FAREWAY: Fundraiser nets \$173K for children's charity • See page 3

PEN CITY CURRENT

Ff 😏 🛅 🖸 🞯 🖗 Friday, August 5, 2022 | 11 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 143 **LCHD lands \$550K grant FIRST RESPONDERS** Digital radio



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Dignitaries, Lee County Health Department staff, and media gathered at a press conference Thursday to announce a \$500,000 federal grant to boost rural healthcare workforce in southeast lowa.

WORKFORCE: Program aims to bolster healthcare workforce with partnerships

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC FDITOR

LEE COUNTY - In a rare public press conference, the Lee County Health Department announced Thursday that a federal grant totaling more than half a million dollars had been secured for workforce development.

A team consisting of Breanna Kramer-Riesberg, LCHD Community Outreach & Development Project Coordinator, and Emily Biddenstadt, along with other partners from Blessing Health System, Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, and Southeastern Community College, worked together for about three months to get the grant application put together under the direction of LCHD Administrator Michele Ross.

Ross, Kramer-Riesberg, and Biddenstadt were also genuinely surprised when the news came in that the LCHD had received the grant money.

Kramer-Riesberg said part of the funds will be used initially to set up the program, and then funds will be allocated to allow students to take coursework related to rural health care to increase the workforce for the first three years of the program.

See **GRANT**, page 4

www.pencitycurrent.com

It's Black & White and Read all over

shift just weeks away

County service testing at 96% with new digital radio systems

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - Lee County's emergency responders are about a month away from getting new digital radios that will enhance reception service to better than 95% of the county.

At Thursday's Lee County 911 Control Board meeting at the sheriff's office, LeeComm Director Travis Solem said testing is currently underway and should wrap up in the next few days, a full three weeks ahead of schedule.

Solem said originally the testing was set for three to four weeks and Motorola's contractor has been testing for the past three days, hoping to finish by Monday.

"Right now we're at about 96.05% in the county and we've been focusing on areas that have been trouble areas in the past," Solem said.

"I would imagine that number would go up probably to 97%," Solem said.

The contract with Motorola gaurantees 95% service throughout the county. County first responders began the process of trying to replace the analog system about three years ago by giving presentations at area cities and townships in the county.

The project carried a pricetag of \$6.9

Open Meetings Violation

IFOIC, Quad Cities media sue Bettendorf schools

BY PCC STAFF

DES MOINES - The Iowa Freedom of Information Council and four Quad Cities news companies sued the Bettendorf Community School District and its board of directors Monday for blocking journalists from covering a recent meeting at which parents expressed concern about violence in the district's middle school.

Joining the 46-year-old nonprofit advocacy organization as plaintiffs in the lawsuit are the Quad-City Times and television stations KWQC, WQAD and WHBF. Defendants are the school district and the seven members of its school board.

The lawsuit grows out of a meeting on May 25 that was attended by 200 to 300

See LAWSUIT, page 2

million which will be funded with debt service from the E911 board and about \$600,000 in initial upfront funding. The new system will also align county emergency crews with the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System (ISICS), a land mobile radio network that enables first responders to communicate seamlessly and securely

See **911**, page 3

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WEATHER

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LUCKY FOR LIFE 08/03	117 25 27 42, Lucky Ball: 10
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POWERBALL 08/03	

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Madison, Iowa.

Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

MARK R. EWINGER

Mark "Squeek" Randolph Ewinger, 74, of Middletown, died Wednesday, August 3, 2022, at his home.

Born October 5, 1947, in Burlington, he was the son of Wes John Ewinger and Reva Irene Loofburrow. On February 3, 1968, he married Darlene at St. Joseph's Church in Fort



Mark was a Burlington High School graduate, then attended SCC for a year.

Mark worked as a welder and fabricator for many companies including GE, Case, and Fruehauf in Fort Madison. He worked at HawkeyePedershaab in Mediapolis until his retirement.

EWINGER

Mark loved nature. He spent time outside working in the yard and camping. Mark loved trees and planting trees. He enjoyed bird watching,

especially Baltimore Orioles and had many feeders his yard. Mark was a big fan of the Minnesota Vikings, Cubs Baseball and Hawkeye sports. He liked taking spontaneous trips around the United States with his wife and his favorite place to visit, was the Great Lakes.

