

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Tuesday, April 5, 2022 | 11 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 69



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Red cards hurt Hounds



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison backup goalkeeper Conner Gehling (0) tries to grab a corner kick as Notre Dame senior forward Cole Ward (9) tries to head the ball into the goal on a first half corner kick. Notre Dame would shut out the Hounds 4-0 with starting goalie Reiburn Turnbull and All-State forward Xander Wellman both out with red cards. See **Sports** for the full story and more photos from Monday's action

MURDER TRIAL

AG's office takes over FM murder prosecution

Braden asks state to take over due to conflict

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The state has taken over the 1st degree murder trial of a Fort Madison youth charged with shooting Deeunta Ceaser, 15, of Fort Madison on Nov. 3

The trial for Dimari 'DJ' Meredith, 17, of Fort Madison was originally set to begin on Tuesday in North Lee County Court, but was continued on March 25 by District Judge Clinton Boddicker to June 7.

Lee County Attorney Ross Braden was handling the prosecution for the county, but on March 25, Scott Dean Brown, a supervising attorney with the Iowa Attorney General's office appeared on behalf of the state.



BRADEN

A spokesperson with the AG's office said Braden asked for the state to handle the case due to a conflict in his office. The state doesn't bill the county for the services and routinely will assist with larger profile cases in rural counties in the state that don't see a lot of capital crimes.

Since that time, Brown has been granted a motion to withdraw and Assistant Attorney General Susan Renee Krisko has been assigned to the case for the prosecution.

Meredith was originally represented by James H. Carter and Justin Stonerook out of the Des Moines County Public Defender's office. Stonerook has since taken a job with the Lee County Attorney's office and withdrew on March 10.

Meredith pleaded not guilty to the

See MURDER, page 2

COUNTY NEWS

County eyes \$31M in road, bridge repairs in next 5 years

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

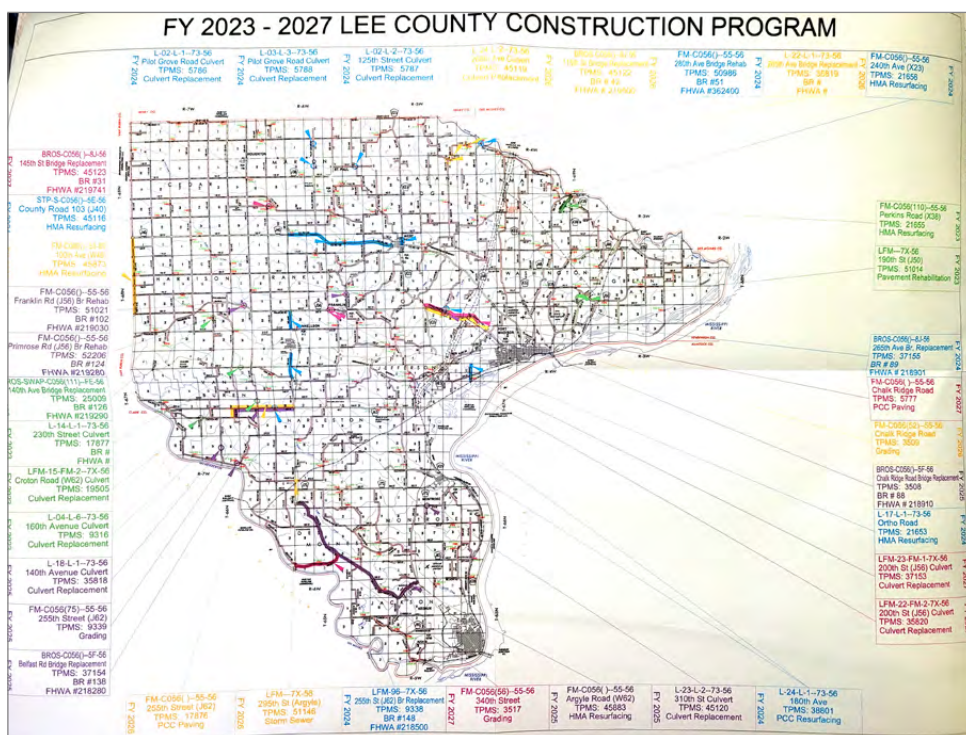
LEE COUNTY – Lee County Engineer Ben Hull outlined a preliminary \$31.1 million five-year county road plan Monday afternoon.

