

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Wednesday, June 22, 2022 | 10 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 113



www.pencitycurrent.com

Hardware fixture retires



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Building Materials' sales and service rep Paul McKoon answers a customer's questions under a sign marking his Wednesday retirement from the company after 47 years.

RECEPTION: Building Materials to host reception Wed. from 10 to 3 for McKoon

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Paul McKoon can tell some stories about four and half decades as a customer service rep at what is now Building Materials, Inc. in Fort Madison.

The 47-year veteran is stepping aside from helping area families rebuild their homes, spruce up a kitchen or dining room, add windows, or replace a bathroom.

A retirement sign over his desk reads, "The Man, The Myth, The Legend."

He won't call himself an expert, but says he knows enough to maybe even be dangerous. One of his favorite stories is about a lady he was consulting with about restructuring her living area.

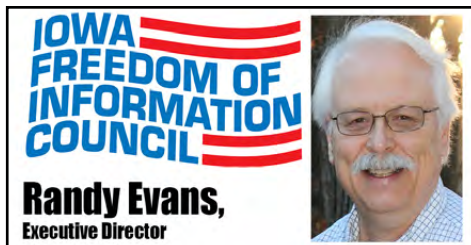
"She was talking about taking out a wall and I said we could take out this wall and brace it up there and there and put a beam across there, probably have to be three 2x12 and we'll probably have to have a couple double studs on both ends," McKoon remembered.

See MCKOON, page 2

RANDY EVANS

It's wrong to tell parents what their kids can and can't read

Here we are, well into year three of the effects and after-effects of Covid. An oft-heard comment during this time has come from people who believe government should simply butt out. These people believe government should leave it to individuals, and parents, to decide what is best for themselves and their children.



"I trust Iowans to do the right thing," Gov. Kim Reynolds has said multiple

times. But when other issues come up, there is evidence some of these same people want to impose their interpretation of what is right on other individuals and parents who may have different views from theirs of what is proper. While we may not live in the communities where these new controversies are

See EVANS, page 8

BANK ACQUISITION

Two Rivers buys Lee County Bank

BURLINGTON – Frank Delaney, Board Chair of Two Rivers Financial Group, Inc., announced it will expand its banking operations into Lee County as they have entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Lee County Bank with locations in Fort Madison and West Point, Iowa from Lee Capital Corp.

"With nearly 252 combined years of service and a shared commitment to community banking, Two Rivers Financial Group, Inc. and Lee County Bank are two organizations sharing the same customer-centric banking focus and compatible cultures," Delaney said.

"Two Rivers Financial Group, Inc. is pleased to expand our footprint to serve neighboring communities and customers."

See BANKS, page 8

MUSIC IN THE PARK

Switchback! opens Old Settler's park summer events

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The Old Settlers Association in Fort Madison will open their 21st season of "Music in the Park" featuring the duo of Martin McCormack and Brian FitzGerald ie: ("SWITCHBACK") on Friday, June 24th from 5 to 8 PM.

Like many other bands who make their living on the road, the last two years have been pretty tough for musicians. In the fall of 2019 Brian fractured his leg.

Just as they were getting back to work in the spring of 2020, the Covid pandemic closed everything down on St Patrick's Day.

The Irishmen have missed making music and are happy to meet and greet their

See OSA, page 4

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WEATHER

WED 22 Jun.....Warm & Rainy, 81° F/ 67° F
 THU 23 Jun.....Broken Clouds, 83° F/ 63° F
 FRI 24 Jun.....Light Rain, 84° F/ 65° F

OpenWeatherMap

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 06/20.....8 22 27 32 38, Lucky Ball: 12
 PICK 3 06/20 MIDDAY.....2 6 2
 PICK 3 06/20 EVENING.....2 7 1
 PICK 4 06/20 MIDDAY.....6 4 3 0
 PICK 4 06/20 EVENING.....2 6 3 0
 POWERBALL 06/20.....3 44 61 63 69, Powerball: 13 Power Play: 2

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From the Front

McKoon reception set for Wed. from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Building Materials

McKoon - Continued from Page 1

“And then she looked at me said ‘how do you know these things you didn’t go to school for these things’, I said, ‘Well, after two or three fall down you figure out what didn’t work.’ Her eyes got real big and we both started laughing.”

He said the industry and learning is trial and error and just being observant.

Customer service has been the mantra of his days and his success in helping people. A bit apropos as McKoon was talking in one direction, a customer left to his left and he just waved and said, “Thanks, Monica.”

“Thanks!” she replied without even looking up – the norm and not the exception in this hardware store.

A reception is being held on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Building Materials at 619 1st Street in Fort Madison with snacks and beverages.

Amy Merschman, who has owned the business with her husband Tom for the past 16 years, said Paul is almost irreplaceable. She said she hopes the house is packed. But McKoon had a quip.

“A lot of people have died in that time, so there may not be as many as you think,” he said with a laugh.

“Nothing lasts forever.”

Merschman said she was happy to get a two weeks notice, because she was afraid he was going to just decide one day it would be his last.

“Stopping Paul cold-turkey would have just been like...” Merschman said. “There’s going to be tears tomorrow anyway.”

