

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Wednesday, March 30, 2022 | 14 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 65



www.pencitycurrent.com

New School House owner



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Chase Gibb is the new owner of School House Apartments in Fort Madison. Gibb, shown here in the “tunnels” underneath the former Middle School, purchased the historical apartment complex from previous owner Todd Schneider for \$2.2 million.

PLANS: Options with gymnasium and possible garages in the works

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A man known to most for his comfort food and cold beer now has a hefty stake in real estate in Fort Madison.

Chase Gibb, the owner of the Buffalo61 Bar and Grille in Fort Madison purchased School House Apartments in the 1800 block of Avenue F from Todd Schneider several weeks ago.

Gibb said he and Schneider came to terms fairly quickly on a \$2.2 million purchase agreement.

He closed on some Burlington properties at the year’s end, but had been talking with Schneider about the Fort Madison apartments since October on a tip from a real estate agent.

“It’s an impressive building, but it wasn’t a traditional real estate transaction because there were so many grants and tax credits involved in how Schneider funded the project,” Gibb said.

Schneider used historic tax credits to refurbish the former

See **SCHOOL**, page 10

Parent elementary groups bringing back annual carnival

FUNDRAISER: Carnival planned for Saturday from 1-3:30 at FMHS

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The Fort

Madison Lincoln Elementary and Richardson parent teacher groups are once again putting on their annual carnival fundraiser in April.

The events were cancelled in previous years due to the pandemic, but will take place again this year at Fort Madison High School on April 2.

Organizers have planned more than 25 games including 10 new games with prizes sponsored by local businesses. A Candy Crush Walk is a new addition and a take on the traditional Cake Walk, which is also being planned. Candy prizes

See **CARNIVAL**, page 4

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



Support now needed for Middle East veterans

In restaurants or public places he sits in a corner with his back to the wall, close to a window, where he can see the door in case he needs to escape. He does not carry a weapon because he knows he would use it. His name is Patrick James Hogan. His many friends call him PJ. He’s 75 years young, from Ft. Madison and a Vietnam Veteran.

He grew up on a farm southeast of Niota, IL. When he received his draft notice in 1966, being a “draft dodger,” he joined the Marines (Ha!). He doesn’t know if Vietnam was right or wrong. He enlisted to fulfill his military obligation and serve his country. That’s it.

The Marines put him into Aviation. There was a sign-up sheet for door gunners. PJ put his name on it. However, on leave, he read in the Ft. Madison’s Daily Democrat about one of his friends who was a door gunner and was killed. Back on base, there was a second sign-up sheet for door gunners. If you put your name on it the second time, you would be a door gunner. PJ did not put his name there a second time, and he’s glad he didn’t. Of the 40 who did, only seven came back alive. His friend may have saved his life.

PJ was put into hydraulics and pneumatics. When he arrived in Da Nang there was a rocket attack. It scared him badly. But there were so many rocket attacks, they became more of a nuisance.

He almost shot a South Vietnamese citizen. The citizen had scaled the fence on the perimeter of the base and was stepping off the distance to one of the buildings. PJ ordered him to stop. The Vietnamese was scared because he knew PJ was scared. The citizen was taken away and questioned. The

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WEATHER

WED 30 Mar.....	Heavy Rain, 63° F/ 39° F
THU 31 Mar.....	Snow, 40° F/ 32° F
FRI 01 Apr.....	Partly Cloudy, 50° F/ 29° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 03/28.....	13 31 34 35 37, Lucky Ball: 3
PICK 3 03/28 MIDDAY.....	2 4 2
PICK 3 03/28 EVENING.....	5 2 7
PICK 4 03/28 MIDDAY.....	9 4 3 2
PICK 4 03/28 EVENING.....	6 2 7 9
POWERBALL 03/28.....	11 18 39 58 62, Powerball: 3 Power Play: 2

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

KAREN S. LINQUIST

Karen Sue Linquist, 74, of Keokuk, IA died Sunday, March 27, 2022 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL.

She was born February 11, 1948 in Keokuk, IA the daughter of Robert and Lillian Louise Bell Simpson. Karen graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 1966.



LINDQUIST

On March 27, 1967 Karen was united in marriage to Leland E. Linquist in Quincy, IL. He preceded her in death on August 3, 2019.

Karen had been employed at Kmart and Eagle Summit, both in Keokuk.