The highlight of the plan includes paving both Chalk Ridge Road and 255th Street west of Hwy. 218.

Hull called those two projects "aspirational" and said several projects could get adjusted in the plan.

"The reason I tell you it's preliminary is that I think we've done a good job on it, but it needs some more time for review and probably a look at cash flow. Things may shift by year end," Hull said.

See ROADS, page 8



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WEATHER

TUE 05 Apr.....Rain, 57° F/39° F
 WED 06 Apr.....Rain, 57° F/43° F
 THU 07 Apr.....Rain & Snow, 46° F/38° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 04/03.....10 20 21 32 36, Lucky Ball: 11
 PICK 3 04/03 MIDDAY.....097
 PICK 3 04/03 EVENING.....476
 PICK 4 04/03 MIDDAY.....1717
 PICK 4 04/03 EVENING.....6485

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

GEORGE F. PRICE

George Franklin Price, died December 7, 1941, at the age of 23, aboard the battleship USS Oklahoma in the attack on Pearl Harbor.



PRICE

He was born March 13, 1918 in Meredosia, Illinois, the son of Leonard Franklin and Ella (Hignight) Price. George was one of 13 children. He had 6 brothers, Melvin, Delbert, Homer, Kenneth, Moses and Charles Price and 6 sisters, Nellie (Price) Ballinger, Eva Mae (Price) Oriano, Pearl (Price) Freeman, Rosella (Price) Siegfried, Alice Price and Bessie (Price) Cook. All are now deceased, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Surviving includes seven nieces and nephews: Albert Siegfried, Franklin Freeman, Joan Miller, Patty Freeman, Roger Freeman, Steven Freeman and Joyce Martin.

George joined the United States Navy in 1936. His first mission aboard the USS Oklahoma was rescuing refugees from the Spanish Civil War. Following that mission, the ship docked in Hawaii where it remained until that fateful day. Fireman First Class George F. Price was serving aboard the ship when it was attacked and capsized in Pearl Harbor. For his service Price was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, Combat Action Ribbon and Navy Good Conduct Metal.



Following the recent identification of his remains, they are being returned to Dallas City, Illinois and will be laid to rest between two of his sisters at Harris Cemetery, near Dallas City.

Funeral Services will be held at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City with his niece Minister Joyce Martin officiating. Burial, with full military honors, will follow in Harris Cemetery, near Dallas City.

Banks & Beals Funeral Home of Dallas City is assisting the family. A memorial fund has been established for the Dallas City American Legion.

To leave a condolence please visit his obituary at banksandbeals.com.

PEGGY J. CHRISTY

Peggy J. Christy, 80, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 11 AM at her home.

She was born on April 13, 1941 in Butler Co., Pennsylvania to Joseph and Peggy Crider Lawrence. On June 29, 1956 she married Thomas Christy in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Peggy was a homemaker and worked at DuPont in her early years. She enjoyed horses, cooking and gardening.

Survivors include her husband, Thomas Christy of Ft. Madison; two sons, Patrick (Lori) Christy of Butler Co., Pennsylvania and Thomas Christy of Ft. Madison; two granddaughters; two great grandchildren; one sister, Phyllis of Georgia and one brother, Richard Horn of Wever. She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Albert Horn.

Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. Online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

OBITUARIES

GARY J. "JOE" STILES

Gary Joseph "Joe" Stiles, 70, of Keokuk, IA died Saturday, April 2, 2022 at his home.



