FMHS touts special needs transition programs

Specialists join staff to showcase area offerings

FORT MADISON – In an effort to help prepare students with special needs for high school and beyond, the Fort Madison High School brought six groups in Wednesday to speak with parents and students about accessible services.

Parents, staff, and representatives from Van Buren Job Opportunities, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation, Hope Haven Corporation, and Job Corps were on hand to speak with parents in the High School Media Center.

Melissa Nelson, a special education teacher at the high school said staff changed the format of the event this year.

“We do this at least every fall and spring and it used to be a presentation to parents in a group structure,” she said. “But this year we went to this structure so parents and students could get one-on-one time with staff and some of the groups.”

Nelson said the format also gives families a little sense of privacy in discussing specific issues.

“A lot of times when you have a big group session, parents and students with IEPs (Individualized Educational Plans) or 504s don’t want to discuss their circumstances,” she said. “This format gives them some privacy.”

Van Buren Job Opportunities was at the transition night for the first time. Nelson said Van Buren places students and adults with special needs in the workforce environment.

“This program allows the students to taste that success. That can be in the form of many opportunities through coaching or independent work. The hours vary so they are very flexible,” Nelson said.

Julie Garcia, an employment specialist with Van Buren, said she was happy the school called and asked to participate.

Lee County Health Department (LCHD) Environmental Program Director Rose Haukedahl, LCHD Environmental Program Director. “Our staff is limited, and our calls/demands will increase with RAGBRAI, so please be patient with us while we get back to you.”

LCHD oversees the food inspections for Lee, Des Moines, Henry, and Van Buren Counties. RAGBRAI will be riding through all four counties July 26th and 27th. “It is going to be a very busy couple of days for us so we highly encourage everyone to have their information in on time,” adds Haukedahl. All license applications must be submitted 60 days prior to the RAGBRAI event.

RAGBRAI vendors may need permit

LEE COUNTY - If your non-profit organization or for-profit business is considering having a food or beverage stand at one of the stops on the RAGBRAI route, you will need to make sure you know all the requirements and have the correct license. Lee County Health Department (LCHD) Environmental staff will assist you with your questions. However, before you call, please check out our website at www.leecountyhealth.org.

“We are asking everyone to please go to our website first. There you will find all the information on license types, and all the needs for stations, etc. There is also full document that you can download,” states Rose Haukedahl, LCHD Environmental Program Director. “Our staff is limited, and our calls/demands will increase with RAGBRAI, so please be patient with us while we get back to you.”

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Sheriff’s office to hold Rx take-back

MONTROSE – On Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Lee County Sheriff’s Office and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration will give the public its 17th opportunity in nine years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes...
Danny L. Denson, 64, of Argyle, Iowa, passed away at 11:20 p.m. Tuesday, April 9, 2019, at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, Iowa.


Survivors include his wife, Monique of Argyle, Iowa; six children; Suzan (Eric), Danny Jr. (Linda), Joshua, Robert, Dana and Miki; twelve grandchildren; his father: Dalton Denson of Wright City Missouri; one brother; Guy Denson of Wright City, Missouri and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother: Dorothy and one sister: Candy.

Danny was a United States Army Veteran having served during the Vietnam Era. He worked as a Union carpenter. He enjoyed collecting John Deere tractors and Dexter cows. Danny also enjoyed hunting, fishing and spending time with his friends.

Friends may call after 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, 2019, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson, where the family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. that evening.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in his memory.

Danny's body has been entrusted to Schmitz Funeral Home for cremation, no burial is being planned.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in his memory.

Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements.

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

Tammy Elizabeth Hart, 42, of Montrose, IA, passed away at 2:19 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at the Montrose Health Center. She was born on March 31, 1977 in Fort Madison, IA. Online condolences to Tammy's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

Tammy Elizabeth Hart, 42, of Montrose, IA, passed away at 2:19 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at the Montrose Health Center. She was born on March 31, 1977 in Fort Madison, IA. Online condolences to Tammy's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

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Tammy is survived by: her mother: Patricia Brockman of West Point, IA; 2-sisters: Melissa (Jeff) Smith of Lexington, VA & Melinda Sutton of Niota, IL; 6-nieces & 2-nephews. She was preceded in death by her father & grandparents.

Cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and burial will take place at a later date at Franklin Cemetery in Franklin, IA. Online condolences to Tammy’s family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.
Flushing drugs has health, safety issues

PRESCRIPTIONS Cont’d from Page 1

of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs.

