

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Tuesday, March 16, 2021 | 9 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 61



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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

The Odd Marvel, shown here with proprietors from left to right, Roxanne and Jim Cornelius, and Denise Anderson, will celebrate its grand opening Saturday starting at noon.

SUPERVISORS

County could get \$6.5M in stimulus money

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Lee County to get a kick in the budget from the latest round of stimulus funding.

At Monday's regular meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, board member Garry Seyb Jr., said his reading of the American Rescue Funds, said the county could get a direct infusion of about \$6.5 million in the near future.

Seyb asked that the board consider appointing a committee to review ideas for handling the money. He said his interpretation of the law indicates the money can't be used for debt relief or property tax relief.

"I just want to make sure we are very thoughtful on what we do with that money," Seyb said. "I think we should create some kind of committee so we don't have a knee-jerk reaction on how to spend it."

Ron Fedler said all that information is pretty new and there are some restrictions that aren't clear yet.

"We have to make sure you follow all the rules," Fedler said.

Seyb said he's sure there will be lots of requests and ideas on how to spend it, but it was his understanding you cannot use it to reduce the tax levy.

Seyb said the Iowa State Association of Counties board discussed that topic at a recent meeting and identified areas where the money can be spent: COVID responses, premium pay for essential workers, water and sewer, broadband investment and county revenue loss.

"I struggle with the essential workers premium, but we need to be cautious to have some kind of committee to really look that over."

Seyb said the board should consider putting a couple supervisors, County Auditor Denise Fraise, Budget Director Cindy Renstrom and possibly the county's bond counselor, to make sure

An "Odd Marvel" opening Saturday in FM

GRAND OPENING: Another new storefront now occupied in historic downtown

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The vacant store fronts in Fort Madison are continuing to fill up.

The Old Lee County Bank building now has another new tenant on the main floor on the northwest corner of 8th and Avenue G, and it's a veritable flea market.

Denise Anderson has opened the shop Odd Marvel at 801 Avenue G with her mother Roxanne Cornelius and Roxanne's husband Jim Cornelius.

She said it's been a pleasant surprise to see all the other activity starting up in downtown.

"I had no idea that everyone was going to be opening shops at the same time, but that's awesome. I've been wanting to open my own shop for a long time and Jim said he was looking to open a business and possibly retire at some point," she said.

"I said it would be silly to open up two locations."

Previously, Anderson, a wife and mother of four, said her business was operated off Facebook where she was selling older pieces of furniture and decor, games, candles, books and other items.

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FUGITIVE

Transient was focus of several city weekend searches

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A fugitive being sought on charges out of Louisiana isn't believed to be in the area at this time.

Fort Madison Police have been dealing with a transient who is similar in description to a Preston Higgs, who

is being sought by U.S. Marshals on a murder charge out of Louisiana.

According to FMPD Detective David Doyle, a transient has been reported multiple times in and around Fort Madison in the last few days trying to find shelter in the evenings. But the man is not the fugitive that authorities are on the lookout for.

Van Buren County Sheriff's Department, which is working with the U.S. Marshals office, put out a notice on social media Sunday that confirmed Higgs was in the area early last week as property of his was recovered, but the same post said that Higgs isn't believed

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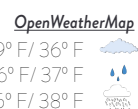
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WEATHER

TUE 16 Mar Overcast, 49° F/ 36° F
WED 17 Mar Rain, 46° F/ 37° F
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Obituaries/Education News

OBITUARIES

MARILYN J. SPENCE

Marilyn Jean Spence, 83, of Quitman, Texas, formerly of Keokuk, Iowa, passed away on Friday, March 12, 2021, at Whispering Pines.

Jean was born on January 8, 1938, in Keokuk, Iowa, the daughter of William Wayne and Mary Ellen (Mortimer) Bryant. She attended Keokuk High School and moved to Texas in 1992, where she was employed as a shipping coordinator and warehouse manager for SEI of Dallas until 2005. Jean enjoyed spending her free time cooking delicious food, especially her homemade noodles, sewing and remodeling her homes, but her passion was country dancing.

