

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Monday, April 25, 2022 | 15 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 80



[www.pencitycurrent.com](http://www.pencitycurrent.com)

## Session goes extra innings

**LEGISLATORS:** Graber, Reichman talk extra long session issues including budget

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – With legislators running back and forth between Des Moines trying to finish up the 2022 session, Lee County legislators Jeff Reichman and Martin Graber spent their lunch hour Friday talking about issues holding up the session.

At the monthly legislative forum sponsored by the Keokuk and Fort Madison chambers of commerce, the two pushed around the budget bill snagged in Des Moines, along with the school voucher program and a bill that would give parents a higher degree of examination of public school curriculum and reading



GRABER REICHMAN

materials.

“One of the hangups or hold ups is that the Senate has passed the school choice bill, but the house has not. My understanding is there’s not enough votes in the House to pass it. If it comes back over it’s not going to pass right now. But that can change,” Graber said.

Graber said the current version in circulation is one that allows

See **SESSION**, page 9

### OPINION



## SIREPA shines in latest area developments

I wanted to write this week about Florida Governor Ron DeSantis’ spitting match with Disney World.

A move that could backfire on the 2024 presidential candidate as 77,000 employees and the largest single site employer tussle over questions of gender identity. I started reading to get up to speed on what this nonsense was all about because I was just politically kerfuffled thinking about a Republican Governor getting after one of the nation’s largest corporations.

As there may very well be snow in hell, one thing tied this to a local commentary for me.

The Disney World campus is basically it’s own municipality and I didn’t know that until this week. They can float revenue bonds, hire their own police and fire departments, generate power, and build without local and state permits. They also have a billion dollars in debt that would be passed to taxpayers.

It’s one of those quirky economic development tools where this corporate entity that according to U.S. News & World Report generates about \$1,500 in tax relief for every single Floridian, gets a little autonomy to grow.

When I read that I immediately thought of two deals that were struck this week between Lee County, Southeast Iowa Regional Economic & Port Authority, and Danville Telecom.

The deal will generate 57 miles of fiber optic cable up through the west central side of Lee County to Hwy. 16, then east and south along the highways to create a redundant data loop for

See **SIREPA**, page 10



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

From left to right, Iowa Rep. Dennis Cahoon, former U.S. Rep. Dave Loebstack, and current 1st District Congressional candidate Christina Bohannon share a laugh before speaking at SubArena in Fort Madison Saturday. Bohannon is challenging Mariannette Miller-Meeks in the 2022 general election.

### Election 2022

## Bohannon looks to unseat Miller-Meeks in general

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Christina Bohannon had barely got into her chair as an Iowa State Representative, when she decided Congress might be a better fit.

Bohannon visited SubArena on Saturday

morning with former Congressman Dave Loebstack and District 99 candidate Dennis Cahoon in tow to campaign for her run for U.S. Representative for Iowa’s 1st District against Mariannette Miller-Meeks.

Bohannon, a Florida native and 22-year law professor at University of Iowa, knocked off Vicki Lensing in Iowa’s 85th

District in 2020. Lensing had served 10 terms in three different Iowa districts since 2001.

She said the way for Democrats to get the seat back is to get back to the Loebstack way of leading by putting people in front

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### WEATHER

MON 25 Apr ..... Overcast, 54° F/ 40° F  
TUE 26 Apr ..... Clear Skies, 56° F/ 34° F  
WED 27 Apr ..... Broken Clouds, 66° F/ 41° F

### IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 04/23 ..... 6 15 31 43 46, Star Ball: 3 All Star Bonus: 3  
LUCKY FOR LIFE 04/23 ..... 2 29 30 37 42, Lucky Ball: 14  
MEGA MILLIONS 04/22 ..... 7 28 29 58 59, Mega Ball: 10 Megaplier: 3  
PICK 3 04/21, 04/22, 04/23 MIDDAY ..... 8 8 1, 9 5 8, 17 0  
PICK 3 04/21, 04/22, 04/23 EVENING ..... 12 6, 3 8 1, 15 8  
PICK 4 04/21, 04/22, 04/23 MIDDAY ..... 8 5 8 5, 2 9 7 7, 4 0 8 5  
PICK 4 04/21, 04/22, 04/23 EVENING ..... 0 9 9 2, 3 0 2 0, 8 0 4 5  
POWERBALL 04/23 ..... 10 39 47 49 56, Powerball: 8 Power Play: 3

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# Obituaries/For the Record

## OBITUARIES

### ALEXIS M. LONG

Alexis Marie Long, 18, of Burlington, died at 9:43 PM Monday, April 18, 2022, at the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in West Burlington.

Born April 23, 2003, in West Burlington, IA, she was the daughter of Natasha Long.



LONG

family.

Alexis was very caring and helpful. She loved animals, especially her cat Willow and her mamaw's dog Copper. She enjoyed many outdoor activities such as rock hunting, river fishing and going to the camp ground. Alexis also liked to draw and watch funny videos. Music was her life, she had a beautiful voice and loved to sing. Most of all, Alexis loved spending time with her

Survivors include her mother, Natasha Long of Burlington; grandparents, Kevin and Kim Long of Burlington; her great-grandparents, Kenneth Almendinger, Jr. of Burlington, Bettie Kinkeade of Valrico, FL, and Gerald and Thena Joy Long; one uncle, Dillon Long of Eldridge, IA; one aunt, Nikki (Jeff) Grim of Center Point, IA; two great-uncles, John Almendinger of Burlington and Bryan Long of Danville; four great-aunts, Trina Menken of Riverview, FL, Kendra (Sean) Brockett of Valrico, FL, Joyce (Chris) Willson of CA, and Tammy Long of Fort Madison, IA; and many fur cousins and second cousins..

