YMCA kicks off membership drive

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The YMCA is running a membership special and it will run until March 16. The special is for anyone looking to join the Y and for all membership options. New members will receive 15 months of membership for the price of a 12 month membership when paying the membership in full. The $40 joining fee will also be waived with a full paid membership, totaling close to $200 in savings.

"We felt that it was right time of year for a membership drive and hope people see the savings and the value of their membership with the Y at the same time," YMCA Executive Director Ryan Wilson. "With the membership, kids receive 50% off program registrations, all members have access to all amenities within our facility and also access to the off-site group fitness classes in Houghton and Donnellson."

When current Y members bring in friends or family to start a new membership, they receive a free month's membership for their recruitment. There is no limit on the number of referrals one member can make.

Another perk of becoming a Y member is not only are people a member of the Fort Madison Family YMCA, but they are also members of the other 2,000 Ys across the US. When visiting other Ys, they have to donate $40 in fees but get an additional year's membership for free. There is also a special membership for current Y members. If you are a current member of the Y you can take part in the referral program.

Lee County Bank names new officers

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Michael K. Culbertson, President and CEO of Lee County Bank, is pleased to announce the following promotions approved by the Board of Directors at their Annual Meeting. Michelle Baldwin, West Point Branch Manager, was promoted to Assistant Vice President. She has been with Lee County Bank for almost 20 years. Michelle has served on the God's Portion Day Committee, volunteers for the Tri-State Rodeo, and West Point Sweet Corn Festival. She and her husband, Jay, live in West Point and enjoy spending time with their 2 adult daughters and their granddaughter.

Eric Boeding recently joined Lee County Bank as Assistant Vice President, Commercial/Real Estate Loan Officer, and Investment Officer. He graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a B.A. in Accounting in 1996 and has 20 years of banking experience. Eric lives in Fort Madison with his wife, Wendy, and their 3 children, Nadia, Isabella, and Leif.

Dawn Cross, Assistant Banker, was promoted to Assistant Vice President. Dawn has 20 years of banking experience. Eric lives in Fort Madison with his wife, Wendy, and their 3 children, Nadia, Isabella, and Leif.

Bringing closed meetings front and center

BY PCC STAFF

Former Fort Madison City Attorney Leif Eric Boeding called for a closer look into closed meetings in a recent city council meeting. The attorney hinted that he wanted to go into an exempt session, which is allowed by Iowa Code 20.17(3). According to the code, "Negotiating sessions, strategy meetings of public employers, mediation, and the deliberative process of arbitrators shall be exempt from the provisions of Chapter 21." Chapter 21 of the Iowa code outlines the parameters of closed session meetings.

After a couple of issues at meetings Tuesday night, I think a discussion is in order on closed and exempt public meetings.

The Fort Madison City Council almost went into what's called an Exempt Session at Tuesday's regular meeting. Exempt sessions are very specific in nature and can only be called to discuss very narrowly defined issues, typically surrounding staff negotiations.

An attorney from Dallas Lynch was called during the meeting when a vote came to approve the resolutions authorizing settlements with the city's union staff, which includes library, police, and firefighters.

Initially, I was perplexed at the call because the city has an attorney sitting next to David Varley and no questions were in front of the council except the vote on the resolutions.

Just for a bit of background, when a resolution is introduced by Mayor Brad Randolph, protocol is to ask for a motion and second to approve that resolution. After two different councilman make the motion and a second, the mayor will then ask if there is any discussion before voting on the measure.

But this time, the attorney from Dallas Lynch was called prior to any motion being made, so there was no indication or inclination at that point to engage an attorney, who clearly had arranged to be on standby.

The attorney hinted that he wanted to go into an exempt session, which is allowed by Iowa Code 20.17(3). According to the code, "Negotiating sessions, strategy meetings of public employers, mediation, and the deliberative process of arbitrators shall be exempt from the provisions of Chapter 21." Chapter 21 of the Iowa code outlines the parameters of closed session meetings.

