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See page 7



Monday, March 11, 2019 | 7 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 68



### Saturday night fire

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison firefighters work on a garage fire Saturday night at about 10:10 p.m. on the northwest corner of 23rd Street and Avenue I. The cause of the fire is still undetermined. There were pets in the garage that escaped the flames and no injuries were reported.

# Devil minks leave Empty Nest...empty

Mayhem struck the Empty Nest Farm. I was a little late doing the morning chores. It wasn't until 11:00 or so before I got out to feed Blossom and take care of the hens.

Before I pulled open the door to the hen house, I thought I heard some strange clucking. Sure enough, I was confronted with the awful sight of a mass of feathers, a pile of dead hens in the corner, and a beady-eyed, fat mink staring at me. It tried to hide behind the laying box. I grabbed the only weapon I could find, which was a leg hook. The handle would do for a club. I moved the laying box and the mink scampered out, ran over top of the feeder, and was out through the open door,



By Curt Swarm

lickety-split. Out of a dozen hens, eight were dead, all lined up real neat, execution style. A sick feeling hit me in the gut—the knowledge that I hadn't provided my girls with the protection they needed. Those hens were all pets, they let me pick them up and didn't even peck my hand when I reached under them for eggs. Dang that mink! They are vicious killers, sucking the blood out of victims' necks. I text Ginnie and she cried. There was only one thing



to do. I grabbed the live-animal trap from the barn, baited it with a dead hen, and left it in the hen house. The other four hens were clucking nervously, high up on their roost. Poor things. What a reign of terror! I had trapped two minks previous to this latest incident. I was hoping I'd gotten rid of them all; evidently I didn't. There hadn't been any problem for quite a while. I should have known better. There must be a family of minks close by—probably by the creek across the road. When I

was growing up and we had chickens, there was never a problem like this. Minks weren't even around.

In the afternoon, I checked the hen housestill no mink, and still four live hens. They seemed reluctant to go in the hen house, but it was so cold and windy, I had to shut them in. I would see what the morning brought. Hopefully the trap would do its job. At 4:00 in the morning, in the middle of my reading/writing routine, it came to me that the reason the batt insulation along the walls of the hen house was shredded was not because of the wind or from the hens pecking at it, it was because of the mink See SWARM, page 4

# Proposal could hurt county's bridges, roads

Senate proposal would allow forestry haulers to exceed county's limits by 50,000 lbs.

> BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Lee County Engineer Ben Hull is concerned a proposed bill in in front of Iowa legislators could damage county bridges and roadways.

Senate File 184 was passed out of a senate subcommittee on Feb. 21 and Hull brought the issue to the attention of the Lee County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday.

A resolution is on the agenda for the upcoming Tuesday meeting that would outline the county's opposition to the new bill.

In summary, the bill would allow vehicles hauling

raw forest products to exceed maximum gross weight limits on state roads up to a maximum total weight of 130,000 pounds.

"A vehicle or combination of vehicles for which a permit is issued under the bill may exceed the maximum gross weight limitations set forth under Code Section 321.463, if the combined gross

weight or gross weight of the vehicle or combination of vehicles does not exceed 130,000 pounds," according to the bill.

The bill also has axle limitations and prohibits haulers exceeding weight limitations from using the interstate highways in the state. The bill's language spells out that haulers can use Iowa's primary roads on direct routes from the field to processing facilities.



HULL

County advocacy groups such as the Iowa State Associations of Counties and the Iowa Association of County Supervisors, in addition to BNSF and Union Pacific, are opposed to the current legislation.

Hull told supervisors that county engineers are actively lobbying against the bills.

"They've been putting out updates and last week they kind of sounded the alarm on this," Hull said.

### See BILL, page 7

# Classifieds Ps.4-6 Fort Madison Family YMCA. P.2 Great River Regional Waste Authority. P.4 Harvestville Farm Mercantile P.2 Hope Associates Real Estate P.6 Lee County Health Department P.5 Professional Services P.5 Public Notices. P.5.5-6 Test Kitchen Education Foundation P.2 The Kensington P.2

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–Margaret "June" Schroeder
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### **Obituaries**

### **OBITUARIES**

### DEANNA SUE "DEE" PEALER

Deanna Sue "Dee" Pealer, 81, of rural Denmark, Iowa passed away at 8:17 p.m. Thursday, March 7, 2019 in the Emergency Room at Great River Medical Center in Burlington, Iowa.