She was preceded in death by her great-grandfather, Ron Kinkeade.

Visitation will be from noon until 7:00 PM with the family to receive friends from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM Thursday, April 28, 2022 at Prugh~Thielen Funeral Home.

The funeral service for Miss Long will be 11:00 AM Friday, April 29, 2022, at Prugh~Thielen Funeral Home.

A memorial has been established.

Prugh Funeral Service is in care of the arrangements.

A photo tribute can be viewed and condolences can be sent to the family by visiting Alexis's obituary at [www.prughfuneral.com](http://www.prughfuneral.com).

## OBITUARIES

### STEVEN K. BROWNLEE

Steven "Steve" Kent Brownlee, 69, of Warsaw, Illinois, passed away on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, in Lee County, Iowa.

Steve was born on June 25, 1952, in Keokuk, Iowa, the son of Traves and Cecile (Hardy) Brownlee. On June 18, 1972, he was united in marriage to Marie Louise Carlson in Keokuk, Iowa. She survives.



BROWNLEE

States Army.

Steve worked for Henniges Automotive for over twenty years, retiring in 2007. He was a member of USW Local #444, and was a man of many talents and hobbies, including woodworking, golfing, disc golfing, and archery. In his younger years, he enjoyed hunting and fishing. Steve served briefly in the United States Army.

Steve is survived by his wife Marie Brownlee of Warsaw; four children: Samuel (Karla) Brownlee of Greenville, North Carolina, Solomon (Gina Tigges) Brownlee of Altoona, Iowa, Melissa (George) Betancourt of Moores Hill, Indiana, and Shawn (Fiance Jaime Snider) Brownlee of St. Ann, Missouri; seven grandchildren: Devin Zamora, Debbie Gonzalez, Tiffany Ramirez, George Betancourt, Jr., Savannah Betancourt, Andrew Snider and Gavin Snider; three siblings: Janet Walters of Hamilton, Illinois, Christine (John) Stewart of Sutter, Illinois, and Michael Brownlee of Everton, Missouri; his aunt Anna Hardy of Hamilton, Illinois; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.



Steve is preceded in death by his parents, his brother Traves and his infant brother Terry.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 am on Thursday, April 28, 2022, at Printy Funeral Home in Warsaw. Visitation will be held at the funeral home on Wednesday from 3 to 8 pm, with family meeting friends from 5 to 8 pm.

Memorials may be directed to P.A.W.S. or the Quincy Humane Society. Tributes and condolences may be left at [www.printyfuneralhome.com](http://www.printyfuneralhome.com). Printy Funeral Home of Warsaw is in charge of arrangements.

### HELEN L. REYNOLDS, BILL L. REYNOLDS

The graveside committal service for Helen L. Reynolds, 94, and her son Bill L. Reynolds, 69, will be 1:00 PM Thursday, April 28, 2022 at Burlington Memorial Park Cemetery. Prugh Funeral Service is in care of the service.

#### 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.

## For the Record

#### Fort Madison Police Report

04/19/22 - 9:48 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident at the intersection of 24th Street and Avenue A.

04/19/22 - 2:15 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 3100 block of Avenue M.

04/19/22 - 6:33 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit & run in the 400 block of Avenue D.

04/20/22 - 12:36 a.m. - Fort

Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2000 block of Avenue D.

#### Lee County Sheriff Report

04/19/22 - 9:58 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Michelle Kristen Gollither, 36, listed as homeless living in Keokuk, in Hancock County, on a warrant for being a fugitive from justice. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

04/19/22 - 10:44 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Justice Cole Woodsmall, 26, of Mt. Pleasant, at the North Lee County Courthouse, on warrants for voluntary absence from custody and a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee

County Jail.

04/19/22 - 3:32 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies cited and released Adam James Huss, 33, no address given, in the 2000 block of 255th Street, Donnellson, on a charge of driving while barred.

04/19/22 - 4:31 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested April Dawn Settles, 40, of Carthage, at the Hancock County Jail, on a warrant for being a fugitive from justice. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

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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Price includes all menu items & one beverage of choice. Additional beverages available for purchase during event.

**MENU:**

- Ribeye Steak (sauteed mushrooms & onions optional)
- Baked Potato
- Rolls
- Cole Slaw
- Beer - Wine - Tea - Water

CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS

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# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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## From the Front

# Bohannon points to divisiveness of political climate

**CAMPAIGN** - Continued from Page 1

of politics.

“It’s so important that we get back to someone who puts people before political party. This district deserves that.”

The district has traditionally been the state’s 2nd Congressional District, but due to redistricting, it’s now the state’s 1st district.

She said bipartisanship is apparent in the Iowa legislature, but it’s the partisan work that separates the effort.

“I’ve stood up to some really bad bills, but I’ve also worked hard to find common ground and worked on things like elder abuse and human trafficking and found that commonality across the aisle,” she said.

“But we know there’s a time when you have to stand up to some things, especially when the Republicans in the legislature are really going pretty far off to the right with some of their bills.”

Bohannon has a degree in engineering from the University of Florida and a law degree from Fredric G. Levin College of Law. She moved to Iowa in 2000 to begin teaching at the University of Iowa.

She immediately went after the Republican approach to Iowans and how the GOP focuses on re-election rather than leading the state.

“In getting around the 1st district, I see that people work hard everywhere all over Iowa. Our workers are not the lazy workers that Governor Kim Reynolds is describing. Iowa workers are not kicked back in some hammock somewhere taking it easy through the pandemic. That’s not what we’ve seen in Iowa,” she said.

“Our Iowa workers are heroes. They are the ones that brought us through the pandemic, not Gov. Reynolds and not the CEOs.”

