

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Monday, January 24, 2022 | 9 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 24



[www.pencitycurrent.com](http://www.pencitycurrent.com)

## Legislators talk rural issues

**Back The Blue:** Reichman, Graber said impact was larger than anticipated

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A couple of unexpected turns came from a discussion with two area legislators on Friday evening in Fort Madison.

The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce hosted a rare evening round table with State Rep. Martin Graber (R-Fort Madison) and State Sen. Jeff Reichman (R-Montrose). State Rep. Joe Mitchell (R-Wayland) was unable to attend.



REICHMAN

One of the most compelling conversation points turned toward the impact the Back the Blue law is having on county budgets statewide.



GRABER

The new law requires county compensation boards to recommend increasing sheriff's wages equal to other law enforcement administrators around the state including

officials with the Iowa State Patrol, Iowa Department of Corrections, and Iowa Department of Criminal Investigations.

In many counties, the chief deputy and other sheriff department administrators, including the Jail Administrator, are tied to the sheriff's salary, as is the case in Lee County.

According to Iowa Code, county boards of supervisors are permitted to adjust the recommended pay increases as they see fit, but a finer point in the code is that any



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

State Sen. Jeff Reichman, left, and State Rep. Martin Graber address attendees of the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce's Legislative reception Friday night in Fort Madison.

adjustment to compensation board recommendations have to be applied equally across all county departments.

Last year, Lee County's Compensation Board recommended a 45% increase for the sheriff and a 10% across-the-board increase for all other county departments. In addition, each year the same calibration on salaries is required by law, so that number could continue to increase proportionally unless the bill is amended.

Washington County's Board of supervisors just approved a 35% increase in the sheriff's salary structure and a 20% increase for all other county departments.

Both Graber and Reichman said the issue may need revisited.

"There were some unintended consequences from that," Reichman said. "We do need to pay our sheriffs more. I think we've seen that and we wanted to show that we do value our law enforcement.

"We wanted to increase salaries, but we weren't properly informed on just how much of an impact it would have. It was shocking to see the disparity across the state, to be quite frank."

Graber agreed the legislature wasn't

See **SURPLUS**, page 8



## Public input needs to be more public

One of the rights and responsibilities of the general public is to challenge the philosophies, protocols, and processes of elected officials.

In 20 years around journalism one of the things that surprises me is how little people really engage in being informed. In a social media driven world, it's even worse because people become, and I just heard this phrase this week – keyboard cowboys – and think that suffices in challenging the status quo.

However, occasionally and not often, people will come in person and give a full-throated challenge to a county board, school board, or city council.

Those people who come to address issues that may not be on the council's or board's agenda, are thrown into an arena called "public input" or in the case of the Fort Madison City Council, "Visitor and Appearance Requests".

These people give their name and address for the public record and then are given either a predetermined or suggested time to speak to the elected officials. Fort Madison School Board literally puts a timer in about 120 point type on a video display indicating you have three minutes to speak.

Okay. First of all, that's bunk and has a tremendous chilling effect on what people are trying to communicate to the board, but we can at least get behind some sort of limit on the discussion to keep things moving.

But here's where we have had a problem for about five years and it's time to talk about it.

All three public boards that we regularly cover, Fort Madison Community School District, Fort Madison City Council, and Lee County Board of Supervisors are represented by Lynch-Dallas out of Cedar Rapids.

See **DEBATE**, page 9

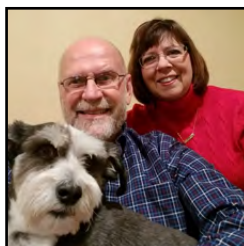
## EMPTY NEST

### Swarm's Olympic rings offered to 2024 Olympian

In honor of the Winter Olympics, I fashioned the Olympic Rings out of old wagon wheel rims, painted them the appropriate colors, and sat the sculpture out on the highway with my other sculptures. Of course, I posted the image on Facebook. It received a lot of "Likes," however one comment was, "The Olympic Rings are a protected symbol." Oops. I hadn't thought of it (I should have). A quick Google search confirmed that the Olympic Rings are

## EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



indeed a protected symbol owned by the International Olympic Committee. So I offered to donate my sculpture to Keira D'Amato, the 37-year old mother

of two who recently broke the United States Marathon record for women. She has her sights set on the 2024 Summer Olympics. I thought she might like the sculpture in her front yard for motivation. She lives in Virginia and I offered to deliver. It would be a fun vacation for Ginnie and me. We could take in the sights of D.C. So far I haven't heard from Keira. I'm contemplating

See **SWARM**, page 8

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## WEATHER

MON 24 Jan.....Overcast, 35° F/ 12° F  
TUE 25 Jan.....Clear & Cold, 13° F/ 5° F  
WED 26 Jan.....Clear & Cold, 21° F/ 3° F

## IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 01/22.....11 27 29 35 46, Star Ball: 9, All Star Bonus: 3  
LUCKY FOR LIFE 01/22.....9 15 17 21 48, Lucky Ball: 5  
MEGA MILLIONS 01/21.....38 45 46 55 67, Mega Ball: 18 Megaplier: 2  
PICK 3 01/20, 01/21, 01/22 MIDDAY.....3 6 5, 3 8 0, 0 6 4  
PICK 3 01/20, 01/21, 01/22 EVENING.....15 9, 2 3 1, 0 9 4  
PICK 4 01/20, 01/21, 01/22 MIDDAY.....0 5 3 1  
PICK 4 01/20, 01/21, 01/22 EVENING.....4 0 0 2  
POWERBALL 01/22.....8 14 33 36 67, Powerball: 17, Power Play: 2

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### MARSHA A. HAYES

Marsha A. Hayes, 68, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Friday, January 21, 2022 at 1:00 PM at the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in West Burlington.



