

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Tuesday, March 1, 2022 | 8 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 48



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## County nudges levy 6 cents

**SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASE:** Increase to offset new ambulance service costs

*Seyb: Levy increase is still below the county's 4-year average*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A bump to the county's general supplemental fund to offset added ambulance costs was approved by the Lee County board Tuesday. At its regular meeting, the Board of Supervisors unan-

imously approved setting the maximum levy for the next fiscal year at \$10.327/\$1,000 assessed valuation. "This year, we have to bump up general supplemental to cover expenses of the ambulance service. They have close to \$800,000 in expenses in supplemental that we didn't take into consideration for this budget year, so we need to get some money put back into the balance so we don't run dry," County Budget Director Cindy Renstrom said.

She told the board the general supplemental levy will See **BUDGET**, page 4

## EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



## Some tidbits from the Empty Nest

With the Pandemic, we've been doing a lot of Zoom church attendance. Ginnie still showers and gets dressed up like we're actually going to church. She says it doesn't feel right viewing church in our jammies. I point out that the preacher and other Zoom attendees can't see anything more than our heads, if even that. She says it doesn't matter, that God can see us. How can I argue? Now me, I'm in my sweats, having just finished a workout on the elliptical and feeling spiritual. However, I have to agree with Ginnie to a certain extent. If it's a "Communion Sunday" and we're home, it doesn't feel or taste right using OJ and toast for the Communion Elements.

Big excitement for Buddy. We have a potty pen for him right outside our kitchen door. All we have to do is open the kitchen door and out he goes. Well, this week, on two occasions, there was a rabbit in his pen when he went out. They enter through the open gate, and when we shut Buddy in, the rabbit is shut in with Buddy. Oh, my goodness, what a chase! The rabbit goes around and around, trying to dive through the fence, to no avail, with chubby Buddy in hot pursuit. He forgets all about doing his business. The first time this happened, it was in the evening, right before bed—when you don't want any disturbance. The second time, it was 2:00 am (I'm an early riser) and Buddy used the opportunity to go outside. Can you imagine the ruckus at 2:00 am? Then Stormy, our Rescue Cat, hearing Buddy's barking and the rabbit's squeal, reverted to his base instincts (hackles up) and wanted to join the fracas. Ginnie came stumbling out of the bedroom and groused, "What on earth is going on?" I said, "Oh, just Buddy and Stormy thinning out the rabbit population." We don't have trouble

See **SWARM**, page 8



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Heavy rock lines the northern shores of the Mississippi River where work continues on the new marina project. The yellow liners are floating barriers and the black tubing is drainage tile for the silt retention areas built to allow for dredging.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### LCEDG wants to form county population task force

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – There seems to be a confluence of efforts to get population trends reversed in Lee County.

At Monday's regular meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, Lee



FRAISE

County Economic Development Group President Dennis Fraise said he'd like to see a task force created to address the dwindling population of the county.

The move comes on the

heels of an announcement in January that Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld wanted to increase the population base of Fort Madison by 1,000 over the next four years.

Fraise was presenting an update of

See **BOARD**, page 8

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## WEATHER

TUE 01 Mar.....Partly Cloudy, 59° F/ 39° F  
WED 02 Mar.....Partly Cloudy, 68° F/ 38° F  
THU 03 Mar.....Overcast, 43° F/ 32° F

## IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 02/27.....7 8 33 39 47, Lucky Ball: 1  
PICK 3 02/27 MIDDAY.....916  
PICK 3 02/27 EVENING.....449  
PICK 4 02/27 MIDDAY.....4438  
PICK 4 02/27 EVENING.....9098

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### ROBERT J. KENNEDY

Robert James Kennedy, 68, of Farmington, Iowa, passed away at 6:53 p.m. Friday, February 25, 2022, at Graham Hospital in Canton, Illinois.

He was born on July 6, 1953, in Keokuk, Iowa, the son of Lewis and Mildred G. (Hedden) Kennedy. On November 22, 1975, he married Cynthia Marie Peitz at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point, Iowa.



KENNEDY

He is survived by his wife Cindy; four children: Jenny (Scott) Batten, Jody (Brian) Black, Jonie (Tony Howard) Kennedy and Jessie Kennedy; grandchildren; Tyler and Bailey Batten, Haley and Tanner Black, Dyllon (Jessica) Howard, Jade (Jared) Beary and Molly and Tommy Johnson; four great grandchildren and one on the way; brothers: William Kennedy and Doug (Melissa) Kennedy; mother-in-law: Myrtle Peitz; sisters and brothers-in-law: Diane (Dick) Jennings, Dan (Karen) Peitz, Randy (Pam) Peitz, Mark Peitz, Alan (Monica) Peitz, Dave (Lori) Peitz, Doug (Deanna) Peitz and Susan (Rob) Gruener. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and father-in-law: Richard Peitz. Bob was a graduate of Central Lee High School. He was a lifetime farmer, he hauled livestock and enjoyed driving a school bus for the Harmony School System for many years. He was member of St. Boniface Catholic Church in Farmington and the Donnellson Saddle Club. Bob enjoyed riding horses, watching rodeos, coon hunting, playing cards, spending time with family and telling jokes. He never met a stranger. Bob was very proud of having four daughters.