Bring your pills for disposal to the Lee County Sheriff’s Office at 2530 255th St, Montrose, Iowa. Sites cannot accept liquids, needles or sharps – only pills or patches. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Last fall, Americans turned in nearly 460 tons (more than 900,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at more than 5,800 sites operated by the DEA and almost 4,800 of its state and local law enforcement partners. Overall, in its 16 previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners have taken in almost 11 million pounds- nearly 5,500 tons-of pills. This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s National Survey on Drug Use and Health shows year after year that the majority of misuse and abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including someone else’s medication being stolen from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines – flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash – both pose potential safety and health hazards.

For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or about the April 27 Take Back Day event, go to www.DEATakeBack.com.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report
04/08/19 – 12:21 p.m.
– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1800 block of Avenue J. 04/09/19 – 3:19 a.m.
– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1400 block of 30th Street.
– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 2100 block of Avenue D.

Lee County Sheriff’s Report
03/08/19 – 5:52 a.m.
– Lee County Sheriff’s deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hwy. 61. A vehicle driven by Jonathan Michael Grow, 23, of Mount Vernon, Ill., was traveling southbound in the 2400 block when the driver lost control due to weather conditions. Grow’s vehicle crossed both lanes of traffic and entered the west ditch. No injuries or citations were reported. 04/08/19 – no report 04/09/19 – 11:00 a.m.
– Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Jodie Diane Johnson, 41, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff’s office on a warrant for violation of probation. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 04/09/19 – 2:03 p.m.
– Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Theodore Bradley Moyes, 51, of Carthage, Ill., at the sheriff’s office on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report
04/08/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls 04/09/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls.

Got a news tip? Call Chuck (319)371.1670

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FMAAA winner
Barb Altgilbers, with Lee County Abstract Company, was the winner of the Pick Your Own Vacation raffle donated by the Marshal Family at The Fort Madison Arts Associations’ Expressions Art Auction this Saturday. She will pick from 2,900 resorts for her expedition. FMAAA thanks everyone for their support at their main fundraiser of the year.
**Local News-Classifieds**

**Area groups offer hand up to special needs students**

**TRANSITION - Continued from Page 1**

them to be represented.

“I’ve worked with other schools in our six-county service area and this is the first time we’ve been asked to come. It’s nice because we can help with job identification and training even after high school ends,” she said.

Van Buren finds jobs within the communities of the schools. In addition, they do job coaching, assessments, and training.

“A lot of times we’re job coaching with a student close to 100% of the time when they first start a job, but then it’s our hope that once they get settled in, we take more of an assessment role and check on them periodically so they have that independence,” Garcia said.

Garcia said the turnout was the highest she’s seen at a transition night.

Nelson said Hope Haven has a variety of programs including work-based programs. She said Job Corps is a federally-funded program that is designed to get special needs students workforce ready.

“It’s a government-funded program and they can get a free education, but there are some stipulations and standards they have to meet. It’s a great opportunity for students who aren’t necessarily college bound, but need to learn a trade to be successful out of high school,” Nelson said.

Hope Haven is a non-profit organization that provides vocational, residential and community employment as well as living services for mentally and physically challenged persons in southeast Iowa.

Nelson said in the future, the school would like to invite employers who might be willing to work with the students to attend the session.

**Loebsack staffer to hold local hours**

FORT MADISON – Congressman Dave Loebsack will have a member of his staff in Southeastern Iowa for open office hours. Jared Hershberger, Loebsack’s District Representative, will be at the following locations. Hershberger will be on hand to work with individuals who are having difficulty with a government agency, have suggestions for Dave, or would just like to share their concerns. Members of the public are invited to attend. Hershberger holds regular office hours throughout Iowa.

If residents are unable to attend but have a concern to share with the Congressman, please call our district office toll-free at 1-866-914-IOWA (4692).

Hershberger’s will be in Fort Madison and Keokuk on Thursday, April 11 at Fort Madison City Hall, 811 Avenue E from 10:00 a.m – noon, and Keokuk Public Library, 210 North 5th Street from 1 to 2 p.m.

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4901 AVENUE O, FT MADISON, IOWA
The special meeting of the Board of Directors of Great Prairie Area Education Agency was held on March 25, 2019, via Zoom. I. Meeting was called to order by President Stephen Stephenson at 11:00 a.m.

Members Present: Marge Wilkinson, Janet Smith, Victoria Stephenson, Joyce Wauters, Patricia Miletich, Himar Hernandez, and Jennifer Woodley

II. Acknowledgment of quorum.

III. Motion was made by Wauters and seconded by Mileitch to ratify the 2019-22 contract with classified staff as presented. Roll call vote: Hernandez, Mileitch, Smith, Stephenson, Wauters, Wilhelm. Motion Carried Unanimously.