HAYES

She was born on September 24, 1953 in Keokuk to Ward and Maxine Hackard Bryant. On August 21, 1971 she married Steven Hayes in Ft. Madison. Marsha worked for the Ft. Madison School District in the kitchen and retired in 2012 as the head baker and was known to the kids as the "lunch lady". She was a member of Calvary Assembly of God Church. Marsha enjoyed singing, needle point, caring for people and looking at "The Facebook". Most of all her greatest love was her family, especially her grandchildren.

Survivors include her husband, Steve Hayes of Ft. Madison; one son, James (Pam) Hayes of Ft. Madison; two daughters, Danyle (Robert) Warner of Ft. Madison and Moriah (Joe) Rooney of Ft. Madison; seven grandchildren, Kylie Hayes, Savannah Hayes, Hannah Fountain, Marquel Warner, Aaron "Bubba" Warner, Emorie and Iris Rooney; one sister, Anna Rose Hackett of Bartonville, IL and one brother, Roger (Karen) Bryant of Keokuk. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Friends may call after 2 PM on Monday, January 24, 2022 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory where the family will meet with friends from 4-6 PM. The funeral service will be held at 10:30 AM on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Reverend Scott Gruening officiating. Burial will follow in Oakland Cemetery.

A memorial has been established for Calvary Assembly of God Church and online condolences may be left at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

## OBITUARIES

### MERLE T. HOUSTON, JR.

Merle Taylor Houston, Jr. 71 of Keokuk, IA passed away Thursday, January 20, 2022 at Blessing Health Keokuk.

He was born July 5, 1950 in Keokuk, IA the son of Merle Taylor Sr. and Dorryce Galbreath Houston.



HOUSTON

Merle graduated from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in Dayton, OH with the Class of 1969. He furthered his education at the American InterContinental University where he received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees. He was currently working on his Doctorate degree.

Merle was a proud veteran and served in the United States Navy.

On May 23, 1995 Merle was united in marriage to Novella Robinson in Milwaukee, WI. She survives.

Other survivors include his eight children, Louis Antonia Brown (Lakita) of Cincinnati, OH, Merle T. Houston III (Vikki) of Akron, OH, Marie Dorsy of Cincinnati, OH, Jerle T. Houston of Dayton, OH, Jamie Rice of Dayton, OH, Shayla Parker of Milwaukee, WI, Trinity Faulkner (Eddie) of Memphis, TN and Chantel Parker of Milwaukee, WI, twenty-one grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He is also survived by one brother, Obie Houston, Sr. (Cynthia) of Trotwood, OH and one sister, Colleen Houston of East Moline, IL.



He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother in infancy and one sister, Terri Montgomery.

Merle had been employed by General Plastics in Milwaukee, WI as a truck driver.

He was a member of God's Way Christian Center in Keokuk.

Merle was an avid fisherman and spent as much time as he could fishing. He was very active in his church and enjoyed working there. Merle loved football and was an enthusiastic fan of the Green Bay Packers.

A memorial service will be held at 3:00 p.m., Saturday, January 29, 2022 at New Bethel Church, 1217 Morgan St., Keokuk, IA.

Pre-past will be held prior to the service, Saturday, at the church from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. with the family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to God's Way Christian Center.

The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.vigenmemorial-home.com](http://www.vigenmemorial-home.com).

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## Obituaries/Business News

### OBITUARIES

## BETTY I. DOUGHERTY

Betty Irene Dougherty, 95, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Sunday, January 23, 2022 at 11:52 a.m. at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Fort Madison, IA. She was born on June 21, 1926



DOUGHERTY

in Primrose, IA to Arnold & Carmel Bentzinger. She married Robert Victor Dougherty on June 17, 1951 in Donnellson, IA. He preceded her in death on January 1, 2012. She was a homemaker most of her life and a member of the First Christian Church and the Women's Fellowship

Executive Board. She was a former member of King's Daughters & Sons and enjoyed gardening, flowers and attending the Army Air Corps Reunions with her husband.

Betty is survived by: 1-son: Robert Mark (Debra) Dougherty of Urbandale, IA; 1-step grandson: Nathan (Dr. Rachel) Matta of Waukee, IA; 1-step great granddaughter: Mariel Matta of Waukee, IA; 1-sister: Shirley Mulligan of Bird Island, MN; 4-nieces & 2-nephews. She was preceded in death by: her parents, husband & 1-sister: Nadine Lindner.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A graveside service will be held in the spring at Soldiers' Circle in Oakland Cemetery in Fort Madison. A memorial has been established for the First Christian Church and may be sent directly to them at: First Christian Church, 608 10th Street, Fort Madison, IA 52627. Online condolences to Betty's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

## Alliant recognized again by Newsweek

### Named to most responsible list

MADISON, Wis. – Jan. 21, 2022 – For the second year in a row, Alliant Energy has been named to Newsweek's list of America's Most Responsible Companies. Presented by Newsweek and Statista Inc., the world-leading statistics portal and industry ranking provider, the list, now in its third annual year, spans 14 industries and recognizes the top 499 most responsible companies in the United States.

Ranked as a top 30 company overall in the social category, Alliant Energy was recognized for its strong devotion to good causes and support of diversity in its workforce. The high ranking is indicative of the company's commitment in several categories including increasing the number of women and minority employees while also advancing their transition to generating clean energy.

