

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Wednesday, June 16, 2021 | 9 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 120



www.pencitycurrent.com

County 99th for child neglect

CHILD ABUSE: 3-part series looks at efforts to curb child maltreatment in Lee County

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – According to data from state and federal child welfare officials, Lee County ranks last out of 99 counties in Iowa when it comes to child neglect, and in the bottom 20 counties for child abuse.

According to a Lee County Resilient Communities Needs Assessment that pulled data from the 2019 Iowa Child Maltreatment Prevention Needs Assessment, Lee County ranks 99th out of 99 counties. The same maltreatment survey showed Lee County 79th out of 99 counties for child abuse.

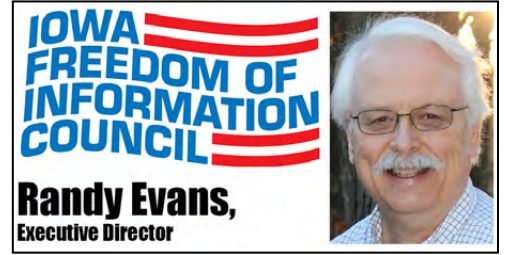
The Resilient Communities assessment was funded in

part through a state grant that also provides for a five-year salary for Breanna Kramer-Riesberg, through the Lee County Health Department.

The grant was awarded in July of 2020 and Kramer-Riesberg was brought on board in August of that year. Then LCHD subcontracted with Shelley Oltmans, a community development specialist with ISU Extension. Oltmans is also the executive director of the Keokuk Area Chamber of Commerce. The grant is guaranteed for two years at \$76,000 per year and is renewable for an additional three years.

Kramer-Riesberg said the Child Abuse Prevention Coun-

See **NEGLECT**, page 8



Gov. Reynolds is correct – more transparency is needed

Gov. Kim Reynolds talked last week about the importance of government leaders keeping other government officials looped in as decisions are made and events unfold.

The governor was more correct than she probably intended. I will get to that shortly.

But first, here is some important background on the governor's statement — because she and I see eye to eye on this, at least as it relates to the issue that provoked her displeasure with federal officials.

Reynolds was talking about the federal government's secret chartered flight with migrant children from California that landed in Des Moines in the middle of the night on April 22. As we learned a month later, 19 refugee kids got off the plane, with all but two boarding chartered buses for destinations in other states. Two of the children were picked up at the airport by their Iowa sponsors.

For two weeks, representatives of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Health and Human Services insisted to the governor and U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley that their agencies were not involved in any chartered flight.

To be frank, they were lying. On May 21, the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement finally admitted to Grassley the office had chartered the Des Moines flight.

In a letter to Grassley last week, Reynolds asked for a Senate oversight hearing into the Biden administration's failure to provide notice and transparency in the government's movement of migrant children to various states while their immigration cases are being decided.

"These experiences sow seeds of mistrust in our communities and work to intentionally subvert the will of the people for a secure border and a clear, lawful immigration process," her letter stated.

"Additionally, the federal government's fail-

See **EVANS**, page 4



Courtesy photo

Fort Madison Community Hospital's CEO Shelby Dickerson presents a check to Tim Gobble, Executive Director for Fort Madison Partners, for their continued support to the Light Up The Sky this 4th of July campaign.

AG NEWS

Clear30 CRP program now a nationwide option

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 15, 2021 – Landowners and agricultural producers currently enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) now have a wider opportunity to enroll in a 30-year contract through the Clean Lakes, Estuaries, And Rivers initiative, called CLEAR30. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is expanding

CLEAR30 – a water-quality focused option available through CRP – to be nationwide now.

Interested producers with CRP contracts expiring September 30, 2021, should sign up by August 6, 2021. CLEAR30 provides an opportunity for producers to receive incentives for a 30-year commitment to water quality

practices on their CRP land, building on their original 10- to 15-year CRP contracts.

"We are excited to expand this option to enable more producers to take their conservation efforts to the next level," said Zach Ducheneaux, USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) administrator.

See **CRP**, page 8

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WEATHER

THU 09 Jan.....Sunny and Warm, 78° F/ 59° F
 FRI 10 Jan.....Light Rain, 86° F/ 62° F
 SAT 11 Jan.....Light Rain, 87° F/ 76° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 06/14.....3 17 19 21 37, Lucky Ball: 12
 PICK 3 06/14 MIDDAY.....5 7 8
 PICK 306/14 EVENING.....8 7 9
 PICK 4 06/14 MIDDAY.....0 8 4 3
 PICK 4 06/14 EVENING.....9 2 7 8

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

NANCY S. "SUZIE" EASTER

Wife Mom Daughter Sister Aunt Niece Friend Neighbor



EASTER

Nancy Sue Easter, Suzie to all that knew her...