From my perspective, which I broached with the mayor and council at the meeting, there was no indication of any closed or exempt sessions on the agenda. The city's attorney was correct in saying that "Exempt"
FORT MADISON - Fort Madison Community Hospital recognized Heather Stevenson as their January Employee of the Month. Stevenson works as the Director of Maternal Child Department overseeing the FMCH Birthplace. She has been with FMCH for sixteen years. Stevenson was recognized with this nomination:

This employee is hardworking, reliable, knowledgeable, versatile, resourceful and efficient. These qualities alone are very impressive and important but this alone can’t describe this employee. She is also a compassionate, caring, kind, creative, team builder. This employee is also very quick to roll up their sleeves and take patients without hesitation or irritation when our patients all arrive at the same time. She has come in on her days off, nights, weekends and even on vacation to help us when times are busy. We appreciate this, realizing that she can’t always come, but does her best all the time. She remembers our birthdays, helps us grow in our department and personally; she sends out cards of thanks and recognition. She has checked up on staff sometimes even after they leave FMCH. Some of these things seem small but make the biggest difference. “She always takes care of us…she protects us…she works really hard…she is my sounding board and helps me see things clearly when I am ruffled…she cares…thank you!"

When asked who she would like to recognize as making a difference in her career, Stevenson responded, “Joyce Kirchner – she has helped me to grow professionally as a nurse and a leader. Also, Joyce De Sotel – she helped to spark my interest in Obstetrics and has shared a lot of great knowledge with me.” She also credited the culture, her work family, interacting with the patients, and just helping others in general as her favorite part of working at FMCH. Stevenson enjoys spending time with her husband and children when not working as well as reading, writing, and photography.

Shelby Burchett, Vice-President Patient Care Services, and Jeremy Alexander, President/CEO of Fort Madison Community Hospital, present Heather Stevenson with the January Employee of the Month honor.

MEMBERS - Continued from Page 1

have their membership card with them and show that to the staff of the other Ys and they are granted access to those facilities as well. However, when signing up for programs or group fitness classes, those rules and policies are subject to change with each Y.

“This is a great perk and something that people need to know that is an option when wanting to get a workout in, swim some laps, or take the kids to burn some energy!”

When signing up with the Y, each person receives an orientation on the wellness equipment along with a tour of the facility. Pool schedules, aerobic class schedules, and program information will also be available when signing up for a membership. The Y offers three to four aerobic classes throughout the day. Some classes are as early as 5:15am and as late as 6:15pm with the type of class offerings being different each day.

For more information on the Fort Madison Family YMCA, please like us on Facebook, visit our website www.fortmadisonymca.org or call 372-2403.

Business News/From the Front

Stevenson earns FMCH honor

Submit article

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 22 Feb

Light Snow

High – 34.3º F | Low – 33.5º F

FRI 23 Feb

Light Rain

High – 37.2º F | Low – 18.6º F

SAT 24 Feb

Clear Skies

High – 39.2º F | Low – 32.8º F

SUN 25 Feb

Light Snow

High – 38.6º F | Low – 18.6º F

MON 26 Feb

Clear Skies

High – 46.4º F | Low – 39.9º F

MEMBERS - Continued from Page 1

Passes work at all YMCAs in the country

MEMBERS - Continued from Page 1

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MEMBERS - Continued from Page 1

Passes work at all YMCAs in the country
For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report
02/20/18 - 7:49 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2400 block of Avenue A.
02/18/18 - 11:59 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 5800 block of Avenue O.
02/18/18 - 11:07 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Allen William Penrod, 21, of Fort Madison, in the 3200 block of Avenue N on a charge of driving under suspension. He was released upon citation.
02/21/18 - 6:49 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a gas drive off on the 1700 block of Avenue H.
02/21/18 - 7:58 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a gas drive off on the 1500 block of Avenue H.

Lee County Sheriff's Report
02/20/18 - 9:58 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Michael Britt Woodall, 39, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for a judgment hold and a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
02/22/18 - 2:43 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Raymond Gerard Carles, 55, of Fort Madison in the 4700 block of Avenue O on charges of a controlled substance violation, possession of drug paraphernalia and simulated public intoxication. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

OBITUARIES

BERNIE MAE TOTT

Bernie Mae Todd, 89, of the Kensington in Fort Madison, Iowa, formerly of West Point, Iowa, passed away at 10:25 p.m. Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at the Kensington. Born May 6, 1928 in Pilot Grove, Iowa the daughter of Joe “Rip” and Alice (Carson) Rippenkroger.


She is survived by her three sons: Ron (Karla) Todd of Fort Madison; Gary (Beth) Todd of Fort Madison, Iowa and Joey (Chris) Todd of West Point, Iowa; five grandchildren: Rhissndon Todd Bet-

Some of Bernie’s Catholic Church in West Point, the Altar and Rosary Society of the Church, St. Ann’s Circle Daughters of Isabella and a local euchre club.

