

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Tuesday, May 17, 2022 | 10 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 91



www.pencitycurrent.com

Hull wants action on 180th St.

IMPROVEMENTS: County has been trying to get IFC, IDOT officials to act on road just north of fertilizer plant

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – County Engineer Ben Hull said an effort to get 180th Street north along the Iowa Fertilizer Company property up to standard has to move forward this year.

At Monday's regular meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, Hull told the board this is the third conversation he's had with state Department of Transportation officials and IFC officials about getting the roadway improved.



Pen City Current file photo

Lee County Engineer Ben Hull wants 180th Street just north of the Iowa Fertilizer Plant brought up to standard. He said the road is failing and dangerous to motorists.

Hull said county crews dumped a maintenance truck on the road last winter.

"It's not sloped correctly so there's no chance for vehicles that leave the roadway to stay upright. We experienced that ourselves last year with one of our own trucks," Hull said.

Supervisor Garry Seyb said personnel changes have muddied the conversations of the past several years. Hull agreed saying most of

the people he is talking with now are new to the conversation about the roads.

Another meeting to try and iron out the improvements was held Monday afternoon.

"This has to be the last time we try to hold conversations about that roadway. This is the third time since I've been the engineer that we've

See **COUNTY**, page 8

READING PROGRAMS

City library throttles up summer reading

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – If you enjoy a book on the back patio or the porch swing, then the Fort Madison Public Library wants to reward you for your time escaping, even if you listen to audio books.

The library's summer reading program kicks off May 31, but Fort Madison Public Library director Sarah Clendineng said there's plenty more planned for the summer.

Clendineng spoke at Fort Madison Kiwanis' Monday lunch meeting and said the library is making it easier than ever to get rewarded for reading, including the year-long Beanstack tracking app.

The app requires a simple registration with a username and password on Beanstack Tracker by Zoobean, however you don't need to use the app if you don't have the tech or the gumption to stay connected.



CLENDINENG

"If you don't want to do that app or tracking we have ways of doing it for you. We're not going to force anyone to use that especially since there may still be people who don't have a phone that can do that or a computer at home," Clendineng said.

She said you can track reading minutes at home and then claim prizes all at once. You can present your minutes read to library staff for prizes.

Registration for the summer reading program begins May 31 and the first 50 kids to register will receive a velvet coloring poster, reading record, crayons, and a lanyard to hold buttons that are being offered this year.

"For the kids and teens, we're doing something a little different this year. We're going to be handing out buttons. So for every 120 minutes you read, you get a button. If you attend at least one activity a week, you get a button and then once you collect enough buttons, you can claim prizes," she said.

For little readers, stickers will be handed out instead of buttons, and those can be

See **LIBRARY**, page 3



HULL

The stretch of roadway was a gravel road when IFC first came to Lee County. The company improved the roadway at their cost during construction of the plant, but Hull said it is not sloped correctly nor built to withstand the traffic flow. The county has a weight limit of 10,000 lbs. on the roadway and Hull said it is not holding up well.

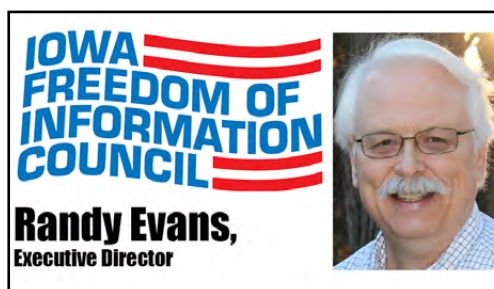
OPINION

Some Americans growing tired waiting for leaders to lead

Aaron Salter Jr., 55, was on duty at the security job that supplemented his retirement income. Ruth Whitfield, 86, was buying groceries. Celestine Chaney, 65, stopped in for strawberries for the shortcake she and her sister were eager to enjoy.