Friends may call after 12:00 noon, Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington, where the family will receive friends from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. that evening. A parish rosary will be recited at 6:30 p.m.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, March 3, 2022, at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Farmington with Father Dennis Hoffman as celebrant.

Burial will be at Sharon Cemetery in rural Farmington, Iowa. In lieu of flowers, memorials have been established in his memory for the Farmington EMT's, Bonaparte Fire and Rescue or the Farmington Fire Station. Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com). Schmitz Funeral Home of Farmington is assisting the family with arrangements.

## OBITUARIES

### MARCELLA MOELLER

Marcella "Sally" Moeller, 99, died peacefully surrounded by family, at 6:10 am, Sunday, February 27, 2022, at her home in West Point, Iowa.

She was born May 10, 1922, in Niota, Illinois. She was one of five girls born to John and Theresa (Ahlen) Freitag. At the age of four, her family moved to Fort Madison where Sally spent her younger years. She worked at Sheaffer Pen Company in Fort Madison and then the American Can Company in Chicago. In 1943, she married Ernie Moeller, moved to West Point, became a farmer's wife and raised nine children. Sally was a wonderful and caring mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend to all who knew her. Her home-made meals, love of cards, her many letters and phone conversations and devotion to church and family will be gratefully remembered and fondly missed. Sally was a member of St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point and the Altar and Rosary Society of the church.



MOELLER

Marcella is survived by her nine children: Tom (Carol) Moeller of Taylors, South Carolina; Joyce (Edward) Roling of Tulsa, Oklahoma; Jim (Mary Kay) Moeller of Burlington; Betty (Tom) Pickrell of Las Vegas, Nevada; Bob (Sandy) Moeller of West Point; Marylou (Marty) Bentler of St. Paul; Ted (Theresa) Moeller of St. Paul; Carol (Scott) Ebeling of Muscatine; Donna Moeller of Cedar Rapids. One sister-in-law also survives: Martha Giannini of Chicago; seventeen grandchildren; twenty-seven great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband of seventy years: Ernest Moeller; a grandson: Joey Roling; her four sisters: Rosemary Siegfried, Winifred Wolverton, Viola Odiorne and Dorothy Lance and twenty three sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law.

Friends may call after 12:00 noon, Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point, where the family will receive friends from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. A parish rosary will be recited at 3:30 p.m. and a prayer service will be held at 5:30 p.m.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, March 3, 2022, at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point.

Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery in West Point. Memorials have been established in her memory for St. Mary's Catholic Church or Southeast Iowa Regional Home Health and Hospice. Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com). Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements.



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**Charles Vandenberg, Editor**  
(319).371.1670  
[charles.v@pencitycurrent.com](mailto:charles.v@pencitycurrent.com)

**Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager**  
(319).371.4125  
[lee.v@pencitycurrent.com](mailto:lee.v@pencitycurrent.com)

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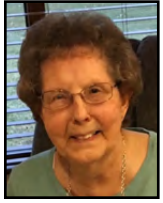


# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### DARLENE TODD

Darlene Todd, 87 years, formerly of Lomax, Illinois died at 1:00 am Saturday, February 26, 2022 at the Klein Center, West Burlington, Iowa. Darlene was born March 1, 1934 at Lomax, Illinois, the daughter of Harry Sr. and Viola (Graham) Dowell.



TODD

On December 6, 1952, she married Allen Van Buren Todd at Kahoka, Missouri.

She lived most of her life in the Lomax area, graduating from the Dallas City High School in 1952. In her early years she worked at a few places, but worked as a bank officer at the Dallas City Bank for over 30 years. After retirement, she volunteered at the Great River Hospice House. She was an active member of the First Church of the Nazarene, Burlington, Iowa, where she was treasurer, prepared communion, helped in Sunday school and was on the mission council that included the sweet corn ministry. She prepared delicious food, including roast, potatoes and carrots, chicken and noodles, chocolate dessert, banana split, chocolate chip oatmeal cookies and many more for Sundays, holidays and birthdays. Darlene loved her family and her faith, she was always lifting people up in her prayers.

She is survived by one son, Craig (Nancy) Todd, of Dallas City, Illinois; two daughters: Cathy (Mike) Russell, of Lomax, Illinois; Christi (Jim) Cary, of Danville, Iowa; 5 grandchildren: Melissa (Chris) Kettler, Dustin Forquer, Felicia (Patrick) Markey, Kendra (John) Knowles and Aly (Matt) Pierce; 10 great grandchildren: Danielle, Brock, Jackie, Brendan, Jacob, Cooper, Millie, Hannah, Henry and Hudson; two great great granddaughters: Myca and Rylie, one great great grandson, Derick and numerous nephews and nieces. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, one brother, Harry Dowell, one sister, Bonnie Todd and one great grandson, Derick.

