

SEE YOU TUESDAY: We're off for a quick weekend – enjoy yours!

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Thursday, April 7, 2022 | 11 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 71



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STEM night back at CL

Students at Central Lee work on a circuit board to a mini turbine as part of the Iowa Fertilizer Company's exhibit. The STEM Family Night was put on for the first time since the start of the pandemic with more than 150 students and 30 local businesses participating.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

FAMILY NIGHT: Families and students experience STEM lessons at Central Lee

BY PCC STAFF

DONNELSON — On Wednesday, April 5, Central Lee hosted its STEM Family Night for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The event featured exhibitors sprawled out across Central Lee High School, giving students and families opportunities to check out a wide range of activities and technologies. The event dovetails with the district's focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) across grade levels.

STEM Family Night was organized by Central Lee staff and students, with more than 30 local businesses and organizations participating. Over 150 students from Central Lee and area schools participated, interacting with exhibits like "droid soccer" and excavator simulations. The event also

included displays by Central Lee staff members, enhancing the connection between the event and the classroom.

"Pilot Grove Savings Bank has always valued the relationship between our local schools, community and businesses. STEM Family Night at Central Lee is a great example of these three entities coming together," said Matt Morrison, Senior Vice President at Pilot Grove Savings Bank. "Promoting STEM is integral to the success of our future workforce in Lee County. We enjoyed meeting with the kids to show them some of the skills needed to be successful in our profession. We are proud to be part of the event and were most impressed with the students' participation."

"Since our initial groundbreaking, Iowa Fertilizer Compa-

See STEM, page 3

CITY COUNCIL

City to market properties to highest bidder

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The city of Fort Madison is looking to deal on about eight properties in town, three of which officials are hoping to see some business development on.

At Tuesday's meeting of the Fort Madison City Council, City Clerk Melinda Blind said the city has some properties it is looking to divest itself of and the properties will be put up for bid on the city's "The city has some properties we need to sell. We've done up little flyers and they will be listed on the city website. We have signs that will be placed in the yards, too," she said.

The properties for sale are at 2614

See LOTS, page 7

COMPETITION

County Robotics team gets Rookie of the Year award

FORT MADISON – The Lee County Robotics team competed at the FIRST Robotics Regional Competition on March 23rd at the UNI-Dome in Cedar Falls, and came home with Rookie Team of the Year honors.

More than 2,000 students from 7 states representing 45 teams came to compete in this year's regional event. The Lee County rookie team competed against 45 other teams from across the Midwest. During the two-minute and 30-second matches, two team alliances operate robots built by the students. The robots complete a series of tasks designed for the competition that gain the alliances' points.

This year's challenge is called Rapid

See ROBOTICS, page 6

AMERICA RESCUE PLAN

State puts \$100M in "Destination Iowa" program

DES MOINES – Gov. Reynolds today announced a \$100 million investment to bolster the quality of life in Iowa's communities and attract visitors and new residents to the state. The new effort, called Destination Iowa, will provide grants to help communities move forward on trans-

formational, shovel-ready attractions. Cities, counties, nonprofits and other organizations can apply for Destination Iowa grants from four separate funds: Economically Significant Development, Outdoor Recreation, Tourism Attraction, and Creative Placemaking.

"Communities in all corners of the state are creating unique destinations that give visitors a reason to explore and residents a reason to stay," said Gov. Reynolds. Destination Iowa will

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WEATHER

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THU 07 Apr.....Light Rain, 45° F/ 37° F
FRI 08 Apr.....Rain & Snow, 41° F/ 34° F
SAT 09 Apr.....Partly Cloudy, 52° F/ 31° F

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For the Record/Scene Around the Area



Courtesy Photo

Representatives with Whitetails Unlimited donate \$5,000 to the Young Guns shooting team at the Tri-County Chapter of Whitetails Unlimited's annual dinner in March.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

04/04/22 - 3:08 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 4500 block of Avenue O.

04/04/22 - 6:36 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested a 17-year-old male juvenile, of Fort Madison, in the 1600 block of 20th Street, on charges of 1st offense OWI and 1st offense trespassing. He was released to his parents.