But their plans went awry Saturday afternoon. Salter's work shift ended sooner than he expected. Whitfield didn't make it through her grocery list. And thoughts of strawberry shortcake evaporated in a flash for Chaney.

The three were slaughtered along with seven other people at a Tops supermarket in Buffalo, N.Y. Just like the 20 students, all 6 and 7 years old, and six employees who were massacred at Sandy Hook Elementary School



in Connecticut in 2012. Just like the 60 people who were gunned down at a music festival in Las Vegas in 2017.

If only our government officials were as interested in these individuals as were the political leaders who have obsessed over University of Pennsylvania swimmer Lia Thom-

See **EVANS**, page 8

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
TUE 17 May.....Broken Clouds, 77° F/ 55° F
WED 18 May.....Rain, 76° F/ 62° F
THU 19 May.....Light Rain, 80° F/ 58° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 05/15.....4 7 13 25 40, Lucky Ball: 13
PICK 3 05/15 MIDDAY.....3 9 4
PICK 3 05/15 EVENING.....7 3 5
PICK 4 05/15 MIDDAY.....4 1 5 7
PICK 4 05/15 EVENING.....3 5 6 2

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

STEVEN R. THORNTON

Steven R. "Spike" Thornton, 68, of Sperry, died at 5:30 AM Monday, May 9, 2022, at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics in Iowa City.

Born May 14, 1953, in Burlington, he was the son of Robert and Maxine Malcom Thornton.



THORNTON

Steven graduated Burlington Community School. After graduating high school, Spike started his career at Modern Welding. He enjoyed working at Modern Welding as a welder for over 40 years and took great pride in his craftsmanship.

Steven was baptized, Methodist in Oakville on Mother's Day in 1953. Steven enjoyed being outdoors. He liked to go boating on the river, riding his motorcycle and four wheeler, hiking, and shooting guns and bows. Steven enjoyed trap and sleet and received awards for his marksmanship.

Survivors include his children, Jeremy Thornton of Burlington, Ann (Randy) Prado of LA and Stephen Thornton of Chicago, IL; three grandchildren, Nadia DiMartino of NC, Izel and Benicio Smothers of Davenport, IA; two sisters, Anita Pella of Burlington, and Deanna Bruce of Carmen, IL; brother, Kevin Thornton of Burlington; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation will be from noon until 7:00 PM with the family to receive friends from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM Friday, May 13, 2022 at Prugh-Thielen Funeral Home.

Burial will be held at a later date.

Prugh Funeral Service is in care of the arrangements.

Condolences can be sent to the family by visiting Steven's obituary at www.prughfuneral.com.

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

ALJEAN SMITH

Aljean "Al" Smith, 75, of Montrose passed away peacefully at 11:38 a.m. on May 15, 2022 at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Fort Madison, IA, with her family by her side in the hallway known as "Aljean Alley" which was a popular area requested by patients. Aljean was born to the late Keith and Leona Severson Kenison on November 14, 1946, in Mason City, IA. She is survived by her husband of 52 years Lloyd (Edward) Smith and three siblings, Linda (Gary) Lindsay, Cedar Rapids, Larry (Liz) Kenison, Northwood, and Brian (Connie) Kenison, rural Kensett. She is also survived by her sister-in-law Mary Helen Aves in Manly, IA. Aljean graduated from Northwood Kensett High School in 1964 and received a nursing degree from North Iowa Area Community College (NIACC) in 1966. She worked at the Fort Madison Community Hospital for 45 years as a nurse doing what she loved, taking care of others.



