

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Tuesday, January 18, 2022 | 8 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 20



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County to relook at Denning land

CLASH OF PASSIONS: Residents come in to preserve historic features of land

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – More than a year into the Lee County Conservation District's effort to restore property in northwest Lee County to its original state, some county residents are now asking the county to take another look preserving part of the farm.

The property in questions was owned by Eleanor Denning who's family inherited the farm in the 1870s, according to Phil Peitz who address the Lee County Board of Supervisors on the issue Monday morning.

The farm was donated to the state and fell under ownership of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. It is managed by the Lee County Conservation District.

The state put the property through an investigation with the State Historic Preservation Office who took more than a year to return a report on the study to the LCCD.

Lee County Conservation Board member Tom Pollpeter said the LCCD board of directors has been following the recommendations of that SHIPO report to the letter and doesn't plan on wavering from its recommendations.

The property had three barns two on the north side of the property near Houghton and one on the south side. Pollpeter said the recommendations were to return the northside of the farm to original natural prairie, while the south side has a barn that is recommended to be preserved. Two other barns on the north side, and a

See DENNING, page 8

The Eleanor and Conrad Denning property northeast of Houghton is being managed by Lee County Conservation District after being donated to the state Department of Natural Resources. Several residents are asking the county to relook at how the property is being transitioned.



Image courtesy of Iowa DNR

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



Mt. Pleasant has a master musician

On a table in front of Dr. Joel Brown's picture window is a large Nativity Set with maybe 25 pieces. (This is in the middle of January.) He explains, "One of the Wise Men lost his head." (The head is lying beside the figure.) "He's been that way a long time."

I ask, "Can't you Super Glue the head back on?"

"Oh, I suppose. Jill hand painted the nativity figures." (Jill is Dr. Brown's wife who died 18 years ago.) "So, if I do it, I want it done right."

There are books everywhere. Sitting on Dr. Brown's piano is a bust of Johann Sebastian Bach.

When the pandemic struck, and people were isolating, Dr. Brown, who lives alone except for an occasional foreign student, needed to keep busy. He decided to play a piece of Bach's music every morning on the piano for 90 days. After completing that, he went on to Chopin, Beethoven and others. The music gave him a lift that carried him through the day.

Dr. Brown was born in Black Lick, Virginia, in 1943, on a small dairy farm. It was hilly country and they couldn't even see their nearest neighbor. He doesn't remember much about his younger life, but at an early age, around the fourth grade, he became acutely aware of the rapid passing of time.

The school he attended in Rural Retreat, Virginia, a town of about 800, had a room attached for piano lessons. The piano teacher came to the classroom and asked if anyone was interested in taking piano lessons. Little Jody Brown (they called him Jody) raised his hand. Later, the piano teacher, Miss Margaret, who

See SCHOOL, page 2

See SWARM, page 8

SCHOOL BOARD

District voted to change COVID guidance per LCHD

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison school district has adopted new guidance for dealing with exposures to the coronavirus.

At Monday's Fort Madison School Board meeting, the board voted 5-2 to adopt recommendations from the Lee County Health Department, Centers for Disease Control, and the Iowa Department of Public Health to move to a 5-day quarantine instead of a 10-day

for those that have no symptoms and are vaccinated.

Under new guidelines, if students or staff are exposed to someone with COVID and do not have symptoms

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WEATHER

TUE 18 JanOvercast, 38° F/ 24° F
WED 19 JanOvercast, 35° F/ 6° F
THU 20 Jan.....Clear & Cold, 12° F/ 3° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 01/16.....5 10 18 28 48, Lucky Ball: 13
PICK 3 01/16 MIDDAY4 8 1
PICK 3 01/16 EVENING.....6 6 3
PICK 4 01/16 MIDDAY3 5 3 3
PICK 4 01/16 EVENING8 3 6 2

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Current-Lee/From the Front

Schools re-up with mental telehealth service provider

SCHOOL - Continued from Page 1

and are not vaccinated they can quarantine for just five days. They then must wear a mask when around others in school facilities for the next five days.

