

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Monday, March 27, 2023 | 12 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 60



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1 dead, 10 hurt at WIU



Photo by John Bohnenkamp/PCC

Macomb Interim Police Chief Jeff Hamer addressed the media Saturday afternoon at Macomb City Hall after a shooting spree at a house party early Saturday morning left one dead and 10 more injured.

SHOOTING SPREE: Officials haven't released name of fatality or details on suspect

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

MACOMB, Ill. — One person was killed and 10 others were injured in an early-morning shooting on Saturday at a house party near the Western Illinois University campus.

Six of the injured were WIU students, Macomb interim police chief Jeff Hamer said at a press conference Saturday afternoon.

Names of the victims were not released at the press conference, Hamer said, because families were still being notified.

Hamer said police received a call at 1:55 a.m. Saturday of shots fired in the 500 block of N. Johnson St. The shooting was the result of an altercation, but Hamer would not give further details, citing the ongoing investigation.

Hamer said one person was pronounced dead at the scene. The name was not being released, but Hamer said the victim was not a WIU student.

The injured were taken by ambulance to McDonough District Hospital in Macomb. The hospital, Hamer said, was placed on lockdown for security reasons.

See SHOOTING, page 3

WEST POINT

WP Library Book Club celebrates 20th anniversary

BY DARA SANDERS
West Point Library Director

The West Point (WP) Public Library's Book Club and one of its members achieved noteworthy milestones this past month. The library's book club celebrated its 20th anniversary on March

18 while Eileen Snaadt, one of its first members, celebrated her 95th birthday on March 17.

The book club was started by the WP Public Library and held its first meeting on March 1, 2003. While the book club began with ten ladies, members

have come and gone over the years. The current members of the WP Library Book Club include Tina Blint*, Connie Dyer, Shirley Fraise, Cheryl Freesmier, Vicky Lundebly, Mary Link*, Maureen

See BOOKS, page 3



Instincts on full display at FMHS

Instincts.

The innate, quick, natural reaction to a stimulus. Training and repetition helps develop those reactions.

It's the repetition that's beginning to bother me. Every day we see more threats of violence. Saturday morning 11 people were shot in Macomb at a party just off the Western Illinois University campus.

On Tuesday, more than 30 schools were hit with a coordinated "swatting" attack including three schools in Lee County.

Repetition.

For about six minutes in real time Fort Madison school officials and law enforcement thought there was a gunman in a restroom who had already shot multiple students.

A 30-minute conversation with Co-Principal Patrick Lamb drew an eerie picture of a man whose instincts to protect students kicked in. He's also the father of one of the students.

Keep in mind that Fort Madison didn't know the call was a hoax and decided even when they did, to make sure every room in the high school was secured and cleared before removing a lockdown.

Lamb said, according to a review of camera footage, every student was in a classroom within 20 seconds of him calling for the lockdown.

Twenty seconds.

Police were on scene in 74 seconds.

Seventy-four seconds.

They came in with shields and guns drawn and immediately took over clearing classrooms - starting with restrooms

See INSTINCTS, page 4

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap

MON 27 Mar.....Partly sunny, 48° F/ 31° F
TUE 28 Mar.....Partly sunny, 49° F/ 32° F
WED 29 Mar.....Partly sunny, 50° F/ 33° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 03/25.....3 17 29 41 52, Star Ball: 10 All Star Bonus: 3
LUCKY FOR LIFE 03/25.....9 11 20 22 48, Lucky Ball: 14
MEGA MILLIONS 03/24.....14 17 33 42 66, Mega Ball: 15 Megaplier: 3
PICK 3 03/23, 03/24, 03/25 MIDDAY.....2 6 5, 6 2 3, 7 4 8
PICK 3 03/23, 03/24, 03/25 EVENING.....0 0 2, 3 9 2, 8 6 2
PICK 4 03/23, 03/24, 03/25 MIDDAY.....2 3 4 6, 0 6 3 0, 2 4 1 6
PICK 4 03/23, 03/24, 03/25 EVENING.....9 6 8 7, 6 3 7 5, 7 8 1 6
POWERBALL 03/25.....15 17 18 47 57, Powerball: 19 Power Play: 2

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Obituaries/Local News

OBITUARIES

MELVA J. DeWITT

Melva Jean Mary DeWitt, 88 years, of Wever, Iowa died Thursday, March 23, 2023 at her home. She was born June 7, 1934, a daughter of August Deitrich and Myrtle (Steffensmeier) Menke. On October 23, 1954, she married Charles Arthur DeWitt at St. James Catholic Church, St. Paul, Iowa. He preceded her in death March 31, 2019.



