

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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Tuesday, July 19, 2022 | 10 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 130



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## County may revisit EMS charges

**NON-TRANSPORTS:** County may try to curb repeated visits for non-emergent services

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - A move to potentially charge residents who call for ambulance assistance, but turn down transport to the hospital, came up again Monday at the Lee County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Lee County EMS Director Dennis Cosby said he was approached by the EMS billing services company who said other ambulance services do charge for those runs.

But PCC Ambulance Billing, out of West Bend, Ind. gets

paid by the county on a percentage of the billing it collects.

Cosby brought the issue up at a Lee County EMS advisory committee meeting last week.

Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren was on the call as a member of the committee and said many times the fire department will get to the calls first and they have been dealing with many of the repeat callers.

Herren said it's just something the fire department handles. "Its just something we have to deal with. If we see a pattern

See **CHARGES**, page 7

## CENTURYLINK

### County to pay \$140K as part of settlement

Insurance company to pick up \$25,000 of county's portion of the settlement

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - A \$115,000 settlement will close out pending litigation against the county by CenturyLink dating back to 2016.

At Monday's Lee County Board of Supervisors meeting, the board agreed to pay \$115,000 to the communications company as part of an agreement to drop all litigation associated with a cut to CenturyLink's line when the Iowa Fertilizer plant was under construction.

The county will pay \$115,000 of the settlement and the county's insurance company would add \$25,000 for a total of \$140,000, which is half of the proposed settlement of \$280,000.

The other half would come from Poepping Stone Bach & Associates and Terry Knoke, an Illinois resident listed in the suit. Lee County Engineer Ben Hull and former Lee County Engineer Ernie Steffensmeier were also named in the suit.

Lee County Attorney Ross Braden said an analysis of the litigation and the future risk makes settling the best option.

"I think it's clear in discussions with Ben, although the county does not feel that it is in the wrong by any means, by doing a cost-benefit analysis and the potential liability the county is exposed to in the event this lawsuit were to proceed through trial - the county could be on the hook for closer to \$400,000 or \$500,000," Braden said.

"It is a possibility of a huge judgment against the county, and the advice of our legal counsel is to settle the matter short



BRADEN

See **SETTLED**, page 4



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison K9 officer "Norik" and handler Officer Greg Warosh conduct a detection simulation during the Fort Madison Kiwanis meeting Monday afternoon in the parking lot at Fort Colony Diner. Warosh explained the city's K9 program to the Kiwanians during the regular lunch meeting.

## PILLAR GROUPS

### City wants to create directory for local clubs, groups

Group looking for clubs listed in social media post following story

FORT MADISON - A routine argument for a perceived stagnancy in Fort Madison has always been, there's

nothing to do.

A committee formed to look at marketing the city to people to look at potentially relocating to the city, wants to create a directory of local clubs, groups, and hobbyists that currently exist in the city.

Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld is holding pillar group meetings look-

ing at different aspects of how to grow Fort Madison including among other things; housing, jobs, and quality of life.

The quality of life aspect spilled into the marketing pillar committee Monday night and the group centered on creating a directory of what nuance

See **LISTING**, page 7

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## WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap  
TUE 19 Jul.....Hot & Sunny, 92° F/ 71° F  
WED 20 Jul.....Warm & Sunny, 89° F/ 67° F  
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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### GEORGE L. WORLEY

George L. Worley, 72, of Lomax, Illinois, passed away at 6:12 p.m. Sunday, July 10, 2022 at his home.

George was born on January 14, 1950 in LaHarpe, Illinois, the son of Albert Levi and Goldie Valentine (Hoskins) Worley.

George attended Dallas City High School. Following high school he served in the U.S. Navy. Upon returning home he worked for Fullerton Lumber Company and Standard of Beavertdale for many years. He also assisted hand digging graves in his younger years. He loved to fish and would often sell his harvest locally.

Survivors include two daughters: Alishia and Rachel Droppers; two sisters-in-law: Bev Worley and Lela Worley; numerous nieces and nephews and a great friend and neighbor: Phil Butler.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister: Flora Bloom and two brothers: Bill and Lawrence Worley.

A graveside service, with Military Rites, will be held 10:00 a.m. Saturday, July 23, 2022 at Crane Cemetery near Lomax. Friends and family are welcome to gather at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City at 9:15 a.m., where the funeral procession will depart at 9:45 a.m. A memorial fund has been established for the family.