The recommendation also encourages a test at five days.

If staff or students are exposed and are vaccinated and boosted, no quarantine is needed, but strict mask usage is recommended for at least 10 days with a test encouraged at five days.

If students or staff test positive for COVID they are recommended to isolate for five days with day 0 being the first day symptoms are noticed.

If symptoms are still present after five days or a fever is still present without medication then isolation is recommended for another five days. If symptoms are reduced and no fever is present then the isolation can end with masking for another five days.

School board member Mio Santiago, who was the only board member wearing a mask at the meeting,

said none of the recommendations carry any teeth and without mandates the district has little control over the situation.

"These are just recommendations," Santiago said. "So there's not a whole lot we can do."

Board president Dianne Hope agreed saying there was no mandate on the protocols and the district had to approach the situation in generalized terms.

Board members Paul Wilkerson and Dianne Hope voted against the measure.

FMCSO Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater said the district is seeing heavy absenteeism right now, but she said some of that is Influenza A and "a stomach bug" that is going around. She said multiple buildings are experiencing absentee rates over 10% and those days have to be reported to the state.

Lee County Health Department Administrator Michele Ross said Monday that the county had a positivity rate for reported tests at 17.9% over the past seven days.

In other action, the board approved another year of

a program called "Let's Talk" that gives students and staff access to a telehealth platform for mental health services. The program costs the district \$29,488 per year to host the platform.

The service also charges individual users for the service. Director of Student Services Kim Harmon said the individuals that use the service are billed through their health insurance company.

Board member Brad Menke asked what happens when students or staff don't have viable insurance coverage.

Harmon said the district doesn't have a pool of money to help with those situations, but it's something she'd like to see addressed. She said the district hasn't had anyone approach them to use the service that wasn't covered, but she said that situation probably does exist in the district.

Harmon said the district was having trouble identifying someone local to provide the service, so the district went with the telehealth system to make sure there was assistance available to students and staff.

CURRENT-LEE

Iowa Dignity Project Transportation and Infrastructure Forum - Thursday, January 27, 2022. Southeastern Community College Student Lobby, 335 Messenger Road, Keokuk. Please join us to hear from working class families about the struggles and needs they face in Lee County. Sponsored by the Iowa Federation of Labor, Iowa State Building Trades, & Teamsters Community Action Network.

Great Gatsby Adult Prom Party - January 29th, 8pm - midnight. LULAC Club, 1424 36th Street. DJ and Grazing Table. \$50/couple; \$25/single. Purchase tickets from Danyl at 319-371-9821. Proceeds will be donated to Elliott Test Kitchen.

The Savannah Sipping Society - Old Fort Players presents this Jones Hope Wooten comedy Feb. 4-6 & 11-13. Friday & Saturday shows start at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday shows start at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are available online at [OldFortPlayers.com](https://www.facebook.com/oldfortplayers/) or send them a Facebook message at <https://www.facebook.com/oldfortplayers/> to reserve tickets at the door to be purchased with cash or credit card.

Central Lee Community School District Meeting - Held the second Tuesday of every month at the Educational Services Center starting at 6:00 p.m.

Donnellson City Council Meeting - Held the first Monday of every month at Donnellson City Hall starting at 7:00 p.m.

Fort Madison City Council Meeting - Held the first and third Tuesday of every month at Fort Madison City Hall starting at 5:30 p.m.

Fort Madison Community School District Meeting - Held the first and third Mondays of every month at the District Office starting at 6:00 p.m.

Fort Madison Public Library Meeting - Held the third Thursday of every month at the Sheaffer Meeting Room starting at 5:30 p.m.

Keokuk City Council Meeting - Held the first and third Thursday of every month at Keokuk City Hall starting at 6:30 p.m.