Born May 30, 1946 to James and Marie Horsey, the youngest of 6 children, Suzie enjoyed growing up on the family farm. She had a horse she loved to ride, Liz, enjoyed mushrooming, picking berries, playing euchre, metal detecting, and numerous gatherings with family and friends. Suzie married James Easter "Mike", to his friends and family September 8th, 1968 and began their marriage heading off to Norfolk, Virginia where he was stationed in the US Navy as an Electronic Technician 2nd Class. She made many friends there and raised their dog, Tammy. They moved back to a corner on the family farm and lived in a mobile home for five years. And they decided that this was going to be their home, so they built a new home in 1974, where they have lived for the last 52 years. They have two children, Maria Dawn Gapen and James Michael Easter Jr., "Jamie" to his friends and family, and added to their family hosting through the AFS program in 1988-1989 their son Aaron Martinez and the next year, (as Aaron had enjoyed his year so much with the Easter's) his brother Marco Martinez who lived with them under guardianship the following year.

Suzie made everyone feel at home and hosted many family and friend gatherings over the years,

providing a great homemade meal and if you were lucky a freshly made cobbler from the wild berries she picked. The kitchen table hosted many a card game with her relatives and neighbors telling stories. She worked at Sheller Globe Corporation for 27 years, carpooling with family and neighbors. Once she retired she continued to be busy and enjoyed helping her husband with his business, as well as took on a part time job at the local Super 8, where the company sent her to the Mall of America to participate in the fastest bed making contest, which she won.

Suzie had a way of making everyone in her life feel special and welcomed. She loved her husband, children, her grandson, Clark and the visits with Aaron and Gladis and their children, Little Aaron and Ana Karen. She found time to do some fun things for herself, joining an intramural volleyball league, raising a variety of unusual chickens, donkeys, zebu and goats. Suzie and Mike enjoyed a special trip to meet Al Herrin a famous author and archery bow builder, and spent time with his family in Oklahoma and learned more about Cherokee Bows and Arrows in her interest of Jamie Jr.'s bow making business. Every person in her life shined in the light of her love and happiness and zest for life and living and doing. Blonde, freckled and blue eyed she enjoyed the simple pleasures and life on the farm. She was a doer and didn't hesitate to help; once when a fire broke out in the Croton holler, she hopped right up on the fire truck to help hand out the hose.

She liked studying her stocks and using her computer, and her daughter, who moved to Alaska

for her first professional job after college, the first email she received was from her Mom. Suzie made things special, surprising her daughter with a special birthday during her work lunch on more than one occasion with all the details, cake, flowers, balloons, freshly picked and peeled peaches.

Suzie was one to help others, opening her home and heart and thoughtful ways; an older neighbor that needed help getting to appointments, Uncle Raymond that stayed at her home at different times over the years while he was convalescing, and who she would regularly have over for dinner or stop over with a dish. She was there for her loved ones and was always the strong one, taking time to care for others.

Suzie was diagnosed with cancer during the start of the pandemic in Iowa and was fortunate enough to be able to make the most of and extend the length of time, fourteen additional months, living on her farm and with her family. She was stronger than ever one realized; and with her son, Jamie's, attention and care, she remained hopeful throughout her journey. Mike and Suzie celebrated 52 years of marriage together, raising two children, Maria and Jamie, and Aaron and Marco and their families, and doting on her grandson Clark.

Suzie Easter, daughter of James and Marie Horsey, sister to Harold Horsey, Mae Horsey Conn, Tommy Horsey, Beverly Horsey Stevens, and Bonnie Horsey Cahill. Many thanks to all those who reached out and shared together with her laughter, time and stories, this was a difficult year that did not make the most opportunity to be able to spend time with those outside the house, she wanted to live all the way through the end and now realizing God has a special person up there riding her horse, visiting with family and loved ones, giving that special smile and love that she shared so whole heartedly to all those in her life.

Her body has been entrusted to Schmitz Funeral Homes for cremation.

No services will be held at this time.

A memorial has been established in her memory for the Donnellson Library. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneral-homes.com. Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements.

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Join June 2nd = \$2 Join Fee,	SUNDAY \$13	MONDAY \$14	TUESDAY \$15	WEDNESDAY \$16	THURSDAY \$17	FRIDAY \$18
Join June 3rd = \$3 Join Fee and so on!	SUNDAY \$20	MONDAY \$21	TUESDAY \$22	WEDNESDAY \$23	THURSDAY \$24	FRIDAY \$25
	SUNDAY \$27	MONDAY \$28	TUESDAY \$29	WEDNESDAY \$30	Members 18 years of age and older are eligible for 24 hour access to the main facility and downtown facility. See the Y for details.	

