

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's **Black & White** and **Read** all over

Monday, April 19, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 83



www.pencitycurrent.com

Legislators update session bills

ESSENTIAL SERVICE: Graber says ambulance bill may not be necessary for Lee County

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – State Rep. Martin Graber said during a regular monthly legislative update that a bill creating an essential services designation for the state’s public-run ambulance services may not be necessary in Lee County.

During the monthly virtual legislative luncheon held Friday, Graber (R-Fort Madison) said his initial data on the Lee County Ambulance is that the projected revenues appear to be enough to pay the expenses, but it’s important that they be labeled essential.

“One thing I would say though is that if you look at the



GRABER



REICHMAN

potential cost to Lee County to have the ambulance service and the projected revenues, it looks like it’s pretty close to paying for itself. This bill isn’t a necessary thing. But just like police and fire, ambulance is an essential service.”

The bill, which seemed to have support in the 2020 session, was pulled from a vote at the last minute last year, and now it seems that the bill may be in question again.

See **UPDATE**, page 8

OPINION



Things are gettin’ outta hand now

Things are a little crazy in the world right now.

My brother and I were having a phone conversation Saturday evening about that every thing.

It started with an update on my nephew’s Saturday Perfect Game baseball trek to Cedar Rapids where he faced a high school kid with a 95 mph fastball and a cutter or slider that looked like a fastball until it fell off the table at the last second.

That’s just mean.

Our conversation progressed to some whacked out coaching philosophies. Most of the time I’m just along for the ride in the conversations with John. I enjoy listening to him talk about his children – his pride in their daily routines.

But when I get a chance I take my shot. Like a wrestler who sees his opponent on their heels for a split second.

“I have to walk a half block to my car everyday,” I slip into the conversation like Ralphie from A Christmas Story asking for a Red Rider BB gun with a compass in the stock and this thing which tells time.

“What?” he said.

I explained that Fort Madison is rerouting traffic down 6th Street by my house and has banned parking on the street to allow for the extra traffic flow. It’s part of the detour for the Hwy. 61 project.

Since I can’t park on 6th Street next to my house until November, I’m parking up a block on 6th.

Now with all the events in my life since 2020, I’ve taken in a little therapy along with a little Xanax – but even I’m not crazy enough to park on the north side of Avenue E.

Despite the city’s recent banning of

See **TRAFFIC**, page 5



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Fort Madison’s Calem Maclearn opens up a lead in the 3rd heat of the 100-meter dash Thursday evening at Mt. Pleasant’s Denny White Relays .The Hound boys finished 8th, while the girls brought home 4th place. See inside for more photos and the story.

EMPTY NEST

Anne Frank’s pen-pal story housed at Danville library

The little brown sign on Highway 34 is easy to miss, just like the significance of two little sisters in Danville, Iowa, in the late 1930’s and early 1940’s, who were pen-pals with Anne Frank and her sister, Margot. Follow the sign to downtown Danville and an attractive little library and museum awaits

the inquisitive traveler. For a small fee of \$4 (cash, no credit cards), one may tour the very professionally displayed exhibit of how two little Iowa girls kept up a letter-writing campaign with the historically famous Anne and Margot Frank. The Franks were a Jewish family hiding from German soldiers in a “se-

cret annex” in a three story building in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

How did the letter-writing correspondence begin? Remember back in the old days before internet, and email, and smart phones, and television, when people actually hand wrote

See **SWARM**, page 5

INDEX

Business Directory.....P.6
CLASSIFIEDS.....Ps.6-7
Complete Rental.....P.3
Connection Bank.....P.2
FROM THE FRONT.....Ps.5,8
Fullenkamp Insurance.....P.2
Great River Regional Waste Authority.....P.3
Keyway Management Company.....P.7
Lee County Health Department.....P.8

LEE COUNTY NEWS.....P.8
Mobile Nursing Services.....P.7
OBITUARIES.....Ps.2-3
• Irene L. Hansen, 91
• Susan D. Sewell, 68
• Elizabeth Watts, 76
• John B. Welsh, 72
OPINION.....P.5
Pen City Current.....Ps.6,8

Pothitakis Dentistry.....P.8
Public Notices.....P.7
Rashid Pharmacy & Wellness.....P.4
SCENE AROUND THE AREA.....P.8
Scotts Miracle Gro Company.....P.4
SPORTS.....P.7
Sonny’s Super Market.....P.5
Tony Wolfe Insurance Services.....P.5

WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
MON 19 Apr.....Light Rain, 48° F/ 39° F
TUE 20 Apr.....Light Snow, 45° F/ 34° F
WED 21 Apr.....Light Rain, 45° F/ 32° F
IOWA LOTTERY
LOTTO AMERICA 01/08.....15 19 28 39 41, Star Ball: 5, All Star Bonus: 4
LUCKY FOR LIFE 04/15.....3 4 18 31 43, Lucky Ball: 4
MEGA MILLIONS 04/16.....17 27 28 50 55, Mega Ball: 25 Megaplier: 4
PICK 3 04/15, 04/16, 04/17 MIDDAY.....9 6 7, 0 1 5, 3 7 7
PICK 3 04/15, 04/16, 04/17 EVENING.....8 0 7, 7 9 3, 9 7 9
PICK 4 04/15, 04/16, 04/17 MIDDAY.....9 3 4 4, 5 9 2 3, 8 9 8 9
PICK 4 04/15, 04/16, 04/17 EVENING.....7 5 3 7, 2 8 5 4, 7 1 6 0
POWERBALL 01/08.....10 21 26 41 49, Powerball: 25, Power Play: 2

SUBSCRIBE

Scan the code to subscribe today
Paid & Free Options Available!