Jean is survived by three children: Crystal McPherson of Muskogee, Oklahoma, Daryl (Elaine) McPherson of Irving, Texas, and Douglas McPherson of Windsboro, Texas; five siblings: Wanda (Ivan) Daubenger of Springdale, Arkansas, Larry (Connie) Bryant of Farmers Branch, Texas, Lonnie Bryant of Keokuk, Janice (William) Hayden of Kahoka, Missouri, and Kenny (Nita) Bryant of Pottsboro, Texas; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Jean is preceded in death by her parents, her brothers Melvin Bryant and infant Ernest Bryant, her grandsons Joshua McPherson and infant grandson Quintin Turley, her nieces Lyette Kensa Bryant and Connie Sue Jackson, and her nephew Lonnie Dean Bryant.

Jean's life will be celebrated with a funeral service at 10 am on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk, with burial to follow at Buena Vista Mound Cemetery in rural Keokuk. For those unable to attend, the funeral will be livestreamed on Jean's obituary page at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, March 17, from 4-8 pm, with family meeting friends from 6-8 pm at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the American Cancer Society or the Scottish Rite Children's Hospital in Dallas, Texas.

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



SPENCE

FM schools approve sharing agreements with HTC

HTC to be charged \$80 per football player in the deal

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A move to charge Holy Trinity Catholic \$300 for each football player in the shared program was rejected Monday night, but HTC players will be assessed an \$80 charge per athlete for the next two years.

At Monday's regular meeting of the Fort Madison Community School District the board voted to share girls soccer and football with Holy Trinity students. The one-year soccer sharing agreement passed unanimously, but the football program met

with some opposition in a two-year proposed agreement.

Board president Dianne Hope said she opposed shared agreements because they go against the district's mission to advocate for Fort Madison High School students.

"We have students coming in from other schools playing ahead of our students. We are elected here to do all the things we're doing tonight and do the best we can for our students. This includes advocating for Fort Madison Community School District students," Hope said. "In my mind, sharing agreements no longer advocate for our students."

Board member Brian Steffensmeier said he thought the fee was unfair and that Illinois kids were allowed to come into the district and play without paying a fee.

District Business Manager Sandy Elmore said those students were part of the student body and the district does get weighted funding for those students.

Steffensmeier said regardless of that the district represents the school, but also the community.

"My kids are personally excited about a shared program because of the better team," he said.

Hope said calculations from Athletic Director Jeremy Swink show the district pays about \$1,000 per athlete for the football program. She said the district has talked in the past about some type of fee for participation.

The original agreement was rejected with the \$300 fee. Steffensmeier made an amended motion to approve the agreement

but with an \$80 fee. That agreement was approved 4-2.

The new sharing agreement is for two years because the Iowa High School Athletic Union reconsiders districts and classes every two years.

Hope said there was some potential that Holy Trinity's enrollment which counts in any shared program, could push Fort Madison into a higher class.

However, Swink said last week that regardless of HTC's enrollment Fort Madison would have land

Board member Brad Menke said the district charges students and \$80 athletic fee at registration, so that should be charged to HTC students as well.

"I understand wanting to charge the fees, But we need to be careful in my opinion because they are playing under our flag. Everything is done by us and our oversight," Menke said.

"But would we not bus the kids if these HTC kids don't play? Would we not mow the field?"

Hope also added that their have been times when Fort Madison students have wanted to take classes offered at Holy Trinity, but have been declined by that school's officials.

In unrelated discussion, the board heard an upgrade on the Student Based Learning initiative that is in a pilot program at Fort Madison High School.

Several teachers including Ingrid Brownlee, Derek Doherty and Bonnie Peterson-Slee spoke to the benefits of the new assessment system that will be rolled out to all students in the next trimester.

Assistant Principal Patrick Lamb said one teacher from every core department and the entire Career Technical Edu-

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PEN CITY CURRENT

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

ROBERT L. WILLIAMS SR.

Robert Lee Williams Sr. formerly of Keokuk, Iowa passed away in Ankeny Iowa on March 10, 2021 at the age of 87. Born in 1933 the son of Virginia Bell and Theodore Williams, Bob was raised in Keokuk by his grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Edward Fields. He was often referred to as "Ratz" by his friends and teammates because of his love for cheese. He excelled in sports from an early age, especially track, baseball, and basketball.