Submit your event to appear in our next Current-Lee Calendar of Events. Your event will run once for FREE. Or run your listing daily through your event for as low as \$10! Email your listing to Lee at lee.v@pencitycurrent.com or call 319.371.4125 for more information.



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PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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Pen City Current, www.PenCityCurrent.com, and Pen e-Saver are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Monday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

Founded in 2016
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Obituaries/Iowa News

OBITUARIES

FRANK H. GILLETT

Frank H. Gillett, 91 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 2:17 am Sunday, January 16, 2022 at The Madison, Fort Madison. He was born August 28, 1930 at Fort Madison, Iowa, a son of Earl "Ted" and Margaret M. (Case) Gillett. On June 14, 1959, he married Karen K. Keester at the St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fort Madison. She preceded him in death.



GILLETT

Frank was a 1948 graduate of Fort Madison High School. He was a veteran of the United States Army, serving during the Korean War. He worked for 25 years at the Sheaffer Tool and Die Plant, Fort Madison. Later he worked for International Resistance Company, Burlington, Iowa, and finally retired from Keokuk Sheller-Globe, Keokuk, Iowa. He loved riding and repairing motorcycles, fishing, and enjoyed model airplanes. He was a member of the St. Paul Lutheran Church. Frank loved his family and was a devoted husband.



He is survived by one son, Scott Gillett of Fort Madison; one daughter, Shelly (Nathan) Poole of Des Moines, Iowa; one brother, Conrad Gillett of Fort Madison; one sister, Marie Rose of Florida; three grandsons, two great grandchildren, and three great great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, daughter-in-law Mary, three brothers: Ed, Kenny, and "Bud" and one niece.

His family will greet friends 10:00 - 11:00 am Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison, with services to follow and begin at 11:00 am with Military Honors (inside the funeral home) followed by a Memorial Service, with Pastor Pete Hagglund, officiating. Burial will be at Soldiers Circle, Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison. A memorial has been established, contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Online condolences to the Gillett Family may be made from the Barr Memorial Chapel, www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

ROBERT J. MYERS

Robert J. "Bob" Myers, 82 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 4:10 am Sunday, January 16, 2022 at the Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House, West Burlington, Iowa. Bob was born July 10, 1939 in Fort Madison, Iowa, a son of John Paul and Maxine Fern (Rudd) Myers. He was a 1957 graduate of Fort Madison High School. He was a veteran of the United States Army, serving during the Vietnam War. Bob drove a truck for 47 years. He was of the Baptist faith. In the past, he enjoyed softball and bowling, but more recently football and NASCAR. He loved his family, especially his grandkids, great grandkids, and his dogs.



MYERS

He is survived by four children: Robert (Paula) Myers of New London, Iowa; Tina Bower (Larry Hart) of Fort Madison, Iowa, Treasa (Bill) Abel of Fort Madison, Iowa; and Christina Freeman of Fort Madison, Iowa; one sister Joan (Wilbur) Neil of Paducah, Kentucky; 10 grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, John "Jack" Myers and Eugene Myers; two sisters, Betty Cain and Dolly Myers; and one grandson Billy.



His family will greet friends from 10:00 - 11:00 am Thursday, January 20, 2022 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Military Honors (inside the funeral home) will begin at 11:00 am Thursday at the funeral home. Private burial will be at Soldiers Circle, Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Myers family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

OBITUARIES

HARRY "JOE" LOFFLER

Harry "Joe" Loffler, 84, of Fort Madison, Iowa passed away Sunday evening, January 16, 2022 at The Madison, Fort Madison. Joe was born April 18, 1937, in Tulsa, Oklahoma to Gene Paul and Louise (Eilers) Loffler. He graduated from Roosevelt High School in Des Moines, Iowa and then attended Austin Junior College in Austin, Minnesota and Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, New Mexico.



LOFFLER

Joe was in radio advertising sales for over 45 years. While working at a radio station in Pennsylvania, he met and married Nanette Michael on September 14, 1963. Joe wanted to get back to Iowa so he accepted a job in Fort Madison at KXGI Radio the same year. He worked at several radio stations in the area including KOKX, Inc., Keokuk, KBKB Radio then in Fort Madison, and ended up retiring in 2002 after 10 years at KCPS Radio in West Burlington.

