

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Thursday, January 13, 2022 | 8 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 17



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## County EMS forging through 1st year

**COVID/STAFFING:** Ongoing issues from pandemic, billing create hurdles

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – COVID had a multi-faceted impact on the first six months of the Lee County Ambulance operations under county ownership.

Lee County EMS Director Dennis Cosby said the pandemic has hurt the operations budget in the form of increased costs and inventory of supplies, but it has also put a crimp in staffing.

An issue that exacerbates an already-tight healthcare labor supply.

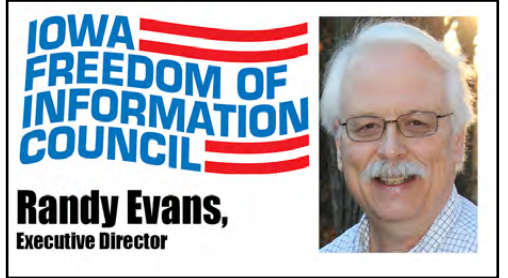
The county took ownership of the ambulance service July

1, 2021 under the leadership of Cosby, Assistant Director Jason Dinwiddie, and an advisory panel that reports to the Lee County Board of Supervisors.

Cosby said the staffing crunch has been the biggest hurdle. “It seems like every time we get to fully staffed something goes wrong,” Cosby said. “We had one EMT spot open that we got approval to fill and had been interviewing since before the holidays. We had planned to get that filled and then just last night another EMT put in their resignation.”

The shortage isn’t unique to just Lee County however. Cosby said he’s hearing from the Des Moines metro area

See EMS, page 8



## Senate move won't help Iowans stay informed

Typically, in the days leading up to the start of a new session of the Iowa Legislature, the attention is on lawmakers’ goals and priorities — and on the pledges they make to work together for the good of the people of Iowa.

This year, however, Republican leaders who control the Iowa Senate announced a controversial decision that erases more than a century of openness — evicting journalists from the floor of the Senate chamber. This ill-conceived action makes Iowa an outlier among the legislatures in the 50 states. You could count on one hand those that do not allow journalists on the floor of their legislative chambers.

Nowhere in their decision do Senate leaders pretend this change will better inform the people of Iowa about the important work the Senate does. There is a reason they are not saying that — because, clearly, the people of Iowa are not going to know more about what the Senate is doing or have a better understanding of why senators are making the decisions they will make.

If the unspoken reason for the change is that Iowa Senate leaders are peeved about media coverage of the Senate in recent years, then moving journalists farther away from the senators will not improve either the accuracy or the fairness of news coverage. Journalists are not some modern-day addition to Iowa government. When the Capitol was built in the late 1800s, working space was provided at the front of the House chamber and the Senate chamber for reporters who regularly cov-

See EVANS, page 3



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Scouts with the Mississippi Valley Council presented colors and then stayed for the Fort Madison City Council meeting last week.

## MP, Ottumwa native has Miss America possessions

Sharon Bortz of Mt. Pleasant, formerly Sharon Smith of Ottumwa, watched the Miss America pageant this year with intrigue and particular interest. Emma Broyles was the first Alaskan and first Korean-American to hold the title in the competition’s 100-year history.

Sharon tiptoed to her bedroom closet, stood on a stool and reached way up high for a shoe box. Opening the shoe box she viewed the contents: two facial-powder containers, a tiny cosmetic compact,

## EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



a Toys-for-Tots medallion and various newspaper clippings. The memories came flooding back.

Sharon was a little girl in Ottumwa in the 1950s. She lived on Ray Street on the

South Side. Across the street from Sharon lived a very poor little old lady, in a run down house, Hazel Criswell. The house didn’t have running water. Hazel used an outdoor toilet, and carried water from a backyard well.

Hazel was the housekeeper for LaVerne Morris and his wife. Morris was the pastor of the Davis Street Christian Church in Ottumwa. Childless, the Morrises traveled to Nebraska to adopt a pretty little girl, Carol.

See EMPTY NEST, page 8

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### WEATHER

THU 13 Jan.....Broken Clouds, 43° F/30° F  
FRI 14 Jan.....Snow, 35° F/28° F  
SAT 15 Jan.....Snow, 28° F/17° F

### IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 01/11.....2 5 8 18 43, Lucky Ball: 16  
MEGA MILLIONS 01/11.....2 3 19 52 58, Mega Ball: 16 Megaplier: 2  
PICK 3 01/11 MIDDAY.....6 5 9  
PICK 3 01/11 EVENING.....7 4 0  
PICK 4 01/11 MIDDAY.....5 0 5 7  
PICK 4 01/11 EVENING.....0 2 1 3

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## Obituaries/For the Record

### OBITUARIES

## CAROLYN R. MCKAY

Carolyn R. McKay, 74, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, passed away on Tuesday, January 4, 2022, at her home.

Carolyn was born on July 14, 1947, in Keokuk, Iowa, the daughter of Clarence and Mamie (Webster) Wilson. She graduated from Central Lee High School in 1965, and on December 22, 1968, she was united in marriage to William Eugene McKay in Keokuk. He preceded her in death on June 22, 2012.