STILES

He was born on May 18, 1951 in La Harpe, IL, the son of Doris Marsden. As a child Gary contracted polio and was featured as a March of Dimes Poster Child.

Gary had been employed at Sheller Globe and General Rentals in Keokuk.

He enjoyed watching westerns and working and repairing all kinds of things. He also enjoyed cooking and taking care of his cats. The most important thing in Gary's life was his family and spending time with them gave him great happiness.

He is survived by his sister, Linda Payton (Bill) of Keokuk, one sister-in-law, Connie Jobe of Keokuk, several children, many grandchildren including George Gimbel, Vanessa Gimbel, Jarred Spoores, Grant Spoores, Gavin Spoores, Gage Spoores and Destiny Bennett, one great-grandchild, several nieces and one nephew.

He was preceded in death by his loving companion of 25 years, Vicki Jobe Hendrickson, his mother, one nephew, Tony Boyer and one sister, Carol Davison.

There will be no services at this time.

Memorials may be made to the Keokuk Humane Society.

The Vigen Memorial Home of Keokuk is assisting the family with arrangements.

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

Keokuk's Dial now representing local teen charged with murder

MURDER - Continued from Page 1

charges on Dec. 2 and trial was set for April 5, 2022. Stonerook had filed to have jurisdiction in the case transferred, but District Judge John Wright ruled against that effort on Feb. 28.

Keokuk attorney Curt Dial appeared on Meredith's behalf on March 22 and requested reinstatement of Meredith's speedy trial rights. A pre-trial conference has been slated for May 27 in Fort Madison.

Meredith is accused of shooting Ceaser in the head while the two were at Ceaser's grandmother's home in the 4200 block of Avenue L at just after 5 p.m. Nov. 3.

Meredith is being held in Lee County on \$1 million cash only.

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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

04/01/22 - 10:49 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited Delores Marie Hancock, 42, Fort Madison, at the intersection of Alta Drive and Sunset Lane, on a charge of driving under suspension.

04/01/22 - 11:25 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Collin Elijah Segoviano, 24, of Fort Madison, at the intersection of 23rd Street and Avenue L, on a warrant for controlled substance violation. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

04/01/22 - 2:06 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Cheri Kaylynn Moore, 21, of Fort Madison, in the 2600 block of Avenue I, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

04/01/22 - 3:58 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1500 block of Avenue F.

04/01/22 - 6:30 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 4800 block of Avenue O.

04/01/22 - 11:11 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 500 block of 9th Street.

04/02/22 - 10:19 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Belinda Lorene McWhortor, 33, of Fort Madison, in the 1700 block of Avenue L, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

04/02/22 - 3:00 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Kai Luv Kempker, 28, of Fort Madison, in the 1300 block of Avenue G, on 2 warrants for voluntary absence from custody and a charge of driving while barred. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

04/02/22 - 6:42 p.m.

- Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2000 block of 303rd Avenue.

04/02/22 - 10:49 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Raymond Gerard Carle, 59, of Fort Madison, in the 1700 block of Avenue L, on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

04/03/22 - 12:03 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Mykelti K. Mann, 25, of Fort Madison, in the 600 block of 8th Street, on charges of domestic abuse assault and interference with official acts. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

04/03/22 - 7:56 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1400 block of Avenue D.

04/03/22 - 8:37 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Monesha Monea Johnson, 26, of Columbia, Mo., in the 800 block of Avenue G, on charges of interference with official acts and contempt - violence no contact order, and a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

04/03/22 - 8:37 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Stefan Gregory Nicodijevic, 27, of Fort Madison, in the 800 block of Avenue G, on charges of interference with official acts, violation no contact order - domestic, eluding, assaulting law officer/others - no injuries, 1st degree harassment, and child endangerment - no injury. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

04/04/22 - 3:08 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 4500 block of Avenue O.

04/04/22 - 6:36 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited Creed Allan Kent Lee, 21, of Argyle, in the 1600 block of

20th Street, on a charge of 1st offense trespassing.