SMITH

She married Lloyd Edward Smith in 1970, and they lived together in Montrose for 44 years. Aljean is also survived by two children, Todd (Shannon) Smith of West Point, and Darin (Rachel) Smith of Le Roy, IL. Also surviving are grandchildren Ryan (Paige) Snaadt, Polk City, Drew, Natalie, Giuliana, Kynlee and Paxton. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Aljean loved supporting all her family's activities - recitals, concerts, and games, and was an enthusiastic and sometimes loud fan of the Iowa Hawkeyes. Aljean can be described in one word, loving. She was a friend to everyone and made a positive impact on all those she met. Aljean's example was inspiring, always there for all who came to her. Her home was open to everyone, and her hospitality made them feel important. She was the most thoughtful, humble, compassionate, understanding, selfless woman and one of the most beautiful souls one could ever meet. She was the embodiment of something Mitch Albom wrote, "When you look into your mother's eyes, you know that it's the purest love you can find on this earth."

A visitation will be held on Thursday, May 19, 2022 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory in Fort Madison. A memorial mass will be held on Friday, May 20, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Montrose, IA. A luncheon will follow the memorial mass. Burial will be held at Oakland Cemetery in Fort Madison, IA. A memorial has been established for the Fort Madison Community Hospital Foundation, 5445 Avenue O, PO Box 174, Fort Madison, IA 52627. Online condolences to the Smith family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.



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Charles Vandenberg, Editor

(319).371.1670

charles.v@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager

(319).371.4125

lee.v@pencitycurrent.com

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It's Black & White and Read all over

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For the Record/From the Front

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

05/13/22 – 7:37 a.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident at the intersection of 34th Street and Avenue L.

05/13/22 – 11:51 a.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Abigail Brooke Stegall, 20, of Fort Madison, in the 1800 block of Avenue J, on a charge of domestic assault – bodily injury. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

05/13/22 – 1:18 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1700 block of Avenue G.

05/13/22 – 2:42 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1900 block of Avenue M.

05/13/22 – 7:46 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 500 block of Avenue D.

05/14/22 – 6:06 a.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1400 block of Avenue E.

05/14/22 – 1:44 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1200 block of Avenue E.

05/14/22 – 1:54 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit & run in the 3400 block of Avenue L.

05/14/22 – 7:37 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 200 block of Avenue G.

05/15/22 – 12:44 a.m. – Fort

Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1300 block of 31st Street.

05/15/22 – 8:29 a.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit & run in the 3200 block of Avenue I.

05/15/22 – 1:02 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident at the intersection of 2nd Street and Avenue H.

05/15/22 – 5:06 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2100 block of Avenue E.

05/15/22 – 8:12 p.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Jazlynn Arlette Wilkerson, 40, of Fort Madison, in the 5400 block of Avenue O, on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

05/15/22 – 8:15 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 6100 block of Reve Court.

Lee County Sheriff Report

05/13/22 – 9:43 a.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Jody Everett Zohfeld, 44, of Keokuk, at the South Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for possession of less than 5gm methamphetamine. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

05/13/22 – 10:10 a.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Stone Fylyp Shoup, 26, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on a charge of sex offender registry – 1st offense. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

05/13/22 – 2:00 p.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Mathew Edward Coop, 35, of Edina, Mo., at the South Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

05/13/22 – 5:09 p.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Donald Ray Bauswell, Jr., 40, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on a warrant for weekend service judgment hold. He was later released.

05/13/22 – 8:46 p.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Kimberly Joy Hadenfeldt, 35, of Keokuk, at the North Lee County Courthouse, on a judgment hold warrant. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

05/14/22 – 3:02 a.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Vincent Manuel Hardy, 24, of Keokuk, at the South Lee County Courthouse, on 3 warrants for failure to appear – citation. He was later transferred to another county.

05/15/22 – 1:09 p.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies responded to a 2-vehicle accident in the 1900 block of Hwy. 2. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Jessica Rose Steffensmeier, 32, of Hillsboro, was traveling eastbound on Hwy. 2 and attempting to make a turn into a southside drive when it was rear-ended by a vehicle driven by Daniel Austin Nicol, 24, of Bonaparte, causing heavy damage to both vehicles. No injuries were reported. Steffensmeier's vehicle was towed from the scene.

