter. Wapello had their best quarter of the game in the second quarter when HTC gave up 11 points, but pulled away for a 40-19 halftime lead.

Snaadt went crazy in the third period with Bendlage tossing in seven to put the game out of reach. Kayla Box had 12 points for HTC.

The Crusaders have been very productive offensively of late, averaging just close to 61 points a game over the last seven games. During that stretch, Holy Trinity is 4-3 with all three losses totaling just 16 points, including just a nine-point loss to the 11th-ranked Nikes on Tuesday.

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Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

LAETITIA C. ROTTER

Laetitia Cook Rotter, of Fort Madison, passed away at her home on Jan 26, 2023.

The daughter of Benjamin and Ernestine Pletscher Cook, she was the 4th generation of her family to reside on the ancestral acres of the Cook Family Farm between Primrose and Mt Hamill, Iowa.

She rode her Shetland pony 2.5 miles to primrose school and graduated from Donnellson high school. She attended Parsons college and Gem City Business College and was employed by radio station WTAD (KHQA) in Quincy IL.

She married her high school sweetheart, J. Wilbur Rotter and they became the proud parents of two treasured sons, Bradley and Ward who enthusiastically supported the family's purebred Angus cattle operation breeding and exhibiting prize

winning show cattle at multiple state fairs and exhibitions.

Laetitia was employed for many years at Fort Madison's first radio station KXGI where she served as Continuity Director and delivered a popular daily broadcast "Over the Backyard Fence".

She loved fashion and for many years produced and narrated seasonal style shows for the once vibrant community of clothiers in Burlington, Fort Madison, and Keokuk.

in the early 50s she founded Fort Madison's first community theater, where she appeared in many productions. Her last stage performance was the lead in the Old Fort Players production of "On Golden Pond" when she was in her late 80s.

At age 40, she graduated with honors (Cum Laude) from Iowa Wesleyan College and enjoyed a 28 year career as a reading teacher at Central Lee. Her life mission was to instill a love of learning for her students which would last a lifetime.

Laetitia and Wilbur traveled extensively and enjoyed the memorable vacations in France, Italy, Germany, Swit-

zerland, the Netherlands, Scandinavia, Russia, and South America. Their favorite destination was domestic with decades of twice annual trips to San Francisco to visit sons and grandchildren.

Laetitia and Wilbur move from rural West Point to Fort Madison in 2004. She was preceded in death by her husband of 61 years in 2014 and was ever appreciative of her caring and compassionate neighbors. A lifelong member of Sharon Presbyterian Church, she also cherished her church family at the Union Presbyterian where she enthusiastically participated in vocal and hand bell choirs.

Other organizational affiliations to include Lee County Retired Teachers Association, Monday Afternoon Study Club, Fort Madison Area Arts Association, Tri State Women's Connection, and the Burlington Civic Music Association. After recently researching her genealogy, Laetitia was just inducted into the Daughters of the American Revolution.

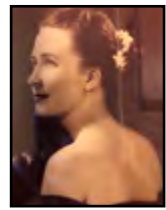
Survivors include much loved sons Brad (Lisa) Austin, Texas, and Ward (Barbara) San Juan, PR grandson Blake Rotter, Stockholm, Sweden and granddaughters Dr Julianna Rotter, Mayo Clinic Rochester, MN, Stephanie (Jeff) Dardis, Washington, D.C. and great granddaughter Ariana.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Wilbur, and her sister Genevieve Anderson. Per her wishes no services will be held at present with private burial at a later date. A reception will follow in heaven. Her body will be cremated by King-Lynk Funeral Home with the interment in beautiful Sharon cemetery alongside four generations of family.

She was blessed with a long, fulfilling life reflecting her love of God and country and treasured faith, family, and friends.



ROTTER



For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

01/25/23 - 12:44 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Nicholas Ray Bell, 35, of Burlington, in the 1200 block of Angular Street, Burlington, on warrants for 3 counts of 3rd degree sex abuse, prostitution, and 3 counts of enticing a minor child. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

01/25/23 - 3:14 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Jeri Monique Fink, 43, listed as homeless living in Fort Madison, in the 900 block of Avenue H, on a warrant for failure to

appear - probation violation 4th degree theft. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

Lee County Sheriff Report

01/25/23 - 4:54 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Jay Allen Mitchell, 43, of Carthage, at the North Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Those listed above are arrested on suspicion of a charge and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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From the Front

Reichman says vote was best for all Iowans

REACTION - Continued from Page 1

“But I’m a Senator for Iowa, not just Lee County and I think this law gives a lot of students opportunities they didn’t have before.”