IV. Motion was made by Mileitch and seconded by Wauters to approve the Agenda as posted. Motion Carried Unanimously.

V. No other business was presented.

VI. There being no further business President Stephen Stephenson adjourned the meeting. Motion Carried Unanimously. Time: 11:06 p.m.

Board Secretary
Board President

By Wauters and seconded by Mileitch and approved by Wilhelm to approve the Agenda as posted.

Hist. Interpretations
Guides: Old Fort Madison

Old Fort Madison is seeking Seasonal Historical Interpretation Guides for Old Fort Madison. For more information go to fortmadison-ia.com or apply to Iowa Workforce Development.

Community Garden Coordinator Needed

RSVP! United Way of the Great River Region is seeking a Community Garden Coordinator.

Do you like to garden and work outdoors? Do you like to plan, plant and harvest food?

We are seeking an individual interested in working with the public and planning, planting, cultivating, and harvesting vegetables that are then distributed to the community. Must enjoy working outside, gardening and harvesting. Will direct garden activities with other volunteers and may require some bending, stooping and lifting of 10 lbs. or less...Times: 1 hour, 2 times per week.

If interested and for more information, please call — Tammy at 319-372-8043.

United Way of the Great River Region supports non-profit organizations and agencies that provide programs addressing needs in health, education and financial stability to residents in Clark, Hancock, and Lee Counties.

United Way of the Great River Region

For a private showing call Todd at 319-470-8711. For a showing call 319-372-6291. Priced at $143,000 and $145,000. Beautiful older home with garage and out building near the west edge of Ft Madison. Approximate 1,275 square feet upstairs and 1,140 square feet down stairs. This home has a large living area downstairs that sports a second kitchen. Also a second bathroom and a ground floor laundry. This home is newly remodeled with NEW Frig, New Stove, and New microwave, New Dishwasher New counter top and New light fixtures and ceiling fans thru out. Also has new carpet and new paint thru out, Brand new roof and new garage door opener. With its GEOTHERMAL heating and air conditioning it will have a very conservative utility bill. Also has city water along with a sand point well and a septic leech field that was recently inspected. The address is 2311 263 ave Ft Madison. Priced at $143,000. For a private showing call Todd at 319-470-8711.
SCC to feature author Reese April 20th

Nationally-acclaimed poet and author Rita Mae Reese will speak at SCC on April 20.

Rita Mae Reese is the author of the poetry collections The Book of Hulga, which won the Felix Pollak Prize, and The Alphabet Conspiracy, which won the 2012 Drake Emerging Writers Award. Her poetry has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and her work is featured in Robert Olen Butler’s From Where You Dream: The Process of Writing Fiction and Poetry from Sojourn: A Feminist Anthology. Her honors include a Rome Jaffe Foundation Writer’s Award, the Paumanok Poetry Award, a Wallace Stegner Fellowship from Stanford University, and a Discovery/the Nation award.

In a 2011 NewPages review, Alissa Fleck observed, ‘Rita Mae Reese’s The Alphabet Conspiracy is a book replete with anecdotes and snapshots of memory, ranging from the religious to the informative historically to the contemporary, which thoroughly explores both the whimsy and restrictions of language.’

Reese lives with her family in Madison, Wisconsin, where she serves as the co-director of literary arts programming at Arts + Literature Laboratory (ALL). The reading will be held in the Little Theatre, Room 333, on SCC’s West Burlington campus and will be followed by a brief question and answer session with the author.

All Visiting Writers Series events are free and open to the public, but space is limited. Therefore, guests are encouraged to arrive and be seated by 7:45 p.m. Free refreshments will be provided at the close of the presentation.

For more information, contact Charles Burm, cburm@scciowa.edu, (319) 208-5230.

For more news or to learn about Southeastern Community College, visit: http://www.scciowa.edu/rss/news/index.html.
WEST POINT – Holy Trinity’s Claire Pothitakis continues to rack up goals in the fresh high school soccer season.

The sophomore has back-to-back three-goal performances for six on the season for the 2-0 Crusaders, including a 9-1 drubbing of Keokuk at South Park Monday night.

Pothitakis converted all three of her shots. The Crusaders were 9 of 9 on shots on goal in the match. Senior Taylor Boeding had two goals to go with one each from Katie Scoville, Elle Rashid, Elyse Pothitakis and Mya Lawlor all had a goal.

Elyse Pothitakis and Rashid each had assists in the game.

Junior Ashlynn Haas guarded the net all night for HTC allowing just the one goal on a penalty kick and had one save as the HTC defense and midfield play kept the ball on Holy Trinity’s side of the pitch for most of the game.

The Crusaders take on Wapello at South Park on Thursday night.