Family will greet friends 9:30 to 11:00 am Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at the First Church of the Nazarene with the funeral service to follow at 11:00 am Tuesday morning, with Pastor Terry Vance and Pastor Jeff Alexander officiating. Burial will be at the Carman Cemetery, Carman, Illinois. A memorial has been established, contributions may be left at the funeral service or mailed to Barr Memorial Chapel, 1919 Ave F, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Darlene Todd family and an online guest book may be found at [www.barrmemorialchapel.com](http://www.barrmemorialchapel.com).

### ANDREW P. GEERDES

Andrew Perry Geerdes, 44, of West Point, IA, passed away on Friday, February 25, 2022 at 2:27 PM at the University of Iowa Hospital & Clinics.

He was born on August 5, 1977 in Sibley, IA to Silas and Maxine Bell Geerdes.



GEERDES

Andrew was currently a truck driver. He loved everything outdoors including hunting, fishing, camping and rodeoing. Andrew was also a hobby farmer and especially loved longhorns. His family was most important to him and he loved spending time with his children.

Survivors include two sons, Cody Schneider of Wever and Clayton Geerdes of Donnellson; one daughter, Ashlynn Geerdes of Ottumwa; his parents, Silas and Maxine Geerdes of West Point; one brother, Mick (Bridget) Geerdes of Ft. Madison; his maternal grandmother, Carol Schneider of Ft. Madison; his companion, Shelly Schneider of Donnellson; several aunts, uncles and cousins. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents and his maternal grandfather, Perry Schneider.

Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and a celebration of life will be held on Thursday, March 3, 2022 from 2-6 PM at Sonny's Other Side, 325 5th Street, West Point, IA.

A memorial has been established in his memory and online condolences may be left at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com). Cards may be sent to his family at 1993 235th Avenue, West Point, IA 52656.

#### Pen City Current obituary policy

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

## OBITUARIES

### KIMBERLY A. SANDERSON

Kimberly Ann Sanderson, 59, of Fort Madison, Iowa, passed away at 8:59 p.m. Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in West Burlington, Iowa.

She was born on May 1, 1962 in Kirksville, Missouri, the daughter of Michael and Barbara (Long) Sheridan.



SANDERSON

Survivors include her special friend Eric; daughter: Brandi Collins; son: Cody Collins; sister Nadine "Dee Dee" Sims; Eric's children: Heather (Cody) Willis, Sarah (James) Beeler, Eric (Erica) Demuynck III, Jordan (Berry) Demuynck; one grandson, Logan and his mother Augusta Carson Fortune; six granddaughters; one uncle, one aunt and several cousins.

She is preceded in death by her parents and grandparents.

Kim was a graduate of Geneseo High School and attended Kirkwood Community College. She enjoyed playing games on her phone and loved her dog, Bart.

A graveside service will be held at 11:00 a.m. March 4, 2022 at Oakland Cemetery in Fort Madison with Father Thomas Szydlak.

A memorial has been established in her memory. Cards can be mailed to Schmitz Funeral Home, P.O. Box 22, West Point, Iowa 52656.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com). Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements.

### PEGGY A. ROCKHOLD

Peggy Ann Rockhold, age 78, of Lomax, Illinois, passed away Sunday, February 27, 2022 at her home. She was born September 15, 1943 in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of Floyd "Tuffy" and Elizabeth Nichols Maynard. On May 7, 1983, she



ROCKHOLD

married Henry "Doc" Rockhold in Dallas City, Illinois.

Peggy had been employed at General Electric and Champion Spark Plug in Burlington, and retired from Sheaffer Pen Company in Fort Madison. She was an active member of the Grace Bible Church in Dallas City, and served as church hostess for many years. She enjoyed fishing, shopping, dining out, and spending time with her family. She truly loved her grandchildren, and enjoyed spending time with them.

Survivors include her husband, three sons: Kevin (Evie) Worley of Gladstone, IL, Kelly (Grace) Worley of Lomax, IL, Kendall Worley of Burlington, IA, two step sons: Shawn Rockhold and Sam Rockhold, both of Huntsville, AL, ten grandchildren, twelve great grandchildren, three great great grandchildren, one brother: Tom (Melanie) Maynard of Pontoosuc, IL, and one sister: Sonja (Henry) Shipman of Dallas City, IL. She was preceded in death by her parents, one brother: Butch Maynard, and three sisters: Dorothy Gilpin, Daisy Bundy, and Marrietta Hnat.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. Thursday March 3, 2022 at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City, IL with Rev. Larry Menschel officiating. Burial will follow in the Myers Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. Wednesday at Banks & Beals. Memorials have been established for Grace Bible Church of Dallas City and Lee County Hospice. Please visit Peggy's obituary at [banksandbeals.com](http://banksandbeals.com) to sign the guest book and leave a condolence.

