Above is the revised plan for the proposed $30 million new PreK-3rd grade elementary school on district property south of Bluff Road. The building is projected to cost $24.7 million furnished, with site preparation including enhanced traffic flow on the campus pushing the tab to $30 million.

With 16-cent levy bump, kids could have new school

State funding formulas put tab on 100K home at just over $8 per year

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Just two weeks ago, Fort Madison school board officials were looking at a 30 increase in its annual property tax levy rate that would include costs of building a new elementary school. But favorable data from the state of Iowa has cut that increase in half.

According to Fort Madison Community School District Business Manager Sandy Elmore, the district is currently looking at a levy of $14.60 per $1,000 of taxable value for the next fiscal year. The district’s current levy is $14.44/$1,000 and the extra 16 cents would be enough to pay for the proposed new PreK-3rd grade elementary school if approved by voters next month.

The district has set a bond election date for April 2 for district voters to vote on the $30 million new facility on property the district already owns south of Bluff Road near 48th Street in Fort Madison.

Construction costs on the building hover near $24.2 million, while site preparation and furnishings make up the additional $5.8 million.

"Once we received the revised budget file from the Department of Management with the impacts related to what the Governor signed and the new income numbers from the DOM as well, the estimated tax rate impact with the bond included is $0.16 cents per $1,000 EAV (equalized assessed valuation)," Elmore wrote in an email Monday.

"The current year, FY18-19 rate is $14.44 per $1,000 EAV. Our new estimated rate is $14.60 with a debt service levy rate of $2.70 per $1,000."

Residential homes in the district have a taxable value of about 55% of their assessed value, due to a 2013 rollback of homestead credits. So someone with a home assessed at $100,000 would pay tax on approximately $55,000 each year.

If the April 2 bond passes, the person with a $100,000 home would pay an extra $5.80 a year.

On Fridays they bowl, at 1:00 p.m. No napping for them! They are part of the 55+ League at Champion Bowl in Ottumwa. There are 60+ members of the over 55 league. Teams are cleverly named: “Sparetimes,” “Ma’s,” “4 Splits,” “Left Overs,” “Newbies,” “Hi Hopes,” “Lucky Strikes,” “Has Beens,” “Lonesome Four,” “Unpredictables,” “Vacant,” “Pin Lips,” “Rosebowlers,” and “Gutter Kids.” No, that’s not the “Gutter Kids.” I’ll explain later.

Of the 60 plus members, three of them are over 90. Dick Crowe, Eloise DeMoss, and Bill Kramer, all from Ottumwa, can, “Show them upstart 80-year olds how to bowl, by golly!”

Dick Crowe, age 91, has been bowling since 1949. His average last year was 171, and his best game ever was 299. Dick bowls four times a week—twice on Friday. He will go to the state tournament on Saturday and the national tournament in Las Vegas in May. It will be his 96th year at the nationals. Beat that Millennials! Stop being babies.

Eloise DeMoss, at 92, is the senior of the trio. She started bowling when bowling alleys had those little round pins called duck pins, the balls didn’t have finger holes, and the pins were set up by hand. She’s on Ma’s team, but she isn’t Ma. Ma preceded her, and no one knows for sure who “Ma” was. It doesn’t matter. Her secret to longevity is, “Get going, keep moving, and don’t sit down.” She bowls twice a week, and loves to beat the men.

Everyone knows Bill Kramer. He’s “ninety-and-three-quarters” and was a popular high school teacher and coach at Seton Catholic School in Ottumwa, coaching everything from football and basketball to wrestling, golf, baseball and track. He’s been bowling at least 60 years. He is very familiar with Eloise DeMoss, as she was a school secretary. “And a good one!” Bill also bowls on two leagues.

The health benefits of bowling, both physical and mental, are well documented. A quick glance at the members of the Over-55 League shows very little obesi-
MARY ANN KROGMEIER

Mary Ann Krogmeier, 91, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Saturday, March 2, 2019, at the West Point Care Center. Born August 15th, 1927 at home in Houghton, Iowa to Joseph and Eleanor (Merschman) Meierotto. Mary Ann Meierotto married Francis “Charlie” Krogmeier on a very warm Tuesday on September 9, 1947 in Houghton, Iowa at Saint Johns Church followed by a reception at her parents home. The young couple moved to Fort Madison and lived in the Chalk Ridge area their entire life. They built a successful dairy business and raised eight children.

Mary Krogmeier was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and had a myriad of interests. Mary loved the Christmas season and spent many weeks baking, cooking and decorating for the family Holiday. Never one to be idle, she enjoyed her needlework, sewing, embroidery, crocheting and quilting. Her legacy continues in the beautiful quilts, downhill and needlework art she created.

Mary loved to travel with her family. They went to Europe, Mexico, Cayman Islands, Canada and all corners of the United States. She delighted in touring botanical gardens throughout the country. Mary was President of the Alter and Rosary Society of Sacred Heart Church, 4H Leader and socially active with her Church, Card Club and local coffee klatch.