Obituaries

OBITUARIES

SUSAN D. SEWELL

Susan Diane Sewell, 68, of Hamilton, passed away at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, Illinois, on Thursday, April 15, 2021. She was born June 5, 1952, in Keokuk, Iowa to Robert and Glenda (Bolton) Reneau. Susan graduated from Hamilton High School in 1970.



SEWELL

Susan married Larry Sewell in Hamilton, Illinois on October 15, 1977. She worked at University of Illinois Extension in Carthage, Illinois for 25 years. Susan was involved with teen court and was a Hancock County community worker helping with health education, Hancock County 4H and Safety Town. She enjoyed gardening in her free time as well as cooking and baking. Susan was actively involved in Western Illinois Threshers and could often be found volunteering for community events in the area. Susan was a member of New Testament Christian Church in Keokuk,

Iowa.

Susan is survived by: her husband, Larry; two daughters, Shay (Sam) Darnell of Quincy, Illinois and Tara Baker of Hamilton; one son, Justin (Andrea) Sewell of Hamilton; two step-children, William Sewell and Julie (Jeff) Camp of Alexandria, Louisiana; eight grandchildren, Morgan, Ryan, Brenna, Logan, Brenden, Walker, Abbygail and Joshua; three brothers, James (Becky) Reneau of Hamilton, Ed (Stephanie) Reneau of Warsaw and David (Vickie) Reneau of Hamilton; and one sister, Doris (Mike) Ritter of Hamilton.

Susan was preceded in death by her parents and sister Barbara Reneau.

Private family services will be held on Sunday, April 18, 2021 at 3:30 pm at Printy Funeral Home in Hamilton, with Mark Hanson officiating. Visitation will be held from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm Sunday, April 18, 2021 at the funeral home. Interment will be at Riverside Cemetery in Hamilton, Illinois. The service will be livestreamed at www.printy-funeralhome.com on Susan's obituary page.

Memorials may be made to Hamilton Fire Department or Hancock County Ambulance.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.printyfuneralhome.com.

Printy Funeral Home of Hamilton is in charge of arrangements.

Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

OBITUARIES

IRENE L. HANSEN

Irene Lois Hansen, 91, of Keokuk, IA died Friday, April 16, 2021 At Blessing Health Keokuk.

She was born on March 13, 1930 in Maywood Township, Benton County MN, the daughter of John and Joyce Mooers Pappenfus. She graduated from Becker High School in Becker, MN with the Class of 1949.

On June 29, 1957, Irene was united in marriage to Wendell Hansen at the South Lutheran Church in Santiago, MN. He survives.

She is also survived by one daughter, Marie Peterson (Mitchell) of Maple Grove, MN, two sons, James Hansen of Shafer, MN and Alan Hansen of Tyler, TX, five grandchildren, Timothy Peterson (Emily), Michelle Peschken (Paul), Joan Hansen, Charles Hansen and Kate Hansen, four great-grandchildren, Evan and Dylan Peschken and Collin and Kera Peterson. She is also survived by two sisters, Grace Harshman of Princeton, MN, Marian Halverson of Brandon, SD, four brothers, George Pappenfus (Celistine) of Becker, MN, Donald Pappenfus (Diane) of Clear Lake, MN, John Pappenfus (Ruth) of Royalton, MN and Leroy Pappenfus (Virginia) of Brandon, SD and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one sister, Coral Hansen.

Irene had been employed at Totware, a children's clothing manufacturer in Minnesota.

She was a member of the First Lutheran Church in Keokuk.

Irene was an excellent seamstress and did alterations for people. She made many afghans which were given to family members and will be treasured for years to come. She also enjoyed making hanging kitchen towels and over the years had made thousands to give away. Irene was a wonderful cook and one of her specialties was making delicious homemade pies; she knew the secret of a tender flakey pie crust.

She and her husband loved to travel and had been to almost every state in the USA. For the last twenty-two years, they had spent winters in Yuma, AZ. After Wendell's retirement, they went on an Alaskan Cruise where they enjoyed white water rafting and then continued their trip by flying to the Arctic. Their adventures also took them abroad. They made two trips to Europe. On their first trip they visited Denmark, staying in a unique hotel in Copenhagen which was a converted grainery built during the revolutionary war, Germany, Austria and Italy. Their next trip took them to Holland where they saw the old windmills, then on to Luxemburg, Belgium, Germany, where they enjoyed river cruises on the Rhine and ending their trip in Paris. In 2008, they traveled to China where they walked on the original Great Wall and visited the Forbidden City at the center of the Imperial City of Beijing. A fifty-four day camping trip took them to Australia and New Zealand. They also made trips to the Panama Canal and Canada.

A graveside service will be held at a later date at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis, MN. The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.



LET US DO THE MATH!

- 125 YEARS OF COMBINED EXPERIENCE
- 58 YEARS IN BUSINESS
- 7 LICENSED AGENTS
- OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK
- WRITING IN 3 STATES

Fullenkamp INSURANCE
 Est. 1963
 307 5th Street West Point
 319-837-6178 or 800-292-2208 | www.fullenkampins.com
 Open M-F 7:30 - 5:00 & Saturday 8:30 - 11

CONNECTION BANK

We've got this.

www.myconnectionbank.com
 Burlington • Fort Madison • Montrose • Keokuk
 Member FDIC

Charles Vandenberg, Editor

(319).371.1670
editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager

(319).371.4125
sales@pencitycurrent.com

Copyright © 2016 by Pen City Current

All published materials are property of Pen City Current and cannot be used without express written permission.

PEN CITY CURRENT
 It's Black & White and Read all over

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

Member LION Publishers
www.lionpublishers.com



Pen City Current and www.pencitycurrent.com are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

Obituaries

OBITUARIES

JOHN B. WELSH

John Beryl Welsh, 72, of Argyle, IA died Thursday, April 15, 2021 at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City, IA.

