SPORTS: COVID forces cancellation of Macker 3-on-3 tourney • See page 4

PEN CITY CURF It's Black & White and Read all over

Monday, May 18, 2020 | 8 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 100

Cities to present EMS case

SUPERVISORS: Keokuk, FM, and Lee County EMS to detail proposal

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - County officials will hear for the first time, officially anyway, detailed proposals from two groups offering to provide ambulance services to the county starting in July.

At Tuesday's regular board meeting of the Lee County Supervisors, Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren and Keokuk Fire Chief Gabe Rose are scheduled to present a joint proposal under each city's license to offer services to the county.

Following that proposal Lee County EMS Ambulance will give it's first proposal to the board since asking for a bump in the county's contribution back in January to an even \$500,000.

🔰 FI 🖸 🖗 🔯

The board also has an agenda item to consider approval of ambulance service beginning July 1.

The meeting will be held via teleconference beginning at 9 a.m. The public can access the meeting by dialing 1-872-240-3412 and using access code 156-009-109.

At a January meeting, Lee County EMS director Bill Young said the ambulance service would need another

See COUNTY, page 8



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Central Lee 2020 graduate Adam Boeck waves to the Donnellson crowd as they pass down Main Street Sunday evening. The senior class took a parade through Montrose and Donnellson shortly after a virtual graduation ceremony was released digitally. The school is still hoping for an outdoor ceremony in June.





EMP

NEST

By Curt Swarm

Memoir shows brothers trails, trials

He was eight years old when he came west in a covered wagon from Ohio with his family—his father and mother, two brothers, two sisters, and a two year old nepheweight in all. Cholera had nearly wiped out the village in which they lived. "The people were frightened beyond measure....A person would be in good health one day and die the next....We heard a great deal at that time about the wonderful prairies of Iowa, their wealth of soil, and the opportunities offered to make a home and fortune," writes William S. Browning in his 20-page memoir, copied and sent to me by his Great Great Niece, Jeanine Owens of rural Oskaloosa.

The family's trip west was fair except for almost losing their lives in a prairie fire in Illinois. But they survived and crossed the Mississippi River by ferry at Burlington. Never had young Will seen so much wildlife: deer, turkey, prairie chickens, ducks, geese and sandhill cranes.

"A plank road had just been completed as far west as Mt. Pleasant, so we traveled on this road until we came to New London." They settled on 80 acres, four miles north of New London, and bought a yoke of oxen to break the virgin prairie.

After a year, they bought a 160 acre farm southeast of Winfield. Winfield consisted of "three houses and barely a dozen people" at the time—1856.

In 1858, Will and his brother, Frank, took a load of grain to Mt. Pleasant in a wagon

COUNCIL PREVIEW

City to use more water quality funds on parking lots

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - City officials are allocating \$121,000 to design plans for the reconstruction of the city parking lot at Avenue H and 8th Street, as well as the small parking lot in front of City Hall off Avenue E. The money comes from a portion of a Sponsored Project Fund that holds \$1.6 million. The fund represents the interest paid on the city's Waste Water Treatment Plant projects. The state refunds the interest the city paid on loans to do the WWTP projects, but the money has to be earmarked for water quality improvement projects.

A similar project to redo the park-

See LOTS, page 5

pulled by oxen. On their return trip they were caught in a terrible rain storm and could not see. It was getting dark and they gave the oxen their head, hoping the oxen would find their way home. Wolves howled behind them. At dawn, cold and wet, the boys found themselves up against a fence, about a mile from home. They turned the oxen loose on the prairie and swam a rain

See SWARM, page 5

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WEATHER

MON 18 May	Overcast. 58.7° F/ 53.1° F	<u></u>
TUE 19 May		
WED 20 May		
	0 1010000, 0012 1 1 0 111 1	

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 05/16	. 8 14 25 29 49, Star Ball: 8, All Star Bonus: 5
PICK 3 05/16 EVENING	
PICK 4 05/16 MIDDAY	
PICK 4 05/16 EVENING	2421
POWERBALL 05/16	8 12 26 39 42, Powerball: 11, Power Play: 2

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

CARL W. MOELLER

Carl W. Moeller, 75, of Fort Madison, Iowa formerly of Houghton, passed away at 4:58 P.M. Friday May 15, 2020 at his home.