Carolyn loved animals, especially her dog "Butterscotch" and donated to the Humane Society. She enjoyed reading, crocheting and playing solitaire. She could be found regularly watching Hallmark Channel and Charmed and she thoroughly enjoyed spending time with family, especially her grandchildren. Carolyn ran a daycare for over 20 years, from 1988-2011.

Carolyn is survived by three grandchildren: Jen (Jerod) Andrews of Plum City, WI, John Daniel Fecht of Ames, IA and Ryan (Kelly Wilharm) Fecht of Marion, IA; two great-grandchildren: Noah and Grace McKay of Plum City, WI; and many other nieces and nephews.

Carolyn was preceded in death by her parents, husband and three brothers: Clarence, Jr., George "Bussey" and Charles.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 am on Monday, January 10, 2022 at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk followed by burial at Keokuk National Cemetery. Visitation will be Sunday from 4:00-7:00 pm at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the Humane Society of Cedar Rapids or the American Cancer Society.

Tributes and condolences may be left at [www.dejongsfuneralhome.com](http://www.dejongsfuneralhome.com).

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



MCKAY

### OBITUARIES

## DARLENE J. METCALF

Darlene Janette Reu Metcalf, 88, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 4:18 p.m. on January 6, 2022 at Addington Place in Fort Madison after a short illness but a very long life. She was born December 25, 1933 to George and Esther Swanson Reu. On

July 4, 1954, she married Howard Metcalf and they raised their family in Fort Madison. Darlene loved to travel when she could and visiting Alaska was one of her favorite memories. Darlene also loved to dance and took every opportunity to do so even if it was in her apartment by herself. Darlene worked for the Sheaffer Pen Company, Bryant's North American Moving and Storage and for the Iowa Department of Transportation as a Driver's License Examiner for 20 plus years.

She leaves behind daughters, Kathy (Jerry) Nevans and Jacolyn (Mike) Sisk, and son, Brad (Brenda) Metcalf, Grandchildren, Nicole Metcalf, Christopher Nevans, Jessilyn Reese, Breanna Burnham, Louis Metcalf III, Kristina Metcalf, 10 great grandchildren, 3 step grandchildren, Peggy, Kayla & Jesse Fellows and 4 step great grandchildren. She also leaves behind one sister, Colleen Kirchner and two brothers, David (Wanda) Reu, and Richard (Deana) Reu and nieces and nephews. Darlene is preceded in death by her son, Louis Metcalf and her husband, Howard Metcalf, a grandson, Samuel Metcalf and a sister, Pauline Blacksmith.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A private family burial will be held in Oakland Cemetery. The family will hold a memorial celebration in the spring for family and friends. The family requests no flowers and memorial gifts may be given to St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1934 Avenue I, Fort Madison, IA 52627. Online condolences to the family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).



METCALF

### 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

01/10/22 - 7:31 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2300 block of Avenue L.

01/10/22 - 12:41 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue L.

01/10/22 - 1:08 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 5000 block of Avenue O.

01/10/22 - 1:15 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 3200 block of Avenue L.

01/11/22 - 12:26 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1800 block of Avenue A.

01/11/22 - 4:47 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested William Raymond Woodbury,

61, of Fort Madison, in the 5800 block of Avenue O, on a charge of simple assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 01/11/22 - 9:51 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Zachariah Justice Raines, 20, of Fort Madison, in the 3300 block of Avenue L, on charges of possession of a controlled substance and driving while suspended. 01/11/22 - 11:28 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1900 block of Avenue G.

#### Lee County Sheriff Report

01/11/22 - 7:46 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Jeremy Lee Harris, 36, of Keokuk, at the South Lee County Courthouse on two warrants for failure to appear/contempt of court. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 01/11/22 - 10:16 a.m. - Lee

County sheriff deputies arrested Sierra Renee Helenthal, 29, of Keokuk, at the North Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for voluntary absence from custody and a judgment hold. She was taken to Lee County Jail. 01/11/22 - 10:34 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Taran Nicholas Hunter, 28, of Keokuk, at the intersection of US 61 and Argyle Road, on a charge of possession of a controlled substance. He was cited and released.

01/11/22 - 10:34 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Nicholas J Marlin, 30, Warsaw, at the intersection of US 61 and Argyle Road, on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. He was cited and released. *Those listed above are arrested or cited on a suspicion of a crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

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## Iowa News/From the Front

# Has senate forgotten who they are working for?

**EVANS** - Continued from Page 1

ered the lawmakers' debates, deliberations and deals.

Through the Great Depression and wars, through hard-fought debates over liquor sales and gambling, school consolidations and the creation of community colleges, and over a multitude of other issues big and small — journalists were sitting there at the front of the Senate, reporting on these proposals, the amendments being offered and the parliamentary maneuvers in the magnificent chamber. In the first 40 years of the Capitol's existence, newspaper reporters had the so-called "press bench" to themselves. When radio arrived in Iowa in the 1920s, legislative leaders adapted and this new type of journalist was accommodated. When television arrived in the 1950s, legislative leaders adapted again and TV journalists were allowed to work from the Senate floor. But now, with the arrival of reporters for websites providing news and opinion content, Senate leaders claim to be unable to accommodate this newest era of journalism.