### ROBERT J. STEFFENSMEIER

Robert J. Steffensmeier, 66, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Saturday, February 26, 2022 at 5:45 PM at his home.



STEFFENSMEIER

He was born on September 7, 1955 in Ft. Madison to LeRoy and Rosanna Sanders Steffensmeier. Bob worked in various construction positions. He loved to garden, do projects, work with animals and was a devout non-denominational Christian.

Survivors include two daughters, Alyssa Steffensmeier of Broomfield, CO and Sadie Steffensmeier of Ft. Madison; one granddaughter, Amelia Jimenez of Ft. Madison; four brothers, Bill Steffensmeier of Ft. Madison, Joe (Kathy) Steffensmeier of West Point, Pat (Peggy) Steffensmeier of West Point and Tom

STEFFENSMEIER (Carla) Steffensmeier of West Point; four sisters, Mary Lee Burgason of Cedar Rapids, Sue (Joe) Butler of Burlington, Joan (Bob) Conley of Madison, WI and Jean (Brad) Schulte of Ft. Madison; numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and a celebration of life will be held at a later date. Online condolences may be left at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

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## Sports/From the Front

# FM, HTC agree to merge junior high baseball programs

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison High School and Holy Trinity Catholic baseball teams have been playing together for the past three years, and now the Fort Madison School board has said its appropriate to join the junior high programs as well.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the school board, the board voted 5-2 to approve a one-year agreement with Holy Trinity for the program to be held in West Point.

Fort Madison High School baseball coach Ron Walker said he's been working for the past three years to put the entire baseball program under one umbrella. Walker took over the high school program after the 2018 season and put the Hounds on the winning track immediately with a 16-14 record his first year.

They finished last year at 25-9 with a loss in the second round of Substate 4 action 5-1 to Central DeWitt.

It was in 2019 that the Holy Trinity Catholic boys joined the Fort Madison Bloodhounds in a shared program. At that point the schools were already sharing boys track, tennis and football and girls track and cross country.

Walker said this move will allow the philosophies of the Bloodhound program to transcend deeper into youth play.

"When I took the job four years ago one of the goals was to build a jayvee program which we got going right away. We've even started playing freshman games recently," he said.

"When you look at longevity of programs, your successful programs have something instilled from top to bottom. So I think getting a junior high program and coaches that will work with you and start implementing what you know at the high school level can go a long ways."

HTC is working on finding coaches and Walker said things seem to be moving along those lines.



"There have been conversations on both sides and we're excited about what that looks like," he said.

He said HTC will have the junior high program and Fort Madison kids will play in West Point and use the South Park baseball field.

"This is about the kids in the community and building a program. We want to take our lead-offs the same way, be in the proper catch position, talk about our approach at the plate so when we get them at the high school level they've already been introduced to all of that," Walker said.

He said 2021 graduates Jason and Vasin Thurman were part of Walker's baseball instruction for the past six years when they were in club baseball with Walker. He said their success the past three years is a strong example of what can happen with integrated programming at both the junior high and high school level.

Walker said two other Southeast Conference schools Fairfield and Washington just incorporated junior high

baseball programs under those schools' leadership as well.

"This should be identical to our high school program. Everything will be flip-flopped to the Holy Trinity name, but we will be working together as a whole," he said.

"I think it's a great thing to get everything under one roof per se. The pipeline couldn't be better set. These parents are all from our community and we should just get bigger and better and that's great for our community."

Holy Trinity Athletic Director John Goetz said the HTC community is excited about the program.

"It's a great opportunity for both schools. We've got really good facilities at South Park in West Point and it creates a great feeder program into the high school program," he said.

Goetz said HTC has been in talks with potential coaching candidates and will be making a decision in the near future.

"We're going to hire the coaches," he said. "We have a pretty good lead and will announce that later, but we've had talks with Fort Madison on that."

Goetz confirmed that as of right now all games and practices will be at South Park.

The Denmark Ball Association is the only other junior high program in the area. Jared Durbin, the president and treasurer for that group took to Facebook on the group's page after hearing of the Fort Madison approval and said, "On a positive note, the school board has expressed interest in hosting a junior high program in the coming year(s).

"But all is not lost. Denmark Ball Assn. at this time still has approval to host Jr. High Teams. I need to work on the schedule side to see if teams still have the capacity to play. More information to come."

The agreement will need to be reviewed and approved again by both the HTC board and the FMCS board before the 2023 season. HTC's board approved the move several months ago.

# County to add \$1 million to general supplemental fund

**BUDGET** - Continued from Page 1

be set at an 11.21% increase over the current

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year to add about \$1 million to that fund to cover those expenses.

Because the increase to the fund was more than 2% over the previous year, the resolution to approve that levy would have to be passed with a super



SEYB

majority of the board, which requires four of five supervisors.

Supervisor Garry Seyb, Jr. said it should be made clear that this increase had nothing to do with the pay increases the board recently passed.