"We are pleased to once again be honored as one of America's Most Responsible Companies and to have our environmental, social and

governance efforts so highly recognized," said Barbara Tormaschy, vice president and treasurer of Alliant Energy. "Our actions are guided by our values and purpose, which center on serving customers and building stronger communities. We emphasize improving workplace diversity, equity and inclusion and are also proud to be a leader in the transition to generating cleaner sources of energy, such as wind and solar. It's this combined commitment to our employees, our customers and our environment that earns us placement on this prestigious list."



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## Bloodhound Sports

# Davis hits 1,000 points as No. 1 Hounds roll

*Dear, Turnbull both in double figures as Fort Madison moves to 12-0 on the year*

BY PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON – Senior Dayton Davis surpassed 1,000 points in his career as a Bloodhound Saturday afternoon, as Fort Madison moved to 12-0 on the year.

Davis closed with 25 points giving him 1,001 points in four years with Fort Madison as the Hounds rolled to a 71-52 win over West Hancock in an interstate clash at the Hound Dome.

Fort Madison, ranked No. 1 in the last Class 3A AP poll, raced out to a 19-2 first quarter advantage, before tapping on the brakes a bit. West Hancock outscored Fort Madison 23-12 in the second quarter, including eight points in the final two minutes, to close the

gap to 31-25 at the break.

West Hancock would close to just four points to start the third period, but Reiburn Turnbull and Davis took over and sent a message as to just how good Fort Madison can be.

Davis put up 10 in the third quarter, including a stretch of 5 of 6 from the free throw line. Turnbull and Davis then combined for 19 points in the fourth quarter to put the game away for Fort Madison.

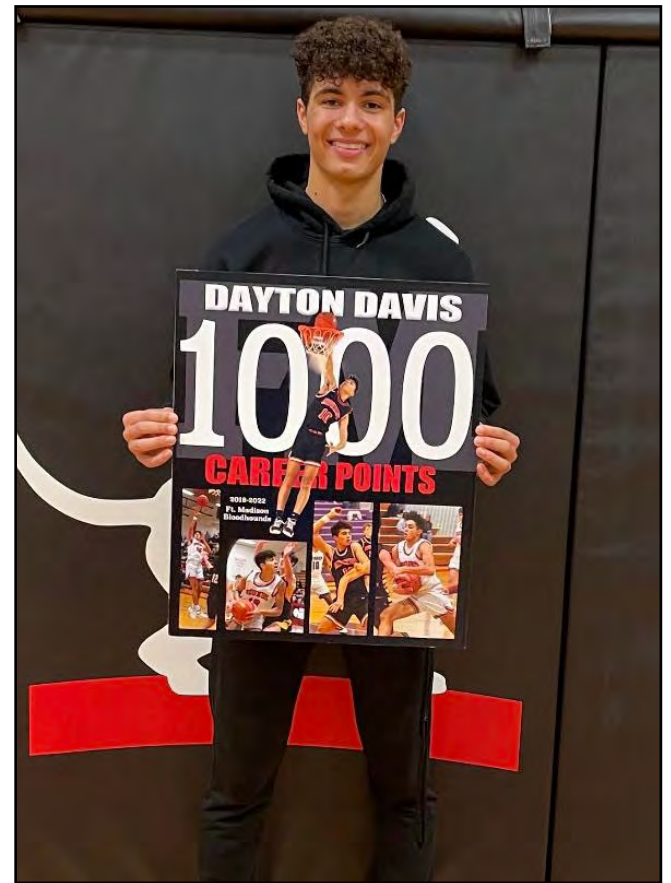
Senior Miles Dear put up 15 in the first half, including 10 in the first quarter, to get things going for the Bloodhounds. Dear finished with 19 points on the night. Turnbull chipped in with 14 and Tate Johnson had seven in the win.

Davis is also tops in the state in Class 3A in rebounds with 149 on the year.

The senior is sixth in all classes in the state in offensive boards with 77, also tops in 3A. Davis works the front end of the Bloodhounds' press and causes chaos for opposing teams trying to inbound after made Bloodhound baskets. Davis leads Class 3A in steals with 50.

He is ninth in 3A in scoring with 237 points at 19.8 points per game average. Miles Dear is right at 15 points per outing for Fort Madison.

The Hounds are atop the Southeast Conference at 6-0, a half game ahead of No. 4 Washington (6-1, 13-1). The Hounds are 12-0 overall and travel to Clark County, Mo, on Tuesday night before hosting Fairfield in an SEC matchup Thursday before Burlington Notre Dame comes to Fort Madison on Saturday evening.



# Fort Madison boys roll Keokuk Friday night in SEC clash

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP  
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON – The first game at No. 1 didn't bother Fort Madison's boys basketball team.

The Bloodhounds, who moved to the top of the Associated Press Class 3A poll on Monday, were thriving in the rare air on Friday night, rolling to an 82-42 home win over Keokuk.

Fort Madison moved to 11-0 overall, 6-0 in the Southeast Conference, with an impressive victory in front of the largest crowd of the season.

"It's exciting, it's nice to be recognized for these guys' hard work," Fort Madison coach Ryan Wilson said. "But at the end of the day it's a number.

"The biggest thing that number does is bring people out. This gym was packed. Every section was packed. There are

people who haven't been here all year that I saw tonight. It's like, 'Oh, these guys are good, let's go watch them.' That's really, really the big thing about it."

