Soroptimists make fiction reality for FM youth

12th annual Princess Tea party brings fairytales to life

BY AVA PEITZ
PCC-Holy Trinity Catholic Intern

FORT MADISON - The local Soroptimists brought fiction to reality for many youth Saturday as local princesses gathered at Fort Madison Comfort Inn & Suites for the annual Soroptimist Princess Tea Party Fundraiser. The Soroptimists are a ‘global volunteer network of women working to improve the lives of women.’ Soroptimist International has almost 95,000 members in over 120 countries. Dr. Lauri Wondra is a Soroptimist member, and was pleased with the success of the Soroptimist Princess Tea Party thus far. The group put on two tea parties on Saturday, one from 10 a.m. to noon and the other from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. with local volunteers. "I always think it’s a success. You look at the little girls’ faces and for us, that is a success," Wondra said.

When asked about a set monetary goal for the fundraiser, Wondra mentioned a different type of goal. “You know, we really don’t have a set monetary goal. Our goal is to make every little girl feel special.”

The funds raised at the tea party will go towards other Soroptimist actions involving the community. “We give a scholarship to a woman head-of-household, we do a Golden Age Luncheon, and then we do the Academic Achievement Luncheon,” she said.

Two Jakes, and Houser coming to Rodeo

OWENS, McVey to take main stage in Sept.

BURLINGTON - Country superstars Jake Owen, Randy Houser and Jake McVey will supplement the high-octane rodeo action at this year’s Tri-State Rodeo in Fort Madison, Iowa. At the rodeo’s annual reveal party Saturday night that Boogaloos Sports Bar & Grill in the Pazzz complex, 2018 Rodeo General Chairman Josh Denning unveiled the lineup for this year’s 71st event.

The annual Tri-State Rodeo will be held Sept. 5-8. This annual event showcases exciting rodeo acts as well as professional musical entertainment. And once again this year, new and exciting things are planned for audiences of all ages. Wednesday night will once again feature the top cowboys on the circuit in the CINCH Shootout. This exciting event is invitation-only for the cowboys and brings many World Champions to the Tri-State Rodeo to compete for over $120,000 in prize money. This event is sponsored by CINCH Jeans and begins at 7 p.m. sharp.

The PRCA action will start on Thursday with rodeo performances beginning at 7 p.m. The rodeo competition will be followed by the compelling Jake McVey. McVey combines his upbeat music and youthful enthusiasm with a seasoned eye for reading the crowd. With a loyal fan base, McVey will be sure to please the crowd with his fiery stage show and arsenal of ear-grabbing songs.

Friday evening’s PRCA rodeo performance begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be followed by country singer songwriter, Randy Houser. Houser brings his musical talents to life with “Like a Cowboy,” and “How Country” and “Pzazz” complex, Boogaloos Sports Bar & Grill.

Country music star Jake Owen will be the Saturday night entertainment for the 2018 Tri-State Rodeo. The Tri-State Rodeo committee announced Owen, along with Jake McVey and Randy Houser, as this year’s main stage entertainment Saturday night at the annual reveal party at the Boogaloo Sports Bar and Grill. Photo by Tri-State Rodeo Committee/PCC
GRAND OPENING
THURSDAY, APRIL 19 • 10AM-1PM

Fort Madison Family Dentistry West

Join us to celebrate the opening of our newest office!
4723 Avenue J, Fort Madison, IA 52627
(Formerly Dr. Charles Holmes’ office)

Desserts & drinks will be served.

We’ll be seeing patients in our new office beginning May 2nd.

Stop in to see our new office!

www.drmarkdds.com

Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis
Family Dentistry
From the Front/Opinion

School board oblivious to community’s voice

Dear Editor:

“The keys to brand success are self-definition, transparency, authenticity, and accountability”—Simon Mainwaring

Once again the voters in the Fort Madison community have said no to building a new grade school. This is the third time they’ve said no, which means it’s the third time that time, money, and resources have gone towards trying to convince them to say yes. Time, money, and resources that could’ve been spent on something more worthwhile for our schools and students, possibly.