04/04/22 - 7:20 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit & run in the 1000 block of Avenue D.

04/04/22 - 7:45 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Mitchell Cary Pfeifer, 55, Burlington, no location given, on a charge of driving while barred. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

04/05/22 - 7:20 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1000 block of Avenue D.

04/05/22 - 11:22 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1700 block of 35th Street.

Lee County Sheriff Report

04/04/22 - 9:08 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident at Hwy. 218 and 255th Street where a semi-trailer had gotten stuck trying to navigate a u-turn. Another semi-trailer got stuck trying to take a private drive around the incident. No one was injured in either incident and property owners were contacted

regarding the damage. No citations were reported.

04/05/22 - 3:48 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Ryan Thomas Lilly, 23, of Burlington at the South Lee County Courthouse on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

04/05/22 - 4:44 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Lacey Nicole Johnson, 41, of Quincy, in at Hwy. 218 and 170th Street on a charge of possession of a controlled substance - marijuana.

04/05/22 - 5:42 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Donald Edward Clifford, 57, Fort Madison, in the 1500 block of Pilot Grove Road in West Point, on a charge of 4th degree theft. He was released on a promise to appear.

04/05/22 - 9:18 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Joshua James Brown, 32, of Keosauqua, at the south Lee County Courthouse on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Those listed above are charged with a suspicion of a crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison

Fire & Rescue Report

04/03/22 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call.

04/04/22 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to five medical calls and three assists.

04/05/22 - Fort Madison Firefighters had no report.

FM boys fall to BHS in tennis opener

BY PCC SPORTS

BURLINGTON - Fort Madison is missing some leadership on the tennis courts this year.

After losing Jason and Vasin Thurman, who anchored the squad last year, to graduation the Bloodhounds will scramble for wins with an inexperienced squad that was downed 7-0 at Burlington Monday night.

Tateum Schelich lost at No. 1 to Burlington's Tyce Bertloshofer 0-6, 2-6 and Aleister Raines fell to Rich

Bleisner 0-6, 1-6 at No. 2.

James Janic lost to Hunter Ford at No. 3 singles 0-6, 0-6. Gavin Blindt and Jed Bruster were also shut out at Nos. 4 and 5 singles.

The Hounds got their best performance of the night in doubles play when Janic and Blindt took the Grayhounds' Hunter Ford and Mason Rachowicz to 5-7 in the second set after being shut out 0-6 in the first.

Schelich and Raines lost at No. 1 singles to Bertloshofer and Bleisner 1-6, 1-6.

The Hounds travel to Mt. Pleasant on Thursday.

Central Lee boys get first win of year over Sigourney

DONNELSON - Central Lee got in the win column Tuesday night to start the year with a 3-1 win over Sigourney-Keota at home.

Ayden Kent got the Hawks on the board early with an unassisted goal at the 34:36 mark of the first half. Javier Guevara doubled things up on Sigourney with a penalty kick for a goal just two minutes later at 32:26.

The two would battle scoreless the rest of the first half.

Central Lee's Dante Merschman started almost exactly where the Hawks did in the first half taking a ball from Ayden Krehbiel at 36:41 in the second half and slipping it into the net to make it 3-0. Sigourney would get on the board with 9:41 left in the game with its only goal.

Jacob Vollmer had five saves in the net for the Hawks who start the year 1-0 (0-0 in SEI Superconference play).

The Hawks take on defending Class 1A champs Burlington Notre Dame at 7 p.m. Thursday in Donnellson.

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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

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Sports/From the Front

Central Lee girls start season 3-0

Stadham scores two goals off the bench to lead Lady Hawks

BY PCC SPORTS

WEST BRANCH – The Central Lee girls are off to a strong start to the soccer season moving to 3-0 with a shut out at West Branch Monday night.

Sophomore Aubree Boyd led the Lady Hawks with a goal on four shots and two assists, as Central Lee rolled to a 5-0 shutout.

Boyd is fifth in the state in the early going with four assists and is tops with two penalty kick attempts.

