SPORTS: Hawks, Hounds compete at Denny White Relays • See page 4

PEN CITY CURRENT It's Black & White and Read all over

Monday, April 18, 2022 | 13 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 75

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www.pencitycurrent.com

Council to look at solar options

NINE FACILITIES: Going solar could save city up to \$2M over 30 years

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison City Council is going to consider installing solar panels at nine different facilities to save about \$20,000 a year out of the gate.

City Manager David Varley is recommending the discussion of a 30-year agreement with Red Lion Renewables out of Norwalk, Iowa.

Under the proposal, Red Lion would install and own all the solar panels and equipment, and the city would agree to purchase electricity from Red Lion for three decades. Varley said the price of the electricity through Red Lion would be lower than what the city currently pays per kilowatt hour. Red Lion would take advantage of current solar tax credits and then pass some of the savings from the credits on to the city.

Mohrfeld Solar of Fort Madison would be contracted by Red Lion to install the equipment on the city facilities, according to owner Michael Mohrfeld.

Mohrfeld has a history with Red Lion, including installations on Lee County property and at Southeastern Commu-

See SOLAR, page 9



Some time lapse on the Subway near Ground Zero. A little intimidating standing that close with the train going that fast.

Moments and memories from New York City 2022

WORKFORCE Jobs report shows shaky March

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 3.3 percent in March – down from 3.5 percent in February and from 4.4 percent one year ago. The U.S. March unemployment rate decreased to 3.6 percent.

The labor force participation rate increased to 67.2 percent in March from 67 percent in February.

The total number of working Iowans increased to 1,637,100 in March. This figure is 10,000 higher than February and 39,400 higher than one year ago.

"Iowa's economic recovery has made tremendous strides over the past year, and we're starting to see real progress as more and more Iowans rejoin the workforce," said Beth Townsend, Director of Iowa Workforce Development. "Iowa has come a long way

See JOBS, page 5

EMPTY NEST AHFA working hard for kids in Agency, Iowa

Gracie's mother prostituted her when she was 11. At 13 she stabbed a kid in the leg at school with a knife and was expelled. She went to stay with her grandmother who used meth. At the age of 15, Gracie came to AHFA's 15bed shelter for kids under the age of 18.

Gracie was so loud and obnoxious that Judy Davidson, the Program Director, thought, "This is not going to work." However, AHFA doesn't typically kick kids out. AHFA doesn't want to close the door. The kids have already had too many doors slammed in their face. So Judy asked Gracie, "What do you like to do?"

The buds are out again on the sugar maple out my front window. It's a stunning fall production that I love for about two weeks and then hate for two hours as I clean up the leaves.

My parakeets, Jawnie, the typical pretty blue and white, and Frankie, a unique combination of canary yellow, green, blue, and grey sit perched on the interior window sill with the tree buds and a red brick house below a cloudless spring sky as the backdrop.

It got me energized to write.



Sometimes it's nothing more than a moment or a memory that makes me want to saddle up to a TV tray with my Macbook and a cup of coffee. Usually the big screen is going as background noise to the chirping and squawking of the budgies. It's not lost on me that they too respond to the moment.

I had many moments over the past week. And memories.

I spent about four days in New York City and came home before another random act of violence shook the country. New Yorkers just get back to their business, but to the rest of the country, those moments are jaw-dropping. Prior to Tuesday's chaos, and aside

PICK 4 04/14, 04/15, 04/16 EVENING

See MOMENTS, page 8

"Have sex and smoke pot all day," Gracie responded.

See SWARM, page 9

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WEATHER

MON 18 Apr	Light Rain, 47º F/ 34º F 🛛 衍	
UE 19 Apr	Scattered Clouds, 52º F/ 30º F 🛛 🃩	
	Rain, 53° F/ 44° F	
IOWA LOTTERY		
OTTO AMERICA 04/168	3 10 14 18 23, Star Ball: 9 All Star Bonus: 4	1
UCKY FOR LIFE 04/16		3
	4 17 20 46 64, Mega Ball: 23 Megaplier: 4	
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PICK 4 04/14, 04/15, 04/16 MIDDA	(757123866830)

POWERBALL 04/16...... 15 21 32 62 65, Powerball: 26 Power Play: 5

<u>OpenWeatherMap</u>

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

MARLEEN V. BECK

Marleen Vivian Beck, 87, Danville, died at 4:30 AM Friday, April 8, 2022, at the Klein Center in West Burlington.