McKoon had reduced his schedule to just two days for the past year and had slowly started shrinking the work week prior to that. He has joint family farming operations and said it will be nice to be able to check on the cattle in the daylight now.

His plans include working on smaller projects, continuing to help with the family ag businesses, and maybe squeezing in a little travel.

Merschman said she won’t find another Paul McKoon.

“I work with Paul sporadically, because I’ve only been here the last four years, but I would come down to visit. We’re going to miss him. His orneriness for sure. He’s invaluable and I was just teasing him about what he was going to do with all that knowledge in his head,” she said.

“He knows everything about everything. Tom asks him for advice. There’s never going to be another Paul. We wish we could clone him somehow,” she said.

“Unfortunately not everybody has that opinion,” McKoon said.

He said despite being in the same location for the past 47 years, he’s never really found the work mundane.

“There’s really a lot of variety here in what we do in the fact that once you do get started you are helping people and it’s a different situation every time,” he said. “If you put out the effort to work with their best interests at heart, as well as yours, and try to make the transaction more of a partnership and not just a one-sided deal, everyone comes out ahead. That feels good.”

McKoon said the company has always been very service-oriented and that was pounded into his head from the beginning.

“If the customer didn’t walk inside the door, then there’s no reason for us to be here. And if we don’t give the customer a reason to walk in the door, he may be here once, but he won’t be here twice.”

After a year of junior college, McKoon joined the lumberyard in October of 1947. Prior to that, he was a tag-a-long with family members on the way to the Storms and



Stiefel lumberyard, which was the early predecessor of Building Materials.

McKoon said his family is full of carpenters and the trades came easy to him. After junior college, he started picking up some spare jobs with his father and was in the lumberyard for some materials when Pat Koellner offered him a job.

He said a lumber broker, who would bring up lumber in railroad cars to disperse at smaller area lumber yards in the area, finally set up shop. The man’s daughter grew up and married Ray Stiefel and they started Storms and Steifel Lumber Yard.

A young man named Pat Koellner took a job at Storms and Steifel’s and had a lot of “moxie”, worked hard, and asked a lot of questions.

“When he came back from the service, he was able to get a partnership and then started Building Materials in 1946,” McKoon said. “He’s been the dominant force in making the company what it is today and keeping the company going some of those lean years.”

Koellner, at the time of his death, and Bill Merschman owned Lee County Bank.

McKoon said he has had very few thoughts about doing anything different considering his ties to the area and his family connections. He still lives in Nauvoo with family all over the region.

“I’m a homebody at heart, I guess. I’ve had family in Nauvoo in some form or another since the 1840s. It’s been a lot of family and friends over there. When I was kid growing up and did something in town, it was ‘Well, that’s Ed McKoon’s little boy Paul,’” McKoon said.

His father was city marshal in Nauvoo, and growing up in a small town is something that has always been a part of him.

“I like the small town, knowing people atmosphere. That’s one thing about Building Materials – most customers are repeat customers. We’ve got people who I sold materials to and 20 years later sold them another countertop and then 20 years sell them something else. It’s been a very comfortable family oriented atmosphere and it’s still that way.”



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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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Member LION Publishers

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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
P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Obituaries

OBITUARIES

LARRY E. HICKMAN



HICKMAN

Larry Eugene Hickman, 75 of Keokuk, IA died Monday, June 20, 2022 at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City, IA.

There will be no services.

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

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

RUTH E. HESTON



HESTON

Ruth Elinor Heston, 94 of Keokuk, IA passed away on Monday, June 20, 2022 at River Hills Village.

She was born on September 13, 1927 in Centerville, IA the daughter of Alfred O. and Amanda Gustafva Carlson Burkland.

The family moved to Keokuk in 1932. She graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 1945.

Ruth was united in marriage to Loren Gene Heston on November 4, 1948 in the First Christian Church in Roodhouse, IL. They were united in marriage by Reverend W.W. Williams, uncle of the groom.

They were married for sixty-five years.

She had been employed by Northwestern Bell Telephone Company for fifteen years until Keokuk went dial. She later worked at Keokuk Ferro Sil as a switchboard operator and receptionist for twenty-eight years, until her retirement in 1989.

Ruth was a lifelong member of First Lutheran Church and a member of the Naomi Circle. She taught Sunday School and Confirmation classes for many years and also served as Altar Guild Directress for a number of years.

Ruth Elinor is survived by her son, Mark Eugene Heston and loving daughter-in-law, Marie Ann of Keokuk. Additional survivors include a grandson, Brandon Michael Heston and twin great-grandsons, Dayton Allen and Dakota James Heston. She is also survived by a nephew, Bill Heston of Wheatland, MO and nieces, Lisa Bode and her husband, Darren of Keokuk, Linda Anderson and her husband, Rog of Greensboro, GA and Jan Stocks of Indio, CA. Also surviving are special second cousins, John Anderson of Santa Fe, New Mexico, David Louis and Ilene Merrick of Brookside, CO, Mrs. Ray (Jackie) Hoy of Toledo, OH and her sister, Mrs. Geoff (Linda) Anderson of Hammond, IN and one brother, Rick (Becky) Burkland of Udell, IA.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Loren on November 1, 2013. She was also preceded in death by her parents and numerous extended family members.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Monday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Pastor Rodney Underwood officiating. Burial will be in the Keokuk National Cemetery.