Lee County Sheriff Report

04/01/22 - 6:06 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Cassie Nicole Smith, 26, of Keokuk, at the South Lee County Courthouse, on a judgment hold warrant. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

04/01/22 - 6:35 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Christine Sue Ferrell, 38, of Muscatine, at the intersection of Hwy. 61 and Mississippi River Rd., Montrose, on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on her own recognizance.

04/01/22 - 8:01 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Kimberly Joy Hadenfeldt, 35, of Keokuk, at the South Lee County Courthouse, on a judgment hold warrant. She was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on weekends time served.

04/01/22 - 11:50 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Charles Shane Reid, 22, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on a charge of supplying alcohol to a minor. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on a promise to appear.

04/02/22 - 1:21 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Zachary Ryan Sherman, 32, of West Burlington, in the 2300 block of Hwy. 61, Fort Madison, on a temporary hold warrant and charges of driving under suspension, provide proof of financial liability, and speeding. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later trans-

ferred to another county.

04/02/22 - 1:19 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident in the 2500 block of U.S. Hwy. 61. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Michael Francis Hall, 68, of St. Charles, Mo., was stopped at a stop sign at the intersection of 255th Avenue and Hwy. 61 when he pulled into the intersection striking a vehicle driven by Evan Ray Smith, 22, of Keokuk, on the rear passenger side. No injuries were reported. Smith's vehicle sustained approximately \$2500 in damage. Hall was cited for failure to obey stop sign and yield.

04/02/22 - 3:56 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Cheyenne Marie Hawkins, 24, of Montrose, at the intersection of Hwy. 61 and Henry Ladyn Drive, Fort Madison, on a charge of 1st offense OWI. She was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on her own recognizance.

04/02/22 - 9:27 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Jeramy Francis Skelton, 31, listed as homeless living in Fort Madison, at the North Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for failure to appear/contempt of court. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

04/02/22 - 9:30 p.m. -

Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Dakota James Vaughan, 22, of Dallas City, at the North Lee County Courthouse, on a judgment hold warrant. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on time served.

04/03/22 - 4:49 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Nathan Eric Washburne, 44, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office, on a charge of simple assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Hancock County Sheriff Report

03/28/22 - GEISE, CHRISTINA M (43 of Palmyra, MO) Speeding - Notice to Appear

03/28/22 - MASON, ERIC J (37 of Keokuk, IA) Operate Uninsured, No Valid Motorcycle DL -

Notice to Appear
03/28/22 - DESOTEL, MARIE E (17 of Carthage, IL) Failure to Reduce Speed to Avoid Crash, DUI
Notice To Appear

03/29/22 - VANPELT, PAYTON W (26 of Fort Madison, IA) Driving While License Suspended,

Operate Uninsured - Notice To Appear

03/31/22 - GRAY, JEREMIAH D (44, Fort Madison, IA) Driving While License Suspended -

Notice to Appear

03/31/22 - STEINKAMP, ROGER G (45, Fort Madison, IA) DUI - Posted Bond
03/31/22 - LOWMAN, JEFF D (54, Nauvoo, IL) DUI - Posted Bond

04/01/22 - STIERN, ANNA N (27, Plymouth, IL) Failure to Appear Warrant -

Petition to Revoke Sentence (Possession of Meth) - Posted Bond

04/01/22 - JONES, JESSICAA (38, Hamilton, IL) No Valid DL - Notice to Appear
04/02/22 - GEORGE, NICOLE D (38, Hannibal, MO) Failure to Appear Warrant - Operate

Uninsured - Held
04/02/22 - HARDY, THOMAS B (45, Warsaw, IL) Domestic Battery - Held

04/02/22 - RAMER, SHAWN W (21, Eldon, IA) Speeding - Notice to Appear

04/02/22 - JIMINEZ, ERICA C (45, Elgin, IA) Speeding - Notice to Appear

04/03/22 - CURTIS, LAURA B (58, Warsaw, IL) Failure to Appear Warrant - Theft

(Adams County) - Held

04/03/22 - FOSTER, NICHOLAS C (20, Warsaw, IL) Failure to Appear Warrant - Theft - Held