Born August 31, 1934, in Burlington, IA, she was the son of Lester Elner and Ruth Mary Rice Beck.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1956 from the William Jennings Bryan University in Tennessee. She also received her Masters in Christian Ministries from Wheaton Bible College in Illinois.

BECK

Marleen taught Christian Education in Korea, South Korea, New Jersey and Illinois. She was a missionary for 25 years in South America and was the Woman's Dormitory Advisor at the Ocana Bible Institute in Columbia.

She was a member of the Faith Baptist Church in Danville and taught classes during Vacation Bible School. She was a minister and advocate for our local Hispanic population. Marleen was active in the Danville Library's Genealogy department. She was a hard worker and tended to a vegetable garden and fruit tree orchard. She also had an appreciation for Antique cars, because of her hours she had spent with her father restoring them.

Survivors include her sister-in-law, Virginia Beck of Danville; brother-in-law, Richard Gibson of Danville; nieces and nephews, Elaine (John Pihlblad) Beck of Waukee, Iowa, Dave (Christa) Beck of Mediapolis, Iowa, Doug (Edith) Beck of Burlington and Julie (Doug) Snavely of Danville; three step nieces and nephew; and 13 great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brother, Donald Beck and sister, Marjorie Gibson.

Visitation was Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at Prugh~Thielen Funeral Home.

The funeral service for Miss. Beck will be 11:00 AM Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at Prugh~Thielen Funeral Home with John Tolander officiating. Private burial will be in Prairie Grove Cemetery.

A memorial has been established for the Danville Anne Frank Museum's Boxcar Exhibit Fund.

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 Marleen's obituary at www.prughfuneral.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

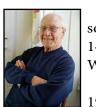
Pen City Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting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



OBITUARIES

SHERMAN W. ROHRBOUGH

Sherman Wayne Rohrbough, 93, of Warsaw, Illinois, passed away on Thursday, April 7, 2022, at River Hills Village in Keokuk, Iowa.



Wayne was born on October 1, 1928, in Chicago, Illinois, the son of Anthony P. and Ida A. (Burnett) Rohrbough. On January 14, 1950, he was united in marriage to Norma I. Ruffcorn in Warsaw, Illinois. She preceded him in death on July 17, 2017. Wayne was employed at Hubinger in Keokuk from 1955 until 1991, working as an electrician and in waste water treatment.

ROHRBOUGH

He was a member of the VFW in Warsaw and was an avid reader, fisherman and hunter, raising hunting dogs. He also en-

joyed golfing, driving around town and rooting for the Chicago Cubs. Wayne proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict.

Wayne is survived by his daughter Marcia Lynn (Terry) Ayers of Virginia, Illinois; his sister Belva Tinklenberg of Keokuk; six grandchildren: Amanda (Nick) Capaldo, Amy (Eric Brotherton) Rohrbough, Alexis (Ethan) Hotop, Troy (Carrie) Hamner, Haley (Mike) Stanley, and Tiffany (Thomas) Cooksey; eleven great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Wayne is preceded in death by his parents; his daughter Susan; his son Robert Wayne; two brothers: Ralph and Ted; and two sisters: Maxine and Mary Lou.

Funeral services were held Monday, April 11, 2022, at Printy Funeral Home in Warsaw, with burial with military honors to follow at Oakland Cemetery in Warsaw. Military Honors will be rendered by the Hancock County Honor Guard and the United States Army. Visitation will be held at the funeral home on Sunday, April 10, from 2 to 5 pm.

Memorials may be made to the University of Iowa Dance Marathon. Tributes and condolences may be left at <u>www.printyfuneralhome.com</u>. Printy Funeral Home of Warsaw is in charge of arrangements.



Monday, April 18 Tenderloin, Cheese Potatoes

Tuesday, April 19 **Chicken & Noodles, Mashed Potatoes**

Wednesday, April 20 Tater Tot Casserole, Applesauce

Thursday, April 21

Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, April 22

Ribeye Sandwich, Potato Salad

Charles Vandenberg, Editor

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PEN CITY CU It's Black & White and Read all over

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Sports

Johnson, Eschman lead Hounds, Hawks at Denny White Relays

PCC SPORTS

MT. PLEASANT – The Fort Madison Bloodhounds got first place finishes from Tate Johnson, Aija Jenkins, and Paetyn Wiegand, while Central Lee got top finishes from Audrey Hand and Tommy Eschman Thursday night at the Denny White Relays in Mt. Pleasant.