He was born September 7, 1948 in Keokuk, IA the son of Richard and Marjorie Kimball Welsh.



WELSH

John graduated from Central Lee High School in Donnellson, IA with the Class of 1966. He furthered his education at Culver Stockton College in Canton, MO and earned a Bachelor's degree in biology.

John was a veteran of the United States Army and proudly served his country during the Vietnam War.

On April 3, 1976 John was first married to Barbara Bloyd. She preceded him in death on December 20, 1991. He later married Nellie M. Smith on December 13, 1997 in Keokuk. She survives.

Other survivors include two daughters, Nicole Apgar (Chris) of Burlington, IA and Marjorie Welsh (Marcia MacInnis) of Plymouth, MA, two step-children, Erin Whaley (Chris) of Keokuk and Justin Williams (Sarah) of North Liberty, IA, seven step-grandchildren, Samantha, Elizabeth and Gavin Congdon, Matthew and Rebecca Whaley and Ethan and Kailey Williams. He is also survived by one brother, Charlie Welsh of Montrose, IA, two sisters-in-law, Jeannie and Mary Welsh both of Montrose, IA and two nephews, Josh Welsh and Shane Hitchcock.



Besides his first wife Barb, John was also preceded in death by one son, Patrick Welsh, one brother, Gary Welsh and his father-in-law, Everett Smith.

John had been employed by Sheller Globe in Keokuk for forty-two years, until his retirement in 2011.

He was a member of Living Waters Assembly of God and had served on the church board. He was also a member of the UAW Union.

John enjoyed fishing, riding horses and collecting guns. John's two dogs, Bella and Lucy were his loyal and faithful companions. He also enjoyed spending time with his father-in-law. John was a great man and will be missed and continually loved by his family and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 10 a.m., Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at the Living Waters Assembly of God Church in Keokuk with Reverend Larry Wallingford officiating. Burial with military rites will be held in the Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk. Social distancing requirements will be in place and masks are required at the church. The service will be live streamed on John's tribute wall on the Vigen Memorial Home webpage.

Visitation will be held after 2 p.m., Tuesday, at the church with family meeting with friends from 6-8 p.m.

Memorials may be made to the Living Waters Assembly of God.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

ELIZABETH WATTS

Elizabeth A Watts, 76, of Dallas City, Illinois passed away at 4:58 p.m. Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at the Select Specialty Hospital in Davenport, Iowa. She was born February 23, 1945 in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of William C. and Grace E. (Lair) Watts. She married Donald Rieke on September 5, 1981 in Oquawka, Illinois.

He preceded her in death in 2000. She is survived by one son, William Smith of Dallas City and one grandson, Darien Green. She was preceded in death by her husband, one daughter, Mary Beth Smith, one sister, Linda Marshall and her parents.



WATTS

As per Elizabeth's wishes, private internment will be in the Keokuk National Cemetery, Keokuk, Iowa. Banks & Beals Funeral Home is assisting the family.

A memorial fund has been established for the PAWS Animal Shelter. Contributions may be mailed to; Elizabeth Watts Memorial, c/o Banks & Beals Funeral Home, PO Box 70, Dallas City, IL 62330. To leave a condolence, please visit her obituary at banksandbeals.com.

DO YOUR PART

CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS



WEAR MASKS WEAR GLOVES WASH HANDS OFTEN KEEP DISTANCE

Great River Regional Waste Authority urges you to wear gloves when moving bins or residential trash pick-up. Workers can touch over 2000 bins a day before even touching yours. Don't forget to wash your hands after bringing in your bin!

for your community



WWW.GRRWA.COM

The Grass Can Be Greener on Your Side of the Fence

Let Us Help!

- Aerator
- Turf Rake
- Over Seeder
- Sod Cutter



Complete Rental
(319) 372-8105
www.CompleteRentalFM.com

Sports

Bloodhound girls 4th, boys 8th at White Relays

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MT. PLEASANT- At the beginning of the year it was junior Tate Johnson that was turning heads on the oval track this spring, but of late it's been younger sister Taylor who's garnering the spotlight.

Johnson captures two individual first-place finishes at Thursday's Denny White Relays at the Mapleleaf Complex in Mt Pleasant. She also ran a strong second leg of the first-place 4x400 relay team for the Lady Hounds.

Fort Madison finished with 140 points good enough for fourth place overall. Mt. Pleasant won the girls meet with 207 points. Central Lee was 5th overall with 77 points.

Johnson led the field with a 29.23 time in the 200 and then, running one of her first competitive 400s, raced to a 1:08.13, a full three seconds ahead of anyone else in the 19-team field.

Johnson said the Bloodhounds have had a rough start to the season with the indoor season completely canceled and the first outdoor meet canceled.

"It was pretty iffy at first. but we're all getting better and better every meet," the freshman said.

"200s and 400s are probably my best. I did a 100 and then I just started doing 400s and I'm finding I really enjoy that race," Johnson said.

Head Coach Brian Mendez said the Lady Hounds are still getting things sorted out, but it's nice to have some speed.

"We know she's quick. She likes the 200 and we thought what the heck we might as well try her in the 400 and she's just now coming into it," Mendez said. "We're gonna work with her more on it now and I think that's going to be her race really."

Mendez was also impressed with freshman Aija Jenkins showing in the high jump.

"It was just a couple weeks ago we had the high jump out and she was over their messin' around and I looked over and was like, 'What the heck?!' and here she gets third place."

Raquel Schneider also brought home a first place in the 400-hurdles with a time of 1:08.72. That time's right outside the top 20 in the state for the year in that event. Schneider needs to take about 1.5 seconds off that time to be in the top 10.