Joe was a member of The First Christian Church, Fort Madison for over 55 years. He had a great knowledge of cars and did most of his own work. He loved going to car shows. Joe enjoyed his "coffee buddies" from years back at The Pantry, then The Ivy and presently at HyVee and Hardee's.

Joe is survived by Nanette, his wife of 58 years, one son Todd (Sharon) Loffler of Fort Madison, two granddaughters, Shayla and Chyanne, one sister-in-law Jane Loffler, and many loving nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother Gene C. Loffler, and one sister Arvilla Loffler Cherney.

Per Joe's wishes, his body has been cremated. A graveside service and burial will be held at a later date. A memorial has been established for PAW Animal Shelter, contributions may be left at or mailed to Barr Memorial Chapel, 1919 Ave F, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Loffler family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorial-chapel.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.

Two C.Os injured in assault at IMCC

CORALVILLE – Two correctional officers were assaulted by an inmate at the Iowa Medical and Classification Center (IMCC) in Coralville, IA at approximately 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 15.

The correctional officer was working his post in one of the facilities living units when an inmate approached him and began assaulting the officer. Another officer in the area

quickly responded and attempted to apprehend the inmate. At this time, the inmate assaulted the second officer with closed fist strikes. Additional staff arrived and were able to apprehend the inmate without further incident.

The first officer that was assaulted was taken to the University of

Iowa Hospitals and Clinics for treatment of his injuries via ambulance. He was treated and released. The other officer that suffered minor injuries in the incident was seen by IMCC medical staff and was sent home following his shift.

This incident remains under investigation.

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Sports

Fort Madison boys roll HTC in cross-town showdown

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Fort Madison's Phillip Goldie goes up for a two-hand slam in the first half of the Bloodhounds 78-40 win over Holy Trinity Catholic. The Hounds are now the No. 1 team in Class 3A in Iowa, unofficially the first time that's ever happened.

FORT MADISON – The speed. The length. The experience.

It was, Holy Trinity boys basketball coach John Hellige said, overwhelming.

Fort Madison turned its home court into a superspeedway on Saturday, roaring to a 78-40 win over the city rival Crusaders.

The Bloodhounds (10-0), ranked No. 2 in the Associated Press Class 3A poll, led 17-2 after the first 3 minutes, 11 seconds.

It's why Hellige reached for a NASCAR analogy to describe why this game could be beneficial for the Crusaders with the postseason looming.

"You talk about a strong, fast, athletic team," Hellige said of the Bloodhounds. "In a game like this, facing the press and the strength and the speed that they have, when we get back down to the 1A level at district time, I told the kids that this was like the Daytona 500. And hopefully the 1A districts will be like Lee County Speedway for us after this game."

The Bloodhounds looked the part of one of the state's best teams. But coach Ryan Wilson knows there's always a price that comes with a high ranking.

"It's nice to be ranked, it's nice to be recognized across the state for these kids' hard work," he said. "But at the end of it, it's a number in front of you. You're the hunted, people want to come knock you off. You're now the big bullseye of southeast Iowa. Everybody is going to give us their best. And we have to be ready for that."

Which is why Wilson called a timeout with 3 1/2 minutes left in the third quarter and his team up 60-31. He didn't like his team's focus at that point, and he wanted to point out that every game has to be complete.

"I was like, 'Just stay focused.' We've got 32 minutes to focus on," Wilson said. "I saw some guys looking around, talking to people in the crowd. You can't do that. So I was like, 'Hey, rein it back in, stay focused.'"

The Bloodhounds listened. They went on an 11-2 run, forcing a running clock for the rest of the game.

The struggle for the Crusaders (2-11) early was just about getting the ball across center court. Fort Madison's press, with Dayton Davis at the front of it, was just constant harassment. Hellige used two timeouts in the first 2 1/2 minutes after the Crusaders committed four turnovers to fall down 12-2.