Nicol was cited for following to close.

05/15/22 – 2:24 p.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies responded to a single-vehicle accident in the 2600 block of Hwy. 61. According to the report, a vehicle driven by James William Emmett, 67, of Montrose, was traveling northbound on Hwy. 61, when it was struck by a goose that resulted in minor lacerations to the driver. The vehicle had to be towed from the scene. No citations were reported.

Hancock County Sheriff Report

05/10/2022 – WALKER,ROBBIE L (47 of Dallas City, IL) Possession of Methamphetamine

05/11/2022 – SCOTT,KATRINA M. (32 of Hamilton, IL) Possession of Methamphetamine

05/11/2022 – MOEST,JAKE J (27 of Basco, IL) Animals at Large

05/12/2022 – NELSON,SEAN T. A. (24 of Warsaw, IL) Armed Violence, Defacing a Firearm, Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Cannabis

05/14/2022 – RANDOLPH,ASHLEY D (34 of Warsaw, IL) DUI – Cannabis, Possession of Adult Use Cannabis in Motor Vehicle, Improper Lane Usage

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

Annual summer library events in full swing

LIBRARY - Continued from Page 1

used the same as buttons.

For adults, punch cards will be available and for each visit to the library, you can get your card punched. Once you get five punches, you are eligible for entries into drawings for three gift baskets. One entry is received for every punch card completed.

The gift baskets are themed around reading, bird watching, and ice cream.

“The bird watcher may be my favorite as it comes with a bird puzzle, a really nice bird feeder which is really easy to clean, and food.”

Other adult programs for the summer include Walk and Talk Saturdays, book discussion gatherings around the community and county, a Paint-and-Sip event on June 28 at 5:30, and magician Duffy Hudson on July 13th at 2 p.m.

An Escape The Campsite event will be held July 7-9, while Minecraft Summer is held Tuesdays from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. June 7-July 5. Thursday Crafternoons will be held June 2-July 14th for ages 14 to adult.

The regular Cook the Book and All Booked Up! programs continue weekly on the second Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m., and the 1st Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m., respectively.

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Sports

Hounds end regular season with win

BY JOHN BOHNENKMAP
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison’s boys soccer team learned more from a loss than a win heading into the Class 2A substate tournament.

Monday’s 5-0 win over Mediapolis at the Baxter Sports Complex closed the regular season for the Bloodhounds (12-5), who open the postseason at home against Mount Pleasant on Tuesday night.

Mitchell Pothitakis had three goals and Leif Boeding and Payton Lambert scored once for the Bloodhounds, who took advantage of Mediapolis (10-6) playing one player down after a red card nine minutes into the match.

That made it difficult for coach Kevin Wellman to identify what went right for the Bloodhounds just two days after a 3-0 loss to Newton.

“It’s hard to tell for sure — they played a man down basically the whole game,” Wellman said. “We played better than we played at Newton, but you never know. Was that because we weren’t pressured as much because (Mediapolis) had 10 (players), so we had more time to play a better ball? I’m not sure.

“At Newton, we played with enough hustle, I feel like. But here we played with more. So that’s definitely part of it.”

Boeding gave Fort Madison a 1-0 lead less than a minute after Mediapolis’ Jack Myers picked up the red card. Pothitakis made it a 2-0 game after his goal with 14:51 to play in the first half, one that bounced off the right post and into the net.

Pothitakis then scored his next two goals in the first 23 seconds of the second half. Lambert closed the scoring with a goal with 2:59 to play.

Now the Bloodhounds head into the postseason with their first match at home. The substate semifinal is also scheduled for the Baxter Sports Complex, with the final set for Pella High School, a stadium that has artificial turf.

That made Saturday’s match against Newton, which plays on artificial turf, so important.