She said Iowa needs first and foremost to get back to leading the nation in educating our students.

“We have to get over this fixation with vouchers and that means investing in PreK, K-12, community college, univer-

sities, apprenticeships, skills training . . . all of it. We have to invest in public education. And we have to stop vilifying our public school teachers,” she said.

“It’s crazy talk. And you know who doesn’t vilify teachers? China.”

She said in China, teachers are revered and the U.S. cannot fall behind in our educational system and competing with China.

Health care was another hot topic for Bohannon. She said even with the high percentage of income going to health care, people still struggle with access in smaller towns across the state.

“If people can’t get the care they need in a small town, they will not live there. If they don’t have schools, because about 140 of our rural schools have shut down over the last several years, they will not live there.”

Workforce is being challenged with transportation issues, child care, broadband, affordable housing and she said the state has to get more aggressive in addressing those issues.

She said unions will help make sure that Iowans will get their fair shot and won’t just get by.

“That’s what unions are about. There’s nothing more Iowan and nothing more American than that,” she said.

Bohannon spoke about inflation, as well. Last week at a visit to Steffensmeier Welding & Manufacturing in Pilot Grove, U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst laid the blame of inflation at the feet of President Joe Biden and his administration. But Bohannon channeled blame to corporate greed.

“There are corporations, especially food companies and others, who said ‘We had to increase our prices because of supply chain problems,’ right? They are now reporting record profits coming out of the pandemic. How does that work?” she asked.

“If you had to increase prices because your costs were high, how are you now ending up with record profits?”

She said investigators need to examine the possibility of price gouging and blaming the pandemic for putting high prices on people who can’t afford food.

“These are some of the things that I want to look at.

These are the things that I feel like are the way we get to giving people a fair shot. Not just getting by, but getting ahead.”

She said the country has current representation who would rather tell lies than face facts and find solutions.

“We have representatives who are listening more to party bosses and special interests than they are to the people they represent,” she said. “Nowhere is that more true than right here in the 1st District.”

She said the biggest threat to democracy is that people are “checking out” of politics because of the emotion of the political climate, but said Iowans need to pay close attention to what Mariannette Miller-Meeks has been doing and saying.

Bohannon alleged that Miller-Meeks falsely claimed the Biden Administration denied veterans’ benefits to veterans that weren’t vaccinated, and pointed to Miller-Meeks’ opposition to the Infrastructure Bill that Iowa desperately needs.

“The fact is our opponents are not always telling the truth. My opponent has spread misinformation about many issues in the short time she’s been in office,” Bohannon said. “It’s difficult to combat that, but we have to get out there and do our best to talk to people and explain what’s really going on.”

She credits her rapid ascent to not being part of the political establishment.

“I’m very concerned about two things. First, our democracy, that it continues and is strong. And I’m worried about the divisiveness we see. The lying and name calling is turning people off of politics and our government and that worries me a lot,” she said.

“I teach there are two sides to every argument and I teach the debate makes us stronger, but the extremity in divisiveness is really bad for our government.”

She said Lee County is like many other counties in the district who are concerned with “kitchen table issues” and aren’t necessarily ideological in their approach to politics.

“They just want people who are going to listen to them and who are working for them.”




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Sports

# Johnson, boys 4x100 qualify for Drake Relays

**DEMON RELAYS:** Macayden Rhoer sets career-best mark breaking one-minute mark in 400 hurdles

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

WASHINGTON – Tate Johnson said it was probably a pretty ugly picture when he crossed the finish line on the final leg of the boys' 4x100 meter relay, but that ugly win set a meet record at the Washington Demon Relays Thursday night and qualified the group for the Drake Relays next week.

Johnson blew past the field in the final leg taking a handoff from Hayden Segoviano and blazing to a 43.90 to take first place in the event and solidify a qualification at Drake. The time also set the Demon Relays record besting the previous mark of 44.26 by Mediapolis in 2011.

Johnson's 11.09 in the open 100 was just .01 seconds off the projected Drake cut of 11.08, but he was informed Friday afternoon that he qualified and is seeded 29th of 32. The 4x100 team will be seeded 25th of 32.

Junior Tate Settles ran the first leg giving the Hounds a look at first before handing to freshman Julian Dear, who posted an 11.88 in the open 100, good enough for sixth overall. Dear then handed to Segoviano on the third leg before Johnson took off.

Head Coach Mike Schneider said the time was the best of the year for the foursome, but said the handoffs are still rough.

"They're so dialed in. They've been working on their handoffs, working on their steps. They're working hard. I think our handoffs still could be a little better. I'm happy for them, and they're happy and that's contagious," Schneider said.

Schneider said the 4x100 field was stacked as teams had one last night to qualify for Drake and he wasn't sure his squad would finish first, but thought they could qualify. But he was surprised



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison's Tate Johnson outraces the field in the Bloodhounds' 4x100 relay Thursday night in Washington. The Hounds' Hayden Segoviano follows in the background after the handoff. The relay team qualified for the Drake Relays with a meet record 43.90.

by several other performances including Macayden Rhoer's 400 hurdles.

Rhoer posted a career-best 58.15, .69 seconds off the pace of Iowa Valley's Brody Ward who overtook Rhoer on the second-to-last hurdle set to pull away.

The senior said the race felt fast from the start. "That was the best time of my career. This was a better night, a beautiful night to run with no wind. It was perfect," Rhoer said.

"I was coming down the straight away and clipped a hurdle and that slowed me down a bit, but it was just like 'Wow, I felt really fast.'"

Schneider said it's a great reward for great work.

"He's so excited. He works so hard and I'm so happy for him to see that," Schneider said. "He has a really good shot at making state in that event. His hurdle form is impeccable. His head comes down the way it should, it doesn't pop. He does it just the way you're supposed to."