Born November 21, 1944 at Fort Madison, Iowa the son of Leo G. and Marie A. (Pollmiller) Moeller.



Survivors include two sisters: Martha Ann (Robert) Stuecker of West Point and Jane Meyer of Davenport. Two brothers: Richard (Mary Ann) Moeller of Salem and Ralph (Patti) Moeller of Alexandria, Virginia. Also surviving are several nieces, nephews, cousins and his caregivers: Kim, Sheila, Mardeema, Kassie, April, Olive and Devin.

MOFUER

He was preceded in death by his parents and one infant brother.

Carl was a member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Houghton. He enjoyed cats, dogs and watching T.V.

A private family funeral service will be held on Tuesday May 19, 2020 at the Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point with Fr. Bruce DeRammelaere officiating.

Burial will be in the St. Johns Cemetery in Houghton.

A memorial has been established for St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and may be mailed to Schmitz Funeral Home P.O. Box 22 West Point, Iowa 52656.

LILLIAN RENEE LYNN EID

Lillian Renee Lynn Eid was stillborn at 9:18 pm Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at Great River Medical Center, West Burlington, Iowa. She was the daughter of Christopher and Natalie (Bumgardner) Eid and the sister of Dayton Bumgardner and Alexander Eid. She is also survived by her grandmothers, Rochelle Johnston and Trudy Eid, both of Fort Madison; great grandmothers, Janice Fritz of Burlington, Iowa and Sheryl Eid of Fort Madison; aunts and uncles: Cory (Brandi) Eid, Sonja Eid (Roger Schneider), Jonathan Eid, Cheyanne (Cody) Anderson, Ryne (Cassie) Eid, Max (Christina) Bumgardner, Jason (Heather) Bumgardner, Stephanie Gibson, and Heather Gibson (Matthew Parizek); great aunts and uncles, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her grandfathers, Larry Bumgardner and Kevin Eid; great grandparents; great aunt Patricia Peck, and cousin Sela Gibson.

Lilly's parents invite you to join them between 1:00 - 2:30 pm Monday, May 18, 2020 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Eid family and an online guest book may be found Catholic Church and may be mailed to Schmitz Funeral Home P.O. Box 22 West Point, Iowa 52656.

VOTE FEDLER JUNE 2



I have served as supervisor of the 1st district for over 7 years, helping existing business grow and bringing in new business that helps keep your taxes lower than they would be. I'm committed to continuing to work for the people of the 1st district, so I would appreciate your vote in the June primary. Thank You, Ron Fedler

Paid for by Ron Fedler for Supervisor



OBITUARIES

FRANCIS J. SARTORY

Francis John "Frank" Sartory, 69, of Keokuk, died Sunday, May 17, 2020 at his daughter's home in Keokuk.

He was born on August 7, 1950 in Keokuk, IA, the son of James H. and Lucille



Oakleaf Sartory. He graduated from Warsaw High School in Warsaw, IL with the Class of 1969. He attended Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, IL.

Frank proudly served his country in the Iowa National Guard. On September 2, 1978, Frank was united in marriage to Jane A. McNally at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Keokuk. She survives.