Karen loved to read and especially loved reading Amish stories and Deb McCombers and Danielle Steele novels. Karen enjoyed doing embroidery work. She was an avid Bingo player and kept her mind sharp by working puzzle books and loved a good game of cards and always played to win. She also enjoyed watching soap operas, westerns and gameshows on television. Karen loved to meet her friends at McDonalds and visit over a cup of coffee

She is survived by two daughters, Kandie White (J.D.) of Keokuk and Robin Bay (Carl) of Kahoka, MO, one son, Kevin Linquist (Whitney) of Cedar Rapids, IA her mother, Lillian "Louise" Hickey of Hamilton, IL, four grandchildren, Whitney Wagaman (Corey), Megan Flemon (Trai), Daniel Brotherton (Samantha) and Maddox and six great-grandchildren, Cameron, Charlotte, Coryn, Wrenley, Arwen and Jet. She is also survived by four brothers, Kenneth Simpson (Barb) of Columbia, MO, David Simpson of Columbia, MO, Bryan Simpson (Sara) of Columbia, MO and Rick Allen (Teresa) of Keokuk, one sister, Lynn Hickey of Hamilton, IL and several nieces and nephews. Besides her husband, she was also preceded in death by her father and step-father, John "Bud" Hickey.

A gathering of remembrance will be held from 4-6 p.m., Wednesday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with family meeting with friends at that time.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.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.

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OBITUARIES

JAMES B. McCARTY

James B. McCarty, 92, of Nauvoo, Illinois, passed away at 7:58 p.m. Friday, March 25, 2022, at River Hills Village in Keokuk, Iowa.

Born on May 11, 1929, in Keokuk, Iowa, the son of Bryan and Catherine (Hartweg) McCarty. On January 25, 1951, at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, in Nauvoo, Illinois, he married Annabelle Boyles.

Survivors include his wife: Annabelle of Nauvoo, Illinois; sons: James Edward McCarty, Bryan Douglas (Janie) McCarty, both of Colorado; three grandsons; one granddaughter; many great-great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother: Jack McCarty; two sisters: Judy Boyer and Sally Dietrick.

Jim was a 1947 graduate of Nauvoo High School. He retired from the Nauvoo Blue Cheese Company with over fifty years of service. He was a United States Army veteran and a member of the Nauvoo American Legion. Jim was an avid Chicago Cubs, Chicago Bears and Fighting Illini fan.

His body has been entrusted to the crematory of Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home for cremation. Per his wishes there will be no services held.

Memorials may be made to Saint Jude's Children's Hospital or Paralyzed Veterans of America and mailed to the Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home, P.O. Box 201, Nauvoo, Illinois 62354.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.sbbfuneralhome.com. Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home of Nauvoo is assisting the family with arrangements.



JANET L. BLANCHARD

Janet Lee Blanchard, 52, of Nauvoo, Illinois, passed away at 8:27 a.m. Monday, March 28, 2022 at her home.

Janet was born on December 15, 1969 in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, the daughter of Martin and Christine (Chesley) Daly.

Janet was a multi-sport athlete in the Special Olympics. She looked forward to participating every year and proudly won many medals throughout her life. She was employed by Target and Denny's. She would often be called upon at work as a sign language interpreter.

She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Nauvoo.

Janet is survived by her parents Martin and Christine of Nauvoo; one sister: Sandi of Phoenix, Arizona and two nephews: Nathan and Eli.

Cremation has been entrusted to Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home of Nauvoo.

A memorial service will be held at 4:00 p.m. Thursday, April 7, 2022 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 308 N. Durphy St., Nauvoo, Illinois 62354 (2 blocks north of the Temple).

A memorial fund has been established for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Humanitarian Fund. To leave a tribute for the family, please visit Janet's obituary at sbbfuneralhome.com.



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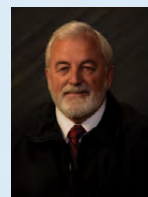
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Charles Vandenberg, Editor

(319).371.1670

charles.v@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager

(319).371.4125

lee.v@pencitycurrent.com

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PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Red all over

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From the Front/Letters to the Editor

Lack of decompression hitting veterans

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

next day he was back on base raking sand. PJ saw other South Vietnamese citizens stepping off distances to buildings. One of those buildings was hit by a rocket. The South Vietnamese were selling coordinates to the enemy.

PJ occasionally saw a truck roll by with two-maybe-three aluminum caskets with dead soldiers. A couple of times there were two trucks full of caskets. The building was near by where the caskets were stored. He could smell formaldehyde. He got used to that also.

He's the only Marine you will ever meet who never rode in a helicopter. He saw a helicopter come in once laden with bodies. The helicopter caught on a trip wire, crashed and rolled up like a cigar. There were bodies everywhere.

PJ didn't realize how much stress he was under until he went home on leave. He was standing beside his brother who was 13 years older than him. In the mirror, PJ looked to be 10 years older than his brother.

Back on base, a friend told him to look over toward China Beach—the most beautiful beach in the world, according to PJ. There was a bright colored explosion, the sound wave hit them, they could see the rocket going up, and then it disappeared. That was when the rocket was coming right at them. "Incoming!"

Back home after discharge, PJ was not accepted into organizations like the VFW because WW II vets didn't consider him a "real veteran." Now they want him because the WW II Vets are dying off. PJ says, "Nope."

He spent 30 days in a drug and alcohol treatment center in Burlington. He's been sober over 30 years now. He was happily married, but his wife died. Like many Vietnam Veterans, PJ is reclusive. He lives in town, but there is a chain link fence on both sides of his house.