Those listed above are charged with a suspicion of a crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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

Sports

Shorthanded Hounds shut out to open soccer season

Notre Dame's Arya Nowroozi (1) goes up and seals a shot as Fort Madison's Jacob Pothitakis (4) tries to create some interference on the play. The Hounds lost the season opener 4-0 to the defending Class 1A state champion Nikes while missing three players due to injury and penalties.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

BURLINGTON – Fort Madison Head Coach Kevin Wellman knew a red card from the substate match with Pella last year would haunt him a bit at the beginning of this season.

But it was another red card at the 18:58 mark of the 1st half that killed the Hounds' momentum in a 4-0 loss to 2021 Class 1A state champion Burlington Notre Dame Monday in Burlington.

With the Nikes on a rare attack in the first 20 minutes of the match, Fort Madison goalkeeper Reiburn Turnbull came out of the net and launched at one of Nike players, drawing a disqualifying red.

The penalty also left Fort Madison a man down the rest of the way.

Prior to that Fort Madison had dominated the field position battle keeping the Nikes at bay, until the penalty.

"For a good 10 or 15 minutes anyway, right?"

Wellman said.

"I thought from where I was sitting and from the bleachers, it wasn't that obvious we were playing a man down. You could see in the last 10 to 15 minutes you could see they were tired, though. They started kicking the ball away and they should have been possessing individually. So it was wearing on them."

Wellman said he was very happy with what the Hounds did.

"It wasn't that we couldn't finish. It's that we didn't get our opportunities out there. Is that because we're missing a man... very likely," he said. "We made a couple key mistakes, but Notre Dame is a fantastic soccer team, and if you give them one mistake, they capitalize."

Fort Madison was playing without Xander Wellman, who, along with Mitchell Pothitakis, was a Class 2A All-Stater last year in the Coaches' Association post-season awards. Wellman got his second red card of the year last year in the Pella substate match and has to sit out for four playing days to start this season, which amounts to six games including Saturday's tournament at Baxter Sports Complex.

Turnbull will have to miss Thursday's game at Fairfield because of Monday's violation.

Fort Madison also played without Nathan Wiggins who is dealing with an ankle injury. Wiggins would have started outside

at back. Jacob Pothitakis is also dealing with a quad ailment and was cramping. Wellman said he didn't know when Wiggins would return.

"It limits the options we have. It limited subbing midfielders so they weren't as tired at the end. We can play okay with those injuries, but it handcuffs us," Wellman said.

Fort Madison didn't give up a goal while Turnbull was tending, but Notre Dame took advantage of the change and scored just two minutes later with sophomore Conner Gehling in the net.

Notre Dame's Parker Davis scored on a ball across the front of the net at 16:50 with Gehling sliding to his right. Fort Madison would hold up the Nikes the rest of the way until, with less than a minute remaining, Notre Dame was able to get a steal in the corner and patiently bring the ball to the right as Gabe Zurita sneaked in from the middle and punched one past Gehling to the left for a 2-0 lead with :53 left in the half.

Zurita would score again with 16:11 left in the game when he fired a bullet unassisted from the left side across the front that caught just inside the right pole for a 3-0 lead. Carson Wagner would wrap up the scoring with another Nike goal at 10:30.

Gehling had four saves on the night.

Zurita, Davis, and Wagner all had assists for Notre Dame (2-1).