SARTORY

He is also survived by his daughter, Andrea Sartory (Adam Bailey) of Keokuk, his son, David Sartory of Grinnell, IA, six grandchildren,

Jacob and Jonah Sartory of Ottumwa, IA, Stevie Harrison of Keokuk, IA, Lakin Bailey of Omaha, NE, Laurlai Bailey and Lydia Bailey both of Keokuk, his mother, Lucille Sartory of Warsaw, IL one sister, Nanette Wollbrink (Kent) of Macomb, IL, three sisters-in-law, Vicki Sartory of Fairview Heights, IL, Barb McNally of Keokuk and Mary Kay McNally of Quincy, IL and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father James Sartory and one brother, Victor Sartory.

Frank was a member of the All Saints Catholic Church in Keokuk.

He had been employed at Griffin Wheel in Keokuk for over twenty five years. Frank enjoyed fishing, rock collecting, birdwatching and listening to the radio. He was the king of doodling. He was an enthusiastic fan of the Kansas City Chiefs, St. Louis Cardinals and NASCAR. He loved his dog, Tallulah, who was his baby and constant companion. Frank was devoted to his family and loved spending time with his wife and children. They made several memorable family vacations to Disney World. He especially loved being a grandpa and cherished the time he was able to spend with his grandchildren.

There will be no services at this time. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to St. Vincent's Catholic School in Keokuk.

Welcome (back) 🕯

The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

> We are honored to be joined by Dr. Courtney on June 1, after more than three decades of private practice. Dr. Courtney will be seeing patients at our Fort Madison Family Dentistry West office. Call 319-372-4882 for your appointment.

POTHITAKIS DENTISTRY www.DrMarkDDS.com

It's Black & White and Read all over

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Local News/Sports

Police urge caution during Memorial Dayweekend

FORT MADISON – Memorial Day is a day that has been designated to honor our deceased Veterans and loved ones. It is also a day in which many want to 'kick off' the first day of the summer season. There will be many traveling over the roads to visit with friends and family, as we continue to social distance.

Memorial Day weekend is statistically known as one of the most dangerous times for traveling, due to the high volume of vehicles on the roads. Knowing these dangers probably will not deter you from driving to your holiday celebrations. There will be many who will not take safety measures and will drive when intoxicated or drive while texting or using other electronic devices. Call a designated driver if you have been drinking and if you need to tell your relatives you are running late, pull over.

We continue to see a spike in drunk-driving accidents every year. In order to make Iowa roads safer all across the state, law enforcement officers will especially be watching for drunk drivers and vehicle occupants not wearing seat belts.

The Fort Madison Police Department along with the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau asks that all people drive in a safe and defensive manner. From our point of view, it is better to get to your destination safely without being another statistic.

Drinking alcohol and driving do NOT mix. If you plan on consuming alcohol, you should also plan on NOT getting behind the wheel of a vehicle. Sometimes just that one extra drink can be too many. When going out, always have a designated sober



Thank you to all our customers who worked to reduce their environmental footprint last year. We look forward to helping you continue your efforts and to educating our communities on more ways to help this year.

Here are just a few ways you can help:

- Don't put plastic bags in recycling bins
- Rinse & clean all food jars & cans before recycling
- Flatten empty boxes for better storage & volume reduction
- Place all recyclables loose in bins

driver or alternative transportation, such as a cab, to get everyone home safely.

Plan a safe way home BEFORE the festivities begin Designate a sober driver. Give them the keys

Any question of sobriety, call a taxi, public transportation, or a sober friend to drive you or anyone who may be impaired, home.

If you see a possible drunk driver on the road, contact your local law enforcement officials

During this warm summer weekend, Law Enforcement Officers throughout the State of Iowa will be out enforcing Iowa's seat belt, drinking and texting laws, as well as all other traffic laws, in order to ensure a safe driving holiday.

The Fort Madison Police Department wishes everyone a safe and festive weekend.

Macker 3-on-3 canceled

BURLINGTON – It is with regrets that the Greater Burlington Convention & Visitors Bureau (a division of the Greater Burlington Partnership) has made the difficult decision to cancel the Gus Macker tournament scheduled for August 1 – 2, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The health and safety of the players, volunteers, sponsors, and spectators will always be the highest priority. In addition to the unknowns due to the global health crisis, the long-term financial ramifications were also considered in this decision.