It was quite the show. Fort Madison outscored the Chiefs (3-9, 0-7) 48-18 in the second half, using its full-court press to put on a constant squeeze.

"It was just a matter of getting into our defense, and playing hard," Wilson said. "Our press was great in the second half, and that's what we want. Get up and down, let the defense feed into our offense, and finish."

It was a close game throughout the first half — Fort Madison's biggest lead was 11 points on two occasions — but it just set up the whirlwind that was coming.

The Bloodhounds' first 20 points of the third quarter came on layups or putbacks. Dayton Davis, who finished with 28 points, had 12 points in that run, including 10 consecutive.

But it was his looming presence at the top of the press that was just as important.

"He plays so hard," Wilson said. "To try to stat his deflections is almost impossible, because he gets his hand on so many."

Wilson said the Bloodhounds' overall defense was strong. "I thought our defensive transition, going from our press to half-court, was good," he said.

Phillip Goldie added 14 points for the Bloodhounds. Reiburn Turnbull had 12 in the win.

Diego Garcia led Keokuk with 17 points. MJ Davis had 15 points.

The Bloodhounds play host to West Hancock on Saturday, the second game at the top of the polls.

"We know that target is really, really big right now," Wilson said. "Everybody's going to want to knock us off, one way or another."

# Chiefs complete season sweep of Lady Hounds 43-37

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP  
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON – It was a game, at least, for Fort Madison's girls basketball team.

It had been two weeks since the Bloodhounds had played, and it showed in a 53-40 home loss to Keokuk on Friday night.

Fort Madison (8-3 overall, 3-3 Southeast Conference) had its five-game winning

streak snapped, although it seemed like it had been a long time since that last win. The Bloodhounds hadn't played since a 43-37 win over Central Lee on January 8.

"I think we had some rust on us a little bit," Fort Madison coach Tony Sargent said.

Keokuk (11-3, 8-0), ranked 12th in Class 4A, used its size advantage to slow Fort Madison's offense. And then the Chiefs' speed took over.

That quickness was evident in Keokuk's

11-2 run to end the first quarter. Abby Wolter had back-to-back layups at the end of an 8-0 run.

"Our biggest problem was getting back on fast breaks," Sargent said. "If we could have shut their fast breaks down, the game would have been close."

The Chiefs' defense kept Fort Madison leading scorer Malarie Ross from getting open. Ross, who averages 24 points per game, finished with 16 points, but she either

had the 5-foot-11 Wolter in front of her, or various double-teams.

"We took it strong to the basket in the first half and got fouled, and then didn't make the free throws," Sargent said. "The second half, we just didn't take it to the basket."

The Bloodhounds didn't have the size to match Wolter, who finished with 17 points. Kayde Martin had 10 points for the Chiefs, who won their 10th consecutive game. Makenna Altgibers also had 10.

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# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

### PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
PROCEEDINGS  
FORT MADISON  
CITY COUNCIL  
1/18/2022**

The Fort Madison City Council met in adjourned session at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, 1/18/2022, at City Hall, 811 Avenue E. Mayor Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Andrews, Bowker, Schulz, Gray, Amandus, Cangas and Rink present.

On motion, Council approved the agenda. On motion, Council approved the Consent Agenda: Minutes of 1/4/2022; setting public hearing for 2/1/2022 at 5:30 P.M. concerning an amendment to Title 10, Zoning,

to define "tiny homes" and to allow tiny homes under certain conditions; Claims dated January 13, 2022, and the December Financial Report; and Liquor License Renewals for River Rocks, 709 Avenue H, Columbus Club, 807-809 Avenue H and Hy-Vee Food Store, 2606 Avenue L.

On motion, Council approved the second reading of an ordinance amending Title 2, Boards and Commissions, Chapter 3, Planning and Zoning, by changing the number of Planning and Zoning Commission members from seven to five. On motion, Council adopted Resolution 2022-05, ordering construction

and setting public hearing for PIPs 2021-02, Avenue F Bridge Over French Creek and 2021-03, 27th Street Bridge Over Dry Creek. On motion, Council adopted Resolution 2022-06, accepting PIP 2020-8, Phase 2 Parking Lot Reconstruction and Stormwater Improvements. On motion, Council adopted Resolution 2022-07, granting property tax abatement to: Kathy A Kramer/Russell Lee Franklin, 1613 Avenue D, Kristin Denning/Derek Doherty, 411 Avenue G and Pool 19 Storage, 930 - 15th Street. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2022-08, setting animal licensing, impoundment and penalty

fees effective 2/1/2022.

On motion, Council approved the Mayor's reappointments of Dianna Holmes to the Historic Preservation Commission, term expiring 12/31/2024; Josh Leyh to the Parks Board, term expiring 3/31/2025, and Marty Dean to Fort Madison SIRRC, term ending 12/31/2024. On motion, Council approved the Mayor's signature on a Community Catalyst Building Remediation Grant for 833/835 Avenue G.

A presentation concerning a proposed K-9 Officer was given. A discussion was held regarding the Mayor's Grow Fort Madison Challenge.

At 7:08 P.M., the meeting adjourned until February 1, 2022, at 5:30 P.M.