Banks & Beals Funeral Home of Dallas City is assisting the family. To leave a condolence please visit George's obituary at [banksandbeals.com](http://banksandbeals.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.

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## OBITUARIES

### RALPH E. NORRIS

Ralph Eugene Norris, Sr., 75, of Keokuk, Iowa, passed away on Thursday, July 14, 2022, at his home in Keokuk, Iowa.

Ralph was born on June 17, 1947, in Keokuk, Iowa, the son of Wilbur Eugene and Alice Louise (Jochims) Norris. Ralph served in the United States Air Force for over 22 years, retiring in 1988 as a Master Sergeant. After retirement, he went back to work as a sky cap in Honolulu, Hawaii, and later worked in security for John Deere. He was of the Christian faith and was a member of the VFW. Ralph enjoyed spending his free time bowling, golfing, playing pool and fishing. He was an avid Nascar fan, always rooting for Jeff Gordon.



NORRIS

Ralph is survived by his sister Karen (Mike) Rupp of Keokuk; three sons: Ralph (Jennifer) Norris, Jr. of Abilene, Texas, William (Debra) Norris of Brooksville, Florida, and Kevin (Wettyna Cockerhan) Norris of Sioux City, Iowa; his daughter Aimee (Jeff) Rummells of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and sixteen grandchildren: Scott (Beth) Norris of Ottumwa, Iowa, Ashley (Nathan Markey) Norris of Hamilton, Illinois, Tyler (Abigail) Chandos of Spokane, Washington, Zach Chandos of Indiana, Jacob Norris of Abilene, Texas, Lindsay (Steven) Fischer of Park City, Kansas, Caitlyn Norris of Florida, Aaron Norris of Brooksville, Florida, Ethan Norris of Brooksville, Florida, Kaleb Norris of Charleston, North Carolina, Teyler (Joel) Harris of Burlington, Iowa, Sophia Cockerhan of North Liberty, Iowa, Kyle Norris of Sioux City, Iowa, Lorna Norris of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Jon Rummells of Canada and Emily Rummells of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Other survivors include seven great-grandchildren and one on the way, and several nieces, nephews and cousins.



Funeral services will be held at 11 am on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk, with burial to follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Keokuk. Military Honors at the cemetery will be rendered by the American Legion Post #41 and the United States Air Force. Visitation will be held on Wednesday at the funeral home from 9:30 am until 11 am directly before the service.

Memorials may be directed to the American Legion Post #41.

Tributes and condolences may be left at [www.dejongsfuneralhome.com](http://www.dejongsfuneralhome.com).

DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### RUTH L. ROEGLIN

Ruth L. (Prince) Roeglin, 88, of Stuarts Draft, Virginia, formerly of Keokuk, Iowa, passed away on Thursday, July 14, 2022, at Birch Gardens in Staunton, Virginia.



ROEGLIN

Ruth was born on September 28, 1933 in Keokuk, Iowa, and was a daughter of the late Herbert and Mary-Atta (Hoopes) Prince. Ruth was the consummate boys mom. She challenged her boys to excel, was athletic enough to keep up with them, and always by their side. She enjoyed traveling, especially later in life following the death of her husband when she cruised all over the world. Mrs. Roeglin organized many family camping trips all over the United States. She also enjoyed fishing and golfing and was a very talented knitter. Ruth was very instrumental in building the family home with her husband. She was also a devout fan of the Chicago Cubs, and celebrated their once in a lifetime World Series Title in 2016. Ruth was a member of the First Baptist Church in Keokuk, Iowa

for more than 60 years, and most recently attended the Ridgeview Baptist Church in Stuarts Draft, as well as a lifelong member of P.E.O

She was preceded in death by her husband of 40 years Paul Walter Roeglin, who preceded her in death on January 12, 1993.