The decision by Senate leaders is especially poorly timed because the number of reporters covering the Legislature fulltime, in Iowa and in many other states, has been dwindling as newspapers merge and as their employment shrinks. In my role as the executive director of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council, I

issued a statement Friday on the Senate decision. And on Saturday, the Washington Post called to ask about the decision.

Here's what I said: "All Iowans should be troubled, as we are, by the decision of Iowa Senate leaders. ... Barring journalists from access to the floor of the Senate chamber does not continue Iowa's long and proud tradition of transparency that is a foundation of our democracy."

I said the decision is a blow to transparency because it makes it more difficult for journalists to help the public understand the many issues lawmakers are dealing with and how those issues will affect the people of our state.

I explained how reporters could catch the eye of a senator and with a nod arrange a quick conversation off the Senator floor to get clarification of how a bill is evolving. Reporters could notice a couple of key adversaries off to the side in the chamber having a whispered conversation and could then ask if an important compromise was in the works.

One of the comments I made to the Washington Post reporter was that government transparency is even more important when one political party con-

trols the House, the Senate and the governor's office, regardless of which party that is.

With one party having what is called a "trifecta," it is easier to set aside rules and norms so decisions can be made with less scrutiny by the public or by journalists, who serve as the eyes and ears of the public by gathering information, providing important context and background, and by asking government officials questions citizens themselves are not in a position to ask.

The decision to boot journalists from the Senate floor did not occur in isolation.

A few years ago, Republican leaders in the Legislature shortened the length of the advance notice required before subcommittee meetings occur. This was an important change because it is now more difficult for Iowans to know what bills are being taken up and to reach out with their opinions before lawmakers vote on these issues.

Lawmakers like to talk about how they are elected to go to Des Moines and represent the people. Last week's troubling decision by Iowa Senate leaders shows that some lawmakers have forgotten whom they work for.

Randy Evans is the executive director of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council and can be reached at [DMRevs2810@gmail.com](mailto:DMRevs2810@gmail.com). Pen City Current is a member of the IFOIC.

## Reynolds includes paraeducator program in Condition of the State

*Governor says state's best teachers are already within the school system*

DES MOINES – Gov. Reynolds announced the launch of a first-in-the-nation Teacher and Paraeducator Registered Apprenticeship Grant Program Tuesday during her annual Condition of the State Address.

The grant program will provide opportunities for current high school students to earn a paraeducator certificate and associates degree and paraeducators to earn their bachelor's degree all while learning and working in the classroom. The program will begin in the 2022-2023 school year.

"This is a transformational opportunity that puts our schools at the center of growing their future workforce," said Gov. Reynolds.

"I can't think of a better place to recruit our future generations of teachers and paraeducators

than in our own classrooms. Through this first-in-the-nation experience today, we'll be shaping our educators of tomorrow."

The Iowa Department of Education (DOE) and Iowa Workforce Development Agency (IWD) will use \$9M in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief (ESSERIII) funds to create the model program which will train and educate current high school students and paraeducators for the next step in their teaching careers while they learn, work, and get paid in Iowa schools.

Through the grant program, school districts will be required to partner with local community colleges or four-year colleges/universities to provide the required education and training.

The DOE and IWD will provide up to \$40,500 over a three-year period for each high school student that completes the Paraeducator Certificate or Associates degree model.

The DOE will provide up to \$47,000 over a two-year period for each paraeducator that completes the bachelor's degree model. Funding will support:

Tuition and fees up to \$7,000/year for up to three years at a community college.

Tuition and fees up to \$17,000/ year for up to two years at a public or private four-year college/university.

Hourly rate of \$12 for high school aides while still in school and 50% of wages that districts currently pay for aides and paraeducators for up to 30 hours per week for 36 weeks.

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## Sports/Lee County News

# Lady Crusaders move to 8-2 in SEISC play

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP  
PCC SPORTS

WAYLAND — Tony Johnson didn't even look at the video from Monday's loss at Mount Pleasant.

The Holy Trinity girls basketball coach liked what he saw one night later. The Crusaders bounced back with a 58-31 win at WACO, staying in third place in the SEI Superconference South Division race.

Holy Trinity (8-5 overall, 8-2 South Division) broke open a close game with a 15-2 to end the third quarter.

"You're going to have nights when you lay clunkers," Johnson said. "We didn't play very well last night, and tonight we redeemed ourselves."

A night after making just 11-of-69 shots in a 43-28 loss to Mount Pleasant, the Crusaders got balanced scoring, with three players in double figures. Mary Kate Bendlage had 18 points. Teagan Snaadt had 13 points. Natalie Randolph had 10.

"That's what we're after," Johnson said. "It was great to see Teagan have a game like this. She's been working hard and I'm glad she got rewarded for everything."

The Crusaders had a 13-0 first-quarter run for a 16-6 lead, and never trailed after that.

"We're not going to shoot 11-for-69 every night, so I wasn't worried about that," Johnson said. "We ran our offense well tonight, and I thought we did great on defense."

Holy Trinity outscored WACO (6-7, 2-6) 34-14 in the second half. The Crusaders held Ellah Kissell, who was averaging 19 points per game, to just seven.