And instead owning the responsibility to PROVE to the community why we so desperately need this new school, those involved blame the community by stating things such as this by Board member Gayla Young. “We had tours, we had meetings, and our emails are public. Do you know how many people emailed me for information—zero. I can’t believe there are people out there that don’t want what’s best for these kids.”

To further this, Erin Slater stated “We still believe this is the right thing for Fort Madison and the younger students. We need to figure out how to correct the misinformation voters used to vote no.”

It is NOT the community’s burden to hunt down information or to even ask for it as individuals, it is the Board’s responsibility to make sure that information is fully provided to ALL voters in as many ways as possible, in as easily accessible ways as possible.

When the community cannot get straight answers through statements by the Superintendent and Board members, as quoted by area news sources, then why should they individually seek out additional information? See LETTER, page 4

Soroptimists help women promote women

Wondra encourages others to join Soroptimist International.

“Anything we can do to encourage women promoting women is just an awesome thing. When we (women) band together, we are just unstoppable. I think that’s a great reason to join Soroptimist.”

The local princess was allowed to bring along a guest, or multiple guests, who can partake in activities with them such as crafts, dancing, and enjoying tea and cookies.

Jillian Ireland attended with her daughter Evelyn for the first time. “My daughter is just obsessed with princesses, and seeing the light on her face when she gets to see Elsa and Anna really makes me happy.”

Soroptimist International is always seeking new members, and if you would like to join, you can visit their Facebook page here for more information: https://www.facebook.com/sioffm/.

Claire Hellman “Tinkerbell” gives some time to one of the princesses at the annual Soroptimist Tea Party Saturday morning at the Comfort Inn & Suites. The children dressed up as princesses and got to spend time with fictional characters.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

School board oblivious to community’s voice

Dear Editor:

“The keys to brand success are self-definition, transparency, authenticity, and accountability”—Simon Mainwaring

Once again the voters in the Fort Madison community have said no to building a new grade school. This is the third time they’ve said no, which means it’s the third time that time, money, and resources have gone towards trying to convince them to say yes. Time, money, and resources that could’ve been spent on something more worthwhile for our schools and students, possibly.

And instead owning the responsibility to PROVE to the community why we so desperately need this new school, those involved blame the community by stating things such as this by Board member Gayla Young. “We had tours, we had meetings, and our emails are public. Do you know how many people emailed me for information—zero. I can’t believe there are people out there that don’t want what’s best for these kids.”

To further this, Erin Slater stated “We still believe this is the right thing for Fort Madison and the younger students. We need to figure out how to correct the misinformation voters used to vote no.”

It is NOT the community’s burden to hunt down information or to even ask for it as individuals, it is the Board’s responsibility to make sure that information is fully provided to ALL voters in as many ways as possible, in as easily accessible ways as possible.

When the community cannot get straight answers through statements by the Superintendent and Board members, as quoted by area news sources, then why should they individually seek out additional information? See LETTER, page 4

Soroptimists help women promote women

Wondra encourages others to join Soroptimist International.

“Anything we can do to encourage women promoting women is just an awesome thing. When we (women) band together, we are just unstoppable. I think that’s a great reason to join Soroptimist.”

The local princess was allowed to bring along a guest, or multiple guests, who can partake in activities with them such as crafts, dancing, and enjoying tea and cookies.

Jillian Ireland attended with her daughter Evelyn for the first time. “My daughter is just obsessed with princesses, and seeing the light on her face when she gets to see Elsa and Anna really makes me happy.”

Soroptimist International is always seeking new members, and if you would like to join, you can visit their Facebook page here for more information: https://www.facebook.com/sioffm/.

Claire Hellman “Tinkerbell” gives some time to one of the princesses at the annual Soroptimist Tea Party Saturday morning at the Comfort Inn & Suites. The children dressed up as princesses and got to spend time with fictional characters.