Greater Burlington had the privilege of hosting the Gus Macker 3-on-3 basketball tournament in 2018 and 2019. Each tournament hosted 100s of players and thousands of fans along the Mississippi Riverfront for the 2-day event.

"Cancelling the Gus Macker tournament was a really difficult decision for staff and board members. I really respect the process the CVB Steering Committee walked through to make this decision," stated Chelsea Lerud, Executive Director Greater Burlington Convention & Visitors Bureau. "The Gus Macker event has been really fun to host in the community the last two summers and has been a great way to bring the community together, along with attracting visitors. The participants, spectators, volunteers, and officials will be missed."





- Don't recycle wrapping paper
- Properly dispose of all electronics and household hazardous waste



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From the Front

Council to consider mayoral appointments to boards

LOTS - Continued from Page 1

ing lot behind City Hall at 8th Street and Avenue D, and the city lot at 8th Street and Avenue F at a cost of about \$552,000 has already been approved. An additional \$1,048,000 is still available.

The city will vote on a professional services agreement for the work with HR Green out of Cedar Rapids not to exceed the \$121,000 at Tuesday's regular City Council meeting.

The meeting will be held again via teleconference. The public can access the meeting by calling 312-626-6799 and entering the meeting ID 86106948053 when prompted.

The four lots being reconstructed will include permeable pavers that allow rain water to seep through the surface into a subsurface of rock and sand and will help reduce the amount of storm water runoff into the city's sanitary sewer line.

The funds can only be used for projects approved by the Iowa Department of Natural Resource and are specific to water quality improvement.

In an unrelated item, the council will consider a separate professional service agreement with Stanley Consultants, Inc., out of Muscatine for engineering services on the relocation of a sanitary force main near Henry Ladyn Drive on Highway 61.

That agreement is not to exceed \$35,340. According to a report from Public Works Director Mark Bousselot, that main needs relocated because the Iowa Dept. of Transportation is designing a ramp from 260th Street to southbound Highway 61 to help Siemens-Gamesa have easier access to the highway when transporting wind blades.

The project is reimbursable by the state because the sewer line is on private property.

In other action, the council will:

• consider budget amendments for the 2019-2020 fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

• consider a first reading of an ordinance amending the city's traffic code, regarding speeding, traffic regulations, turning and other regulations, and equipment.

• approve the final reading of an ordinance rezoning Avenue J from 2324 to 2332 from single-family to a Highway Business district.

• consider the appointments of Tom Pollpeter, Kathy Burkhardt and Anne Heitz to the city's Library Board, Susan Pieper to the Parks Board and Thomas Gregory to the Historic Preservation Commission.

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Brothers fought in Civil War battles together

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

swollen creek to make it home as their parents were getting up.

When the Civil War broke out, Will's brother, Frank, enlisted in the 4th Iowa Volunteer Cavalry at Camp Harlan-McKean, just west of Mt. Pleasant. He was wounded and taken prisoner, but later exchanged and returned to his unit. Will enlisted in 1862, in the 25th Regiment, Iowa Volunteers, Company B, under the command of Mt. Pleasant residents: Captain, Allison Smith; First Lieutenant, J.B. Ritner; Second Lt., S.L. Steel; and Sergeant, B.H. Crane. Will's regiment was composed of ten companies of one hundred men each, under the command of Colonel George A. Stone of Mt. Pleasant. Shipped off to Helena, Arkansas, they met up with the 4th Iowa Cavalry, which included Will's brother, Frank.