The 4x400 team of Chloe Sokolik, Johnson, Schneider, and Reyna Lampe finished at 4:39.07, 2 seconds a head of the field in the girls B division, and second fastest on the day behind West Burlington Notre Dames' 4:27.61.

Central Lee's Amanda Gilpin raced to two second-place finishes to lead the Lady Hawks. Gilpin, a state cross-country qualifier, recorded a 5:49.74 in the 1500 and a 12:12.27 in the



Central Lee's Halo Arrowood takes off from the board in the girls long jump Thursday in Mt. Pleasant.

3000 meter run.

Central Lee also took 2nd in the 4x100 with Abby Wellman, Karlie Pohren, Allison Kerr and Rylee Matlock running a time of 56.78. Wellman came in 2nd in the 400 hurdles at 1:10.24.

Fort Madison got a second place in the Sprint Medley behind Lampe, Taylor Barnes, Johnson and Schneider at 2:02.89. Central Lee was third at 2:03.93.

Lexi Whaley threw the shot 31-3.5" good for second place. Kylee Cashman was third at 31-.5".

In the boys meet, Fort Madison finished 8th overall with 78 points, while Central Lee finished in 17th with 36 points.

The best performance for the Hounds was the 4x200 where Brock Califf, Mikey DiPrima, Joey Dodson and Jakob McGowan raced to a second-place mark of 1:35.83. The distance medley team of Califf, Garrett Hannum, Dayton Davis, and

Andrew Schaefer took 3rd with a time of 3:53.61.

Hannum had a strong 2nd leg in that relay on the inside lane pulling the Hounds even going into the 400.

"Our 4x200 was pretty strong today," Head Coach Mike Schneider said. "We had some good times there."

Schneider said the Hounds are battling the injury bug a little with speedster Tate Johnson on the shelf. Austin Miller who ran a :58 open 400 last week, had been on crutches two weeks before.

"We just need to get people healed up," he said.

Central Lee was led by Thomas Eschman and Wyatt Schulte. Schulte took 2nd in the 400 hurdles at 1:03.86. Eschman was fourth in the 100 at 11.90 and 5th in the 110 hurdles. The shuttle hurdle team of Derick Denning, Schulte, Logan Kearns and Eschman took 4th with a time of 1:12.80.

Complete local results are below:
BOYS RESULTS (OVERALL FM 78 (8th), Central Lee 36-17th)
100-meters: FM - McGowan 11.95 (5th), Maclearn 12.58 (12th), Central Lee - Eschman 11.90 (4th - B), Hocker 11.95 (5th-B)
200-meters: FM - Schaefer 24.22 (5th), Wiseman 24.95 (8th)
400-meters: FM - L. Williams 57.05 (6th), Fullenkamp 57.99 (8th)
800-meters: FM - Fullenkamp 2:23.38 (11th), Hantzeas 2:29.52 (12th)
1600-meters: FM - Shutwell 5:24.15 (9th), John Cottrel 6:23.08 (13th), Central Lee: Anderson 5:58.79 (15th)
3200-meters: FM - Wolfe 11:30.76 (6th), Central Lee: Anderson 12:33.50 (9th)
110 hurdles: FM- Rhoer 17.86 (6th), Wiseman 19.03 (8th), Central Lee: Eschman 17.84 (5th)
400 hurdles: FM Rhoer 1:01.56 (3rd), Central Lee Schulte 1:03.86 (2nd-B), Denning 1:08.12 (12th-B)
4x100 relay: FM (Wiseman, Dodson, Dear and McGowan) 47.17 (6th), Central Lee (Conlee, Snider, Gregory, Kearns) 49.87 (6th-B)
4x200 relay: FM (Califf, DiPrima, Dodson, and McGowan) 1:35.83 (2nd); Central Lee (Conlee, Snider, Gregory, Kearns) 1:46.53 (8th-B)
4x400 relay: no entries
4x800 relay: FM (Stoermer, Cottrel, Butler and Hantzeas) 10:02.17 (6th)
Sprint Medley: FM (Williams, Dear, Davis, and DiPrima) 1:43.31 (6th)
Distance Medley: FM (Califf, Hannum, Davis, Schaefer) 3:53.61 (3rd)
Shuttle Hurdle: FM (Rhoer, Segoviano, Smith, Wiseman) 1:13.23 (4th), Central Lee (Denning, Schulte, Kearns, Eschman) 1:12.80 (4th-B)
High Jump: FM Davis 5-6" (5th), DiPrima 5-6" (7th); Central Lee Myhre 5-04" (6th-B)
Long Jump: FM McGowan 19-6.5" (4th), DiPrima 18-04" (8th); Central Lee Eschman 18-09.75" (6th-B)
Shot: FM Deacon 44-11" (3rd), Ross 32-9.5" (12th)
Discus: Deacon 138-10 (3rd), Perry 86-10" (12th)