Visitation will be held prior to the service from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., Monday at the funeral home with family meeting with friends at that time.

In deepest gratitude, memorials may be given to First Lutheran Church or EveryStep Hospice of Mt. Pleasant, IA or River Hills Village.

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

Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

OBITUARIES

PAULETTE J. HEDGES



HEDGES

Paulette Joan Hedges, 70, of Rio Vista, Illinois, passed away Friday afternoon, June 17, 2022 at her home.

Paulette was born October 13, 1951 in LaHarpe, Illinois, the daughter of James A. and Pauline M. (Welborn) Hedges.

Paulette was a graduate of Highland Springs High School, Highland Springs, Virginia. She worked various jobs throughout her life. She was a member of the Pontoosuc Community Church. She loved her cats and dogs and especially loved her grandchildren.

Survivors include one son: Michael (Trish) Hedges of Niota, Illinois, two granddaughters: Halee Lucas and Hanna Hedges, three bonus grandchildren; two great-granddaughters: Azalea and Ellee, seven bonus great-grandchildren and two brothers: Robert Hedges of Niota and Stanley Hedges of Pontoosuc.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one grandson: Clayton James Hedges.

A graveside service will be held at 10:00 AM Friday, June 24, 2022 at Harris Cemetery, near Dallas City, with Pastor Joe Stewart officiating. A memorial fund has been established for her great-grandchildren. Banks & Beals Funeral Home of Dallas City is assisting the family.

To leave a condolence for the family, please visit Paulette's obituary at banksandbeals.com.

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PRIDE Festival – Beginning at 4 p.m. on Thursday, June 16, 7th Street from Avenue F to Avenue G will be closed off to celebrate a Fort Madison PRIDE festival. The event is free to the public and vendors and events are planned through 9 p.m.

Youth Fishing Clinic – The Lee County Conservation District is hosting a youth fishing clinic at Chatfield Park sponsored by LCCD and Lake Cooper Anglers Association. The event will be held Saturday, June 25th from 9 a.m. to noon and is free to Lee County children and will include games and prizes.

Fort Madison Farmer's Market – The summer farmer's market will once again be held in Central Park on the northeast corner from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The market is open Mondays beginning June 6th and runs through Sept. 26. New vendors are welcome and should call 319-372-5471 for details.

Downtown Summer Market – Classic cars, food vendors, service clubs and more take over downtown Fort Madison on July 7th 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. starting at 7th Street and Avenue G. The final downtown market will be held Thursday, Aug. 18th.

United Way of the Great River Region Golf Outing – This year's event has been rescheduled for Friday, Oct. 7 with a noon shotgun start. Contact the UWGRR at 319-524-5404 or director@unitedwaygrr.org for more information.

Fort Madison Downtown Clean-up – Volunteers are needed to help spruce up the city's downtown area before cruise ships start docking in FM for the summer. The clean up will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 23rd and is sponsored by the Fort Madison Beautification Foundation.

Show Choir Camp – A four-day camp from June 21-24

from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The camp is for students grades 7-12 and costs \$75 per student. Instructors include Anne Chapman, Taylor Stoddard and Jason Woodley with special guest clinician Allen Chapman. The camp is held at Union Presbyterian with a final performance June 24th at 6:30 p.m. in Central Park.

Adult Show Choir Camp – An Adult Showchoir camp will be held for the "advanced performer" from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. June 21-23. Cost is \$40 and payable to Tri-State Show Choir. A performance will be held June 24th in Central Park. Click here to register <https://files.constant-contact.com/5eb5be5c001/16a486e7-0fd8-4ce6-a451-b9d-9dc90809c.pdf>.

Knee-high Naturalist camp - Thursdays on June 9, 23, July 14, 28. Free series for campers 3 to 5 years old and accompanying adult from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. June camps will be held at Lee County Conservation Center at Heron Bend in Montrose. July camps will be held at Wilson Lake Park Shelter. Pre-registration is required at www.mycountyparks.com/County/Lee.aspx.

LCCD Summer camps - Camps are for K-1st, 2nd-5th, and 6th- 8th grades. Visit www.leeconomy.org/conservation for more information on times and dates for corresponding camps. Pre-registration is required at www.mycountyparks.com/County/Lee.aspx.

FMAAA Garden Tour – The annual Fort Madison Area Arts Association's annual Garden Tour is back sponsored by Scotts Miracle Gro. Six locations in and around Fort Madison are featured this year on June 26. Tickets are \$8 in advance of \$10 day of and can be purchased at FMAAA's art center at 825 Avenue G or the day of at the pocket park at 812 Avenue G.

Kids Art Camps – The Fort Madison Area Arts Association is hosting Kid's Art Camps this year. Ages 5-7 and 8-12. Age 5-7 camps are being held July 11 and 12th from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.. and cost \$70 per student. Ages 8-12 will meet July 13-15 from 9 a.m. to noon and the cost is \$100/student. Call 319-372-3996 for more information or email fortmadisonart@gmail.com.