The family will receive friends from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point, the Altar and Rosary Society of the Church, St. Ann’s Circle Daughters of Isabella and a local euchre club.

The family will receive friends from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

A Memorial Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, February 24, 2018 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Montrose with Father Dennis Hoffman as celebrant.

Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery in West Point.

Memorials have been established in her memory for Great River Hospice or the Alzheimer's Association.

Schmitz Funeral Homes in West Point is assisting the family with arrangements.

On-line condolences to the family may be left at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

DAVID E. WASHBURN, SR.

David E. Washburn, Sr., 69, of Montrose, Iowa passed away at 4:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at his home in Montrose.


Survivors include his wife: Danita of Montrose; two sons: David and one sister: Joann Edwards Bertha attended St. James Catholic School in St. Paul and St. Mary's Catho-

Some of Bernie’s Catholic Church in West Point, the Altar and Rosary Society of the Church, St. Ann’s Circle Daughters of Isabella and a local euchre club.

The family will receive friends from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point with Father Dennis Hoffman as celebrant.

Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery in West Point.

Memorials have been established in her memory for Great River Hospice or the Alzheimer's Association.

Schmitz Funeral Homes in West Point is assisting the family with arrangements.

On-line condolences to the family may be left at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

David was a 1966 graduate of Central Lee High School. He retired in 1999 from the U.S. Army as a member of St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point, the Altar and Rosary Society of the Church, St. Ann’s Circle Daughters of Isabella and a local euchre club.

The family will receive friends from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 26, 2018 at St. Mary the Less Catholic Church in West Point, Iowa. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point with Father Dennis Hoffman as celebrant.

Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery in West Point.

Memorials have been established in her memory for Great River Hospice or the Alzheimer's Association.

Schmitz Funeral Homes in West Point is assisting the family with arrangements.

On-line condolences to the family may be left at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE WEST POINT UTILITY SYSTEM

WEST POINT, IOWA

February 13th, 2018

The West Point Municipal Utility System Board of Trustees met in regular session at West Point City Hall at 5:30 p.m. and is open to the public. On motion, minutes of prior regular meeting of January 9th, 2018 were approved. On motion, approved warrants payable for February 2018 as presented. On motion, meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m., February 13th, 2018.

EXPENDITURES FOR JANUARY 2018

CITY OF DAVENPORT - DUES summary of $10.00

COOPER - DRUG SCREENING summary of $27.50

DATA TECH - TAX FORMS summary of $51.93

DELTA DENTAL - INSURANCE summary of $214.36

ETFPS - FED/FICA TAX summary of $4,333.79

FLETCHER-REINHARDT INC. - SUPPLIES summary of $1,341.25

FLOYDS EZWAY - TRASH PICK UP summary of $120.00

HOLT KAMP AUTOMOTIVE - REPAIRS summary of $1,890.78

IPERS - RETIREMENT summary of $2,273.24

MMGT - DUES summary of $265.00

MC FARLAND - SUPPLIES summary of $105.48

MASTER CARD - UNIFORM summary of $408.42

MEDIACOM - TELEPHONE summary of $172.31

METEERING & TECH SOLUTIONS - METERS summary of $9,612.23

PETTY CASH summary of $44.29

PILOT GROVE BANK - ANNUAL FEE summary of $9.50

RATHBUN REGIONAL WATER - WATER PURCHASE summary of $5,977.00

RESALE POWER GROUP OF IOWA - ELECTRIC PURCHASE summary of $64,631.12

RICHIO USA - COPIER summary of $107.81

SKARSHAUG TESTING LAB - TESTING summary of $69.13

SONNY'S SUPERMARKET - SUPPLIES summary of $34.68

STATE HYGIENIC LAB - LAB FEES summary of $13.00

TLE - EQUIPMENT - EXCAVATOR summary of $21,900.00

TASCO - PAGER SERVICE summary of $895.80

STATE HYGIENIC LAB - INSURANCE summary of $167.04

WELLMARK BCBS OF IOWA - INSURANCE summary of $1,985.28

WEST POINT UTILITIES - UTILITY CHARGES summary of $895.80

WEX BANK - GASOLINE - SCREENING summary of $357.42

WINDSTREAM - TELEPHONE summary of $152.14

Randy Welding, Chair

Attest: Dawn M. Holtkamp, Billing & Collection

HOLTKAMP AUTOMOTIVE

114.20

TREASURER STATE OF IOWA - SALES TAX summary of $4,102.50

UPS - SHIPPING summary of $9.81

US POSTAL SERVICE - STAMPS summary of $254.48

UNION SECURITY INS - INSURANCE summary of $167.04

WELLMARK BCBS OF IOWA - INSURANCE summary of $1,985.28

NICE, friendly atmosphere, all utilities included. Three offices to pick from. Rent ranges from $300 to $500, depending on the size. New paint and carpet. Located at the corner of 15th street and Ave E. (large white building – the old St Clair Chiropractic office). Also have a Hair Salon space available. Call 319-470-8711.
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Family Dentistry

