

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Wednesday, July 27, 2022 | 11 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 136



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## Ave. OHHHH Laundry



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Ave. O Laundry owner Jim Cobb talks with some customers Tuesday about upcoming services at the new facility in The Plaza at Fort Madison.

### LODI PLAZA: Owners roll out state-of-the-art industrial laundry facility

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - This isn't your aunt Susie's laundromat.

Jim and Melanie Cobb, the new owners of The Plaza at Fort Madison on the city's west side had never owned a laundromat before. They hadn't really intended on owning one now, but rather wanted to chase the warm weather after leaving their home in Utah

Jim is the handyman/contractor and

Melanie is the real estate piece of the partnership.

The two acquired the Lodi Center not quite a year ago and quickly went about meeting and greeting the community with hopes of bringing a fresh look and approach to the plaza.

At the center is a new venture called Ave O Laundry. But it's not your typical laundry. This place is gadgeted out with the highest end washers and dryers, but

See WASH, page 6

### CAPITOL HILL

## Grassley says Congress still eyeing ARPA activity

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) said it may be time to start looking at pulling in some of the America Rescue Plan Act funding if it's not being properly appropriated or even left unspent.

Grassley made the comments during his weekly Capitol Hill Report where he meets with a member of radio/broadcast media and a member of print media. This weeks report featured Pen City Current and Nathan Konz of Carroll Broadcasting Co. of Carrol, Iowa.

Konz and Pen City Current's Chuck Vandenberg pressed Grassley, who voted against the stimulus package, on ARPA funds and if the funding is getting away from its intention.

"From time to time we're spending money on some new project or policy in the United States, and sometimes we try to offset that money by taking money that's not COVID-related, or is unspent and try to reallocate that. But we haven't been successful in it," Grassley said.

But he said transparency is the key as far as he's concerned.

"First of all, if this is going to be spent, they're going to have to point to the law that allows it to be spent for that purpose. So if its something that's not being spent, my policy is that Americans deserve transparency to make sure the taxpayers' money isn't being lost to fraud or being misspent in any other way. That's what Congressional oversight is all about.

I would expect members of the appropriations committee to ride herd on that money to make sure it's spent in an appropriate, legal way."

Grassley said he didn't vote for the stimulus package out of fear of what would happen to inflation. He said Democratic

See POLICE, page 7

### WEST POINT

## Christmas in July this Saturday at Pollmiller Park

PCC STAFF

WEST POINT - Lee County Conservation presents Christmas in July at Pollmiller Park Campground at 2448 County Rd 103 West Point, IA 52656 on Saturday, July 30th from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The event features a free public paddle at the beach, as well as, a fun celebration of Christmas in July at the campground, where campers are invited to decorate their campsites with Christmas lights and décor. Prizes will be awarded to the campers with the holly-jolliest of Christmas displays.

LCC staff will have kayaks, canoes, paddle boats, and a hydrobike available during the free public paddle at the beach from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The Christmas in July light display will take place in the campground

See POLLMILLER, page 6

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### WEATHER

WED 27 Jul..... Mostly Sunny and Warm, 85° F/ 66° F  
 THU 28 Jul..... Partly Sunny and Warm, 80° F/ 58° F  
 FRI 29 Jul..... Mostly Sunny, 79° F/ 59° F

### IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 07/25..... 26 31 37 48 52, Star Ball: 4 All Star Bonus: 3  
 LUCKY FOR LIFE 07/25..... 3 27 33 35 45, Lucky Ball: 2  
 PICK 3 07/25 MIDDAY..... 7 4 3  
 PICK 3 07/25 EVENING..... 3 1 2  
 PICK 4 07/25 MIDDAY..... 6 8 3 4  
 PICK 4 07/25 EVENING..... 3 6 5 5  
 POWERBALL 07/25..... 25 37 38 39 64, Powerball: 5 Power Play: 2

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# EVERY VOTE MATTERS

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### WANDA D. SMITH

Wanda D. Smith, 90, of Danville, previously of Cedar Rapids and West Point, Iowa, made her transition to Heaven on Monday, July 25, 2022.

She was born on October 29, 1931, the daughter of Wayman and Mary Cecil (Cooper) Harris. She graduated from New London High School in 1950, then went on to Bill Hills College and became a licensed beautician. She married Leonard G. Menke on July 15, 1950, together they had three children. They later divorced and she married Stuart "Lacy" Smith on December 27, 1967. He preceded her in death.



