

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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www.pencitycurrent.com

Council eyes tourism funds

IS IT WORTH IT?: Mayor, Bowker question \$40K spend for tourism salary

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The money spent annually on marketing and tourism out of Fort Madison's Hotel/Motel tax receipts is under fire from several city elected officials.

According to the city's annual budget for 2020-21 ending June 30, the city expected to receive about \$209,000 during the year, but City Manager David Varley said that number is down about 40%. The city carried a balance of \$110,000 from the previous year.

Approximately \$40,000 is spent on salaries and benefits for the city's part-time marketing director Jean Peiton.

At Tuesday's City Council meeting, Councilwoman Rebecca



BOWKER



MOHRFELD

that, but in times where it's tough we have some significant dollars going out and I'm just hoping and wondering that we're spending it correctly."

Bowker asked pointedly what the city gets for that investment.

"Part of my concern is that we've got \$40,000 budgeted for salary and benefits. What do we actually do with that money to put heads in beds," she said.

"Jean's a nice person and all

that, but in times where it's tough we have some significant dollars going out and I'm just hoping and wondering that we're spending it correctly."

See TOURISM, page 8



New venture adds to Hesse story

Stepping into the historic Hesse building again on the northeast corner of 7th and Avenue G sent all my senses into an overload of sorts last week.

I met Angela Hedges over there for a piece on her new wine and whiskey parlor that's coming this summer. I might spend a little time and money there. I'm sure I can find my way home on the three-block walk without having to sleep under a bush.

Those who know me well, know that story. If you don't – be sure to ask the next time you see me on the golf course or the sidelines. I can tease ya with this – it was a dark and stormy night on the campus of Western Illinois....

That's a story I can laugh about with my therapist. And will probably give him more insight than he bargained for.

Anyway, memories are what they are. The colorful reel of our lives of discretion, abandon, adventure, and for the religious, maybe even sin.

But they also bring us to a place of sensory emotion. How good it felt to walk into the Ivy on a spring afternoon and sit down to a cup of butternut squash soup and a long piece of buttered, dill bread. Maybe even a spring turkey wrap. And if you left without Martha Wolf's Caramel Apple Tart, your food IQ is at idiot level.

Walking in with Angela made me miss Strawberry Rhubarb pie and a cup of coffee, sitting at the window and looking out at the history of Avenue G/Main Street/Market Street whatever you want to call it.

One of the photos I took was of her looking out those tall arched windows onto the street. It was a portrait for the most part, but when I pulled it up on the computer, I saw something in her. A gaze that said all at once, this is great and is this gonna work?

We've opened up 10 new businesses pre- and post-pandemic downtown. Some have closed already, most have stayed open and they are doing it their way. Random hours, which is good... and bad. It makes us constantly check to see if Major Oak has

See CORKS, page 9



Courtesy photo

Students in an Agricultural Education Horticulture course at Central Lee assisted Mrs. Boeck's Kindergarten class planting sunflower seeds recently. The students were taught how to properly plant and the requirements for proper seed germination.

Fairfield wrestling coach finds special place for neckties

Ralph Messerli of Fairfield hates ties. But being a high school principal, guidance counselor, coach and teacher, he had to wear one. Over his 42 years in the public school system, first at Cardinal of Eldon for two years, and the remainder at Fairfield, he accumulated a collection (or mess) of 95 ties.

You see, Ralph was a wrestler in high school and college, which was NW Missouri State at Maryville (go Bearcats!). As a wrestler he worked out a lot in the weight

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



room. (He is 80 years old now but still quite fit.) Weight lifting builds muscle mass and, well, a thick neck. Ties and a closed collar were just not Ralph's comfort zone.

Therefore, when Ralph retired, he told his

wife, Linda, "No more ties for me, by golly."

But what to do with them? Ralph wanted to throw them all out or better yet, burn them. Linda suggested taking them to Goodwill but Ralph nixed that. He didn't want to be walking down the street and see someone with one of his ties on. He had a lot of easily recognizable special occasion ties, like Christmas, St. Patrick's Day, and the 4th of July.

Then Linda thought about her sister-

See SWARM, page 9

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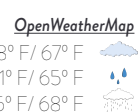
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WEATHER

MON 07 Jun Overcast, 78° F / 67° F
TUE 08 Jun Rain, 81° F / 65° F
WED 09 Jun Light Rain, 85° F / 68° F
IOWA LOTTERY
LOTTO AMERICA 06/05.....13 16 19 39 44, Star Ball: 5, All Star Bonus: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE 06/03.....11 19 22 29 48, Lucky Ball: 6
MEGA MILLIONS 06/04.....4 30 34 41 64, Mega Ball: 8 Megaplier: 3
PICK 3 06/03, 06/04, 06/05 MIDDAY.....9 6 2, 2 7 3, 3 0 7
PICK 3 06/03, 06/04, 06/05 EVENING.....7 6 6, 10 6, 8 2 0
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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

VELDA A. COOVERT

Velda Agnes Coovert, 89 of Keokuk, IA, died Saturday, May 29, 2021 at Blessing Health Keokuk.