She is survived by her husband Francis “Charlie” Krogmeier, children, Daughters- Linda Bantz (Steve) Columbus, MO; Irene Lucas (Gene) Bettendorf, IA; Phyllis Seymour (Kern), Liberty, IL; Joan Moeller (Roger), West Point, IA; and Julie Davis (John Head), Frisco, TX. Sons- David Krogmeier (Denise) Fort Madison, IA; Steve Seymour (Kent), Liberty, IL; Joan Moeller (Roger), West Point, IA and Julie Davis (John Head), Frisco, TX. Sons- David Krogmeier (Denise) Fort Madison, IA; Steve Seymour (Kent), Liberty, IL; Joan Moeller (Roger), West Point, IA and Julie Davis (John Head), Frisco, TX.

Mary’s grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren. A brother, Joseph Meierotto (West Point, IA) and sister Hilda Krogmeier (Fort Madison, IA) and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents Joseph and Eleanor Meierotto, 5 infant siblings- Linda Bantz (Steve) Columbus, MO; Irene Lucas (Gene) Bettendorf, IA; Phyllis Seymour (Kern), Liberty, IL; Joan Moeller (Roger), West Point, IA; and Julie Davis (John Head), Frisco, TX. Sons- David Krogmeier (Denise) Fort Madison, IA; Steve Seymour (Kent), Liberty, IL; Joan Moeller (Roger), West Point, IA and Julie Davis (John Head), Frisco, TX.

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CURRENT-LEE

FORT MADISON – The following is a list of events and happenings going on in Fort Madison as submitted to the Pen City Current.

Community Blood Drives
A blood drive will be held at the Fort Madison Public Library from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Friday March 8. Lincoln Elementary will be the site of a blood drive on Thursday, March 21, from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the gymnasium. Call the blood center at 800-747-5401 ext. 1281 to donate.

YMCA Little Tykes Spring Soccer
Registration is currently underway for the 2019 season, which runs March 26 – May 2. Registration deadline is March 10 for regular fees of $20 for members, $40 for non-members. From March 11-17th participants can register but fees are $10 higher. Volunteer coaches are needed. Call the YMCA at 319-372-2403 for more information.

United Way Spaghetti Dinner fund-raiser
The United Way of the Great River Region is hosting its 9th annual Spaghetti Dinner at the Hawkeye Restaurant on March 11. Carry out or dine-in options available. Serving times are from 5 p.m. to 6:30, and 6:30 to 8 p.m. For more information contact Director Karen Thie at 319-524-4504.

Senior Community BINGO at The Kensington
Each month on the second Wednesday of the month, The Kensington hosts Senior Community BINGO at 2 p.m. in their dining room at 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. All seniors are welcome and cash prizes are awarded.

St. Patrick’s Day celebration
The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce will be holding a St. Patrick’s Day celebration on March 16 including a parade, games, music and fun. Parade entry forms are available by contact the Chamber at 319-372-5471.

First. Fresh. Local.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

MON 04 Mar
Clear
High– 3.3º F | Low – -0.7º F

TUE 05 Mar
Light Snow
High– 13.0º F | Low – 0.0º F

WED 06 Mar
Light Snow
High– 28.9º F | Low – 20.0º F

THU 07 Mar
Light Snow
High– 22.8º F | Low – 21.5º F

FRI 08 Mar
Light Rain
High– 38.5º F | Low – 34.7º F

New Year. Fresh Start.

Thank you to all our customers who worked to reduce their environmental footprint last year.
We’re looking forward to helping you continue your efforts and to educating our communities on more ways to help this year.

Here are just a few ways you can help:
• Don’t put plastic bags in recycling bins
• Rinse & clean all food jars & cans before recycling
• Flatten empty boxes for better storage & volume reduction
• Place all recyclables loose in bins
• Don’t recycle wrapping paper
• Properly dispose of all electronics and household hazardous waste

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

Great River Regional Waste Authority

Drumming up the positive in our Great River Region!!!

Charles Vandenberg, Editor (319).371.1670 editor@pencitycurrent.com
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Turning Hope into Reality

Full-Time Cook – Evenings

Responsible for preparing and serving food to residents, maintaining food and sanitation quality and participating in all dining services as directed.

Requirements to Apply:

» Ability to maintain confidentiality of verbal and written information pertaining to residents, prospective residents, facility operations and personnel.
» Ability to recognize improvement opportunities.
» Ability to prioritize, multi-task, and maintain flexibility in a fast-paced, service-oriented environment.
» Work scheduled hours based on personnel and Community needs; may be required to work weekends.
» Maintain constructive relationships with co-workers, residents and families.
» Maintain confidentiality of information pertaining to residents, Community operations and personnel.
» Promote residence and the Company in a positive way.
» Participate in staff, resident, family or marketing activities and events as directed.
» Compliance with State and Federal food handling and safety regulations.
» Excellent verbal/written communication and problem solving skills.
» At least 1 year of prior food preparation and service experience preferred.
» Previous experience working with elderly population preferred; not required.
» Previous experience as a server or wait staff.
» Regular and punctual attendance is required.