Baxter Sports Complex Big Cups Golf Tourney – This year's event is scheduled for Friday, July 22 and is a 4-person best shot tourney at Sheaffer Golf Course. Contact the Sports Complex at 319-372-2932 or by email at baxter-sports@outlook.com.

sportsdirector@gmail.com.

Old Settler's "Music in the Park" – Three events are planned again this year for the summer music festival in Old Settler's Park. Switchback will play Friday, June 24th from 5 to 8 p.m. Richie Lee/50s will play Friday July 22 and River City 6 will perform Sunday, Aug. 21. The events are free, with food and cold drinks available for purchase. Rain location is FM United Methodist Church at 9th and Avenue

Art display set for Old Settler's June 25th

OSA - Continued from Page 1

many fans in Old Settlers Park (4th St. & Ave. E-Fort Madison). "Birds of Prey" and other CD's will be available, so you may want to bring some extra cash for a CD to enjoy at home. Old Settlers is also placing a "gift jar" on the merchandise table; all funds will go to the band.

"This concert is free to the public thanks to our local sponsors", states Sheryl Decker, Concert Coordinator.

"The Lions Club and OSA volunteers will be serving food and cold drinks at the Fahey shelter, and Dennis Seyb (Lee Co. Pork Producers) will be serving pork loin off the grill. Bring a lawn chair, find some shade, and enjoy an evening with SWITCHBACK! The rain location is at the FM United Methodist Church at 9th Street & Avenue E, Fort Madison.

Official sponsors of "MUSIC IN THE PARK 2022" are: Conagra Brands, Connection Banks & Ins., Jim /

Sheryl Decker, DuPont, Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, Jack & Jan Moore, Moudy & Sharon Nabulsi, Art & Kathy Nelson, Donald & Earleen Page, Pen City Current, Pilot Grove Banks, Seither & Cherry Co., Cindy & David Smallwood in Memory of Lilly Grace, United Food & Commercial Workers Local 617, Lex & Marie Whitcanack and Dan Willits. Other donations given to Old Settlers Association to support Music in the park are from Stan & Jane Haessig in Honor of the FMHS Class of 1967 & Aquinas Class of 1969, OCI Iowa Fertilizer Plant, Pen City Cruisers, Linda Smith, and the Dodie Jerome Memorial Fund.

On Saturday, June 25, Martin McCormack's art will be on display at the Keokuk Art Center at 210 N. 5th Street. There will be a closing reception from 5-7 pm which is also open to the public.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE Regular Meeting Minutes

**Donnellson City Council
Monday June 6th, 2022
7:00PM
City Hall**

The regular meeting of the Donnellson City Council was called to order by Mayor D. Ellingboe, with Council Members Weber, Moeller, Newton, Marshall & Estrada present.

Motion by Moeller, second by Estrada to approve the agenda: all ayes.

Citizen comments – None.

Motion by Newton, second by Weber to approve the minutes of the May '22 meeting: all ayes.

Motion by Marshall, second by Estrada to approve the May '22 financial reports: all ayes.

Motion by Weber, second by Estrada to approve the May '22 disbursements and June '22 bills to be allowed: all ayes.

Motion by Estrada, second by Newton to approve Cigarette & Tobacco Permits for Green Acres, Dollar General & Caseys: all ayes.

Motion by Marshall, second by Weber to approve 5 day Class C Liquor License with Sunday Sales and Outdoor Service for Green Acres: all ayes.

Motion by Estrada, second by Weber to ap-

prove the building permit for Jerad Alvis 110 S Oak St for covered porch: all ayes.

The State Historical Society of Iowa declared the Donnellson Railroad Depot as eligible to be nominated to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Next the city will reach out to local historical societies to be nominated.

Upcoming Events – City Wide Yard Sales June 18th & Tunnels to Towers 5K Run / Walk and Parade July 4th.

Motion by Estrada, second by Newton to set July 5th 2022 at 7pm for a public hearing to move monthly council meetings to the second Monday of the month at 7:30pm: all ayes.

Motion by Marshall, second by Newton to approve Resolution No

2022-10 A resolution approving 28E Agreement between the City of Donnellson, Iowa, and the City of West Point, Iowa, for law enforcement services: RCV all ayes.

Jarred Lassiter with SEIRP gave an update on the trail extension project at Westview Park, updated cost of phase 1 is \$187,000. The city has received a grant in the amount of \$85,000 from Wellmark. Other grants being applied for are the DOT's State Recreational Trails Program as well as the REAP grant.

Motion by Moeller, second by Estrada to approve Resolution No 2022-11 A resolution authorizing the filing of an application for the Iowa Department of Transportation State Recreational Trails Program for construction of the Westview

Park trail phase 1: RCV all ayes.

Public Hearing to Amend Budget FY2022 #2 – No written or oral comments.

Motion by Moeller, second by Estrada to approve Resolution No 2022-12 a resolution to amend budget FY2022 #2: RCV all ayes.

Motion by Moeller, second by Newton to approve Resolution No 2022-13 A resolution setting salaries for FY2022-23: RCV all ayes.