58,000 soldiers died in Vietnam, and more died by suicide after the war. It's worse for returning Middle East Veterans. 22 are now dying per day, by suicide! PJ feels it is because of a lack of decompression time for returning veterans. They're in a war zone one day, 48 hours later they're on the street and supposed to be functioning normal. It is not the Vietnam Vet that needs help and support now, PJ says, it is the Middle East Veterans.

Vietnam Veteran's Day is Tuesday, March 29, (the date of withdrawal from Vietnam). Support and honor your veteran whether they be SE Asia Veterans, Middle East or wherever. Don't pamper them. Respect them.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, find him on Facebook, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com, or visit his website at www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com.



Photo courtesy Huffman Welding & Mfg.

Huffman K9 donation

Huffman Welding & Manufacturing recently donated modified dog kennel panels valued at just under \$1000 to the Fort Madison Police Department for use with their new K9 officer "Norik". Huffman's is proud to support Fort Madison Police. Pictured are Jason Huffman, Sgt. Greg Warosch, and "Norik".

Letter to the Editor - Reichman needs to explain voucher data

Dear Editor -

Education is a hot topic in Iowa. The idea of taking up to 50% of per student income away from public schools and awarding it to private entities is not a popular opinion.

The Legislature had the opportunity to truly invest in the Iowa Public School system this year, instead they chose to award corporations with tax breaks. Then to really emphasize their distaste for our public educators they are reframing the concept of vouchers to 'educational savings accounts' thinking it will soften the blow. We are not fooled!

Thankfully the attempts

to criminalize librarians and placing cameras in classrooms has already been defeated. I cringe at what else might be in store for our schools if change is not made, not just locally but across the state.

Let's talk a bit more about education. Today at the Legislative Luncheon, when Senator Reichman was asked about the education initiatives, aka vouchers, coming out of the Republican held legislature he proceeded to cite the alleged 755 kids who dropped out of the Des Moines public school system. I am sure you are just as confused as I was. I believe he was trying to imply that a voucher aka educational savings

account, would somehow solve that dilemma for the Des Moines Public School (DMPS) system. Although, I am not sure how.

As a side note the DMPS reports the dropout rate has hit an all-time low at just 3.38%. So is it a problem or not? Again an explanation will be required as to how the vouchers are supposed to make this number lower. Beside educational research indicates when you remove socioeconomic factors "There was also no evidence to suggest that low-income children or children enrolled in urban schools benefited more from private school enrollment".

By the way, the the combined drop out rate for

Fort Madison and Keokuk public schools (https://education.iowa.gov/sites/files/education/documents/DR712_2021_District.xlsx) is 6.1%. A targeted approach would benefit Lee County more then worrying about vouchers. Perhaps investing in our schools with more teachers, teacher assistants, social workers and mental health support would make a significant impact for our youth and reduce this alarming number. By investing I mean funding. We cannot expect miracles out of educators who are underfunded and understaffed.

Rebecca Bowker
Candidate for House
District 100

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From the Front/Business News

Online auction by Fraise's set for PTG/PTO event

CARNIVAL - Continued from Page 1

are allergy friendly.

Lee County Conservation, Iowa State University Extension, and Case-New Holland are all planning to have booths and games set up for kids.

Clowns will be on hand making balloon animals and the high school robotics team is setting up a demonstration. Fort Madison Firefighters and Lee County EMS plan on bringing in trucks for kids to see, if they are available.

Concessions will also be available.

An auction fundraiser, hosted by Fraise Auctions, in conjunction with the carnival will be held online with bidding starting April 1 and closing April 8. A preview of auction items will be available at the carnival, along with assistance helping set up an account with Fraise's online bidding site.

Items for auction include classroom projects from both elementaries, items donated from area businesses and community including gift certificates, rodeo tickets, local restaurant certificates, golf outings, firepits and movie passes.

The event is still in need of volunteers, and anyone who is interested in helping can sign up at the link below. Lincoln PTG/Richardson PTO: FM Elementary School Carnival (signupgenius.com).

This year's carnival sponsors include the following: Menke & Co.; Community Heating & Cooling; Pilot Grove Savings Bank; Connection Bank; Truck Repair; State Farm; Riverside Nutrition; Iowa Fertilizer Co.; Group Benefit Partners; Johnson Trucking; King-Lynk Funeral Home; Carl A. Nelson Co.; Casey's; Hy-Vee; and Fareway.



Courtesy photo

One of the new games that will be part of this weekend's Richardson PTO/Lincoln PTG Elementary School Carnival gets a test. The event is being held Saturday from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Fort Madison High School.

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Downtown Burlington businesses hosting Spring kick-off Sunday

BURLINGTON - Celebrate the kick off to the season in Downtown Burlington with the Spring Open House on Sunday, April 3, 10 AM- 4PM.