DEWITT

She lived in the area most of her life. She was a 1952 graduate of St. James High School, St. Paul, Iowa. She was of the Catholic Faith. She was a homemaker, raising eight children, plus two adopted children: Dean, Alan, Lynette, Craig, Terri, Yvonne, Bryan, Diana, Stephanie and Susie. For nearly 40 years, she worked at the Wever Locker as a wrapper. She enjoyed ceramics, scrapbooking and collected salt and pepper shakers. Her family was most important to her; every family member played an instrument and she attended every event they were involved in.

She is survived by her children: Dean (Jody) DeWitt of Fort Madison; Lynette Stein of Williamsburg, Iowa; Craig DeWitt of Wever; Diana (Howard) Vorwaldt of Wever; two "adopted" daughters, Stephanie (Troy) Fisher of Arizona and Susan Sanford (Joe Naumann) of Fort Madison; 16 grandchildren; 22 great grandchildren; one great great grandson and numerous other family members. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, two sons, Bryan and Alan DeWitt, two daughters, Yvonne Metcalf and Terri Wilson, three grandchildren: Justin DeWitt, Samuel Metcalf, Devin Royer and one great grandson, Dylan Pugliese.

Visitation will be held 5:00 to 6:30 pm Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Her Funeral Service will be held 12:00 pm Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at the Barr Memorial Chapel with Jason DeWitt officiating. Burial will be at Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison. A memorial has been established for the Wever Fire Department and IOOF, contributions may be left at Barr Memorial Chapel. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the DeWitt family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorial-chapel.com.

Meyers gets 40 years for sexual abuse crimes

FORT MADISON - A Fort Madison man was sentenced to 40 year in prison after being found guilty of felony sex crimes.

On Friday, Charles Dean Meyer (51) of Fort Madison, made an appearance in Lee County District Court and received a 40-year sentence to the Iowa Department of Corrections.

Meyer was convicted of two counts of Sexual Abuse in the 3rd degree (class c felony) each carrying a 10-year sentence, and 10 separate counts of Invasion of Privacy (aggravated misdemeanor) each carrying a 2-year sentence.

The 40-year prison term was the maximum allowed under the conditions of the plea agreement reached in this case. The judge also ordered that the periods of confinement run consecutively. Meyer will also have to register as a sex offender and will be placed on lifetime parole upon his release.

Meyer was the suspect in a two-year investigation by the Fort Madison Police Department into the sexual abuse of a minor, and the placing of concealed cameras within the women's restroom of Vel's Amigo's Restaurant where Meyer was employed.



MEYER

The Fort Madison Police Department would like to thank the following agencies for their assistance with this investigation:

- Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation
- US Department of Homeland Security Investigations
- US Department of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, And Explosives
- Cedar Rapids Police Department Criminal Investigations
- Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force
- Lee County Attorney's Office
- Assistant United States Attorney's Office
- Iowa Department of Health and Human Service

City has openings on commissions

FORT MADISON - The City of Fort Madison is accepting applications for vacancies on all appointed boards, commissions and committees. Applications can be found at www.fortmadison-ia.com or through the City Clerk's office at 811 Avenue E. This application process is an effort to ensure diversity and representation of our community. Interested persons should submit completed applications to the City Clerk's office during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. All applicants must be at least 18 years of age. These are uncompensated positions. All applications are subject to the open records laws of the State of Iowa.

Below is a listing of boards and commissions needing members:

- Board of Adjustment
- Civil Service Commission
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Planning and Zoning Commission



Lunch Specials
March 27-31
11am - 1pm

Monday, March 27

Smoked Ham, Cheese Potatoes, Sweet Corn

Tuesday, March 28

Brisket Sandwich, Tater Tots, Baked Beans

Wednesday, March 29

Grilled Burgers, Fries, Blueberry Fluff

Thursday, March 30

Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, March 31

Fish & Shrimp Dinners

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

For the Record/From the Front



Courtesy photo

The West Point Library Book Club front row left to right are: Shirley Fraise, Eileen Snaadt, Mary Link, Maureen McGuire, Back Row left to right are: Cheryl Freesmeier, Vicky Lundebly, Dara Sanders, Myrna McVey, and Ronda O'Keefe, Not Pictured: Tina Blint, Connie Dyer, Joan Menke, Cathy Schwartz.

Room for another book club to start

BOOKS - Continued from Page 1

McGuire, Myrna McVey*, Joan Menke, Ronda O'Keefe, Dara Sanders, Cathy Schwartz*, and Eileen Snaadt. The ages of our members range from 51 - 95 which leads to lively discussions and varied viewpoints. The stars indicate original members who attended the first meeting.

