

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Friday, April 15, 2022 | 15 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 74



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Ernst visits Pilot Grove



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

U.S. Senator Joni Ernst talks with Jenny Steffensmeier of Steffensmeier Welding & Mfg. in Pilot Grove Tuesday, and State Sen. Jeff Reichman on her stop in Lee County Tuesday.

STEFFENSMEIER WELDING: Senator tours facility and then talks Women in Business

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

PILOT GROVE – U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst made a stop on her 99-county tour across the state at Steffensmeier Welding & Mfg. on Wednesday to take a look at one of Lee County's most prominent woman-owned manufacturing facilities.

Ernst (R-Iowa) toured the facility with owner Jenny Steffensmeier and her daughter Rachel Steffensmeier and talked about the current condition of the workforce and how a Goldman-Sachs program helped groom Jenny for running the company.

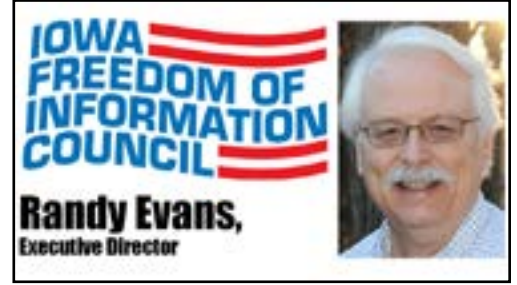
Ernst, who sits on the Senate Small Business Committee, is

also promoting her Empowering Women in Small Business Act.

The bill would increase access to venture capital financing for women-owned small businesses through SBA-certified Small Business Investment Corporations (SBICs) and hold federal agencies accountable for meeting federal contracting obligations under current law for women-owned small businesses.

It also requires a report from these agencies on the impact of inflation and supply chain disruptions on women-owned small businesses over the last three years, recommendations

See ERNST, page 11



Iowans losing their way with public schools

This is one of those times when people who have little appetite for politics need to pay attention — because a big change is coming that many folks won't agree with.

When the U.S. Mint asked each state to pick an image to represent the state on a series of special quarters in 2004, Iowa chose its schools. The quarter featured a likeness of Grant Wood's famous painting of a one-room country school, with the message "Foundation in Education."

The choice was not surprising. Our schools have been something in which Iowans have long taken great pride. Our chests swelled each time Iowa stood atop the nation's college entrance exam rankings. Terry Branstad and Kim Reynolds even campaigned 10 years ago to bring Iowa's schools up to world-class stature.

That was then. This year, Iowa's foundation in education is being tested as surely as if an EF5 tornado were bearing down on every public-school building.

Republican leaders in the Iowa Senate, encouraged along by Gov. Reynolds, have Iowa heading down a path that will cause financial harm to the state's public schools. The only thing standing in their way is whether enough Republicans in the Iowa House have the political courage in the coming days to say, "No. Absolutely not."

This is where individual taxpayers can make a difference — but they need to write letters or send emails this week to their state representatives, asking them to oppose the Republican proposal to use \$55 million in state tax money for scholarships for 10,000 children to attend private K-12 schools. That \$55 million

See EVANS, page 6

ASSAULT

Man sought for punching ref surrenders to sheriff

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A Burlington man who reportedly punched a local sports official Saturday has turned himself into the Lee County Sheriff's Department.



MORRIS

Urban Jattelle Morris, 39, of Burlington and formerly of Shreveport, La., surrendered without incident to the Lee County Sheriff's Department early Tuesday

morning. He was booked into the Lee County Jail at about 6:30 a.m. according to Lee County Jail officials, and was released just before 7 p.m. that night after posting bond.

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WEATHER

FRI 15 Apr.....Broken Clouds, 52° F/ 38° F
SAT 16 Apr.....Clear Skies, 49° F/ 33° F
SUN 17 Apr.....Light Rain, 48° F/ 35° F

OpenWeatherMap

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LUCKY FOR LIFE 04/13.....10 26 38 39 40, Lucky Ball: 18
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PICK 4 04/13 MIDDAY.....6 4 9 4
PICK 4 04/13 EVENING.....9 3 0 3
POWERBALL 04/13.....14 16 41 63 68, Powerball: 26 Power Play: 2

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

MILDRED D. WOODS

Mildred Darlene Woods, 93, of Lomax, Illinois, passed away at 9:45 p.m. Friday, April 8, 2022 at the Oak Lane Nursing & Rehab in Stronghurst, Illinois.