Pen City Current - Sunday, April 8, 2018 - 3
School district voter wants more transparency, authenticity from board

I've personally heard, from news sources and Board members, a number of different reasons for this great 'need' to build a new school. Student safety, technology, accessibility, heating/cooling, etc. Ok, which is it?

What we, the public, voters, have not seen is a thorough breakdown or itemization for what the costs are for building this new school in comparison to what did they come from? What is a cost-analysis, based on a sustainability factor for the community, of leaving two empty buildings and adding a brand new one? How will this affect taxes within a community which cannot be considered anything but lower-middle class when it comes to wages versus cost of living? What alternative energy, technology, and even safety sources have they researched to determine if they're a feasibility? If a new school is built, will the money from the sale or rental of the other properties be put fully towards the cost of the loan for the new school or will it just be imbedded into yet another "general" fund for the town; one where the citizens really see no added value for themselves?

We have now had three votes on the same issue and the outcome has been the same each time. The responsibility or "blame", as it seems the Superintendent and School Board would like to infer, doesn't lie with the community at large; that lies directly on the shoulders of those who have continued to try to show this measure down the public's throats without any reasonable consideration to the community they're actually supposed to be serving---because as the Superintendent and Board of our local schools, it's not just the students they serve, it's the entire community.

If they expect the voters to consider the best interest of the children, then they too need to consider the best interest of the voters. And the voters have threath told them that they do not see this as something in their best interest. Tim Wondra called it a "me-first" society. Well, the "me" in this community is both parents and non-parents who are looking out for their families and livelihoods first because that is what happens even when there aren't enough livable-wage/benefit jobs to afford even a small tax increase...they have to think of putting up their over heads, bills on their tables, and clothing on their backs.

It takes a great deal of privilege and lack of seeing the whole picture to be able to make the statements that Wondra, Slater, and Young have made regarding this issue. And it shows that, as representatives of our School District, they aren't giving us self-definition, trans- parency, authenticity, and accountability.

Michelle Scott
Fort Madison, IA
Obituaries/Lottery Numbers

Karen Kay Coke, 74 of Keokuk, IA died Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at UnityPoint Health-Keokuk in Keokuk, IA. She was born November 18, 1943 in Waterloo, IA the daughter of Dean and Irene Christiansen Eckhardt. Karen had been employed as an over the road truck driver. Karen enjoyed working jigsaw puzzles in her free time. She adored her dog Fritz and loved his company.

Karen is survived by one son, Shawn Weaver of Gladstone, MO, one grandson, Zane Weaver of Gladstone, MO and one sister, Patricia Thedy of IA. She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Jerry Eckhardt. There will be no services.

Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com

Sherilyn Kay Kamp, 73 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 9:55 am Friday, April 6, 2018 at the Montrose Health Center, Montrose, Iowa. She was born September 23, 1944 in Fort Madison, a daughter of Russell E. and Nina F. (Zimmerman) Carr. On September 26, 1964, she married Jerry J. Kamp in Fort Madison. Sherilyn was a 1962 graduate of Fort Madison High School. She was a homemaker. She is survived by her husband, Jerry J. Kamp of Fort Madison; one son, Cody (Sarah) Kamp of Oswego, Illinois; one daughter, Stacey (Brent) Gansy of Fort Madison; one brother, Ronnie (Janie) Carr of West Point, Iowa; one sister, Linda Thye of Fort Madison; five grandchildren: Kanyon Gansy; Jaxson, Hayden, Landon, and Addison Kamp; several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents. The body of Mrs Kamp has been cremated. A service and burial will be held at a later date. A memorial has been established and contributions may be left at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Online condolences to the Kamp family may be made at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

James Michael “Mike” Grogan, 69 of Keokuk, IA died Thursday, April 5, 2018 at UnityPoint Health-Keokuk in Keokuk, IA. Funeral arrangements are pending at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

Iowa Lottery Winning Numbers

4/7
2 10 13 37 50
Star Ball: 2
All Star Bonus: 4

Current-Lee

Lee County Bridges group to hold Keokuk community-wide meeting April 16

The steering committee is hosting the next community-wide Bridges out of Poverty training in Keokuk on April 16th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the First Lutheran Church located at 1101 Blondeau Street. The Public is invited to attend.