Eileen joined the book club for its second meeting and has been a loyal member ever since, keeping a handwritten journal of notes over each of the books she has read. Her love of reading began in the first grade when she learned how to read. According to Eileen, "People who love to read can travel all over the world." Love of reading runs in Eileen's family as well. Her sister Rita Hueser, who recently passed away, read continually over her lifetime and amassed a collection of 1,400 books. Eileen passed her love reading on to three of her five children, including daughter Deb Lowenberg and two of her sons, Rod and Doug Snaadt. Eileen's favorite author is Kristin Hannah, who she finds very easy to read. When asked about the past book club selections, she replied her favorite book club book was "The Girl with the Pearl Earring" by Tracy Chevalier with the worst being "The Beans of Egypt Maine" by Carolyn Chute, which she admitted was one of the few she hadn't been able to finish. Eileen expressed her love

for the WP Library Book Club and looks forward to attending each month.

The WP Library Book Club's meetings were originally held at the old library on 4th St, then moved to the Grapevine until its closing, and returned to the library in its current location on 5th St. Over the past 20 years, the book club has read a total of 230 books, from all sorts of genres. Members have also enjoyed engaging in a variety of additional activities together including watching movies, dining out, trying out henna tattoos, visiting tea houses or members' homes, as well as participating in a couple of virtual "chats with the author" sessions to name a few. Even Covid couldn't stop the book club from meeting as the members met outside in a garage and later participated in joint in-person/virtual meetings. Currently the WP Library Book Club meets on the third Saturday of the month and is run by Mary Link, a long-time library volunteer and vice president of the library board. Unfortunately, there is a fairly long waiting list, so if anyone is interested in starting another book club, please contact the library at (319) 837-6315 and staff will be happy to help get you started.

Western cancels weekend athletics

SHOOTINGS - Continued from Page 1

"It was for precautionary measures," Hamer said. "With the influx of witnesses and injured parties, we had to make the scene safe.."

Several of the victims were then transferred to Area 1 trauma centers by ambulance.

WIU canceled all athletic events for the weekend, including a men's soccer match at Southeastern Community College on Saturday, but all other university events were still scheduled.

"After meeting with coaches and the teams,

we will announce when we will resume competition," WIU athletics director Paul Bubb said in a statement.

Asked if any WIU athletes were among the victims, Hamer said he could not comment because of the ongoing investigation.

Hamer said it was likely that photos or videos of the incident exist. Anyone with information can call CrimeStoppers at (309) 836-3222. Video can also be emailed to citizenconcerns@ma-combpolice.com.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

03/23/23 - 12:00 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Johnathan Taylor Palm, 26, of Fort Madison, at the intersection of 48th Street and Avenue O, on a charge of driving while barred. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/23/23 - 2:14 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested James Cleaveland Cleararthur Hale, Jr., 29, of Burlington, in the 1900 block of 48th Street, on charges of public intoxication, assault with bodily injury, interference with official acts - bodily injury, and 1st degree harassment. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/23/23 - 3:26 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 3000 block of Avenue N.

03/23/23 - 8:03 p.m. - Fort

Madison police cited Dana Cheren Wagner, 42, of Fort Madison, in the 1600 block of Avenue E, on a charge of driving under suspension.

03/23/23 - 8:21 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1500 block of Avenue H.

Lee County Sheriff Report

03/23/23 - 10:02 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Taylor Ann Bottger, 18, of Keokuk, at the intersection of Mile Marker 22 and Hwy. 61 N., Fort Madison, on a charge of 1st offense OWI. She was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on a promise to appear.

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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Sports/From the Front

Hounds take 6th at Steve Roth Relays in Washington



WASHINGTON - The Fort Madison boys started the outdoor season with a respectable sixth place at the Steve Roth Relays Thursday evening in Washington.

The sprint events and sprint relays are again proving to be a strong part of the Bloodhound boys' track program in 2023.

Julian Dear, who participated in the state track meet last year for Fort Madison, put up a couple strong second-place finishes in the sprint events. His 24.63 in the 200-meter dash was good enough for second in the Hounds' division. He also took 4th in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.96.

Freshman Caden Barnes is building a strong 2022 campaign with a 2nd in the shotput throwing 41'-9".

Nolan Guzman captured a 3rd-place finish in the high jump with a leap of 5'-6". He also took 4th in the 800-meter run with a mark of 2:14.31.

The Hounds' 4x200 meter relay team of Adam Sobczak, Dayton Lamar, Kane Williams, and Hayden Segoviano captured 3rd with a time of 1:37.84.

Payton Lambert broke the minute mark in the 400-meter run with a 57.75, good enough for 5th place.