Reichman and State Rep. Martin Graber (R-Fort Madison) both voted in favor of the legislation. Graber wasn’t able to return a call for comment after the Governor signed the legislation.

The legislature, which had failed to pass any of Reynolds’ previous attempts at school voucher

programs, this session created special committees to avoid the labored process of working through subcommittees and committees to move the bill to the floor quicker.

Slater said that was unprecedented and showed that the bill was more than fast-tracked.

“I was surprised that it went through this fast. If you look at the process, there are procedures in place when a bill moves through the House or Senate, and those proce-

dures were not the same that other bills have had to follow in the past,” Slater said.

But she was more concerned about potential future online schools popping up in rural areas that will take even more students out of the public school system.

“One of the things I talked to Jeff and Martin about was looking into the future. What I pointed out is that this is a guaranteed state funding stream. It’s short-sighted to not think there will be entitlements come into rural communities and to

establish private schools for public school students to attend,” Slater said.

No data was immediately available from either Fort Madison or Central Lee on the immediate impact of the new law. Slater said that is something the district will have to dig into because the number of students at private schools that live in the district hasn’t been compiled yet.

“Until we get that number and do some forecasting, we don’t have any numbers,” she said.



REICHMAN

“I think it’s a sad day for the state of Iowa. A sad day for the legislative process,” Crozier said.

“I think it’s a sad day for the state of Iowa. A sad day for the legislative process,” Crozier said.

Crozier was also disappointed in the process of getting to the new law and

said it’s hypocritical for the state to say it doesn’t have money to fully fund public education through growth allowance each year, but then find hundreds of millions to put into these savings accounts.

“In order to get this passed, the Governor and House GOP had to change the rules for a how a law gets passed just for this specific bill. They refused to allow amendments and that shortened the debate. They shortened the time frame and that way the legislators could hide from their constituents and scheduled forums.”

He said the state needed more legislators like former Representative Dave Heaton.

“Dave Heaton was a Republican and was an honorable man,” Crozier said.

“He’d go into a hot forum where he knew he was going to get push-back and listen to people and, at the end of the day, he voted the way he wanted. We need more Dave Heaton’s in the process.”

Crozier also countered Governor Reynolds’ position that the law allows districts to use categorical fund balances to increase teacher salaries. Crozier said that math doesn’t pan out and pointed that out to both Reichman and Graber in an email outlining those fund balances at Central Lee.

“They’re going to point out that schools can now use categorical balances for teacher salaries. That’s garbage to expect schools to use one-time money to pay salaries,” Crozier said.

“And we already have flexibility to do that. We can give compensation bonuses. It does not help grow salaries over the next 10 years. It might give them a one-time bonus, which we’ve done before, and it’s a great one-time bonus, but it’s not sustainable in the form of a raise.”

He said using those fund balances to help give raises means that funding must be present next year or the district has to cut into other programming.

Slater said she sees no way that the public system will benefit from the new law.

“There will be guidance and steps written to implement the law. But unless there are things put in there specifically

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See SLATER, page 8

Education News/Classifieds

EDUCATION

Central Lee Middle School releases 2nd quarter honor roll

DONNELSON - The following is the 2nd quarter honor roll for Central Lee Middle School. Pen City Current and our family of advertisers congratulates the following students on their hard work and academic achievements.

8th Grade Principal Scholar
Cook, Brett Roger, Doty, Macie Kaye

Fogarty, Austin Steven
Moeller, Korben M
Morrison, Carson Matthew
7th Grade Principal Scholar
Adkins, Evelyn Maree
Buch, Rachel Marie
Derr, Ava Rae
Haigh, Chloe Nicole
Jenkins, Jax Perry
Kitzman, Kaylee Marie
Newton, Caedon Lane
6th Grade Principal Scholar
Benner, Marcie Rylan
Larson, Ruby June
Morrison, Kaitlyn Madison
Sullivan, Ashton Michael
8th Grade A Honor Roll
Barnhardt, Chad W
Benner, Jack Patrick
Boyd, Connor Hunter
Boyer, Nadia Ann
Cox, Makenah Faith

Crozier, Caden Andrew
Davis, Blake Anthony
Day, Jesse Wyatt
Edmondson, Emery John Charles