WILLIAMS

He was a starting guard on the Keokuk Chiefs Basketball teams that finished in 3rd place in 1951, losing to eventual champion Davenport in the quarterfinals. They came back the next year making it to the championship game in 1952 where they faced the same Davenport team they had lost to in 1951. The game was close throughout with the Chiefs holding a lead in the closing minutes, before eventually losing by just 3 points and finishing in second place. That was still a remarkable feat considering they went into the game with virtually no reserves because the 6th, 7th, and 8th best players were unavailable, in addition to their star center fouling out late in the game. For his efforts Bob was honored that year by being named Second Team All-State in 1952.

Bob continued his love for sports long after high school becoming an avid golfer for many years.

It was while he was in High School that he met Verona Barker who went from stepping on his toes at school dances to stepping into his heart forever. In August of this year, they would have celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. From that union would come 8 children, 30 grandchildren and numerous great and even great-great grandchildren.

After High School Bob enlisted in the military and after his discharge rejoined his then small family in Keokuk. Finding work was hard and he worked several small jobs before landing a position with St. Louis Die Casting eventually becoming a plant inspector.

In 1979 Bob met the other love in his life in his Lord Jesus Christ. Like his marriage to Verona his love for Christ was a fruitful one. In addition to his regular job, Bob pastored several small churches in the Keokuk area turning many other hearts to God. The time he used to spend carrying his golf bag around golf courses was now spent carrying a Bible and sharing the gospel with Verona by his side.

In the late 1980's St. Louis Die Casting Corp. changed hands and Bob went to work for Stone Container until his retirement in 2000.

In his free time, you would often find him reading his Bible. A quiet man with a great sense of humor and easy-going manner he preferred family time to just about anything else. He was loved by just about everybody who knew him and leaves a legacy of love that will extend for generations into the future.

He was preceded in death by both parents, his grandparents, and several other family members. He is survived by his love Verona, and their eight children. Caren Taylor of Davenport, Gordon (Carrye) Williams of Keokuk, Lynn (Lawrence) Manson of Burlington, Wanda Williams of Ankeny, Robert (Cynthia) Williams Jr. of Keokuk, Julie (Michael) Kennerly of Ankeny, Kathy (Alan) Sampson of Lakeport, Ca, Timothy (Rose) Williams of Quincy, Ill in addition to his many grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. He is also survived by three cousins, Richard Bell, Crystal Williams, and Ray Williams Jr. Not to mention his countless brothers and sisters in Christ.

Robert's life will be celebrated with a private service at 11:30 am on Friday, March 19, 2021, at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk, Iowa. Military Honors will be rendered at the funeral home by the American Legion Post #41 and the United States Army. The funeral service will be livestreamed on Robert's obituary page at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com. Visitation will be held on Friday from 10:00 am to 11:00 am at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk.

Memorials may be directed to God's Way Christian Center in Keokuk in Memory of Robert Lee Williams.

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

DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.

Pen City Current obituary policy

The 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.

OBITUARIES

THEODORE A. SCHINSTOCK

Theodore A. "Ted" Schinstock, age 73, of Houghton, passed away on Friday, March 12, 2021, at 6:05 pm, at his home.

Ted was born on September 12, 1947, in Ft. Madison, Iowa, the son of Casper & Helen (Kruse) Schinstock. He graduated St. John's Catholic School in Houghton. Ted was united in marriage to Margaret Smithhart on August 8, 1975, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Houghton. Ted farmed in the Houghton community and had worked for Hawk-eye Steel for thirty years, retiring in 2013. He was a member of the Army National Guard of Iowa, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Houghton, and the Knights of Columbus. Ted was a wonderful husband, father and was loved by many. He was a man of few words, with a kind and gentle soul. He loved playing cards with his wife, children and chess and marbles with his grandchildren.