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W-2319024 11/13

Obituaries

OBITUARIES

EDNA V. WHITE

Edna Virginia White, 81, of Keokuk, passed away on Sunday, June 14, 2021, at her home in Keokuk, Iowa.



WHITE

Edna was born on April 2, 1940, in Monroe City, Missouri, the daughter of Lewis B. and Della Lorraine (Smallwood) Talton. On September 21, 1961, she was united in marriage to Raymond "JJ" White, Jr., in Monroe City, Missouri.

Edna was employed at Sheller-Globe Corporation, Keokuk Convalescent Center and also did housekeeping until her retirement. She was a member of Family Worship Center in Keokuk. Edna loved listening to music and especially singing. She shared that gifted voice at many local churches. It was not uncommon to see Edna riding her motor scooter around town. One of her very favorite things to do was playing with her grandchildren. Edna loved everyone and was loved by all that knew her.

Edna is survived by her husband Ray White of Keokuk; five sons: Jerry Talton of Hannibal, MO; Junior Raymond White, Christopher Ray White, Kenneth D. White and Timmy Lee White, all of Keokuk; three daughters: Virginia Fortson of Chesapeake, Virginia; Regina L. Yates of Keokuk and Contennia M. (Chris) Tripp of Omaha, Nebraska; one sister: Louise Marie Talton of Atlanta, Georgia; and several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Edna is preceded in death by her parents, three brothers and one sister.

Funeral services will be held at 2 pm on Friday, June 18, 2021, at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk, with burial following at Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk. Visitation will be held from Noon until 2 pm on Friday at the funeral home directly before the service.

Memorials may be directed to Feed the Children.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com. DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.

OBITUARIES

ROBERT L. ESCHMAN

Robert L. Eschman, 80, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 14, 2021 at Fort Madison Community Hospital. He was born on July 5, 1940



ESCHMAN

in Fort Madison, IA to Willis & Leila Tollman Eschman. He married Barbara E. Davidson on March 3, 1961 in Fort Madison, IA. She preceded him in death on June 13, 1992. He retired as a captain with the State of Iowa Department of Corrections.

He served in the U.S. Navy and was an avid Yankee's baseball fan. He was a member of the Fort Madison Eagles Club & Moose Lodge and enjoyed watching car racing, going out to eat and traveling.



Bob is survived by: 2-daughters: Tammy (James) Kent of Fort Madison, IA & Melissa (Craig) Garner of Clarinda, IA; 3-grandchildren: Amanda (Andrew) Howell of St. Louis, MO, Emily Moore of Fort Madison, IA & Eric Kent of Madison Heights, MI; 4-great grandchildren: Henry, Quintyn, Sawyer & Owen; 1-brother: Rodney Eschman of Burlington, IA; 2-sisters: Bonnie Mueller of Muscatine, IA & Letha (Jim) Barnes of Paxton, IL. He was preceded in death by his parents and wife.

Visitation will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Friday, June 18, 2021 with the funeral service to immediately follow at 10:30 a.m. at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Les Featheringill officiating. Burial will be held in Oakland Cemetery with military rites performed by the Fort Madison Veterans Honor Guard. A memorial has been established in his memory. Online condolences to Bob's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

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.

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Lee County Health Department Community Pop-up Clinic Schedule

These clinics are designed to reach those who might not have had the opportunity to receive their COVID vaccine yet. The schedule will be updated as more clinics are added.

- June 15, 2021 - First Christian Church, Keokuk, Drive-thru 4:00pm-7:00pm J&J only
- June 17, 2021 - Mississippi Terrace Keokuk, 11:00am-Noon J&J only
- June 17, 2021 - Hawkeye Village & Park Apartments, Keokuk 1:00pm-3:00pm, J&J only
- June 17, 2021 - Ivanhoe Apartments & Hillview Village Fort Madison 1:00pm-3:00pm, J&J only
- June 19, 2021 - Juneteenth, Rand Park Keokuk, 1:00pm-3:00pm J&J only



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For the Record/From the Front

Reynolds didn't practice transparency when making COVID decisions

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

ure to provide advance notification to states places an undue burden on our law enforcement partners to determine whether these types of flights constitute a criminal act of human trafficking or the federally-sponsored transport of vulnerable children.”

I agree with the governor. Transparency is better than secrecy, with rare exceptions. And a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing is an appropriate means of getting on-the-record answers from homeland security and from health and human services officials.

But the governor would be wise to go back and reread her letter to Grassley.

This time, she should put herself in the shoes of so many local government officials, school leaders and county public health officials in Iowa who were caught by surprise when the governor announced decisions during the Covid pandemic without bothering to first loop local officials in on what was coming.

These local officials were left scrambling at the last minute to adapt to her decisions, sometimes with only a few hours to act.