Estrada, Zachary James
Howard, Brynlie C
Jones, Carter M
Jones, Max James
Lampe, Nora Kathleen
Mason, Elizabeth Marie
Riley, Sienna K
Sanders, Mason D
Simmons, Benjamin William
Smith, Haylee Marie
Smith, Ivy Victoria
Stark, Larissa Willow
Swan, Kaden A
VanAusdall, Gage Michael
Weber, Caden Reece
Wenke, Kayla Ann
Wiggins, Deacon Sawyer
Williamson, Skye Belle
Young, Gabriel Joseph
7th Grade A Honor Roll
Alvis, Riley Claire
Anderson, Macy Mae
Ashmore, Micah Robert
Breashers, Jade Arleane
Burgess, Owen Dean
Canida, Adason Marie
Davis, Megan

Gates, Olivia Rachel
Hawk, Jaliann Alisa
Hohl, Addison Makayla
Juarez, Hope Lynn
Kirchner, Colton Jack
Maynes, Afton
McDowell, Arabella Beulah
Mills, Brooke Lynn
Perkins, Aubree Lee
Robbins, Henry Roy
Robins, Tristan David
Rohdy, Hadleigh Malia
Thompson, Isabella Rose
Wagner, Eliza Nicole
Westfall, Keagan Rylee
Young, Sara Evonne
6th Grade A Honor Roll
Adams, Dylan Michael
Anderson, Izzabell Lynn
Ball, Adriana Leigh
Barnes, Jackson Lee
Breitenstein, Xander Nicholas

Cole
Burden, Rayleigh Dawn
Burdette, Jayden Lee
Calkins, Cooper Allen
Cook, Brylee Nicole
Crank, Liam Edward
Daly, McKenzie Grace
Day, Braylon James
Dill, Adalyn Mae
Ekle, Richard Asher

Fraise, Alissa Mary
Frueh, Madison Lauren
Gerdes, Jaren Stanley
Haigh, Colten Michael
Helenthal, Kylie Ann
Hewett, Elliot June
Holbert, Dominic Anthony
Lozano, Malia Michele
Manwill, Berlyn Kapri
McKnight, Molina Renea
Moeller, Kaylee Ann
Mueller, Jaxson James
Mullins, Maggie Mae
Roysdon, Dillon James
Ruffcorn, Brody Thomas
Rule, Hayden Ray Ann
Schmidt, Grace Ann
Sciombato, Ahnna Ramone
Stark, Kaylee Ann
Sullivan, Ethan Allen
Van Ausdall, Graham Matthew
Weirather, Grant Shane
Welch, Hayden Lee
Welch, Madison Jade
Wilson, Kael Emmatt
8th Grade B Honor Roll
Ames, Logan Henry
Ball, Trevin Jacob
Barlow, Elaina Kay
Cannon, Karley Jean
Capps, Ethan B.D.
Crank, Lucas Ryan

Ellis, Parker John
Fogarty, Evan Parrish
Fraise, Julia Ann
Hayes, Carver Frederick
Moore, Ethan Daniel
Peterson, Addison Katherine
Putnam, Ashton Rose
Stiffler, Jacob D
Vanderpool, Luke Ryan
Vollmer, Bella Leah
7th Grade B Honor Roll
Aguirre, Colton Christopher
Azinger, Leah Rose
Bowen, Jackson Matthew
Brotherton, Gracie Lynn
Bunnell, Aubree Jo
Capps, Lauren Elizabeth Payge
Chappell, Hallee Kathryn
Day, Olivia Joanne
Gould, Danimarie Michelle
Grafton, Gracyn Rose
Hassman, Madison Jo
Hellweg, Alexis Darlene
Hocker, Brinley Marie
Hopp, Avery Jalynn
Keefe, Noah Bradley
Kruse, Luke Isiah
McGlasson, Annabella Alene
Mortimer, Jessy Michael
Nemecek, Zachary Bryton
Rippenkroeger, Rylan Gage
Roberts, Sophia Lynn

Seyb, Johnathan Paul
Vorwaldt, Jayden Joseph
Worrell, Tyson Kenneth
6th Grade B Honor Roll
Atwood, Kobe Michael
Boyer, Scarlett Shea
Butler, Maysen Kimberly
Crawford, Tammy Sue
Day, Charli Grace
Deweese, Jesse Alan
Dohman, Axton Michael
Hellweg, Kylie Roneetalynn
Holder, Kylan Charles
Johnson, Levi Michael
Kirchner, Autumn Jane
Kratzer, Taylor Faith
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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
MINUTES OF THE
BURLINGTON, IOWA
CITY COUNCIL
INFORMAL WORK
SESSION
January 9, 2023**

The Burlington City Council met in an informal work session at 4:30 p.m. in the Thomas J. Smith Council Chambers, City Hall with Mayor Billups, Council Members Critser, Graham-Murray, Maupin and Wilson present.