She was born on August 12, 1931 in Eolia, MO, the daughter of Robert and Florence Graham O'Shea. She was raised by her mother and step-father, Florence and Marvin Ransdell.



COOVERT

On July 22, 1950, Velda was united in marriage to Robert V. Coovert in Keokuk. He preceded her in death on January 25, 2015.

Velda had been employed at several Keokuk business, Rexall Drug-store, the Knotty Pine, Woolworths and the Carousel.

She was a faithful member of the Evangelical Free Church in Keokuk. She was very active in her church, sang in the choir and was a member of the Women's Missionary Society.

Velda was an excellent seamstress and sewed dresses and other clothing for her girls. She was a wonderful cook and everyone loved to come to her house to eat. She enjoyed reading, was a great story teller and had beautiful penmanship. She and her husband, Robert enjoyed boating, motorcycling, traveling and taking the back roads on their trips. They especially enjoyed traveling to Alaska to visit family.

She is survived by two daughters, Cindy (Dale) Sanders of Keokuk and Peggy (Phillip) Gilliland of Soddy Daisy, TN, six grandchildren, Chad (Jan) Sanders, Rob (Shannon) Sanders, Wendy (Kyle) Fuhrman, Amber (Randy) Teeters, Andy (Misty) Gilliland, Emma (Ryan) Wroughton, seven great-grandchildren, Ashlynn Diane Sanders, Christian Matthew Sanders, Olivia Kate Sanders, Gabrielle Grace Sanders, Austin Louis Vastano, Nolah Amber Fuhrman and Noah Andrew Gilliland. She is also survived by one brother Marvin Henry (Mary) Ransdell III of Keokuk and several nieces and nephews.

Besides her husband, Velda was also preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, James (Rita) Ransdell and Alfred Ransdell.

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m. Friday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with Pastor Rob Sanders officiating. Burial will be in the Keokuk National Cemetery.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Thursday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with the family meeting with friends from 6 - 8 p.m. Masks are strongly recommended and required for those not fully vaccinated.

Memorials may be made to WTJR Christian TV Station or the Quincy Humane Society.

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

OBITUARIES

BARBARA A. HOLTKAMP

Barbara Ann Holtkamp, 87, of Donnellson, Iowa, passed away at 1:38 p.m. Sunday, May 30, 2021, at her home.

She was born on December 29, 1933, in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of Theodore and Dorothy (Sontag) Vonderhaar. On June 9, 1956, she married Melvin "Mel" Bernard Holtkamp at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point. He preceded her in death on May 27, 2008.



HOLTKAMP

Survivors include one son: Michael (Diane) Holtkamp of West Point; four daughters: Terri (Michael) Heath of Watkinsville, Georgia, Lori (Bill) Berger of Coralville, Iowa; Amie (Jerry) Stukerjurgan of Salem, Iowa and Sue (Jeff) Klein of Burlington, Iowa; seventeen grandchildren; thirteen great grandchildren; one sister: Rosie Brune of West Burlington, Iowa; one brother: Larry (Diane) Vonderhaar of Burlington, Iowa; one sister-in-law: Velda Vonderhaar of West Point, Iowa. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband: Mel; one grandson: Brent Heath; one granddaughter: Beth Stukerjurgan; two sisters: Elaine and Imelda; two brothers: Gene and Don; one sister-in-law: Lucy Vonderhaar and two brothers-in-law: John Bushman and Bill Brune.

Barb was a graduate of St. Mary's Catholic School and a 1954 graduate of Mercy School of Nursing. She was member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in West Point, the Altar and Rosary Society of the church and the Green Acres Country Club. She worked as a nurse from 1954 until her retirement in 2000. After her retirement, she volunteered for Lee County Hospice for eighteen years. She also volunteered at the Donnellson Library and served on the library board. She loved being a nurse and caring for others through her volunteer work. Barb enjoyed golfing, reading and playing cards with her long time friends. Family was very important to her. Most of all, Barb loved her grandchildren and great grandchildren and enjoyed attending their events.

Friends may call after 12:00 noon, Wednesday, June 2, 2021, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point, where the family will receive friends from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A parish rosary will be recited at 6:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, June 3, 2021, at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point with Father Dennis Hoffman as celebrant. Mass will be live streamed on the church Facebook page and posted on her obituary "Tribute Wall" on our website following the service at: www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com. Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery in West Point.

Memorials have been established in her memory for the Donnellson Library or Green Acres Pool Fund. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com. Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements.

ROBERT OVERSTREET, SR

Robert Overstreet Sr. was pronounced dead due to natural causes at 5:46 p.m. on Friday, May 28, 2021 at the Iowa State Penitentiary. Overstreet was 87 years old at the time of his death. Overstreet had been serving a life sentence for the crime of Murder 2nd Degree from Scott County. His sentence began on April 8, 1971.