Motion by Newton, second by Estrada approving water & sewer connection at 303 Chestnut St in Donnellson: all ayes.

Motion by Estrada, second by Marshall to approve the purchase of a new sharp printer: all ayes.

July 4th council meeting has been rescheduled until July 5th at 7pm.

June 28th @ 6pm there will be a special meeting held at the Donnellson City Office Building for end of fiscal year approvals.

Police Report - There were 65 calls for service in May 17 traffic stops and 39 building checks.

Water/Sewer Superintendent Report – Central Tank Coating is painting the water tower inside & out.

Clerk Report - The

HELP WANTED

YOUTH DIRECTOR Part-time

Union Presbyterian Church in Fort Madison is seeking a Youth Director. This position would be for 10-12 hours a week, starting immediately. If interested, please contact us. 319-372-1424 or unionchurchfm@gmail.com.

City of Donnellson has created a new website which allows residents to sign up for notifications, go to donnellsoniowa.org and click on subscribe to receive the latest news.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deidre DeJear for Governor

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DeJear for Iowa

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Democratic Party*

JOHN NORWOOD for Secretary of Agriculture

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rob Sand promised to wake up the watchdog. When Sand and the State Auditor's office come on behalf of taxpayers with questions about how the public's business is being conducted, they will not walk away.

Re-elect Rob Sand as State Auditor

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Democratic Party*

Re-elect Michael Fitzgerald State Treasurer

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Acreage Auction

TIMED ONLINE *Lee County, Iowa*



**Open House:
Wednesday, June 29
from 4-5PM** *Wever, Iowa*

CLOSES: WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2022 AT 4PM

Located 1 1/4 miles east of Denmark on Highway 16, then 1 mile north on 320th Avenue, then 1/4 mile west on Old Quarry Road to 3265 Old Quarry Road, Wever, Iowa.

Auctioneer's Note: Country living at its best! A large 4 bedroom home, oversized 2 car garage, shop, outbuildings, Skunk River access, plenty of room for livestock, a huge garden area, a flowing creek, two small ponds and more.

FOUR BEDROOM HOME ON 15.17± ACRES

- Two story home was built in 1967 with over 2,200 sq. ft. of total living space.
- Lower level offers a living room, kitchen with appliances, dining area with wood burning stove, full bathroom, laundry room, bonus rec. room with office/non-conforming bedroom and a three season sun room.
- Upper level has 4 bedrooms and a full bath.
- Owner states new concrete patio & retaining wall to be added prior to closing. All electric home with new shingles, vinyl replacement windows in the upper level, (2) wells with several hydrants throughout the property.
- Buildings include a detached garage with heated workshop & hot tub, pole barn of which part is insulated and has two lean to's, shed with lean to, Golf cart shed, Chicken coop, Lawn shed, Garden shed, Two story tree house with porta potty, Sawmill shed & Insulated fishing cabin.
- Property has two ponds and Skunk River access with a fishing deck.
- Ft. Madison school district, Access Energy electric & Windstream Internet.
- Situated on 15.17 acres M/L with FSA indicating 3.54 acres tillable, balance being timber, pond & homestead.

**Timed Online
Personal Property Auction: CLOSES AT 5PM**
Located at 3265 Old Quarry Road, Wever, Iowa
Loadout: July 15, 9AM-3PM

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Artemio M. Santiago – Attorney for Seller
Contact Terry Hoenig of Steffes Group,
319.385.2000 or 319.470.7120



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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

There being no other business to come before the Council, motion by Moeller, second by Estrada, Mayor Ellingboe declared the meeting adjourned: all ayes.

Dave Ellingboe, Mayor
Attest: Rebecca Schau, City Clerk

Summary of All Receipts: General \$46,628.86 Capital Equipment Reserve \$0 Road Use Tax \$5,082.44 Employee Benefit \$2,575.77 Local Option Sales Tax \$9,613.02 Debit Service \$42,067.96 Rathbun \$0 ARPA \$0 Water \$21,582.26 Water Sinking USDA \$1,816.00 Sewer Sinking \$142,296.00. Summary of All Disbursements: General \$29,966.11 Capital Equipment Reserve \$0 Road Use Tax \$5,064.26 Employee Benefit \$1,579.30 Local Option Sales Tax \$7,251.00 Debit Service \$38,009.46 Capital Project Fund \$0 Rathbun \$0 ARPA \$756.88 Water \$47,604.70 Water Sink-

ing \$1,816.00 Sewer \$153,190.14 Sewer Sinking \$142,296.00

DONNELLSON TIRE & SERVICE, Battery/Service 184.65 U S CELLULAR, Cellphone..... 217.62 AFLAC, Aflac 161.52 MASTERCARD, Misc Supplies..... 2,500.00 WINDSTREAM, Phone/Internet - Water/City/Library 403.96 ALLIANT ENERGY, Street Lights 5,640.79 GRRWA, Landfill... 756.00 MCFARLAND SUPPLY, Office/Library Supplies 907.87 CITY OF FT MADISON ... Testing 480.00 MID AMERICAN ENERGY, Gas 123.19 KIRCHNER TRUCKING, Hauling 290.00 EFTPS, FED/FICA TAXES 3,444.69 IPERS, IPERS-REGULAR..... 2,441.88 TODD HERDRICH, Reimbursement for cellphone 50.00 REBECCA SCHAU, Reimburse Postage..... 36.90 JULY 4TH PARADE