SCHINSTOCK

Ted is survived by his wife Margaret of 45 years, his children, John & Angie Charbonneau of Ft. Madison, Iowa, Jennifer Schinstock of Grand Junction, Colorado, Jason & Toni Schinstock of Eldon, Iowa, Albert & Stephanie Schinstock of St. Paul, Iowa, 10 grandchildren & 6 great grandchildren, his brothers and sisters, Dorothy (Jerry) Mertens, Marilyn Holterhaus, David (Pam) Schinstock, Irene (Jim) Tweedy, Mitzi (Art) Schwartz, Rosie (Roger) Weber, Barb (Bill) Hancock, Ann (Pat) Allen and Bob (Diane) Schinstock, his sister-in-law, Jane Schinstock.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Ronald Schinstock.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Wednesday, March 17, 2021, at 10 a.m. at the St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Houghton with Father Dan Dorau as celebrant. Burial will follow at the Pleasant Hill Cemetery rural Mt. Pleasant with full Military Honors conducted by the Henry County Honor Guard. Friends may call on Tuesday from 10 until 2 at the Murphy Funeral Home in Mt. Pleasant. The family will receive friends from 4 to 6 p.m. that evening at the St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Houghton. A Christian Vigil Service will be held at 6 p.m. at the church. Memorials may be directed to Every Step Hospice or St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in his memory.



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Iowa News/From the Front

Authorities say fugitive may no longer be in southeast Iowa

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to be in southeast Iowa any longer.

Doyle said Fort Madison police have received numerous reports in the last three days with people on high alert for Higgs.

"There is a transient from California who is similar in nature and build to the suspect they've been looking for," Doyle said. "People are being overly vigilant with this and we've had several calls."

Doyle said the first came in on March 12th and was actually from the transient looking for a place to stay. Then another call came in from the public on the 13th, but police didn't find anyone after a search of the area. Doyle said he believes from the information it was the same man.

On Sunday night another call came in from the area of 18th Street to Hwy. 103 just outside Fort Madison city limits from someone who claimed to have spotted someone fitting the description of Higgs.

"Our units and county (deputies) went through this area and thoroughly searched the wooded area and could not come up with anybody. We believe this to be the same person we've been dealing with."

Doyle said then on Monday morning, one of the car dealerships on the west side of town called in with someone who had gotten in the back of a box van to sleep.

"They startled him when they found him and he took off running and he was found about an hour later. We made the connection that he was the transient and they gave him a ride to Burlington because that's where he wanted to go," Doyle said.

"He just has no place to go."

Doyle said he thinks that will be the end of the reports on the transient and said the timing has just been poor.

"This is happening at the same time as the search for the individual from New Orleans. By all counts on our end and from Van Buren County, we don't believe the (fugitive) is still in the area," Doyle said. "This other guy has never been a threat, just a transient."

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said his department has been kept abreast of the situation as well and doesn't believe Higgs to be in the area.

Lee County deputies and West Point/Donnellson police chased a man similar in description on Friday afternoon, thinking they may have been on Higgs trail. The suspect ended up being a local man and he was apprehended at a home in Donnellson.

"I'd just remind everyone were on the lookout as well and as we have current information we'll get it to them as fast as we can," Weber said.

"If or when we have to, we'll deal with him as anyone else wanted for a heinous crime. We want to be upfront with the public and we'd rather have them be on the lookout, than not know what's going on."

Road Use funds held up well with federal relief efforts

COUNTY - Continued from Page 1

all the regulations are followed in appropriating the funds.

Supervisor Ron Fedler said secondary roads has been hit hard by the pandemic with road use tax. County Engineer Ben Hull said the county will be receiving a federal subsidy of about \$293,000 and would make that fund's revenues very close to previous years.

Fort Madison City Manager David Varley also told that city council recently that the fund is doing relatively well considering the dire projections that were anticipated. Varley told the council during his last update that the city would be getting close to \$100,000 which could make the city's Road Use Tax fund close to whole.

Seyb said he could see the county possibly using the funds, in part, as matching funding for broadband grants since the state has made broadband expansion a priority in rural Iowa. He said he also like to make sure the Lee County Health Department has been made whole. Pflug said that department received funding directly in the last stimulus package.

Renstrom said Monday she envisions creating a separate fund aside from the general fund where the allocation would land and the county could track expenditures more clearly than just rolling it into the general fund.

Seyb also said having a grant writer on staff might be a way to use some of the money to create additional revenue for the county.

"I think that's something that could pay for itself," he said.

No action was taken with the update because it was only listed on the agenda for discussion.

In other action, the board:

- discussed setting up a redistricting commission per statute to look at county supervisor districts with new census data. Fraise said she didn't foresee any significant changes.

- approved a drug and alcohol testing services agreement for the Secondary Roads and Lee County EMS with CJ Cooper & Associates.