Burlington Dental Associates 319-753.2515
Fort Madison Family Dentistry 319-372-3614
New London Dental Care 319-367-2311

Mediapolis Dental Care 319-394-3255
Burlington Family Dentistry 319-752-7993
Thank you to all of our customers who helped us reduce our environmental footprint in 2017!

Great River Regional Waste Authority is looking forward to continuing our efforts to manage our environmental footprint and help educate our communities on ways to help in 2018!

Things to remember in 2018 when recycling:

- Please do not place plastic bags in recycling bins.
- Rinse & Clean all food jars and cans before placing in recycling bins.
- Flatten boxes for better storage and volume reduction. *Empty all boxes before recycling.
- Place all recyclable products loose in bins.
- Do not recycle wrapping paper.

Properly dispose of all electronics and household hazardous waste. Click Here for more guidance!

For your convenience:
- Convenient Drop-Off Locations in 10 cities
- Curbside Recycling Bins are available at our Ft. Madison and Keokuk locations
- HHW Collection Available by appointment during regular business hours at our Ft. Madison and Keokuk locations

Great River Regional Waste Authority

Ft. Madison Main Office: 2092 303rd Ave
Fort Madison, IA 1-319-372-6140
Keokuk Transfer Station: 111 Carbide Lane
Keokuk, IA 1-319-524-6175

Visit Us Online! • www.grrwa.com • facebook.com/grrwa

**Pheasants Forever raffle tickets available now**

LEE COUNTY – Raffle tickets for Lee County Pheasants Forever 25 Gun Raffle are available from any club member or at the banquet. Tickets are $10 each and are limited to 3,000. The raffle will be held during the chapter’s annual banquet on February 24, 2018. Proceeds from the raffle are used to support the Tri-State Young Guns and Fort Madison Clay Crushers High School Trap Shooting Teams. For more information about the raffle, go to http://www.leecountypf.org/raffles/.

**Rainbolt family holding benefit to offset son’s final expenses**

FORT MADISON - A benefit is being planned for expenses related to the death of Dakotah Rainbolt on March 3, 2018 at the Fort Madison Eagles, 4822 Avenue O. from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m.

As part of the benefit a $10 raffle is being held for a quarter side of beef from Dave’s Old Fashioned Meats. Contact Gary’s Trading Post at 319-561-1132 for more information or tickets.

Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for $15. Add a photo for $5. Non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of $10 per 25 words and $3 per photo. To place your listing, click here or call Lee at (319)371.4125.

**IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS**

**Lotto Drawings**

For your convenience:
- Convenient Drop-Off Locations in 10 cities
- Curbside Recycling Bins are available at our Ft. Madison and Keokuk locations
- HHW Collection Available by appointment during regular business hours at our Ft. Madison and Keokuk locations

2/21

7 15 31 34 36
Powerball: 8
Power Play: 3

2/21 MID-DAY

2 1 7

2/21 EVENING

2 8 7

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.
Rights, responsibilities come with closed sessions

MEETINGS - Continued from Page 1

sessions do not require public notice because they are exempt from Iowa closed meetings laws. However, he still had to overcome the parameters of the exempt statute which, as listed above, is a negotiation session, a strategy session, mediation, or arbitration.

Pen City Current’s stance is that there was no arbitrator or mediator in the room so those two are thrown out. No one from the union’s negotiation team was at the meeting and no discussion or conversation was suggested to reopen the negotiations as tentative agreements had been reached. So that leaves a strategy session as the only reason for the exempt session. It was our contention that a strategy session at that point would have been a big leap.

After I appealed to the Mayor and Council, Councilman Bob Morawitz said he had some questions with the first resolution. My question is still why are we waiting until a council meeting to address questions that can be addressed with a phone call. Whatever conversation that call entails could be handled between Morawitz and the City Manager David Varley or the attorney, who said during the council meeting that he would be happy to address any questions with the council on a one-on-one basis. We have no problem with that, but we do have a problem with what was amounting to an ad hoc removal of public ears to a public discussion.