“The road to state is on Pella’s turf field,” Wellman said. “That was part of the reason we went to Newton, at the time of the year we went there, to get on turf and to play a team that is a top-notch team. They were good. They beat us in the air, their throw-ins and their corner kicks, and that identified something we needed to work on. Yes, it was very beneficial, even though we lost, to give us an idea of what we still have to work on. And it was obvious what we still have to work on.”



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Nathan Bowen works the midfield Monday night at Baxter Sports Complex. The Hounds won their regular season finale 5-0 against Mediapolis. Fort Madison opens post-season play Thursday against Mt. Pleasant at home.

The Bloodhounds swept through Southeast Conference play even though they lost two of their top goal scorers, Jacob Pothitakis and Xander Wellman, to season-ending knee injuries.

“I like where we’re at, all things considered,” Kevin Wellman said. “This group of kids is still really a tight-knit group. As a coach, I can’t ask for anything better than that.

“We still are struggling to score with those injured (players) gone, because they were our two forwards. It doesn’t change a whole lot of the rest of the team. We’re very strong on defense, very, very strong in the midfield. But we’re going to win those games. Going forward, we’re going to win those games.”

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Dr. De La Rosa is fluent in Spanish. She enjoys trying new foods, reading mysteries and watching movies.



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FM golfers fail to make district cut

WADES: Tyler and Brady Wade shoot 81, 84 for Bloodhounds

BY PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON – Tyler Wade shot a 9-over 81 at Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course Wednesday, but failed to qualify for districts on May 16.

The top four individual golfers and top two teams including ties were able to advance to the district meet at Vinton-Shellsburg’s Wildcat Golf Course.

Wade shot a 4-over 39 on the back nine including a birdie on the par 5 18, but ran a 42 on the front nine for the 81.

Brady Wade shot a 42-42 84 for the second best score for the Bloodhounds who finished 6th overall with 351 figuring in the team’s top four scorers.

Solon won the sectional with 293 points followed by Washington’s 325, Clear-Creek Amana with 329, Mt. Pleasant 330, and Fairfield’s 350.

Solon’s Mac McCarty shot a 1-under 71 for medalist honors. West Burlington-Notre Dame’s Kaleb Allen shot an even 72, but took third place losing the tie-breaker to Washington’s Roman Roth who also shot a 72. Allen and Roth were paired up in the event with Frank Heage Jr., of Solon.

Fort Madison’s other top two scorers were Brennan Ulik and Emmett Kruse, who both shot 93s for the Hounds. Aiden Pennock shot a 94 and Jordan Simpson carded a 106.

FMMS girls place 17th at state junior high track meet

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Middle School track teams set some high marks for the season.

The junior high girls took 17th place at the Mike Henderson Junior High State Track meet on Saturday.

The Bloodhounds were paced by Avery Rump’s 5:17.25 in the 1500 meter run, which was good enough for fourth place overall at the meet, and Mara Smith’s 32.08 in 200-meter hurdles.

Fort Madison 4×800 tallied a personal best with Addison Rump, Ellie Huebner, Caralena Crooks and Avery Rump running an 11:17.20, blowing away their season best time by 24 seconds. The time was good enough for fifth place. The Distance Medley team of Dayonna Davis, Huebner, Dynasty Bell and Avery Rump finished third with a 4:45.49.

The 4×400 relay team of Smith, Davis, Crooks and Bell was 6th overall with a 4:42.95. Addison Rump placed 10th in the 1500 with a 5:43.64, her best time of the year.

The Hounds only were able to compete in four events during the year due to rain cancelling three others.

Fort Madison scored 15 points on the day.

For the boys this year, Mason McLey tied Shaun Allen’s 8th grade mile mark at 4:58 from 1994. At the conference meet in Fairfield Monday night, Nolan Guzman beat Scott Stansbury’s High Jump record of 5-9, with a jump of 5-10.