GIRLS RESULTS: (OVERALL FM 140-4th, Central Lee 77-5th)
100 meter dash: Rylee Steffensmeier 3rd 15.31, Emma Kern 15.66 (8th); Central Lee Sydney Jones 15.44 (4th), Adrienne Britt 16.08 (9th)
200 meter dash: Taylor Johnson 1st 29.23, Steffensmeier 31.54 (5th); Central Lee Olivia Kraus 32.29 (7th), Abby Simmons 34.46 (9th)
400 meter dash: Taylor Johnson 1st 1:08.13, Madison Meyer 1:17.45 (4th), Central Lee Taylor Griffin 1:17.58 (5th) Sidney Gruntmeir 1:18.94 (6th)
800 meter run - Lauren King 2:51.85 (4th), Madison Meyer 3:00.71 (6th), Central Lee - Brianna Gruntmeir 3:02.90 (8th)
1500 meter run: Central Lee - Amanda Gilpin 5:49.74 (2nd) Paetyn Wiegand 6:26.67 (3rd)
3000-meter run Gilpin 12:12.27 (2nd), Wiegand FM 12:24.32
100 hurdles Reyna Lampe FM 17.49 (4th), Zoe Eschman 17.99 (5th) Brooklyn Jones 23:01 (8th)
400 hurdles: Raquel Schneider FM 1st 1:08.72, Abby Wellman CL 1:10.24 (2nd), Taylor Barnes FM 1:22.32 (4th)
4x100 Relay: Central Lee (Wellman, Pohren, Kerr and Matlock) 56.78 (2nd), FM (Cashman, Jenkins, Barnes, and Swigart) 58.96 (4th)
4x200 relay: Central Lee (Howard, Kraus, Jones and Pohren) 2:02.61 (3rd); FM (Jenkins, Sokolik, E. Steffensmeier, R. Steffensmeier) 2:02.81 (4th)
4x400 relay: FM (Sokolik, Johnson, Schneider, Lampe) 1st 4:39.07; Central Lee (Howard, Griffin, S. Gruntmeir, B. Gruntmeir) 5:01.34 (4th)
4x800 relay: Central Lee (Krause, Jones, Griffin, B. Gruntmeir) 12:30.55 (3rd); FM (Swigart, King, Meyer, Burch) 12:43.59 (4th)
800 Sprint Medley: FM (Lampe, Barnes, Johnson, Schneider) (2nd) 2:02.89; Central Lee (Pohren, Matlock, Kraus, Wellman) 3rd - 2:03.93
Distance Medley: Central Lee (Howard, Arrowood, Pohren, B.Gruntmeir) 2nd - 5:11.03; Fort Madison (Cashman, R. Steffensmeier, Sokolik and Wiegand) 3rd - 5:15.36.
Shuttle Hurdle: FM (Schneider, Jenkins, Barnes, Lampe) 2nd 1:12.87; Central Lee (Eschman, Kerr, Tweedy, Wellman) 4th - 1:17.33
High Jump: FM Jenkins 5-1" 3rd,
Long Jump: FM - Cashman 13-6" (4th), Central Lee - Arrowood 13-2.5" (6th), Kerr 12-6" (7th).
Shot: FM - Whaley 31-3.5" (2nd), Cashman 31-.5" (3rd), Central Lee Buford 25-0" (9th), Stice 23-11" (10th)
Discus FM - Whaley 84-10" (5th), Central Lee - Stice 72-05" (7th), Buford 64-04" (9th)



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Fort Madison's Mikey DiPrima hands off to Joey Dodson to start the 3rd leg of the 4x200 relay Thursday night in Mt. Pleasant. The Hounds took 2nd place in the event with a 1:35.83

Resolve to make healthcare easier in the new year!

onePAC

your medication made easy

RASHID PHARMACY & WELLNESS

free delivery or mailing

8:00 AM MONDAY
BARBARA KAY (811-1111)
1 SYNTHROID
1 LIPITOR
2 LISINAPRIL
1 METHOPANIN

RASHID PHARMACY
2404 AVENUE L | FORT MADISON, IA
319-372-2000

rashiddrug.com

From the Front

We all need to just think our way through our days

TRAFFIC - Continued from Page 1

parking on the south side of the street, motorists are still having trouble navigating that gauntlet without plowing into the back ends of vehicles innocently awaiting drivers on the north side.

It's also perilous to walk across the street even with freshly installed stop signs at 6th and 15th. I don't dare assume people see those signs despite the red flags sticking out the top; the orange squares indicating a all-way stop; and the unmistakable white S-T-O-P letters emblazoned across the red octagon complete with reflector strips.

You - cannot - assume.

Friday I was starting to cross E gingerly and I saw a silver SUV approaching from the west. They didn't seem to be trying to slow. As they continued at about 25 mph through the stop sign, I waived my arms wildly and then threw both hands and arms toward the stop sign at the intersection that they rightly had passed through unencumbered for decades.

This very nice older couple in the SUV waived excitedly and smiled at me as they drove by.

'What a nice boy,' they were surely thinking.

My shoulders slumped, I looked both ways and trudged quickly across the street. If I'd had a yellow shirt with a black stripe across the middle, I'd have been Charlie Brown.

I went about my errands which included an Ambassador Call, a drs appointment, a trip to the post

office and a stop through Scooters. You gotta try that turkey sausage whole grain English muffin.

On my way back I had to turn at 11th Street due to the road closure. But two others kept going trying to make a left at 10th, despite the big orange sign on the big orange and white ROAD CLOSED AHEAD signs and the MUST TURN LEFT HERE sign that you must drive by to try and make a left at 10th Street.

I chuckled, and turned and then went down Avenue G to the east where at 6th I turned north - after I had to waive ahead the motorist on 6th heading north who had stopped at the intersection despite the black bagged stop sign.

You get my point, and I get it too. It's going to take some adjusting.

I don't think, however, we should have to adjust at the westbound one-way on Avenue F. As I hummed along 6th to the north and proudly kept going through the intersection without stopping because I'm the world's greatest driver, I found myself slamming on the breaks as a motorist in a gray, Lexus SUV (yeah, now you know if you're reading this it was me you cut off) turned in front of me at the intersection without stopping - going the wrong way.

Now I can forgive not stopping because clearly there's no freakin' stop sign at an intersection for you if you're going the wrong way on a one-way.

But I can't forgive you

going around me, when I stopped in the middle of the street with my window down and my arms and hands flailing about to get your attention - and inform you of your transgression.

That too, is just mean. And chicken.

Folks...it's progress. We all win when we all think our way through our day. And I was driving my wife's car, so getting t-boned in the FJ Cruiser gets me knocked off the Christmas list.

Good grief.