- approved the usage of the Lee County Parking lot for monthly car shows beginning April 3 sponsored by Pen City Cruisers.

Severe weather week activities planned for DM County

BURLINGTON - As the first day of spring approaches, and with it the potential for thunderstorms, tornadoes, and other severe weather, the National Weather Service (NWS) and the Des Moines County Emergen-

cy Management Agency has declared March 22nd through March 26th as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Iowa. This week is designed to increase awareness of and response to severe weather hazards.

One of the major

components of this week is the annual Iowa State-wide Tornado Drill. This drill will take place at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, March 24, 2021. This drill will look slightly different than in the past due to the COVID precautions being taken by many agencies, including the NWS. There will not be a test watch or warning issued through the Emergency Alert

System (EAS), which includes the weather radio system, radio and television stations announcements, and cell phone alerts, as has been done in the past. However, everyone is being asked to participate in a drill wherever they are at 11:00 AM as part of the Required Weekly Test of the All Hazard Weather Radio System.

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Lee County News/Education News

Lee County EDG gets \$40K grant for virtual welder

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The Lee County Economic Development Group has secured a grant to bring a virtual reality welder to the county as part of a future Career Exploration Center in the county.

Governor Kim Reynolds announced 13 awardees of the Future Ready Iowa Employer Innovation Fund, a matching grant designed to help employers carry out solutions to help their employees achieve post-secondary training and education. The purpose of the grant is to provide opportunities for Iowans to earn non-credit and for-credit post-secondary credentials leading to high-demand jobs.

“We are delighted to have been awarded a 2021 Future Ready Iowa Employer Innovation Fund grant. These virtual welders will become the cornerstone of the virtual reality training lab that will be part of our Career Exploration Center,” said Lee County EDG CEO Dennis Fraise. “When education, business and industry, and economic development work together, great things happen.”

The Employer Innovation Grant requires educators to work with industries to develop training for in-demand local careers. Lee County EDG partnered with Huffman Welding & Machine, Steffensmeier Welding & Manufacturing, Gregory Design and Manufacturing, Southeastern Community College, Keokuk Community School District, and Fort Madison Community School District. Students will experience welding via virtual reality and visit our local partner manufacturers to see practical welding and manufacturing technology applications.

“We are incredibly pleased to be part of the team responsible for bringing access to leading-edge virtual welding technology for our students,” said Bob Huffman of Huffman Welding & Machine. “Career exploration will help our young people explore and understand the outstanding opportunities that exist in Lee County.”

The virtual welders will help train students as a stepping stone to the welding

program at SCC.

“We’re excited to have contributed to this project as we believe in the efforts of showcasing career opportunities to students,” said Dr. Ashlee Spannagel, Dean of CTE & Workforce Development at SCC.

SCC has a day and evening welding program that prepares students with advanced skills to enter a high-wage, in-demand career.

“It’s an exciting time for students in southeast Iowa as these virtual welders will provide greater exposure to students, parents, and community members and empower these individuals to consider a career in welding,” continued Spannagel.

This project’s goal is to engage students and adult learners to help them understand the link between job skills, practical applications, and access to in-demand advanced manufacturing production jobs as welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers.

The welding simulators will expose learners to Gas Metal Arc Welding, Shielded Metal Arc Welding, Gas Tungsten Arc Welding, and Flux Cored Arc Welding.

“We are thrilled to have this partnership between Keokuk and Ft. Madison Schools, SCC, the Lee County Economic Development Group, and many local business and industry leaders,” said Keokuk Superintendent Chris Barnes. “This group is committed to a vision of providing new career exploration and training opportunities to area students, and ultimately providing a skilled workforce to Lee County employers. This grant is a step towards realizing that vision.”

“It’s an exciting time for us to be able to expand opportunities for our students in the area of Career Technical Education (CTE). This initial step is evidence of the power of partnerships between school districts, community college and business and industry to increase real-world experiences for our district students,” said Dr. Erin M. Slater, Superintendent for Fort Madison Community School District.

FMHS still in trials with SBL

SCHOOLS - Continued from Page 2

ation team, eight teachers in total, are working with the new system that gives students scores of 1-4 with 1 being no evidence of learning, 2 would indicate developing, 3 would be proficient and a 4th point is being considered for advanced students.