There will be amazing new merchandise, specials and check out Spring trends in your favorite shops! Eateries and drinkeries will have new menu items and drinks for sipping that you will want to check out!

You won't want to miss Downtown Burlington's kick-off to Spring! Register to win \$500 in Downtown

Dollars at participating businesses.

Participating businesses include:

- Art Center of Burlington
- Burlington Bent River Brewing Company
- Burlington By The Book
- Burlington Vintage & Co.
- Corked 101
- CSky Boutique
- Drake Hardware & Software
- Gypsi On Jefferson
- Jerilyn Horn Kitchen & Bath Design Co. LLC.
- Little Brown Duck
- LOFT Market

- Myrtle Vera's Hallmark
- NANA & ME
- Natural Inspirations
- Nature's Corner, Inc.
- Original Cyns
- Port of Burlington Welcome Center
- Red Screen Door
- Stitch 'n Smile
- The Beancounter Coffeehouse & Drinkery
- The Collective Food Hub
- The Som
- Thyme & Spice Company
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- Wake N Bake Breakfast Co.

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Sports

FALCON RELAYS

Rhoer, DiPrima lead the way for Hounds at Falcon Relays



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Central Lee's Jayven Thurmond steps across the line at 27.81 in the 200-meter dash at the Falcon Relays Monday night. At far right is the Hawks' Shane Barnhardt.

Central Lee 6th in B Division: Eschman third in 100-meter dash and long jump for Hawks

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WEST BURLINGTON – The Fort Madison Bloodhounds took 3rd place in the A Division at the annual Falcon Relays.

Fort Madison got first place finishes from Mikey DiPrima in the high jump at 5'8", John Cottrell in the 1600-meter run, the 800 sprint medley relay team, and Macayden Rhoer in the 400 hurdles.

Cottrell edged Mt. Pleasant's Nathan McWilliams in the 1600 with a 5:19.12 just .7 seconds ahead of the Panther. The Hounds' Hayden Wolfe took fifth place in the event at 5:32.91.

The Sprint Medley team of Tate Settles, Tate Johnson, Hayden Segoviano, and Andrew Schaefer was a full 2.5 seconds in front at 1:40.31. Washington was second at 1:42.87. The Hounds' time was the fastest in both divisions. New London's Boden Pickle, Joel Lacy, Reeann Seberg, and Rylan Martin ran a 1:41.15.

In the Distance Medley, Fort Madison's Teague Smith, Lamar Dayton, Dane Butler, and Cottrell took second place with a 4:04.82 behind Washington's 4:00.79. New London's Seberg, Jordan Sharp, Kade Benjamin, and Alex Julian had the fastest time of the day at 4:00.47.

Rhoer's 1:01.48 was tops in Division A 400 hurdles, a full 3.6 seconds in front of West Burlington-Notre Dame's Gediyon Boal's 1:05.04. Winfield-Mt. Union's Gabriel Hemsworth had the fastest time of the day at 1:01.29.

Johnson had the second fastest 100 meter dash with an 11.31 behind Washington's Elijah Morris' 11.19. Settles had the second fastest Bloodhound run at 12.18, good enough for eighth place overall.

Central Lee's 4x200 relay team of Tommy Eschman, Brayden Wyrick, Grant Myhre, and Jayven Thurmond took 2nd place in the B Division with a 1:40.96. Eschman took third in the 100-meter dash at 11.97 in the B Division and 3rd in the long jump at 19'3".

Rhoer captured 3rd in the 110 hurdles at 17.70. Caden Barnes took third in the shotput with a throw of 42'11.25".

Complete results can be found at www.falconrelays.com.



The Bloodhounds' Macaden Rhoer clears a hurdle in the final heat of the 110 high hurdles Monday night at Bill Nelson Field in West Burlington. Fort Madison took 3rd place in the A Division and was sixth overall in the second outdoor event of the season.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF MOUNT
PLEASANT
SPECIAL MEETING
NOTICE
MARCH 30, 2022
3:45 P.M.**

The Mount Pleasant City Council will meet in Special Session Wednesday, March 30th, 2022, at City Hall, 307 E. Monroe Street, City Hall Conference Room at 3:45 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Roll Call
2. Approve agenda.
3. Old Business-
 - a) Resolution ordering bids, approving plans and specifications, and setting date for public hearing on Madison Street.
4. Public Forum.
5. Adjourn to meet on Wednesday, April 13th, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
February 28, 2022**

The Lee County Board of Supervisors met at the Lee County Administrative

Building in Fort Madison on Monday, February 28, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Present: Matt Pflug, Garry Seyb, Ron Fedler and Rich Harlow. Present electronically was Rick Larkin.

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

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

At 10:01 a.m. Pflug opened a Public Hearing for comments on the proposed Maximum Tax Levy for FY23. There were no public comments received prior to the hearing and no public comments during the hearing. At 10:06 a.m., a motion was made by Harlow, seconded by Seyb, to close the Public Hearing. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Harlow, to approve Resolution #2022-56. Roll call: Seyb-aye, Harlow-aye, Fedler-aye, Larkin-aye and Pflug-aye.