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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Obituaries/Health News

OBITUARIES

JACK L. RAY

Jack Lee Ray, 79, of Keokuk, died Saturday, May 29, 2021 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL. He was born on December 22, 1941 in Ottumwa, IA the son of Eugene Francis and Ruth Ethel Brown Ray. He married Terry French in 1999 in Davenport, IA. She survives.



RAY

He is also survived by three sons, Ralph "Pete" Ray of Fairfield, IA, Jeremiah Ray of Richland, IA and Robert Rosenow of Keokuk, one daughter, Amanda Gommels of Steele, KY, four grandchildren, Pamela and Dale Gommels and Greenlee and Gabriel Ray. He is also survived by one sister, Barbara Harden of Bennett, IA and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one son, Wayne Wilcox, two grandchildren, Julia and Benjamin Gommels, two sisters and two brothers.

Jack was a veteran of the United States Army and proudly served his country in the Vietnam War. He had been employed in road construction for McAninch Corporation before his retirement.

Jack loved working on small motors and going fishing every chance he had. He was an avid gardener and loved growing tomatoes. His motto was "the bigger the better" when it came to tomatoes.



A Gathering of Remembrance will be held from 2-4 p.m. Wednesday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with the family meeting with friends at that time. Masks are required for those who have not been vaccinated.

Burial with military rites will be in the Elm Grove Cemetery in Washington, IA.

The Vigen Memorial Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

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

HARLEY L. MOULTON

Harley Levi Moulton, 26, of Keokuk, IA died Monday, May 31, 2021 at the Bay Medical Center-Sacred Heart Health System in Panama City, FL.

He was born on October 18, 1994 in Keokuk, IA, the son of Diana Lynn Davis Moulton. He graduated from Keokuk High School with the Class of 2013.



MOULTON

Harley was currently employed at Steel Casting in Keokuk. Prior to that he had worked for Kohlmorgan Hauling in Keokuk.

Harley enjoyed playing pool, skateboarding and 4-wheeling. He also enjoyed video gaming and watching animated movies. Harley loved playing High School football and being part of the team. He was always at every practice and gave 110% even if he had to sit on the bench. Family was very important to Harley and some of his happiest times was hanging out with

family on Friday nights and celebrating at family birthday parties.

His family included his dog, Lucy, who was his faithful companion.

Harley was able to be an organ donor and his donation will provide hope and health to others in need.

He is survived by his mother, Diana Moulton (Charles Spiller) of Keokuk, two brothers, Nick Davis of Keokuk and Todd Sackman of Ottumwa, one niece, Marley Davis, two Nephews, Ryley Davis and Jameson Cizek, two aunts, Violet Spoore and Penny Davis both of Keokuk, two uncles, David Davis, Jr of Idaho and Raymond Davis of Keokuk. He is also survived by his best friends, Greg Mitchell, Ashley Mitchell and Brian Devericks all of Keokuk.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, David and Glorine Davis and one uncle, Garry Callahan.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Tuesday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk. Burial will be in the Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Monday at the funeral home with the family meeting with friends from 6 - 8 p.m. Masks are required for those who have not been vaccinated.

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

LCHD sets immunization clinics

LEE COUNTY - Lee County Health Department will be hosting a COVID-19 vaccine clinic on Wednesday, June 9 from 8:00am-4:00pm at LCHD, #3 John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison. At this clinic ALL three COVID vaccines will be available - Pfizer for anyone 12-years and older and Moderna and Johnson and Johnson for anyone 18-years and older. Appointments are encouraged by calling (319)372-5225.

LCHD will also be holding a Children's Immunization Clinic Thursday, June 10 2021 at Trinity United Methodist Church, 2330 Plank Road in Keokuk from 1-4:30 pm. Park on the south side of the building (the large parking lot) and enter in the door labeled HANDICAPPED.

The clinic is open to children who have no insurance, are insured by Iowa Medicaid (MCO) or those who have private health insurance that does not cover the cost of vaccines. Written parental consent is required for minors to receive vaccinations when in the care of another adult. (Please visit our website for a consent form.)

Free lead testing is available for all children ages 6 months to 6 years who reside in Iowa.

Please call 1-319-372-5225 with questions or visit our website at www.leecounty-hd.org.

At this time we are giving childhood immunizations by appointment only. Please call 319-372-5225 to schedule an appointment.

Pfizer COVID Vaccine will be available to anyone 12 years and older while supplies last.

Appointment not necessary for COVID Vaccination. 1-4:30pm.***



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Lee County Health Department
COVID Vaccine Clinic
Wednesday, June 9, 2021
LCHD, #3 John Bennett Dr, Fort Madison
8:00am-4:00 ~ appointments encouraged

LCHD will have the Pfizer (12 years & older), Moderna and Johnson & Johnson (18 years & older) available

Paperwork for the clinic can be found at www.leecountyhd.org or on the LCHD Facebook page.

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Celebrations

Birth Announcements

The following are birth announcements for the month of April courtesy of Fort Madison Community Hospital. Pen City Current congratulates all the families below on the wonderful news.