Lamb said teaching everyone the same way is no longer a productive way of teaching and instruction needs to be student-based. He said the teachers have been being transparent with the students about expectations with the program and are seeing good response.

“The more personalized we can get with a student’s learning the better we’ll get at explaining to them what they have to do to be a better student. Whereas in the past we were just treating them

all the same. The more personalized we become, which is what we’re trying to, the better we get at it and the better they get at it,” Lamb said.

Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater called the eight teachers pioneers in the process for spearheading the transition to the new assessment processes.

In other action, the board:

- approved the recommendation of the Ad Hoc committee for the facilities upgrade plan to retire the district’s elementary schools and move Pre-K through 6th grade into the current middle school and house the rest of the districts students at the high school.

- approved sending district staff and board member Josh Wykert to the National School Safety Conference.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF
THE WEST POINT
CITY COUNCIL
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MARCH 8, 2021**

Mayor Paul Walker called the properly noticed regular meeting of the City Council of

the City of West Point to order in the Conference Room of the Public Library, 317 Fifth Street, West Point, Iowa 52656 on March 8, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. In addition to Mayor Walker, the following indicated Council Members were present: Joe Loving; Brian Meierotto; Will Stuekerjuergen; Dan Waters; and, Bruce

Wellman. Absent: None. The tentative agenda was approved by consensus. On motion opened public hearing on Budget Amendment for FYE21. On motion closed public hearing on Budget Amendment for FYE21. On motion adopted Resolution No. 805-21 amending current budget for FYE21. On motion

opened public hearing on City Budget Estimate for FYE22. On motion closed public hearing on City Budget Estimate for FYE22. On motion adopted Resolution No. 806-21 adopting annual City Budget Estimate for FYE22. Mayor reported on the following upcoming events: Side-by-side rally will be held on March 20, 2021; Poker Run benefit for Veterans will be held on March 27, 2021; Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 3, 2021; Shuckfest will be held on August 11, 2021 with Sweet Corn Festival from August 12 - 15, 2021; and, meeting date and time for meetings of Library Board; the upcoming Municipal Utility Board; and, next regular Council Meeting of April 12, 2021. Mayor expressed appreciation to Public Works employees during winter months with snow removal and sanding; and, also expressed appreciation to the City Clerk and City administrator for work on annual budget. Upon invitation Dennis McGregor presented the City Administrator's report. Upon invitation, Councilor Stuekerjuergen reported West Point Fireworks Committee will host a

fish fry on April 2, 2021 at the American Legion and provide curbside service if needed. On motion approved liquor license application for Brad's Pad with no outdoor service. On motion approved liquor license application for Sonny's Super Market. On motion adopted Resolution No. 807-21 authorizing fund transfers. On motion adopted Resolution No. 808-21 establishing investment directives for Hoenig Estate funds. On motion minutes of prior regular Council Meeting of February 8, 2021 were approved as presented. On motion Treasurer's Report for February 2021 was approved as presented. On motion warrants payable for March 2021 were approved as presented. On motion meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m., March 8, 2021.

**EXPENDITURES FOR
FEBRUARY, 2021**

- Baker & Taylor, books 496.96
- Brad Roberts, meal reimb 22.80
- City Clerk - FM, fees 320.00
- CJ Cooper, fees.... 117.50
- Daily Democrat, publications 141.62
- Delta Dental, premiums 101.02
- Drake Hardware, fees 45.00
- Floyd's E-Z-Way, trash hauling 47.00
- GRRWA, fees 432.00
- Holtkamp Automotive, tires 608.00
- Ideal Ready Mixed, sand 50.49
- IMFOA, dues 475.00
- Iowa Dept of Revenue, taxes 209.00
- LJ Neuweg Rental, fees 65.00
- Martin's Flag, flags 160.93
- Mary Jane Pranger, cleaning 132.00

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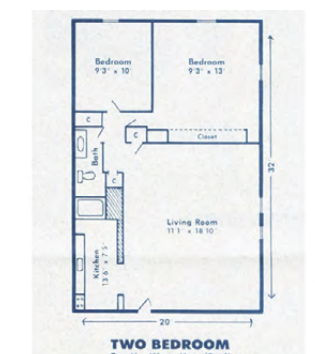
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Classifieds/Public Notices