"She's one of the leading scorers in the conference," Johnson said. "We did great on her."

It's a four-game week for the Crusaders, who play Cardinal on Friday and at Fort Madison.

Coming back from Monday's loss, Johnson said, was important.

"I'm just happy for them," he said. "Honestly, we couldn't buy a basket last night. No matter what we did, it didn't work. It was good to see some players who were struggling with their shot getting them to go in tonight. Hopefully we can carry this into Friday and Saturday."

# HTC boys can't sustain solid first half in loss to WACO

**IMPROVED:** Crusaders trailed by four at the half

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP  
PCC SPORTS

WAYLAND — Forget about the second half, Holy Trinity boys basketball coach John Hellige told his team after Tuesday's 67-40 loss to WACO.

Instead, Hellige said, look at the first half, because it was a sign of just how much the Crusaders have improved.

When these two teams played the season opener, WACO led 32-8 at halftime on the way to a 58-29 win.

In this game, Holy Trinity led 14-13 at the end of the first quarter and only trailed 32-28 at halftime. The Crusaders had a 15-0 run in the first half.

"Just night-and-day difference," Hellige said. "That's what I told the kids in the locker room, let's focus on the positives. Let's do that instead of focus on a second half that got a little sloppy."

What Hellige really liked from that half was how the Crusaders (2-10 overall, 2-7 SEI Superconference South Division) fought back from an early 13-2 deficit.

"It could have gotten ugly," Hellige said. "And that just shows the progress these kids are making. It may not be pretty all the time, but when they play well, it makes you feel good as a coach, how hard the kids are working and



trusting the process."

But whatever momentum the Crusaders had from the first half disappeared in the third quarter. WACO (10-2, 6-2) held Holy Trinity to just eight points in the quarter.

"With a young team, that's going to happen. It's just going to happen," Hellige said. "When we started getting more confidence, getting over that confidence bridge, we're going to put together three quarters of good basketball. And then, finally, hopefully by February, we're playing four quarters of good basketball."

Conner Gehling led Holy Trinity with 23 points, 21 coming in the first half.

"The second half, I think he got a little bit fatigued," Hellige said. "But he worked his tail off. He really had some great finishes at the offensive end. He's good."

Holy Trinity plays host to Cardinal on Friday and at Fort Madison on Saturday.

# KARE holding to voting event in lieu of King holiday

KEOKUK - The Keokuk Association for Rights and Equality (KARE) is taking a different approach to mark the life and work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. this year on January 17th, the day set aside as a federal holiday in honor of his birthday and accomplishments. The King family asked that the usual type of events and celebrations be skipped this year to bring pressure on Congress to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Bill. Therefore, KARE decided to hold an event centered on voting on Monday, January 17, at the Round Room in the Keokuk Public Library, 210 N. 5th Street, Keokuk. The doors will open at 5:00 pm and the short (25 minute) film "Whose Vote Counts, Explained" will be shown at 5:30 pm and again at 6:30 pm. The event is also a non-partisan voter registration drive.

KARE will host an event for Black History Month on Tuesday, February 8, at New Bethel Church in Keokuk. The speaker for the event is Dr. Byron Oden-Shabazz, Professor of African American Studies from Western Illinois University.

Please contact Dev Kiedaisch at 319-520-6724 or Brenda Bradley at 319-520-7829.

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### PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
MEETING NOTICE  
DONNELSON CITY  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 3, 2022**

Oath of Office was given to David Newton, newly elected council member prior to the meeting Regular Meeting Monday, January 3rd, 2022 7:00PM, City Hall

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

Motion by Weber, second by Estrada to approve the agenda: all ayes.

Citizen comments - None

Motion by Weber, second by Moeller to approve the minutes of the December '21 meetings: all ayes.

Motion by Estrada, second by Weber to approve the December '21 financial reports: all ayes.

Motion by Marshall, second by Newton to approve the December '21 disbursements and January '22 bills to be allowed: all ayes.

Motion by Newton, second by Estrada to approve the Class C Beer Permit for Dollar General Store #17637: all ayes.

Motion by Newton, second by Estrada to set public hearing to Amend Current Budget FY22 for February 7th, 2022 @ 7pm: all ayes.

Presentation by Zach James & Kansha Tiwari with SEIRP regarding the Comprehensive Plan Process and Timeline.

Presentation by Jason Dinwiddie Lee County EMS Operation Director awarding Officer Bryor McMillen & Officer Mark Long the Code Save Award for their involvement with saving the life

of a patron at the Lee County Fair.

Presentation by Amanda Rogers with Lee County The Best You Coalition

Motion by Estrada, second by Moeller, to approve Resolution No 2022-01 Naming Pilot Grove Savings Bank as Bank Depository: RCV all ayes.

Appointments by Mayor - Mayor Pro Tem - Moeller, Parks & Buildings - Estrada & Marshall, Streets & Sidewalks - Newton & Estrada, Water & Sewer - Marshall & Weber, Insurance & Salaries - Weber & Moeller, Public Safety - Newton & Estrada, Library - Moeller & Weber.

Motion by Newton, second by Marshall to appoint City Clerk - Rebecca Schau, Deputy Clerk - Amber Roberts, Public Works - Todd Herdrich: all ayes.