The Hounds scored 89 points, behind Iowa City West, Cedar Rapids Prairie, Iowa City High, Columbus Junction, and Mediapolis.

Complete results from the boys event are listed below:

Boys 100-meter dash: Julian Dear - 11.96 (4th), Tate Settles - 12.07 (5th), Hayden Segoviano - 12.41x

Boys 200-meter dash: Dear - 24.63 (2nd), Gavin Callahan - 26.43, Chandler Fullenkamp - 27.30x

Boys 400-meter dash: Peyton Lambert - 57.75 (5th), Thomas White - 1:02.82, Justice Lightfoot - 1:11.94x

Boys 800-meter run: Nolan Guzman - 2:14.31 (4th), Lambert - 2:25.20, Calvin Johnson - 2:28.63x

Boys 1600-meter run: Mason McLey - 5:28.16, Cameron Shutwell - 5:36.44.

Boys 110-hurdles: Henry Wiseman - 18.67 (6th), Kiawante Smith - 18.81

Boys 400 hurdles: Smith - 1:06.26 (6th)

Boys 4x100 relay: Fort Madison DQ

Boys 4x200 relay: Adam Sobczak, Dayton Lamar, Kane Williams, Hayden Segoviano - 1:37.84 (3rd)

Boys 4x400 relay: Cade Packard, Gavin Callahan, Dane Butler, Brody Cashman - 4:03.29 (6th)

Boys 4x800: Lightfoot, Kalib Heidbreder, Johnson, Evan Richmond - 10:39.84

Sprint Medley: Cashman, White, Packard, Butler 1:46.58 (4th)

Distance Medley: Settles, Segoviano, Guzman and McLey - 3:59.12 (2nd).

Shuttle Hurdle Relay: - Wiseman, Sobczak, Smith, Williams 1:05.73 (3rd).

High Jump: Guzman 5'-6" (3rd).

Long Jump: Fullenkamp - 18'-6.75", Callahan - 15'-8.50".

Shot put: Caden Barnes - 41'-09" (2nd), Mateo Lozano - 33'-04", Markus Holbert - 26'-10"x.

Discus: Cory Arnett - 109'-3" (4th)

Schools did what we needed them to do Tuesday

INSTINCTS - Continued from Page 1

and locker rooms.

But what's even more harrowing were the teachers and staff whose instincts were to protect students above themselves. Several administrators went room to room without bullet-proof vests... without guns... without police escorts. They went room to room with handheld radios not knowing what they would find, but knowing they had to go.

At one point, police stopped administrators from further going into rooms unarmed saying they were the ones with gear and guns and they should be the first in.

When word was received the calls could be a hoax, everyone slowed down and took a breath. But police and school officials still moved swiftly to move through each room and make sure every student was safe before releasing the lockdown.

It's how we want them to behave. It's how we need them to behave.

Central Lee also received a call, but Superintendent Dr. Andy Crozier issued a statement right away saying the district had received information about the swatting and did sweeps of the high school immediately without going into a lockdown. Central Lee has an agreement with the Lee County Sheriff's office and has a deputy on site.

Fort Madison's school resource officer was at Lincoln Elementary School and arrived on scene in less than a minute and 15 seconds.

As a reporter when I pulled up to the high school, I saw several pods of parents in the parking lot with arms folded. I spoke to an officer at the front of the building who was accompanied by a Lee County EMS paramedic. He told me it was believed the calls were a hoax, but part of a statewide hoax.

All construction workers at the school were still working so I assumed that things were getting back to normal very quickly.

As horrible as this was for so many people that morning, we have to take away what was a shining moment of reactions...instincts. People moving through the school to get to students regardless of their own safety. Police not only getting to the school extremely quickly, but entering and working to immediately mitigate the situation.

No one waited. No one stood by for direction. No one waited.

Action.

What people can see easily from this is that our school officials' instincts are to run into the fire when students' safety is at risk.

Lamb said staff and teachers acted almost flawlessly. Having every student locked in a room in 20 seconds would have saved lives had this not been a hoax. And remember for the first six minutes they didn't know it was a hoax.

The image of the parents standing in the parking lot south of the high school on Tuesday encroached on the tragedies of years past. Sandy Hook, Santa Fe, Parkland.

A Google search of mass shootings for 2023 alone now stands at 122, 123 if you include Macomb, which you must.

Instincts of the good guys are to continue to plan for the worst - while hoping for the best.

Hope dwindles as I think about those parents standing at the school looking for answers, and those who were getting texts from their children, that something had gone wrong.

Fortunately for all of us, nothing went wrong. It would seem everything went right. As right as we need it to be on days like this.