WOODS

Mildred was born February 3, 1929 in Lomax the daughter of Earl and Lydia (Smith) Waterman. She married Kenneth Woods August 18, 1944 in Burlington, Iowa. He preceded her in death one day before their 48th Wedding Anniversary on August 17, 1992.

Mrs. Woods was a member of the Devine Faith Ministry in Lomax. She enjoyed cooking.

Mildred is survived three daughters: Mary Purvis of Lomax, Betty Foster of Stronghurst and Pauline Sutton of Lomax and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. Also surviving are two sisters: Ruby Steel of Monmouth and Mary Knockel of Des Moines.

She was preceded in death by her husband; two children in infancy; one daughter: Martha Woods; one son: Charles Woods and several siblings.

A visitation will be held from 10:00 until 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City.

A graveside service will follow at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at Crane Cemetery, near Lomax, with her grandson, Frankie Sutton, officiating.

A memorial fund has been established for Devine Faith Ministry in Lomax. To leave a condolence and sign the guest book, please visit Mildred's obituary at banksandbeals.com.

OBITUARIES

JAMES A. BILLINGS

James "Jim" Albert Billings, 83, of Keokuk, IA died Sunday, April 10, 2022 at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in West Burlington, IA.

He was born May 14, 1938 in Keokuk, IA the son of Albert and Dorothy Billings. Jim graduated from Keokuk High School with the Class of 1956.



BILLINGS

Jim was a veteran of the United States Army Reserves and was called up during the Vietnam War.

On December 27, 1961 Jim was united in marriage to Judy Boyer at Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Keokuk. She survives.

Other survivors include one brother, Kenny Billings of Keokuk, four sisters, Janet Rossi of Florida, Mary Smith (Carroll) of Mt. Pleasant, IA, Jean Logsdon (John) of Argyle, IA and Kathy Young (Jim) of Burlington, IA, sister-in-law, Carol Sue Billings of Keokuk, brothers and sisters-in-law, Steve and Janet Gregory of Florida and Wayne and Linda Boyer of South Dakota, many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and several great-great-nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, grandparents, three brothers, Ed, Wayne and Oscar and one brother-in-law, Donald Boyer.

Jim became a member of Emmanuel United Methodist Church at an early age and had served on the church board for several years. He was also a member of IH National and IH Chapter #5 of Iowa since 1993 and the Three Rivers Tractor Club.

He had been employed by Sunbeam Bakery as a mechanic. He later had been employed by Fruehauf /Wabash Trailers for a total of thirty-three years.

Jim was an antique tractor collector. He and his brother restored many tractors and worked on tractors for others. Every year Jim took part in the Three Rivers Tractor Ride, the Lake Argyle Tractor Show, the Western Illinois Thresher's show and also participated in the Labor Day Parade.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Thursday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Pastor Dave Barrett officiating. Burial with military rites will be in the Keokuk National Cemetery.

Visitation will be held after 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, at the funeral home with family meeting with friends from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Memorials may be made to IH Chapter #5 of Iowa or Three Rivers Tractor Club or the Emmanuel United Methodist Church.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorial-home.com.



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PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

JON C. LEMON

Jon C. Lemon, 76, of Keokuk, IA, died Sunday, April 10, 2022 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL.

He was born on April 6, 1946 in Keokuk, the son of Edward L. and Beatrice E. (Matheney) Lemon. He attended St. Mary's Elementary School and graduated from Cardinal Stritch High School with the Class of 1964. He then attended Southeastern Community College.



LEMON

On May 8, 1987, Jon was united in marriage to Carlene Dieker Martin at the Church of All Saints in Keokuk. She survives.

He is also survived by two step-sons, Jeff Martin (Beth) Of Benson, MN and Bob Martin (Jody) of Keokuk, two step-daughters, Janine Riney (Russ) of Alexandria, MO and Becky Johnson (Wade) of Keokuk, twelve step-grandchildren, Josh, Jeremiah, J.R., Mollie, Jordan, Kayde, Ian, Julianna, Carlee, Addison, Ella and Alexa and five great-grandchildren. Other survivors include one brother, Ed Lemon (Jean) Of Liberty, MO, and four sisters, Janet Finn (Mike) of St. Louis, MO, Margo Thornton (Jay) of Muscatine, IA, Kathy "Kate" Lemon of Keokuk, and Joyce Shomin (George) of Kansas City, KS and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, grandparents and several aunts and uncles.

Jon had been employed as a supervisor at Sheller Globe/Henniges in Keokuk for forty-two years. He was a faithful member of the Church of All Saints in Keokuk where he served as an usher. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and was a Third Degree Knight.