/s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld,  
Mayor  
ATTEST: /s/ Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk

PAYROLL		1/14/2022
General		\$211,184.85
Old Fort		2,848.56
Merchon Lib Trst		517.88
Road Use		30,655.17
Tourism		878.33
Water		31,155.63
Sewer		33,677.66
Solid Waste		15,805.86
Airport		312.77
Storm Water		4,689.78
		<u>\$331,726.49</u>

REVENUES	
General	30,572.12
Special Rev.	10,784.80
Road Use	375.00
Debt	4,425.34
Capital	631.25
Sewer	580.00
	<u>47,368.51</u>

EXPENDITURES	
General	\$17,571.96
Special Revenue	115,019.35
Road Use	12,507.01
Capital	457,182.51
Water	130,874.88
Sewer	5,269.59
Solid Waste/IWC	16,769.51
SW Utility	1,578.00
	<u>\$756,772.81</u>

**CLAIMS - 1/18/2022**

3E ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, CALL BOX	742.36
ALEX AIR APPARATUS, INC., YEARLY MAINTENANCE/PARTS	512.00
ALLIANT ENERGY, ELECTRIC	2,897.07
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, EXTENSION CORD	80.68
ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES, UNIFORM	889.35
BAIER FORD, LIGHT ASSEMBLY	160.28
BARCO MUNICIPAL PROD INC., POSTS/SIGNS	1,734.91
BATES SANITATION & ASPHALT, PORTA-POTTIE RENTAL	75.00
BROWN SUPPLY CO. INC., CUTTER WHEEL/PIN	2,639.50
BROZENES HYDRAULIC EQUIPMENT, PLOW PARTS/HYDRAULIC FLUID	1,287.00
BUILDING MATERIALS INC, COUNTER SUPPLIES/DOOR	1,294.99
BURLINGTON MUNI WATER, BACTERIA SAMPLE	85.00
CESSFORD CONSTRUCTION CO., PAY EST #3 - RIPRAP INV 1	108,167.22
CONNECTION INSURANCE, LIABILITY INSURANCE	345.00
CULLEN CONSTR. & EXCAVATING, SNOW REMOVAL	1,400.00
CULLEN PEST CONTROL, QUARTERLY PEST CONTROL	417.00
DAILY DEMOCRAT, LEGAL PUBLICATIONS	329.36
DELONG CONSTRUCTION, INC, PAY EST #3 - DREDGING INV 1	302,854.65
DETROIT INDUSTRIAL TOOL, SAW BLADES	560.14
EUROFINS ENVIRONMENT TESTING, TESTING	302.40

EVORA CONSULTING, PROF FEE	461.75
FARM & HOME SUPPLY, SAW KIT/REPLACEMENT CHAIN	289.98
FIRE SERVICE TRAINING BUREAU, TRAINING CERTIFICATE	50.00
FLOORCRAFTERS, COUNTER MATERIAL	1,292.29
FLOYD'S E-Z WAY, GARBAGE DISPOSAL	603.50
GRAINGER, UTILITY TRAY	111.34
GREAT RIVER REGIONAL WASTE, GARBAGE	13,076.38
GREGORY MANUFACTURING, TARGETED JOBS	12,428.05
HACH CHEMICAL CO., CONTROLLER	2,370.04
HAWKEYE TRUCK EQUIPMENT, BLADE GUIDE	60.00
HOLTKAMP FLOORS DECOR & FURN, INSTALL FLOORING	13,342.20
HOWARD R GREEN COMPANY, PROF FEE - AVE H 10-18	8,872.50
HUFFMAN WELDING & MACHINE, GATE HINGE/BOLTS/NUTS	1,541.80
HUMBURD'S AUTO SERVICE, REPAIR TIRE	22.50
HY-VEE FOOD STORE, COLLECTION FEE	61.80
HYDROTEX, PVC CEILING	364.19
ICONNECTYOU, INTERNET	5.00
IDEAL READY MIX COMPANY, FILL SAND	680.12
INDUSTRIAL ELECTRIC MOTORS, CAPACITOR	85.50
IOWA PRISON INDUSTRIES, SIGN	23.20
IOWA PUBLIC AIRPORTS ASSOC, MEMBERSHIP FEE	100.00
JONES CONTRACTING CORP, PAY EST #15 - FMCH TRAIL	56,492.52
KLINGNER & ASSOCIATES, P.C, PROF FEE	

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 LEE COUNTY RECORD-ER, RECORDING FEE ..... 17.00  
 LISCO, PHONE/INTER-NET ..... 2,011.11  
 MCFARLAND, TOWELS ..... 38.99  
 MELLER EXCAVATING & ASPHALT, CREEK DEBRIS REMOVAL ..... 39,101.60  
 MID-STATES ORGA-NIZED CROME, ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP ..... 150.00  
 MIDLAND SCIENTIFIC INC., SOLUTION.. 181.09  
 MIDWEST SAFETY COUNSELORS, CHEMI-CALS ..... 839.90  
 MIGUEL LANDEROS, NUISANCE ..... 1,820.00  
 MOBOTREX, DUPLI-CATE PAYMENT ..... 4.79  
 MOHRFELD ELECTRIC, CARD ACCESS REPAIR ..... 160.00  
 MPH INDUSTRIES INC, SERVICE CALL/REPAIR ..... 588.32  
 MUNICIPAL SUPPLY COMPANY, METERS ..... 7,468.10  
 OMNI, SITE GRINDER ..... 144.00  
 PDC TECHNICAL SER-VICES, INC, PROF FEE - CLOSED LANDFILL ..... 3,804.21  
 PETTY CASH - MELINDA BLIND FUEL/BATTER-IES/TRAVEL ..... 251.68  
 QUARRY CREEK ELK AND BISON, SAFETY BOOTS - T SCHROED-ER..... 300.00  
 QUILL CORPORATION, INK..... 108.55  
 RIVER CITY MOTORS PLUS, BELT TENSION/ALTERNATOR... 1,178.33  
 SANDRY FIRE SUPPLY, L.L.C., FIRE BOOTS ..... 1,888.45  
 SELECTIVE INS. CO, FLOOD COVERAGE ..... 5,623.00  
 SERVICE MASTER, JAN-ITORIAL SERVICE ..... 1,311.50  
 SOLAR TRAFFIC SYS-TEMS, 12 VOLT BAT-TERY ..... 196.00  
 SOUTHEAST IA RE-GIONAL MED, RANDOM DRUG SAMPLE ..... 3,073.98  
 SOUTHEAST IOWA GARAGE DR, GARAGE