BUCKERT

HAMILTON – Jill and Bryan Buckert, of Hamilton, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Suttyn Grace Buckert, on April 5, 2021 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Suttyn is joined at home by Blake, Ally, Bryce, Brady and Beckham.

Grandparents are Bob and Cathy Dye of Keokuk; and Alice and the late Don Buckert of Elvaston.

SHEPLER

FORT MADISON – DeAnne Marshall and Jacob Shepler, of Fort Madison, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Adeena Raelene Shepler on April 19, 2021 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Adeena is joined by Triston, Landon, and Madison Marshall.

Grandparents are Aaron and Lisa Shepler of Fort Madison; Kim Kraft of Dallas City, Ill.; and William Protsman of Keokuk. Great-grandparents are Rich and Nancy Noon of Fort Madison; Mark and Caroline Shepler of Berryville, Ark.; Guy and Janice Kraft, and Erma Potts of Warsaw, Ill.

GARCIA

FORT MADISON – Lexys Jarrell and Andres Garcia, of Fort Madison, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Evelyn Christine Garcia, on April 19, 2021 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Grandparents are Angelic Newsom of Reynoldsburg, Ohio; Adria Garcia of Fort Madison; Holly Taylor of Keokuk; and Ty Jarrell of Keokuk.

RODEL

NAUVOO – Chelsea and Joe Rodel of Nauvoo are proud to announce the birth of their daughter McKinley Rue Rodel on April 28, 2021 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

McKinley joins Asher Rodel and Sutton Rodel at home.

POGGEMILLER

BURLINGTON – Paige and Jake Poggemiller, of Burlington, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Tauren Quinn Poggemiller on April 27, 2021 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Grandparents are Dawn Coffman of Fort Madison, and Tara and Steve Poggemiller of Burlington.

REU

DONNELSON – Lexy Bergthold and Brandon Reu, of Donnellson, are proud to announce the birth of their son Bowen Michael Reu on April 25, 2021 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Grandparents are Mike and Paula Reu of Donnellson; Jeff and Michele Bergthold of Morning Sun; and Ian and Amy Maclearn of Fort Madison. Great-grandparents are Richard and Deanna Reu of Donnellson, Shirley Martin of West Point; Jerilyn Bergthold of Hannibal, Mo.; and Linda and Kyle Knight of Fort Madison.

MCGRAW

WEST POINT – Megan and Wesley McGraw of West Point are proud to announce the birth of their son Easton Mitchell McGraw on April 22, 2021 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Easton is joined at home by Elijah and Everett McGraw.

Grandparents are Joe and Karen McGraw of Argyle; and Dean and Judy Moeller of West Point.

KEEFE

KEOKUK – Alice Tripp and Johnathon Keefe, of Keokuk, are proud to announce the birth of their son Izaac John Patrick Keefe, on April 30, 2021 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Izaac is joined at home by Michael and Aliecia Keefe.

Grandparents are Jessica Fuget Slemmons of Boonville, Ark.; Alicia Boyd of Arada, Calif.; and Pat Keefe of Keokuk. Great-grandparents are Alice R. Tripp of Keokuk; Kevin L. Tripp Sr. (deceased) of Keokuk; Alice Mahoney (deceased) of Keokuk; and Carol Boyd (deceased) of Kahoka.

STRAWHACKER

NEW LONDON – Jessica Wood and Cole Strawhacker, of New London, are proud to announce the birth of their son Kayson Wayne Strawhacker, on April 29, 2021 at Fort Madison Community Hospital. Kayson is joined at home by Kayla, Gavin and Bentley.

Grandparents are Mike and Shiree Strawhacker of New London; Kevin Wood of New London; and Deb Braun of New London. Great-grandparents are Mary and Gene Martin of New London.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
Agenda
DATE: Monday,
June 7, 2021
MEETING
CONVENING TIME:
9:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.
(CDT)
LOCATION:
933 Avenue H
Fort Madison, IA

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

<https://global.gotomeet.com/join/567883277>

You can also dial in using your phone.
 United States: +1 (312) 757-3121
 Access Code: 567-883-277

Pledge of Allegiance
 Approve Agenda
 Public Input
 Update on Lee County Resilient Community Project

Consider Approval to Replace Part-time Position in Treasurer's Office
 Consider Approval to Hire Additional Part-time Employee in Treasurer's Office

Consider Approval of Agreement with The Master's Touch for Tax Statement Mailing Services

Consider Approval of Bridge Embargo Resolution for Bridge Over Little Sugar Creek

Consider Approval to Replace Road Maintenance Worker I, Sign Specialist

Discuss and Consider Approval for Location of Board Meetings

Consider Approval of Cigarette Permit Applications from Wever Junction, Denmark Jet Stop, Gamer One Stop, and Montrose Dollar General

Consider Approval of Tuesday, June 1, 2021 Board Minutes

Consider Approval of Claims

Personnel Actions:
 A. Step Increase-Treasurer's Office

B. Step Increase-Secondary Roads

C. Merit Increase-Secondary Roads

D. Promotion-Treasurer's Office

E. Step Increase-Maintenance Department Reports:

A. Manure Management Annual Update for Squeal Inn in Harrison Township

B. Recorder's Report of Fees Collected

C. Treasurer's Report of Fees Collected

D. Auditor's Report of Fees Collected

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
Lee County
Conservation Board
Agenda
June 8, 2021
Lee County
Conservation Center
2652 Hwy 61
Montrose, IA 52639
4:00 p.m.