"Their press, it really affected us," he said. "When you've

got young guys out there, like we have. We practiced all week not to get rattled by the press, but Davis is so long and active out there. It was just a little bit overwhelming there for our guys."

Davis led the Bloodhounds with 23 points. Miles Dear had 22. Conner Gehling had 22 for the Crusaders.

"We just tried to keep it in perspective — eight seniors against a lot of younger guys. It's a tough matchup," Hellige said. "Tonight we got overwhelmed in the first half."

Fort Madison doesn't play again until next Friday against Keokuk. With Friday's game against Burlington postponed because of the weather, Wilson was hoping the Bloodhounds would get to play this game.

"It was good to play this weekend," he said. "To go a potential two weeks off because of the weather was kind of lingering. I'm glad it didn't happen.

"Little sloppy, but a win's a win."



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Holy Trinity Catholic's Connor Gehling goes up for a jumper over Fort Madison's Reiburn Turnbull (30) Saturday afternoon at FMHS. The Hounds moved to 10-0 with the win.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES November 1, 2021

The Lee County Board of Supervisors met at the Lee County Office Building on Monday, November 1, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Matt Pflug, Rich Harlow, Ron Fedler and Garry Seyb. All votes are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

HELP WANTED

CITY CLERK/ TREASURER

The City of West Point is accepting applications for an immediate full-time position of City Clerk/Treasurer.

The position requires municipal clerk certification, or the applicant must be willing to pursue and obtain specialized training, to understand duties and responsibilities.

Knowledge of fund accounting, general ledger, accounts payable, and payroll is preferred. Candidate should have knowledge of relevant computer systems, be able to maintain fiscal records and accounts as mandated, have attention to detail, and be accurate in financial record keeping.

Interested applicants may submit an application, or resume and cover letter, to:

City of West Point
313 5th Street
PO Box 69
West Point, IA 52656
or via email to

cityofwestpointiowa@gmail.com

Applications will be accepted through January 28, 2022.

The City of West Point is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



The Board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Moved by Seyb, seconded by Harlow, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

There was no Public Input. Upon recommendation of County Engineer Ben Hull, it was moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve an agreement with the Iowa DOT, rerouting traffic from the South Interchange of IA 27, Exit 10, north along County Road 180th Avenue to the City Limits of Donnellson. Motion carried.

Upon recommendation of County Engineer Ben Hull, it was moved by Fedler, seconded by Harlow, to approve a bid from H & L Mack, Mediapolis, for two single axle dump trucks with a Henderson bed, in the amount of \$325,122.00. Motion carried. Other bids were received from H & L Mack, with a Knapheide bed, in the amount of \$303,792.00 and Midway Freightliner, Palmyra, Missouri, in the amount of \$327,185.00. Moved by Seyb, seconded by Harlow, to table

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approval of the Lee County Disaster Mitigation Plan. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Pflug, to deny permission for Lee County Deputies to work security at Wal Mart in Keokuk. Roll call: Fedler-aye, Pflug-aye, Harlow-aye and Seyb-aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve replacing a Legal Secretary in the County Attorney's Office. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Harlow, to approve replacing a Correctional Officer. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve a Class C Beer Permit and a Class B Native Wine Permit with Sunday Service, for Denmark Jet Stop, for the period January 3, 2022 through January 2, 2023. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Harlow, to approve a Class B Native Wine Permit with Sunday Service, for Hinterland Dairy, Donnellson, for the period November 20, 2021 through November 19, 2022. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve Resolution #2021-98. Roll call: Fedler-aye, Seyb-aye, Harlow-aye and Pflug-aye.