It makes me wonder how often Police Chief Mark Rohloff and Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber think it's no longer a matter of if... But that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is editor and co-owner of Pen City Current and can be reached at Charles.v@pencitycurrent.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
Agenda
DATE: Monday,
March 27, 2023
MEETING
CONVENING TIME:
10:00 A.M. (CDT)
LOCATION:
933 Avenue H
Fort Madison, IA

BOS Meeting
 Mon, Mar 6, 2023 10:00 AM -11:00 AM (CST)
 Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
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 You can also dial in using your phone.
 United States: +1 (408) 650-3123
 Access Code: 305-195-757

If you would like to pose a question to the Board, please use the Chat feature and wait for the Chairman to address you. If you are participating by phone, please wait until everyone is done speaking before addressing the Board. Please keep your microphone muted to cut down on background noise. If you are participating by phone, press #6, this will mute your phone.

Pledge of Allegiance
 Approve Agenda
 Public Input
 Consider Approval of Resolution Setting Date for Public Hearing on Designation of Lee County Urban Renewal Area and on Urban Renewal Plan and Project

Discussion and Possible Action on Local Government Guarantee for Landfill
 Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation
 Consider Approval of Agreement with Health Solutions for Employee Wellness Program

Consider Approval of FY 24 Secondary Roads Budget for IDOT
 Consider Approval of EMS Tier Agreements with Farmington EMS and

Hancock County EMS
 Consider Approval of Budget Amendment for FY23 Budget and Set Public Hearing Date
 Consider Approval of Fund Transfer from Rural Basic to Secondary Roads

Consider Approval of Lee County Treasurer's Recommendation to Invest \$1.5 Million in Certificate of Deposit

Consider Approval of Resolution Naming Pioneer Cemetery Commission Members

Consent Agenda
 • Consider Approval of Monday, March 20, 2023 Board Minutes

• Consider Approval of Claims for Payment Personnel Actions:

A. Step Increase - Sheriffs Office

B. Step Increase - EMS Reports:

A. Sheriffs Monthly Report

Department Head Report

Commission or Committee Reports

Adjourn

Possible Workshop to Follow

PUBLIC MEETING
CITIZENS WELCOME

Vision and hearing assistance available upon request

Contact Title VI Administrator 319-372-3705
 County Website: www.leecounty.org

PUBLIC NOTICE
MEETING NOTICE

The Green Bay Levee & Drainage District will hold a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, March 30, 2023, at Heartland Co-op, east of Wever.

PUBLIC NOTICE
MEETING NOTICE

THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE

LEE COUNTY COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WILL BE ON TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2022 AT THE KEOKUK AMERICAN LEGION LOCATED AT 727 MAIN STREET, KEOKUK, IA AT 12:00 NOON.

The agenda includes: 0 requests for Veterans financial assistance, February 2023 monthly financial report, minutes, and monthly client report.

PUBLIC NOTICE
FORT MADISON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD
MEETING
03/20/2023 - 06:00 PM
MEETING MINUTES

Public Comments are welcome. They are limited to 3 minutes. Any member of the public who wishes to participate in public comments must be physically present at the meeting and follow the appropriate sign in procedures.

Finance: Santiago/Wykert
 Attendees
 Voting Members
 Dianne Hope, Director
 Josh Wykert, Board President
 Lois DiPrima, Director
 Brad Menke, Director
 Mio Santiago, Vice President

Paul Wilkerson, Director
 Non-Voting Members
 Dr. Erin Slater, Superintendent
 Kim Harmon, Dir. of Curriculum, Sp. Ed & Student Services

Sandy Elmore, Director of Business Services
 I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum

The meeting was called to order by President Wykert at 6:00 p.m.
 II. Recognition of guests
 President Wykert welcomed members of the audience in attendance and explained the procedures for the meeting.

III. Reading of Founda-

tion documents

The Board read and reviewed the Foundation documents consisting of the Vision, Mission and Belief statements and the Goals for the Fort Madison Community School District.

IV. Monthly communications
 A. Student Representative Report - There was none.
 B. PK-6; 7-12 Renovation and Construction Update
 Representatives from Carl A. Nelson Co. gave an update on the progress of the Middle School PK-6 and High School 7-12 Renovation and Construction project.
 C. District Successes!
 The Board reviewed recent District successes.
 D. Superintendent Goal Report
 Superintendent Slater gave an update on the ongoing Professional Learning Communities activities and meetings.
 E. District Presentation
 1. District Capital Projects Update - Nic Chiri
 Director of Maintenance and Operations, Nic Chiri, presented an update on capital projects within the District.
 V. Approve the agenda
 Motion made by: Di-