Jon loved to watch baseball, basketball and football and was an avid St. Louis Cardinal and Iowa Hawkeye fan. He enjoyed traveling and some of his favorite trips were to Hawaii, Alaska, Texas, Arizona, California and Colorado. Jon also enjoyed boating, reading and studying financial reports, feeding the birds and gardening. Most of all Jon loved spending time with his family and following his children's and grandchildren's activities.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at the Church of All Saints in Keokuk with Reverend David Brownfield, Ph.D. officiating. Burial will be in the Scandinavian Cemetery in rural Keokuk.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Tuesday at the Vigen Memorial home in Keokuk with the family meeting with friends from 6 - 8 p.m. A vigil service will be held at 5:30 p.m.

Memorials may be made to Keokuk Catholic Schools or St. Jude Children's Hospital. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

OBITUARIES

DONALD L. HAYES

Donald Lee Hayes, 68 of Warsaw, IL died Thursday, April 7, 2022 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL.

He was born July 21, 1953 in Ft. Madison, IA the son of Richard Lee and Ina Melva Tory Hayes. Donald graduated from Fort Madison High School with the class of 1971 and later attended South Eastern Community College.



HAYES

Donald was a veteran of the United States Air Force and proudly served our country as a military police officer.

On July 5, 1991, Donald was united in marriage to Linda Schrepfer. She survives.

Other survivors include two sons, Zach Hayes and Nick Hayes both of Cedar Rapids, IA, two daughters, Angela Wieprecht (Rick) of Warsaw, IL and Amber Bucher (Shawn Eid) of Ft. Madison, IA, seven grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. He is also survived by one brother, George Hayes (April) of Ft. Madison, IA and one sister, Pam Hunold (Bill) of Denmark, IA.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Donald had been employed by H&H Mold and Tooling Company in Fairfield, IA as a tool and die pattern maker.

He was a member of Calvary Foursquare Church.

Donald enjoyed woodworking and wood carving and had been a member of the Wood Carvers Club for many years. He made numerous prayer boxes and jewelry boxes for his family and friends through the years. Donald loved the outdoors and spent as much time as he could fishing. He especially loved to take his grandchildren and great-grandchildren fishing with him and teach them all of his fishing skills.



A memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Pastors Dan Davis and Larry Snyder officiating. Burial with military rites will be held in the Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk, IA.

Visitation will be held prior to the service from 12 noon - 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, at the funeral home with family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to the family.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorial-home.com.

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Sports

Lady Hounds get shut out in win over Keokuk

NEXT UP: Burlington hosts Fort Madison Monday in crucial match

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison’s 4-0 shut-out of Keokuk in Thursday’s girls soccer match at the Baxter Soccer Complex was a win, but coach Carrie Burken thought it could have been better.

The Bloodhounds (3-1 overall, 3-0 Southeast Conference) won their third consecutive match, but they were too quiet at times for Burken’s taste.

“Definitely not a good game for us,” Burken said. “Our last game against Washington on Monday (a 2-1 win), we were playing super well, really good possession, good passing. This was not that level of intensity.”

Fort Madison stayed at the top of the conference with the win over the Chiefs (2-4, 0-3).

“I think sometimes when you’re expecting to beat a team, you don’t come with the same focus as (playing) a team that’s at the top of the conference, that you know is going to be a tough team,” Burken said. “That was not what I would call our best game, for sure.”

Taegan Denning got Fort Madison’s first goal two minutes into the match, then Teagan Snaadt scored 16 minutes later. A third goal from Natalie Randolph with 12:45 to go in the half put the Bloodhounds in command.

That allowed Fort Mad-

ison’s defense to clamp down on the Chiefs in the second half.

Fort Madison has allowed just two goals in its last three matches, and just five goals in four matches.

That, Burken said, is a credit to captains Camille Kruse and Mary Kate Bendlage.

“Our defense works really well together,” Burken said. “Camille and MK have played in the middle this year and last year. They’re friends outside of soccer, they have a really good relationship. And they work really well together. They’re captains, and MK is really good at communicating, so that helps our defense.”

Fort Madison had several chances to add to the lead in the second half, but could only get one goal, a shot from Alana Simpson off a Snaadt as-



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison’s Teagan Snaadt works the ball through the midfield in Thursday’s 4-0 win over Keokuk.

sist with 23:53 to play.

The Bloodhounds play at Burlington on Monday in a match between two undefeated teams in conference play.

“Hopefully we’ll come back on Monday and play better,” Burken said. “I think we did some things well. So it’s not a total negative. You always take

a win. It’s not like we gave up a ton of chances on goal.