Board Chairman Matt Pflug asked what the total dollars were for the pay increases, but Renstrom said she hadn't prepared that



PFLUG

figure for this meeting because it didn't impact the voted-on increase.

The current year levy is \$10.258 and this year's will be \$10.327 or an increase of about 6 cents. The county approved \$10.70 last year, but the state pulled some of the mental health levy out of the property tax, dropping it about 45 cents.

"This super majority vote has nothing to do with these raises," Seyb said.

The general supplemental basically pays the benefits for the

county employees. Wages are paid out of the county's general basic fund.

According to the property tax levy worksheet, the county's taxable valuation is \$1.64 billion up about \$42 million from last year. The county is requesting \$5.76 million for general basic, \$6.32 million for general supplemental with a combined tax rate of \$7.343.

Rural service valuations are estimated at \$906.6 million with \$2,125,085 in requested tax dollars for rural basic services. There is no rural supplemental fund, leaving an estimated rural services tax rate of \$2.344.

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### PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
CITY OF WEST  
BURLINGTON**  
Regular City Council Meeting  
Wednesday, March 2, 2022 - 6:00 PM  
West Burlington City Hall  
122 Broadway Street

**TENTATIVE AGENDA**

CALL TO ORDER  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
ROLL CALL  
PERFECTING & APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
CONSENT AGENDA  
1. Approve Minutes from the Regular City Council meeting on February 16, 2022  
2. Approve Minutes from the Special City Council meeting on February 23, 2022  
3. Approve Payment to Snyder & Associates for engineering services related to the Mt. Pleasant Street Water Tower & Booster Station Project - \$20,092.86  
4. Approve Payment to Snyder & Associates for engineering services related to the DMC Approve Payment to Snyder & Associates for engineering services related to the DMC Landfill Lift Station Project - \$4,250  
5. Approve payment of Claims as listed on the March 2, 2022 Expense Approval Report - \$235,262.77

COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS  
ADMINISTRATOR:  
PUBLIC WORKS:

POLICE DEPARTMENT:  
FIRE/BUILDING DEPARTMENT:  
CLERK/FINANCE/IT:  
OTHER STAFF REPORTS:  
COUNCIL REPORTS:  
COMMUNITY REPORTS: Update from Burlington Public Library

PROCLAMATIONS  
1. Junior Achievement Day - April 7, 2022

CITIZEN INQUIRIES

NEW BUSINESS  
1. Consider a Resolution Awarding General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds, Series 2022  
2. Consider a Resolution hiring Cora Hermann-Wickham as the Swimming Pool Manager for the 2022 Pool Season  
3. Consider approving the State Revolving Fund Sponsored Project Performance Agreement related to the Luers Park Sponsored Project  
4. Consider the final reading of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 549 Designating an Area of West Burlington, Iowa as the West Burlington Urban Revitalization Area

OLD BUSINESS  
CITIZEN INQUIRIES  
ADJOURN

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
NEW CONSTRUCTION  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Notice to Bidders  
Iowa Department

of Natural Resources  
Sealed bids will be received by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Engineering Bureau, at the Wallace State Office Building, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034 until 11:00 A.M., March 24, 2022 for the public improvement projects listed below, at which time they will be opened publicly. In addition to attending the bid opening in person, interested parties may also call in to the following number to listen to the bid opening:

Conference call number: +1 (484) 416-2391  
PIN: 133 543 968#  
In order to improve sound quality, please mute your phone by pressing \*6. If you have questions, you can unmute your phone by pressing \*6.

\*\*\*Please Note: emailed bids will no longer be accepted; all bids must be submitted via hard copy originals\*\*\*

If you intend to hand-deliver your sealed Bid Proposal and Proposal Guarantee Bond, you will need to enter the Wallace Building through the main entrance/front doors. This is the only entrance open to the public. Upon arrival, please use the phone by the sliding glass doors that lead to the front elevators, to call the front desk and a DNR Receptionist will come down to obtain the sealed bid documents and to date and time stamp them. On the bid opening day, a DNR Receptionist will be available in the lobby to receive sealed bid documents and to date and time stamp them upon arrival. No bids shall be accepted by FAX OR EMAIL. After the bid opening, information concerning bid results may be obtained by visiting the Department's website at [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov).

Note: The United States Postal Service (USPS) does not deliver mail or packages directly to the address provided above but rather to the Capitol Complex Mail Room. Extra time should be allotted for proposals sent by the USPS. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources shall not consider bids if they are not received by the Department of Natural Resources, either at its mail room or at its Fourth Floor Reception Desk, by the time and date described in this Notice to Bidders, regardless of whether the bid was mailed prior to that time and date or whether the bid was received at the Capitol Complex Mail Room or other state government location prior to that time and date.

Project documents, including drawings, specifications, proposal forms and addenda items for the project are available at Beeline and Blue, at 2507 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50312. Please visit [www.beelineandblue.com](http://www.beelineandblue.com) or contact (515) 244-1611 for more information. Alternatively, Bid Documents can be viewed or printed online at <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/engreal/projectlist.asp>.