anne Hope
 Motion seconded by: Mio Santiago
 Voting: Unanimously Approved
 VI. Consent Agenda
 Motion made by: Paul Wilkerson
 Motion seconded by: Dianne Hope
 Voting: Unanimously Approved
 A. Minutes
 1. Regular Board Meeting - January 16, 2023
 2. Public Hearing - February 21, 2023
 3. Public Hearing - February 21, 2023
 4. Regular Board Meeting - February 21, 2023
 5. Work Session/Special Meeting - March 06, 2023
 B. Financial Reports
 1. February Balance Sheet
 2. Revenue Summary Report
 3. Expenditure Report
 4. Student Activity Report
 C. Accounts payable
 1. February General Account Board Bills for Approval
 2. March General Account Board Bills for Approval
 3. Student Activity Account Board Bills for Approval
 4. Nutrition Account Board Bills for Approval

5. American Express Board Bills for Approval
 D. Consider personnel resignations
 1. Mitchell McClarnon - Transportation, CO
 2. Juliene Spiker - Associate, RE
 3. Erika Lovell - Food Service, MS
 E. Consider employment of personnel
 1. Sasha Manley - Associate, RE
 2. Kami Stump - Associate, RE
 3. Kandi Clark - Associate, RE
 4. Kerridwen Roberts - Associate, RE
 5. Abigail Wright - Associate, RE
 6. Autumn Hind - Associate, Lincoln
 7. Cheri Hymes - Associate, Lincoln
 8. DiDi Jackson - Associate, Lincoln
 9. Reagan Dickens - Associate, Lincoln
 10. Amy Gruntmeier - Dance Team Sponsor, HS
 11. Albert Schinstock - Head Boys Baseball Coach, HS
 12. Landon Bentley - Assistant Girl Soccer, HS
 13. Christian Boyer - Halftime Assistant Boys Track Coach, HS
 14. Christian Boyer - Halftime Assistant Girls Track Coach, HS
 15. Jill Smith - Health-

tion documents

The Board read and reviewed the Foundation documents consisting of the Vision, Mission and Belief statements and the Goals for the Fort Madison Community School District.

IV. Monthly communications
 A. Student Representative Report - There was none.
 B. PK-6; 7-12 Renovation and Construction Update
 Representatives from Carl A. Nelson Co. gave an update on the progress of the Middle School PK-6 and High School 7-12 Renovation and Construction project.

C. District Successes!
 The Board reviewed recent District successes.
 D. Superintendent Goal Report
 Superintendent Slater gave an update on the ongoing Professional Learning Communities activities and meetings.

E. District Presentation
 1. District Capital Projects Update - Nic Chiri
 Director of Maintenance and Operations, Nic Chiri, presented an update on capital projects within the District.
 V. Approve the agenda
 Motion made by: Di-

anne Hope
 Motion seconded by: Mio Santiago
 Voting: Unanimously Approved
 VI. Consent Agenda
 Motion made by: Paul Wilkerson
 Motion seconded by: Dianne Hope
 Voting: Unanimously Approved
 A. Minutes
 1. Regular Board Meeting - January 16, 2023
 2. Public Hearing - February 21, 2023
 3. Public Hearing - February 21, 2023
 4. Regular Board Meeting - February 21, 2023
 5. Work Session/Special Meeting - March 06, 2023
 B. Financial Reports
 1. February Balance Sheet
 2. Revenue Summary Report
 3. Expenditure Report
 4. Student Activity Report
 C. Accounts payable
 1. February General Account Board Bills for Approval
 2. March General Account Board Bills for Approval
 3. Student Activity Account Board Bills for Approval
 4. Nutrition Account Board Bills for Approval

5. American Express Board Bills for Approval
 D. Consider personnel resignations
 1. Mitchell McClarnon - Transportation, CO
 2. Juliene Spiker - Associate, RE
 3. Erika Lovell - Food Service, MS
 E. Consider employment of personnel
 1. Sasha Manley - Associate, RE
 2. Kami Stump - Associate, RE
 3. Kandi Clark - Associate, RE
 4. Kerridwen Roberts - Associate, RE
 5. Abigail Wright - Associate, RE
 6. Autumn Hind - Associate, Lincoln
 7. Cheri Hymes - Associate, Lincoln
 8. DiDi Jackson - Associate, Lincoln
 9. Reagan Dickens - Associate, Lincoln
 10. Amy Gruntmeier - Dance Team Sponsor, HS
 11. Albert Schinstock - Head Boys Baseball Coach, HS
 12. Landon Bentley - Assistant Girl Soccer, HS
 13. Christian Boyer - Halftime Assistant Boys Track Coach, HS
 14. Christian Boyer - Halftime Assistant Girls Track Coach, HS
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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

care Occupations Instructor, HS
 16. Todd Dirth - Administrator, RE
 17. Dirk Troutman - Principal FMMS
 18. Nicole Lampe - Associate, MS
 F. Consider contract modifications
 1. Alyssa Devericks - Social Worker, LE
 2. Logan Doty - Dean, MS
 3. Nita Carlson - ELA, MS
 4. Sarah Tweedy - ELA, MS
 5. Jessie Frank - Math,