The Lady Hawks took first place in three relay events winning the 4×400 , Distance Medley, and Shuttle Hurdle relays en route to 109 points for 2nd place in the B Division and 5th place overall.

Fort Madison girls finished second in the A Division behind Mt. Pleasant with 126 points. Wiegand took first in the 1500-meter run at 5:44.79 and Jenkins got 10 points for finishing atop the high jump with a leap of 4-10.

In the boys' meet, Fort Madison scored 93 points and finished 5th in the A Division behind Iowa City Liberty, Clear Creek-Amana, Washington, and Mt. Pleasant, and 7th overall. Central Lee finished 9th in the B Division and 15th overall with 42 points.

Tate Johnson took first in the 100-meter dash with an 11.27, the fastest time of the day. Eschman took first in the 110 hurdles in the B Division with a 17:04, the 7th fastest overall.

Central Lee's Audrey Hand took first in the girls' 3000 meter run at 14:19.65. Alivia Myhre, Kamryn Cox, MaKayla Howard, and Karlie Pohren won the 4×400 at 4:46.96. The same four won the distance medley at 4:56.64. Myhre, Allison Kerr, Kodi Moeller, and Abby Simmons won the shuttle hurdle at 1:21.09.

Fort Madison's boys runners got first in the sprint medley relay with Tate Settles, Tate Johnson, Hayden Segoviano, and Andrew Schaeffer at 1:40.96. Mikey DiPrima won the high jump with a leap of 5-10.

Girls results (FM-A Division, Central Lee-B Division)

100-meter: FM-Lilian Gelsthorpe 14.33 (4th), Mackenzie Rainwa-

ter 15.02 (7th). Central Lee-Adrienne Britt 15.87 (2nd).

200-meter: FM-Gelsthorpe 29.99 (6th), Laci Gathers 37.88 (9th). Central Lee-Kayleigh Larkin 39.75 (2nd). 400-meter: FM-Katie Dennis 1:08.97 (3rd), Emma Kern 1:14.98 (5th)

800-meter: FM-Allison Lamb 3:02.24 (4th), Jordyn Burch 3:19.80 (6th). Central Lee-Kamryn Cox 2:47.14 (2nd). 1500-meter: Paetyn Wiegand 5:44.79 (1st), Dennis 5:49.08 (2nd)

3000-meter: Burch 14:07.98 (3rd), Alexa Walz 14:59.33 (4th). Central Lee: Audrey Hand 14:19.65 (1st).

100-hurdles: FM-Jojo Vincent 20.46 (5th). Central Lee-Allison Kerr 19.06 (2nd), Abby Simmons 21.81 (5th)

400-hurdles: FM-Raquel Schneider 1:13.61 (2nd), Hailey Kemper 1:20.47 (3rd)

4×100 relay: FM-Rainwater, Gelsthorpe, Rylee Steffensmeier, Emily Steffensmei-

er 56.93 (3rd). Central Lee: Britt, Kerr, Karlie Pohren, Shanna Buford 58.79 (3rd).



4×200 relay: FM-Mazie Hotop, Kylie Fortune, Rainwater, Chloe Sokolik 2:09.49 (4th)
4×400 relay: FM-Olivia Buckner, Mary Hellige, Fortune, Kern 5:16.52 (4th). Central Lee-Alivia Myhre, Kamryn Cox, MaKayla Howard, Pohren 4:46.96 (1st).
Sprint Medley: FM-Hotop, R. Steffensmeier, Buckner E. Steffensmeier 2:18.54 (4th).
Central Lee-Simmons, Howard, Kodi Moeller, Pohren 2:10.38 (2nd)
Distance Medley: FM-E.Steffensmeier, R. Steffensmeier, Lamb, Wiegand 4:56.60 (2nd). Central Lee-Myhre, Cox, Howard, Pohren 4:56.64 (1st)
Shuttle Hurdle: FM-Sokolik, Schneider, Kemper, Aija Jenkins 1:15.04 (2nd). Central Lee-Myhre, Kerr, Moeller, Simmons 1:21.09 (1st)
High Jump: FM-Jenkins 4-10 (1st)
Long Jump: FM-Kemper 13-10.75 (3rd), Walz 11-2.75 (7th). Central Lee-Moeller 13-4 (3rd), Kerr 13-0 (5th)
Shot: FM-Lexi Whaley 30-6.5 (3rd), Brylie Lorence 30-0 (4th). Central Lee-Buford 28-11 (2nd), Alivia Cook 20-9.5 (5th)
Discus: FM-Whaley 91-10 (4th), Lorence 65-00 (8th). Central Lee-Cook 54-5 (5th), Kayleigh Larkin 39-11 (6th).
Boys Results (FM-A Division, Central Lee-B Division)
400 meters FM-A Division, Central Lee-B Division)