DOOR INSTALLATION ..... 2,498.00  
 STATE HYGIENIC LABO-RATORY, TESTING ..... 20.00  
 STEFFENSMEIER WELDING & MFG, KOW-ZAN PLATE ..... 10,632.82  
 TRUCK REPAIR INC., REPLACE TIRES ..... 3,439.30  
 UNITY POINT CLINIC - OCCUP PRE-EMPLOY-MENT DRUG ..... 126.00  
 USA BLUE BOOK, TEST KITS..... 800.30  
 WALMAN OPTICAL, SAFETY GLASSES - M KEMPKER ..... 150.00  
 WATER SOLUTIONS UN-LIMITED, CHEMICALS ..... 11,230.34  
 WIGEN WATER TECH-NOLOGIES, RO FILTER ..... 100,442.80  
 WILKENS-ANDERSON, TESTING SUPPLIES ..... 248.99  
 TOTAL ..... 756,772.81  
 GENERAL ..... 17,571.96  
 SPECIAL REVENUES ..... 114,094.77  
 ROAD USE..... 12,507.01  
 CAPITAL PROJECTS ..... 457,182.51  
 WATER ..... 130,874.88  
 WASTEWATER ..... 5,269.59  
 SOLID WASTE ..... 16,769.51  
 AIRPORT ..... 924.58  
 STORM WATER ..... 1,578.00  
 TOTAL ..... 756,772.81

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Lee County, Iowa**  
**Board of Supervisors**  
**Agenda**  
**DATE: Monday,**  
**January 24, 2022**  
**MEETING**  
**CONVENING TIME:**  
**10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.**  
**(CDT)**  
**LOCATION:**  
**933 Avenue H**  
**Fort Madison, IA**

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 Access Code: 625-890-

853  
 If you would like to pose a question to the Board, please use the Chat feature and wait for the Chairman to address you. If you are participating by phone, please wait until everyone is done speak-ing before addressing the Board. Please keep your microphone muted to cut down on background noise. If you are partic-ipating by phone, press #6, this will mute your phone.  
 Pledge of Allegiance  
 Approve Agenda  
 Public Input  
 Consider Approval of Inspection Company for NuStar and Greenway Pipelines  
 Introduction of New Conservation Direc-tor-Heather Huebner  
 Consider Approval of Hwy 2 Detour Revocation and Detour Compensa-tion for W46 with Iowa DOT  
 Consider Approval of Hwy 2 Detour Revocation and Detour Compensa-tion for J40 with Iowa DOT  
 Consider Approval of Resolution Approving Lee County's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan  
 Consider Approval of ARPA Funding Request from K-Play for Splash Pad in Amount of \$15,000  
 Consider Approval of Amended Pandemic Policy  
 Consider Approval of Resolution Naming Emi-nent Domain Commission  
 Consider Approval of Resolution Abating Taxes on Mobile Home  
 Consider Approval of Tax Abatement Resolu-tions ( 4)  
 Consider Approval of Class C Liquor License for Hitching Post, West Point  
 Consider Approval of January 17, 2022 Board Minutes  
 Consider Approval of Claims  
 Personnel Actions:  
 A. Step Increase-Sher-iff's Office  
 B. New Hire-IT Director

Reports:  
 A. Manure Management Annual Update-Pomberg Farms in Pleasant Ridge Township  
 Commission or Com-mittee Reports  
 Adjourn  
 Workshop to Follow  
 PUBLIC MEETING  
 CITIZENS WELCOME  
 Vision and hearing assistance available upon request  
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 319-372-3705  
 County Website:  
[www.leecounty.org](http://www.leecounty.org)

### PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Fort Madison City Council at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at the Council Chambers of Fort Madison City Hall at 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison concerning Public Im-provement Projects 2021-03, Avenue F Bridge Over French Creek and 2021-03, 27th Street Bridge Over Dry Creek. The purpose of the hearing will consist of approving the plans, specifications, contract documents and estimate of cost for the project.  
 Persons may obtain further information or express your views con-cerning this issue either in person or through an authorized representative at the public hearing, or prior to the meeting by fax at (319) 372-8661, by telephone at (319) 372-7700 ext. 206, by E-mail at [mblind@fortmadi-son-ia.com](mailto:mblind@fortmadi-son-ia.com) or in writing to the Fort Madison City Clerk, P.O. Box 240, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 no later than 4:30 PM on February 1, 2022.

Melinda L. Blind  
 City Clerk

### PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Fort Madison City Council at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at the Council Chambers of City Hall at 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison regarding an amendment to the City of Fort Madison Zoning Code, Title 10, to define "tiny homes" and to allow tiny homes under certain conditions.