Councilman Chris Greenwald gets an ‘attaboy’ from Pen City Current for calling the question and forcing a vote without the exempt session.

We were also booted from a meeting at the school district office about an hour after the council meeting. I’m a huge proponent of transparency. The district had scheduled a closed session to review Superintendent Erin Slater’s performance. I’m a big fan. I think she’s doing a great job synchronizing the district with the state, is extremely visible, accessible, and knowledgeable. She’s helped facilitate a sense of unity and teamwork within the district. That’s no small feat consider what’s happened with collective bargaining.

However, it is my opinion that the district is unintentionally missing the spirit and grammar of Iowa code in conducting this evaluation in secret. The code the district agenda cited for Tuesday’s meeting is section 21.5 (1) (i) of the Iowa code, and reads as follows: “A governmental body may hold a closed session only by affirmative public vote of either: two-thirds of the members of the body or all of the members present at the meeting. A governmental body may hold a closed session only to the extent a closed session is necessary for any of the following reasons: (i) To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge, is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual’s reputation and that individual requests a closed session.” (emphasis added)

The grammar here is pretty specific that this section of code is for a performance review when “necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual’s reputation” and this does not appear to extend to a routine annual review. It’s our opinion that these “annual” reviews should be done in public as no other subsection of the Code addresses the issue. If it was for regular, annual, or semiannual reviews it would read as such. But the “needless and irreparable injury” language lays a specific foundation for the closed session.

The intent here isn’t to throw the superintendent nor the school board under the school bus, but to bring attention to the language of the code, which in our opinion, and this is an opinion piece, doesn’t justify an annual review behind closed doors. Google it. There’s a lot of discussion on this.

But then again, I think teacher/board contract negotiations should be done in open session, so I’m a bit wild.

My point here is this, we have to abide by closed and exempt meetings to the letter because those laws are built with a nod to openness of public entities. We need, and are entitled, to see a whole lot of what you’re doing. No one is going to recommend what deserves to be discussed out of public view, and the public bodies have a responsibility to do as little of that as possible.

Speaking of public bodies, pay attention to the budget bill that’s going through the legislature right now. That bill’s carrying a current year budget cut of $32 million and change. That’s the year that ends June 30. Cuts are coming again.

But that’s Beside the Point.

Seven earn Asst. Vice President status with Lee County Bank

BANK - Continued from Page 1

Operations Officer and Head Teller, was promoted to Assistant Vice President. She has been in banking for 35 years; nearly 27 of those with Lee County Bank. She enjoys volunteering her time in her hometown of Moberly, Missouri. Dawn and her husband, Tony, reside in Fort Madison and they have 2 adult children.

Amy Hogan, Bank Services Coordinator, was promoted to Assistant Vice President. Amy graduated from Southeastern Community College and has been with Lee County Bank for 25 years. She has been an active volunteer in the Fort Madison area with the FMHS Booster Club, Rodeo, United Way, and Relay for Life. She also enjoys camping, traveling, and spending time with friends and family. Amy lives in Fort Madison with her husband, Rob, and they have 3 adult children.

Lisa Lihs was promoted to Data Processing Manager. She has been with Lee County Bank for 3 years. Lisa is a 2009 graduate of Southeastern Community College. She enjoys volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House in Iowa City, participating in trivia nights, and performing in the annual DEC Hands Shows at Central Lee High School. Lisa and her husband Chad keep active in the Donnellson community with their young son, Kellan.

Ryan Meierotto, Assistant Vice President and Commercial/Real Estate Loan Officer, was recently promoted to Bank Security Officer also. A 2002 graduate of Iowa Wesleyan college, he has been in banking for 20 years; the past 6 years with Lee County Bank. Ryan lives in West Point with his two children, Brynley and Blake.

Kim Shacklett has been promoted to Assistant Vice President, Cashier, Network Administrator, Information Security Officer, and Deposit Compliance. Kim had been the bank’s Data Processing Manager since 2012. A 2003 graduate of Western Illinois University with a B.A. in Economics, she was hired by Lee County Bank in 2008 with 5 years of prior banking experience. In 2014, she earned the Accredited ACH Professional (AAP) title and in 2017, she completed the Iowa Bankers Association’s Deposit Compliance School. Kim lives in Fort Madison with her husband, Shaun, and their two children, Megan and Ryan.