100-meter: FM- Tate Johnson 11.27 (1st), Julian Dear 12.11 (5th). Central Lee-Tommy Eschman 11:85 (2nd), Grant Myhre 12.79 (8th). 200-meter: FM-Hayden Segoviano 24.71 (5th). Central Lee-Brayden Wyrick 25.97 (9th), Kegan Damico 26.88 (14th). 400-meter: FM-Hayden Wolfe 1:01.74 (13th), Thomas White 1:02.55 (15th). Central Lee-Ayden Kent 57.03 (5th), Aden Ross 1:00.90 (11th). 800-meter: FM-Calvin Johnson 2:33.35 (11th), George Hantzeas 2:37.55 (13th). 1600-meter: FM-John Contrell 5:09.75 (6th). Central Lee-Grant Anderson 5:54.24 (11th). Anthony Galati 6:59.67 (16th). 3200-meter: FM-Cameron Shutwell 12:37.80 (10th). Central Lee-Grant Anderson 12:20.07 (4th). 110 hurdle: FM-Macaden Rhoer 16.90 (6th). Central Lee-Eschman 17:04 (1st) 400 hurdles: FM-Rhoer 1:00.81 (4th). 4×100 relay: FM-Tate Settles, Dear, Andrew Schaeffer, Tate Johnson 44.25 (3rd). Central Lee-Damico, Chase Johnson, Myhre, Wyrick 48.80 (8th). 4×200 relay: FM-Settles, Dear, Schaeffer, Mikey DiPrima 1:36.55 (2nd). Central Lee-Wyrick, Ross, Kent, Johnson 1:46.56 (8th). 4×400 relay: FM-Segoviano, DiPrima, Butler, Rhoer 4:06.80 (7th). 4×800 relay: FM-Johnson, Wolfe, Hantzeas, Shutwell 10:41.02 (7th). Sprint Medley: FM-Settles, Johnson, Segoviano, Schaeffer 1:40.96 (1st). Distance Medley: Teague Smith, Dayton Lamar, Dane Butler, Contrell 4:06.70 (6th). Shuttle hurdle: FM-Rhoer, Smith, Caleb Bolander, Adam Sobczak 1:11.93 (5th). Central Lee-Eschman, Myhre, Damico, Ostyn Moore 1:18.27 (5th). High Jump: FM-DiPrima 5-10 (1st), Lamar 5-6 (4th). Long Jump: FM-DiPrima 19-7.25 (5th), Chandler Fullenkamp 18-1.75 (7th). Central Lee-Eschman 19-8 (3rd), Myhre 18-6.25 (7th). Shotput: FM-Caden Barnes 42-5.5 (3rd), Ike Thacher 37-7.5 (6th). Central Lee-Brody Fuller 34-2 (16th), Moore 32-4 (18th). Discus: FM- Corey Arnette 103-0 (9th), Thacher 88-8 (15th). Central Lee-Fuller 77-1 (15th), Braedon Barlow 62-4 (21st).

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Current-Lee/From the Front

State still showing signs of rebounding

JOBS - Continued from Page 1

since the height of the pandemic, but employers continue to need workforce. IWD will continue to focus on re-employment and helping jobless Iowans quickly find their way into rewarding new careers."

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

Despite the progress evidenced in several indicators (as measured by a survey asking Iowans about their employment status), a different seasonally adjusted survey sent to employers showed Iowa establishments paring 1,500 jobs in March, leaving total nonfarm employment at 1,563,700 jobs. This decline marked the first drop since August 2021 and was due to cutbacks in private service industries. An increase in agriculture-related employment was also seen this past month, but its growth would have not been included in the nonfarm employment. Prior to this drop, Iowa had been experiencing a strong increase in hiring with 25,900 jobs added over the last six months (February's nonfarm employment was also revised upward by +3,000). Government also trended down slightly (-100) in March yet remains up 5,200 jobs versus last year. Annually, Iowa establishments have now added 32,500 jobs over the past twelve months.