Pictured left to right above are: Avery Rump, Ellie Huebner, Dayonna Davis, Mara Smith, Addison Rump, Caralena Crooks, Dynasty Bell.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF WEST BURLINGTON
Regular City Council Meeting
Wednesday,
May 18, 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 Special City Council meeting on May 4, 2022
 2. Approve minutes from the Regular City

Council Meeting on May 4, 2022
 3. Approve Liquor License renewal for Casey's 501 E. Mt. Pleasant
 4. Approve payment to Dorse & Whitney for legal services related to the 2022 G.O. Bond Issuance - \$9,000

5. Approve payment to Snyder & Associates for engineering services related to the Water Tower Booster Station Project - \$19,600.81
 6. Approve payment to Boomerang Corporation for work completed on the Water Tower & Booster

Station Project - Pay Request #13 - \$155,752.50
 7. Approve application for Five-Year Residential Tax Abatement for Mary Klein, 520 Vernon
 8. Approve payment to Karen Dewey for mileage reimbursement for Planning & Zoning Commis-

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

sion conference - \$91.26
9. Consider hiring additional staff for the Swimming Pool

10. Approve the purchase of Firehose nozzles and ground monitor package from Sandry Fire Supply - \$13,796.50

11. Approve the purchase of Extrication Equipment for the Fire Department from Heilmann - \$20,000

12. Approve the purchase of Genesis tools for the Fire Department from Sandry Fire Supply - \$12,992

13. Approve Clerk's Monthly Financial Report for March 2022

14. Approve payment of Claims as listed on the 051822, Expense Approval Report - \$312,835.67

COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS

- ADMINISTRATOR:
- PUBLIC WORKS:
- POLICE DEPARTMENT:
- FIRE/BUILDING DEPARTMENT:
- CLERK/FINANCE/IT:
- OTHER STAFF REPORTS:
- COUNCIL REPORTS:
- COMMUNITY REPORTS:

a. Jeremy Hess, Economic Development Director

rector will give an update from the Greater Burlington Partnership
b. Sara Sandburg, Airport Director & Hans Troustil, West Burlington's Representative on the Airport Board will give an update on Southeast Iowa Regional Airport Authority

CITIZEN INQUIRIES

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Budget Amendment for FY2021-2022

NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider a Resolution approving the Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

2. Consider options for vending services at the West Burlington Swimming Pool

3. Consider donating daily admission passes to the Burlington Public Library for their summer reading program

4. Consider amending Resolution 2022-20 - Wages for Swimming Pool Employees

5. Consider the second reading of an Ordinance setting Water Rates for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

6. Consider the final reading of an Ordinance

amending City Code Section 90.11 to include the installation of tracer wire on newly constructed or reconstructed water service lines

7. Consider the final reading of an Ordinance adding a new Section 90.22 prohibiting theft of services and tampering with the water service system

8. Consider the final reading of an Ordinance amending Chapter 91 of the City Code by adding a new Section 91.11 prohibiting the tampering of water meters

9. Consider the final reading of an Ordinance amending Chapter 96 of the City Code to include a new Section requiring the installation of tracer wire on newly constructed or reconstructed sewer lateral pipes and mains

OLD BUSINESS

CLOSED SESSION

1. Council will hold a Closed Session in accordance with Iowa Code Section 21.5.1(i) to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment,

hiring, performance or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session.

2. Council will hold an Exempt Session related to Non-union/Exempt Personnel in accordance with Iowa Code Section 20.17(3).

3. Council will hold a Closed Session in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 21.5.1 (j) "To discuss the purchase of particular real estate only where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property."

CITIZEN INQUIRIES

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3225 Avenue N, Fort Madison, IA, 52627

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Fort Madison, Iowa

Baxter is seeking a positive, proactive and team-oriented Construction Accounting Clerk to perform a variety of accounting, bookkeeping, and financial tasks. This is a full time position located in Fort Madison, Iowa. The ideal candidate is expected to have an understanding of the general accounting process, be detailed oriented, be very well organized, work as a part of a team, and handle direction efficiently. This position requires flexibility, personal accountability, self-management and exceptional communication skills.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deidre DeJear for Governor

She has a REAL Agenda. Rural revitalization. Education and Children. Accessible and Affordable Healthcare and Mental Healthcare. Labor Force Empowerment. REAL Leadership. REAL growth. REAL progress.