Resolution #2022 - 56

MAXIMUM PROPERTY TAX DOLLARS
WHEREAS, the Lee County Board of Supervi-

sors have considered the proposed FY22/23 county maximum property tax dollars for both General County Services and Rural County Services, and

WHEREAS, a notice concerning the proposed county maximum property tax dollars was published as required and posted on county web site and/or social media accounts if applicable,

WHEREAS, a public hearing concerning the proposed county maximum property tax dollars was held on February 28, 2022,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Lee County that the maximum property tax dollars for General County Services and Rural County Services for FY22/23 shall not exceed the following:

- General County Services: \$12,076,016; an increase of 11.21% from the prior year
- Rural County Services: \$2,125,085; an increase of 2.00% from the prior year

Passed and adopted this 28th day of February. 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.

Public Input-Sheriff Stacy Weber asked the Board if they would support looking into passing an ordinance concerning illegal dog breeding in Lee County.

Pflug opened bids for the North Courthouse Tuck Point Project. There were 4 bids. E&H Restoration, Davenport, \$189,698.00; T&T Tuckpointing, Stockton, \$167,570.00; Bi-State Masonry, Rock Island, Illinois, \$162,845.00 and Innovative Masonry, Mission, Kansas, \$237,396.85.

Dennis Fraise and Dana Millard gave the Board an update on what's going on with Lee County Economic Development.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Harlow, to approve filling a Secondary Roads Maintenance Worker II open positions. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Harlow, to approve a Parking Lot Usage Agreement with Pen City Cruisers. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve a transfer from fulltime to part-time for Louann Bruster, EMT, rate of pay unchanged

at \$20.16/hr., effective 3/3/22, a new hire for EMS, Nicholas Doolley, Paramedic, \$20.16/hr., effective 2/28/22 and a transfer for Lisa Henshaw, from a Legal Secretary in the County Attorney's Office \$19.36/hr. to an Administrative Assistant in the Sheriff's Office \$21.42/hr., effective 3/15/22. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Harlow, to approve the Tuesday, February 22, 2022 Board minutes. Motion carried.

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

Committee Reports: Seyb reported on an Economic Development Board meeting, a presentation on Old Pilot Grove Cemetery, the Assessor's Conference Board and the Emergency Management Commission meeting. Harlow and Pflug also attended the Assessor's and Emergency Management Commission meetings. Larkin reported on a Workforce Development Board meeting.

At 11:00 a.m. a motion was made by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to adjourn. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Claims paid

February 28, 2022

Nxt Deg Comm, svcs	181.08
ABC Fire, svcs.....	686.80
A Abueg, svcs.....	150.00
AgriLand FS, fuel...	805.07
Alliant Enrgy, svcs	1535.78
Barr Mem Chpl, svcs	1200.00
N Booten, exps.....	15.79
Brozene Hydrlic, svcs	975.63
CenturyLink, svcs.....	92.00
City Tractor, svcs.....	117.05
CJ Cooper, svcs.....	35.00
H Curtis, svcs.....	22.60
Democrat Co, publ..	32.33
Dly Gate City, publ..	32.33
DjngGrvsPrnty, svcs	1200.00
Dodd Prtg, splys.....	23.70
Drake Hdwr, svcs ...	709.00
FM Hsng Auth, svcs	1547.35
FM Water, svcs.....	3884.33
L Gatton, rent.....	300.00
N Granaman, svcs	1356.52
Grt Prairie AEA, svcs	347.00
Hrtrcks Lmbr, svcs.....	3.98
M Hellige, exps.....	669.93
Huffman Wldng, svcs	857.76
J Huling, exps.....	160.45
HyVee, splys.....	1599.39
ICAP, ins.....	271.00
Ideal Rdy Mix, mtrl	1505.76
Ilmberger Entrp, rent	300.00
Interiors/Philip, splys	28.00
IA Off/St ME, svcs	6246.67
ISAC, reg.....	190.00
Jireh Inc, svcs.....	254.76
Keo Hospital, rx....	897.91

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Keo Water, svcs	680.98
King-Lynk Fnrl, svcs	695.00
G Knisley, exps	199.80
Learning Tree, svcs	1195.49
LeeCo Adtr, CtrlPur	7579.89
LeeCo Hlth, svcs	12623.02
LeeCo Treas, pstg	1200.00
Liberty Util, gas	21.77
Lincare Inc, splys	4494.39
Lynch Dallas, svcs	181.50
McFarlands, splys	355.90
MidAm Enrgy, gas	5134.97
Mohrfeld Elect, svcs	4200.00
Newberry, svcs	7595.00
OMG MW, svcs	9316.20
Optum Rx, splys	1020.68
Powell/Son, svcs	675.00
Prairie Farms, splys	335.20
Proforma, splys	488.89
Quill Corp, splys	73.25
Rathbun Wtr, svcs	112.00
RSM US, svcs	735.00
SIACC, svcs	217.18
SIADSA, svcs	10240.00
Sidwell Co, svcs	2976.86
Solutions, svcs	143.75
P Spkrmr, exps	15.96
L Stone, edu	100.00
Univ IA Grant, svcs	243.29
VB Co Hosp, svcs	10360.01
Verizon, svcs	159.39
Vigen Mmrl, svcs	1200.00
West Grp, splys	821.00
R Wilkens, svcs	147.00
Yng Hse Fmly, svcs	1446.15