This is no way for the federal government to act. Likewise, it is no way for state government to act, either.

For example, public school officials in Iowa awoke on the morning of May 20 to learn that after midnight the governor had signed into a law legislation prohibiting school districts and local governments from continuing to require masks to be worn.

By the time principals and superintendents awoke, the law already was in force and their policies and practices had to change before classes began just a few hours later.

They had precious little time to inform their employees about the new law and how to handle mask issues arising that

day.

In January, Reynolds signed a new law requiring public and private school districts to make in-person classes available five days a week to parents who choose that option for their children — even though some school districts had been struggling for weeks with shortages of substitute teachers, bus drivers and lunchroom workers.

Reynolds decided in April to return \$95 million to the federal government that had been provided for Covid tests in Iowa schools, from kindergarten through college. The governor said the money was not needed — although school leaders said she had not conferred with them before making that decision.

Dr. Eli Perencevich, an epidemiologist at the University of Iowa, told reporters after the governor's action became public that routine Covid testing of students and employees could help slow the spread of the disease.

Such testing could help prevent the Covid outbreak in Iowa City in the spring when hundreds of K-12 students were infected with the virus or exposed to it, he said. Similar outbreaks could continue this fall because many Iowans, especially children, have not been vaccinated.

While some people disagree with the decisions Reynolds made, and others believe she acted appropriately each time, one indisputable fact remains:

The governor did not have the same focus on looping local officials in ahead of time so they had adequate time to change their policies and practices. And in the end, that is what she was criticizing the Biden administration for failing to do.

I doubt Reynolds wants an investigation of her actions, however.

Randy Evans is the Executive Director of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council and can be reached at DMRe-evans2810@gmail.com. Pen City Current is a member of the IFOIC.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

06/14/21 – 3:35 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Kimberly Michelle Brewer, 41, of Fort Madison, in the 3000 block of Avenue P, on a charge of driving while barred. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
06/14/21 – 3:44 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Benjamin Steven Hobbs, 36, of Fort Madison, at the Lee County Probation office, on a warrant for possession of a controlled substance. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
06/14/21 – 9:10 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested a 16-year-old male juvenile, of Fort Madison, at the police station, on a charge of simple assault. He was released on a promise to appear.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

06/14/21 – 2:06 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Deontrey Jakerion McClenan, 27, of Palmetto, LA, in the 2100 block of 330th Avenue, on a charge of violating a no contact order and domestic abuse assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance.

06/14/21 – 4:11 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kelly Ann McIntyre, 53, of Fort Madison, no location given, on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
06/14/21 – 9:48 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Steven Joe Lamb, 56, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
06/14/21 – 11:16 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Joshua Allen Loveless, 36, of Keokuk, in the 2900 block of Hwy. 61 in Montrose, on a warrant for 5th-degree theft. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
06/15/21 – 6:26 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Keith Michael Boyle, 30, of Keokuk, no location given, on a charge of trespassing. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue

06/13/21 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls.
06/14/21 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
MAY 10, 2021**

The Lee County Board of Supervisors met at the Lee County Office Building, on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Matt Pflug, Rick Larkin and Garry Seyb. Present electronically was Rich Harlow.

All votes are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

The Board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Larkin, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Public Input-Mary Van-Pelt, Montrose, asked the Board if the current Lee County EMS employees will have to apply with the County service. Seyb affirmed that they will.

Justin Pieper with Group Benefit Partners gave the Board an update on the County's benefits. Moved by Seyb, seconded by Larkin, to approve a 4% increase in dental insurance premiums with Met Life. Motion carried.

There was no action taken on approval to

display a turbine from the Keokuk dam in Estes Park. There will be a special meeting later in the week to discuss this.

Moved by Harlow, seconded by Seyb, to renew a 28E Agreement with Central Lee School District for the Resource Officer program. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Larkin, to approve an annual Fiscal Agent Agreement with Children First. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Harlow, to approve a contract with Cessford Construction

for road gravel from the Donnellson Quarry in the amount of \$600,000.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Larkin, to approve a contract with Cessford Construction for road gravel from the Beach and Geode Quarry in the amount of \$714,000.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Harlow, seconded by Seyb, to approve a quote for corrugated metal culverts from Metal Culverts Inc., Monmouth, Illinois, in the amount of \$51,556.70. Motion carried. One other quote was received from

Illowa Culvert and Supply, Low Moor, Iowa, in the amount of \$55,858.00.

Moved by Larkin, seconded by Seyb, to approve a Budget Amendment and set Monday, May 24, 2021 at 9:01 a.m. as the date and time for Public Hearing on the amendment. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Larkin, to approve the EMS Employee Handbook. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Larkin, to approve a Real Estate and Asset Purchase Agreement with Lee

County EMS for purchase of the ambulance bases, equipment and supplies. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Larkin, to approve an amendment to the Communications and Services Agreement with Motorola for the Communication Equipment. Motion carried.