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.

Take me out to the Ball Game!

JOIN US AS WE HEAD TO WRIGLEY FIELD OR BUSCH STADIUM THIS SEASON TO CATCH A CUBS OR CARDINALS GAME!

BIRDS OF PREY AUDUBON CENTER TO HOST PROGRAMS IN KEOKUK

The Birches of Audubon, 304 First Street South, will be hosting a program April 5th at 2:30 pm. Joe H. will be the speaker. Joe’s presentation will be titled “Tools of the Trade.”

The Birches of Audubon is a Volunteers of America facility. For more information, call (319)252.3033.
Spring event helps ladies build Fairy Gardens

LADIES - Continued from Page 1

does these workshops throughout the spring and summer at different shops and with different local business and organizations.

"I love seeing everyone’s [gardens] and how creative they are with the plants. Educating people on how the plants all grow together and how to plant them and care for them is just fun," Kramer said. Kempker’s gift department manager, Cindy Dinwidie, was in charge of organizing and putting the event together.

"I ran across little miniature garden decorations and I found a multitude of all the decorations you could buy, so I thought holding this type of event would be a good way for us to market our decorations. We decided to have the workshop and let other people know about how to plant a garden and take care of them."

"I had a lot of fun, it was something different to do," said Connie Edgington, an attendee to the event. "My friends and I attend workshops like this one but this was the first Fairy Garden we’ve done. I learned a lot and may just try to make one on my own."

With warm days ahead, gardening and outdoor activities are kicking into gear. This workshop was a great start to the coming season. It was also a great promotion for Jim’s Greenhouse, as well as for Kempker’s True Value.

Above, ladies lineup at the table where the can create Fairy Gardens at Kempker’s True Value Rental, Inc. in Fort Madison. Below Teagan Cale, left, and sister Tessa pose with their Fairy Gardens Thursday.

Are you ready?
Call us at 319-372-2405 or click here today & jumpstart your health!

Got a news tip?
Call Chuck
(319)371.1670

Spring Cleaning
Keep it green!

This year, do your part to keep our environment clean, too! Here are just a few of the ways you can help:

• Properly dispose of your household hazardous waste materials, construction debris, & electronic waste
• Use environmentally-safe cleaning products
• Reduce • Reuse • Recycle
• Check our website for proper disposal methods, acceptable materials, & more

Great River Regional Waste Authority

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

Ft. Madison Main Office
2002 303rd Ave
Fort Madison, IA
1-319-372-8140

Keokuk Transfer Station:
111 Carbide Lane
Keokuk, IA
1-319-524-6175

Photos by Aniah Ross/PCC Intern
HELP WANTED

FULL-TIME MARKETER

The Kensington in Fort Madison, IA has an outstanding opportunity as a Marketer for someone who is compassionate, energetic and loves seniors. Successful candidates will have high energy, an ability to build relationships, an upbeat and positive attitude, excellent communication skills, and a VERY strong ability to multi-task. This person must be dedicated to making a difference in the lives of both residents & their families.

Requirements:
• Bachelor’s Degree or equivalent in related field required.
• Previous experience in healthcare, marketing, programming, nursing or related field required.
• Knowledge of the community and available networks.
• Must be detail oriented and accurate.
• Ability to work scheduled hours based on personal and community needs, including possible weekends and evenings.
• Ability to work independently and/or interact with team members at all levels and promote teamwork.
• Ability to travel periodically for corporate meetings and extensively within the first 8 weeks of hire.

Apply online at: www.agenmark.com/careers/EOE

COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT

Nica, 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). Call 319-470-8711.

YOUR AD HERE

(319)371-4125

ADVERTISE in a brand new way.