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Mastercard, lodging; supplies 578.86 230.25	Office of Auditor of State, fee..... 125.00 3.16	RICOH USA, copier 138.43	Wex Bank, fuel 461.34
McFarland-Swan, supplies 20.00	Micromarketing LLC, books 69.89	Panther Uniforms, uniform 57.99	Per Mar Security, services 288.27	S&S Worldwide, supplies 101.86	Windstream, telephone 186.47
Mediacom, telephone	Midamerican Energy, utilities..... 43.16	Paul's Plumbing, supplies	Petty Cash, supplies 6.75	Sun Life Financial, premiums..... 248.13	
			Pioneer Museum, plates 400.00	SYNCB/Amazon, supplies 155.03	
			Popular Subscription, subscriptions..... 611.57	Ted Wiegand CPA, services 1569.03	
			Raygun, book 23.50	US Cellular, telephone 71.25	
				US Postal Service, postage..... 19.80	
				Wellmark BC/BS, premiums..... 2726.89	
				West Point Lumber, supplies 12.35	
				West Point Prof. Group, lease 685.00	
				West Point Utilities, utilities 3408.88	

HELP WANTED

ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY

JOB DESCRIPTION:
The Lee County Attorney is accepting applications for a full-time Assistant County Attorney. Primary duties involve all aspects of trial work including daily court appearances, assistance with investigations; charging of criminal cases; interaction and training with law enforcement, victim and witness contact, representing the State at hearings, trials, and in other legal proceedings; and other duties as assigned. The duties of this position may change as determined by the County Attorney.

REQUIREMENTS:
Graduation from an accredited law school and admission to practice law in the State of Iowa with a law license in good standing and no history of discipline.

Must be able to simultaneously handle multiple areas of responsibility with minimal supervision, properly prioritizing tasks and duties as dictated by changing demands. Must be able to simultaneously advance all assigned cases in a large trial case-load.

Prior trial experience and prosecution experience is preferred but not required.

SALARY:
Salary range to start at \$71,300.00 per year commensurate with experience, as well as a competitive benefits package.

Applicants should submit, by email or mail, a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and three references to:

Ross J. Braden
Lee County Attorney
710 Avenue F
Fort Madison, Iowa 52627
rbraden@leecounty.org

Applications must be received by March 19, 2021 at 4:30 PM.

Lee County is an equal opportunity employer



LEE COUNTY SECONDARY ROADS

ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN SUPERVISOR

Lee County is taking applications for an Engineering Technician Supervisor to work out of our Fort Madison, Iowa office. Duties will include: to direct and oversee the work of a small crew of engineering technicians, perform research and fieldwork for land surveys, engineering surveys, and construction surveys; drawing plans and preparing specifications, conduct inspections of work performed by contractors, and preparing right-of-way descriptions and drawings for the purchase of land to improve and construct roadways and operate survey equipment.

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 4:30 p.m., Monday, March 22, 2021.

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



LEE COUNTY SECONDARY ROADS

ASSISTANT TO ENGINEER

Lee County is taking applications for an Assistant to Engineer to work out of our Fort Madison, Iowa office. Duties will include conducting National Bridge Inspection Standards inspections of in-service bridges, 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 4:30 p.m., Monday, March 22, 2021.

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AmeriCorps Seniors (formerly known as RSVP 55+ Initiative) at United Way of the Great River Region is seeking volunteers over the age of 55 who are looking to make a difference in their community.

We can help you find a volunteer opportunity in Lee County, Iowa that suits your interests and your time.

Contact Tammy Hudson, AmeriCorps Seniors Director at 319-372-8043 or rsvp@unitedwaygrr.org to set up a time to talk.

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/s/ Paul Walker, Mayor
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NOW HIRING LEE COUNTY CERTIFIED EMS PROVIDERS

Lee County is now accepting applications for full and part-time Iowa certified EMS providers. We are a county owned and operated ambulance service providing emergency services to Lee County, Iowa as well as critical care transport services. Our primary full-time schedule is based on a 24-48 rotation with a Kelly Day, flexible scheduling for part-time employment. Strong progressive protocols, new fleet power load equipped. Starting wage EMT \$15.82 per hour, \$42,777.28 per year. Starting wage paramedic \$20.16 per hour, \$54,512.64 per year, based on a 48-hour full-time work week. 2% wage increases annually for three years. 10 cents per hour increase for every year of EMS experience after your first year. Benefit package includes health insurance through Blue Cross Blue Shield (80/20 plan), chiropractic, prescription plan, annual wellness, vision, dental, life, protection class IPERS, optional 401K, Aflac, Lee County Credit Union. Annual uniform allowance provided. In house continuing education provided. Positions will start July 1, 2021.