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Duties include but are not restricted to: Computer skills, an ability to communicate with tact and understanding, must have a valid Iowa drivers license, must pass drug/alcohol screen, must be a US citizen, must reside or be willing to locate to Lee County and is subject to a post-offer pre-employment physical. Veterans will be given preference but all candidates will be considered. Applications may be picked up at the Lee County Auditor's Office or downloaded from the county website - www.leecounty.org . We will begin taking applications at the Auditor's Office on April 1, 2022 until 3:00 p.m. April 29,2022. For further information, call the Lee County Auditor at 319-372-3705 ext.4 or the LCCVA Chair at 319-470-9434. Lee County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

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OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES
March 14, 2022**

The Lee County Board

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of Supervisors met at the Lee County Administration Building in Fort Madison on Monday, March 14, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Present: Matt Pflug, Garry Seyb, Ron Fedler and Rich Harlow.

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

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

There was no Public Input.

Doug Aeilts with Northeast Missouri Electric, updated the Board on transmission lines that they are installing through Lee County. There will be

a Public Hearing on April 19th at 5:30 p.m. at the American Legion in West Point.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Fedler, to designate the IT Director to approve all VPN requests. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Harlow, to fill a Correctional Officer position. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve the Monday, March 7, 2022 Board minutes. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Harlow,

seconded by Fedler, to approve a new hire of a Township Trustee, Philip Peitz, Cedar Township, \$10.00/hr., effective 1/1/19. Motion carried.

Received and filed a Manure Management Annual Update for Kruse Bros. Ltd. in Cedar Township and the Sheriff's Monthly Report for February 2022.

Committee Reports: Harlow reported on a Conservation Board meeting. Fedler reported on a RUSS Board meeting. Seyb reported on an ARPA meeting and the ISAC Spring Conference. Pflug reported on a Board of Health meeting and an

Employee Safety Committee meeting.

At 11:00 a.m. a motion was made by Harlow, seconded by Seyb, to adjourn. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Administration Building in Fort Madison.

**Claims paid
March 14, 2022**

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 Bates Sntatn, svcs.. 225.00
 Brightree Home, svcs
 2413.50
 Brookes Publ, mtrl
 149.95
 CR WinPump, equip
 326.36
 Electrical Engrg, parts
 336.04
 D Coovert, svcs 240.00
 Culligan, wtr..... 78.49
 Democrat, publ 491.01
 Dly Gate City, publ
 117.10
 L DeFord, exps 65.70
 LDettmers, exps 80.10
 H Dobbs, rfnd 1028.80
 Dougs Electric, svcs
 6505.00
 Fidelity Life, ins..... 37.41
 Floyds, svcs..... 60.00
 T Forseen, splys..... 93.60
 Frontier Tech, splys
 4999.00

S Geers, exps..... 24.30
 Geotechnics, svcs
 8300.00
 Gov Forms, mtrl.... 559.02
 N Granaman, svcs
 1341.86
 GRRWA, svcs..... 6541.65
 Grp Bnft Prtnrs, svcs
 3438.00
 J Haeffner, svcs.... 1495.86
 Hlth Sol, svcs..... 401.00
 Hellige Lawn, svcs
 1575.00
 hibu Inc, publ 143.00
 A Huber, svcs 1400.00
 Huffman Wldng, equip
 2199.73
 ICONNECTYOU, svcs
 128.00
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 C Jerguns, rent..... 125.00
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Iowa News/From the Front

Vance honored by Girl Scouts

WEST BURLINGTON – Joyce Vance, retired Development Director for the Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa & Western Illinois will be the recipient of the 2022 Woman of Distinction, presented by Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois. Vance will be honored at the annual celebration on Thursday, May 5, 2022 at the Catfish Bend Convention and Event Center. The Woman of Distinction event recognizes a member of the community who represents the ideals of Girl Scouting. The recipient's deeds and work fulfill the mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Joyce Vance grew up