“Overall, it’s not bad. I just know we can do better.”

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Sports

Hounds rip off 13 goals in one half to down Chiefs

POTHITAKIS LOST: Leg injuries sideline junior for the next 9 to 12 months; Xander Wellman returns

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison’s boys soccer team hasn’t practiced the last two days, the product of a busy schedule and the nagging injuries that come with it.

The Bloodhounds got back on the field for a match, and although it only lasted a half, it was good enough to get them back into a rhythm.

Fort Madison’s 13-0 win over Keokuk on Thursday night at the Baxter Soccer Complex wasn’t much of a challenge. The Bloodhounds had five goals in the first nine minutes and never let up.

Fort Madison (4-3 overall, 3-0 Southeast Conference) had played six matches in eight days to open the season, including Monday’s 2-1 home win over Washington.

The Bloodhounds didn’t practice Tuesday and Wednesday.

“Getting a game allows them to knock the rust off and gets them back in the mode of moving around,” coach Kevin Wellman said. “This was a game where we made sure to keep the wheels greased, the gears greased, whatever you say.”

Xander Wellman, playing his first match of the season, scored three goals and Mitchell Pothitakis had two goals in the first nine minutes.

“He’s obviously championing at the bit,” Kevin Wellman said. “He’s been wanting to play. He’s been out there for practice, but a game is a whole different story. It’s good for him, individually, but it’s good for the team to see him out there.”

It was a match in which several players got involved.

- Pothitakis had four goals and an assist
- Xander Wellman had three goals and an assist
- Nathen Bowen had two goals and an assist
- Leif Boeding had two goals and three assists
- Henry Graham had a goal and an assist
- Reiburn Turnbull had a goal and an assist
- Ben Ramatowski, Dayton Davis, and Noah Swigart all had one assist.

“We got a lot of guys in, moved some guys around to different positions,” Kevin Wellman said.

Fort Madison got Xander Wellman back, but has lost Jacob Pothitakis for the rest of the season with a leg injury.

“It changes things,” Kevin Wellman said of the loss of Pothitakis. “We’ve got some players that are skilled and can take shots. They aren’t quite as strong as (Pothitakis) yet, because they’re a bit



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Bloodhounds’ Leif Boeding fires a shot at Keokuk’s Erich Profeta in the first half Thursday night. The Hounds put up 13 points in the first half to end the match early by the 10-goal rule. Below Jacob Pothitakis fires a shot over a line of defenders.

younger. Maybe a little bit more responsibility falls to others out there. It’s just different.”

The Bloodhounds get the weekend off before playing Burlington at home in a matchup of the two remaining undefeated teams in conference play.



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From the Front

Taxpayers need to reach out to legislators on voucher bill

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

would come directly from the state's public-school districts themselves, about \$5,500 for each student who receives a scholarship.

Taxpayers need to make it clear to House lawmakers that state tax money should be used only for our public schools, not for private schools — especially since private schools are not subject to the same citizen accountability and oversight requirements that public-school districts must live with.

The governor and Senate Republicans like to talk about the fairness of allowing any student to attend a private school. But the voucher proposal does not give all students an equal opportunity for a private-school education. Forty-two of Iowa's 99 counties do not have a private school within their boundaries, and the scholarship money cannot be used for transportation costs.

Also, private schools are not required to accept every student who wants to enroll — unlike the public schools. Private schools can pick and choose which students they admit. Students can be turned away based on their religion, their sexual orientation or gender identity, their ability to speak English, the presence of intellectual disabilities, or because of behavior problems a student may have.

Senate Democratic Leader Zach Wahls of Coralville said during the recent debate over vouchers, "Why on Earth would we give private schools our taxpayer dollars when they don't have the commitment or the responsibility of educating all Iowa students?"

He added, "If you are watching at home and you are one of the 92 percent of Iowa families whose children are in the public education system, there is no doubt the quality of your child's education will suffer if this bill becomes law."

Wahls said, "All it takes is for four or five students in your entire school system to take a voucher, and now your child has lost a teacher. And it is not difficult to understand the death spiral that this bill will create. Once a school district starts losing students, it starts losing teachers. And once a school district starts losing teachers, it starts losing schools."

Diverting tax money to pay for services that everyone cannot use is a concept contrary to the philosophy behind government. With government, everyone pitches in to help pay for facilities and services that are available for all.

We would howl in protest if the Legislature proposed handing state tax money to a private group to build a swimming pool or a golf course that only the group's members could use. Likewise, we would rise in opposition if a lawmaker proposed that certain people could divert a portion of their state income taxes or local property taxes to pay for a private security service to provide protection at their home.