Items discussed at the informal work session are listed on the work session agenda on file in the office of the City Clerk. No action was taken.

Adjournment: 6:09 p.m.
Approved: January 17, 2023

Chad Bird, City Manager
Jon D. Billups, Mayor

**PUBLIC NOTICE
MOUNT PLEASANT
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
MOUNT PLEASANT,
IOWA
DECEMBER 28, 2022**

The Mount Pleasant City Council met in a regular session on Wednesday, December 28, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 307 East Monroe Street, second-floor meeting room. The meeting was called to order by the Mayor and the roll being called there were present Steven K. Brimhall in the Chair and the following named Councilmembers-

Present: Engberg, McWilliams (by phone), Batty, Griffith

Absent: Crull, White
It was moved by Councilmember Engberg and seconded by Councilmember Batty that

the Council approve the following consent agenda items with one roll call motion vote:

the minutes of the November December 14, 2022, City Council meeting;

the payment of bills totaling \$311,411.21;

the Report of officers.
the renewal of a Class C Retail Alcohol License, Special Class A Beer Permit, Outdoor Service and Catering for the Grange Public House and Brewing LLC at 129 S. Jefferson Street.

the renewal of a Class E Retail Alcohol License for Casey's General Store #3920 at 2120 E. Washington Street.

the renewal of a Class E Retail Alcohol License for Hy-Vee Fast and Fresh at 1702 E. Washington Street.

the renewal of a Class C Retail Alcohol License for Mi Pueblo Real at 1106 E. Baker Street.

Roll call vote 4-0.

Councilmember Griffith moved and Councilmember Engberg seconded that the Council approve the agenda as printed.

Roll call vote 4-0. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councilmember Engberg and seconded by Councilmember Batty that the Council read for the third time and adopt the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA, APPENDIX D, TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF HOME OCCUPATION SIGNS FROM TWO SQUARE FEET TO FOUR SQUARE FEET:
Roll call vote 3-1.
Griffith – Nay. Motion

defeated.

Councilmember Griffith moved and Councilmember Batty seconded that the Council adopt the following entitled Resolution No. 2022-102:

RESOLUTION ORDERING BIDS; APPROVING PRELIMINARY DRAWINGS, SPECIFICATIONS, PLANS, CONTRACT, AND NOTICE TO BIDDERS; FIXING AMOUNT OF BID SECURITY AND ORDERING THE CLERK TO PUBLISH NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE PROPOSED COST OF THE MAIN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT-NEW UV DISINFECTION FACILITY MOUNT PLEASANT, IA 2023

Roll call vote 4-0. Resolution adopted, signed by the Mayor and hereby made a portion of these minutes.

Councilmember Griffith moved and Councilmember Engberg seconded that the Council adopt the following entitled Resolution No. 2022-103:

RESOLUTION ORDERING BIDS; APPROVING PRELIMINARY DRAWINGS, SPECIFICATIONS, PLANS, CONTRACT AND NOTICE TO BIDDERS; FIXING AMOUNT OF BID SECURITY AND ORDERING THE CLERK TO PUBLISH NOTICE OF HEARING OF ESTIMATED COSTS FOR PCC PAVEMENT & DRAINAGE REPLACEMENT NORTH ALDRIN DRIVE FROM WEST VINE STREET TO WEST ARMSTRONG COURT MOUNT PLEASANT, IA 2023

Roll call vote 4-0. Resolution adopted, signed by the Mayor and hereby made a portion of these minutes.