Leisure and hospitality shed the most jobs in March (-2,800). This loss was unexpected given the recent hiring within both accommodations and food services and art and entertainment industries. The sluggishness (in comparison to traditional seasonal growth) may be indicative of businesses holding off on early seasonal hiring, especially considering the rapid pace of hiring over the past several months. Health care and social assistance decreased by 800 jobs, offsetting the gains in January and February. All other job losses were small in nature and included management of companies and enterprises (-200), professional, scientific, and technical services (-200), and finance and insurance (-200).

Positive news elsewhere includes job gains that were highest in retail trade (+900). This now marks the sixth consecutive increase for the retail industry. Wholesale trade added 700 jobs and has increased in three of the last four months. Construction advanced by 400 jobs and has now gained jobs in each of the last five months. Even with this month's loss, leisure and hospitality remains up 13,200 jobs for the year, with the majority of hires in accommodations and food services (+11,100). Manufacturing is up 6,100 jobs compared to last March with durable goods factories slightly outpacing nondurable goods shops. Thanks to recent gains, retail trade is now up 4,800 jobs from last year's level with most hiring within general merchandise stores. Losses have been concentrated within health care and social assistance (-2,800) and finance and insurance (-1,500).

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CURRENT-LEE

Sunday Brunch at Green Acres Golf Club – Now serving Sunday brunch 10am-2pm every week. Adults \$8.99, Children \$6.99. Ask about Senior & Veteran Discounts. 925 Fruit Street, Donnellson. 319.835.5011. Like them on Facebook for information about upcoming events & more.

Welch's Insurance Spring Fling – Wednesday, April 20, 4-6pm, 415 Chestnut St., Donnellson. Serving samples of Green Acres Iced Coffees and Refreshers, as well as snacks from Hinterland Dairy and Farmington Locker.

Friend of the Fort Madison Public Library Book Sale – Thursday, April 21, 10am-6:30pm; Friday, April 22, 10am-4:30pm; Saturday, April 23, 9:30am-12:30pm, Fort Madison Public Library.

Fort Madison Community Clean-Up – Saturday, April 23, 9am-11am, Central Park

Adult Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, April 23, 7pm, at Appleberry Orchards. 21 or older event. Must purchase \$30 ticket in advance. Feel like a kid again at Appleberry Orchards near Donnellson. Hunt for "adult" eggs and enjoy cash bar, games, entertainment, and prizes.

The Long and Winding Road – From the Rooftop into History: the Music of John, Paul, George, & Ringo. Sunday, April 24. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., show starts at 7:00 p.m., Grand Theatre, 26 North 6th St., Keokuk. Limited VIP tickets \$35 available in advance only at KOKX. General admission tickets \$20 main floor; \$15 balcony available at the door or in advance at KOKX, 108 Washington St., Keokuk, and Hy-Vee Keokuk Customer Service, 3111 Main St. Presented by KOKX Radio.

Fort Madison Paint-A-Thon – Teams are need for this year's event, held April 25-29. Contact Fort Madison Partners today to sign up. 319-372-5471 or email <u>tgobble@fortmadi-son.com</u>.

Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course Improvement Tournament – Friday, April 29. Shotgun start at noon. 4-person best shot. \$75 per person (\$50 for pass/punch card holders); \$300 per 4-person team. Optional mulligans and skins game \$10/ team. Silent auction, on-course games, prizes, lunch served at 11am, and more! Call or email Ryan to sign up today. 319.528.6214 or <u>rmcmillan@sheaffergolf.com</u>.

Finale – A Performance in the Main Gallery – Saturday, April 30. 6pm – Youth Open Mic; 7pm – Brad Kurtz & Company. BYOB – snacks & refreshments available for purchase. COVER – by donation. Presented by Fort Madison Area Arts Center, 825 Avenue G. 319.372.3996 or <u>fortmadisonart@</u> <u>gmail.com</u>.

Donnellson City-Wide Cleanup – May 4th. Place items curbside by 7am, contact city hall for details.

Salute to Small Business Breakfast – Thursday, May 5, 7:30 a.m., Small Grand Things. Sponsored by Huffman's Farm

See a glaucoma specialist close to home

& Home and Huffman Welding & Machine, Inc. Register to attend here.