PUBLIC NOTICE
Minutes for the
Lee County
Conservation Board
Meeting
March 8, 2022
Lee County
Conservation Center
2652 Hwy61
Montrose, IA 52639

Board President, Tom Pollpeter, stated that he would be handing the meeting over to Vice President, Liza Alton, due a medical release.

1. Called to Order at 4:02 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Alton, Pollpeter, Moore, Patrick; Not Present: VanPelt

Staff Present: Huebner, Veihl, Pawling, Oldfield, Risser, Schreur, Steele

Supervisor: Rich Harlow

2. Approval of Minutes from February 28, 2022

Motion by Moore to approve the February 8, 2022 minutes

2nd: Patrick

Motion Carried

3. Public Input

Maddie Wellman, a student at Central Lee High School and active 4H Club member, shared her childhood and recent memories at Denning Conservation Area. She was concerned that the park was going to be removed. Mellissa Peitz, a Lee County citizen, spoke on the recent article about the LCCB's plan to continue forward with the demolition with the house and outbuildings on the north

side of the property. She felt her and others voices were not heard in a previous Board meeting. She also shared her concern about the Board's meeting time of 4 p.m. and about the LCCB's lack of knowledge of the Eleanor Denning Trust and how the Board intends to use these funds.

Gail Thompson, mayor of Houghton, asked what happened to Eleanor Denning's memorial donations. Huebner responded that she looked into this and the total was less than \$500 and was put into the conservation fund for future maintenance for the Denning Property- the same for the approximately \$17,000 received from the Denning estate. Thompson also asked what happened to items from the barns, such as antique tools and wagons. The Board responded that the current renter/Eleanor's former caretaker took ownership of many of those items and was given a lengthy amount of time to remove what he wished to keep. The LCC staff recently removed the two wagons, so they would not be a part of the demo.

Kennedy Wellman, a Central Lee Student, stated that she was new to this issue and asked why this was happening. The Board explained the

issue and that the playground was never slated for removal. This was a misunderstanding. The playground would only be removed after its lifetime was met (many years from now).

Huebner swore that no one currently or formerly on the LCC Board or staff knew of the recently signed over Denning Trust for the maintenance of the playground because a private citizen was the trustee and signed it over to the LCC during Huebner's first few weeks of employment.

Diana LeGrand called in with her concerns about the Denning property and the usage of the money from the farm rent.

The Board thanked everyone for their input.

4. Approval of Bills

Motion by Pollpeter to approve the bills

2nd: Patrick

Motion Carried

5. Approval of Financial Report

Motion by Pollpeter to approve the financial report

2nd: Moore

Motion Carried

6. West Point 8th Street

Trail Discussion - Joe

Loving

Joe Loving, of West

Point, requested a right-

of-way for the city of West

Point to beautify and

reconstruct a 10 foot path

connecting the West Point

8th Street trail to LCC's Pollmiller trail. 120 feet of this trail would fall on LCC property. Huebner asked about the timing of this project.

Loving responded that West Point would plan to complete this project in conjunction with the LCC's reconstruction of their Pollmiller trail.

The Board was in favor of allowing the city of West Point access to this portion of land for the trail reconstruction.

A resolution will be read

at the next Board meeting on this matter.

Loving also mentioned that the group interested in having a disc golf course between South Park and Pollmiller Park is ready to get going on this project.

Alton stated the Board would welcome a revisit of this project idea.

7. Denning Playground Discussion

Huebner recommended that the Board not rush into making changes to the Land Management



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PUBLIC NOTICES

Agreement with the IDNR before fully understanding the recently signed over Eleanor Denning Trust. The Board is not ready to go with the suggested verbiage change from the IDNR.

Pollpeter asked Huebner if all of the financial information on the Eleanor Denning trust had been turned over to her yet. Huebner stated that not all of this information has been received yet. She has been working with the county attorney on this matter. She will release a press release once she had a full understanding of these finances.