Rhoer also set personal bests in the 110 hurdles 16.70 (4th), and helped the Hounds shuttle hurdle team of

Rhoer, Teague Smith, Caleb Bolander, and Adam Sobczak to a season-best 1:10.11, good enough for fourth place overall.

Sobczak surprised many with a second-place finish in the 200-meters with a personal best 24.31 edging teammate Mikey DiPrima by .23 seconds and finishing .71 off the pace of Liberty's Evan Chandler. DiPrima was second in the high jump at 5-10.

In the girls' race, senior Racquel Schneider helped the Lady Hounds to a sixth-place finish overall with a second place finish in the 400 hurdles at 1:12.99. Aija Jenkins jumped 4-10 in the high jump, good enough for second, and eight points.

The distance medley team of Jenkins, Lillian Gelsthorpe, Katie Dennis, and Paetyn Wiegand took 3rd with a time of 4:44.86.

Head Coach Brian Mendez said Schneider took a full second off her 400 hurdles.

"There's no doubt in mind that she will be in Des Moines for the state meet. She's got some tough races coming up and our district will be tough, but that's what we want," Mendez said.

"I think we run well when the competition is good."

He said this is the first year in a long time where he's been able to put girls in every event.

"Some of the relays we were running two teams in and that hasn't happened in years. I'm just thrilled to give kids a chance to run."



Lunch Specials  
April 25-29  
11am - 1pm

Monday, April 25

Tenderloin, Tater Tots

Tuesday, April 26

Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes

Wednesday, April 27

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Thursday, April 28

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Friday, April 29

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## Classifieds/Public Notices

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

### PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Lee County, Iowa**  
**Board of Supervisors**  
**Agenda**  
**DATE: Monday,**  
**April 25, 2022**  
**MEETING**  
**CONVENING TIME:**  
**10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.**  
**(CDT)**  
**LOCATION:**  
**933 Avenue H**  
**Fort Madison, IA**

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Pledge of Allegiance  
 Approve Agenda  
 Public Input

Consider Approval of Service Agreement with Garratt Callahan for Water Treatment Chemical Program on New Boiler at South Courthouse  
 Discuss and Consider Approval of ICIT Tech Team to Conduct Assessment of County IT Infrastructure

Consider Approval of Chief Elected Official Shared Liability Agreement with Mississippi Valley Workforce Area

Consider Approval of Resolution Increasing Credit Card Limit for IT Director

Consider Approval of Monday, April 18, 2022

Board Minutes  
 Consider Approval of Claims for Payment  
 Personnel Actions:  
 A. New Hire - Secondary Roads (Replacement)  
 B. Part-time New Hire - Treasurer's Office (Replacement)  
 C. Part-time New Hire -IT  
 D. Step Increase - Sheriff's Office  
 Commission or Committee Reports  
 Adjourn

Workshop to Follow

PUBLIC MEETING  
 CITIZENS WELCOME

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**CENTRAL LEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**DONNELLSON, IOWA 52625**  
**(EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CENTER)**  
**TENTATIVE AGENDA**  
**APRIL 26, 2022**  
**SPECIAL SESSION**  
**7:30 A.M.**

1. Roll Call
2. Approve agenda
3. PUBLIC HEARING: Central Lee Community School - High School and PK-8 Exterior Painting  
 Review proposed drawings, specifications, form of contract and estimated costs:  
 A. Open hearing for public comment  
 B. Approve/Reject Bids for Exterior Painting
4. PUBLIC HEARING: Central Lee Community School - Proposed Parking Lot Improvements  
 Review proposed drawings, specifications, form of contract and estimated costs:

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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# Classifieds/Public Notices

## PUBLIC NOTICES

costs:  
A. Open hearing for public comment  
5. Adjourn

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
Regular Meeting  
Monday,  
March 7th, 2022  
7:00PM  
City Hall**

disbursements and March '22 bills to be allowed: all ayes.

Public Hearing to Approve FY2023 City Budget – no written or oral comments.

Motion by Newton, second by Weber to approve Resolution No 2022-05 Approving FY2023 City Budget: RCV all ayes.

Motion by Newton, second by Estrada Approving the transfer of funds for FY2023: RCV all ayes.

Motion by Moeller, second by Weber Accepting Ted Wiegand proposal for FY2022 Annual Examination: all ayes. Proposals were as follows: Ted Wiegand, CPA \$ 4,610, Rachele Thompson, CPA \$5,865.

Set April 4th 2022 to open bids for sealcoating of streets in summer 2022.

Set April 18th thru 29th to flush mains.

Roadside Cleanup will

be held April 23rd 2022. Volunteer are needed and asked to meet at the Donnellson Fire Station 8:30am that morning.

Spring Cleanup for residential customer will be held May 4th 2022.

Motion by Moeller, second by Weber to create revised ordinance raising the garbage fee from \$17 to \$19 due to increase in landfill fee as well as set date for public hearing for April 4th 2022 for first reading: all ayes.

Motion by Moeller, second by Newton to approve Investment Policy: all ayes.

Motion by Newton, second by Estrada to approve Mission Statement for the City of Donnellson: all ayes.

Police Report - There were 48 calls for service in February, 15 traffic stops and 36 building checks.

Clerk Report - The

City of Donnellson has created a new website which allows residents to sign up for notifications, go to [donnellsoniowa.org](http://donnellsoniowa.org) and click on subscribe to receive the latest news. Donnellson Vision has created a community club for community members to engage with each other to plan & host events. Community members are encouraged to attend March 30th 6:30pm at the Pilot Grove Community Room to find out more information. Donnellson has applied for a Well-mark Grant to help off set the cost of extending the walking trail at Westview Park.