United Way of the Great River Region Golf Outing – This year's event is set for Friday, May 6 with a noon shotgun start. Contact the UWGRR at 319-524-5404 or <u>director@united-waygrr.org</u> for more information.

Crazytown presented by Old Fort Players – Take a tour of the most messed up town in America, from the police interrogation room where the nicest guy in town is issued a strange ultimatum, to the elementary school for a heated political debate on critical issues like tater tots. Welcome to Crazytown, where our motto is: Welcome to Crazytown. Written by Jonathan Rand. Produced by Special Arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. (<u>www.playscripts.com</u>). Performances held May 6-8 & May 13-15. Adult tickets \$15, Senior & Military \$12, Students \$10. Tickets are available online here. Presented by Old Fort Players in partnership with Jim Baier, Inc. and Lee County Bank.

Glo-Crazy for Education 5k timed fun run/walk – The race starts at 8:30 p.m. on May 7, 2022. Early registration ends April 23rd, which includes a t-shirt. You can pick up your packet the day of the run at 6:30 p.m. Day-of registration begins at 6 p.m. and is \$30 per person. Stick around for food & drink at the Baxter Sports Complex concession stand after the run! Register here. Proceeds benefit Elliott Test Kitchen.



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Sara De La Rosa, MD | Ophthalmology

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- Retina conditions diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, retinal vein occlusion

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



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Classifieds/Public Notices

N CITY CURRENT

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE Lee County, Iowa **Board of Supervisors** Agenda DATE: Monday, April 18, 2022 MEETING **CONVENING TIME:** 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. (CDT) LOCATION: 933 Avenue H Fort Madison, IA

Please join my meeting

from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

https://meet.goto. com/502874405 You can also dial in using your phone. United States: +1 (312)

757-3121 Access Code: 502-874-405

If you would like to pose a question to the Board, please use the Chat feature and wait for the Chairman to address you.

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

If you are participating by phone, please wait until everyone is done speaking before addressing the Board. Please keep your microphone muted to cut down on background noise. If you are participating by phone, press #6, this will mute your phone.

Pledge of Allegiance Approve Agenda Public Input Consider Approval to

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HERE

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Sign-On

BONUS

Allow Brian Wright to Hold Senior Health Fair at Newberry Center on June 2, 2022

Consider Approval of \$1500 Price Adjustment

on Sign Truck Consider Approval of \$4000 Price Ajustment on (1) Mack Granite Dump Truck Chassis

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

Consider Approval of Amended Agreement with City of Fort Madison for Combined Voting Precincts

Consider Approval of Monday, April 11, 2022

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Construction Associate Controller Fort Madison, Iowa

Baxter Construction Compa-

Board Minutes

Consider Approval of Claims for Payment Personnel Actions:

A. Step Increases (6) -Health Department Reports:

A. Manure Management Annual Update for Fullenkamp Farms in Marion Township Commission or Committee Reports

Adjourn

-0-

1728 Main

Workshop to Follow

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NYC 2022

Do the touristy things in NYC, but find the nuances as well

MOMENTS - Continued from Page 1

from the metal tube with jet engines at 38,000 feet for two hours, it was the perfect trip.

It started with my daughter, who was supposed to have worked Thursday night, meeting us at baggage claim in La Guardia. I thought we were on our own to the hotel, but there she was waving when we arrived. I smiled and grabbed her up. I'm getting so easy to fool.

We headed to our hotel on a cold, rainy, and windy evening- much the eastern seaboard weather we hear about. We brought my mother, 75 and energetic, to see things she'd only heard about or seen on television in the back drop of Blue Bloods. We also took my niece who's probably just as adventurous as our daughter, and a little more wild, not yet 20.

We headed out into the rain through the canopies of buildings and banks near the Battery Park district. We had about an hour before our dinner reservation at Fraunces Tavern, so we darted through an alleyway that had businesses up and down the sides. I couldn't help but think of Diagon-Alley from Harry Potter fiction. I had a Jameson and a beer at a place called the Dubliner, to take the chill out of my bones. Funny how Irish Whiskey can do just that.

Áfter about 30 minutes of people watching and guessing who did what and how long they've done it, we headed to dinner.

Fraunces Tavern is remarkable, and when you're in NYC next you must put it on your itinerary to stop here for the chicken pot pie. Lore has it it was George Washington's favorite dish in the city.