Survivors include wife, Darlene Ewinger of Middletown; two brothers, Craig (Evonne) Ewinger of West Burlington, and Kim (Jeanne) Ewinger of Bullhead City, AZ; sister, Renae (Karl "Lyle") Coleman of Sperry, IA; five nephews, Kyle, Kevin, Scott, Randy, and Terry; and six nieces, Kara, Stacey, Shelly, Stephany, Tammy, and Janeen.

Besides his parents, he is preceded in death by his infant brother, Jody Michael Ewinger and half brother, Clif Ayers.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of Prugh Crematory.

Visitation will be from 1:30 PM until 2:30 PM Sunday, August 7, 2022 at Prugh~Thielen Funeral Home.

The memorial service for Mr. Ewinger will be 2:30 PM Sunday, August 7, 2022, at Prugh~Thielen Funeral Home with Pastor Dean Graber officiating. A time of fellowship will be held in the community room at Prugh~Thielen Funeral Home following the service. Prugh Funeral Service is in care of the arrangements.

A photo tribute can be viewed and condolences can be sent to the family by visiting Mark's obituary at <u>www.prughfuneral.com</u>.

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



IFOIC says meeting violated open meetings laws

LAWSUIT - Continued from Page 1

parents, along with a majority of the members of the school board and Superintendent Michelle Morse. School employees were stationed at the doors of the Waterfront Center to keep reporters and photographers from entering the meeting.

The gathering was held one day after the massacre at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, killed 21 students and teachers. The meeting in Bettendorf followed mounting complaints from parents during the recently completed academic year about the lack of adequate response by school officials to rowdy behavior that left some students and their parents fearful.

The lawsuit asks the Scott County District Court to find the school district in violation of Iowa's open meetings law and to issue an injunction prohibiting the school board from violating the statute in the future. The lawsuit also asks the court to fine members of the board who took part in the meeting.

In a letter sent to Superintendent Morse and school board president Rebecca Eastman a week after the May 25 meeting, the Iowa FOI Council and managers of the news companies expressed "profound disappointment" with Bettendorf officials' decision to keep journalists from covering the meeting.

"The topic discussed on the evening of Wednesday, May 25, was one of the fundamental responsibilities of the Bettendorf Community School District - ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the district's 4,700 students during each school day," the letter stated.

The letter continued, "It would stretch believability to think that spending a couple of hours listening to the concerns of parents about the behavior of some Bettendorf Middle School students — including bullying and injuries suffered by students not otherwise involved in the incidents — does not fall within the meaning of deliberations on matters clearly within the scope of the Board of Education's policy-making duties."

Randy Evans, the executive director of the Iowa FOI Council, said the authors of Iowa's open meetings law recognized the important work journalists do in informing the public about the issues and problems government faces and the potential solutions. But that cannot occur when government officials deny journalists access to meetings like the one held in Bettendorf.

Evans noted that the very first paragraph of the open meetings law states that any ambiguity in the interpretation of the statute should be resolved in favor of openness.





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Iowa News/From the Front

FM police to get four more radios

911 - Continued from Page 1

with one another, even if they are outside of their normal areas of operation.

The Motorola Solutions contract included the construction of a new tower, upgrades to two existing towers and use of an existing ISICS tower in the county.

Solem said portable radios should be rolled out to all departments in September and those will be used until the mobile devices are installed in the vehicles. He said all the radios are in the county's possession and contractors are hoping to do all the installations at the Lee County Economic Development Group's Montrose office.

He said that wouldn't be a mandatory location, but those that are wanting mobile devices installed at individual departments may have to wait longer.

"They're not opposed to doing it, but what theyll end up doing is every department that is willing to come to the centralized location will get theirs done first, and those that aren't will be second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth...," Solem said.

In other action, the board:

•approved four additional radios for Fort Madison Police Department. The department has added three vehicles including a community service officer, a K9-unit and a second detective. The cost of those radios would be just over \$18,000. The city will pay for the installations of the additional radios.

•approved contracts for upgrades to the LeeComm 911 CPE systems including past contract fees for a total \$48,000 and providing maintenance through July 2023.



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Fareway raises \$173K for kids

BOONE - Fareway Stores, Inc. partnered with Variety - the Children's Charity to conduct the sixth annual Round Up at the register in July at all 131 store locations, raising a total of \$173,590.76 for Variety – the Children's Charity.

"We want to thank our generous customers for their heartfelt donations to Variety-the Children's Charity," said Fareway CEO Reynolds W. Cramer. "We have proudly partnered with Variety for more than 35 years and are committed to helping kids who are at-risk, critically ill, or living with special needs across our footprint."