Lakyn Stadham was a perfect two-for-two shooting with two goals, while Kylie Davidson and Addy Brumble each had goals for Central Lee.

Makayla Morrison peppered West Branch's goalie with eight shots on goal, but couldn't get any across the line.

Bailey Schwartz had six saves in preserving the shut out.

"The girls played some great soccer tonight. They are getting better every game and it's so much fun to watch," said Head Coach Antonio Estrada.

"I believe the communication on the field this year

has really helped them play better and gain more confidence."

Stadham got into the game when Belle Tweedy had to come off the field at the 20-minute mark in the first half. Stadham then quickly got the Hawks on the board when she punched one in off an incoming corner kick from Boyd at the 19:20 mark.

The Boyd to Stadham connection paid off again four minutes later on another corner kick with 15:02 remaining in the first half.

Boyd scored the third goal on a free kick outside the 18-yard box with 23:08 left in the second half.

Kylie Davidson scored the fourth goal with 8:52 left in second half, and Brumble scored the fifth goal with 6:21 left in the game.

"Our defense stepped up again tonight. Getting another shut out has really bolstered their confidence. They really trust each other back there," Estrada said.

"Bailey Schwartz is always in the right spot at the right time. She such a natural goal keeper back there.

We are going to be really tested on Thursday when Notre Dame comes to our home."

The Lady Hawks have outscored their opponents 17-2 on the year and are 3-0 overall, 1-0 in SEI Super-conference.

Industries join family night at CL

STEM - Continued from Page 1

ny has consistently supported local organizations and programs that are driving community improvement throughout our home in southeast Iowa," said Mickey Mchale, Plant Manager at Iowa Fertilizer Company. "We were thrilled to participate in this year's Central Lee STEM Family Night, an amazing event where we were able to share our passion for STEM with south-east Iowa's future leaders, scientists and engineers."

STEM and workplace readiness continue to be a major point of focus for Central Lee, and the event offers another example of how the district prepares students for future careers.

"Tonight was an exciting event for our students. They spent two hours with various hands-on activities with our local businesses," said Angie Fransk, Central Lee curriculum director and lead organizer of the event. "Tonight was a great combination of learning, exploration and family involvement for our students."

Central Lee plans to host the STEM Family Night once every two years.

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we'll be right back!

Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Friday, April 8 through Tuesday, April 12 so we can enjoy some family time. The e-Edition will resume Wednesday, April 13. Thanx for reading!

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From the Front

City hopes properties get rehabbed

LOTS - Continued from Page 1

and 2618 Avenue O, a block and a half south of Hy-Vee; 2715 Avenue O, which is one block to the west; 1301 Avenue I, a half-block southwest of the Daily Democrat; 1410 and 1412 Avenue E; and 1713 and 1715 Avenue H.

Blind said the city is using a process that Burlington uses to move city property into the hands of developers.

“We will put a minimum bid on it and people can come in and fill out a form and then turn it in. Then the bid comes before the city council where the mayor can use his gavel,” Blind said.

She said bidders will have to be responsible citizens without any reports of nuisance properties in their name. The city will list the properties on the website where they will stay until someone shows interest in it.

She’s already had calls from interested parties about city properties that might be for sale.

“Hopefully, we might see some changing of the hands on these.”

There are also three other properties that are being advertised for development proposals.

Those three are located at 1320, 1324, and 1328 Avenue H which is property across from River City Motors Plus on Business 61.

City Building Director Doug Krogmeier said the city would like to see some business development instead of solely housing replenishment.

“Some we’re going to treat a little differently. I don’t want to just see a house go up on it. We’ll try to work with somebody for a business. Something that will be of benefit to others,” Krogmeier said.

Blind said the city can create an agreement with anyone who purchases the property to rehabilitate it.

“The people come in and they agree for \$500 they buy the property – they come in and fix it up – get permits and Doug comes in (to inspect) and they have a certain time frame to do this. Hopefully we’ll get more properties taken care of this way,” Blind said.

County team does well at Robotics regional at UNI

ROBOTICS - Continued from Page 1

React, and the robots work to place “cargo” balls into upper and lower hubs. Then, before the timer runs out, the robot must hang on a bar in the team’s “cargo bay.”