Moved by Larkin, seconded by Seyb, to approve Resolution #2021-67. Roll call: Larkin-aye, Seyb-aye, Harlow-aye and Pflug-aye. Motion carried.

Resolution #2021-67 RESOLUTION ABATING CERTAIN TAXES

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

AND DIRECTING THE TREASURER TO REMOVE THE PROPERTY FROM THE COUNTY SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Lee County Treasurer has submitted a written application for removal of a certain mobile home from the county system and the abatement of the taxes as uncollectible; and

WHEREAS, Section 445.16 provides in its material part:

If the Treasurer determines that it is impractical to pursue collection of the total amount due through tax sale and the personal judgment remedies, the treasurer shall make a written recommendation to the board of supervisors to abate the amounts due. The board of supervisors shall abate, by resolution, the amount due and direct the treasurer to strike the amount due from the county system.

Accordingly, NOW THEREFORE, based upon the written request by the Treasurer of Lee County pursuant to section 445.16 the Board of Supervisors hereby by this Resolution abates the amount due and directs the Treasurer to strike

the amount due from the county system on the following mobile home. The mobile home shall be removed from the county system.

Owner: Geraldine Roi Yurth
1967 NYK Mobile Home
Title No #56AB40693N
Vin: 2807

Dated and signed at Fort Madison, Iowa on this the 10th day of May, 2021.

/s/ Matt Pflug, Chairman. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, County Auditor.
Moved by Seyb, seconded by Harlow, to approve a Class C Liquor License with Outdoor Service and Sunday Sales, for Papa's Bar and Grill, Keokuk, for the period June 2, 2021 through June 1, 2022. Motion carried.

Moved by Larkin, seconded by Seyb, to approve the Monday, May 3, 2021 Board minutes. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Larkin, to approve the payment of claims. Motion carried.
Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to ap-

prove a new hire for the Sheriff's Office, Brittany Burdette, Correctional Officer, \$17.67/hr., effective 5/10/21 and a new hire for the Health Department, Rachel Heidbreder, Dental Assistant, \$16.50/hr., effective 5/27/21. Motion carried.

Received and filed the Treasurer's Report of Fees Collected for the month of April 2021.

Committee Reports: Seyb reported on a Department Head meeting and a Pioneer Cemetery Commission meeting. Pflug reported on a Board of Health meeting. Harlow requested an update from Children First Director Ginger Knisley.

At 10:30 a.m. a motion was made by Seyb, seconded by Larkin, to adjourn. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Matt Pflug, Chairman
Attest: Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor

Amazon, splys	159.96	1095.00	
Am Trst Rtrmt, fees	943.50	Hrtrcks Lmbr, parts	102.11
Amerigroup, rfrnd	1296.43	Home Thrpy, svcs	2732.30
J Baier, svcs	183.35	ICS Jail Splys, splys	227.42
Blades/Green, svcs	1063.00	IA DOT, svcs	61.52
D Bryant, rent	63.00	IA Law Enfmt, ed	425.00
CR WinPump, splys	231.60	IA Prison Ind, splys	1265.25
Central Svcs, splys	3986.46	IA Sec/St, DP svcs	9977.33
CenturyLink, svcs	10.10	J&S Elec Bus, splys	68.15
Coast/Coast, mtrl	64.99	T Jcbsmr, exps	400.00
Connection, ins	318.00	Jays Auto, svcs	71.73
CJ Cooper, svcs	105.00	Jet Gas, fuel	5677.94
D Coovrt, svcs	80.00	Kempkers, splys ...	101.07
Cullen Pest, svcs	159.00	Kieslers Pol, unif	1451.00
Cummins Ctr, svcs	683.39	Knapheide, equip	21.63
Dnnlsln Tire, svcs	54.45	Khlmrgn Hlg, svcs	501.25
Dble A Glass, svcs	304.00	Lawson Prdcts, splys	651.12
Drake Hdwr, svcs	997.50	LeeCo Auditor, trfs	14825.80
Electr Engrg, svcs	450.00	LeeCo Treas, costs	21694.16
EMSLRC, edu	299.00	McFarlands, splys	85.47
EOR IA LLC, cntb	228.75	Metal Clvrts, mtrl	15787.20
Fdrl Engrng, svcs	10910.00	MetLife Dntl, ins	90.30
Fidelity Sec, ins	27.82	Frank Millard, svcs	550.00
Floyds, svcs	60.00	Mutual Whl, parts	627.85
T Forseen, svcs	91.86	T Oberman, exps	31.42
FMCH, svcs	86.40	Omega Lab, svcs	300.00
Galls, splys	56.99	OMG MW, svcs	1311.29
N Granaman, svcs	1292.33	Onmedia, adv	774.00
GRRWA, svcs	5435.61	M Park, exps	34.32
Grp Bnft Prtnrs, svcs	3186.00	M Pflug, exps	13.50
Grntd Cln, svcs	2176.00	Pctmtry ltrnl, svcs	33841.07
Hall Excvtng, svcs	400.00	Prairie Farms, splys	190.40
Hnck Co Hlth, svcs	4168.20	Quad City Tstg, svcs	200.00