SMITH

Wanda was a hard working woman throughout her life. She ran her own beauty shop out of her country home for fourteen years. She worked at Emerson Electric until they moved, she then worked for Rockwell Collins for twenty-five years at which time she retired. In her retirement, she also worked at Methwick Manor as a housekeeper. She was a former active member of the St. James Methodist in Cedar Rapids and a current active member of the West Point Presbyterian Church. Throughout her life, Wanda enjoyed baking and canning. She has made many memorable gifts and goodies for her friends and family over the years with her creative handy work. Wanda also enjoyed traveling, sewing, gardening, fishing, rock collecting and bowling. Her love for bowling led her and the teams she was on to many state tournaments and a state championship title. Wanda was the best grandmother. She enjoyed sharing her passion of traveling by taking her grandchildren on extensive vacations over the years, always stopping to get a rock on the trips.

She is survived by her granddaughter: Audrey Menke of Danville, Iowa; one step-daughter: Kristine (Jeff) Burkle of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; five step-grandchildren: Jessica Rosburg, Angela (Ron) Bettmeng, Aaron Burkle, Missy (Todd) Gleason, Kelsey Boyle; five great grandchildren and one sister-in-law: Joan Harris of Danville, Iowa. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death her parents; husband: Stuart; children: Amy C. Menke, Joseph Menke, Michael J. Menke and several stillborns; two step-daughters: Marica Smith and Patty Ross; siblings: Lloyd "Bud" (Oneta) Harris, Mary Lou (Glenn) Oliver, Eldon "Leon" Harris and one nephew: Sam Oliver.

Visitation will begin at 12:00 noon at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point, where the family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 27, 2022, at the West Point Presbyterian Church in West Point with Pastor Larry Shipley officiating.

Burial will be at Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

A memorial has been established in her memory for the West Point Presbyterian Church. Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com). Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements.

#### 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.

#### Lee County Health Department Back-to-School Immunization Clinic

August 9, 2022

9:00am-Noon and 1:00pm-4:00pm

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Fort Madison, IA 52627

Save  
the  
Date

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Walk-ins will be taken in order of arrival so wait times may vary.

Masks are required for those over the age of 2.

This Immunization Clinic is aimed at those children needing back-to-school immunizations specially those entering Kindergarten, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade & Senior Year.

For questions or to schedule an appointment please call (319)376-4767 or (319)372-5225.

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(319)372-5225 or (800)458-6672 ~ [www.leecountyhd.org](http://www.leecountyhd.org)



## OBITUARIES

### KIRBY BENJAMIN

Kirby Benjamin, 52, of rural Stronghurst, Illinois, passed away at 10:58 p.m. Friday, July 22, 2022 at the Memorial Hospital in Carthage, Illinois.

Kirby was born November 21, 1969 in Rushville, Illinois, the son of Danny and Jane (Sheets) Lieb. On April 2, 1993 he married Lorraine Worley in Oquawka, Illinois. She survives.



BENJAMIN

Kirby proudly served his county in the U.S. Army. He was currently employed as a truck driver for DOT Foods. He enjoyed his job. He previously worked for Ryner Transport and as welder for Butler Manufacturing.

He was an avid outdoorsman. He always included his family in his hunting and fishing adventures. He also enjoyed watching football, especially the Green Bay Packers.



Survivors include his wife: Lorraine; his mother: Jane Lieb of Dallas City; three children: Tyler Worley of Stronghurst, Kristen Benjamin Havens of Media, Illinois and Trapper (Cheyenne Hiland) Benjamin of Carthage, Illinois; two grandchildren: Ryker and Bryar Havens. Also surviving are two sisters: Shannon Bailey of Dallas City and Misty Hensley of Troy, Missouri, as well as several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father: Danny and his grandparents.

Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. Thursday, July 28, 2022 at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City, where the family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m.

The funeral service will be at 11:00 a.m. Friday, July 29, 2022 at Banks & Beals in Dallas City. Burial with Military Rites will follow in Crane Cemetery, near Lomax.

A memorial fund has been established for the family. To leave a condolence for the family, please visit Kirby's obituary at [banksandbeals.com](http://banksandbeals.com).