But that's just what these scholarships do. They let some Iowans divert state tax money for their own private benefit.

If House Republicans go along with their Senate colleagues and approve the scholarships, don't think for a minute that only \$55 million and 10,000 scholarships are at stake.

There already are about 46,000 students in private schools in Iowa. It's a sure bet many of their parents, if not most, will want the scholarship program expanded in the coming years so they do not have to write tuition checks while some students receive taxpayer vouchers to pay for their tuition.

The Iowa Association of School Boards pointed out that Ohio began a voucher program in 2005 with 3,000 students. Today, Ohio provides 69,000 vouchers that cost taxpayers there \$628 million a year.

Don't let the politicians fool you into thinking this is a program to help children from low-income families. While poor kids would be eligible, so would the children in a family of four whose household income is \$110,000.

Parents who are dissatisfied with the quality of education their children receive in the local school district already have an important option available: They can open-enroll their child into another public-school district at no cost.

The private-school voucher proposal is just one roll call vote away from becoming law. This is why it is important for Iowans to stand up and tell their state representatives that public tax money must not be diverted into private schools.

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

Suspect released on \$5,000 cash bond

ASSAULT - Continued from Page 1

Morris was wanted on a warrant out of Fort Madison after he allegedly assaulted a game official working a 3-on-3 basketball tournament at Fort Madison Middle School Saturday afternoon. The warrant charges Morris with a misdemeanor serious assault. He posted \$5,000 cash for his release.

Fort Madison Police had information that Morris was looking to turn himself in following the incident, but when the suspect hadn't done so as of Monday, the warrant was issued.

Morris is accused of assaulting Patrick Weber, a certified official with the Iowa High School Athletic Association, after Weber ejected him for sustained verbal abuse during the game.

According to Fort Madison Police reports, Morris then returned between games and asked Weber how long the ejection would last and Weber told him he would talk with him after he set up the brackets for the next game. Weber told police that was the last thing he remembered until waking up and seeing firefighters standing over him.

Weber was then taken by ambulance to Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center's Fort Madison campus for treatment and released.

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For more information on the clinic please visit www.leecountyhd.org

Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
March 21, 2022**

The Lee County Board of Supervisors met at the Lee County Administration Building in Fort Madison on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Present: Matt Pflug, Garry Seyb, Ron Fedler and Rich Harlow.

Absent: Rick Larkin

The Board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Harlow, seconded by Seyb, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

At 10:01 a.m. Pflug opened a Public Hearing for comments on the proposed FY23 County Budget. There were no comments received prior to the hearing and no comments during the hearing. At 10:03 a.m. it was moved by Seyb, seconded by Harlow, to close the Public Hearing. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Harlow, to approve Resolution #2022-58. Roll call: Seyb-aye, Harlow-aye, Fedler-aye and Pflug-aye.

**RESOLUTION
2022 - 58**

Resolution - Adoption of Budget & Certification of Taxes FY2023

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing has been completed concerning the Proposed Lee County Budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 in accordance with the Iowa Department of Management guidelines and, per Iowa Code Section 331.434, Subsection 5;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa, the Public Hearing is acknowledged and the Budget & Certification of Taxes for Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 as presented is hereby adopted.

Dated at Fort Madison, Iowa on the 21st day of March, 2022.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Matt Pflug, Chairman; /s/ Garry Seyb, Vice-Chair; /s/ Ron Fedler, Member and /s/ Rich Harlow, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

There was no Public Input.

The Board held a discussion of the FY21

Audit with the Department Heads.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve the Employee Wellness Program for FY23. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Harlow, to approve Resolution #2022-59. Roll call: Fedler-aye, Harlow-aye, Seyb-aye and Pflug-aye.

RESOLUTION # 2022-59

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lee County has by Ordinance Number VI-11 adopted a plan for a County-wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District in Lee County, Iowa; and, WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 404.4 provides for prior approval of eligibility for a tax exemption by the governing body of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: Stevie Bethurem 2071 West Point Road West Point IA 52656

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said

applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 21st day of March, 2022.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Matt Pflug, Chairman; /s/ Garry Seyb, Vice-Chair; /s/ Ron Fedler, Member and /s/ Rich Harlow, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve a contract with TNT Tuckpointing and Building Restoration for the North Courthouse Tuck-point Project. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Harlow, to approve a Class C Liquor License for Harvestville Farms, for the period April 1, 2022 through April 1, 2023. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Fedler, to approve the Monday, March 14, 2022 Board minutes.

Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Harlow, to approve the payment of claims. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve a step increase for Peggy Ross, Real Estate Tech II, from \$18.15/hr. to \$18.68/hr. effective 4/5/22; a new hire for the County Attorney's Office, Justin Stonerook, Assistant County Attorney, \$97,490.44/annually, effective 3/21/22 and a change from hourly to salary for Dave Morgan, EMS Fleet Maintenance Coordinator, from \$2,042.54/bi-weekly to \$25.53/hr., effective 3/21/22. Motion carried.

Received and filed Manure Management Annual Updates for Marvin Holtkamp in Franklin Township and Kruse Bros. in Marion Township.

Committee Reports: Seyb reported on a Building Committee meeting and an Empowering Families meeting.

Pflug reported on a Decat Board meeting. County Health Director Michele Ross gave an update on what is going on in Lee County with the Covid Pandemic.

At 10:30 a.m. a motion was made by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to adjourn. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 28, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Administration Building in Fort Madison.

Matt Pflug, Chairman
Attest: Denise Fraise,
Lee County Auditor

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

ABC Fire, svcs..... 740.45	Centurylink, svcs	Hooter's, Idg 21.74	Practical Tactical, fee	K Ensminger, exps	MW Grp Bnfts, costs
D Abraham, svcs 393.82	..... 1,905.39	Huffman's, splys ... 792.18	..... 250.00	..... 119.34	..... 1019.20
Access Enrgy, svcs .. 32.00	Cheesecake Factory,	HyVee, splys..... 12.91	Quaker Steak, meals	Farm/Home, splys 8.48	OMG Midwest, svcs
Ace Hardware, splys	meals 63.02	IA City Parking, fee... 7.00	..... 34.40	FM Water, svcs..... 88.01	..... 17577.96
..... 43.26	Claim MD, sftwr 100.00	IA Dpt Pub Sfty, svcs	Quill, splys 245.96	D Fraise, exps 40.00	Pen City Current, publ
Advd Crrctnl, svcs	Conn Comm, splys	..... 15.00	Rathbun, splys..... 187.25	Garner FdMart, fuel	..... 712.49
..... 9028.28	..... 80.97	IA Sec/St, svcs 30.00	Rodentpro.com , splys	..... 878.58	Pitney Bowes, equip
Agriland FS, fuel	Death Investigation, splys	ISAC, fee 180.00	..... 137.00	GB Auto Service, rprs	..... 135.00
..... 9737.57	..... 18.20	ISSDA, fee..... 250.00	Seiler, sftwr 1,360.00	..... 113.69	Prairie Farms, splys
Alliant Enrgy, svcs	Decker's, splys 192.60	It Takes 2 Cards, edu	Sherwin Williams, splys	M Hellige, svcs 451.58	..... 179.20
..... 4842.46	Denmark Jet Stop, fuel	..... 89.91	..... 100.02	hibu Inc, publ 143.00	Quill Corp, splys 47.86
Amazon, splys 27.99	..... 42.30	Jason's Deli, meal .. 10.73	Shottenkirk, svcs	Hope Haven, svcs	Red Lion Rnwbls, svcs
Applied Cncpts, svcs	Digitalbuyer.com , splys	Jethro's, meal 47.14	..... 2,146.54	..... 1992.00	..... 1168.82
..... 245.00	..... 485.00	Jim Baier, splys..... 186.79	Starbucks, meal..... 8.24	IDALS, ins..... 156.00	RicohUSA, splys... 101.12
B&B Propane, fuel	Dish, svcs 69.38	Jim's Lock & Safe, splys	Texas Roadhouse, meal	Ideal Rdy Mix, mtrl	Safe Restraints, equip
..... 1319.40	Ditacademy.org , svcs	..... 7.00	..... 27.03	..... 2034.82	..... 1607.12
Barr Mem Chpl, svcs	..... 2,991.00	Kemkper's, splys .. 146.52	T Mobile, svcs 48.44	IA Office St ME, svcs	Schmitz Fnrl, svcs
..... 3599.00	Dodd Printing, splys	Farm & Home, unif	Tritech, splys 126.25	..... 4053.50	..... 1087.50
Benco Dntl, equip	..... 105.00	..... -10.03	Smokey Ds BBQ, meal	IA State Pen, meals	R Shenkor, svcs 900.00