And I have no idea what to do with these Stand Your Ground cases. Two shootings in the past 45 days and no charges because they fall under Iowa's self-defense law. One was a father who got knocked to the ground by his son during an argument and, according to reports, accidentally shot his son in the leg when he pulled out a .22 pistol. The son was charged with simple assault.

That... right there... is already outta hand.

But that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is the editor and co-owner of Pen City Current and can be reached at editor@pencity-current.com.

Frank letters started with teacher's travels to Europe

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

letters and sent them via the post office by what we laughingly now call "snail mail?" A Danville school teacher in the late 1930's, Birdie Mathews, while traveling in Europe, stopped at a Montessori school in Amsterdam and asked for names and addresses of students who might be interested in corresponding with Danville, Iowa students. Betty and Juanita Wagner of Danville were the later-to-be-recognized "lucky" recipients of the address for Anne and Margot Frank. Anne Frank, as you know, after her death in a German prison camp, would become famous for her journal writing in a hit Broadway play and book, "Anne Frank's Diary."

A video at the Danville Museum has Betty Wagner, now an elderly lady, telling the story. "The teacher asked us if we wanted to write to someone overseas. I can remember how excited we were. It would be a great thing to do. What would we write? We wrote that we lived on a farm. We had cows and chickens and pigs. It was just friendly talk. We didn't have television and sometimes we didn't even have a radio. All we had was a little weekly newspaper that wasn't very worldly. So, to write to somebody overseas was a great experience. My sister wrote to Anne and I wrote to Margot. Eventually we got a letter back. They were postcards and had the girls' pictures...They were written in English. We were pretty sure that they didn't know English. But we were thrilled anyway. We sat down and answered them right away." (It was later learned that Otto Frank, the girls' father, was translating the letters from Dutch into English and vice versa.)

"The Germans moved into Holland a few weeks after that correspondence came in 1939. We feared that we

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



might not ever hear from them again. We never knew what was happening. Bombs were dropping. We didn't know if they had enough to eat. But we always thought about them. We never forgot. They were very important to us...When the war ended...I wrote letters to Ann and Margot at the address we had. I didn't even know if they would get the letters or if they were still there. I had no idea. It took about three-or-four months and I got a letter back from their father, handwritten, five pages, telling about what had happened to them during the war. How they had hidden in the attic and how hard it was on Anne. I cried. We all cried."

Years later, these letters, in the possession of Betty and Juanita Wagner, were verified as authentic. The story appeared on the front page of the New York Times. Betty Wagner was a guest on the CBS Morning Show. The letters were auctioned, with many people bidding, including Whoopi Goldberg.

The letters were purchased by an unknown benefactor and returned to Danville so that the world, and Danville will never forget man's inhumanity to man, the Holocaust victims, or two little girls who enjoyed hand writing letters to unknown friends overseas.

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.

STABLE. PREDICTABLE.

That's what you can expect from a Wellmark Medicare supplement plan.

Call today to find coverage that's right for you.

319-372-5201



Tony Wolfe
Insurance Services
Fort Madison, IA
52627
Tony@tawins.com

An Authorized Independent Agent for



This is a solicitation of insurance. Wellmark Medicare supplement insurance plans are not affiliated with any government agency. To be eligible, you must reside in the service area of the plan. Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

W-2319024 11/18

THANK YOU
SONNY'S EMPLOYEES

We appreciate your commitment to the health & safety of yourselves and of Sonny's customers while working during these difficult times to ensure our communities are well-fed with quality groceries at reasonable prices. Keep up the great work & know you are greatly appreciated!



Call for curbside pickup

319.837.6126

327 5th Street, West Point, IA



Classifieds

SHOP Classifieds

PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE AT WWW.PENCITYCURRENT.COM OR CALL (319)371.4125

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Call Lee at 319.371.4125 today to advertise!

KEMPKER'S
True Value RENTAL
 Treating our customers like family since 1970
 Fort Madison • Burlington • Mount Pleasant
www.kempkerstruevalue.com

How can chiropractic therapy help you?
BENEFITS OF CHIROPRACTIC

- Improved joint mobility, function, and health
- Decreased degeneration of joints and connective tissues
- Improved circulation
- Increased energy, vitality, and improved sleep
- and many, many more

DR. ROBERT BROCKMAN
 Brockman Chiropractic
 2311 Avenue L, Suite 3, Fort Madison • 319-372-3800
<http://brockmanchiropracticdrbob.com/>

Extremity Adjustment Cranial Adjustment
Myofascial Relaxation Muscle Facilitation

Coverage that works when they can't

Let's face it — accidents can happen in any workplace. Farm Bureau Workers' Compensation insurance can protect you, as the owner, from the high cost of unexpected injuries to your employees. Call me to schedule a SuperCheck® to make sure your most valuable resource — your employees — are protected.



Larry Holtkamp
 1301 37th St
 Fort Madison
 (319) 372-9145
LARRYHOLTkamp.COM

FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company* & Western Agricultural Insurance Company*/West Des Moines, IA. *Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services WC010 (7-16)

WEDDING & EVENT CENTER

Small GRAND Things
 Grand Things Happen Here
 Danielle Neaves & Ann Newton Neaves
319.837.8132

1903 West Point Rd | West Point, IA 52656
 Facebook/Instagram/Pinterest | smallgrandthings.com

DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY
 Est. 1877

Photo Correction
 Business Cards
 Flyers
 Office Supplies
 Vinyl Banners
 T-Shirt Printing

Coffee Mugs
 Posters
 Art Supplies
 Printing
 Business Forms
 Office Furniture
 Trifold Brochures

621 Avenue G
 Fort Madison, IA
 319.372.2721
doddprinting.com

ENJOY FREE DELIVERY TO FORT MADISON, KEOKUK, BURLINGTON & THE SURROUNDING AREAS!