Claims paid May 10, 2021

Advd Radiator, parts	810.55
Agrineed, splys	647.50
Alliant Enrgy, svcs	4168.20

HELP WANTED

MANAGERS/ STAFF WANTED

Ready to get back to work?! Brad's Pad in West Point is looking for management and wait staff.

Positions include day and evening managers. Varied work days.

Day shift manager is from 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. and 4-5 p.m. Starting at \$15/hour.

Evening manager positions are from 5-9 p.m. Sun.-Thu. and 5-10 p.m. Fri.-Sat. Starting at \$12/hour.

Waitstaff needed from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. weekdays and 11 a.m.- 5 p.m. on weekends. Evening shifts are from 5-9 p.m. Sun.-Thu, and 5-10 p.m. Fri.-Sat.

Apply at Brad's Pad
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HELP WANTED

LEE COUNTY SECONDARY ROADS HELP WANTED

DESIGN ASSISTANT TO ENGINEER

Lee County is taking applications for a Design Assistant to Engineer to work out of our Fort Madison, Iowa office. Duties will include development of projects, preparing engineering plans and specifications for road-related construction or maintenance projects and serving as project lead inspector on construction projects, including directing and supervising contractors and County employees. Wage based on experience and qualifications.

Lee County provides equal opportunity in employment to all persons regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion or disability.

To apply, download an application from our county website, www.leecounty.org or request one from the Engineer office, and return your completed application, along with a resume to: Lee County Engineer, P.O. Box 158, Fort Madison, IA 52627, or email it to engineer@leecounty.org. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

If you have any questions please contact Lee County Engineer, Ben Hull, at (319) 372-2541 or email him at engineer@leecounty.org.



HELP WANTED

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT PART-TIME

The City of Fort Madison is taking applications for a Part-Time Administrative Assistant for the Planning, Zoning, Building and Fire Departments. Duties include answering the telephone, billing for the fire department and housing and nuisance abatement programs. The position will also respond to routine questions and requests regarding the rental housing inspection program, nuisance abatement, permits and zoning regulations as well as coordinate the rental program and assist with nuisance abatement paperwork. A complete job description is available at www.fortmadison-ia.com.

The City of Fort Madison provides equal opportunity in employment to all persons regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion or disability.

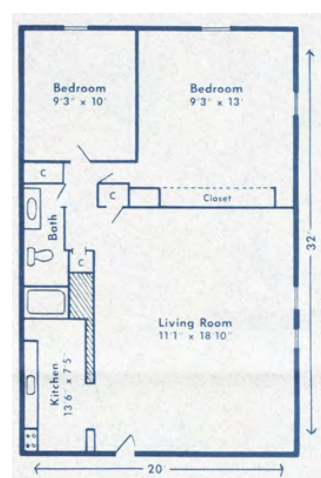
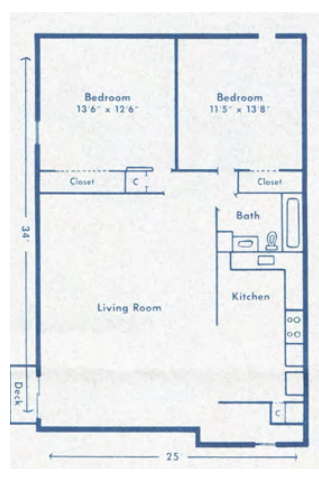
Persons interested in the position must apply no later than 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 6, 2021, at Iowa Works at www.iowaworks.org.



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Obituaries/Sports

Pothitakis named SEC boys Player of the Year

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The Bloodhounds’ Mitchell Pothitakis was named Southeast Iowa Conference Player of the Year for the 2021 boys season.

Pothitakis leads a group of five other Bloodhounds named to the All-Conference squad including Jacob Pothitakis, Xander Wellman, Phillip Goldie, Chandler Rung and Will Gager. Rung is the only senior Bloodhound on the list.

Will Larson and Alex Steffensmeier were both named Honorable Mention. Steffensmeier, Gager, Larson, Wellman, Goldie, Mitchell Pothitakis, Rung and Austin Miller were all selected to the Academic All-Conference list.