Nissa (319)530-8953
Shawn (319)470-0623
Lee (319)371-4125

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lee County Conservation Board Meeting Agenda April 10, 2018 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to order
2. Approval of minutes from March 13, 2018
3. Public Input

This is the time of the meeting that a citizen may address the Board on any matters pertaining to the Lee County Conservation Board. The Board cannot take formal action at the meeting on matters not included on the regular agenda, but may ask the staff to research the matter or have the matter placed on a subsequent agenda.

4. Approval of Bills
5. Approval of Financial Report
6. Land Records Correction from 2012 Ameren Property Purchase
7. LCCB Bylaws
8. Online Cabin Reservations
9. Staff Reports
10. Board Member Comments
11. Adjournment

Next regular meeting will be May 8, 2018

Pledge of Allegiance
Approve Agenda
Consider Approval of Tuesday, April 3, 2018 Board Minutes
Consider Approval of Claims
Public Input

Discussion with Midwest Construction Consultants on South Courthouse Project and Consider Approval of Change Order
Discussion of Policy and Procedures on Jail Kitchen Remodel and Jail Shower Remodel and Possible Contract with Midwest Construction Consultants
Consider Approval of Contract with Pinney Bowes for Postage Machine at DHS Building in Keokuk
Consider Approval of FY 19 Secondary Roads DOT Budget
Consider Approval of FY 19 Secondary Roads Construction Program
Consider Approval of Resolution Setting Credit Card Limits for Engineer’s Office Consider Approval to Replace Part-time Correctional Officer
Canvass of April 3, 2018 Special Election
Discussion of FY 17 Audit
Consider Approval of Resolution Compromising Taxes on Property Located at 1688 Green Bay Road, Waver
Consider Approval of Class B Beer Permit for Appleberry Orchard
Consider Approval of Class C Liquor License for Harvestville Farm Personnel

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lee County, Iowa Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Agenda DATE: TUESDAY, April 10, 2018 MEETING CONVENING TIME: 9:00 A.M. LOCATION: Correctional Center 2530 255th Street, Montrose, IA AGENDA

Pledge of Allegiance
Approve Agenda
Consider Approval of Tuesday, April 3, 2018 Board Minutes
Consider Approval of Claims
Public Input

Now Hiring Line Mechanics in Ft. Madison

Silgan Containers is currently seeking Line Mechanics at our Fort Madison plant. This is a full time position with a very competitive benefits package.

As the largest provider of metal packaging in the United States, Silgan Containers is trusted by America’s most respected brands. If you have mechanical experience and a willingness to learn, Silgan might be the perfect fit for your new career. Must be able to work rotating 12 hour shifts and mechanical experience in a manufacturing environment is a plus.

- Starting pay over $21/hr with the possibility of over $25/hr within the first two years plus quarterly bonus opportunities
- Competitive benefits package includes 401(k) match, multiple healthcare plan options, dental, vision, educational assistance and much more
- Rotating 12-hour shift schedule allows for generous district time
- High school diploma or equivalency required, trade school preferred
- Quality training provided for those willing to learn but must pass a written and practical mechanical aptitude test

If you are interested in more information about this exciting opportunity visit silgancontainers.com/careers or contact:

Tim Ewing, Plant Human Resources Manager 319-372-6491 x4760 or tewing@silgancontainers.com

Silgan Containers is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Follow Us @pencitycurrent

(319)372-4040
Click here for our listings.

Turning Hope into Reality
Our Hospice Services Include:

- 24/7 on-call nursing staff
- Skilled Nursing Services
- Social Worker visits
- Music/Massage Therapy
- Homecare Aide Assistance
- Spiritual & Grief Support
- Volunteer Services

We are proud to provide our Hospice Services in Lee, Des Moines, Van Buren & Henry counties in Iowa and Hancock & Henderson counties in Illinois.