Born on July 5, 1937 in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of Clyde Elmer and Viola Margaret (Gehle) Chapman. On March 31, 1973, she married Robert Pealer in Burlington, Iowa. He preceded her in death October 12, 2002.

Survivors include two brothers: Richard (Mary) Chapman of Donnellson, Iowa and Bob Wayland of Michigan; two sisters: Margaret Wilson of Burlington, Iowa and Shirley (Bob Davidson) Budke of Longmont, Colorado. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

PEALER

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband: Robert; and two brothers.

Dee was a member of the West Point Presbyterian Church. Dee was a 1955 graduate from Denmark Academy where she enjoyed playing baskeball. She worked at Sylvania, Ken's Progas and with her husband on the farm. Dee enjoyed bowling, riding horses, and the Tri-State Special Kids Rodeo.She was an avid animal lover.

Friends may call after 12:00 noon Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point where the family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, March 14, 2019 at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point with Larry Shipley officiating.

Burial will be in the Denmark Cemetery at Denmark, Iowa.

A memorial has been established in her memory for the West Point Presbyterian Church or Denmark Fire & Rescue.

Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be made at www.schmitzfuneralhomes. <u>com</u>.

### **OBITUARIES**

### MARGARET "JUNE" SCHROEDER

Margaret "June" Schroeder, 79, of Cedar Rapids, formerly of Ft. Madison passed away on Saturday, March 09, 2019 at 12:05 AM at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids.



She was born on April 4, 1939 in Ft. Madison to Henry and Margaret Pohlpeter Beelman. On August 3, 1974 she married John F. Schroeder in Ft. Madison and he passed away on August 3, 1988. June worked at Sheaffer Pen Co. for fifteen years and was a dietary aid at the Newberry Center.

She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church. June enjoyed reading and cooking. Her greatest love was spending time with her granddaughters.

SCHROEDER

Survivors include two daughter, Veronica Schroeder and Sabrena (Justin) Jackson, both of Cedar Rapids; two granddaughters,

Cheyenne and Isabella and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband; four brothers, two nephews, Nicholas and Steven, and a great niece, Stacie Beelman.

The funeral service will be held on Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 11 AM at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. The family will meet with friends from 10 AM until the time of the service at 11 AM. Burial will follow in Sacred Heart Cemetery.

A memorial has been established for her granddaughter's education and online condolences may be left at <u>www.kinglynk.com.</u>

### Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries 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.

### Lee County Health Department LEARN. GROW. THRIVE. Hospice Volunteer Training FREE 4-Year Old Pre-School 2019-2020 Enrollment Open April 2 - April 23, 2019 est Kitchen Call or click for details! Next Exam **4 Tuesday Evenings** Saturday, April 13, 2019 6:00pm-9:00pm **Classes begin March 3** at LCHD office Classes meet every Sunday from 6 pm to 8 pm No fee, Open to the public until test date To register call (319)372-5225 or Elliott Test Kitchen visit www.leecountyhd.org You can make a difference! **EE**#3 John Bennett Drive, PO Box 1426, Fort Madison www.tkef.org 220 26th St . Ft. Madison, IA . 319-372-2403 319-250-905



# **SENIOR COMMUNITY BINGO**

2nd Wednesday of every month at 2pm



**Charles Vandenberg, Editor** (319).371.1670 editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager (319).371.4125 sales@pencitycurrent.com

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### **Opinion/Classifieds**

### Pesky predator gets all 12 Empty Nest birds

### SWARM - Continued from Page 1

trying to climb the walls to get to the roosting hens! I threw on some clothes and headed out to the hen house. Too late. The other four hens were dead.

I told Ginnie and she burst out crying. She loved seeing the hens wander around the house in the summer, scratching for bugs and seeds, not to mention those beautiful brown eggs they laid. We gave eggs away as gifts of love. I removed the dead hens but left the baited trap in the hen house. Maybe I could catch that devil yet.

The next morning nothing. But I left the baited trap where it was.

The following morning, the trap was turned over, but no mink. The dead hen I had left in the trap for bait was stuck under the trip-latch. I fixed that, and reset the trap.

It snowed that day and night. The next morning,

there were fresh mink tracks all around the hen house. I opened the door and saw it, that devil mink staring back at me from the confines of the trap, like the night-thief it was.

Mr. or Ms. Mink got a 15-mile ride to a rural county wildlife area, where I turned it loose, hoping to never see it again. Now that I caught the main offender, Ginnie and I may consider some new baby chicks this spring. I'll walk that creek bed first, looking for a mink den, and shore up the floor of the hen house. Who knew the life of a chicken could be so perilous? But we are thankful for the two years that they were in our lives. Ginnie says that she wants to have a little memorial service when we eat the last of our farm fresh brown eggs.