Dirty Dog Detailing & Boarding

Grooming by appointment
 Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday
319-371-9044

2090 250th St
 Donnellson, IA 52625

Owners Barb Ball & Natalie Dauma
 Family owned & operated

Over 51 Years Combined Professional Animal Experience

Patrick Profeta
 General Manager

Keokuk Auto Credit
 We Tote the Note

No Credit Check Low Weekly Payments
www.keokukautocredit.com

1728 Main
 Keokuk, IA 52632

Office: 319-524-2334
 Fax: 319-524-2373

Generations of Great Service

- 24 Hour Service
- Never An Overtime Charge
- FREE Estimates
- Servicing All Makes

YOUR Heat & Air guy

Full Service HVAC Company
 Serving Fort Madison, Burlington, and surrounding areas with over 30 Years Experience!

Ft. Madison: 319-372-4328
Burlington: 319-752-4328
All Areas: 877-380-4328

www.YourHeatAndAirGuy.com

General Insects
 Termites

Cullen
 PEST CONTROL

(319) 372-1060

Toll Free 1-888-818-7378
 Email: cullenpest@hotmail.com
www.cullenpest.com

Mice
 Bed Bugs

Residential
 Commercial

"Cause who needs bugs?"

Help GRRWA Keep Your Community Hazard-Free!

Household Hazardous Waste Unit is open
 Monday through Friday
 8am - 4pm

800-216-2370
 Call for an appointment

GRRWA
 Great River Regional Waste Authority

FL Madison Main Office: 2002 202nd Ave Fort Madison, IA 52625-3724-640
 Keokuk Transfer Station: 111 Caroline Lane Keokuk, IA 52621-524-6175
 Visit Us Online! www.grrwa.com facebook.com/grrwa

Advertise in a brand new way.
 Reach thousands of potential customers each day & grow your business. Call today!
Lee (319)371.4125 • Chuck (319)371.1670

PEN CITY CURRENT
 It's Black & White and Read all over

Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County Board of Supervisors Meeting
Mon, April 19, 2021
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
(CST)

HELP WANTED

FULL-TIME DENTAL HYGIENIST

Mark C. Pothitakis Family Dentistry currently has a position available for a Full-Time Dental Hygienist. Competitive compensation package including paid vacation, retirement, paid holidays, and optional health insurance. Please mail your resume to 1223 S. Gear Avenue, Eastman Plaza, Suite 302, West Burlington, IA 52655, or email to burdental@gmail.com. EOE.



POTHITAKIS DENTISTRY
 Burlington • West Burlington • Ft. Madison West • Ft. Madison East • New London • Middletown

AGENDA

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/537480653>

You can also dial in using your phone.
 United States: +1 (408) 650-3123
 Access Code: 537-480-653

If you would like to pose a question to the Board, please use the Chat

HELP WANTED



NOW HIRING (Fort Madison)

General Operator
Job # 216251W

We Offer Competitive Wages (Up to \$31.35/hr. and a Comprehensive Benefits Package

General Operators work a 12-hour rotating schedule (days and nights).

Apply Online at:

<https://careers.dupont.com>
 Under Search Jobs: Enter job #216251W or refine your search by City (Fort Madison)

for information and requirements

On-line applications accepted for a limited time

DuPont is an Equal Opportunity Employer
 DuPont is an E-Verify Employer
 DuPont supports the "I Hire Vets" program

APARTMENTS FOR RENT



APARTMENTS AVAILABLE

Affordable housing for persons 62 or older, handicapped or disabled, regardless of age.

Eagle Bluff

APARTMENTS

2803 Ave. A
 Ft. Madison, IA 52627
Call for information

319-376-1311

This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

www.KeywayManagement.com

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

Pledge of Allegiance
 Approve Agenda
 Public Input

Consider Approval of Emergency Embargo Resolution

Discussion and Possible Action on First Baptist Parking Lot Paving

Appoint Member to Conservation Board to Fill Vacancy

Appoint Three Members to County Magistrate Appointing Commission

Consider Filling a Correctional Officer Vacancy

Consider Approval of Employment Agreement with EMS Director

Discussion and Possible Action on Hiring Part-time Custodian

Discussion and Possible Action on Mask Mandate in County Buildings

Consider Approval of Monday, April 12, 2021 Board Minutes

Consider Approval of Claims

Reports:
 A. Sheriffs Monthly Report
 Commission or Committee Reports
 Adjourn

Workshop to Follow

PUBLIC MEETING
CITIZENS WELCOME

Vision and hearing assistance available upon request

Contact Title VI Administrator
 319-372-3705

County Website:
www.leecounty.org

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE

The Lee County Board of Review will meet Monday, May 3rd, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the South Lee County Office Building, Board Room 25 N 7th St, Keokuk, Iowa.

Agenda

Appointment of officers
 Approve Minutes from previous meeting
 Consider Approval of Assessor Recommendations
 Oral hearings, if applicable

We're Still Growing!



Our culture is constantly energized by new and exciting growth opportunities and at a rapid pace. Every Associate plays an important role in providing innovative solutions for today's gardeners and growers and contributing new ideas to improve operations. In our company you need grit; it is what we were founded on over 150 years ago and is what keeps us growing. Regardless of your level in the organization there is a platform for your voice to be heard and the ability to influence change. Family, community, and hard-working values are weaved into all that we do. Come grow with us, where we develop and nurture the next generation of leaders.