Paramedic Qualifications:

- High School Diploma (GED or High School Equivalence Certificate)
- Current IDPH-BETS EMS Certification at the Paramedic level
- Valid Driver's License/insurable
- Current BLS
- Current ACLS
- Current PALS

EMT Qualifications:

- High School Diploma (GED or High School Equivalence Certificate)
- Current IDPH-BETS EMS Certification at the EMT level
- Valid Driver's License/insurable
- Current BLS

Applicants must be eligible to work in the U.S. Veterans will be given preference but all candidates will be considered. Applications and job descriptions may be found online at www.leecounty.org and may be also obtained at the Lee County Auditor's Office, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison Iowa. Applications accepted through April 5, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. Complete background check, drug screening and post-offer physical required. Lee County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Please mail or email applications to or for more information:



Lee County EMS
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Iowa News/From the Front

New downtown shop has unique gift, home offerings

STORE - Continued from Page 1

She said she wanted to get away from vendor events where she has to handle the logistics and fees associated with that type. The physical space in downtown was perfect for her, because she said she's always loved the old bank.

"I like having a physical presence. I've done vendor events in the past and I really love doing that but it is a lot of work moving your stuff in and out, finding some place to store everything, and then paying for those spaces," she said.

"And when you think about how much you pay for each of those events, paying rent isn't that bad."

Roxanne said she wanted to help create a space that had something for everyone who walks in the door. And she's hoping, like others opening in downtown Fort Madison, that the riverboat and rail traffic lend to an uptick in foot traffic.

Anderson said she loves that there are more places opening downtown.

"People should be able to walk around and browse and have interesting things to look at," she said.

Roxanne agreed saying the more businesses the better.

"The last thing you want is for people to come into town and have a couple places they stop in and then leave," she said. "Now you're really starting to see things happen with all these places opening up."

Anderson is hoping to add to the inventory of repainted furniture pieces, that Roxanne puts her own personal touch on, with souvenirs and trinkets people who are just visiting the town can pick up.

"I am hoping to get some more Iowa and Fort Madison souvenir type things so they have something to take with them. When I'm traveling I just want something small I can take to remember it. A magnet or whatever."

An old carom game board hangs on the wall with the pieces in a basket next to it. The old floor board game doubles as decor in the former Lee County Bank building.

A counter top at the register is covered with res-



Above, Denise Anderson, left, and Jim Cornelius, center rear, look over the set up of the Odd Marvel, a business that will hold a grand opening at 801 Avenue G in downtown Fort Madison on Saturday, March 20 from noon to 6 p.m. At left, are some of the tickets and photos under a resin counter.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

in and then has family memorabilia, old pictures and signatures of family preserved.

Anderson said this Saturday during the grand opening the store will be open from noon to 6 p.m., but she said they still haven't set their regular hours. She said those updates will be placed on

Facebook, and encouraged people to look there for hours in the future.

The company's Facebook page can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=Odd%20Marvel%20Fort%20Madison>.

Burlington gets Alliant trees grant

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa – March 15, 2021 – Burlington is one of 37 communities receiving grants from Alliant Energy's Branching Out program.

The city will get \$5,000 for trees to put around public buildings.

Cedar Rapids, Marshalltown and Ames are others that will soon be greener thanks to grants from the program. Alliant Energy partners with Trees Forever to help communities develop, select and plant a diverse mix of trees. This year's funds will help communities plant trees to replace those destroyed by the 2020 derecho or the emerald ash borer.

"The first thing you notice when you drive into a town that was hit by the derecho are the spaces where the trees used to be," said Terry Kouba, president of Alliant Energy's Iowa energy company. "As we work to build stronger communities, we're proud to provide larger grants this year to plant more trees to help rebuild the tree canopy."

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