As Player of the Year, Pothitakis led all classes in assists in the state with 39, in points with 105, and penalty kicks with 12. He was fifth overall in total shots with 115.

Wellman was fourth in the state in all classes with assists with 23. He was 11th in points with 81. Jacob Pothitakis was 12th in total points with 79.

Fort Madison made it all the way to the substate finals where they lost to Pella 1-0 in a penalty kick session after two overtimes couldn’t produce a winner. The Hounds lost that session 3-0.

Fort Madison finished the year 16-2 with the only losses coming to Pella and Class 1A state champion Burlington Notre Dame, both in overtime penalty kick sessions. The Hounds were a perfect 10-0 in conference play claiming the conference title.

On the girls side, Claire Pothitakis and Brandy Walker were named All-Conference. Taylor Crabtree and Mary Kate Bendlage were both listed as honorable mention.

Alyssa Fincher, Morgen Meierotto, Brandy Walker, Lily Scott, Olivia Shields, Pothitakis and Crabtree all were listed on the Academic All-Conference list.

Pothitakis was tops in the SEC with 30 goals and points with 65. Walker was second in assists with nine on the year.

Fort Madison’s girls finished over .500 at 8-7 on the year overall winning 7 of their last 10, and had a 3-5 mark in Southeast Conference action.



OBITUARIES

BEVERLY A. BECKERT

Beverly A. Beckert, 87 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at The Madison, Fort Madison, Iowa. She was born June 24, 1933 at Fort Madison, Iowa, a daughter of Paul P. and Louise C. (Niggemeyer) Hoenig. On September 29, 1956, she married Francis B. Beckert at Fort Madison, Iowa. He preceded her in death August 26, 2007.

Benerly was a homemaker and a lifelong resident of Fort Madison. She was a member of Holy Family Parish and the Alter and Rosary Society. She enjoyed walking and working with her flowers.

She was survived by her son, Paul J. Beckert of Fort Madison; two sisters: Darlene L. Rouse of Denmark, Iowa and Peggy A. (Mike) Bowen of Fort Madison; one brother: Roger W. (Alice) Hoenig, of Fort Madison, Iowa; nieces, a nephew and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, one infant brother Wayne, two brothers, Gary Hoenig and Ronald P. Hoenig, and two sisters, Barbara J Russell and Patricia A Kay.

Friends may join the family for visitation from 9:30 – 10:30 am Thursday, June 17, 2021 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Holy Family Parish, Fort Madison. Mass of Christian Burial will follow and begin at 10:30 am Thursday, June 17, 2021 at Sacred Heart Church, Holy Family Parish, with Rev. Joseph Phung as Celebrant. Burial will be at Gethsemane Cemetery, Fort Madison, Iowa. A memorial has been established for Holy Family Parish, contributions may be made at Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison or at the church the day of the service. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Beckert Family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

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From the Front

Correction in neglect and abuse is generational in nature

NEGLECT - Continued from Page 1

cil of Lee County has been in place for several decades, but correcting generational child maltreatment is a process that requires diligence and patience.

"I wouldn't say the programming has been ineffective by no means. This is a really hard issue to impact," she said.

"There's a lot of stigma associated with substance abuse, poverty, and the risk factors involved – there's even a lot of stigma and embarrassment involved in asking for help. I think every parent feels like they could be better for their kids – so how can we support them in doing that?"

Neglect is defined by welfare officials as lack of action by a care provider. Abuse is an act by the parent or caregiver, Kramer-Riesberg said that's an important distinction to make at the outset.

"Maltreatment includes both. We're talking about meeting a child's basic needs. Historically this has been a concern for Lee County," she said.

"But it's a process and it's certainly not going to happen overnight. There's no magical solution to this."

According to a 2020 report from the Iowa Department of Human Services, Lee County had 259 cases of reported neglect, 148 instances of a child having a dangerous substance (92nd of 99 counties), 19 cases of physical abuse, 44 cases where there was presence of illegal drugs in the child's system, 18 reported cases of sexual abuse, 3 instances where a registered sex offender had access to a child, and one instance of child trafficking – for a total of 492 reported incidents.

She said the issue has to be taken in by the community, in this case Lee County, and there has to be coordinated efforts in many different areas with different services and support to meet it head on.

"We have to break this really strong chain and cycle and it's hard to do," Kramer-Riesberg said. "The good thing is we have had fantastic community members that have been pushing this for years. They are passionate about it and continue to do prevention work even if the impact isn't noticeable in the numbers."

One of the biggest hurdles Kramer-Riesberg has discovered in the first year of the grant program is that parents are apprehensive about asking for help. She said at some level everyone can use support.

"Every parent needs help. Whether it's from friends or family, or the food pantry. And just because you ask for help doesn't mean you aren't trying," she said.