Motion by Moeller, second by Weber to set public hearing date regarding FY2023 Max Levy for February 7th 2022 at 7pm: all ayes.

FY23 Budget discussion was held.

Police Report - There were 39 calls for service in December, 3 traffic stops and 21 building checks.

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

Dave Ellingboe, Mayor Attest: Rebecca Schau, City Clerk

Summary of All Receipts: General \$22,878.73 Capital Equipment Reserve \$0 Road Use Tax \$8,812.62 Employee Benefit \$1,826.80 Local Option Sales Tax \$9,618.85 Debit Service \$0 Rathbun \$0 ARPA \$0 Water \$22,542.00 Water Sinking USDA \$1,816.00 Sewer \$28,359.78 Sewer Sinking \$0.

Summary of All

Disbursements: General \$20,878.58 Capital Equipment Reserve \$0 Road Use Tax -\$6,146.59 Employee Benefit \$1,269.62 Local Option Sales Tax \$12,207.33 Debit Service \$4,058.50 Capital Project Fund \$0 Rathbun \$0 ARPA \$0 Water \$14,719.88 Water Sinking \$1,816.00 Sewer \$7,981.63 Sewer Sinking \$30,961.00

U S CELLULAR, CELLPHONE..... 105.56 AFLAC, Aflac ..... 80.76 MASTERCARD, MISC ..... 563.46 WINDSTREAM, Phone/Internet ..... 396.24 ALLIANT ENERGY, ELECTRIC..... 3,907.47 GRRWA, LANDFILL ..... 378.00 DAHMS AUTOMOTIVE, 00 Chevy Repairs ..... 1,758.89

CITY OF FT MADISON, Testing ..... 280.00 MID AMERICAN ENERGY, Gas ..... 389.72 EFTPS, FED/FICA TAXES ..... 3,620.63 IPERS, IPERS-REGULAR..... 2,382.81 TODD HERDRICH, Reimburse Cellphone ..... 50.00 DONNELSON LUMBER CO, Anchors/Bit ..... 16.55 TREASURER, STATE OF IOWA, STATE TAXES ..... 2,094.00

ARMSTRONG TRACTOR LLC, Fuel/Spout.... 108.37 PILOT GROVE SAVINGS BANK, Hoyer Land Loan ..... 4,058.50 J & S ELECTRONIC BUSINESS, SERVICE, BACKUP,SO-PHOS,PRINTER ..... 157.66

PANTHER UNIFORMS INC, Uniform..... 320.94 HUFFMAN'S FARM AND HOME, Couplers/Tape ..... 22.96 DONNELSON FIRE ASSN, Fire Levy ..... 6,220.40 MUNICIPAL SUPPLY, Meters/Pipe/Couplings ..... 692.63 CITY OF WEST POINT, Chief Wages/Fuel ..... 3,134.05 BRAD ROBERTS, Reim-

burse..... 34.78 WEX BANK, Fuel.. 583.37 TRUCK REPAIR, INC., Fittings ..... 14.68 QC ANALYTICAL SERVICES, Testing ..... 46.00 VERIZON, Data .... 120.03 DAWN SCHAU, Cleaning ..... 180.00 USPS, Water Bill Postage ..... 154.00 IOWA ONE CALL, One Calls..... 19.80 RATHBUN REGIONAL WATER, Bulk water ..... 5,811.00 USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT, USDA LOAN PAYMENT ..... 1,816.00 ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING, Radio Supplies ..... 194.28 LYNCH DALLAS, P.C., Legal Fees..... 504.00 BRENDA KNOX, REIMBURSE FOR POSTAGE ..... 19.08 INGRAM, Books ..... 1,080.82 A NEXT DEGREE COMM CO, Phone Service ..... 66.76 RSM US LLP, Managed IT Service ..... 416.00 IOWA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, MEMBERSHIP ..... 25.00 PAYROLL CHECKS, TOTAL PAYROLL CHECKS ..... 12,225.15 CLAIMS TOTAL ..... 54,050.35

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
REQUEST FOR QUOTE**



### Certified Nurse's Aide

Lee County Health Department is seeking a full-time Certified Nurse's Aide to work in the agency's Homecare and Hospice programs. This position requires travel to client homes in the agency's service area. If interested please mail resume to LCHD, Attn: Becky Fader, PO Box 1426, Fort Madison, IA 52627 or email [bfader@leecountyhd.org](mailto:bfader@leecountyhd.org). LCHD is EOE.



Lee County, Iowa is interested in entering into a professional services agreement with a construction management firm for architectural, engineering and construction management work for the construction of a new Public Health Building to house the Lee County Health/EMS Building. The project will use ARPA and other funds in all aspects of the planning, design, and construction. All work will be completed under the authority of the Lee County Board of Supervisors.

In order for your company to be considered, you must submit your proposal in electronic form by 4:30 PM on Monday, January 31, 2022. The electronic proposal must be submitted via e-mail to [cvandenberg@leecounty.org](mailto:cvandenberg@leecounty.org) An e-mail will be sent confirming receipt of the proposal. Questions can be address to Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise at 319-372-3705 or [dfraise@leecounty.org](mailto:dfraise@leecounty.org) To view the full RFQ, visit the County website [www.leecounty.org](http://www.leecounty.org).