8. Discuss and Take Possible Action on Denning Barns

Pollpeter clarified that this discussion would be about the two barns on the north side of the Denning Property. Huebner asked if the Board had a chance to review the letter from NRC. She also spoke on the importance of LCC's good relationship with the NRC and

IDNR

Patrick shared a statement about the in-depth research he had done on the Denning Property to get a better understanding of what the Denning's true intentions with this property, which gave him a greater perspective. He concluded that the Denning's would have liked the north side of the property to be returned to wildlife habitat for hunting and for the South side to be for the park. After spending hours researching the barns and receiving expert input on them, he found that the barns had no value other than sentimental, and to take them down rebuild one of the barns could cost \$30,000-\$100,000. He also believes the DNR is not going against Eleanor's wishes by tearing down the barns because she wanted this side of the property to be returned to wildlife habitat for hunting and left no fund dedicated to the barns maintenance. He reiterated that while every

has their own opinions on what they believe Eleanor would have wanted, he took it as his responsibility to research the facts to higher standard, rather than just running on opinions. Patrick apologized for acting impulsively due to his love of old barns, without doing justice to Eleanor and trying to understand what her bigger picture was.

Alton and Pollpeter thanked Patrick for sharing his statement.

Huebner stated that to have another organization in to remove and rebuild the barns would be a large liability to the county according to the county attorney.

Citizens restated concerns about a lack of maintenance on the Denning Property and where the funds for the farm rental goes.

Huebner stated these funds are put into the LCCB trust fund, which goes into maintaining the Denning Property, including the demo work currently being complet-

ed, and other conservation areas.

Huebner also stated the LCCB has no intention of removing the playground until the playground met its lifetime. The LCC staff are coming up with a volunteer and better maintenance plan for Denning beginning this spring.

Alton stated that now that the Board has full clarity on this property. They wish to put in the work to improve the barn on the south side of the property.

The current contract with C.C.S. of Keokuk would be the cheapest option to remove the barns. The Board had a discussion on whether this would be the right path to move forward on. Moore asked the public if they would be able to come up with the funding to take down and rebuild the barns. The members of the public did not feel confident that they could.

Pollpeter motioned to continue with the Denning demolition contract with

C.C.S. to remove the two barns on the north side of the property.

2nd: Patrick
AYES: Pollpeter, Patrick, Alton, NAYS: Moore, ABSENT: VanPelt

Motion passed 3-1
9. Cooperative Prairie Seed Plot Agreement
Veihl explained a potential cooperative agreement for the LCCB and IDNR to produce prairie seed plots. Veihl stated that Pawling came to her with idea, and they agreed it would be an excellent volunteer opportunity that would benefit both the LCCB and IDNR with prairie seeds. LCC would be responsible for planting the seedlings, watering and weeding the plants, and harvesting the seeds. IDNR would provide the seedlings and weed barrier fabric and would process the seeds. LCC would receive back 50% of the amount harvested as a mix of prairie seed to plant.

The Board was excited for this new opportunity. The agreement will be on the next Board agenda

for approval to begin this spring.

10. Review and Approve Campground Host Contracts

Applications were received from Kayla Schleidt for Pollmiller, James Shupe for Chatfield, and Pam Patrick for Wilson Lake. All have served as campground hosts in the past and done an excellent job.

Jim Patrick abstained from voting on this item do to a personal conflict of interest.

Motion by Pollpeter to approve the campground host contracts for Schleidt, Shupe, and Patrick

2nd: Moore
Motion Carried

11. Staff and Director Reports

Steele gave the education report, highlighting reaching nearly 1,000 contacts through school programs. The LCC staff also assisted in judging four area school science fairs this past month.

Oldfield gave his report, including routine maintenance and highlighting the field staff's work on new boat docks. Pawling reported that currently fertilizer costs are 300% higher than last year, and will more than likely increase. Due to this, less sunflower fields will be planted this year than originally planned. Other food plots will be planted in place of them. Sunflower fields are planned for Denning Conservation Area and North Heron Bend/North Winds Conservation Area.

Huebner gave her director report, which highlighted making progress on the island project with various meetings, setting up a youth fishing clinic at Chatfield Park with a local angler group, continuing the Chatfield

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PUBLIC NOTICES

playground fund raiser, and working on updating the strategic plan for the next 6 months.

12. Board Member Comments

Moore spoke on a concern about the de-

terioration of the small shelter house at Chatfield. Pawling responded that he had the shingles and will plan for repair this spring. Moore was also concerned about the large amount of trees at

Chatfield that beavers have been working on. Pawling responded that trapping season is over, so this issue may not be able to be addressed immediately.

Alton spoke on a

concern about where a handicapped parking sign is placed at Wilson Lake Park. Pawling responding that the staff is planning on moving the sign to its correct spot once dirt work is completed in the

area.

13. Adjournment Motion by Patrick to adjourn at 5:38 p.m.
2nd: Pollpeter Motion Carried
Board met in workshop after the meeting for a

public presentation from Shive-Hattery on the Pollmiller Park plans.

Liza Alton, LCCB
Vice-President
Caroline Veihi, LCCB
Secretary

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Iowa News/From the Front

City's growth attracted real estate investment

SCHOOL - Continued from Page 1

Fort Madison Middle School, as well as took advantage of some energy credits when he had solar panels installed on the roof of the building and the carpools to help offset utility costs.