"Sometimes it means you have tried everything you know and it hasn't worked. Don't be afraid to ask for advice and to ask for help. Your kids will pick up on your efforts to learn and grow, and they will do the same. They will be less fearful in asking you or teachers for help – it's a ripple effect."

As part of the grant program, community input is large part of the process and Kramer-Riesberg said she is looking for any and all ideas from county residents.

"How can we improve community support for one another? What do people need help with? How can agencies make it easier for people to ask for help? How can we increase awareness of the resources available in Lee County?" she said.

"I highly encourage any one who wants to learn more about what we are doing, or has input to share to call LCHD at 319-372-5225 and ask for, or email me."

Her email is at bkramer-riesberg@leecountyhd.org.

A county survey conducted this year generated approximately 300 responses. Kramer-Riesberg said those were predominantly completed by white females so it's a small subgroup of the demographic. But she said it did provide important input for the strategic plan phase.

About 50% of the respondents said they had or may have experience financial in-



security in the past year. 75% said they had or maybe had experienced mental health issues such as stress or depression.

Next month, an Empower Families Workgroup will be starting a strategic planning process based on data from the survey and other reports that has been synthesized by Oltmans.

Part of that process will be highlighting some of the strengths that Lee County has including a wide array of programs and effort related to the identified concerns of child maltreatment and protective factors.

Participants in a surveys already conducted in the county said there is a need to build on the strength of existing child maltreatment prevention efforts and programs, such as LCHD's 1st Five Healthy Mental Development Initiative.

The program is a collaborative effort to help new parents navigate their child's mental well-being for the first five years. More information on that program and the more than 14 countywide resources for parents and children, click here: <http://leecountyhd.org/index.php/comm/1st-five-healthy-mental/resources/>

Kramer-Riesberg said she is hopeful that the numbers can undergo a correction, but it will take a coordinated and collaborative effort to gain ground.

"I am optimistic that we won't always see these numbers. It does come back to several factors. The generational poverty, mental health, access to health care, cultural factors, and limited economic growth opportunities," she said.

"It's not just one factor that leads to abuse and neglect, it's a lot of factors working together. I hesitate to say we would see these numbers forever."

Clear30 contracts help improve water quality, nutrient runoff

CRP - Continued from Page 1

"Offering CLEAR30 in all states enables durable maintenance of conservation investments and enhanced stewardship of the land and waterways on a larger scale."

These long-term contracts ensure that practices remain in place for 30 years, which improves water quality through reducing sediment and nutrient runoff and helping prevent algal blooms.

About CLEAR30

CLEAR30 was created by the 2018 Farm Bill to better address water quality concerns. Originally, CLEAR30 was only available in the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay watersheds. Now, access is expanded to agricultural producers nationwide.

Eligible producers must have certain water quality benefitting practices currently enrolled under continuous CRP or through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), under contracts that are expiring on September

30, 2021.

These Long-term contracts will help ensure that conservation impacts and benefits remain in place for 30 years, reducing sediment and nutrient runoff and, ultimately, algal blooms. Conservation in riparian areas also provides important carbon sequestration benefits. Traditional CRP contracts run from 10 to 15 years.

Annual rental payments for landowners who enroll in CLEAR30 will be equal to the current Continuous CRP annual payment rate plus a 20% water quality incentive and annual rate adjustment of 27.5%.

How to Sign Up

To sign up for CLEAR30, contact your local USDA Service Center by August 6, 2021. While USDA offices may be closed to visitors because of the pandemic, Service Center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. To conduct busi-

ness, please contact your local USDA Service Center. Contact information can be found at farmers.gov/service-locator.

More Information

CLEAR30 is an option available through CRP, which is one of the world's largest voluntary conservation programs with a long track record of preserving topsoil, sequestering carbon and reducing nitrogen runoff, as well providing healthy habitat for wildlife.

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is engaged in a whole-of-government effort to combat the climate crisis and conserve and protect our nation's lands, biodiversity, and natural resources including our soil, air and water. As such, CLEAR30 contracts receive a water quality incentive and a climate-smart practice incentive. Through conservation practices and partnerships, USDA aims to enhance economic growth and create new streams of income for farmers, ranchers, producers, and private foresters. Successfully meeting these challenges will re-

quire USDA and our agencies to pursue a coordinated approach alongside USDA stakeholders, including state, local, and tribal governments.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America.

To enroll in CLEAR30, please contact your local USDA Service Center. For more information on CRP, visit the Conservation Reserve Program.

FMCH Foundation
GOLF
CLASSIC



June 18, 2021

Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course

Schedule of events

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Tee Off

5:00 p.m. Dinner

6:00 p.m. Awards

6:30 p.m. Golf Ball Drop

Fireworks to follow.



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