DeJear for Iowa

Paid for by the Lee County Democratic Party

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rob Sand promised to wake up the watchdog. When Sand and the State Auditor's office come on behalf of taxpayers with questions about how the public's business is being conducted, they will not walk away.

Re-elect Rob Sand as State Auditor

Paid for by the Lee County Democratic Party

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Re-elect Michael Fitzgerald State Treasurer

He is honored to have worked for Iowans. He has made a difference in the lives of Iowans. As state treasurer, he's returned over \$249 million through the Great Iowa Treasure Hunt, helped over 200,000 families save \$6 billion in College Savings Iowa, and introduced the IABLE savings plan for persons with disabilities.

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FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

From the Front

County approves purchase to replace gravel dump semi

COUNTY - Continued from Page 1

tried to work this out.”

He said the county has the authority under the original road haul agreement on the stretch of roadway to mandate it be put back to its original condition, which is gravel without any shoulders.

“Nobody wants that,” he said. “But we have to get the stretch up to standard.”

Hull said the state DOT at one point was interested in possibly putting an acceleration lane on the northbound lane on a right-hand turn out of the facility west bound. He said now DOT officials have changed and they too are new to the conversation and he feels like the county keeps going back to square one.

Hull said he’s hoping the DOT revisits the acceleration lane as it would allow for easier transition onto Hwy. 61 northbound out of the facility.

The Biden Administration’s Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act has money available on a competitive basis for projects to improve transportation models across the country. Hull said this project could be eligible for some of those funds if a consensus can be reached quickly on improving the road.

Hull also said the road is critical to access to the area, when flooding occurs.

In other action, supervisors:

- appointed Bob Conlee to the county Civil Service Commission.
- reappointed Todd Shields and Lonnie Glascock to the Veteran’s Affairs Commission.

- approved the purchase of a tandem axle belly dump semi-trailer after a collision last month damaged the county’s current gravel hauler. The city received \$33,000 in insurance proceeds after the collision and approved the purchase at \$48,554.

Nation’s leaders having poor response to weekend shootings

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

as and her decision to compete for the Quakers or NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick and his decision to kneel during the national anthem.

Of course, it is easier for politicians to talk about trans-sexual athletes and to look for ways to score cheap political points. It takes time, and it opens a politician up to potential criticism, to do the difficult work of finding ways to reduce gun violence.

It is more difficult to muster the political courage to explore possible changes in laws that now allow anyone to assemble enough weaponry, body armor and high-capacity ammo magazines to outfit an army platoon.

While politicians solemnly offer their thoughts and prayers, these officials prefer to talk about the sanctity of the Second Amendment’s “right to bear arms” than explain how unfettered access to weapons of war squares with the “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” promise our founding fathers laid out in the Declaration of Independence.

Too few of our leaders seem to be giving much thought to how we are supposed to guard against tragedies like the one on Saturday and the relentless carnage guns are causing across our nation.

With public outrage boiling and the optics of the Buffalo tragedy so shocking, even some supporters of guns and people’s right to bear arms were keeping their “thoughts and prayers” to themselves over the weekend — because, I am sure, they realize their statements ring hollow to many of us.

The paralysis associated with our nation’s response to gun violence is downright depressing. These senseless deaths are ruining families, leaving far too many people living in fear, and enraging so many.

People are enraged, because each time one of these tragedies occurs, too many of our leaders just appear to be marking time until journalists and the public turn their attention to another story.

People are angry, because too many leaders just shrug when they are asked why going to a grocery store has to be a life-and-death choice. These leaders are content to talk about the importance of better mental health services until the news crews get enough quotes and move on, and then our leaders return to their governing paralysis.