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11am - 1pm

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Tuesday, July 26

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Wednesday, July 27

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Friday, July 29

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Charles Vandenberg, Editor

(319).371.1670

[charles.v@pencitycurrent.com](mailto:charles.v@pencitycurrent.com)

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager

(319).371.4125

[lee.v@pencitycurrent.com](mailto:lee.v@pencitycurrent.com)

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## From the Front

# More yet to come as laundromat continues to grow

**WASH** - Continued from Page 1

also services unlike other midwestern laundries.

To start, the Dexter line of washers and dryers are top-of-the-line made right in Iowa and these machines will do anywhere from 1 to 8 loads at a time.

Cobb said he wanted to provide larger machines to help reduce people's time in doing laundry.

"We're not just selling laundry here, we're selling you time," he said.

He's not only marketing the laundry to residents in rental properties or those traveling through, he wants the restaurant, hotel, bar, and industrial business as well.

"We've talked with the local hotels about referring their customers here for laundry services. We're talking with restaurants about our ability to do their towels and aprons and things. Again, giving time back to those busy people," he said.

Although he doesn't have all the details worked out yet, Cobb said there are plans being finalized for people, business, companies and travelers to drop off their laundry, have it done, and then come back and pick it up.

"We're about a month away from having that service ready," Cobb said. "We'll have a drop off right through the double doors. We will wash it, dry it, and fold it. Probably not ironing and that kind of thing, but we can provide a service that allows you to catch up with your time."

He said the machines are also big enough for spring



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The equipment at Ave. O Laundry is state-of-the-art American made Dexter machines, with a facility in Iowa.

cleaning, drapes, comforters, and other bulk laundry.

Cobb has spaced out the traditional load machines so everyone has plenty of workspace and there are tables at the end of each row of machines and along the walls.

One very unique aspect to Fort Madison laundry services is the Dexter mobile app that allows you to reserve and pay for washers and dryers right from your phone. Cobb said there will eventually be specials on the app for users with potential savings for repeated use.

Using the app, one person could pay for the machines from anywhere using the app and another person doing the laundry would just have to load the machine and

press start.

He's also going to be installing some child-friendly amenities in the next month that will include dry-erase boards, books, and some games to keep children occupied during cleaning.

Patrons can also expect vending machines with snacks and drinks in the coming weeks.

Those interested in more information about Jim and Melanie's services at Ave. O Laundry can also connect with them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Avenue.O.Laundry>.

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## Non-reservable sites still available for event

**POLLMILLER** - Continued from Page 1

until 10 p.m.. The public is encouraged to visit the campground on Saturday evening to enjoy all of the displays.

"The campers that I have talked to about this event are really excited. I had some reserve their campsite as soon as they learned about the event to make sure they would not miss it," said Kayla Schleidt, the Pollmiller Campground Host.

"I think that everyone just likes the idea of a fun activity in the park. We are such a family-friendly

park and Christmas to me is all about family, so it's a perfect combination."

All reservable campsites in the campground are booked for the weekend, but non-reservable sites will be available on a first-come-first-serve basis. The campground is expected to fill-up, so people are encouraged to get their spots early.

Lee County Conservation hopes to see everyone at Pollmiller to help fill the park with some warm Christmas cheer.

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# Iowa News/ From the Front

## Grassley leads hearings on police staffing shortages

**POLICE** - Continued from Page 1

economists told the leadership that it wasn't a good spend.

"None of the leadership listened to them and that's why we have the inflation we have today," he said.

Grassley also led a hearing Tuesday morning focused on bringing attention to suffering staffing situations in law enforcement. An Iowa police officer Zach Andersen was present at the hearings in Washington D.C. and delivered opening remarks about the critical need for support of America's law enforcement agencies.

Grassley said he attributes the increase in violent crime, including attacks on police forces, as a reason agencies suffer in recruitment and retention.

"We're after a couple things and that's to bring attention to a bill that I've introduced that would gather more stats on gang shootings on police officers," he said.

"But the overriding purpose is to highlight the lack of morale of policeman for their profession."

The 88-year-old Senator, who's seeking another six-year term in the November general election, said he spoke with law enforcement officials in Davenport several months ago and learned that morale is down, there are difficulties in recruiting, and people are retiring without a sufficient backfill of those positions.

"There's just not enough people applying for these jobs and law enforcement is weak as a result of it."

Grassley also spoke about the possibility of a recession saying he prefers to call it a "couple quarters of negative growth".

"I don't think it will be a deep recession, but from my meetings in the 99 counties, I'm hearing it's the small business people that are the ones who frequently use the term. Democrats don't like it because they are embarrassed by it."