Will fought in Sherman's Army and was involved in the infamous "March to the Sea." All-in-all, he fought in 20 battles and sieges, including the Battle of Vicksburg; Champion Hills; Jackson, Mississippi; Corinth; Lookout Mountain ("Battle of the Clouds"); Mission Ridge; Dalton Ridge (J.B. Ritner, now a captain, was severely wounded); Battle of Resacca, Georgia; the Capture of Atlanta, Savannah and Columbia (which burned); Bentonville; Ringold; Goldsboro; and Raleigh. While at Raleigh, the sad news of Abraham Lincoln's assassination was received which grieved even the Confederate Soldiers for they thought they would be given better terms of surrender under President Lincoln.

More than half-a-million men were killed in the Civil War. Of Company B, eight were killed in battle, 15 died of disease, and 10 were wounded. The deceased included Marion Swinford, Jake Whippo, and Jim Stockton of Mt. Pleasant. Will's bunk mate, C.W. Payne, carried their regiment flag for the duration of the war. That flag, full of bullet holes, is on display at the State Historical Building in Des Moines.

If you would like a copy of William S. Browning's 20-page memoir, you may contact his Great Great Niece, Jeanine Owens by email at <u>jeanine.e.owens@gmail.com</u>.

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

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIED

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE **BOARD OF TRUSTEES** OF THE WEST POINT UTILITY SYSTEM WEST POINT, IOWA May 12th, 2020

The West Point Municipal Utility System Board of Trustees met in regular session at, West Point City Hall, West Point, Iowa 52656 on May 12th, 2020. Board Chairman Randy Welding presided and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Board Members Ted Vonderhaar and Board Member Brian Schmitz were present. Along with Utility Administrator Dennis Mc Gregor and Utility Billing Clerk Dawn Holtkmap.Tentative agenda was approved by consensus. Status of delinquent accounts was discussed and considered by Board Members in detail. Field operations report, as prepared by Utility Superintendent, was discussed by Board Members in detail. Motion was made by Board Member Ted Vonderhaar and seconded by Board Member Brian Schmitz for approval of application with the Windstream boring project change running along the right of way that goes east and west between Fairlane and lowa Joe streets from 6th to 8th street. Approval was made by Board Member Brian Schmitz and seconded by Board member Ted Vonderhaar for Utility Administrator Dennis McGregor to move forward by making an offer on the 2020 Ford

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AGE.....25.68

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VAN METER INC. - BAL-

LASTS218.33

MEETINGS......145.00

MEETINGS......212.50

.....2,368.31

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WELDING, RANDY -

IOWA - INSURANCE

US POSTAL SERVICE -

SUN LIFE FINANCIAL -

TASCO - PAGER SER-

SONNY'S SUPERMAR-

SMITH, DIANE- MILE-

RATHBUN REGIONAL

WATER - WATER PUR-

RESALE POWER

GROUP OF IOWA -

WHOLESALE ELEC

SCHMITZ, BRIAN-

MEDIACOM - TELE /

WEST POINT UTILITIES - UTILITY CHARGES1,158.40

WEX BANK - GASOLINE WIEGARD, TED - ANNU-AL EXAM FY191,675.24

/s/ Randy Welding, Chairman Attest: Dawn M. Holtkamp, Billing & Collection

PUBLIC NOTICE Lee County Board of **Supervisors Meeting** Tue, May 19, 2020 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CDT)

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global.gotomeeting. com/install/156009109 **Denise Fraise Lee County Auditor**

Pledge of Allegiance Approve Agenda 9:01 a.m. Public Hearing for Budget Amendment

Consider Approval of **Resolution Amending** FY20 County Budget Consider Approval of **Resolution Amending** Appropriations for FY20 County Budget

Public Input Approve Saturday, May 9 and Tuesday, May 12, 2020 Board Minutes

Presentation of Plan for Ambulance Service from Fort Madison and Keokuk

Presentation of Plan for Ambulance Service from Lee County EMS

Consider Approval of Ambulance Service Beginning July 1, 2020 Consider Approval of

Claims **Consider Approval**

of Amendment to 28E Agreement with Central Lee Community School District for School Resource Officer Program