Councilmember Batty



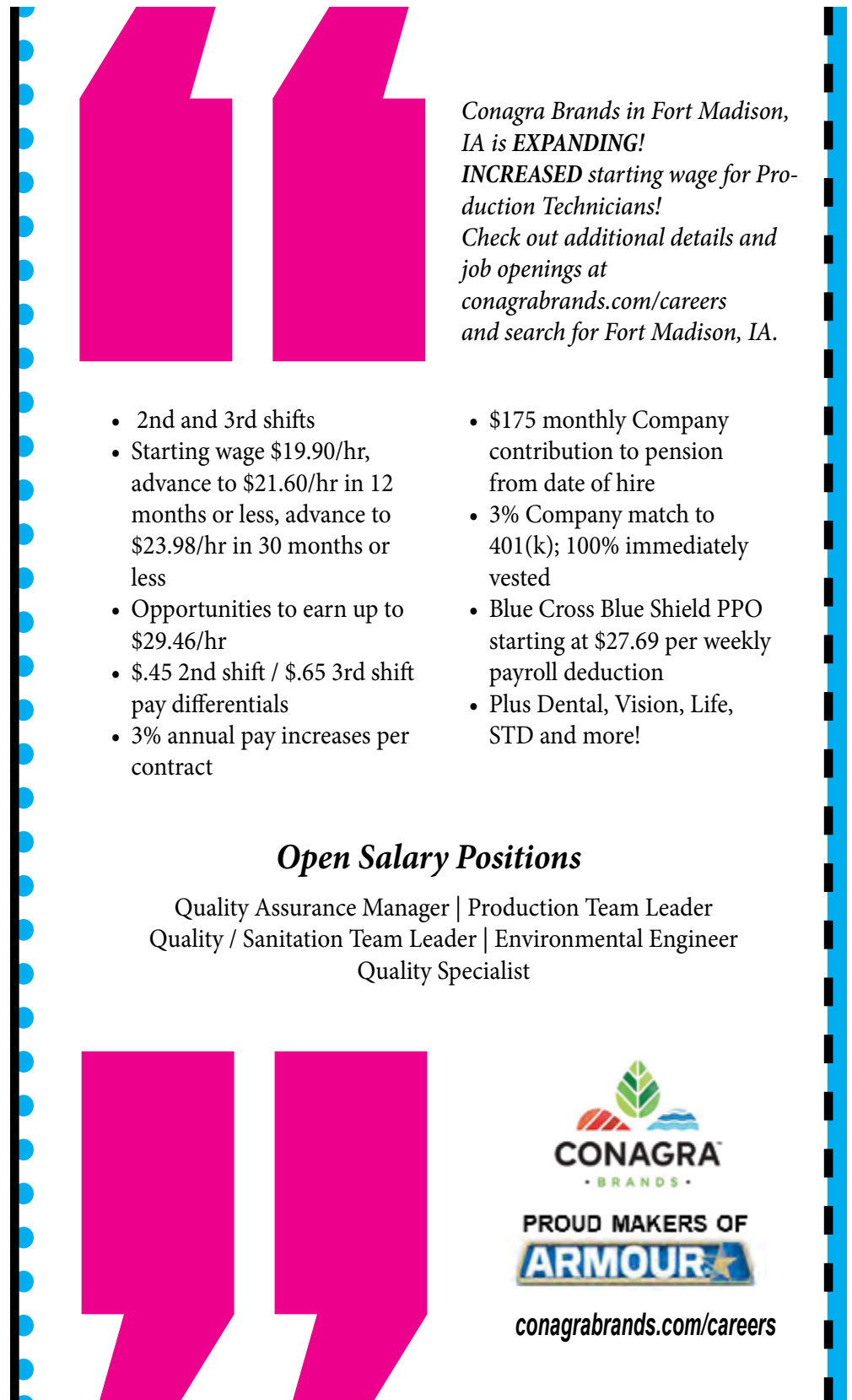
We Are HIRING

HVAC TECHNICIAN

- 3-5 years of HVAC service experience OR an HVAC certification/diploma or completed apprenticeship program AND 1 year of HVAC field experience.
- Must have the required Universal EPA certification for handling refrigerants
- Experience in team processes, interpersonal communications, team building, facilitation, and self-management skills
- Starting wage \$28.27/hr with targeted standard wage of \$30.05/hr
- \$.45 2nd shift / \$.65 3rd shift pay differentials
- Position is continuous shift operation
- 3% annual pay increases per contract
- \$175 monthly Company contribution to pension from date of hire
- 3% Company match to 401(k); 100% immediately vested
- Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO starting at \$27.69 per weekly payroll deduction
- Plus Dental, Vision, Life, STD and more!