There being no other business to come before the Council, motion by Newton, second by Moeller, Mayor Ellingboe declared the meeting adjourned: all ayes.

Dave Ellingboe, Mayor  
Attest: Rebecca Schau,

City Clerk

Summary of All Receipts: General \$42,932.15 Capital Equipment Reserve \$0 Road Use Tax \$9,737.41 Employee Benefit \$97.29 Local Option Sales Tax \$0 Debit Service \$0 Rathbun \$0 ARPA \$0 Water \$24,971.38 Water Sinking USDA \$1,816.00 Sewer \$28155.27 Sewer Sinking \$0. Summary of All Disbursements: General \$18,716.36 Capital Equipment Reserve \$0 Road Use Tax \$2,884.44 Employee Benefit \$1,501.06 Local Option Sales Tax \$35,299.64 Debit Service \$0 Capital Project Fund \$0 Rathbun \$0 ARPA \$2,660.00 Water \$14,036.62 Water Sinking \$1,816.00 Sewer \$15,872.18 Sewer Sinking \$0

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### PUBLIC NOTICE LEE COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS MEETING NOTICE

THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE LEE COUNTY COMMISSION OF VETERAN AFFAIRS WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022 AT THE VA OFFICE IN FT MADISON AT THE COURTHOUSE AT NOON.

The agenda includes: 0 requests for Veterans financial assistance, March 2022 monthly financial report, minutes, monthly client report, update on Spring School and quarterly report.

The regular meeting of the Donnellson City Council was called to order by Mayor D. Ellingboe, with Council Members Weber, Marshall, Moeller, Newton & Estrada present.

Motion by Moeller, second by Marshall to approve the agenda: all ayes.

Citizen comments - None

Motion by Newton, second by Moeller to approve the minutes of the February '22 meeting: all ayes.

Motion by Estrada, second by Weber to approve the February '22 financial reports: all ayes.

Motion by Newton, second by Marshall to approve the February '22

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# Classifieds/Public Notices

## PUBLIC NOTICES

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 MASTERCARD, Misc  
 Supplies ..... 431.39  
 WINDSTREAM, Phone/  
 Internet ..... 395.58  
 ALLIANT ENERGY,  
 Street Lights ..... 1,411.24  
 ALLIANT ENERGY, Elec-  
 tric ..... 4,444.18

GRRWA, Landfill Fee  
 ..... 378.00  
 MCFARLAND SUPPLY,  
 Office Supplies ..... 75.42  
 CITY OF FT MADISON,  
 Testing ..... 280.00  
 MID AMERICAN ENER-  
 GY, Gas ..... 883.94  
 EFTPS, FED/FICA  
 TAXES ..... 3,780.18  
 IPERS, IPERS-REGU-

LAR ..... 2,368.95  
 TODD HERDRICH, Cell-  
 phone Reimbursement  
 ..... 50.00  
 TODD HERDRICH, Side-  
 walk Grant ..... 250.00  
 DONNELLSON LUMBER  
 CO, Garage Door Remote  
 ..... 57.99  
 DAILY DEMOCRAT,  
 PROCEEDINGS ... 183.88  
 HUFFMAN'S FARM AND  
 HOME, UPS charge, misc

supplies ..... 122.18  
 SECRETARY OF STATE,  
 Notary ..... 30.00  
 KIESLER'S POLICE  
 SUPPLY, Ammo .... 539.86  
 PAUL'S PLUMBING, Fur-  
 nace Ignition Board  
 ..... 324.07  
 SEICCA, Dues ..... 20.00  
 CITY OF WEST POINT,  
 Chiefs Fuel/Wages  
 ..... 3,184.46  
 BRAD ROBERTS, Reim-

bursement ..... 250.00  
 WEX BANK, Fuel.. 851.78  
 QC ANALYTICAL SER-  
 VICES, Testing ..... 25.00  
 VERIZON, Data .... 120.03  
 JM ELECTRIC, INC, New  
 Power to Furnace  
 ..... 624.00  
 SIMMERING-CORY &  
 IOWA COD, Codification  
 ..... 327.00  
 DAWN SCHAU, Cleaning  
 Office ..... 225.00  
 USPS, Water Bill Postage  
 & Stamps ..... 320.00  
 KEYSTONE LABORATO-  
 RIES, Testing ..... 26.25  
 RATHBUN REGIONAL  
 WATER, Bulk Water  
 ..... 5,082.00  
 IOWA ASSOC MUN  
 UTILITIES, Dues .. 717.00  
 USDA RURAL DEVEL-  
 OPMENT, Rathbun Loan  
 ..... 1,816.00  
 KOHLMORGAN HAUL-

ING, Trash/Recycling  
 ..... 13,005.00  
 LYNCH DALLAS, P.C.,  
 Lawyer Fees ..... 175.00  
 BRENDA KNOX, Reim-  
 bursement Face Masks  
 ..... 21.39  
 DIANE KRUSE, Reim-  
 bursement ..... 63.89  
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 RSM US LLP, Managed  
 IT/Service ..... 853.13  
 WOODWORKERS, Mag-  
 azine ..... 19.95  
 ACCESS, IT ..... 134.71  
 COOKS COUNTRY, Mag-  
 azine ..... 29.95  
 PAWS, Donation ... 200.00  
 VERTICAL COMMUNI-  
 CATIONS, Phone ... 99.60  
 PAYROLL CHECKS, TO-  
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 ..... 13,810.88  
 CLAIMS TOTAL  
 ..... 59,153.23

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## From the Front

# Chambers still \$70M apart on finalizing state budget

**SESSION** - Continued from Page 1

up to \$10,000 in scholarships focused mainly on larger school systems in Des Moines and Cedar Rapids. The House bill sets the income threshold at 300% or about \$82,000 for a family of four. The Senate bill sets that threshold at 400%. Both bills would also require an Individual Education Plan.