1. Call To Order
 2. Approval of Minutes from May 11, 2021
 3. Public Input

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

4. Presentation by Shive-Hattery Regarding Pollmiller Beach Redesign Project

5. Review and Take Possible Action on Service Agreement with Shive-Hattery for Poll-

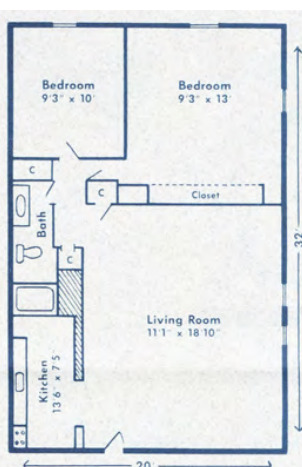
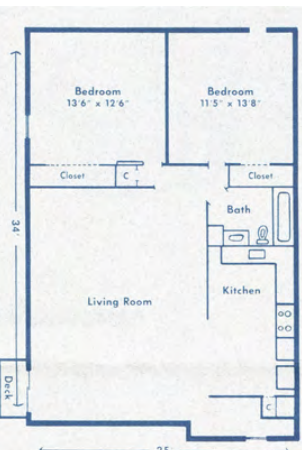
Miller Beach Redesign Project
 6. Approval of Bills
 7. Approval of Financial Report
 8. Review and Take Possible Action On Purchase of Used Mower
 9. Review and Take Possible Action On Bids For New Truck
 10. Review and Take Possible Action On Up-

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dated Job Descriptions
 11. Review and Take Possible Action On FY2022 Pay Scale
 12. Staff and Director Reports
 13. Board Members
 14. Adjournment

Workshop Following the Meeting

Next regular meeting

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.



will be July 13, 2021
 Hearing and vision assistance available upon request.

Citizens are welcome to

all LCCB meetings.

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 Support your local business community!

HELP WANTED



Want a career in the Criminal Justice field?

Consider a Correctional Officer position at Iowa State Penitentiary, Ft. Madison, IA

Wondering if you can be a correctional officer?

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Graduation from high school, GED, or equivalency. Degree in Criminal Justice helpful but not necessary. Ability to pass a background check (minor charges considered), a drug urinalysis, and an online profile assessment test.

JOB DESCRIPTION: Once fully trained, Correctional Officers can make a lasting impact on an incarcerated person's life while also helping maintain safe and secure correctional facilities. New Correctional Officers earn a full time salary as they go through their training. Starting Salary: (\$20.34/\$30.14 [Max])

Correctional officers are DRUG FREE, SELF CONFIDENT, ASSERTIVE, HONEST, TEAM PLAYERS, FLEXIBLE, DETAIL ORIENTED, QUICK LEARNERS, SAFETY CONSCIENTIOUS, RELIABLE, RESPONSIBLE, RULE FOLLOWERS, SOCIALLY AWARE, OPEN MINDED, AND ACCEPTING OF DIVERSITY.

CORRECTIONAL FOOD SERVICE COORDINATOR

JOB DESCRIPTION: Supervise incarcerated dietary workers in the performance of all assigned duties and responsibilities relating to food preparation, tray assembly, meal delivery and dietary sanitation. Starting salary \$21.46/\$31.56 [Max]

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Applications only accepted during posting dates. Call ISP at (319)372-5432 ext 41823 or 41824 for info. To find us, Filter results by selecting Location (Fort Madison), and/or Job Category (Corrections).

Tips for a successful application: Set up an account using current contact information and an email you check regularly. From the menu select "Notify me of Job Openings" select categories you are interested in. Fill out the application completely, attach a resume, and check your account for additional info needed or notices regularly.

NOW HIRING

Lee County Election Administrator

The Lee County Auditor's Office is seeking a qualified applicant for the position of Election Administrator. Work involves maintaining voter registration data base and coordination of all Elections. Must be dependable, flexible and able to work with the public. Must be comfortable training precinct officials on ever changing election laws.

Application forms, background check documents and the job description can be downloaded at www.leecounty.org or may be obtained at the Lee County Auditor's Office, 933 Avenue H Fort Madison Iowa or by calling the Auditor's Office at 319-372-3705.

Completed application and background check documents should be sent or delivered to Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor, 933 Avenue H, P.O. Box 190, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 or emailed to dfraise@leecounty.org. IPERS and benefits available. All applications should be received by the Auditor's office by 4:30 PM on Friday, June 11, 2021.