RESOLUTION 2021-98

LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVAL OF THE ABATEMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEE COUNTY TREASURER AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH IOWA CODE CHAPTER 445.63

BE IT RESOLVED by the Lee County Board of Supervisors as follows:

Section 1. Iowa Code Section 445.63 states that when taxes are owing against a parcel owned or

claimed by the state or a political subdivision of this state and the taxes are owing before the parcel was acquired by the state or a political subdivision of this state, the County Treasurer shall give notice to the appropriate governing body which shall pay the amount of taxes due. If the governing body fails to immediately pay the taxes due, the Board of Supervisors shall abate all of the taxes.

Section 2. The City of Fort Madison has requested abatement and forgiveness for the following parcels:

Parcel: 024715042550080
Site Address: 1410 Ave. E
Amount: \$391.00

Section 3. The County Treasurer is hereby directed to strike the amount of property taxes due on these City of Fort Madison parcels in accordance with Iowa Code Section 445.63.

Section 4. The County Treasurer is hereby directed to forgive the amount of property taxes due on these City of Fort Madison parcels in accordance with Iowa Code Section 445.63.

Section 5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Dated this 1st day of November, 2021

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

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Fedler, to approve the Monday, October 25, 2021 Board minutes. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Harlow, to approve a transfer for Roslyn Garcia, from an Administrative Assistant in the Assessor's Office \$20.82/hr. to an Office Manager in the County Attorney's Office \$48,880.00/annually, effective 10/26/21, a position transfer for Lindsey Lofthus, from Legal Secretary \$19.21/hr. to Administrative Assistant \$19.68/hr., effective 11/1/21 and a new hire for the Sheriff's Office, Brenda Schnedler, Correctional Officer, \$18.11/hr., effective 11/3/21. Motion carried.

Received and filed the Recorder's Report of Fees Collected for the month of September 2021 and a Manure Management

Annual Update for Sandy Bottom Swine in Des Moines Township.

Committee Reports: Harlow reported on a Children First Board meeting. Seyb reported on an EMS Advisory Commission meeting and gave the Board members an update on applications received for the ARPA Funds. Health Department Director Michele Ross reported that they are in the process of setting up a Moderna Covid Booster Clinic.

At 10:00 a.m., a motion was made by Harlow, seconded by Seyb, to adjourn. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 8, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