#3 John Bennett Drive • PO Box 1426
Fort Madison, IA 52627
(319)372-5225 or (800)458-6672

www.leecountyhd.org

Like us on Facebook!
Saturday night’s entertainment also gets underway at 7:30 p.m. with the PRCA rodeo performers taking center stage. Once the dust has settled from the cowboy competition the arena will come alive with ACM award-winner Jake Owen. Owen has six number one singles under his belt including “Barefoot Blue Jean Night,” “Beachin’,” “Anywhere with You,” “Alone with You” , “The One that Got Away” , “American Country Love Song” . No artist is more adept at summoning those times when a sunny day, good friends and maybe a cold drink were all you needed to feel forever blessed. Owen will thrill the crowd with songs from his soon to be released new album, including the single “I Was Jack (You Were Diane)” .

Local favorites, Stump Town will close out each night of the Tri-State Rodeo in the Coors Party Pavilion.

Rodeo fans will also be entertained by the thrilling feats of Wisconsin FMX during the Thursday, Friday and Saturday night Rodeo performances. Combining new age, portable ramps with the work ethic of farm life brings one of the most entertaining thrill-act performances to ever hit the arena. The gap is set at 75 feet and a plethora of apparatus and humans are hurled across the sky. “The Tri-State Rodeo Operating Committee invites you to come experience the 2018 Tri-State Rodeo. This year is lining up to be another fun and memorable experience. We are proud to once again earn a spot on the GINCH Shootout circuit, bringing the best cowboys in the country to compete at the Tri-State Rodeo. Jake McVey has a strong fan base in the Tri-State area and we are excited to welcome him to the main stage in the arena on Thursday night. Randy Houser continues to keep country music alive and well and I know fans of all ages will enjoy his show following the Friday night PRCA performances. And of course we couldn’t be more pleased to bring award-winning Jake Owen to the main stage on Saturday night. His long list of No. 1 hits will not disappoint our country music fans. Every night of the Tri-State Rodeo will have something for audiences of all ages to enjoy, so we hope to see you there,” said Josh Denning, General Chairman, Tri-State Rodeo.

The Tri-State Rodeo Committee is also pleased to welcome back clown and barrel man, Justin Rumford. Voted PRCA’s Clown of the Year for the fourth time in 2015, Rumford is sure to entertain the crowd while keeping the cowboys safe.

Ready for Rodeo events will take place throughout the week leading up to the rodeo for participants of all ages starting on Saturday, Sept. 1st with the Special Kids Rodeo. The Grand Rodeo Parade is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 8th commencing at 9:30 a.m. and will travel down Avenue G. The Tri-State Rodeo is a community event that involves many hours of manpower by community members and groups with all proceeds being put back into the community. For a full listing of events, information and to purchase tickets go to www.tristaterodeo.org. Tickets to the Tri-State Rodeo can also be purchased by calling 319-372-2550 or 1-800-369-3211.
School Board president thanks voters for their voice

Thank You,

I wanted to take time after reflecting on Tuesday’s efforts toward the Fort Madison Communi-

ty School District ele-

mentary bond vote to say “Thank You”. First, thank you to all those who took time out of your
day to exercise one of the greatest rights we have in this country. Thank you to the many community
members who gave so much of their time to try and help the children of our community. Thank you to the KIDS commit-
tee for working so hard, for coming to so many meetings and trying to inform the community and
debunk all the false information the unin-
formed vocal few were trying to spread. Thank you to our teachers who taught our children all
day only to turn around and give up their evenings and weekends to fight for the students they love so much to have a better, safer building for ALL students (regardless of their physical abilities). Thank you to Superinten-
dent Mr. McFarland and all of our adminis-
trators for working so hard every day for our children.

The question now is what will go from here? We cannot just drop this and wait another 10 or
15 years. I’m going to try and list all the options that have been considered and why we decided a new
school should be built.

Before I begin, let me set the record straight, for the conspiracy theorists out there. Fort Madi-
son Community School board members receive NO salary or reimburse-
ment for their time spent. This elected position is strictly voluntary. None of us have or work for a business that would profit only to be able to bid on any of the construc-
tion contracts. We have nothing personally to gain from any building proj-
ects for the district. We have no ulterior motives. We all own homes and
some own commercial property so any property tax increase we will also directly feel. Our only
goal is what is best for the children of the Fort Madison Commu-
nity School District and trying to position our children and community and surrounding towns in our district, to grow and be successful for the next 50-plus years. When we make decisions, we try to look at the immediate impact they will have and also the long term impact on the district.