COMMITTEE, Parade Support..... 250.00 GREEN ACRES CLUB, Pool Support..... 1,000.00 DONNELLSON LUMBER CO, Materials..... 70.31 DAILY DEMOCRAT, PROCEEDINGS... 327.33 PILOT GROVE SAVINGS BANK, GO Bond Payment..... 29,275.01 PILOT GROVE SAVINGS BANK, 20 Chevy Payment..... 8,734.45 MT. HAMILL ELEVATOR, Seed 76.50 HUFFMAN'S FARM AND HOME, Cultivator Tiller with Grip/Shipping .. 99.96 SHIELD TECHNOLOGY CORP, Shieldware Software..... 500.00 IOWA FINANCE AUTHORITY, C0434R loan payment..... 14,345.00 IOWA FINANCE AUTHORITY, C0518R-WRR loan payment 127,951.00 T.H.E. COMPANY, Oil/Filter/Blades..... 85.70 CITY OF WEST POINT, Chiefs Fuel/Wages 3,219.21 WEX BANK, Fuel 1,280.34 VERIZON, Data Plan -

Reserves 40.01 SIMMERING-CORY & IOWA COD, Code Revision 76.00 DAWN SCHAU, Meeting Supplies..... 46.09 USPS, water bill postage/stamps 320.40 KEYSTONE LABORATORIES, Testing..... 13.75 RATHBUN REGIONAL WATER, Bulk Water 6,915.00 USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT, USDA Loan Payment 1,816.00 KOHLMORGAN HAULING, Trash Hauling 4,335.00 LYNCH DALLAS, P.C., Legal Fees..... 17.00 FEHSEKE & GRAY, Legal Fees..... 70.00 CAPITAL ONE, Library Supplies..... 101.14 INGRAM, Library Books 828.35 DEMCO, Library Supplies 273.84 RSM US LLP, IT Service 1,140.01 ACCESS, Printer Contract..... 83.15 VERTICAL COMMUNICATIONS, Phone - City 43.82 GREAT WESTERN SUP-

PLY CO, Library Supplies 122.86 NICOLE MOFFETT SEWING INC, Tent for Library 165.00 PAYROLL CHECKS, TOTAL PAYROLL CHECKS 13,260.76 CLAIMS TOTAL 234,522.06

Input. Moved by Fedler, seconded by Harlow, to approve a Fiscal Agent Agreement with Children First. Motion carried.

The Board received an update from Grant Manager Chuck Vandenberg on an Opioid Settlement.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Larkin, to approve an amendment to the FY22 County Budget and set Monday, May 23, 2022 at 10:01 a.m. at the County Administration Building in Fort Madison as the date, time and place for Public Hearing. Roll call: Seyb-aye, Larkin-aye, Harlow-aye, Fedler-aye and Pflug-aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve the Monday, May 2, 2022 Board Minutes. Motion carried with Larkin abstaining.

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

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Harlow, to approve a step increase for

PUBLIC NOTICE LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES May 9, 2022

The Lee County Board of Supervisors met at the Lee County Administration Building in Fort Madison on Monday, May 9, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

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

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

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

There was no Public

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

Lia Risser, EO Ed Specialist 1 with the Conservation Department, from \$19.10/hr. to \$19.67/hr., effective 5/16/22. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Seyb reported on a Pioneer Cemetery Association meeting. Health Department Director Michele Ross gave the Board an update on the Covid Pandemic.

At 10:25 a.m. a motion was made by Harlow, seconded by Seyb, to adjourn. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 16, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Administration Building in Fort Madison.

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

Claims paid May 9, 2022

Nxt Deg Comm, svcs 825.00
Ace Hrdwr, splys..... 47.16
Agriland FS, fuels 2477.13
Airgas USA, splys 187.36
Alliant Enrgy, svcs

..... 4672.67
Amazon Cptl, splys 31.95
APCO Intrntl, edu 995.00
AT&T Mobility, svcs .. 49.76
Ball Volvo/GMC, splys 617.34
Bates Sntatn, svcs 720.00
Blades/Grn, svcs 929.83
Blessing Hlth, svcs 390.00
Bnd Tree Med, splys 335.83
R Bowden, exps 77.69
Brightree Home, svcs 2413.50
Buck Mntr, svcs 300.00
Charm-Tex, splys.. 465.66
T Cleveland, exps 106.63
CJ Cooper, cntrb..... 45.00
Crisis Systms, edu.. 25.00
Cullen Pest, svcs.... 481.00
Culligan, water..... 93.68
DM Co Hlth Dpt, svcs 6043.54
DM Co Sheriff, svcs.. 74.34
Dodd Prtg/Stat, splys 297.00
Dnnlsln Lmbr, equip 589.29
Douds Stone, mtrl 2001.90
Drake Hdwr, equip 1233.75