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



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backyard with picnic tables & glider swing in very nice, quiet neighborhood. Rents range from \$585-\$635. Lease required. 850 sq. ft. units. All electric. Water, sewer, trash furnished. 650 sq. ft. units. Water, heat, sewer, gas, trash furnished. Laundry rooms have new coin-operated washers & dryers (located in all buildings). On-site manager. Call 319-372-9409 or 319-750-3115 for appointment to view. Owned by Alliance Realty Co.



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### **5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST**

MON 11 Mar



# New Year. Fresh Start.

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

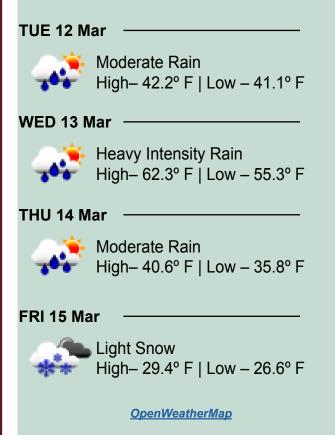
### Here are just a few ways you can help:

- 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
- Don't recycle wrapping paper
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### **Classifieds/Public Notices**

### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

**PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDINGS** FORT MADISON **CITY COUNCIL** 3/5/2019

The Fort Madison City Council met in regular session at 5:30 P.M. on

Tuesday, March 5, 2019, at City Hall, 811 Avenue E. Mayor Randolph presided with Council Members Greenwald, Morawitz, Rink, Andrews, Mohrfeld, Lair and Cangas present. On motion, Council approved the agenda as

written. On motion, Council approved the Consent Agenda: Minutes of 2/19/2019 and Payment of Claims.

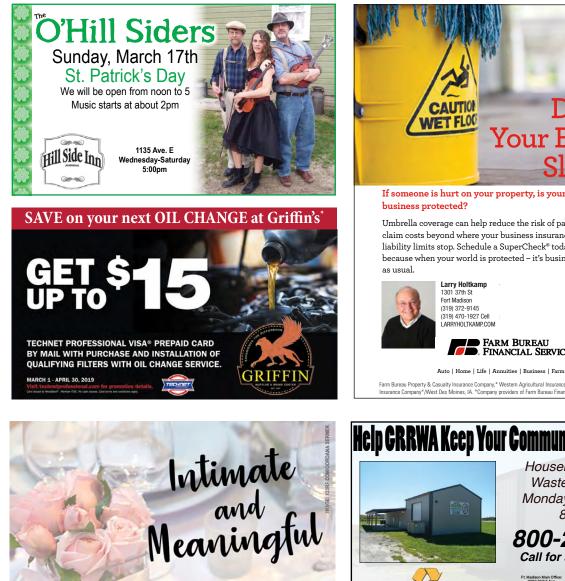
At 5:35 P.M., Randolph opened the public hearing. There being no oral or written comments, on motion, Council closed the public

hearing. On motion, Council approved Resolution No. 25, adopting the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Budget, and directing the appropriate filings be made as required by law.

On motion, Council approved the second reading of an ordinance to amend

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Title 10, Zoning, Chapter 1, Title; Purpose, and Chapter 10, Administration. At the beginning of the discussion regarding severing territory located at 3023 Timberlane Drive, Greenwald exited Council Chambers and did not return until after the vote was taken. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2019-26, severing territory located at 3023 Timberlane Drive located within the City of Fort Madison.

On motion, Council approved the Mayor's appointment of Kathy Burkhardt to the Library to fill an unexpired term, term expiring 6/30/2020, and reappointment of Richar Abel to the Old Fort Commission, term

expiring 3/31/2022. On motion, Council approved the purchase of a Fire/ Rescue boat in the amount of \$21,223.90 from Dave's **Riverview Marine of Fort** Madison. On motion, Council approved the proposal from SmithGroup to conduct a feasibility study and design for a dock that could be used by Viking Cruise Lines for a stop in Fort Madison with the option to modify the proposed charette.

At 6:38 P.M. on motion, Council adjourned until March 19, 2019, at 5:30 P.M.