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*Conagra Brands in Fort Madison, IA is EXPANDING!
INCREASED starting wage for Production Technicians!
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- 2nd and 3rd shifts
- Starting wage \$19.90/hr, advance to \$21.60/hr in 12 months or less, advance to \$23.98/hr in 30 months or less
- Opportunities to earn up to \$29.46/hr
- \$.45 2nd shift / \$.65 3rd shift pay differentials
- 3% annual pay increases per contract
- \$175 monthly Company contribution to pension from date of hire
- 3% Company match to 401(k); 100% immediately vested
- Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO starting at \$27.69 per weekly payroll deduction
- Plus Dental, Vision, Life, STD and more!

Open Salary Positions

Quality Assurance Manager | Production Team Leader
Quality / Sanitation Team Leader | Environmental Engineer
Quality Specialist

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PUBLIC NOTICES

moved and Councilmember Engberg seconded that the Council adopt the following entitled Resolu-

HELP WANTED

**Public Works
General Operator**

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 jcul-len@fortmadison-ia.com by 4:30pm on Friday, February 3rd, 2023.



tion No. 2022-104:

RESOLUTION ORDERING BIDS; APPROVING PRELIMINARY DRAWINGS, SPECIFICATIONS, PLANS, CONTRACT AND NOTICE TO BIDDERS; FIXING AMOUNT OF BID SECURITY AND ORDERING THE CLERK TO PUBLISH NOTICE OF HEARING OF ESTIMATED COSTS FOR PCC PAVEMENT & DRAINAGE REPLACEMENT WEST HENRY STREET JUST WEST OF MARION STREET TO BROADWAY STREET MOUNT PLEASANT, IA 2023

Roll call vote 4-0. Resolution adopted, signed by the Mayor and hereby made a portion of these minutes.

It was moved by Councilmember Griffith and seconded by Councilmember Batty that the Council approve the Encroachment Permit for Community Hope Foundation at 1101 N. Lucas Street.

Roll call vote 4-0. Motion approved.

Councilmember Engberg moved and Councilmember Batty seconded that the Council approve the ICAP (Iowa Communities Assurance Pool) 2023 renewal.

Roll call vote 4-0. Motion approved.

It was moved by Councilmember Griffith and seconded by Councilmember Engberg that the Council approve the Airport Operator Liability Insurance 2023 renewal.

Roll call vote 4-0. Motion approved.

Ed Kropa, Mt. Pleasant Twentieth Century Car Club, thanked the City Council for their support of the summer Car Cruise events and that they are looking forward to Summer 2023 events.

Teresa Rose, Mt. Pleasant Library Board, informed the City Council that the Library has plans to open the Children's Museum in February 2023 and that the Library

Board is developing a strategic plan to be implemented in 2023.

It was moved by Councilmember Griffith and seconded by Councilmember Engberg that the Council adjourn. Motion carried. Adjourned at 5:44 p.m. to meet in a regular session on Wednesday, January 11, 2023.

Steven K Brimhall, Mayor

ATTEST: Lori Davis, City Clerk

WARNING SIGNS OF T1D



- Headaches
- Weight Loss
- Blurry Vision
- Extreme Thirst
- Frequent Urination
- Increased Appetite
- Fruity Breath Odor
- Fatigue and Weakness
- Rapid Deep Breathing

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Message your customers where they spend their time - **online!**

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APARTMENTS AVAILABLE

Affordable housing for persons 62 or older, handicapped or disabled, regardless of age.

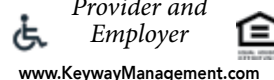
Eagle Bluff

APARTMENTS

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HIRING BRING YOUR EVENT RESUME

Production Technician

- Starting pay is \$19.90/hr
- Advance to \$21.64/hr within 12 months
- Advance to \$23.98/hr within 30 months
- Annual pay increases per contract
- \$175 Company Contribution to your pension from date of hire
- 3% Company Match to 401(k)

Conagra Brands in Fort Madison, IA is EXPANDING! INCREASED starting wage for Production Technicians! Check out additional details and job openings at conagrabrands.com/careers and search for Fort Madison, IA.

date 02/08/2023

time 4-7PM

location QUALITY INN, FM

Interview for / learn more about our open salaried job opportunities, too!

conagrabrands.com/careers



Education News/From the Front

Program could cost over \$1B over the first five years

SLATER - Continued from Page 4

to benefit public schools, looking at the finances - I don't see this benefiting public schools," Slater said.