Consider Appointment of Weed Commissioner **Consider Approval** of Second Reading of Amended ATV Ordinance Consider Approval of Class C Liquor License for Papa's Bar and Grill, Keokuk

Consider Approval of Class C Liquor License for Fat Jimmy's Smoke House, Montrose Reports:

A. Recorder's Report of **Fees Collected** B. Sheriff's Monthly Report

Commission or Committee Reports Adjourn

Workshop to Follow

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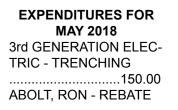


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Board Chairman was reported on the following: The next regular Utility System Board Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, June 9th, 2020 at West Point City Hall 5:30 p.m. and is open to the public. On motion, minutes of prior regular meeting of April 12th, 2020 was approved. On motion, approved warrants payable for May 2020 as presented. On motion, meeting adjourned at 6:10p.m., May 12th, 2020.





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From the Front

Lee County EMS to go in front of supervisors

COUNTY - Continued from Page 1

\$79,000 in the next contract, which is in addition to the \$421,000 subsidy the service was already getting.

Since that time the county put another \$36,000 into the service's payroll for a total of approximately \$457,000 in the current year.

Shortly after the county gave the extra funds to the ambulance company, word got out that the service wouldn't be extending their contract beyond June 30. The new contract is set to begin July 1.

After several conversations between the ambulance company and county officials, Lee County EMS's investor group said they would need \$900,000 according to a proposal submitted in April.

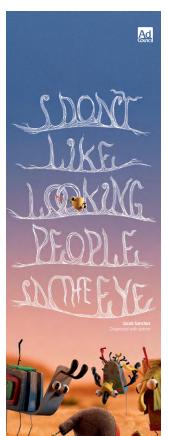
The group cited declining revenues, increasing costs, the coronavirus pandemic, and private and public insurance reimbursements, as reasons for the increased amount.

Supervisor Gary Folluo said at one point the request was closer to \$1 million annually to continue the service.

The investment group, comprised mainly of the Young family, has not commented publicly on the ambulance crisis, or their current proposal. But Lee County EMS staffers have been very vocal about the county staying with a local provider.

Last year the company billed \$2.4 million, but had to write off \$1.1 million under bad debt, contractual write offs, non-billable transports, no estates, and collection fees. The revenue shortfalls led to issues with the IRS. The company also had a list of issues noted in the county's 2019 state audit regarding deficient financial records.

When Lee County EMS hinted at not renewing a contract, the county reached out to Keokuk and Fort Madison to see if they could provide service or financial support to keep the service running.





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Herren provided a joint proposal from Keokuk and Fort Madison fire departments to provide the service, but it would cost the county close to \$2 million annually while the program got started.

The cities would each cover half the county, but without any ambulances, staff or equipment, the cities would need capital outlay from the county, in addition to at least one loan. Herren said the county's contribution would likely go down as the services got up and running.

He said the ambulance services would be entitled to some public gap funding after two years, which could bring the cost down significantly.

The other twist will be whether legislators take up a bill aimed at classifying ambulance services as essential services, when they resume the session delayed by the coronavirus. If the governor were to sign such a bill, the county would be able to assess a tax countywide that would help cover the annual shortfalls of ambulance services.

Herren said the Keokuk and Fort Madison proposals are technically separate because they wouldn't be able to operate under the same licensing because they are two separate entities. However, a 28E agreement similar to agreements already in place for aid calls between the departments would pull the two groups together.

On Wednesday, national ambulance provider American Medical Response pulled their proposal, which was for \$450,000 annually, off the table after heavy public criticism and intense questioning from some county officials.

- In other action at Tuesday's meeting, the board will consider:
- resolutions amending the current fiscal year budget and appropriations
- appointing a weed commissioner

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• approve a second reading of an amendment to an ordinance that would remove golf carts from the definition of an ATV/UTV.





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