Estrn IA Tire, svcs... 150.00
Electronic Engrg, svcs 2715.00
EMSLRC, edu..... 23.00
Family Res, svcs .. 1446.15
Farm/Home, splys 198.52
Federal Engrng, svcs 775.00
Floyds EZ Way, svcs 120.00
FM Hsng Auth, svcs 1731.79
FM Water, svcs..... 55.81
Four Oaks, svcs 606.45
R Freitag, svcs 183.60
R Garcia, exps..... 125.00
GateHse Media, publ 73.04
J Giebelhausen, exps 43.98
N Granaman, svcs 1346.34
S Gray Rprtng, svcs 202.50
GRRWA, svcs..... 50.00
Green Scene, svcs 920.00
Hall Excvtrng, svcs 2200.00
Hncck Co Hlth, svcs 727.50
Hartricks Lmbr, arts .. 3.98
C Hatdin, rent 85.00
Hlth Solutions, svcs 331.00
Hm Thrpy Sol IA, svcs

..... 3313.90
ICONNECTYOU, svcs 160.00
IA Dpt/Rev, tax..... 673.49
IA St Pen, meals 7000.00
T Jacobsmr, svcs.... 300.00
Johnson Cntrls, svcs 593.00
Kempkers, splys 10.98
Keo Hsng Athrty, svcs 5864.72
Keo Water, svcs 488.39
G Knisley, exps..... 244.56
Know Ink, svcs 1285.00
B KrmrRsbrg, exps 100.00
Lawson Products, mtrls 109.42
Learning Tree, exps 2123.62
Lee Co Auditor, trfs 259.07
Lee Co Auditor, Ctrl Pur 906.58
Lee Co Auditor, IT rb 14600.34
LeeCo Treas, costs 17383.65
Liberty Util, gas... 2751.22
L Lofthus, exps 29.89
Lynch Dallas, svcs.... 99.00
Martin Equip, equip 24358.08
McFarlands, splys... 38.86
Mediacom, svcs.....204.11
B Meyers, exps..... 95.24

MidAm Enrgy, gas 558.23
MW Alarm Svcs, svcs 390.00
Frank Millard, svcs 1962.00
MVSP, unif 385.00
Mutual Whl, parts.. 919.08
NAPA Auto, parts 2250.41
AT Conf, svcs 255.04
OMG MW, svcs 277.80
Optum Rx, splys ... 421.15
R PttrsnRhn, exps .. 10.00
Pen City Crnt, publ 727.50
Penn City Assc, dues 300.00
M Pflug, exps..... 72.00
Prairie Farms, splys 212.80
Premier Equip, svcs 888.87
Prvnt Chld Abs IA, edu 100.00
Prtchrd Brdctg, publ 350.00
R&J Qlty Dcl, svcs.... 82.80
Railrd Mngmt Co, dues 313.34
RicohUSA, splys... 217.45
RSM US, svcs 2628.45
Sandry Fire Sply, equip 47655.00
J Schneider, svcs ... 275.00
Shoemkr/Hlnd, svcs 3645.15

Shottenkirk, svcs 68.59
SIADSA, svcs 6240.00
S Schmitt, rfnd 1130.00
Solutions, svcs 351.85
C Spann, svcs 40.00
Stffnsmr Bro, svcs 1509.20
StoreyKnwrthy, splys 218.75
Stryker Sales, svcs 468.80
TNT Tckpntng, svcs 117817.86
Total Maint, svcs... 4926.73
Vertical Comm, svcs 158.29
A Walden, exps..... 104.85
M Ward, rfnds 95.59
Wst Grp, splys 1177.34
Wst Pnt Utility, svcs 425.92
Wex Bank, fuel ... 6139.66
R Wilkens, svcs 229.95
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From the Front

Librarians leaving posts under pressure

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

bubbling, we all should be troubled by these efforts just as much as if these efforts were occurring in our backyards.

One of these controversies is taking root in Baxter, a Jasper County town of 1,100 people. It is home to the Baxter Community School District, which had an enrollment of 475 students during the past academic year. Another controversy is playing out in Vinton, a city of 5,000 residents that is the county seat of Benton County.

The America First Policy Institute, a Washington, D.C., nonprofit organization, has written to the Baxter superintendent vowing legal action if a planned class at Baxter High School is not cancelled.

The policy group claims that an elective class coming in the fall, called "Social Justice in Literature," would violate an Iowa law enacted in 2021. That law prohibits public schools from teaching "Critical Race Theory" or what lawmakers called other "divisive concepts" based on race, gender, or sexual stereotyping or scapegoating.

It's important to take note of two things about the planned Baxter High School class:

(1) It is an elective class, not one that is required. No student will be forced to take the class. Presumably, parents who are engaged with their children's high school studies will know what classes they sign up for.

(2) The class would involve students choosing several works of young-adult fiction that focus on contemporary issues. Neither the teacher nor the school district would tell students which books they would have to read — or which social justice issues they would address in the class.

The America First Policy Institute claims the class would violate the "divisive concepts" law Governor Reynolds signed a year ago. In a letter last week to Superintendent Mickolyn Clapper, the institute warned, "Against this comprehensive statutory framework, the Baxter Community School District is running headlong into legally prohibited territory with its 'Social Justice in Litera-

ture' course. You are now on notice."