Ruth is survived by her two sons, Steven Roeglin and wife Julie of Stuarts Draft, Douglas Roeglin and wife Amy of Edinburg, TX; a brother, Harold Prince and wife Betsye of Okemos, MI; grandchildren, Adam Roeglin, Allison Forystek and husband John, Alexander Roeglin and wife Emily, Natalie Garcia and husband Matthew, Peter Roeglin and wife Keren; her great-grandchildren, Judah Forystek, Olivia Roeglin, Ariaah Forystek, Sophia Roeglin, Ariella Forystek, Javan Forystek, Annalise Roeglin, Noah Roeglin; and nine nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband and parents, Mrs. Roeglin was preceded in death by her sister Dorothy Garrett and brother-in-law James Garrett; her sisters-in-law

and brothers-in-law, Irene Collins and husband Junior "Beanie" Collins, Pauline Summers and husband Ray Summers; and one nephew.

Funeral services in Virginia will be held on Tuesday July 19, 2022, at 7 PM at Ridgeview Baptist Church with Pastor Don McClure officiating. The family will receive friends from 6:00 PM until 6:45 PM prior to the service.

Funeral services in Iowa will be held on Tuesday, July 26, 2022, at 1 pm at First Baptist Church in Keokuk, Iowa, with Pastor Bob Brandhagen officiating. Visitation will be held at the church on Tuesday from 11:30 am to 1 pm directly before the service. Burial will follow at Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk, Iowa.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research by visiting <https://www.michaeljfox.org/donate>.

Arrangements in Iowa are entrusted to the De-Jong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home, Keokuk, IA.

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# PEN CITY CURRENT

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P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA



## Opinion/From the Front

# County doesn't want prolonged legal battle

**SETTLED** - Continued from Page 1

of trial, if possible.”

The U.S. District Court for Southern Iowa ruled against CenturyLink in the lawsuit brought by Allied Manatts Group, L.L.C and DeLong Construction, Inc regarding the construction damage. CenturyLink, settled that claim with the two entities and then filed suit against the county, PSBA, and Knoke for negligence.

Supervisor Rick Larkin asked what had changed to make them offer a settlement.

Hull said there has been a request for a summary judgment made in the case and the trial is set to start in September. With those issues pending, CenturyLink decided to put out a settlement offer.

“This thing could go on and on and I think it's in the best interest of the county that we do settle. And we are taking the word from our counsel. It's never good when we have to pay this amount, but it is what it is.”

Hull said he and Steffensmeier were 1,000s of hours into the case.

“Given the 1,000s of hours, I could do \$100,000 worth of good for the county. This could go on for another five years,” Hull said.

Supervisor Ron Fedler said the county has been kicking the issue down the road for years.

“I agree with our attorney. I don't want to roll the dice here. You never know.”

In other action, supervisors:

- approved, 5-0, a contract to accept a donation of just under 10 acres of land from the Circle M Inc., and the Glen Meller family for property to house a new Lee County Health Department.

- approved, 5-0, a motion to re-appoint Liza Alton to the Lee County Conservation Board for a five-year term.

### OPINION

## Transparency is key in keeping beef prices low

**T**ransparency is the cornerstone of trust and accountability. That's why I've worked hard to maintain a high standard of transparency as your senator, including by holding meetings in all 99 counties ever year and through weekly calls with Iowa reporters. During my town halls and press calls, constituents and reporters are welcome to ask me questions on any subject.

I hold government agencies, corporations and other entities to the same high standard that I set for myself – working hard on legislation that holds them accountable and ensures they're being open and honest with the American people. Recently, I've led proposals that seek to cultivate transparency in the cattle and pharmaceutical industries. My goal is to shine a light on undisclosed practices that drive up costs for consumers, and in the cattle industry, practices that drive down revenue for independent cattle producers.



GRASSLEY

For years, I've been fighting to enhance transparency to improve cattle markets for independent cattle feeders. It's been a long haul, but as a lifelong farmer and member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I never stopped listening to Iowa cattle feeders and kept championing their livelihoods in Congress, working with my colleagues to advance this much-needed legislation. At the end of June, the Agriculture Committee voted to advance the Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act, a bipartisan proposal I'm leading alongside Senators Fischer of Nebraska, Tester of Montana and Wyden of Oregon.

Currently, four big meat packers control more than 80 percent of the market. These packers often enter into hidden contracts with large cattle feedlots, making it difficult for smaller, independent producers to get a fair shake or even identify a fair price in the market – all while making it easier for packers to increase their profits. For example, while independent cattle producers have seen market prices fall or remain stagnant, Tyson Foods – one of the big four meat packers – reported that they raised prices for beef 23.8 percent during

the first three months of this year. JBS, another one of the big four meat packers, recently settled a \$52 million beef price-fixing lawsuit.