Lee County is an Equal Opportunity Employer



HELP WANTED

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LEE COUNTY IOWA

From the Front

Mayor creates committee to look at tourism budget

TOURISM - Continued from Page 1

According to the budget report the city was projected to spend \$42,800 on contract services which would be advertising commitments, and donations. A \$50,270 transfer to the general fund for assistance with the Amtrak Depot Project and \$88,130 was to be transferred to the Old Fort to help cover shortfalls in revenues there.

The Hotel/Motel tax fund going forward will also be used for utilities and upkeep on the depot. However Amtrak has agreed to annual rent of the space in the facility and to help with some of the maintenance costs up front.

Other expenditures out of the fund include marina operations, rodeo expenses, repair and maintenance, and tourism reimbursements.

The city had projected total expenditures of \$273,454 creating a shortfall of about \$64,000 which would eat into the \$110,668 beginning fund balance. With receipts down 40% the shortfall could increase significantly.

Bowker said the city has to get solid data on how those dollars are being converted into tourism revenue and the city doesn't have much to show for it.

"I have 30 years experience in that field and I'm a little underwhelmed by our efforts," Bowker said.

"We have to be data-driven and make decisions on actual facts and information coming in and I'm curious as to where she's getting her information and what she's basing her decisions on."

Bowker said she didn't want Peiton to feel like she's being attacked, but only to have a real conversation about the effectiveness of current allocations.

Councilman Tom Schulz said conducting a study to get the information Bowker was looking for would probably cost the city about three times what it brings in from the tax regularly. But he said people in that industry locally are telling him numbers are returning to pre-pandemic levels.

"The simple fact is that it's an anomaly. I have some contact within that industry because I do business with them. I can tell you right now the people in the hotel/motel business in this town are dancing. They're happy," Schulz said.

"There numbers are way up. I'm not speaking out of school saying the Kingsley is open back up and they are literally booked for the summer."

Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld, who has history on the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce and the past tourism boards, said he's not sure "a single thing" would change if the city didn't spend the money as it is currently allocated.

"I don't think one single thing would change if we didn't do it. We don't even define tourism. And it's very simple.

it's people that come from outside our city limits and spend money. Pure and simple that's tourism and it can't be defined differently," he said.

"If we're doing anything that doesn't increase the number of people and the dollars spent here, we're not doing our job. We're not reviewing the process, it's historic driven. It's not getting guided from any industrial people.

"When they talk about marketing the area, Nobody gives any directive. Nobody reviews it. They don't set up any matrix. There's no outcomes, and there's no industry standards. It becomes a vague term that means absolutely, positively nothing."

Varley said Peiton is charged with bringing people in from outside the city. And then she spends part of her time attending to and organizing cruise tours that take place in the city with Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce Coordinator Savanna Collier.

"They spend a lot of time organizing cruise tours that come into the city," Varley said. "It takes a lot to put together 2 to 3 tours for every cruise that comes in so she spends a lot of time working with Savanna on that for the touring months."

When the cruises started coming in, the city spent \$5,000 on a contract with a company called "Tour Burst" out of Nauvoo. The company was to evaluate data and get feedback from cruise passengers to see where they were going when they got off the boat. The firm was on hand when passengers came off the American Cruise Lines in 2019, but the pandemic shut the cruises down in 2020.

The city still has not received a final report from Tour Burst, but Varley said he's hopeful the city will get that report shortly.

"We'll be getting that, hopefully... they promised to us, in the next few weeks," Varley said. "It's taking them a very long time to put that information together."

Varley said Peiton also gets a lot of requests from people locally to help them advertise, but she generally doesn't have extra time to spend on that. She's also working on updates to the city's websites to make them more coordinated to enhance online merchandising.

Bowker said it would be worth the time to take a hard look at how the money is being spent and if it's still warranted at current levels.

The fund used to also help prop up the Fort Madison Area Arts Association and the North Lee County Historical Society. The Fort Madison Tourism Commission, which hasn't met in more than 18 months, all but pulled support for those in 2019.

That was one of the moves that former FMAAA director Brian Riggs cited as a reason for his departure this spring. Lori Illner Greene has since taken over the post.

Mohrfeld created a committee of three councilmembers to review the budget with Peiton and bring recommendations back to the council.

That committee will have to meet in open session as the committee is an ad hoc committee as defined by Iowa code and therefore falls under the umbrella of Iowa's open meetings laws.