Requirements to Apply:

Apply at www.agemark.com/careers or call for more information.

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SHOP the Classifieds
Lee County Attorney’s Office has an immediate opening for the collections clerk position (40 hours per week).

The position’s successful applicant is preferred (but not required) to have the following:

1. Completion of some college level administrative support courses or any equivalent combination of training and experience.
2. Knowledge of legal terminology, legal format, and legal forms.
3. Knowledge of modern office practices, procedures, and equipment.
5. Knowledge of Iowa Courts Online.
6. Knowledge of Iowa Department of Transportation Transcripts.
7. Ability to prepare accurate transcripts. Large backyard with picnic tables & glider swing in very nice, quiet neighborhood. Rents range from $585-$635. Lease required. 850 sq. ft. units. Water, heat, sewer, & Utilities. Rents include water, heat, sewer, & gas. Must be a non-smoker. Leases are 6 month. No pets. 2 bedrooms, some with walk in closets. Non-smoking, 2 bedrooms, some with walk in closets. Non-smoking.
8. Ability to use Microsoft Outlook, Word, and Excel.
9. Ability to establish and follow written and oral instructions.
10. Ability to use Microsoft Outlook, Word, and Excel.
11. Ability to work in a fast-paced environment.
12. Ability to multi-task.
13. Ability to communicate with others using tact and diplomacy.
14. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with supervisors, attorneys, co-workers, and the public, as well as law enforcement personnel. Clerk of Court, Treasurer and Iowa Department of Transportation.
15. Ability to maintain a large filing system of current and closed files.
16. Must be able to travel to North Lee County Office and/or courthouse on occasion.

The position is represented by the Public Professionals & Maintenance Employees Local No. 2003, IUPAT. The starting wage is $16.02 per hour. Great County Benefits.

The deadline for submitting a resume is March 11, 2019.
Two school board seats also on April 2 ballot

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The district is currently in the process of refinanc-
ing bonds on the six-year old Fort Madison Middle School at a potential sav-
ings of $1.3 million over the next 10 years. The FMMMS building was constructed without using property tax dollars and was paid for out of the state’s 1-cent SAVE fund. District voters approved a new program in August of 1999. The program, once approved by voters, allows districts to bond against those revenues for projects such as the construction of new schools.

SAVE funds come from 1 percent of the state’s 6 percent sales, services, and use tax. The Local Option Sales Tax that is used to calculate funds distributed to cities and counties is the extra 1 percent of the 7 percent paid on qualified purchases.

New plans for the elementary school include addressing traffic concerns with dedicated bus lanes and traffic lanes for increased efficiency and safety, with expanded and segregated drop off for PreK, K-3, 4th and 5th grade, 6th grade, and 7th and 8th grade drop-offs planned. Plans also include a K-5 shared playground, and a dedicated PreK play area. New athletic fields have not been dropped from the plans, but Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater said there is still room to move the fields to the campus if there was support for that move at a later date.

As part of the April 2 election, two Fort Mad-

ison School board seats will be up for election. The board seats currently held by Josh Wykert and Brian Steffensmeier will be on the ballot.

Wykert was appointed by the board earlier this year to fill Gayla Young’s spot. Gayla died from health complications on Jan. 1. Steffensmeier was appoint-
ed to replace Jillian Tronel whose family moved to Wisconsin last year.

Elmore said Friday she had not received any board candidate filings. The deadline to file to run is March 8 at 5 p.m.

**Bowling is a lifetime sport**

The best part about bowling is that there are almost no limits as to who can bowl. It is low impact, easy-
to-learn, and a great activity for all ages (witness the 90-year old). Bowling burns from 175 – 300 calories per hour. The 14-pound bowling ball tones the shoul-
ders, arms, chest, legs, hands and fingers. The twisting, lunging, and stretching that bowling requires improves balance and flexibility. Hand-eye coordination sharp-
ens. A bowler throws a bowling ball further than an NBA basketball player going for that game winning shot from half court. And, during a three-game series, a bowler throws that ball 54 times. Most importantly, bowling is a social sport. People who socialize even once a week tend to have a stronger immune system, and are less likely to suffer from depression and certain types of cancer. The physical exercise and socialization from bowling far outweigh any negativity associated with the occasional gutter ball.

Speaking of gutter. There was a family of four bowling with the 55+ League, three brothers and one sister, the Gutter family—Jack, Bob, Dick and Jo (Jody Peter-
mann). They have their own team, the “Gutter Kids,” and have been bowling together for years. Imagine that. A family that gets along well enough to play together routinely. I kept hearing what I thought was “gutter!” It was, “Gutter!” They were throwing strikes and spares, and having a “ball.”

The bowling ball is a sphere, the shape of the world— everything in order, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

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.