You may appear at the hearing to express your views concerning the above. Written state-ments may be submitted to the Fort Madison City Clerk, P.O. Box 240, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 no later than 4:30 PM on February 1, 2022 or delivered before the hearing is closed.  
 Melinda L. Blind  
 City Clerk

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## From the Front

# Graber, Reichman both feel some form of flat tax best for lowans

**SURPLUS**- Continued from Page 1

given sufficient information on the bill.

"I don't think the law enforcement officials association gave full disclosure are on what they were trying to get to, or didn't understand it. And I don't think we received full disclosure when we voted on the Black The Blue, as far as impact to the counties," Graber said.

"It isn't as clean and clear, there is more latitude in there than what we may have been lead to believe. At least I believe that. But the question then becomes how do you treat the other folks."

Graber said there may be more wiggle room that what is perceived.

"If you continue to increase wages, the budget gets bigger and it can only be so big, so you either look at cutting expenses... or you're gonna wind up leaving people out of the equation," he said.

"You know, a 45% increase for the sheriff and his guys might mean less deputies on the road, so we have to be careful in balancing all that stuff"

When asked about the potential of using the \$1.9 billion projected budget overflow to help counties fund some of the wage increases implemented in the GOP-led bill, both legislators said that could be one option going forward.

"Could that be on the table at some point in time, it's possible," Graber said. "But personally I'm not in favor of that. I believe that is taxpayer money paid in and the taxpayers should get it back."

Graber said he would like to see the fund used to send Iowans a check for overpayment of state taxes.

"I don't think I'm gonna win that battle, so I think you're going to see a lot of creative uses of that money," he said.

Another issue brought up during the session was the 4% flat tax Governor Kim Reynolds proposed during her Condition of the State Address last week.

Graber said he favors that direction, reiterating the governor's point that a flat tax is a more fair tax.

"The 4% tax or whatever it turns about to be, is a pos-

itive move because it literally gives it back to the people that are paying the taxes," Graber said.

He said one of the highlights of the program is to exempt retirement income, including cash-rent payments, to retired farmers 55 and older. He said the tax makes Iowa more competitive.

"It's a four-year phase-in as I understand it and it's ratcheted down a bit, that's the proposal, but again, it could go to 4% this year if that's what lawmakers want to do," he said. "I don't see that happening, at least not in the House, as we want to see the impact of lowering it this much and then this much."

Reichman said he hasn't seen all the details of the proposal, but said the Senate has a reputation of being a bit more bold and one Senator has proposed a 0% flat tax.

"I don't think the Senate is going to have any trouble getting to 4% with our proposals," Reichman said.

"There are a lot of states overspending and are in the red and nearly bankrupt. So we're doing really well. Kudos to the state for being fiscally responsible. About 10 years ago, Chet Culver left after bonding a billion dollars and we're still paying \$55 million of bond service annually on that."

"It's a good time to lower those again and put money back in Iowa taxpayers' pockets and be financially responsible. We're on that path and it's working."

Other issues posed during the session included funding public schools at the governor's recommended 2.5% spending growth as well as vouchers for private school enrollment.

Graber said education accounts for 56% of the state's budget through 12th grade.

"We spend a lot of money on education. The last time the State of Iowa cut funding for education, Chet Culver was your governor," he said.

Reichman said it's unfortunate that the 2.5% increase is actually no increase because of current inflationary pressures he attributed to the Biden Administration.

"That's the initial offer and visibility on the budget. I agree, I don't think it's gonna stay there. We're going to

see some negotiation on that. I think we'll see something change positively there," he said.

Fort Madison teacher representative Rachella Dravis asked the two specifically about Senate File 128's establishment of an education savings grants, or voucher program.

Reichman said he hadn't seen details on the program yet. He said a version went through and it was mentioned in the governor's address.

"We couldn't pass a weak one last year, I don't see us passing us stronger one this year," Reichman said.

"If they're gonna do that I'd like to see them pull from a different pot of money so it's not taken from public schools."

## Vaccinations are comparable to seat belts

**SWARM**- Continued from Page 1

ing a torch to go along with the rings.

The Olympic Rings are made of five circles, one circle for each of the five continents. There are five senses—sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch. I believe touch to be the greatest of all senses. Our whole body, including internal organs and muscles are involved in touch. When Stormy, my muse cat, is on my lap in the wee hours of the morning when I'm writing, I believe it to be one of the greatest feelings in the world. I highly recommend a pet on your lap for the ultimate in relaxation and stimulation.

Being officially classified as in the age group of "the elderly," Ginnie and I started taking a popular over-the-counter memory booster about six months ago. I believe it's working. I'm remembering things clear back in my childhood that I haven't thought of in years, i.e., my long-term memory has been boosted. However, it was my short-term memory, like names of people, and "What was my purpose in crossing this room?" that I wanted help with. Now what was I going to say?

If you think our U.S. Postal Service has problems, take a trip to the Middle East. When Ginnie and I were in the Holy Land two years ago, I sent notes, daily, back to friends in the States. Some of the friends are just now receiving the notes. They text me pictures of them. It's a gas reading what I wrote two years ago. I marvel at how good my hand writing was. No more complaints about our postal system.

This is football season and the NFL Playoffs are in full swing. I can literally waste a whole day watching nothing but football. Years ago, when I lived alone, I remember the television sort of blowing up and shutting itself off after a whole day of watching football. Well, it happened again. After the third game of football on a Sunday, the television just gave up and went on the blink. It was like saying, "Enough already!"

I'm going to catch heat for saying this: I equate COVID vaccination with our seat belt law. We're required to wear seat belts, at least in Iowa. You can still be killed or seriously injured in a car accident while wearing a seat belt. It's just that your chances of survival are much better if you're wearing a seat belt. Same with the COVID vaccination. Your chances of surviving the virus are much better if you're vaccinated.