MS
 6. Sharlynn Upton - Math, MS
 7. Rachella Dravis - Buddy Mentor
 8. Debora Hentzel - Buddy Mentor
 G. Consider leave of absence
 H. Consider open enrollment requests
 I. Other reports
 1. 22-23 Donations
 2. 22-23 Fundraisers
 3. MS/HS Renovations and Additions Project Summary
 VII. Action Items
 A. Director of Curriculum & Student Services

1. Consider approval of Four Oaks Services Contract for 2023-2024
 Motion made by: Dianne Hope
 Motion seconded by: Josh Wykert
 Voting:
 Dianne Hope - Yes
 Josh Wykert - Yes
 Lois DiPrima - No
 Brad Menke - No
 Mio Santiago - Yes
 Paul Wilkerson - Yes
 B. Superintendent
 1. Consider approval of SCC concurrent enrollment courses for the

2023-2024 school year
 Motion made by: Brad Menke
 Motion seconded by: Mio Santiago
 Voting:
 Unanimously Approved
 2. Quarterly Policies for Review
 1. 705.01: Purchasing - Bidding
 Motion made by: Brad Menke
 Motion seconded by: Mio Santiago
 Voting: Unanimously Approved
 3. Chronological Policies for Review

Motion made by: Brad Menke
 Motion seconded by: Paul Wilkerson
 Voting: Unanimously Approved
 1. 506.02: Student Directory Information
 2. 506.02-R(1): Student Directory Information - Use of Student Directory Information
 3. 506.02-E(1): Student Directory Information - Use of Student Directory Information
 4. 506.03: Student Photographs
 5. 506.04: Student Library Circulation Records
 6. 507.01: Student Health and Immunization Certificates
 C. Board Secretary/Director of Finance
 1. Establish a Competitive Quotation Opening date of April 13, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. for the Fort Madison CSD Interior Signage project
 Motion made by: Brad Menke
 Motion seconded by: Dianne Hope
 Voting: Unanimously Approved
 2. Establish a Competitive Quotation Opening date of April 13, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. for the Fort Madison CSD Window Treatment project
 Motion made by: Dianne Hope
 Motion seconded by: Mio Santiago
 Voting: Unanimously Approved
 3. Consideration of bids opened and reviewed by the Superintendent of Schools, Secretary of the Board and the Financial Advisor
 Motion made by: Dianne Hope
 Motion seconded by: Brad Menke
 Voting: Unanimously Approved
 4. Resolution Directing the Sale of Approximately \$9,875,000 School Infrastructure Sales, Services and Use Tax Revenue Bonds, Series 2023
 Motion made by: Mio Santiago
 Motion seconded by:

Dianne Hope
 Voting: Unanimously Approved
 5. Set Public Hearing Date for the Certified Budget for FY2023-2024 for April 17, 2023
 Motion made by: Brad Menke
 Motion seconded by: Lois DiPrima
 Voting:
 Unanimously Approved
 VIII. Discussion Items
 A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services
 1. Board Facility Tour
 The Board discussed plans for the next facility tour.
 B. Superintendent
 1. Quarterly Policies for Discussion
 The policies were reviewed and discussed.
 1. 701.05 - Fiscal Management- New Policy
 C. Board Secretary/Director of Finance
 1. Certified Budget for FY2023-2024 presentation
 The Board received information regarding the Certified Budget for FY2023-2024.
 D. Board Member Attendance
 The Board Member Attendance report was accepted as presented.
 E. Staff Attendance
 The Staff Attendance Report was accepted as presented.
 IX. Comments from the audience
 There were none.
 X. Legislative update
 There was none.
 XI. Announcements
 A. Board Work Session - April 3, 2023, 6:00 PM Central Office Board Room
 B. Board Regular Meeting - April 17, 2023, 6:00 PM Central Office Board Room
 XII. Adjourn
 The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.
 Motion made by: Mio Santiago
 Motion seconded by: Brad Menke
 Voting: Unanimously Approved

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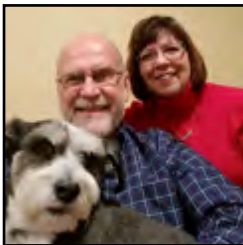
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Opinion

We can give thanks, even for the fleas

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



I've been reading about Corrie ten Boom and her sister Betsie, Calvinist Christians in Holland who believed in giving aid and shelter to the Jews during World War II. For their efforts they were taken prisoner by the Nazis and put into a concentration camp.