Our Fort Madison, IA Liquids Packaging Facility is seeking applicants interested in their next great career move for:

- Hourly Opportunities**
- Machine Packaging Operator \$18.30 per hour
 - Forklift Operators \$21.00 per hour

- Salary Opportunities**
- Sr. Continuous Improvement Engineer
 - Sr. Engineer Formulations Supervisor
 - Production Supervisor – Nights
 - Production Supervisor – 1st/2nd Rotating Shift
 - Maintenance Supervisor
 - EHS Manager
 - Quality Assurance Supervisor
 - Shipping Coordinator
 - Technical Manager

We offer benefits including:

- Health, Dental, Vision coverage
- Fitness Club Reimbursement
- Nutrition Reimbursement
- 401K match up to 7.5%
- 15% Discounted Stock Purchase
- 13 Scotts paid Holidays
- Generous vacation plan

Our commitment to diversity and including includes five Employee Resource Groups:

- Scotts Women's Network
- Scotts Black Employee Network
- Scotts Veterans network
- Scotts Young Professionals
- Scotts Pride Network: GroPride

To review the full job descriptions for these opportunities and submit your application for consideration, please visit Scotts career site at:

www.scottsmiraclegro.com/careers

HEARTLAND CO-OP
 2136 Green Bay Rd
 Wever, IA 52658
 319-372-7852

Now Hiring!

Marine Facility Operations & Maintenance

Benefits Included Full & Part Time Positions Available

Heartland Co-op is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE-AA) committed to advancing diversity in the workplace. Post offer ... pre-employment drug screen, job physical, & physical capacity profile required.

FOR JOB INFO & TO APPLY VISIT:
heartlandcoop.com
 Career Opportunities, Wever

Mobile Nursing Services
Now Hiring
 Burlington & Ft. Madison Areas

LPNs

Home Health Aides

Occupational Therapist

Clerical

We are now hiring additional staff to meet the needs of our increased client base.
 Apply at:
 705 Ave. G, Fort Madison
 Or email:
mobnurse@mobilenursingservices.com

EOE

APARTMENTS AVAILABLE

Affordable housing for persons 62 or older, handicapped or disabled, regardless of age.

Eagle Bluff

APARTMENTS

2803 Ave. A
 Ft. Madison, IA 52627
Call for information

319-376-1311

This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

www.KeywayManagement.com

Scene Around the Area/From the Front



Courtesy photo

The Central Lee Ag-Ed/FFA students incubate chicken and duck eggs annually. Adults pictured, Justin Snider, left, and Aidan Boyer, right, share educational information to Mrs. Boeck's Kindergarten class recently. The youngsters learned about the incubation process, health, and nutrition of poultry.

#HyperLocalSuperFresh

Touching the Community with Care

LEE
CHD

#3 John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison
(319) 372-5225 . www.leecountyhd.org

TIF bill would allow reapplying

UPDATE - Continued from Page 1

The bill would allocate state funds to offset short reimbursements in Medicare/Medicaid billing to help public run ambulance services stay solvent. Lee County is just two months away from taking ownership of the Lee County Ambulance service on July 1.

State Sen. Jeff Reichman said he approached Senate leadership on Tuesday about the legislation.

"I went to leadership on Tuesday with this and asked what the heck is going on and stressed how much that is needed in rural communities," he said.

"We need a hospital and it's essential we have the means to get someone there when they need care."

Reichman said leadership told him they were looking into where the bill is now, but he said next week that won't be a good enough answer.

"We've still got a few weeks and 'I'm going to look into it' was a good enough answer, but next week I'll expect a better answer."

Graber encouraged constituents to keep sending emails to the senate in support of the measure to continue pressure for the bill.

Lee County Supervisor Garry Seyb Jr., asked what the hurdles were to getting the bill passed. Reichman said the only challenge is getting the bill on the calendar and they haven't released the debate schedule for this week.

The past session area legislators including former State Sen. Rich Taylor, State Rep. Joe Mitchell and former State Rep. Jeff Kurtz all said they were surprised the bill never made it to the floor for a vote.

"Whether it's being held hostage or it's not enough of a priority I don't know because I don't know that side very well," Graber said.

Mitchell was not on the call with the other legislators Friday.

Reichman and Graber also discussed a bill that would put sunsets on Tax Increment Financing programs in the state.

Keokuk City Administrator Cole O'Donnell submitted a statement asking the two to reconsider the sunsets on slum and blighted development projects which are critical to the economies of rural areas of the state.

Graber said the bill has passed out of committee, but said the legislation doesn't prohibit local governments from reapplying for TIF funding at the end of the first 20 years of a project.

"You can turn around and reapply. The difference at that point would be the value that would be set on the project," Graber said. "But people in favor of this bill say your taking money out of school districts and those kinds of things. There was a project in Pella that is indefinite and may never come back on the tax rolls."

Reichman said he wasn't sure where the bill was.

"The House took it up and I'm not sure where it's at. It's not showing here as being passed and we haven't seen it yet," he said.

"But to Martin's point, in the 20 years there's gonna be a change to that. Yeah, it makes it tougher, but like everything else, there's someone out there that's abusing the process and this is another check to prevent that from happening. I don't really like it."

The two also discussed the pending election bill, which both seemed to think would allow for a second ballot box to be placed at the South Lee County courthouse. Lee County is the only county in the state with two courthouses and there was a question as to whether the new bill would allow the county to have two ballot boxes under the new proposed rules.

Graber said he thinks the session will wrap up by April 30, with just a few things being "left on the doorstep".

"We're pretty much on track to get priorities passed on the House side," he said.

The two also discussed broadband expansion and property tax backfills and said there are still heavy debates taking place on both initiatives.

The Tooth Is. . .
. . . We  Our Patients!

Now Accepting New Patients

Fort Madison
Family Dentistry West
319-372-4882

Dr. David Courtney
Dr. Stephanie Heyland
Dr. Mark Pothitakis

Fort Madison
Family Dentistry East
319-372-3614

Dr. Jonathan Dingeldein

Pothitakis Dentistry

6 Convenient Locations to Serve You

www.DrMarkDDS.com