VANCE

in Fort Madison, Iowa, the oldest of John and Mary Marjorie Delaney Helling's six children. She attended Sacred Heart Grade School, Aquinas High School and the University of Northern Iowa. Joyce's desire for adventure and travel led her to American Airlines where she became a Flight Attendant based in New York City and Chicago. Her favorite overnights were in Acapulco, San Francisco, San Diego, Boston, and Phoenix. Hong Kong, Hawaii, Germany, Austria, Puerto Rico and St. Thomas topped a few of her favorite vacation destinations. She turned in her wings for sales/marketing positions at Conifer/Andrew Corporation and Centel Cable. She joined the local Girl Scout organization as Development Director in 2003, retiring

in 2020. Joyce volunteered for many organizations in the Burlington community. Leadership positions included President of Notre Dame High School Music Boosters, Treasurer/Secretary of Notre Dame High Athletic Board; Ticket Chair for the Drum & Bugle Corp show; Co-Chair of the Burlington Fine Arts League Gala; Board of Directors and Board Development Chair for Shining Trail Council Girl Scouts; Vice President and President of Great River Friends Board; President of Burlington Rotary, co-chair of the Annual BBQ Chicken Dinner and Co-chair of the Rotary District 6000 Conference; served as the Chamber Chair at the Greater Burlington Partnership and volunteered on the Annual Dinner Committee; and a volunteer for the Burlington/West Burlington Area United Way Cabinet. She was her daughter's Girl Scout Leader for several years, a member of Burlington Junior Women's Club and Welcome Wagon. Currently she is a member of "100 Like Minds", Burlington Art Center, Divine Mercy Parish, a Girl Scout Lifetime member and a Burlington Chamber Lifetime member.

Chalk Ridge, 255th on engineer's wish list

ROADS - Continued from Page 1

New legislation at the federal level, including the Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act, has pumped additional funding into the county's work plans, but increased costs of the work could make it a zero sum gain.

"It's had some unintended consequences and lack of clarity in overall dollar amounts, but at the federal level, there's a very large increase in commitment to transportation," he said. "But, to be clear, in infrastructure as it affects us – meaning highways and bridges – some things are still being decided."

Hull said he's hearing a 10% to 20% increase in bridge money, but he said the Construction Price Index shows price increases of about 35% through the third quarter of 2021.

The state has also indicated it will no longer be able to sustain the SWAP program, where local governments would trade federal road dollars to the state in exchange for state dollars because federal dollars required a 20% match.

"That's a major disappointment. It's been in place for three or so years and that's how long it took to get the whole program figured out. Now that they have, they're going to unwind it all."

Moving back to federal grants will require the match as well as following federal Davis-Bacon rules with regard to labor. He said that will also add time to projects that utilize federal dollars.

Of the \$22.8 million planned through 2027, \$3.2 million is local funds from county property taxes. \$3.56 million will come from federal bridge replacement funds, \$1.4 million will come from a Surface Transportation Block Grant, and the remainder would come from federal Farm to Market grant funding of \$22.8 million.

The work also includes seven bridge replacements, one in 2023 on 140th Avenue northeast of Shimek Forest at a cost of \$500,000. All but \$1,000 will come from federal bridge money. 2023 plans also include resurfacing Perkins Road northeast of Denmark off the Skunk River at a cost of \$400,000 from Farm to Market funds.

Highway J50 also known as the RISE road that circles west north of the bypass down toward Green Bay Bottoms. is also set for a facelift. The road is less than 10 years old, but Hull said the roadway, which was given to the county by the state, isn't performing well and needs to be seal-coated to get an additional three years.

Hull said he's going to reach out to the state to find out if anything can be done about the poor performance of the roadway.

The Chalk Ridge and 255th Street work have been on the 5-year plan since before Hull joined the county. He said that's why they call them "aspirational" projects, but he said he knows residents want to see the projects completed.

The total plan includes 36 projects, including 8 bridge replacements – six of which would be paid for with mostly federal bridge replacement funds; three bridge rehabs; 11 culvert replacements; and 13 road improvement projects. Included in those is a 2024 resurfacing of Hwy. 103 west of West Point at a cost of about \$2.2 million. That work is projected to be funded with a \$1.4 million STBG and \$812,000 in federal Farm to Market road funds.

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