Under the House plan, the families will be eligible for a \$5,000 scholarship with the remaining \$5,000 staying with the school district the student is transferring out of.

“It makes sense on how it works, but also keeps money with the school system that the student leaves,” Graber said.

Graber said he believes the House will be back in session in the middle of next week.

Reichman said now the negotiations begin around the remaining bills in play.

“We’ve reached the point in time where it gets into the gamesmanship – which goes on every year,” Reichman said.

“You got stuff we want, I’ve got stuff you want and leadership is negotiating those things.”

He said the budget is about \$70 million apart in the chambers and one of the sticking points is unemployment. He said the Senate would like to get the budget closer to the governor’s proposal and cut a bit of spending.

The unemployment deal is stuck on an issue regarding a week delay, or forfeiture in unemployment benefits.

“The House passed their version without the week – they call it delay, I call it a forfeiture. That got taken out by them. They sent it to us and we put the week back in it, they took it back out again, and that forces it to a reconciliation committee. But I don’t think they have the votes to pass it,” he said.

“A one week delay would be a forfeiture. Siemens did a one-week shut down, and now it’s a three-week shutdown, so people get paid for all three weeks, however, if they do just one week, that is forfeiture.”

Graber said people can’t live on the amount of money 26 weeks of unemployment provides.

“That’s not a place I’d want to be. What happens under the proposal is you don’t get week one back. I would like to believe that everyone would have their finances under control, but that’s not the world we live in. Fifty percent of folks say that one week would hurt them.”

The so-called Parents’ Rights bill has a proposition to post curriculum online for parents to see what literature and planning is involved at the state’s public schools. Reichman said he’s received many comments from constituents on the bill and the current senate version has that provision removed.

“I think that’s the version we’re working from. That’s the big aspect of it from what I know,” he said.

But he said the bill is supposed to generate openness to public schools and accessibility for parents, but he’s hearing about plans to circumvent the law by changing words and hiding curriculum.

Keokuk Chamber Director Shelley Oltmans asked if there wasn’t already a curriculum review process. Reichman said it’s his understanding there is, but it doesn’t go far enough and he supports the Parents’ Rights bill.

Graber said one of his problems, which has been removed from current legislation, is a camera in each classroom.

“One of the problems there was that the cameras would be live, there’s a whole bunch of things I have a problem with there including pedophiles,” Graber said.

“The live camera isn’t something we would want to do, but a camera that is static and recording could work. If there was a question as to what happened you could go back and see what happened. Not watching teachers per se, but here’s the impartial of what happened in the classroom.”

Oltmans said she would have a problem with that if her child was in the classroom as it would suspend that child and family’s right to privacy.

“It’s not that you’re gonna post it or watch it all day long, but more of an honesty broker,” Graber said. “I could easily be supportive of cameras in the classroom, but not with a live feed that goes out to the world. The live camera thing has died in the house, but there is a place for static cameras.

“If we’re not doing anything wrong, we have nothing to hide. Parents should be the final authority on what their kids learn or don’t learn and what they’re exposed to and when they are exposed.”

Graber also mentioned the Veterans Trust Fund that was signed by Gov. Kim Reynolds earlier this week.

The bill allows the investment of Veterans Trust funds, which are currently at about \$36 million. Graber reintroduced the bill this year and made adjustments to the previous bill which helped get it passed through the legislature and the governor’s office.

“We will have a greater return on average, so we will have more money going to veterans, so I’m personally very excited about that bill,” Graber said.

The trust is funded with Iowa Lottery revenues and Reichman said the new law will help increase the trust to more than \$50 million.

“Martin picked it up and polished it and it was signed yesterday. So that’s done and good for him for picking that up and getting it reissued,” Reichman said.

Oltmans pressed the issue on the budget difference.

“You know the saying, a few million here and a few million there and pretty soon you’re talking real money,” Reichman said.

“The House passed a bill, sent it to the Senate and now it’s in appropriations. The difference in money is on their side now. They will come up with an answer and it will come back to us.”



Courtesy photo

Miss Rodeo Iowa 2022 Emma Bair of Keswick was the guest of Rep. Martin Graber (R-Fort Madison) at the state house and led the Pledge of Allegiance. She was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Jeff Reichman (R-Montrose).

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## From the Front

# SIREPA taking bigger role with local development

**SIREPA** - Continued from Page 1

Danville Telecom. The infrastructure will provide service to more than 120 unserved or underserved homes in the county, and is being built to allow for further growth and faster speeds. It will be able to hold 100 mbps upload and download speed when at full capacity.

That's pretty cool, but what's cooler is how it came together. The process brought front and center the power of the port authority.

This is the same group that helped facilitate the purchase of the KL Megla building that is now the center of operations for Lee County Economic Development Group and home to the Lee County Career Advantage Center.

It's also home to PV Pallet, a company that builds state-of-the-art pallets for solar panels. The relationship is an incubator currently, but plans are in place for a free standing facility on property owned by SIREPA on the LCEDG footprint. There's also a company restoring a historic oceanliner, and the Lee County Robotics team on site. The Fort Madison High School Construction Trades is on hand rebuilding the inside of the facility.

SIREPA stepped in this fall to help navigate the marriage of some America Rescue Plan Act funds at the county and state level to help bring the broadband project to fruition.

Administered by Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission Director Mike Norris, SIREPA was able to secure funding from the county as part of its \$6.5 million allocation, to trigger an Iowa grant through the Office of the Chief Information Officer.