It's now one of mine. It came out like a souffle with a crust so flaky I swear the overhead fans were causing it to flutter. My niece had oysters (and liked them). She made me eat one, but it had to have horseradish, lemon, and a couple drops of hot sauce to slide it down. The red in the billowed wine glass didn't hurt either.

She had pesto papperdelle. Mom had shrimp linguini and Lee had salmon with arugula. Taylor had a pot pie, too – a history buff like her old man.

We hit a place called The Cauldron after for a couple drinks and then back to the hotel. The Cauldron was hosting a Drag Queen Bingo. Mom's open-minded and all, but that may have been a bit more than she was looking for.

We did the regular tourism things over the next several days... Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building, 9/11 Memorial, and yeah, the subways. We Ubered and cabbed around the city, but took the subway several times. Mom was impressed with the room and character of the mode of transportation of millions of people of which she had preconceived notions. A gentleman in an fairly open car got up to allow mom to sit down. Her eyebrows went up.

When we came off the plane at La Guardia a sign said the population of NYC composite was over 18 million people. My eyebrows went up. Whoa.

On Sunday we visited the east side where the Flat Iron building is getting a facelift. We stopped at an Italian Eatery called Eataly. It's an Italian market where I would probably spend most of my disposable income if I lived in the area. It had all the smells and feels of what I can only assume is what it's like in the boot.

Freshly piped cannolis to order, coffees, gelato, nut oils, breads, wine... all the things I read about in books or see on the big screen – right in front of me. We stopped for lunch at the cafe behind the market for risotto and pasta. The warm bread and olive oil was odd to my niece, but a



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Laying on the ground catching the hustle and bustle and a New Yorker gets real. They're used to having their picture taken, not sure they're used to photographers laying on the ground in the middle of walkways, but they like their moments.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Lines are always in abundance in the New York City landscape. This is an architectural reflection outside a mall near Ground Zero in Manhattan's Wall Street District. little pepper added and it went down just fine for me.

We went up in the Empire State Building to the 86th floor and out onto the gated balcony for some pictures. Our daughter, as adventurous as she is, literally crept onto the balcony with her head down, as if dodging fate. She laughed out of fear, as my wife stuck her face through the fence to get a better look of the city below.

Heights are not my thing, but I had a camera, so.... We had tickets to the upper glass observatory on the 102nd floor. I hesitated then took a breath and said "Okay". Mom stayed back, and up we went through the blue neon elevator that opened to a small round of polished chrome and glass. Taylor walked gingerly (as did I) around and then we got to taking pictures again. Natalie and Lee went right to the glass for a closer look.

Fearless and beautiful – all three of them.

The 9/11 memorial was sobering. We didn't do the interior tour but stayed at ground zero and walked around the fountains. Flowers dotted the stone foundations where etched names represented those who'd lost their lives. I learned the flowers signified those with birthdays that day. That was somebody's job – to put flowers in the names of those with birthdays each day.

I think it's things like that that give God faith in his creation – despite our failings.

We flew back Monday morning at 7 a.m. We got to La Guardia at about 5 a.m. and curbside checked our bags. Then we went to security and the line was so long we literally could not see the end of it. Mom was just about done after four days of walking in the big city, so I grabbed one of the blue chairs with wheels on it and had her sit as I began to push to the end of the line.

A nice man came up and asked why she was in the chair and I told him she was having trouble walking due to the extended weekend. He got out a handheld tablet, punched in our ticket number and escorted the whole family around the line that was for sure going to be at least an hour, assisted mom and the rest of us through security, pushed her through two sets of elevators and all the way to our gate – all in about 15 minutes.



He got a nice tip in the last elevator.

The flight home was smooth, thank the Lord, and we headed to Denny's in Troy for a late breakfast and got home at about 2 p.m. If you've seen the Facebook photo dump on my wife's page you'll see I didn't even get my mouth closed before I fell asleep for about 3 hours.

It's these moments and memories that pop light into a life darkened by so much – that we treasure now. Spending time with our daughter is priceless, Natalie provided much comic relief, and Kelsey was with us the whole time. You just feel those things.

Like the friend of mine who celebrated his 40th birthday Friday night in Fort Madison. We hadn't really sat down since my daughter died. He hugged me and a single tear streamed down his face. That's just not the him I know. He said he was proud of me and his heart broke for me.

Moments and memories.