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

Claims paid November 1, 2021

Nxt Deg Comm, svcs	.....90.00	IA Off/St ME, svcs	.....277.20
Agrineed, splys	.....942.50	IA Wrkfrc Dvlp, chgs	.....2028.00
Air Chek, svcs	.....482.50	ISAC, reg	.....420.00
Airgas USA, splys	.....473.96	J&S Elec Bus, splys	.....38.59
Alliant Enrgy, svcs	.....4027.90	Jet Gas, fuel	.....8343.38
Amazon, splys	.....122.93	Jireh Inc, fuel	.....1589.32
E Andries, svcs	.....40.00	C Johnson, exps	.....280.00
Barr Mem Chpl, svcs	.....1200.00	P Kaltefleiter, exps	.....54.36
Blessing Hlth, svcs	.....390.00	Keo Water, svcs	.....1515.90
J Boecker, edu	.....150.00	KingLynk Fnrl, svcs	.....1200.00
N Booten, exps	.....201.55	Klingner Assc, svcs	.....16846.25
Bnd Tree Med, splys	.....5689.49	Knapheide Trck, parts	.....190.82
CalhounBurns, svcs	.....5871.00	G Knisley, exps	.....61.65
City/Dnnlsln, svcs	.....124.39	Khlmrgrn Hlg, svcs	.....595.15
Coast/Coast, mtrl	.....145.98	Kuhns Bakery, rfnd	.....50.00
CJ Cooper/Assc, svcs	.....35.00	Langkamp Fnrl, svcs	.....303.30
Democrat Co, publ	.....102.05	Lee Co Ext Svcs, svcs	.....350.00
Dejongs, svcs	.....2400.00	LeeCo Hlth, svcs	.....8642.49
Denco Hwy, svcs	.....25860.00	LeeCo Library, cntrb	.....5362.50
Dnnlsln Tire, svcs	.....47.45	LeeCo Treas, costs	.....18405.50
EMSLRC, edu	.....92.00	Lunning Chpl, svcs	.....289.88
Family Res, svcs	.....233.25	Mail Svcs, svcs	.....1086.53
Farm/Home, splys	.....388.71	Martin Equip, svcs	.....11825.88
5th Dist Co Off, edu	.....25.00	Maximus, svcs	.....3773.00
Floyds EZ Way, svcs	.....75.00	McFarlands, splys	.....358.56
FM Water, svcs	.....208.31	D Mehl, exps	.....171.19
Four Oaks, svcs	.....513.15	Menards, equip	.....155.91
F Dunn, svcs	.....588.00	MidAm Enrgy, gas	.....417.23
Galls, splys	.....62.00	MW Prfmc Pwr, svcs	.....109.38
L Gatton, rent	.....300.00	G Morgan, exps	.....569.06
L Glasscock, svcs	.....348.74	JJ Nichting Co, equip	.....119380.00
Grt Prairie AEA, svcs	.....778.22	OMG Mdwst, svcs	.....179.40
GrtWest Trust, svcs	.....1050.00	Penn City Assc, dues	.....300.00
Griffin Muffler, svcs	.....1288.39	Prairie Farms, splys	.....190.40
E Harvey, svcs	.....114.00	Quill Corp, splys	.....199.92
Hellige Lawn, svcs	.....915.00	Quincy Mdcl Grp, svcs	.....1275.18
MHellige, svcs	.....622.86	Rathbun Wtr, svcs	.....147.60
Horsepower, svcs	.....2652.00	L Sammeli, exps	.....350.17
Huffman Wldng, svcs	.....424.75	Schmitz Fnrl, svcs	.....2400.00
HyVee, splys	.....2754.63	R Shenkor, svcs	.....318.00
ICS Jail Splys, splys	.....	T Shields, exps	.....107.10
		ShiveHattery, svcs	.....1800.00
		Shred-It, splys	.....95.03
		SE IA Grg Door, svcs	.....930.95
		SEIA Lnd Srvyrs, svcs	.....70.00
		Staples, splys	.....1770.76
		Stryker Sales, equip	.....342.00
		S Stuart, exps	.....20.70
		N Sugars, exps	.....160.88
		Tallgrass Bus Rsr, splys	.....161.95
		Athletic Center, unif	.....110.00
		Treas St IA Off, svcs	.....13877.00
		Truck Repair, parts	.....5605.20
		US Cell, svcs	.....643.04
		VB Co Hosp, svcs10507.44
		West Pt Lmbr, splys3.00
		Windstream, svcs70.02
		R Wood, exps274.95



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From the Front

Board may give property another look

DENNING - Continued from Page 1

playground the Dennings put in are being phased out.

“From day 1 it was always the intention of the state, and the conservation district to turn that area into a wildlife area,” Pollpeter said.

“We never wavered from that. We did our homework. We had the state historic preservation commission due extensive studies on the property. They were so thorough even the chicken coop was in that study.

“This is a clash of passions. They want barn and property restoration and we’ve always planned for wildlife restoration. If Eleanor had wanted that property restored, she shouldn’t have left it to the DNR.”

Pollpeter said the board, as well as the DNR, are excited for the project because it will be restoring the area the original natural state it was when settlers first came to this area.

But Phil Pietz said there

is money available to restore the barns and keep the historical significance.

“They are proposing to tear down barns and we didn’t know that,” Peitz said. “They said they were going to tear out the playground when said time comes. We’re a little upset by this because our kids played at the playground.”

Peitz said his investigation into the matter revealed the several supervisors and members of the conservation board weren’t completely aware of the plans.

“We feel there’s some heritage aspect to these, if not historical,” he said. “Some of those barns have been there for 80 years and one has been there closer to 150 years.”

Peitz said the Denning farm was one of the first two ever get a century farm award from the state.