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
MEETING NOTICE  
FORT MADISON  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

**DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
January 17 2022  
6:00 P.M.**

Note: To view this meeting please see the link on the FMCSO Website Calendar or click on the link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89198278745?pwd=N0tkRGtKSkJDeE-VOSVphZFMwceER-GUT09>

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## Classifieds/Public Notices

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

### PUBLIC NOTICES

limited to 3 minutes. Any member of the public who wishes to participate in public comments must be physically present at the meeting and follow the appropriate sign in procedures.

Finance: Menke/Ross

#### AGENDA

- I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum
- II. Recognition of guests
- III. Reading of Foundation documents
- IV. Monthly communications
  - A. Student Rep Report: Tyler Horn & Logan Johnson
  - B. Instructional Coaches Corner: Elementary Data Coaches
  - C. "Did You Know?": Newspapers in Education; The Central internal newsletter
  - D. Superintendent Goal Report: SIP survey overview
  - E. District Presentations:
- V. Approve the agenda
- VI. Consent Agenda
  - A. Minutes
  - 1. December 20, 2021,

- Regular Meeting
  - 2. January 3, 2022, Work Session
- B. Financial reports
  - 1. December Balance Sheet
  - 2. Revenue Summary Report
  - 3. Expenditure Report
  - 4. Student Activity Report
  - C. Accounts payable
    - 1. December General Account Board Bills for Approval
    - 2. January General Account Board Bills for Approval
    - 3. Student Activity Account Board Bills for Approval
    - 4. Nutrition Fund Board Bills for Approval
    - 5. American Express Board Bills for Approval
  - D. Consider personnel resignations
    - 1. Courtney Faingnaert, Food Service
    - 2. Lynne Lange, Technology Assistant
  - E. Consider employment of personnel
    - 1. Ivy Geerdes, HS Assistant Softball Coach
    - 2. Rikki Gilman, Food Service
    - 3. Carmen Ridgway, 3rd Grade Teacher, LE

- 4. Lindsay Settles, Food Service
- 5. Sadie Smithburg, Ag Science Teacher, HS
- 6. Andrea Steffen, Spec. Ed. Associate, HS
- F. Consider contract modifications
  - G. Consider leave of absence
  - H. Consider open enrollment requests
  - I. Other reports
    - 1. Donations
- Director (blank) moved and director (blank) seconded the documents submitted in the consent section of the agenda be approved and/or filed as submitted.
- VII. Action Items
  - A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services – Kim Harmon
    - 1. Consider approval of the Let's Talk contract
  - B. Superintendent – Erin Slater
    - 1. Consider approval of updated CDC COVID-19 protocols
    - 2. Policy changes: IASB Quarterly
      - a. 303.6 Administrator/Principal Evaluation - **ADOPT**
      - b. 401.14 Employee Expression - **ADOPT**

- c. 502.3 OLD – Freedom of Expression - **DELETE**
- d. 502.3 NEW – Student Expression and Student Publications - **ADOPT**
- e. 502.3-R-1 Student Expression and Student Publications Code – **ADOPT**
- f. 504.3 Student Publications – **DELETE**
- g. 504.3-R-1 Student Publications Code – **DELETE**
- C. Board Secretary/Business Manager – Sandy Elmore
  - 1. Bond Counsel and Disclosure Counsel Engagement Agreement
- VIII. Discussion Items
  - A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services – Kim Harmon
    - 1. Set Building Instructional Tour date
    - 2. Set Public Hearing date for hours vs. days
    - 3. Set Public Hearing date for 2022-2023 school calendar
  - B. Superintendent – Erin Slater
    - 1. Quarterly Policies: Review
      - a. 412.3 Classified Employee Group Benefits

- **move to IASB model**
- b. 711.2 Student Conduct on School Transportation - **move to IASB model**
- c. 711.2-R-2 Use of Video Cameras on School Buses - **delete**
- 2. Quarterly Policies: Discussion
  - a. 604.1 Private Instruction - **move to IASB model**
  - b. 606.2 School Ceremonies and Observances - **new policy; adopt**
  - c. 804.6 Use of Recording Devised on School Policy - **new policy; adopt**
  - d. 804.6-R-1 Use of District Owned Recording Devices on District Property - **new reg; adopt**
  - e. 905.3 Weapons in the School District - **new policy; adopt**
- 3. Chronological Policies: Review
  - a. 603.5 Health Education - **move to IASB model**
  - b. 603.5-E-1 Human Growth and Development Student Excuse Form - **no changes**
  - c. 603.6 Physical Education - **move to IASB model**
  - d. 603.7 School to Career - **move to IASB model**

- e. 603.8 Teaching About Religion - **move to IASB model**
- f. 603.8-R-1 Teaching About Religion Regulation - Religious Holidays - **move to IASB model**
- g. 603.9 Academic Freedom - **move to IASB model**
- h. 603.9-R-1 Teaching Controversial Issues - **move to IASB model**
- C. Board Secretary/Business Manager – Sandy Elmore
  - 1. Certified Budget Process Discussion
  - D. Board Member Attendance
  - E. Staff Attendance
- IX. Comments from the audience
- X. Legislative update
- XI. Announcements
  - A. February 7, 2022 Work Session/Special Meeting, Board Room, Central Office, 6:00 p.m.
  - B. February 22, 2022 Regular Meeting, Board Room, Central Office, 6:00 p.m.
- XII. Adjourn
  - Exempt session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 20.17(3) for the purposes of a negotiation session

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## From the Front

# County EMS had no federal payments through Nov. 30, 2021

**EMS** - Continued from Page 1

and CARE Ambulance working out of Fairfield, Iowa City, and Waterloo and they are all discussing the same thing.