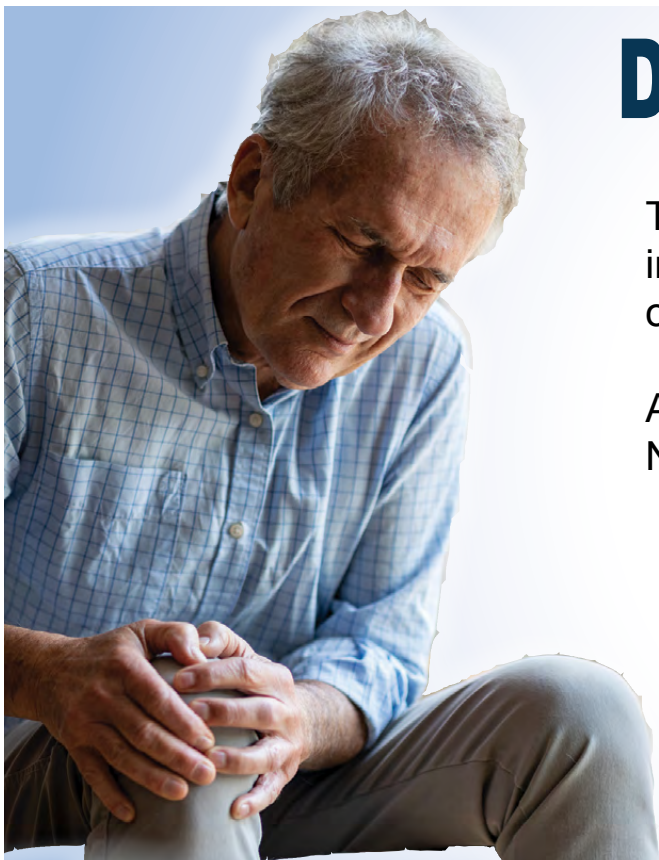
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Fort Madison
COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

From the Front

Neckties turn into memorable quilt

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

in-law, Lillie, who made quilts. Linda asked Lillie if she thought she could make a quilt out of all those ties. Lillie said that she would give it a try.

Voila! The Messerlis now have a beautiful hand-made tie quilt on the bed in their guest bedroom. (They keep the window shade drawn to keep the quilt from fading.) The only problem was that the quilt was too big for their guest bed so they had to go out and buy a bigger bed plus headboard. But they are proud of their tie quilt. (The May edition of "Our Iowa" magazine also has a story about the Messerli's tie quilt.)

Not only did Lillie make a quilt out of Ralph's ties, but also a quilt out of Ralph's wrestling referee uniform. He was a wrestling referee all over the State of Iowa.

When Ralph retired, all of the departments of the school—English, Math, Industrial Arts, etc.—made a patch representing their department. The school nurse, Mary Hill, took those patches, hand stitched them, and made another quilt. In fact, the Messerli home is chock full of beautiful quilts. One room is dedicated to the Messerli family and another to Linda's family, the Teagues. There's also a quilt made by Ralph's mother who made quilts for all of her kids and grandkids. Quilts are an integral part of the Messerli family.

To say the Messerlis enjoy life and live life to the fullest is an understatement. They start each day at the kitchen table, with coffee, looking out the window at their pristine pond and manicured lawn. They play 10 hands of cards and talk about what they have going on for the day. The card games range from pitch, crazy eight, king's corners to gin rummy.

One spring the Messerlis went on a genuine cattle drive. Yep. It was out in Colorado. They went with Linda's little sister and her husband to a 2,000 head cattle ranch. Each spring there's a cattle drive to move the herd up into the mountains for summer grazing. Then in the fall the drovers go up, brand the cattle (you should see the Messerli's collection of branding irons, as well as other collections), and move them back down. Ralph and Linda had a great time,

that is, except for Ralph's sore derriere. But he didn't have to wear a tie! He could breathe freely on the open range. When Ralph's brother's daughter got married, she insisted that all members of the wedding party wear a tie. Ralph was an usher and said he wasn't going to wear a tie. She said, "Well, you can't be an usher then." Ralph wore a tie.

Ralph has a deal with his doctor. When Ralph dies, and is lying in his casket at the viewing, if he has a tie on, the doctor is to cut it off.

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.

Downtown continues to pick up speed

CORKS - Continued from Page 1

Shepherds' Pie or if they are closed. So we have to keep tabs on them.

With the construction on Bus. 61, city officials say traffic is much heavier on Avenue G and F... and E. I tend to go down Avenue G more often now because I want to see if anything is changing. If the OPEN sign is on at Riverside, I tend to stop in for the Almond Chocolate Protein. It's a milk shake that's quite a bit better for you than a milk shake.

Swed Coffee is typically hopping, as is Stage 2, the salons, the financial and services sectors always have cars in front. The banks are busy and Aldi's is teeming with customers.

Hedges' look at the window is one of promise. It's as if she's looking for cruise passengers that have yet to arrive this year, but are on their way with more than 30 stops in the works. The Pocket Park is fully WiFi capable and lit up like a church at night, another wonderful addition to a historic downtown that's seeing more energy and life than it has in the past two decades.

I wanted to sit on the floors in the Hesse building and listen to their stories in the creeks and gaps. Hedges said she's just going to clean them, put a light hand sand on them and some polyurethane to help them shine. But the history will remain, along with the chair marks and dips and curves from decades of traffic and Iowa seasons.