The Department shall comply with all public improvement procurement laws, as outlined in the plans and specifications and including but not limited to: Iowa Code chapter 26 related to public construction bidding; Iowa Code chapter 73 related to preferences; Iowa Code chapter 573 related to labor and materials on public improvements; rules promulgated by the Department of Administrative Services – General Services Enterprise as they may apply; rules promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Commission, as they may apply; and

any federal statutes, rules and/or executive orders that may be associated depending on funding sources. Bidders shall comply with these laws to be considered and are encouraged to be familiar with public improvement procurement requirements and the bidding documents before submitting a bid.

Each bidder shall accompany the bid with a bid security as defined in Iowa code section 26.8. The bid security must be in an amount set forth in the bidding documents and made payable to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Failure to execute a contract for the proposed work and file an acceptable Performance Bond in an amount equal to 100% of the contract price and a certificate of liability insurance within thirty (30) days of the date of the award of the contract will be just and sufficient cause for the rescinding of the award and the forfeiture of the bid security.

**HENRY COUNTY  
PROJECT  
NO. 20-06-44-03**

Geode State Park Boat Ramp Replacement and Kayak Area REBID  
Proposal Guarantee: \$6,250.00  
Completion Date: 09/30/2022  
Project Description: This project consists of removing the existing boat ramp northeast of the beach area, pavement removal, construction of a new boat ramp, PCC paving of maneuver area, prepare kayak area site for installation of ADA compliant kayak launch in the northeast area of the lake, remove and replace a portion of paved roadway, and PCC paving of ADA compliant parking area and walkway.

**WINNESHIEK COUNTY**

**PROJECT  
NO. 20-03-96-04**

Decorah Fisheries Management Unit Trout Run FEMA Repairs  
Proposal Guarantee: \$12,500.00  
Completion Date: 11/15/2022  
Project Description: This project consists of repairing/stabilizing approximately 929 lineal feet of streambank at four locations on Trout Run and includes 4,342 CY of excavation, placement of 1,980 tons of revetment, 85 SY of concrete walkway, and other incidental work as directed by DNR Field Engineer.

**CERRO GORDO  
COUNTY PROJECT  
NO. 20-03-17-03**

Clear Lake State Park Restroom and Shower Renovations  
Proposal Guarantee: \$12,500.00  
Completion Date: 12/30/2022  
Project Description: This project will remodel the 1980s era Shower building in the campground, and the restroom building at the beach of Clear Lake State Park. This project will grind the existing coating off the concrete floor and new polyaspartic flooring sprayed on the existing concrete. A new sinks, faucets, and counter tops, a new urinal, and new vanity lighting will be installed. New power-vents in both buildings will be installed. Both buildings will receive a new roof with the fascia wrapped in metal. The beach building will also have its shower tower replaced, and doors will be removed and refinished.

**JACKSON COUNTY  
PROJECT  
NO. 21-06-49-03**

Maquoketa Caves State Park

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or submit it online at [www.PenCityCurrent.com](http://www.PenCityCurrent.com)

# Classifieds/Public Notices

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

## PUBLIC NOTICES

Stair Fabrication and Installation  
 Proposal Guarantee: \$12,500.00  
 Completion Date: 6/17/2022  
 Project Description:  
 The stairs at Middle Dance Hall Cave have been deteriorating for some time and in need of replacement. Iowa Prison Industries fabricated a new set of steel stair box treads for this area and the contractor shall demolish the existing stairs and install these new stairs. At Twin Arches Trail, the stairs were damaged by a tree in 2019 and will be demolished and a new set of steel stairs fabricated and installed by the contractor.

### JACKSON AND SCOTT COUNTIES PROJECT NO. 21-06-49-01

Maquoketa Wildlife Unit Green Island and Princeton Levee Repairs  
 Proposal Guarantee: \$37,500.00  
 Completion Date: 9/30/2022  
 Project Description:  
 This project consists of repairing and restoring flood damaged levees at Green Island and Prince-

### PUBLIC NOTICE Fort Madison Parks, Recreation and Dock Board Meeting Wednesday, March 2nd, 2022 Meeting at Council Chambers 5:00pm

- Agenda**
- I. Call to order
  - II. Roll call
  - III. Public Comments
  - IV. Approval of Minutes
    - a. January 5th, 2022
    - V. Guest Presentations
    - VI. Old Business
      - a. Jillian Perry – Free Little Libraries Update
    - VII. New Business
      - a. Campground Rates
      - b. PAWs Fundraiser – During City Band Concerts
      - c. Five Year Park Improvement Updates
        1. Mile Markers on Trails
        - d. Special Event Permits
          1. Pen City Cruisers 6th Annual Car Show– May 7th
          2. Glow Crazy for Education 5K – May 7th
          3. Riverside Pride Block Party– June 16th
          4. Seventh-Day Adventist District Rally – August