Our legislation seeks to improve transparency among meat packers who purchase livestock directly from independent producers by bolstering the negotiated cash market. Specifically, it requires the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to establish a mandatory minimum amount of purchases through an approved and transparent pricing structure for large meat packers, increasing competition in the cattle marketplace. Additionally, the bill would create a public contract library to disclose how contracts between feeders and packers are structured. Now that our legislation to boost transparency has passed the Agriculture Committee, Iowa producers are one step closer to being on a level playing field so they can receive a fair price for their cattle and increase their bottom lines.

As I travel the state holding my 99 county meetings, Iowans consistently tell me they are concerned with soaring prices – including the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs. I've continued working on my bipartisan Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act, which successfully passed the Finance Committee when I was chairman. Unfortunately, Majority Leader Schumer won't bring it up for a vote, even though it would easily pass the Senate – but that hasn't stopped me from trying to find other ways to help bring down the cost of medication.

I recently joined Senator Cantwell of Washington to introduce the Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) Transparency Act. Once again, our bill tackles the issue of transparency, but this one focuses on the drug industry's middlemen: PBMs. Today, three PBMs control nearly 80 percent of the prescription drug market, and they get away with operating in the shadows. They make decisions that are often unknown to consumers, pharmacies and regulators – increasing their profits while driving up costs for consumers and taxpayers in the process. Our bill, which successfully passed the Commerce Committee with bipartisan support, would direct the FTC to hold PBMs accountable for unfair and deceptive practices by banning manipulative pricing schemes.

Improving transparency and accountability among PBMs is a critical step in my ongoing bipartisan effort to lower prescription drug costs. I've also successfully pressed the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to investigate the impact PBMs have on the affordability of medicine. The agency recently announced it's opening an inquiry, which will tackle the current opaque structure of the industry. This will help bring additional transparency that is desperately needed in the pharmaceutical industry.

From low prices for Iowa cattle feeders to high costs at the pharmacy counter, improving transparency can help solve serious issues hurting Iowans' pocketbooks today. While we've made significant progress in recent weeks, I'll continue fighting for transparency by working tirelessly to get my bills on the president's desk and signed into law.

Sen. Chuck Grassley is the senior senator from Iowa and this editorial is run with permission from his office.



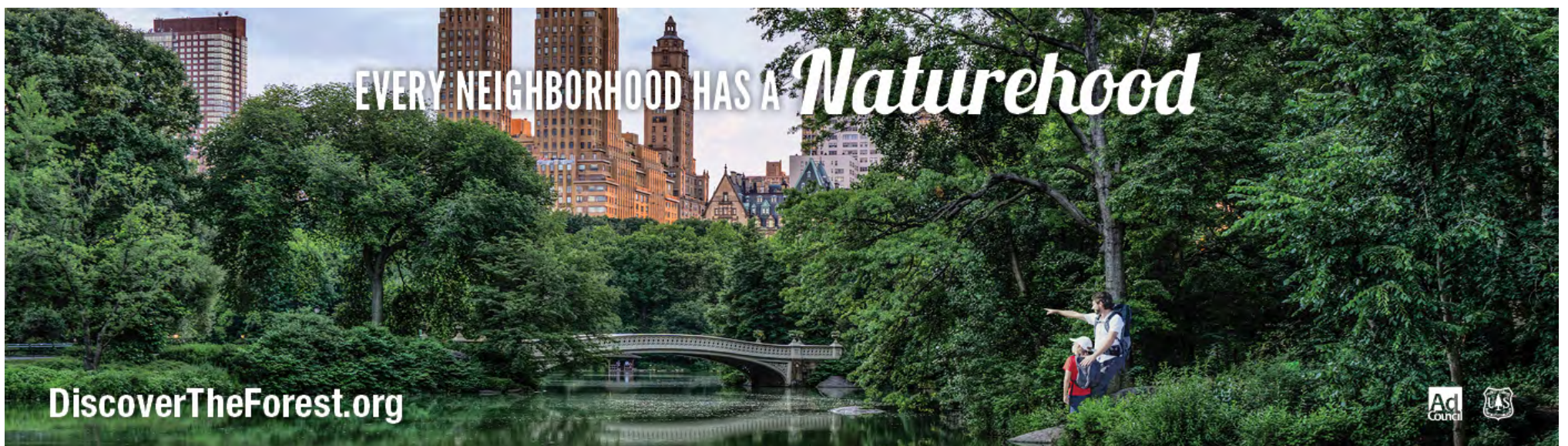
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July 5 to July 21, 2022.