..... 16375.83	Dollar General, splys	Kum & Go, fuel 35.00	..... 12.48	..... 11982.75	Shoemaker/Hlnd, svcs
Blessing Hlth, svcs	..... 61.21	Landfill, fee 12.28	Turbo Wash, svcs 18.00	Jays Auto, svcs..... 51.40	..... 6075.25
..... 260.00	Donnellson Lumber, splys	Logmein, svcs 144.00	US Cell, svcs 98.94	Johnson Co Treas, svcs	Shred-It, svcs 95.03
Bound Tree, splys	..... 24.63	LU Midstates, util.. 198.01	Universal Rocks, splys	..... 79.55	SE IA Reg Med, svcs
..... 5316.38	Donnellson Tire, svcs	Major Oak Café, meal	..... 161.84	JW Medical, equip	..... 85.00
R Bradley, svcs..... 130.00	..... 154.45	..... 149.80	USCC, svcs 97.28	..... 623.00	C Spann, exps 40.00
Brozene, svcs..... 29.08	Dublin Bay, meal.... 53.26	McFarland, splys	USPS, splys..... 81.31	Keo Med Equip, splys	Staples, splys 1994.94
Cabinetion, svcs 21.47	Drury Inn, Idg..... 89.60	..... 1,696.87	Verizon, svcs 3,143.01	..... 828.54	Tri-St Crt Rprtrng, svcs
CenturyLink, svcs 9.21	Firehouse Subs, meal	Medpro, svcs 83.00	Wal Mart, splys 564.74	LeeCo Atty, exps... 547.64	..... 288.20
Commerce Bank	..... 14.96	Menard's, splys..... 825.05	Wilhite, splys..... 327.49	LeeCoTreas, fees	Patricia Tripp, exps
932 3E CO, splys.. 206.26	FMCSA D&A, svcs	Netflix.com , svcs 19.25	Winners Circle, svcs	..... 276618.59	..... 252.00
Access, svcs..... 569.02	..... 125.00	Notary Rotary, splys	..... 80.63	LeeCoTreas, costs	US Bank Equip, equip
Adobe, sftwr..... 221.55	Gall's, unif..... 1,132.49	..... 29.95	Win Supply, splys .. 114.57	..... 8439.09	..... 228.27
Aldi, splys 1.69	GetMeRegistered, fee	Office Depot, splys	WM Supercenter, splys	Liberty Util, gas... 3503.27	Van Meter Instrl, splys
Amazon, splys ... 1,237.61	..... 786.84	..... 114.89	..... 906.44	Linn Co Auditor, svcs	..... 33.74
Amerisun, splys 28.00	Hampton Inn, Idg .. 470.40	Off Prof Regulation, rnl	Windstream, svcs 10.30	..... 436.83	West Grp, splys ... 1177.34
ARDC, fees..... 385.00	Hancock Co Jrnl Plt, pbl	..... 760.00	Dnnlsln Lmbr, equip	Mail Svcs, pstg 1012.33	West Pt Utility, svcs .. 48.44
Autozone, splys 7.99	..... 3,138.36	Office Max, splys	..... 38.48	McFarlands, splys	Windstream, svcs... 784.14
B & H Photo, svcs .. 209.95	Hartricks, splys 5.79	..... 1,322.78	Dnnlsln Tire, splys	..... 679.21	Yng Hse Fmly Svcs, svcs
Billy Frogg's, meal .. 17.51	Hulu, svcs..... 13.90	O'Reilly Auto, splys	..... 132.00	Mediacom, svcs..... 213.23	..... 30.75
BP, fuel 138.90	Hobby Lobby, splys	..... 49.98	Eckland Motors, veh	B Meyers, exps..... 28.80	
Casey's, Fuel..... 257.91	..... 59.52	Panchero's, meal.... 14.61	..... 7790.00	MidAm Enrgy, gas	
CDW, splys 601.47	Holiday Inn, Idg.... 894.72	Phillips 66, fuel 150.40	EMSLRC, edu..... 195.00 3811.12	

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'19 Chevrolet Cruze LT 48082A SALE PRICE \$21,970	'15 Infiniti QX60 AWD Y51915A SALE PRICE \$22,333	'19 Buick Encore Sport Touring 58010A SALE PRICE \$22,379	'19 Chevrolet Trax LT Y5089 SALE PRICE \$22,777	'15 Nissan Rogue SV AWD Y509F SALE PRICE \$22,865	'15 Nissan Murano Platinum AWD Y4905B SALE PRICE \$22,890	'16 Ford Edge Titanium AWD Y5074A SALE PRICE \$22,899
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From the Front

Employers looking for bodies not just qualifications

ERNST - Continued from Page 1

to increase access to capital, and to identify additional federal contract opportunities for women-owned small businesses.