27th  
 VIII. Adjournment

**PUBLIC NOTICE CENTRAL LEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT MARCH 1, 2022 WORK SESSION 4:30 P.M. DONNELLSON, IOWA 52625**

**TENTATIVE AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Board Facility Walk-through
3. Adjourn

## HELP WANTED

**LIBRARY ASSISTANT PART-TIME**  
 Fort Madison Public Library

The Fort Madison Public Library is seeking a part time (26 hours/week) library assistant. Tasks will include assisting library patrons at the circulation desk, managing books by mail and interlibrary loan services, compiling monthly statistics, social media and publicity. Requirements include high school graduate or equivalent and computer skills. Preference will be given to applicants with previous library and/or public relations experience. Applicants are also required to live in the state of Iowa. Working hours include Thursday evenings and every fourth Saturday. Applications are available at the Fort Madison Public Library. Applications will be taken until the job is filled. Call Sarah Clendinning at (319) 372-5721 if you have any questions.



## HELP WANTED

### LEE COUNTY SECONDARY ROADS HELP WANTED ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKER II

Lee County is taking applications for a Road Maintenance Worker II, to work at the West Point Maintenance Shop. Duties will include the operation of light and heavy equipment and trucks to perform road maintenance and construction projects, occasionally plowing snow, and the performance of manual labor as required. Requires a high school graduate or G.E.D. equivalent and must possess a valid Class A commercial driver's license with air brake and tanker endorsements. Wage range is \$20.43 to \$24.86.

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

For a job description and to apply, download an application from our county website, [www.leecounty.org](http://www.leecounty.org) or you can pick an application up at the Engineer's office and return your completed application along with a resume to Lee County Engineer, P.O. Box 158, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627, or email it to [bhull@leecounty.org](mailto:bhull@leecounty.org) and copy it to [shartson@leecounty.org](mailto:shartson@leecounty.org) Applications will be accepted until 4 p.m. on March 11, 2022.

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



The Fort Madison Family YMCA Learning Centers are seeking candidates to fill childcare provider positions at our Donnellson, Iowa day-care centers.

Ideal candidates enjoy working with children and have a fun, loving personality.

- Full time Monday through Friday
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- Retirement is available after two consecutive years of full time employment
- 2 years experience in childcare a plus, but not required

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Mandatory background checks are performed prior to hire.

Interested candidates can apply online at [fortmadison.org](http://fortmadison.org), contact Anna Dobson at 319-835-3256 or email [anna.dobson@fortmadison.org](mailto:anna.dobson@fortmadison.org).



### NOTICE OF JOB OPENING

### Legal Secretary Lee County Attorney's Office Keokuk, Iowa

Lee County Attorney's office has an immediate opening for one full-time (40 hours per week) Legal Secretary Position. Secretarial and legal experience is strongly preferred, but not required.

The position's successful applicant is preferred (but not required) to have the following:

1. Completion of some college level administrative support courses or an equivalent combination of training and experience.
2. Knowledge of legal terminology, legal formatting and legal forms.
3. Knowledge of modern office practices, procedures and equipment.
4. Ability to prepare accurate and timely documents, correspondence
5. Knowledge of Electronic Document Management System (EDMS).
6. Ability to learn and/or operate the County Attorney's Office Computer programs.
7. Ability to use computer programs. For example: Microsoft Outlook, Word and Excel.
8. Ability to understand and follow written and oral instructions.
9. Ability to work in a fast-paced environment
10. Ability to multi-task
11. Ability to work well and communicate with others.

The position is represented by the Public Professional & Maintenance Employees Local No. 2003, IUPAT. The starting wage is \$17.17 per hour. The County offers an excellent benefits package.

The deadline for resumes is Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.

Please send resume to Ross Braden 710 Avenue F Fort Madison, IA 52627 or by e-mail to [rbraden@leecounty.org](mailto:rbraden@leecounty.org)

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### JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN

The West Point Municipal Utility System has an immediate opening for a Journey Line Mechanic. Applicants must have a strong journeyman rating and must be able to perform all duties with regard to overhead and underground electric line construction.

Must be willing and capable to work on water distribution maintenance and repair and to be or become Grade 1 water distribution certified. Must live or be willing to live within 15 minutes of West Point, comply with on-call requirements and possess and comply with Iowa CDL regulations.

We offer a comprehensive benefit plan including health and dental coverage, plus IPERS retirement. Pre-employment physical and drug screening will be required.

Send a confidential resume to West Point Utility System 313 5th Street P.O. Box 69 West Point, IA. 52656 or to [cityofwestpointiowa@gmail.com](mailto:cityofwestpointiowa@gmail.com) No phone calls, please

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## From the Front

# Does Putin have an off-ramp

**SWARM** - Continued from Page 1

“convincing” Buddy to go outside anymore.