The team is a joint effort of Lee County EDG and the three school districts in the county, Central Lee, Fort Madison, and Keokuk. Through the FIRST Robotics Competition, students learn valuable skills such as teamwork, basic mechanics, computer coding, troubleshooting, leadership, and problem-solving.

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Iowa looks to capitalize on record tourists

FUNDS - Continued from Page 1

help more communities across the state move forward in their efforts to boost tourism and economic growth while enhancing the quality of life for Iowans.”

While Iowa saw a record number of Iowans and out-of-state travelers utilizing outdoor amenities such as state and county parks and recreational bike trails over the last two years, the hospitality industry in the State of Iowa experienced a 46.1% decrease in employment and there was an overall 29% decline in visitor spending as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Destination Iowa will provide new opportunities to create and invest in attractions that will raise Iowa’s profile, welcome out-of-state travelers, and increase visitor spending while accelerating tourism’s recovery. It will also spur local economies and contribute to efforts to recruit new members of Iowa’s work-

force.

Iowa has led the way in elevating its already unmatched quality of life through significant state investments in child care, broadband, housing and commercial aviation infrastructure projects, as well as a significant investment in the successful This Is Iowa ad campaign. This investment will build upon that momentum.

“Destination Iowa will inspire the kinds of attractions that Iowans take pride in and that will raise the positive profile of our state well beyond our borders,” Gov. Reynolds said.

Applications will be accepted starting May 9. Funded projects must be completed by June 30, 2026. For more information on Destination Iowa, visit iowaeda.com/destination-iowa/. Funding is being made available through the federal American Rescue Plan Act.

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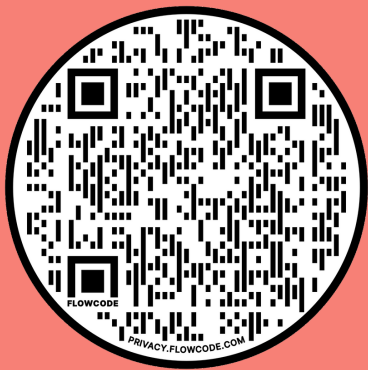
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United Way of the Great River Region



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

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

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

Waiver & release must be signed before play begins.

Lunch at 11:00 am.

Shotgun start at 12:00 Noon.

Sponsor Name: _____

Team Name (if different from 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.****

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United Way of the Great River Region



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

Golf Outing Sponsorship Opportunities

There are many sponsorship opportunities available. Feel free to mix and match. Have questions?
Contact Karen at United Way of the Great River Region at 319-524-4504.

- Corporate Sponsor—\$1000** Maximize your sponsorship with the first deadline of **Monday, March 21, 2022**. Some advertising will already be done before the second deadline of **Monday, April 11, 2022**. Includes name & logo on advertising, banner hung at the golf course, hole sponsor sign, opportunity to be at the golf course to market to players, can have a four person golf team but not required. Please provide a jpeg file of your logo to the United Way. Use team registration page if entering a team in.
- Hospitality Sponsor—\$300** Deadline **Friday, April 29, 2022**. Includes name & logo on beverage carts, at the buffet line and throughout the golf course. Please provide a jpeg file of your logo to the United Way.
- Hole Sponsor—\$100** Deadline **Monday, April 25, 2022**. Includes sign by green and opportunity to be at your green to market to players. Please provide a jpeg file of you logo to the United Way.
- Team Sponsor—\$400** **See team registration page.** Deadline **Monday, April 25, 2022**. Includes: cart, lunch, free soda & water, snacks, 2 mulligans/golfer & 5 drink tickets/golfer (drink tickets not good for mixed drinks)

If you wish to be invoiced, please contact Karen Siefken at the United Way office at 319-524-4504.

Be sure to check the box by the sponsorship you are interested in.
If you are sponsoring a team, please use the team registration page.

For Corporate, Hospitality or Hole Sponsorship please email a jpeg file of your logo to director@unitedwaygrr.org on or before the appropriate deadline.

Sponsor Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____