“With the fact that so many people are out ill, some staff have opted to look for different jobs. In an ambulance you’re three feet away from someone with COVID and there’s very little ventilation. We’re all hoping we’re on the down side of this and things can start to get back to normal,” he said.

Illness has also been a challenge as anyone presenting with cold-like symptoms is immediately sent home or told not to come in to work. Cosby said the department has been fairly fortunate to be able to staff three ambulances per shift, but a shift last week had to be run with just two rigs because of staffing.

“We were able to keep that to just one shift. We thought it might be two, but we were able to get it staffed,” he said.

That staff a lot of times comes with offering overtime pay. That’s one part of the budget for the first six months that is out of projection.

According to a re-estimated budget submitted with the 2023 Fiscal year budget last week, the department is looking at close to \$53,000 in additional overtime for the year.

However, the re-estimated budget is being projected at \$139,000 under the previous year, despite the increased OT. Most of that reduction is moving a \$200,000 ambulance replacement to 2023 and changing the replacement to a remount at a savings of about \$40,000.

The 2022 budget was projected at \$3.23 million and was re-estimated before last week’s budget presentation to the Board of Supervisors at \$3.13 million. The 2023 projected expenses total \$3.09 million.

Revenues for 2022 were projected at \$2,503,049 million and re-estimated at \$2,514,757. Revenues for 2023 are projected at \$2,515,049.

However, according to the prepared budget, the county has only received \$33,814 or 1.35% of budgeted revenues through Nov. 30, 2021. Those revenue figures show no payments to date from Medicaid or Medicare.

The county gave approval for Cosby to switch billing

services from Burlington Fire Department who has been handling billing, to a PCC Ambulance Billing Service out of West Bend, Iowa. Cosby said the switch hasn’t been made yet, and Medicare payments have started to come in since Dec. 1. But Medicaid still hasn’t been billed.

“It’s one of the concerns we have right now,” Cosby said.

“We haven’t signed on with PCC and we still haven’t given Burlington any notice yet. The logistics of the situation is our biggest hurdle there. The advisory committee already had the BFD thing in the works before I was brought on. I didn’t think it would be an issue, but it turned out to be a little more of an issue that we thought.”

County staff has to make twice weekly trips to Burlington to deliver billing documents and Cosby said a few things have gotten lost in the shuffle, but were recovered electronically.

“We were trying to look for something where we didn’t have to take anyone out of place. Now it’s just Jason and I, and Sara (Helenthal, Administrative Assistant), and she works for several departments and does a lot. We just didn’t realize how long it took you out to be out of the office twice a week to deliver.”

Both billing entities charge the county 6% of billables, but Cosby said PCC would be able to do everything electronically, which would result in cost and time savings for the county.

The rest of the budget seems to be tracking according to projections. Cosby said there has been a 7 to 10% increase in general for disposable supplies, most likely to supply chain pinches that other industries are looking at as well.

“For the most part, I can’t say that I’ve had a ton of surprises. I will say we struggled more with staffing than I thought we would, especially knowing that we had added to the salaries to attract candidates at the beginning, but others around us did as much,” Cosby said.

He also said he doesn’t foresee any rate increases in 2023 other than increasing the price per loaded mile.

“We’d fallen behind everyone else there, but other than that, I don’t see any rate increases this year.”

## Former Miss America’s cosmetics in an area closet

**EMPTY NEST** - Continued from Page 1

Carol Morris would teach Sunday School at the Davis Street Christian Church and go on to become Miss Ottumwa, Miss Iowa, Miss America and Miss Universe. To say she was the pride of Ottumwa and her parents is an understatement. The items in the shoe box belonged to Carol Morris. Carol, as a teenager, before she was Miss Ottumwa, outgrew the items and gave them to their housekeeper, Hazel. Hazel in turn gave the items to Sharon. Sharon felt honored that she was chosen by Hazel to receive the cosmetic playthings. Sharon loved the cosmetics, and spent hours pretending she was grown up and wearing make up. Later, when Carol Morris was winning beauty pageants, Sharon was thrilled to realize she had the childhood cosmetics of Miss America.