The county allocated \$1.95 million to broadband in its planning for use of the U.S. Treasury allocation to the nation's counties. Norris stepped in on behalf

of SIREPA and asked for the full 30% of the county's broadband funding on behalf of Danville Telecom.

That money triggered about \$3.8 million from the state OCIO to help fund the project.

This just scratches the surface of what SIREPA's capabilities are. This group is a municipality in the eyes of the state. They can't levy a tax, but they can issue revenue bonds, engage in financing, own and lease property – even hire their own police force.

According to Iowa Code 28J, the authority enjoys and possesses the same legislative and executive rights, privileges, and powers granted cities under chapter 364 and counties under chapter 331, including the exercise of police power.

The group can also create Foreign Trade Zones, which typically allow duty-free exporting as a benefit.

At Thursday's meeting SIREPA approved agreements with the county on the usage of the ARPA funds, as well as an agreement with Danville Telecom where SIREPA will actually own the fiber optic backbone in Lee County for a period of 10 years.

SIREPA will also receive just under \$1 million in lease payments from Danville Telecom over the 10 years that can be used for additional broadband development projects in Lee County. When coupled with the LCEDG facility, SIREPA has recently stepped in as a viable and unique economic development mechanism in Lee County.

The group was created by resolution of the cities of Fort Madison and Keokuk, and Lee County after the state approved legislation allowing the creation of authorities within the state in 2005. SIREPA was formed in 2006 and was the first authority in the state.

SIREPA can own and operate not only water

ports, but intermodal ports away from the shores of waterways within the jurisdiction of the authority, which is defined by Lee County's borders.

On Thursday, Mike Hickey, the authority board's vice chairman, said the broadband effort was just another project that shows the value of the port authority to the local economy. He said the group needs to get back in front of the people to talk about the successes of the authority and future opportunities.

Norris said the rest of the state is looking at what the authority is accomplishing and how it's getting done.

"As people learn more about port authorities, guess who they are calling – SIREPA," Norris said.

This group is one of those groups that deserves our attention. The start of the organization came slowly as everyone involved learned what the state had empowered with the 2005 legislation. But this group is now involved in more than \$6 million in local investment and that's just happened in the past 18 months.

They'll receive about \$950,000 in lease payments over the next 10 years to help leverage more development, and they can jump in on other projects as they are identified.

This group it seems is quickly becoming part of the economic development fabric of Lee County, and we believe we'll be glad they are.

One thing we're not currently glad about is the maze that is the path through Fort Madison. Frustrations are already high with the intersection at 18th and E. This type of progress always comes with a temporary price, so let's breathe through it. But that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is editor and co-owner of Pen City Current, and can be reached at [charles.v@pencitycurrent.com](mailto:charles.v@pencitycurrent.com).

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# United Way of the Great River Region



**Friday, May 6, 2022 • Sheaffer Memorial Golf Park • Fort Madison, Iowa**

**Team Registration—\$400** Deadline for Team Registration is **Monday, April 25, 2022**  
Includes carts, lunch, free soda & water, snacks, 2 mulligans per golfer &  
5 drink tickets per golfer (drink tickets not good for mixed drinks)

**Packet pick-up will begin at 10:00 am.**

**Waiver & release must be signed before play begins.**

**Lunch at 11:00 am.**

**Shotgun start at 12:00 Noon.**

Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Name (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Golfers (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Please note, all golfers will sign a waiver and release before play begins.\*\***

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# United Way of the Great River Region



**Friday, May 6, 2022 • Sheaffer Memorial Golf Park • Fort Madison, Iowa**

## Golf Outing Sponsorship Opportunities

There are many sponsorship opportunities available. Feel free to mix and match. Have questions? Contact Karen at United Way of the Great River Region at 319-524-4504.

- Corporate Sponsor—\$1000** Maximize your sponsorship with the first deadline of **Monday, March 21, 2022**. Some advertising will already be done before the second deadline of **Monday, April 11, 2022**. Includes name & logo on advertising, banner hung at the golf course, hole sponsor sign, opportunity to be at the golf course to market to players, can have a four person golf team but not required. Please provide a jpeg file of your logo to the United Way. Use team registration page if entering a team in.
- Hospitality Sponsor—\$300** Deadline **Friday, April 29, 2022**. Includes name & logo on beverage carts, at the buffet line and throughout the golf course. Please provide a jpeg file of your logo to the United Way.
- Hole Sponsor—\$100** Deadline **Monday, April 25, 2022**. Includes sign by green and opportunity to be at your green to market to players. Please provide a jpeg file of you logo to the United Way.
- Team Sponsor—\$400** **See team registration page.** Deadline **Monday, April 25, 2022**. Includes: cart, lunch, free soda & water, snacks, 2 mulligans/golfer & 5 drink tickets/golfer (drink tickets not good for mixed drinks)

If you wish to be invoiced, please contact Karen Siefken at the United Way office at 319-524-4504.

Be sure to check the box by the sponsorship you are interested in.  
If you are sponsoring a team, please use the team registration page.

For Corporate, Hospitality or Hole Sponsorship please email a jpeg file of your logo to [director@unitedwaygrr.org](mailto:director@unitedwaygrr.org) on or before the appropriate deadline.