Customers had the opportunity to round up to the next dollar or provide an additional donation on their grocery bill to help fund Variety's mission. Dollars raised through the round up will stay in the state in which they were raised, and will provide mobility equipment to children living with special needs, as well as fund and deliver effective programs and grants to care for children who are underprivileged, at-risk, critically ill, or living with special needs. The top five fundraising stores will now have the opportunity to host a specialized bike giveaway to a child in their community:

- 1. 705-Clear Lake
- 2.077-Norwalk
- 3.025-Clinton
- 4. 061-North Ankeny
- 5. 223-Gretna, Nebraska

"We sincerely appreciate the fundraising efforts of Fareway and Fareway customers," said Sheri McMichael, Executive Director of Variety. "These funds will allow us to continue our efforts to help children who are atrisk, underpriviledged, critically ill or living with special needs.

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From the Front

Program links up LCHD, SCC, Blessing, SIRMC

GRANT - Continued from Page 1

The grant required a 3-year program and she said it's the hope of the partners involved that the program can then fund itself with increased participation after the grant period runs out.

"A large amount of this goes toward providing the course for free for these three years. The tuition and fees part will be completely covered," Kramer-Riesberg said.

She said initially the first group of students will be smaller, but as the program expands, more and more students can be added.

LCHD received notice from the Department of Health and Human Services they have received the \$547,302 HRSA (Health Resources & Services Administration) federal grant.

The intent with the Rural Public Health Workforce Training Network Program grant will be for LCHD to partner with SCC, Blessing Health Keokuk, and Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center to develop a Southeast Iowa Public Health Academic Training Program.

The program will focus on creating cross-training opportunities for new and existing healthcare personnel to learn principles of community health work, community resources, and public health concepts. This program will be able to assist health care staff in referring to appropriate resources to better patients' health.

"Lee County Health Department for many years has pursued local and state grant awards to implement programs and services based on the population health needs of the county. This is a very exciting moment for LCHD since this is the agency's very first HRSA federal grant award," said Ross. "I'm very proud that Emily and Breanna, along with our committed partners, had a vision, and put that vision to application resulting in this highly competitive grant award. This innovative rural workforce training project will bring public health as a career choice to the forefront of many young adults pursuing careers in health services."

The project partners are also looking forward to the opportunity. "This grant project will support SCC's ongoing skills and workforce development in the healthcare sector, and improve economic vitality, and ultimately the

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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Lee County Health Department Administrator Michele Ross addresses a group Thursday regarding a grant the department received worth more than half a million dollars.

health and wellness of our entire region," adds Kristi Schroeder, SCC Dean of Health Professions.

"We have a longstanding history of working with Lee County Health Department, and are excited to collaborate with them on new opportunities to further meet the needs of the communities that we serve," said Kathy Hull, Chief of Small Rural Hospitals, Blessing Health System.

SEIRMC's Vanessa Watson said the program will help create a workforce that is knowledgeable of community resource navigation and referrals.

"We are pleased to work with LCHD and other collaborators on this grant to expand opportunities for the regions' workforce. Competencies in resource navigation and public health are essential in the current landscape of value-based care and community health needs improvement strategies," she said.

Biddenstadt, LCHD's Community Health Program Director, said the group hopes to have the program's first participants in the spring semester.

"We hope to have the first course participants start in January 2023. As we move through each course, content will be adjusted and we will be able to share updates, especially of community resources with past participants."

Program students will have an opportunity to take part in hands-on-trainings with LCHD at rotating clinics in rural areas of Lee County. Students will be able to work with residents to provide support and complete referrals to community resources to improve health outcomes. There will also be opportunities for current healthcare workers to be part of the program through a series of "Lunch and Learn" presentations.

> As the program progresses, clinics and presentations will be announced through the media and on the LCHD website (<u>www.leecountyhd.org</u>) and social media.