Grassley, a former farmer who has a natural gas line running through his property in Butler County, said current discussions and negotiations around carbon capture pipelines are in the hands of the Iowa Utilities Board. He said he gets questions at his county meetings about the pipelines and said the issue is highly controversial.

"People who want to establish this need to do a better job of communicating with landowners," he said. "And the people who think it's beneficial need to be more proactive about it."

## Another Opioid Settlement

# Miller reveals deal reached with Teva

### Settlement includes \$4.25 billion in cash over next 13 years

DES MOINES – Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller has reached an agreement in principle on key financial terms with opioid maker Teva, which would provide up to \$4.25 billion to participating states and local governments.

While critical details of the settlement remain the subject of ongoing negotiations, Teva disclosed the first details of the agreement ahead of its earnings announcement Wednesday.

"This is another major step in addressing the opioids crisis," Miller said, noting that Iowa was a leading state in negotiating today's agreement with Teva. "We expect these funds to make a significant difference in preventing fatal overdoses and treating opioid addiction disorder."

Teva, an Israel-based drug manufacturer, makes Actiq and Fentora, which are branded fentanyl products for cancer pain, and a number of generic opioids including oxycodone.

States alleged that Teva:

- promoted potent, rapid-onset fentanyl products for use by non-cancer patients;
- deceptively marketed opioids by downplaying the risk of addiction and overstating their benefits, including encouraging the idea that signs of addiction are actually "pseudoaddiction" treated by prescribing more opioids; and
- failed to comply with suspicious order monitoring requirements along with its distributor, Anda.

The parties have agreed on the following financial

terms:

- Teva will pay a maximum of \$4.25 billion in cash over 13 years. This figure includes amounts Teva has already agreed to pay under settlements with individual States, funds for participating States and subdivisions, and the \$240 million of cash in lieu of product described below.

- As part of the financial term, Teva will provide up to \$1.2 billion in generic naloxone (valued at Wholesale Acquisition Cost or WAC) over a 10-year period or \$240 million of cash in lieu of product, at each State's election. Naloxone is used to counteract overdoses.

- The settlement will build on the existing framework that states and subdivisions have created through other recent opioid settlements.

A final settlement remains contingent on agreement on critical business practice changes and transparency requirements.

"Leading a coalition of states to hold accountable the manufacturers of opioids is a priority for our office, which is why I have directed substantial resources toward this effort," Miller said. "We are dedicated to ensuring that help is available to Iowans who are victims of the opioid epidemic."

The negotiations are being led by the following states: California, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin. While New York is among the 12 states that negotiated this proposed settlement framework, Teva and New York are still engaged in further negotiations.

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Financial Advisor

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\* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 07/25/22. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit [www.fdic.gov](http://www.fdic.gov) or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

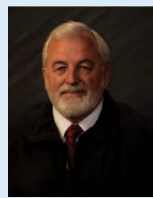
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W-2319024 11/18

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4 Year Old Preschool



**ENROLL TODAY**

Fort Madison Family YMCA

# WARNING SIGNS OF T1D

**JDRF** IMPROVING LIVES. CURING TYPE 1 DIABETES.

- Headaches
- Weight Loss
- Blurry Vision
- Extreme Thirst
- Frequent Urination
- Increased Appetite
- Fruity Breath Odor
- Fatigue and Weakness
- Rapid Deep Breathing



**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,  
and lunch & dinner.**

**Prizes will be awarded for the top three teams in  
each flight. Door prizes and silent auction for all.**

*All proceeds go to the Central Lee Sports Boosters*

**SPONSORED BY**

**Pilot Grove**  
**Savings Bank**

Equal Housing Lender

Member FDIC



Send Registration to:

**Eric Van Ausdall**

1692 Hwy 2  
Donnellson, IA 52625

217-430-4650

eric@myconnectionbank.com

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

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

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

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

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

Central Lee Sports Boosters

# GOLF OUTING 2022

SPONSORED BY



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)



**SAVE THE DATE!!**  
**Back to School Festival**  
**Friday, Aug 5, 2022**  
**4:00 PM to 7:00 PM**

**Trinity United Methodist Church 2330 Plank Road Keokuk**

***Backpacks Pre K-12, info booths, food, activities***  
***Free and open to the public regardless of income***



**For sponsor and volunteer opportunities, call 319-524-4504**