People are incensed because “pro-life” seems to have taken a backseat to pro-gun. The National Rifle Association and Second Amendment absolutists wrap themselves in the words “right of the people to keep and bear arms” and skip over the other part about “a well regulated militia.”

The “solution,” in their view, is more guns.

Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito has recently been in the news with his reminder about the importance of what is not said in the Constitution. Although he was writing about abortion, I am sure he would want to remind us, too, that there is no language in the Second Amendment that mentions unfettered access to high-capacity ammo magazines or weapons that can fire as rapidly as a shooter can pull the trigger.

Yes, there is no magic solution that will end all mass killings. It is foolish to expect 100 percent perfection from every step that is proposed.

And it is even more foolish to do nothing, knowing full well that within a week or two the tragedy of another mass killing will visit another community after another deranged person decides to settle some perceived score by gunning down innocent people who are shopping for strawberries, sitting in a classroom, or enjoying a concert.

How much longer must we wait before our “leaders” actually lead on this problem?

Randy Evans is director of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council and can be reached at DMRevans2810@gmail.com.

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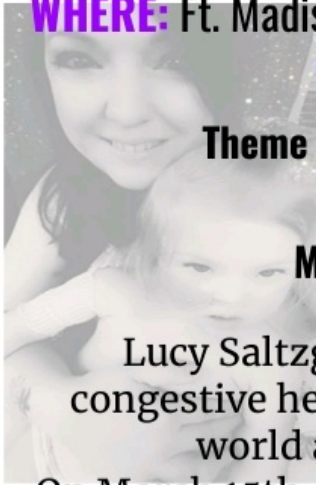
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WHERE: Ft. Madison Eagle's Club

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.

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

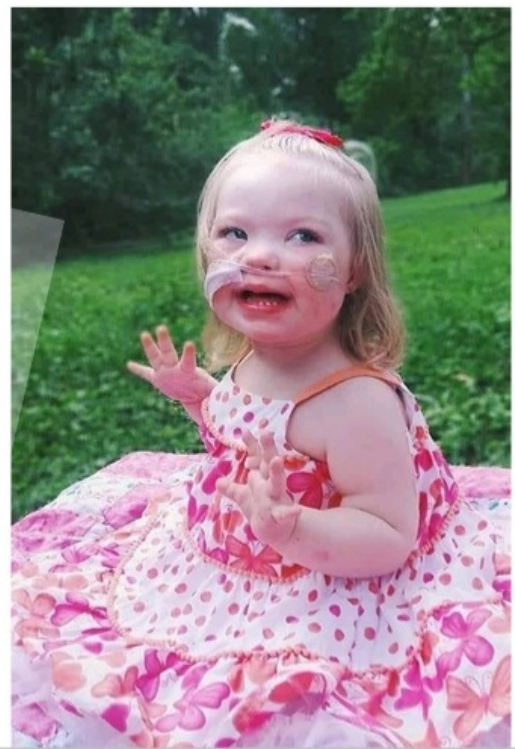
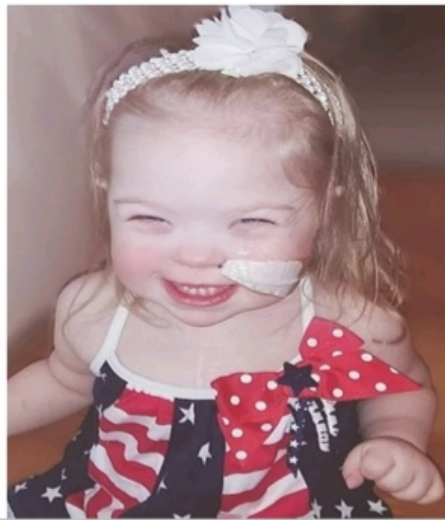
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 Kettle Corn

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.

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