The application form and job  
description can be download-  
ed at [www.leecounty.org](http://www.leecounty.org), ob-  
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## Iowa News/From the Front

# Groups asked to be part of marketing directory list

**LISTING** - Continued from Page 1

clubs and not-so-nuanced clubs exist in the city.

Emily Benjamin, of Freeport McMoran, who sits on the committee said one of the ways to capitalize on that would be to give those groups a presence at events already in place, such as the Downtown Summer Markets or the Baxter Sports Complex.

But to set it up properly, the group would need to know what clubs are out there. The group wants to know what clubs are still out there, what new clubs have been formed, what clubs have disbanded, and what groups are actively pursuing new members.

To that end, the group is asking for anyone with active clubs in the city to list their club and a contact name and email or club social media tag in this social media feed or at the end of this piece.

The end goal would be to create a fun and integrated directory listing all the clubs and groups that are active and functional with events, meetings, and activities.

If you want to put your club in a place of visibility and possibly be included in efforts currently underway to reach potential new members, the pillar group is asking that those involved in clubs or groups in the city list information here to help create that directory.

## IowaWORKS vendor victimized by cyberattack

DES MOINES – The [IowaWORKS.gov](http://IowaWORKS.gov) website that was recently impacted by a website outage has been restored, Iowa Workforce Development announced. The outage, caused by a cyberattack on third-party vendor Geographic Solutions Inc. (GSI), was resolved after close coordination between GSI and the state.

Iowans can utilize the [IowaWORKS.gov](http://IowaWORKS.gov) website to search for a new job and record their work search activities.

The delivery of unemployment benefit payments was not impacted by the outage, but the need for unemployment claimants to report reemployment activities on [IowaWORKS.gov](http://IowaWORKS.gov) was temporarily suspended. As a result of the website being restored:

Individuals filing weekly claims will again be required to report reemployment activities on [IowaWORKS.gov](http://IowaWORKS.gov) beginning on Sunday, July 24 (to report activities for the week prior) Individuals who filed an initial claim from Sunday, June 26 through Friday, July 15, 2022, are asked to log into the [IowaWORKS.gov](http://IowaWORKS.gov) website and ensure they have an active resume that is viewable to employers.

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# County just looking at data first

**CHARGES** - Continued from Page 1

of people calling for assistance, we call the families and let them know they may need other assistance,” Herren said.

Cosby said there are many occurrences where people are calling two and three times per day.

“I think there might be some abuse there,” Cosby said.

He said he didn’t have hard numbers on those calls, but could start tracking those. Patients are required to sign waivers of transport if they don’t want to go to the hospital.

Lee County Supervisor Garry Seyb said at last week’s meeting, he would be supportive of some type of charge for a non-emergent call.

“Correct me if I’m wrong, but once that ambulance is dedicated to a non-emergent call, it takes emergent response time away from that ambulance.”

He said there seems to be a large amount of calls going out with no transports that were not emergent.

Seyb said there has been some negative response to the potential charge when it was brought up.

“Dennis brought that up not that he wanted to move forward with it, but wanted to look at it,” Seyb said.

“The discussion was that we do see it happening, but we’re not sure of the impact of it. Dennis suggested, and I agree, that we need to look at it and pull some data to see how often we’re getting recurring calls to the same address in a short amount of time and is that impacting emergent calls in the area.”

Seyb said he’s not motivated by the increased revenue, but more of a concern about having ambulances that are needed for emergent calls being tied up in non-emergent calls.

“Is there an ambulance that’s being displaced to

emergent calls because there’s an ambulance in the area that’s responding to a non emergent call,” he said.

When that was heard, it was thought that we were going to start charging for it, but nothing has been brought forward.

Cosby said he wanted to bring that to the full board before that decision would be made.

Charles Holmes said Monday in general in the health care industry, if there is a service provided, there is a charge associated with it.