"What is Cryptocurrency?" I have no idea. Headline: "New York City's Mayor Invests First Paycheck in Cryptocurrency." Forty years ago, we were asking, "What is Internet?"

"The times they are a-changin'," Bob Dylan.

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## From the Front

# Public should have greater access during public input

### DEBATE - Continued from Page 1

Fort Madison City Council and the Fort Madison School Board both decline to comment on issues brought up by residents on advice of their attorney citing open meetings laws. The City Council goes so far as to include language on each agenda that says "Visitor and Appearance Requests" are not a time to discuss issues with the council.

City Council agendas include the following posted statement: "PLEASE NOTE: This is not an opportunity to discuss issues with Council or to get information. In accordance with Open Meetings law, Council cannot take action on any complaint or suggestion or respond to any allegations."

Where we have an issue is the language that says it's not an opportunity to discuss issues with Council or to get information.

Well, what is it for then? What can only be described as a dump-and-go. The council will let you tell them what you're upset about and possibly refer it to city staff for consideration. Mayor Matt Mohrfeld is very good about telling people in most cases that city staff will look at the issue. But not always. Sometimes, more often than not, people looking for, at a minimum, direction from the city council get nothing but a thank you for coming.

A brief check with the Iowa Freedom of Information Council tells us that a lot of local governments operate under this assumption that they cannot discuss anything brought up during public comments sections per Iowa's open meetings laws.

We disagree, and we challenged the language this week to Fort Madison's City Attorney Pat O'Connell of Lynch Dallas.

O'Connell responded saying Iowa Code Chapter 21.4 defines a public meeting as "a gathering in person or by electronic means, formal or informal, of a majority of the members of a governmental body where there is deliberation or action upon any matter within the scope of the governmental body's policy-making duties."

O'Connell went on to write that when the Council is confronted with a policy matter in the public comment

section which is not part of the published agenda (under Iowa Code 21.4, the agenda must be published at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled public meeting), it can neither take action, nor deliberate on the matter.

He also cited a recent Iowa Supreme Court ruling that indicated public bodies are not allowed to deliberate on issues that aren't on posted agendas.

We would disagree directly with the application of the word "deliberate". By Webster's definition, to deliberate means "A discussion and consideration by a group of persons (such as a jury or legislature) of the reasons for and against a measure."

It seems a stretch to say that an informal discussion about the cost of pet tags, or snow removal, parking restrictions, ATV usage or other issues would always reach the sniff test of a deliberation. There are public bodies that engage in discussions with residents in a spirit that was intended with Iowa's sunshine laws.

There are certain protections provided to conversations with elected officials and those are very specifically outlined and typically pertain to property negotiations and personnel issues. The mayor could, we believe, gavel the conversation closed and advise the party addressing the council that the topic has now moved to a place of confidentiality and will be referred to city staff for consideration.

But drawing a fine line that no conversation with city residents will take place on issues brought before the council under 'public input' has a tremendous chilling effect on the inclinations of the public to have grievances addressed by an elected body.

We've seen and heard the same comments from other bodies, not just Fort Madison City Council, but the City Council is the only elected body to actually put the language on each agenda.

We approached Mayor Matt Mohrfeld about the language and he indicated he's not willing at this time to waiver from the policy in place. He allowed that our observations on the language were somewhat accurate, but the issue wasn't that simple.

We agree it's not simple. It's extremely complex. But Iowa's sunshine laws, encapsulated in Chapters 21 and 22

of Iowa Code, explicitly spell out that that any gray areas in the law should be decided on the side of openness.

And although we don't feel at this point, a formal complaint is warranted, we would strongly encourage all local boards to take another look at how residents are being treated when they saddle up and bring an issue to elected officials for consideration. There is a City Hall and there are county departments and there are school officials and a quick course of action should be to follow that chain of command when you have concerns about operations.

However, if it becomes an option or necessity to bring your issue to the council or board, you should get more than a nod and be sent on your way. Public debate is part of being an elected official. You aren't prepared for everything, no one is. But isn't the open, informal conversation that is inherent in public input sessions part and parcel to the whole elected official gig?

We believe an informal conversation that is part of the posted agenda, under a public input item, doesn't meet the threshold of a deliberation where reasons for or against a measure are being considered. In most cases a "measure" isn't even at issue. A jury deliberates facts to determine innocence or guilt within an extremely finite set of rules put forth by a judge before the deliberation takes place. Moreover, those deliberations take place out of the purview of the public.

To carry the jury deliberation example just a bit further, the discussion and information gathering phase that takes place before deliberations - is predominantly done in an open hearing.

We've all been watching with great excitement as Fort Madison's boys basketball team ascended to the top spot in Class 3A. It's a great team accomplishment and a nice reflection on the community. One member of that team, Dayton Davis, just passed 1,000 points for his high school career. We congratulate the Bloodhounds on what appears to be the first time ever holding the No. 1 spot in the state, and we congratulate Dayton Davis on his 1,000 point - But that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is the editor and co-owner of Pen City Current and can be reached at [charles.v@pencitycurrent.com](mailto:charles.v@pencitycurrent.com).

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BY AGE & SIZE



THE NUMBER  
OF PEOPLE  
**WHO THINK**  
THEY HAVE THEIR  
CHILD IN THE RIGHT  
SEAT.



THE ONES  
**WHO**  
**ACTUALLY**  
**DO.**

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