"This is \$900 million (over four years) that will support private school vouchers. Why does it have to be at that level? If there is funding to help students, why isn't more coming our way?" she asked.

Slater said the goal is providing the best education for area students, but through this law, the legislature is sowing seeds of mistrust.

"Any system has that as their number one goal and that's our goal. But to hear conversations about providing money for students to leave public schools - that's a statement of mistrust of public schools," she said.

"Even the sheer conversation erodes the trust of what we do in pub-

lic school systems. We open our curriculum, open meetings, all those pieces to provide high level learning for kids and how do you remain competitive when your competitor doesn't have to follow the same rules?"

"We will continue to do what's best for the students that come to our district. Regardless of what's out there. But when the state doesn't put resources behind us, it makes that conversation very difficult."

Reichman said the state has to get back to the basics of education and focusing on reading, writing, and math. He said the state has slipped to 24th in the nation in educational rankings.

"I remember taking the ITBS tests and other states did, too, because we were number one in the country. We've got to

take that back. I'm not sure where we fell off, but we're headed in the wrong direction," he said.

"It could be the vocational influence, which is good for filling open jobs, but we have to create more opportunities for all our students."

Reynolds said public schools are the foundation of the state's education system, but they are not the only choice.

"Public schools are the foundation of our education system and for most families they will continue to be the option of choice, but they aren't the only choice," Governor Reynolds stated.

"For some families, a different path may be better for their children. With this bill, every child in Iowa, regardless of zip code or income, will have access to the school best suited for them."

Program kicks off on Feb. 1

PARTNERS - Continued from Page 1

an innovative Business Plan Generator, to guide participants in the creation of a business plan. DreamBuilder will begin in February and meet weekly leading up to the graduation in April. This course will be facilitated by Janine Clover, SBDC Coordinator, who will guide participants through technical aspects of the program, arrange area entrepreneurs to speak with the class, and create a support system and network.

"We are excited to offer this program again," said Tim Gobble Executive Director Fort Madison Partners. "We had to take a break the last couple of years due to the pandemic, so this program can really help give a leg up to our local aspiring entrepreneurs of making their dream a reality."

The program, which will produce a complete business plan in a few short months will cost participants just \$120.00. In-person classes will be located at the Fort Madison SCC Center starting Feb 1, 2023 located at 712 6th Street. Climax Molybdenum, a FreePort McMoRan Company, has offered again to provide full program fee reimbursement to all participants that graduate the program.

"We are committed to investing in efforts that increase education and economic opportunities for citizens in our operating communities," said Amy Conlee, Climax Molybdenum Community Development Specialist. "As part of our effort to ensure all citizens can be full participants in economic development and attain greater levels of prosperity, we are pleased to support the program and the program participants."

Dream Builders Spring 2023 Schedule

February 1-Welcome and Introduction to Class

February 8-Chapters 1 and 2, Starting and Exploring Your Dream

February 15-Chapters 3 and 4, Planning and Making Your Dream

February 22-Chapter 5 and 6, Marketing and Pricing Your Dream

March 1-Chapter 7 and 8, Selling and Managing Your Dream

March 8-Chapter 9 and 10, Profiting and Keeping Track of Your Dream

March 15 NO CLASS, SCC Spring Break

March 22-Chapter 11 and 12, Funding and Formalizing Your Dream

March 29-Chapter 13 Turning Your Dream into Reality and Next Steps/Pitch Contest Resources

April 19- Pitch Contest TBA

For more information about the DreamBuilder program, or get an application, contact the Fort Madison Partners office 319-372-5471.

Respiratory Season is Here!

Complete with Influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and COVID-19!

The colder temperatures keep us all cozy and warm inside, but this closeness and the decreased indoor air flow only increase the spread of uninvited viruses.



Keep your family safe during Respiratory Season by following these tips:

- Stay home if you are feeling sick.
- Get a vaccination/booster for any viruses circulating. In our region this includes flu and COVID-19.
- Wash hands often, especially after sneezing, coughing, using a bathroom, or blowing your nose. It is always important to wash your hands before touching your face.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth whenever possible.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes or cough into your sleeve.
- Disinfect any surfaces you frequently use, such as doorknobs, faucet handles, children's toys and remote controls.

If you do catch one of these viruses, consult your medical provider for any symptoms that are severe or concerning.

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