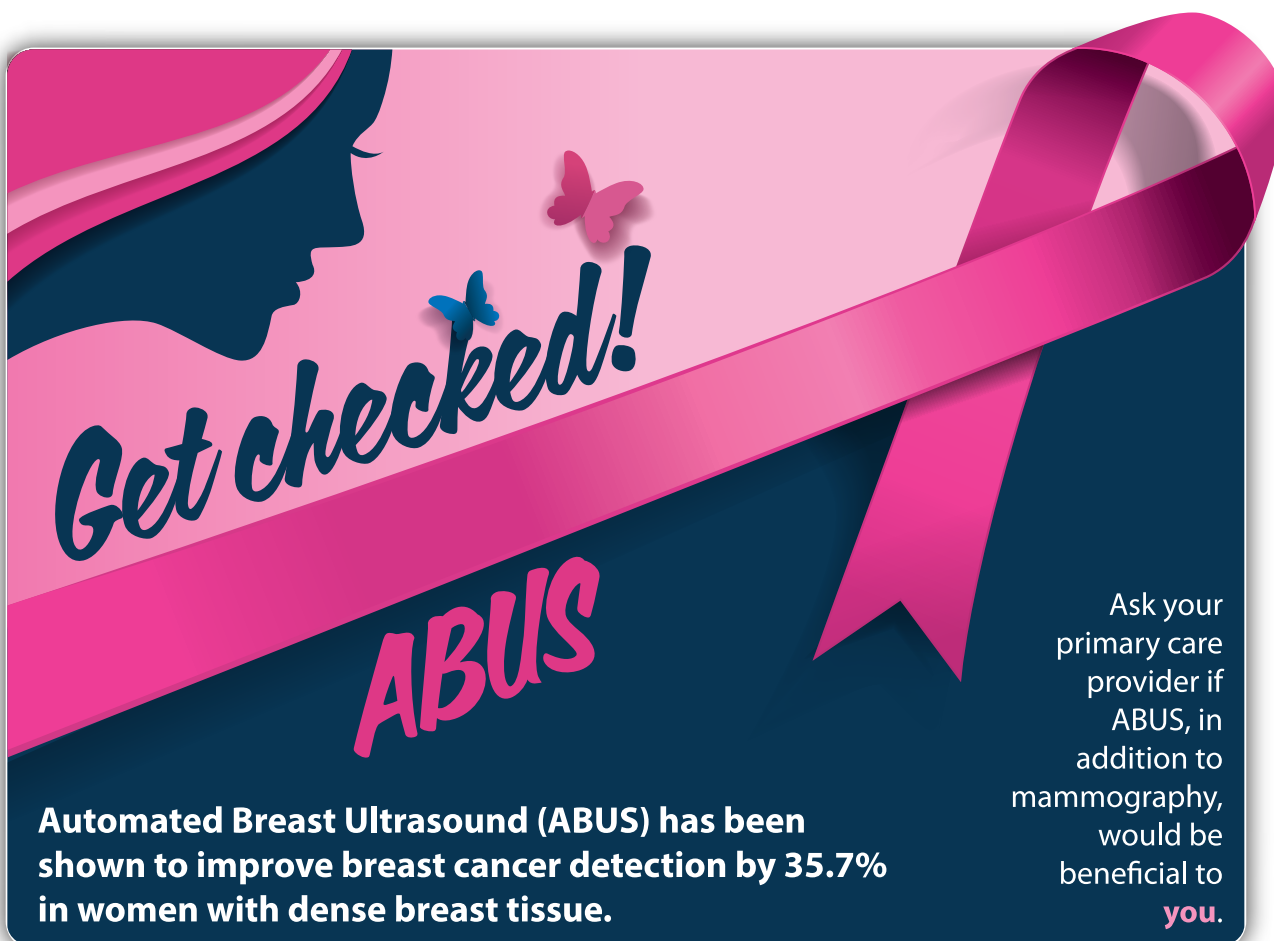
On the bottom of one of the containers are the words, “Avon, Translucent Even Tone Finishing Face Loose Powder with Puff.” Holding the container to her nose, Sharon can still smell the fragrance that she identifies as Miss America.

Hazel Criswell, although poor, was known around Ottumwa as “Mom Criswell” and was famous for giving hugs and kisses, which Sharon ate up. Hazel was formerly married to the Chief of Police and it was rumored that the Chief kept the city from forcing Hazel to modernize her house.

Hazel’s prized possession was a Model T Ford that Sharon believes was a 1926 Runabout, because Hazel loved “running about” Ottumwa. Hazel gave rides to Sharon and anyone else who wanted a ride. Hazel was seen on the streets of Ottumwa driving around, waving and laughing and having a good time giving rides and hugs.

Very poor, working as a housekeeper for Pastor Morris and his wife provided Hazel with her only income. She knew that when she passed away there would not be enough money to cover her funeral expenses. So, she made arrangements with the Johnson Funeral Home that they could have her Model T Runabout if they would cover the costs of her funeral. Hazel had a grand funeral, and people talked about her loving to give hugs and kisses.

Sharon Bortz, formerly Sharon Smith of Ottumwa, and now in her 70s, occasionally gets out the cosmetics that belonged to the little girl, Carol Morris, who became Miss America. Sharon remembers pretending she was pretty (she is) and putting on makeup. However, she has a clearer vision of Hazel Criswell, poor as a church mouse, driving around town in her Model T Runabout, laughing and offering hugs and kisses to any and all who would accept them. “You can’t have too many hugs,” Mom Criswell was fond of saying.



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