“We are really trying to work in those areas and get the word out that there are various programs and resources available,” Ernst said.

She said the federal government and state governments have different areas that they utilize to help encourage small business growth.

State Sen. Jeff Reichman said with the state going to a flat tax, businesses will be able to take advantage of the new tax structures to free up capital for investment.

“We’ve done some things at the state level this session, going to a flat tax. It takes Iowa from one of the heaviest tax states to a top-five state, so that will help businesses as well,” he said.

Ernst talked with Mark Hermes on the tour. Hermes said the workforce is struggling with worker skills and getting qualified candidates who have basic skills to start a job in manufacturing.

The junior senator from Iowa said there are a number of solutions to the problem, but they have to be identified and tackled.

“Every community is little bit different and every employer is a bit different. It does have to be not just a local solution, but partnering with state and federal government,” she said.

She said occupations like truck driving require different licensing, a move by the federal government that wasn’t timed well.

“There’s additional requirements now that the federal government has put on those that want to be truck drivers at a time when we have a desperate need for truck drivers,” she said.

“So the federal government needs to step back a little bit. We want to make sure that drivers are safe of course and qualified, but we seem to put more hurdles out there when we should be finding ways to make it easier to go into an occupation.”

Education is another way to reach students and make sure employers are getting into the schools to show students alternatives to the four-year degree.

“There’s a lot we can do, we just need to make sure we’re not getting in the way,” Ernst said.

Steffensmeier said it’s less of a qualification issue, but a numbers issue.

“It’s the bodies first. I feel because we’re smaller, it’s easier for us to train. It’s getting the motivated folks here and then having people that can train train, and then retain them,” she said.

Steffensmeier said she was excited about the Career Advantage Center that’s getting going in the Lee County Economic Development Group’s new facilities in Montrose.

“Super exciting getting kids exposed to the opportunities that come with these skilled trades,” she said.

Reichman said the state continues to lose those students to other states.

With the country looking at inflationary pressures of close to 8.5% in the first quarter, Ernst said that will make things tougher on business owners.

Ernst said she lays that pressure squarely on the Biden Administration.

“The federal government has spent trillions of dollars over the course of the last couple of years. Dumping all that money into an economy that doesn’t have the goods and services available has causes part of that inflation,” she said.

“There’s so many issues that are contributing to that inflation and we’ve to got to take a step back and stop so much federal spending.”

Steffensmeier asked Ernst what her thoughts were on reauthorizing the SBA. Ernst said there is great opportunity.

“It has proven to be a very important part of the federal government in enabling small businesses across the United States,” Ernst said.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst talks with, from left to right, State Sen. Jeff Reichman, Jenny Steffensmeier and Aaron Steffensmeier on a tour of Steffensmeier Welding & Mfg. in Pilot Grove.

Steffensmeier is a graduate of the Goldman-Sachs Small Businesses program in 2019 and thanked Ernst for her work to address challenges faced by small businesses in Iowa.

“Small business owners, like Jenny, are the backbone of Iowa’s economy and personify the determination, ingenuity, and hard-work that drive our state’s economy,” Ernst said.

“As a member of the Senate Small Business Committee, I am constantly looking for ways to support our small businesses so they can meet the challenges of today’s economy. That’s why I just recently put forward a measure to empower women small business owners through increasing their access to capital and ensuring federal contracting policies are being followed.”

Steffensmeier Welding & Manufacturing, Inc. provides its customers with high-quality laser cut, machined, welded, and fabricated products. As the owner of the company, Jenny has earned Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) certification.

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Friday, April 22, 2022

7:00 PM

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Come enjoy and entertaining and very pleasurable evening with **Paul Michael**

Meet & Greet the performer before & after the concert

United Way of the Great River Region



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

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

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

Waiver & release must be signed before play begins.

Lunch at 11:00 am.

Shotgun start at 12:00 Noon.

Sponsor Name: _____

Team Name (if different from above): _____

Contact Person: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Golfers (if known): _____

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

**FUN extras available on site include: BIG Raffle \$10/ea. • Hole Games •
Silent Auction Items • 50/50 Tickets (cash only) \$2/ea, 6/\$10 or yd/\$20**

**Have a great time while supporting 21 community agencies and other
United Way priorities!**

Your donation is tax deductible for the portion above actual expense.

PO Box 251 • Keokuk, IA 52632 • Tel: 319-524-4504 • E-mail: director@unitedwaygrr.org

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.

Sponsor Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ **Address:** _____

City, State, Zip: _____