I thought I'd share some of the art I captured. My family will just have to forgive a bit, but as an Easter gift to you all, here's some free art from the Big Apple. My family said I should put together a gallery. These are not that great from a news guy – but that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is editor and co-owner of Pen City Current and can be reached at <u>charles.v@pencitycurrent.</u>

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

A terrorism task force is ever-present at Ground Zero. But, despite the constant awareness of their surroundings, a member of the security force always is accessible to those who feel the need to distract them from their critical work.

From the Front

Persistence pays at Agency home | Vacant building code back on agenda

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

"Well, we're not doing that here." Gracie ran away the first night. AHFA is not a lock-down facility. She idea how) and the State Department of NEST Human Services brought her back two weeks later.

Judy asked for Gracie to be moved three times, but there was no place for her to go. Even Gracie's Grandmother didn't come to see her. However, Judy developed a soft spot for Gracie. Gracie began attending the Bridge Church in Ottumwa, and eventually asked to be baptized. It was a turning point.

Gracie was still a little obnoxious and loud but was showing improvement and working through the levels. At the highest level she was allowed to walk to the BP Convenience Store in Agency, which is a privilege. She enrolled in a program where she was working 70% of the time and going to school 30%. She became a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA).

But Judy still wasn't convinced Gracie would make it. Gracie started calling AHFA "home." That's how sad it was—AHFA's shelter was home for Gracie. Six months later she graduated from high school and walked across the stage to receive her diploma.

Judy did something she never did with any of the other kids. She got permission and took Gracie to her house on the weekends because Gracie had no other place to go. Judy lives on a farm. She came home one evening and Gracie had all the farm cats in the house. Judy asked, "Gracie, why do you have the cats in the house?"

"Because they're cold." Judy had to explain that the cats were

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farm cats and belonged outdoors.

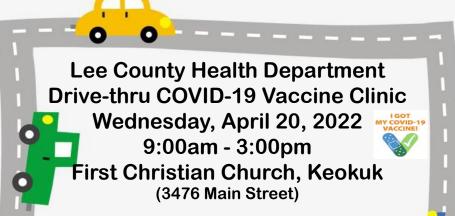
Gracie smoked in the house once, and stole some things from Judy's kids. Judy confronted her and Gracie returned the things. It was so natural for Gracie to steal. It was one of the ways she survived.

Gracie now lives in Des Moines and has a little girl. She calls Judy on Mother's Day and wishes her happy Mother's Day. It breaks Judy's heart.

This is one story of many. Some are worse, some are better. The mission of American Home Finding Association is to provide exceptional services that nurture and improve the quality of life for children and families. It's doing just that. Some kids come to AHFA with only the clothes they're wearing. It's a shelter facility that provides a roof over their heads. AHFA doesn't let them do whatever they want, but believes in loving and nurturing. About half the kids will turn their lives around, the other half won't. Many of the staff are former residents. Some of the kids have never been to a movie or eaten out. At Christmas and Thanksgiving the staff will often take kids home.

Why do they do it? It's not for money, that's for sure. "It's because of the ones who make it," they say.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo. <u>com</u>



SOLAR - Continued from Page 1

nity College and other regional work.

Solar panels would be added at City Hall, on the city's Water Tower, Ortho Way Sewer Booster, Riverview Drive Sewer Booster, Avenue G Water Booster, Sheriff Station Water booster, the Fort Madison Airport Office, the Library, and at Shopton Park.

Over the span of the 30-year agreement, Varley calculated the city would save \$1.7 million. An option was considered where the city would purchase the equipment after 15 years which would increase the savings to the city to about \$2 million.

There would be no upfront costs for the equipment or installation as Red Lion covers the installation costs as part of the agreement. The rate to Red

Lion would increase at 2.5% per year, and Varley wrote he assumes a variable 4% increase in costs per year with the current providers.

Other agenda items for Tuesday's City Council meeting include:

• consideration of the second reading of an ordinance creating the Vacant **Building Registration** chapter of city code.



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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 a	above):	
Contact Person:		_ Email:
Phone:	Address:	
City, State, Zip:		
Golfers (if known):		
Please note	, all golfers will sign a v	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 on or before the appropriate deadline.

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Contact Person:		
Email:		
Phone:	Address:	
City, State, Zip:		

Sponsorship forms and payment can be sent to United Way of the Great River Region, PO Box 251, Keokuk, IA 52632