And that monstrosity of a cabinet that sits against the east wall with the kitchen pass-through is getting a clean and polish, too. That thing is huge and looks down on you like Fortissimo of Beauty and the Beast fame – both intimidating and charming at the same time.

The screened in porch reminded me of Hitomi's fresh garden salsa, some of the best ever created, and Jimmy's crazy-ass taco combinations. I never had the same one twice. That area will be part of Hedge's plans for social sipping... and more memories.

I still hear people whining and moaning about the new depot platform, but that's a realization of a former mayor's dream. A vision based on a cultural, niche downtown retail sector with art and food and retail that could become a day stop off the rail lines... and now cruise line stops and tours.

The downtown seems to be headed in that direction. We still need that next sustainable restaurant, but look at things in the composite.

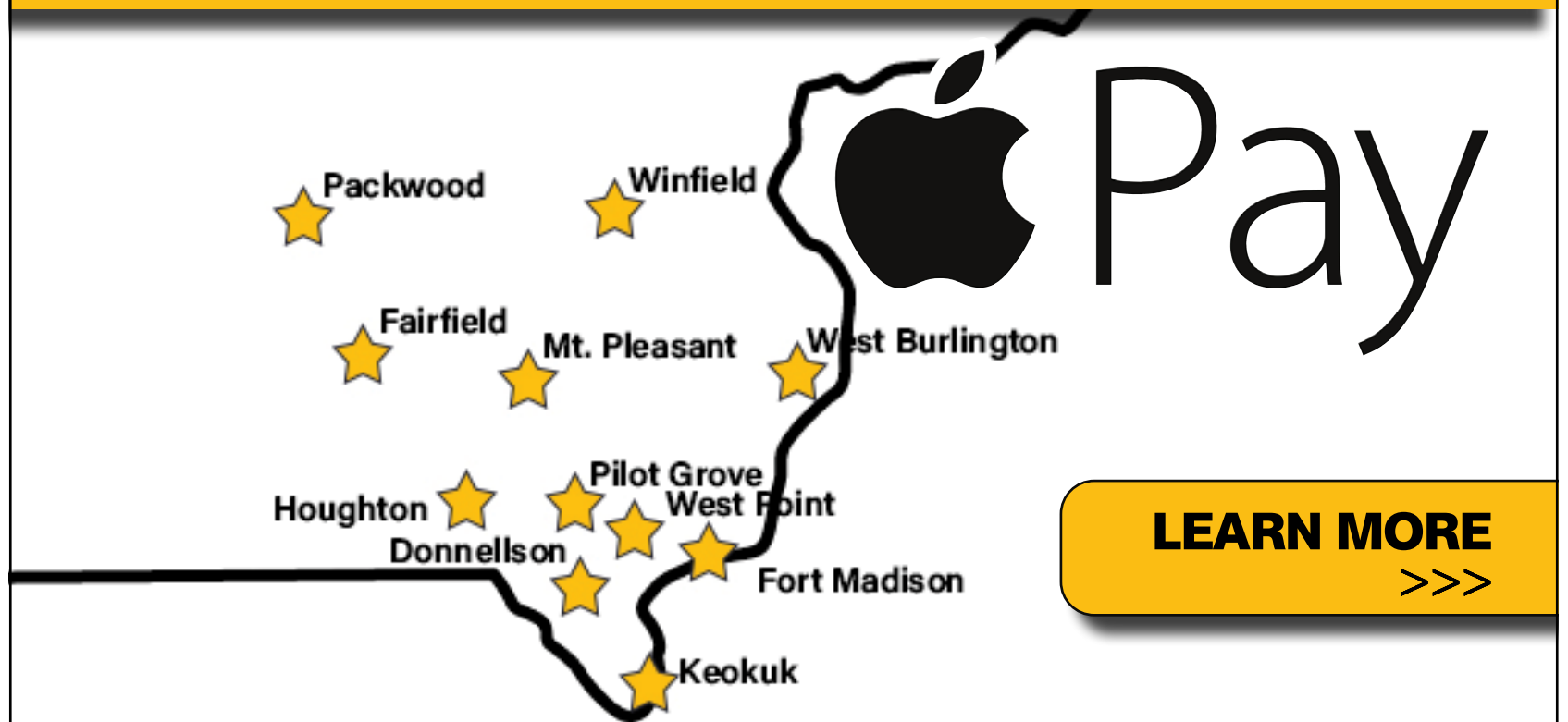
The Southwest Chief is rumored to be resuming daily stops, American Cruise lines is projected to stop at least 30 times a year and probably more with the company adding more Mississippi River vessels, Viking Cruises is planning to bus people down from their Burlington dock, the annual summer Riverfest, and a brand new 5-star marina – we've got something cooking.

So, hurry up, Angela, this sounds like a place I would like. Of course the only way I get down there is if I stop and grab a couple loaves of Julie's and Adam Hohl's Peach Bread out of the refrigerator at Harvestville Mercantile for Lee.

They won't get home without a couple of man size bites out of them, especially if there's a bush nearby – but that's Beside the Point.

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

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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.