Ginnie’s mother died four-and-a-half years ago. Ginnie has her mother’s Christmas cactus as a keepsake. It has never bloomed, even though we have it in the shade as we’re supposed to. Well, this year it bloomed for the first time, right before Valentine’s Day—one pretty little blossom. Ginnie was so pleased. It reminded her of her mother. I put a picture of the bloom on Facebook, and a number of people said their Christmas cactus was blooming, too. Maybe we should change its name to Valentine’s Day Cactus?

Ginnie received a “grow

mushrooms at home” kit for Christmas—just add water, stand back and watch. Voila. So, we had mushrooms growing in our kitchen the same time the Christmas Cactus was blooming. Such excitement! Ginnie wanted to cook something using our home-grown mushrooms. I suggested a sausage-and-mushroom pizza. Ginnie almost went for that, but opted for Chicken Marsala instead. I’m a lucky guy. The only problem is: one meal and the mushrooms are gone. Grrr.

The Super Bowl half-time performance draws more viewers than the actual game. Facebook was quick to react: “Best Super

Bowl Halftime Performance Ever” and “Worst Super Bowl Halftime Performance Ever.” I’ll admit, I didn’t care for most of it—but I watched—which the advertisers know. Kendrick Lamar’s black male dancers, all with gray hair, caught my attention. What it meant, I have no idea—some type of social statement, would be my guess. The internet seemed confused by it, too, with several interpretations.

In politics, the buzz words now are “off ramp” and “on ramp.” “Does Putin have an off ramp?” Throw in some Winter Olympic’s lingo and we could say, “He’s taking the monobob to the off ramp.”

# STEMFest adds new high school student program

**BOARD** - Continued from Page 1

economic development efforts in the county when population took front and center.

Fraise said the county has lost 11,600 people in the past 60 years, or 26%. Since the last 10-year census in 2010, the county had lost 6% or just over 2,300 people.

Fraise said thousands of counties across the country are facing the same issue and are looking for answers, which could result in competing resources to address the problem.

“What I’m suggesting today is that we create a Lee County Task Force to take a look at our population, frankly, our population loss,” Fraise said.

He said the state population grew about 5% over the past decade, and Dallas County was the fastest growing at a 55% increase since 2010, with more than 37,000 new residents. Fourteen of Iowa’s 15 largest cities had population increases over that span.

Lee County is 21st in population out of Iowa’s 99 counties and Fraise said adding 1,882 residents would put Lee County in the top 20, while adding 6,550 would put the county in the top 15.

“All of us here are about the same vintage and we remember the 1960s which was the heyday of our population,” Fraise said.

“Our population in Lee County is down 26% since that time period. So, essentially, one in every four people in Lee County has left. Think about that and let that wash over you for just a moment.”

He said Keokuk and Fort Madison have both dropped 6% in the past 10 years and more than 30% over the past 60 years.

“These things do have our attention, obviously. What I’m recommending with the task force is there’s a lot of good work being done in a lot of these areas, but we’re kind of silent right now. We need to create a bigger task force,” he said.

“Mayor Mohrfeld wants to grow Fort Madison by a 1,000 people, and that’s fabulous, and so we want to support those efforts, but we need to have a bigger conversation.”

The effort will require looks at housing, marketing and rebranding, child care, transportation, and education and training, Fraise said.

His comments echoed Mohrfeld’s who told Fort Madison’s City Council last month that they needed to focus on housing, and marketing and branding of the city in addition to jobs, tourism, beautification, and other facets of growth.

“I’m asking to partner with the supervisors on this. I think it’s a good use of everyone’s time,” Fraise said.

“If these numbers don’t get your attention, they should. We are trending in the wrong direction and we cannot continue.”

He said the county’s strong industrial base, Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center’s Fort Madison campus, and the Mississippi River are areas to highlight in Lee County.

“We have a lot of strategic advantages, but it’s time to get together and put together a comprehensive plan as to how we move this forward. This is not something where we come back in a year and say we added 6,000 people. This is a five-year or ten-year plan.”

In an unrelated issue, Fraise said efforts are underway to address a shortage of natural gas in the county, a predicament that has derailed several large economic development projects.

“We recently had a project in the Keokuk area that we code named “Shallowtail” and the first thing we started with was our utility partners.

“The infrastructure was there but it came back, not surprisingly, that the natural gas was not available through the national pipeline. It was the same problem we had with project “Hobo” down by the fertilizer plant.”

Fraise said efforts are ramping up with area industrial partners, utilities, and state officials to find a solution to the problem. He said the Iowa Economic Development Agency is also involved in the discussions.

Dana Millard, LCEDG’s Project Director told the board that LCEDG has reached more than 4,800 students with the group’s Grow Lee and STEM programming.

“We’re very excited with the trajectory we’ve had with our Grow Lee and our workforce efforts,” Millard said.

She also pointed out some programming on March 11th and 12th where a regional STEM Festival will be held at SCC’s West Burlington Campus. This year, organizers added a high school component on Friday with more than 250 students already signed up. The traditional STEM Festival will be held on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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