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Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

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**2022  
Course  
Improvement  
Tournament**

**Friday April 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Shotgun start at NOON**

**4 person best shot**

**Silent auction**

**On course games**

**Lunch served at 11 AM**

**Prizes**

**.....and more!**

**\$75**

Per person

**\$300**

Per 4 person team

(Pass or punch card holders  
pay \$50)

**Optional mulligans and  
skins game \$10/team**

**Call or email Ryan to sign up today!**

**319.528.6214**

**[rmcmillan@sheaffergolf.com](mailto:rmcmillan@sheaffergolf.com)**

Player 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Player 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Player 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Player 4 : \_\_\_\_\_



**SHEAFFER MEMORIAL  
GOLF COURSE**



# 🎵 MUSIC TRIVIA BENEFIT 🎵



## HELP BRING LUCY HOME!

Trivia provided by Rich Pickle Trivia



**WHAT:** Benefit to help pay for the cost of bringing Lucy home to rest.

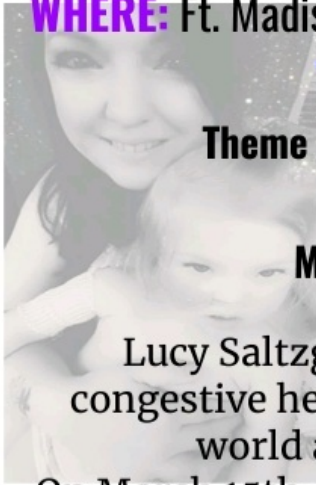
**WHEN:** Saturday, May 21, 2022 Beginning at 7PM

**WHERE:** Ft. Madison Eagle's Club

**Teams/tables of 8 will be \$120 (\$15 per player)**

**Theme baskets will be up for silent auction and winners announced after the final round of trivia.**

**Monetary donations are welcome and most appreciated!**



Lucy Saltzgaver fought bravely against pulmonary hypertension and congestive heart failure. Lucy also had Down Syndrome, was a light in this world and the center of her Mommy's and Daddy's universe. On March 15th, Lucy, our little angel, went to heaven to live beyond this realm to be eternally happy, made whole, and perfect in every way as she waits for the great reunion with her loved ones.

All proceeds will be used to help bring Lucy home to her final resting place close to family, friends, and loved ones.

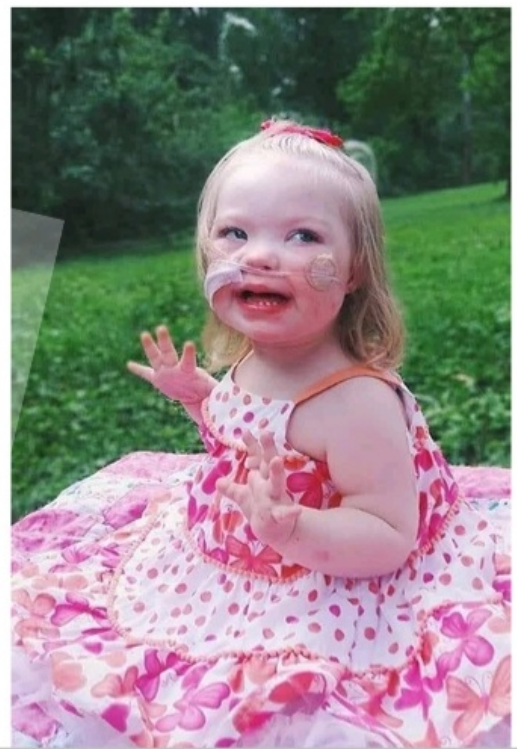
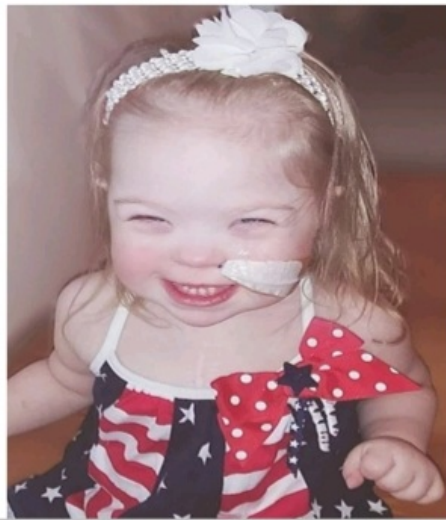
To reserve a table or...

For more information or questions call:

Michelle: 319-561-0040

Kayla: 319-470-0178

Melissa: 319-470-5183



# DENMARK HERITAGE DAYS

## JUNE 3, 4, 5, 2022 DENMARK, IA



1953 Mercury



1940 D45  
Allis Chalmers

**DAILY ACTIVITIES**  
 Homemade Ice Cream  
 Book Sale  
 Antiques/Primitives  
 Flea Market/Crafts  
 Horse Drawn Wagon Rides  
 Kids' Train Rides  
 Kettle Corn

### FRIDAY

**Tractor/Gas Engine Registration** 7 a.m.  
**Town Wide Yard Sales** 8 a.m.  
**Live Music in Shelter House** 7 p.m.  
 by Stump Town.

### SATURDAY

**Breakfast at Fire Station** 7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.  
**Town Wide Yard Sales** 8 a.m.  
**Custom Cars & Pickups** 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
**Wiffle Ball Game** 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
**Sidewalk Chalk Contest** 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.  
**Tractor Parade** 1 p.m.  
**Silver Steppers** 2:30 p.m.  
**Pedal Tractor Pulls** 2:30 p.m.  
**Live Auction** 4 p.m.  
**Pork Meal in Shelter House** 5 p.m.  
**Live Music in Shelter House** 5:30 p.m.  
 by Lonesome Fugitive

### SUNDAY

**Breakfast at Church** 7:30 a.m.  
**Church in Shelter House** 10 a.m.  
**Ham Ball Dinner at Church** 11 a.m.  
**Tractor Parade** 1 p.m.

**CONTACT INFO**  
 VENDORS 319-470-8670  
 319-470-0050  
 CAR SHOW 319-759-4331  
 GENERAL INFORMATION  
 319-470-3805

**YOU WILL FIND  
 DENMARK HERITAGE  
 DAYS ON FACEBOOK**

[www.denmarkheritageday.com](http://www.denmarkheritageday.com)