None of the current school board members or the Superintendent had anything to do with the purchasing of the current land the middle school is on. The way that was done was a major reason why I initially ran for the school board. I have been on the board the longest and I was elected just as the construction of the middle school started. As citizens of the district, we all may have had issues with how the land was purchased or how the middle school was built but it is past the time to move forward. We, as a community have replaced the people responsible for those decisions.

It is time to quit punish-
ing our current and future board members and district children for the decisions of people who are no longer associated with the district. Am I asking you to blindly trust what we say? No. But I am asking you to give us a fair chance, at least listen to what we are saying and then investigate for yourself. Do not just listen to your neighbor who is always against everything. Please inform yourselves. There is information available on the KIDS facebook page, the school district website. Our local papers have done a good job covering the informa-
tion. In the future we will have community forums. We ask you to show up, speak up and listen with an open mind.

Just for future informa-
tion, by law the school board is not allowed to promote a bond issue. The board is only allowed to provide factual infor-
mation. So here are some options we have consid-
ered:

Option 1. Remodel and add on to current elementary buildings. Some of the comments I have seen do not believe the price tag of $42 million. This option is more than just adding air conditioning to the buildings. It involves major renovation to the oldest parts of both buildings. Much of which are solid concrete which will bring issues. Renova-
tion will include taking the building down to the studs, moving walls and floors, remove and abate asbestos, new and addi-
tional plumbing and electrical, new and adding AC units, new energy efficient windows and doors, adding security measures and moving the offices, adding classrooms including rooms for our Pre-Kindergarten classes currently held off district grounds and a gym for the high school.

This option would take at least 2, more likely 4 years. We would have to purchase and use multi-
ple mobile units to use as temporary classrooms, and pour concrete, run plumbing and electrical wiring for those. Where would we locate those so the children are not in the middle of a construc-
tion site? How conducive would this be to our learning environments? Renovation will not help with the pick-up and drop off. Just the same problems currently faced at both buildings and it would greatly re-
duce the amount of green space and playground areas at both buildings. At the end of construction,

we would still have multi-
story buildings which would be ADA (Ameri-
cans with Disabilities Act) compliant but not very ADA friendly. Any plan that involves multi story buildings relies on eleva-
tors for disabled children to move throughout the building. Elevators are not always reliable and in the case of emergencies or emergency drills, you are not to use elevators.

Option 2 Build a new high school at the middle school site and convert the current high school to an ele-

mentary school. This would give Fort Madison a more centrally located elementary school. The drawback is cost. The new Liberty High School in Iowa City cost $75 million and construction for that started back in 2015, the bond for a new high school in Waukee was for $117 million. Our high school would not be as large as these two and we could still use most of the current athletic facilities but it would still cost over $36 million. To do an even swap of what we currently have at our high school would include regular classrooms and Multi Purpose Room for the cafeteria, a kitchen for preparing and serving the high school students lunch, science rooms with lab areas, band and choir areas, culinary classrooms and kitchen, small stage for drama/ speech/de-
bate class, automotive classroom and repair area, building trades class/shop areas, welding shop/class area, agriculture classroom/lab area, Creative Learning Center classrooms, weight room, mat room and a gym.

You could still use the current high school gym for competitions with the seating area but you will still need smaller gym for PE classes at a new high school. To con-
tinue services we would require a media center (currently housed in the High School library) and 21st century space that is currently very heavily used by our high school students. There would be a cost to convert our current high school to an elementary school. It is not just simply moving desks, the high school is set up for young adults. We would be bringing in our Prek, kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders. In the current building everything is much too tall for our young learn-
ers. Water fountains and
restrooms, for example, would need to be replaced with much smaller, shorter versions. This is something that could definitely be done but just adds to the total bond costs.