What the class actually does is give students freedom to explore contemporary issues in our state by reading several novels they choose that deal with these issues. Students then would create a final project that focuses on "social justice in their own lives and community."

The D.C. institute claims the class is an attempt to "turn impressionable children into social justice warriors who view all that is good and just through the distorted lens of race, sex, gender, power, and politics."

Call me naïve, but I thought a fundamental goal of a well-rounded high school education was getting students to read, to think for themselves, to analyze and then to express themselves in writing or in a presentation. Nowhere in the course description do I see any attempt by Baxter High School faculty to dictate what the students' opinions or conclusions are supposed to be, or even what social issues they should study.

And remember, this is an elective class, not one all students must take.

But I worry some people think their opinion of what appropriate topics are for a high school class takes precedence over the opinions of Baxter parents who sign their teenagers up for this class.

Controversy is a-boil in Vinton because some in that community think the staff of the local public library has a liberal agenda it is pushing on readers there. The controversy led two library directors to resign in the past two years, one after just six months.

One point of concern of some residents is the number of library employees who identify as LGBTQ. Coupled with that concern has been criticism of a recent display of LGBTQ books and the addition of books about President Joe Biden, including "Joey," a children's book by First Lady Jill Biden.

One Vinton woman, the mother of four children, has urged the library to purchase more books with a Christian theme. Library officials have pointed out that of about 6,000 children's titles in the library, only seven include homosexual or transgender content and 173 are based on Christian themes.

Janette McMahon, who resigned as librarian last year, told the Cedar Rapids Gazette, "I am a firm believer that everyone can have a right to their own opinion, but they don't have a right to tell others what they can or cannot read."

No argument from me. *Randy Evans can be reached at DMRevans2810@gmail.com.*

Acquisition should be final by 3rd Quarter

BANKS - Continued from Page 1

Lee County Bank will operate as a wholly owned subsidiary of Two Rivers Financial Group, Inc. with Shane Zimmerman serving as Lee County Bank CEO and Michael Culbertson as Lee County Bank President.

"Customers of Lee County Bank will continue to be served by the same banking professionals they have grown accustomed to," Delaney said.

"With a community bank headquartered in Burlington, Iowa, the addition of Lee County Bank is a natural fit for Two Rivers Financial Group, Inc. Two Rivers has a great deal of respect for the Lee County Bank team and the banking relationships they have built. Lee County Bank's tradition of providing outstanding customer service is one we plan to continue," said Cristy Schmidt, Board Chair of Two Rivers Bank & Trust.

"We have a strong interest in southeast Iowa and a strong commitment to continue providing the same trusted services Lee County Bank customers expect. I look forward to working with the Lee County Bank team and learning more about their operations and providing support and additional services through Two Rivers Financial Group, Inc.," said Zimmerman.

"We believe that our customers will be well-served with Lee County Bank under the umbrella of Two Rivers Financial Group, Inc.'s organization," said Kevin Koellner, Board Chair of Lee Capital Corp.

Henry Merschman, Board Chair of Lee County Bank, said, "We believe that this transaction is a good fit for the customers, team members, communities, and shareholders of Lee Capital Corp."

"It has been a pleasure working with Lee County Bank directors Henry Merschman and Kevin Koellner. Both have the utmost respect for the Lee County Bank team and their professionalism. We look forward to welcoming Lee County Bank into Two Rivers Financial Group, Inc.'s organization," said Delaney.

The transaction remains subject to regulatory approval and other closing conditions and is expected to be completed at the end of third quarter 2022.

Lee County Bank started in Fort Madison in 1888 and was purchased in the 70s by the Koellner and Merschman families.

Two Rivers Financial Group, Inc. is headquartered in Burlington, IA and is a financial holding company servicing clients throughout Iowa and surrounding states.

Two Rivers Bank & Trust, a state-chartered bank and wholly owned subsidiary of Two Rivers Financial Group, Inc., commenced operations in 1904 and currently has banking centers located in Ankeny, Burlington, Coralville, Des Moines, Iowa City, Keokuk, Mt. Pleasant, Mediapolis, West Burlington, and West Des Moines, as well as a loan production office in Bettendorf. Two Rivers Financial Group, Inc. shares trade on OTCQX® under ticker symbol "TRVR".



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- **Victory Park**
23rd St & Ave G

11:30-12:00

- **Salvation Army**
1415 Ave M
(south side)

12:00-12:30

- **Lincoln Elementary**
14th St & Ave E
- **Richardson Elementary**
34th St & Ave L



July 1st – August 5th

(no meals July 4th)



Sit & Eat Service – Monday thru Friday

10:45-11:05

- **Lincoln Elem**
34th St & Ave E
(playground)

11:50-12:10

- **Victory Park**
23rd St & Ave F
(playground)

11:00-11:30

- **ECC**
23rd & Ave J
No meals July 4-8

1:00-1:20

- **Salvation Army**
1415 Ave M
(south side)

11:15-11:35

- **FM High School**
20th St & Ave C
(by pool)

12:30-12:50

- **Richardson Elem**
33rd St & Ave L
(playground)

• **YMCA**

220 – 26th St
No meals on Fridays