They were held in squalid barracks that were infested with fleas. Betsie had to remind Corrie to give thanks, even for the fleas. Corrie was flabbergasted and told Betsie that she could not give thanks for fleas. But Betsie was persistent and Corrie finally relented and prayed to God, giving thanks, even for the fleas.

The Nazi guards strangely left the women alone in their squalid, overcrowded cells, to have their Bible studies and prayer groups. Later the women found out why the guards left them alone while in their cells. It was because of the fleas!

I love this story and gave it a lot of thought. Like many people, I am plagued with daily depression, usually in the morning. I cope with it, although it gets old, and have found over the years that the best cure for depression is to get busy and do something. My morning aerobic workout on the elliptical machine is a good cure. Endorphins are a great, non-harmful, mood altering substance. It's getting out there and exercising that's a chore. Dragging Ginnie along with me to walk on the treadmill, helps a lot.

I have also found that on the days that the depression is the worst (it's usually in the winter on cold, gray days), that if I get busy and write, that it's also one of my most creative days. Hmm: depression tied to creativity. I know from reading biographies of artists that many famous artists have been plagued with chronic depression.

There's such a stigma when it comes to talking about depression, or low self-esteem. It's not one of your more popular dinner-table topics. It's like it's the person's fault that they're depressed.

I have trouble writing or talking about my depression, but in reality depression plagues our modern society and fuels Big Pharma. I fear that you, the reader, will change your opinion of me. Yes, I am a people pleaser. Most

people are. We all want to be liked. Or most of us.

I'm also sure that the main reason I'm an alcoholic (in recovery, clean and sober 33 years) is because I was self-medicating. The initial high I got from alcohol and drugs was so uplifting, so mood altering, I was attracted to it like a magnet. The trouble was that the initial high was temporary. It led directly to blackouts, jail cells, car wrecks, and, the list goes on.

I've said all that to say this: in thinking about Corrie ten Boom's story, thanking God for the fleas (we all have fleas in our life), I decided to reverse-psychology the depression and thank God for it. "Thank you God for the depression, for it is through depression that I grow and create good works."

I was almost immediately struck down by this cold and flu bug that's going around. No, it wasn't COVID. Our home test was negative. But I was one sick pup—body aches, cough, the crud, the whole gamut. Rest assured, Ginnie took good care of me—homemade chicken noodle soup and chocolate pie. My oh my, I'm a lucky guy.

Then it hit me. I was so sick, I forgot to be depressed. Well, I'll be. Thank you, God! What's a little depression compared to diarrhea in Walmart? I can handle it. Give me some depression so that I can be creative and produce great works!

Life is so full of surprises. As long as we're in tune to understand and realize where it's coming from.

"In all things, give thanks." Even for the fleas.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com, or visit his website at www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com.

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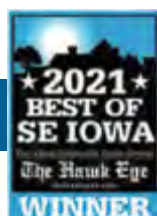
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Friday, Oct. 6, 2023 • Deer Run Golf Course • Hamilton, Illinois
12:00 Noon Shotgun start for both

Team Sponsor - Includes cart, lunch, free soda & water,
2 mulligans/golfer & 5 drink tickets/golfer.

May

\$400

4/24/23

Oct

\$400

9/25/23

Both

\$720

4/24/23

May event team roster due 5/1/23. October event team roster due 10/2/23.

Registration deadlines in red

Please fill out the Sponsorship Opportunities page for payment options

Packet pick-up will begin at 10:00 am.
Waiver & release must be signed before play begins.
Lunch at 11:00 am.

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Team Contact: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Address: _____

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Friday, May 5, 2023 • Sheaffer Memorial Golf Park • Fort Madison, Iowa
Friday, Oct. 6, 2023 • Deer Run Golf Course • Hamilton, Illinois
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Team Sponsor - Includes cart, lunch, free soda & water, 2 mulligans/golfer & 5 drink tickets/golfer.	\$400 4/24/23	\$400 9/25/23	\$720 4/24/23
Hospitality Sponsor - Includes name & logo on beverage carts, at the buffet line & throughout the golf course. Provide a jpeg of your logo to UWGRR.	\$300 4/28/23	\$300 9/29/23	\$540 4/28/23
Hole Sponsor - Includes sign by green & marketing opportunity. Provide a jpeg of your logo to UWGRR.	\$100 4/24/23	\$100 9/25/23	\$180 4/24/23

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