Option 3
Purchase the old Jefferson site back and build there. This option has several drawbacks. One is lot size. The current, single story building plan would not fit on that site and allow for off street parking along with play-
grounds and parking. In short, to do that, issue, would be to go a multi-story building. Couple problems with that: there are state rules and regulations that say certain grades have to be on the ground floor. Also, when you go to a multi-story building you are limiting the disabled students and volunteers to that level without addition-al ramps or elevators. We have to keep in mind long term maintenance and building upkeep. Elevators do not last forever, they have higher maintenance costs and cost more to operate. Another drawback to the Jefferson lot is traffic. I know this may surprise some of you but we really do pay attention to pick-up and drop off traffic flow and safety. Currently, it is quite an unsafe mess picking up and dropping off at Lincoln and Richardson. Both locations have problems with cars passing, making it difficult to turn. I have heard it is often cars have double parking creating safety issues. Simple answer is to build parking lots. At the Jefferson site there would be no room for a parking lot big enough to hold the staff and parents cars and would parents really use them? Do the parents follow the traffic rules at the middle school now? It has two large parking lots. Do they park there to wait for their kids or do they park on the drive and block traffic? Plus, you would be greatly increasing the auto traffic in a very residential location. I am told this is the busiest, most often complaint about the old middle school location. All the traffic it created in a residential location and it wasn’t just during school hours. In the evening and weekends when they had events at the school it created traffic issues. Not well. I also received the suggestion to close Ave G and add Victory Field to the Jefferson lot to get an area large enough. It has been a few years but the last time I checked with city officials about permanent-
ly closing Avenue G at the old Jefferson location, I was told that Avenue G was too close to an area used by the emergency responders and need to remain a through street. As a side note, rodeo parade would have to be rerouted if Avenue G was closed. I’ve been told the wa-
ter table is high on the Storms Court, 24th and G, 24th and H area and that is something that would also have to be dealt with. I understand that was a major reason for the storm drain and street collapsing at 24th and G.

Option 4
Pick a new location in town and purchase all the houses in the area, tear them all down and build a new school. To get an area large enough we are talking about multiple square blocks. That is a lot of houses to buy and tear down. In a town with a housing shortage the last thing we would want to do is remove a cou-
ple square blocks of homes and most of those homes would have had someone living in them for 10, 20, 30 plus years. I am not about to go kick someone out of their home so we can tear it down to build a school. This option would be considerably more expensive because not only would you be building a new school but you would also be buying more land and homes. This option was eliminated immediately.

Option 5
Build a new elementary school on land the district already owned. This would put the two schools with the most students closest to the style next to each other making busing a one stop pick-up and drop off. This would allow our busing to be even more efficient and provide the district with the ability to offer bus-
ing to all students. Having both of these buildings on the same campus would allow the district to operate at a more efficient manor, saving taxpayers money in the long run. One concern is increased traffic on Bluff road, especially with all the buses stopping to turn left into the school. We quickly reached the decision that a traffic study would have to be done and at the very least we would have to expand bluff road and add a turning lane for the buses. This would, of course, be done in cooperation with the city of Fort Madison. We recognize that we have a problem with the traf-
ic flow on Avenue G and that is something that would have to be addressed if Avenue G was closed. As a side note, rodeo parade would have to be rerouted if Avenue G was closed. I was told this is the busiest, most often complaint about the old middle school location. All the traffic it created in a residential location and it wasn’t just during school hours. In the evening and weekends when they had events at the school it created traffic issues.

We went to Rotary Club, Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, and the school board meetings. We tried swapping some of the ideas of when and where to have them. We tried a Facebook page to try to reach everyone and get input. We have tried to answer all the questions posed to us. Some people may not like the answers we gave them but we have tried to answer questions as honestly as we can. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and administration. We have tried to be very transparent with every-
thing we are doing. People feel that was not the case before we, the current board and Superintendent, were elected or hired. These are the facilities and issues we inherited from previous boards and adminis