He also said his research has shown that Eleanor

Denning spent \$90,000 of personal money to put in the playground for kids, and the conservation district has no plans to save it.

Pollpeter said the playground, also a recommendation from the DNR, will be kept on the property until it is no longer viable and then will be removed.

Phil’s wife Melissa said she looked back at past LCCB agendas and found discussion of the property in December of 2021 and in May and June where abatement contracts were being approved for removal of asbestos in the home on the property.

“So there was nothing mentioned as far as I see from a public perspective prior to Dec. 1 with regard to the demotion projects and bids,” she said.

Lee County Supervisor Matt Pflug said the issue may warrant additional discussion and investigation.

Brown credits much of his success to 4-H background

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

studied at Juilliard during the summers, called Joel’s mother. “Jody has quite a talent for music.”

That’s an understatement. Joel Brown received a BA in Music from Le-noir-Rhyne University at Hickory, North Carolina, where his father, aunt and a couple of cousins attended. He then went on to Indiana University where he received a Masters and Doctorate Degree in Music Pedagogy. He played once at Carnegie Hall. Unusual for an Appalachian farming community, most of Joel Brown’s family, and about half of the surrounding farmers, had college educations.

The Browns raised Jersey milk cows, and Joel credits much of his success and outlook on life to his time in 4-H where he rose to attend the National 4-H Congress in Chicago, and received a scholarship from the Oliver Tractor Corporation. His father was Outstanding Jersey Breeder of the Year, twice. Dr. Joel Brown is an odd combination of down-to-earth farmer and cerebral college professor.

He met his wife, Jill, through music. She has a degree in Elementary Education from Augustana University in Rock Island, and was in chorus when Joel was filling in for the music professor. Joel secured a position teaching music at Iowa Wesleyan College (it’s now a University) in Mt. Pleasant. Jill and Joel moved into a basement apartment close to campus and proceeded to have four beautiful girls: Kari, Erika, Aani, and Kirsten—Scandinavian names after Jill’s Norwegian and Swedish heritage. The four girls sing like Angels and look like Jill. Even though the elementary school was across the street, Jill home schooled the girls through the second grade.

Basement apartments of course aren’t big enough for a family of six. A friend of the Brown’s took Joel by the hand and showed him how to secure a FHA loan. The house next door belonged to the head of the music department at Iowa Wesleyan. When he retired, the Brown’s bought the house, moved in, and had room galore.

While walking to the car one day, Jill was having difficulty breathing and passed out. She was diagnosed with Primary Pulmonary Hypertension—her lungs weren’t supplying enough oxygen to her heart. She died on Labor Day, 2004, at the age of 55. Kari was in graduate school at Purdue. Erika was beginning her junior year at Augustana. The Browns had just taken Aani to Capital University in Columbus, Ohio to start her freshman year, and Kirsten was a junior in high school. Joel was a widower.

He survived. Joel handles his grief perhaps like orchestrating Bach’s Toccata and Fugue in D Minor—it’s okay to tear up, but life is still beautiful, so enjoy it. He has a lot to be thankful for. Instead of being able to show Jill a beautiful double rainbow, he can knock on the neighbor’s door and show them. He has six wonderful grandchildren and four son-in-laws who he really looks to as sons. His daughters are spread out over Kenosha, Wisconsin, Northern Chicago, and Brooklyn, New York. They have assured him that if he gets to the point where he needs care, he can live with them—three months here, three months there, and so on. Much of his life has been serendipitous, and he sees it continuing that way.

In 2014, Dr. Joel Brown had quadruple bypass surgery. But his heart is strong and he gets along fine. He has a bike he rides everywhere and loves to go on hikes and take pictures of sunsets and tree-lined trails. He posts the pictures on Facebook, especially for housebound friends who can’t get out. He prepares elaborate dinners for a close group of select friends. He believes the words of his good friend, Father Wayne Kamm, “We’re not human doers, we’re human beings. It’s more important how we are, not how we do.”

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