“If you go to the emergency room and you die of a heart attack, believe me, you’re still going to get billed. If you die on the operating table you’re gonna get a bill no matter what. To be consistent with how billing is done in the health care industry, you would be billing no matter what.”

Holmes asked if Medicare or Medicaid would be picking up the bill in those instances.

Cosby said if there is no transport under EMS industry standards, it’s very difficult to bill for those trips.

He said those laws are changing slowly and if there are medications administered, but no transport, they can bill for the medications provided.

“This charge would not be billable to insurance now. That could change in the future,” Cosby said.

Seyb said he wanted to take a closer look at the data. “We’ll take a look at that and see where it goes,” he said.

“If it bares out statistically that we’re sacrificing care of someone in an emergent call for someone not in an emergent call, then I think we have a duty to absolutely do something to address it.”

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**July 1<sup>st</sup> – August 5<sup>th</sup>**

(no meals July 4<sup>th</sup>)

**FM**

**Sit & Eat Service – Monday thru Friday**  
*For all kids 18 years old and younger.*



**10:45-11:05**

- **Lincoln Elem**  
14<sup>th</sup> St & Ave E  
(playground)

**11:15-11:35**

- **FM High School**  
20<sup>th</sup> St & Ave C  
(by pool)

**11:00-11:30**

- **ECC**  
23<sup>rd</sup> & Ave J  
*No meals July 4-8*
- **YMCA**  
220 – 26<sup>th</sup> St  
*No meals on Fridays*

**11:50-12:10**

- **Victory Park**  
23<sup>rd</sup> St & Ave F  
(playground)

**12:30-12:50**

- **Richardson Elem.**  
33<sup>rd</sup> St & Ave L  
(playground)

**1:00-1:20**

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



Central Lee Sports Boosters

# GOLF OUTING 2022

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 2022**

**GREEN ACRES GOLF COURSE**

*in Donnellson, Iowa*

**SHOTGUN START: 10 a.m.**

**FORMAT: Best Ball**

**ENTRY FEE: \$400 per team**

*22 team limit, 4 players per team*

**Registration fee includes golf, golf cart,  
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**Prizes will be awarded for the top three teams in  
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*All proceeds go to the Central Lee Sports Boosters*

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[eric@myconnectionbank.com](mailto:eric@myconnectionbank.com)

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Player 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Player 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Player 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Player 4: \_\_\_\_\_



Central Lee Sports Boosters

# GOLF OUTING 2022

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The Central Lee Sports Boosters is working to raise funds to complete Phase I of the athletics facility improvement plan developed in 2022. Your sponsorship will help improve batting cages, track & field events, and the football & soccer field, while expanding the press box at the football field!

## SPONSORSHIPS

### PREMIER SPONSOR (\$1,500):

This is the headline sponsor with naming rights for the golf outing. The premier sponsor has the opportunity to display their banner at the venue, have their business as a hole sponsor, and have their logo and name displayed on all marketing materials and social media posts for the event.

### HOSPITALITY SPONSOR (\$750):

The golf outing includes lunch, dinner, and beverages for event participants. Our hospitality sponsors will be recognized during lunch and dinner, and also be included near the areas beverages are served. Hospitality sponsors are allowed signage at the lunch, dinner, and beverage locations.

### HOLE SPONSOR (\$150):

Each hole will have display signs showcasing businesses and organizations serving as a hole sponsor. Multiple businesses/organizations may be displayed on each tee box throughout the course.

### ON-COURSE GAMES (\$250):

Part of what makes a golf event like this a memorable experience are the on-course games/contests. These sponsors will be recognized on the course, in the program, and during the awards ceremony. On-course games include, but are not limited to, long drive, longest putt, and closest to the pin. We can even customize an on-course game to highlight your business!

### RAFFLE PRIZE SPONSORS:

At the conclusion of the golfing event, sports boosters will conduct a raffle/silent auction. To create a fun experience for both golfers and non-golfers, the booster club needs sponsors for the items! Businesses will be recognized by the individual item they donate and during the awards ceremony.

**If you have any questions, please contact:**

**Eric Van Ausdall** - [eric@myconnectionbank.com](mailto:eric@myconnectionbank.com) | **Scott Fogarty** - [scottjfoarty@gmail.com](mailto:scottjfoarty@gmail.com)