"There were a lot of hoops we had to jump through with the Iowa Economic Development Authority because there are still five years of regulations and rules I have to follow as far as renting the apartments to people who meet income thresholds," Gibb said.

Gibb said he has property managers who handle the day-to-day operations and considers himself more of an investor.

"I started investing in real estate about 10 years ago. I didn't discuss it a lot because it's passive income for me. I'm a big believer in diversifying investments. And what I've learned over time is, and I love the restaurant business, but you have to be very hands on in that game and I can do that now," he said.

"But in 10 years I don't know if that's something I'll still want to be as heavily involved in."

Gibb said real estate was more of a hobby in the past and was fun, but now he can take the returns on that initial hobby, and become more ingrained in the market.

He said right now he has about 90 apartments in Fort Madison and Burlington and has other opportunities in the works, especially in Fort Madison.

"I read all the time and pay attention to what's going on in Fort Madison, even though I live in Burlington," he said.

"I've been impressed with the way the city of Fort Madison is trying to grow. The marina, the projects downtown, and the mayor saying he wants to bring 1,000 people to grow the population. When you see other people locally investing in their community like that, it makes you feel safe investing in that community, too."

Gibb said the School House Apartments are fully leased with a waiting list. But he doesn't know what he will do with the gym.

He said he may let it sit for a while, but he wants to look at possibilities with other groups in the community that could use the facility.

"The floor's still good, everything's in good shape and there's some historical tax credits that might be available to develop this for the community," he said.

"I could just rip everything out and build storage units for the tenants. I could do that. But these chairs are still comfortable, the stage is in good shape. I just think there's a use for this, I'm just not sure what that looks like yet. I don't need to make money off this, but what could I do to help with Fort Madison's growth plans?"

He said groups like Old Fort Players could be someone he would like to connect with, or non-profits to use the large space.

"Here you go. Keep it nice, do something nice with it, and I will lease it to you for \$1 a year as long as you don't disturb a tenant."

He said there will be some improvements made to the exterior and some clean up.

Gibb said he'd like to improve on the exterior lighting and would like to eventually put some garages on the property, but wants the construction to fit the historical character of the building. He may pull the tennis courts and basketball courts out to add the space for garages.

"I don't want to create an eyesore so we'll want to keep it looking nice for the neighbors."

He also said he wants to offer occasional tours of the tunnels in the basement. There is a series of low tunnels that move through the basements and around the base of the building that a lot of people haven't been able to experience yet.

"Everybody wants to see the tunnels. I've heard the stories. It's really kind of neat and there's still a lot of stuff stored down there."

But with the apartments completely leased out and a waiting list for additional tenants, Gibb is turning his sights on additional real estate ventures in the community, and what that looks like only he knows.

IDPH, DHS close to merging operations

DES MOINES - The Iowa Departments of Public Health (IDPH) and Human Services (DHS) are one step closer to becoming a single agency. Today the Departments released the final change package and functional organizational chart. This serves as the roadmap to bring together both agencies under a single leadership structure. The goal of this work is to strengthen coordination amongst existing services and provide more comprehensive services to all Iowans. This will also allow us to gain efficiencies and better leverage resources to reinvest in our system. There are no plans for layoffs or to discontinue existing programs or services.

This work is the culmination of nearly two years of meetings with IDPH and DHS staff, local public health, community partners, stakeholders, and the public to gather feedback on how to establish a unified health and human services agency to better support all Iowans. These conversations resulted in a prioritized set of recommendations on how the agencies can work together to align programs and services. These recommendations are outlined in the final change package published today here.

This includes a functional organizational chart that outlines the major functions of the combined agency. Leveraging the resources, tools, and specialized expertise in both departments will allow us to better focus on overall population health and community wellbeing for all Iowans. The goal is to establish a true health and human services system that address the full continuum from prevention to intervention.



Lunch Specials
March 28 - April 1
11am - 1pm

Monday, March 28

Scalloped Potatoes & Ham, Corn

Tuesday, March 29

Meatloaf, Loaded Potatoes, Beans

Wednesday, March 30

Sausage & Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes

Thursday, March 31

Fried Chicken Dinners

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

FISH & SHRIMP DINNERS



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**APRIL 21ST
5:30-8:00
@
MADISON
BAPTIST**

**FREE DINNER & CHILD
CARE FOR PARENTS
WHO RSVP BY 4/20**

**ALL RSVPS WILL BE ENTERED
TO WIN A \$50 GAS CARD**



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT- VENISSA-WHITE@UIOWA.EDU

WEST POINT FIRE & RESCUE

Pork Loin Dinner

**Saturday, April 2, 2022
4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Menu:

Pork Loin, Cheesy Potatoes
& Green Beans

**To Go Only, No Dine In
Watch for Signs**

No need to get out, as you pull up to the West Point Fire Station, the firefighters will place your meals in your vehicle!

Free Will Donation

Proceeds go towards
purchasing life saving equipment

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: _____