/s/ Bradley A. Randolph, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk

REVENUES	2/15-2/28/2019	EXPENDITURES	
General	\$ 7,636.78	General	\$38,095.15
Sp. Rev.	366,226.62	Special Rev.	249,006.35
Road Use	119,758.77	Road Use	27,264.35
Debt	1,235.58	Capital	1,281.55
Capital	312,538.00	Water	39,294.56
Water	196,452.06	Sewer	67,109.58
Sewer	199,000.69	Solid Waste/IW	2,123.85
Solid Waste/IW	60,832.06	SW Utility	300.99
SW Utility	15,888.65	_	\$424,476.38
	\$1,279,569.21		
PAYROLL	3/1/2019		
General	\$173,061.85		
Spec. Revenues	3,873.80		
Road Use	26,852.89		
Water	29,224.36		
Sewer	41,087.41		
Solid Waste	11,720.41		
Airport	486.54		
Storm Water	3,345.11		
	\$289,652.37		
CLAIMS - 3 ABC FIRE EXTI ER ANNUAL II	NGUISH-	VALVES CULLEN PE TROL MON	ST CON-

AB ER, ANNUAL INSPEC-TION ..... 107.35 ACCESS SYSTEMS LEAS-ING, COPIER AGREE-MENT ...... 833.47 ALLIANT ENERGY. ELECTRIC ...... 22,639.39 ANSWER PLUS, AN-SWERING SERVICE ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES, SH

TROL, MONTHLY SER-VICE ..... 164.00 CURE BUSINESS SOLU-TIONS, MONTHLY AGREEMENT ...... 3,050.00 DAVE WOODLEY, SNOW PLOW ...... 236.91 DAVIS RADIOLOGY PC, ON JOB INJURY ...... 84.00 DIGITAL ALLY, CAMERA/ ASSEMBLY...... 3,563.00 TING & STA



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ACTERIA SAM-	ENTENMANN-ROVIN
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### **Classifieds/Public Notices**

### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

GRUENING, LUKE, CLOTHING ALLOWANCE 64.39 HACH CHEMICAL CO., ALKALINE/SOLUTION

HAWKEYE TRUCK EQUIPMENT, RUBBER EDGE ...... 621.50 HOLT SUPPLY COMPA-NY, SOLDE ..... 168.11 HOWARD R GREEN COMPANY, PROF SER-VICES ...... 665.26 HUFFMAN WELDING & MACHINE, S&D FLATS HUMBURD'S AUTO SER-VICE, TIRES IDEAL READY MIX COMPANY, FILL SAND IOWA DIVISION OF LABOR SERVICE, THER-MAL SOLUTIONS IOWA ONE CALL, UN-DERGROUND LOCATE IOWA PUBLIC AIRPORTS ASSOC, 2019 MEMBER-SHIP......100.00 IOWA TOURISM OFFICE, 2019 TRAVEL GUIDE ...... 900.00 KNIGHTS OF COLUM-BUS, KNIGHTS OF CO-LUMBUS......97.50 LEANDER CONSTRUC-TION INC., CONSTRUC-LYNCH DALLAS P.C., PROFESSIONAL FEES MC NAY TRUCK LINE, HYDRATE LIME MCFARLAND, GLOVES

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GY, HEAT ...... 691.59 PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE, SHELF MATERI- 

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Will perform manual work in the grounds and building maintenance within the park and cemetery department, under direct supervision.

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NOTICE OF JOB OPENING Collections Clerk Lee County Attorney's Office Keokuk, Iowa

Lee County Attorney's Office has an immediate opening for the collections clerk position (40 hours per week).

The position's successful applicant is preferred (but not required) to have the following:

1. Completion of some college level administrative support courses or any equivalent combination of training and experience.

2. Knowledge of legal terminology, legal format, and legal forms.

3. Knowledge of modern office practices, procedures, and equipment.

4. Knowledge of Electronic Document Management System (EDMS).

5. Knowledge of Iowa Courts Online.

6. Knowledge of Iowa Department of Transportation transcripts.

7. Ability to prepare accurate and timely documents, correspondence, and reports.

Ability to learn and/or operate the county Attorney's Office computer programs.
 Ability to understand and

follow written and oral instructions.

 Ability to use Microsoft Outlook, Word, and Excel.
 Ability to work in a fast-

paced environment

12. Ability to multi-task.

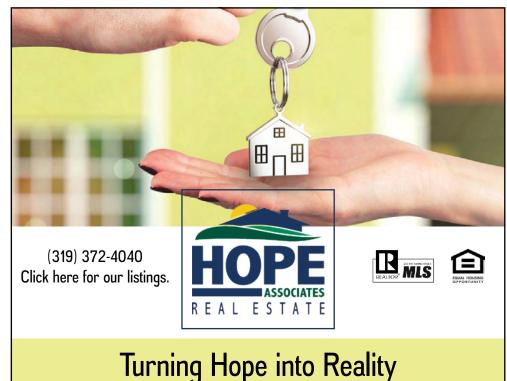
13. Ability to communicate with others using tact and diplomacy.

14. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with supervisors, attorneys, co-workers, and the public, as well as law enforcement personnel, Clerk of Court, Treasurer and Iowa Department of Transportation.

15. Ability to maintain a large filing system of current and closed files.

16. Must be able to travel to North Lee County Office and/ or courthouse on occasion.

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Carry out the day-to-day maintenance of the marina facility and grounds using discretion and independent judgment. Provide information and assistance to the boating public as needed.

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- Must have a current lowa driver's license.
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The position is represented by the Public Professional & Maintenance Employees Local No. 2003, IUPAT. The starting wage is \$16.02 per hour. Great County Benefits.

The deadline for submitting a resume is March 11, 2019

Please send resume to Ross Braden PO Box 824 Keokuk, IA 52632 or e-mail rbraden@leecounty.org



### **From the Front/Scene Around Town**

# County engineers lobbying against hauling proposal

### BILL - Continued from Page 1

"This bill would allow a permit to be issued specific to logging and forestry industry that would allow products to be transported on loads up to 130,000 lbs which would be extremely detrimental to our road systems."

Lee County bridges are rated at 80,000 lbs.

Hull said Lee County bridges aren't designed for that kind of weight load.

"Particularly the older bridges, they certainly weren't designed for 130,000 pounds. Each bridge is different but there are many things that factor into what a bridge can hold up in terms of a load, including the age and condition, but also the design," he said.

Hull said the state would also be setting a scary precedent with other industries who are watching how the bill progresses through the legislature.

"You can bet the other industries are watching and, if this bill gets through, it could open the floodgates," Hull said.

"Absolutely," said board chair Gary Folluo.

Hull said Lee County currently has 138 bridges and he said the majority of those are over 30 years old.

"Many of them are much older than that," Hull said.

"I think, without a doubt, this would translate into gradual and sudden failure of the bridges."

He also reminded the board that school buses are using those bridges as well, in addition to the county being legally liable for any accidents on county roads that could occur as a result of the heavier weight loads.

In other action at Tuesday's meeting, supervisors:

will hold a public hearing on the 2019-20 fiscal year budget.

will hold a third and final reading on a proposed ATV/UTV ordinance that will allow legal riding on secondary gravel roads from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

will consider a resolution setting a \$25 annual permit for ATVs/UTVs operated in the county.





### IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

### **Lotto Drawings**

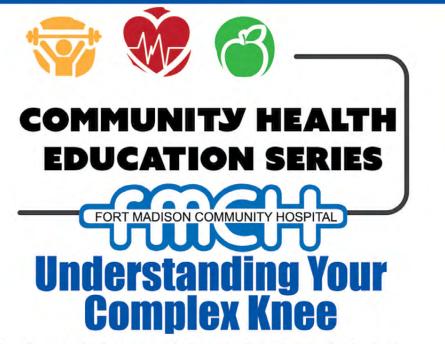
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	Pick 3 - Midday Pick 3 - Evening			12:20 pm 10:00 pm



Garage fire

A Fort Madison firefighter works on the interior flames of a garage fire at around 10:30 p.m. Saturday night at the northwest corner of 23rd Street and Avenue I.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



Your knee is the largest and strongest joint in your body. It is made up of bones, cartilage, ligaments and tendons. Arthritis of the knee is the most common type of arthritis. Pain, swelling and stiffness are the key symptoms of arthritis making it difficult to perform your everyday activities. Although there is no cure for arthritis, there are many treatment options available. Come hear Dr. Derek Breder why arthritis is so common and how you can manage this condition to stay active.

### Tuesday, March 12, 2019 5:30 - 6:30 pm FMCH Conference Rooms

*Light refreshments will be served. For more information, please call 376-2244.* 



Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

### Presented by: Dr. Derek Breder, Orthopedics & Sports Medicine



Dr. Derek Breder is a Board Certified Orthopedic Surgeon. He completed his Residency at the University of Kansas Hospital, Department of Orthopedic Surgery. Dr. Breder received both his Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Medicine degrees from the University of Iowa.

"The orthopedic team provide top quality orthopedic care for a vast array of musculoskeletal problems. There are very few small communities that have orthopedic care as comprehensive as this and I consider myself lucky to be part of it."