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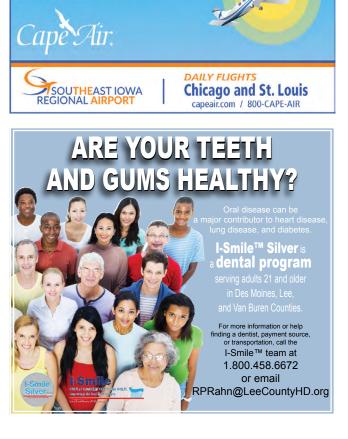
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Pen City Current - Friday, August 5, 2022 - 5



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Iowa News/Classifieds

Miller joins task force to take on robocall companies

DES MOINES - Attorney General Tom Miller today announced that Iowa is joining a nationwide Anti-Robocall Litigation Task Force of 50 attorneys general to investigate and take legal action against the telecommunications companies responsible for bringing a majority of foreign robocalls into the United States. This bipartisan nationwide Task Force has one goal: to cut down on illegal robocalls.

"Robocalls aren't just an Iowa problem. They are a nationwide problem. That is why I am proud to join my fellow attorneys general. We will take this fight to anyone who helps these scammers and robocallers. If the telecom industry won't police itself, the Task Force will," Miller said.

The Task Force has issued 20 civil investigative demands to 20 gateway providers and other entities that are allegedly responsible for a majority of foreign robocall traffic. Gateway providers that bring foreign traffic into the U.S. telephone network have a responsibility to ensure the traffic is legal, but these providers are not taking sufficient action



MILLER

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5:31 p.m. A public

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Councilmember Batty that

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White that the Council

read for the first time the

following proposed ordi-

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plains. 5:32 p.m. it was

Crull and seconded by

to stop robocall traffic. In many cases, they appear to be intentionally turning a blind eye in return for steady revenue.

The Task Force will focus on the bad actors throughout the telecommunications industry, to help reduce

the number of robocalls that Iowans receive and benefit the companies that are following the rules.

AG Miller is committed to stopping illegal and unwanted calls. According to the National Consumer Law Center and Electronic Privacy Information Center, more than 33 million scam robocalls are made to Americans every day. These scam calls include Social Security Administration fraud against seniors, Amazon scams against consumers, and many other scams targeting all consumers, including some of our most vulnerable citizens. An estimated \$29.8 billion was stolen through scam calls in 2021. Most of this scam robocall traffic originates overseas. The Task Force is focused on shutting down the providers that profit from this illegal scam traffic and refuse to take steps to otherwise mitigate these scam calls.

AG Miller offers the following tips to avoid scams and unwanted calls:

Be wary of callers who specifically ask you to pay by gift card, wire transfer, or cryptocurrency. For example, the Internal Revenue Service does not accept iTunes gift cards.

Look out for prerecorded calls from imposters posing as government agencies. Typically, the Social Security Administration does not make phone calls to individuals.

If you suspect fraudulent activity, immediately hang-up and do not provide any personal information.

Contact our Consumer Protection Division by email at <u>consumer@ag.iowa.gov</u> or by phone at 515-281-5926 or 888-777-4590. File a Do Not Call or Text complaint here.

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING MINUTES MOUNT PLEASANT CITY COUNCIL Mount Pleasant, Iowa, July 13, 2022

The Mount Pleasant City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 307 East Monroe Street, second-floor meeting room. The meeting was called to order by the Mayor and the roll being called there were present Steven K. Brimhall in the Chair and the following named Councilmembers-

Present: Engberg, Crull, White, Griffith, Batty Absent: McWilliams

It was moved by Councilmember Griffith and seconded by Councilmember White that the Council approves the following consent agenda items with one roll call motion vote: the minutes and west road in McMillan Park for their annual

meeting on August 2; the renewal of a Class E Liquor, Class C Beer, & Class B Wine Permit for Hy-Vee CStore at 1702 E. Washington Street;

the renewal of a Class E Liquor, Class C Beer, Class B Wine Permit & Sunday Sales for Hy-Vee C Store to include Sunday Sales;

the renewal of a Class C Liquor License for EL BURRITO LOCO JAAP LLC at 901 W. Washington Street;

the renewal of a Class C Liquor License and Sunday Sales for Rumors at 117 S. Jefferson Street; the Sidewalk Use Permit for Main Street Art Center at 106 S. Main

Street during Old Threshers. Roll call vote 5-0. Motion carried.

Councilmember Crull moved and Councilmem

PUBLIC NOTICES

the paver to match the required paving width. Motion approved, 5-0.

It was moved by Councilmember Griffith and seconded by Councilmember Batty that the Council approve the proposal to hire Precision Roofing and Coatings LLC from Roseville, IL to place a roof covering over the Fire Department roof to seal it from leaking. The cost of the roof is \$32,690.00. Motion approved, 5-0.

Councilmember Engberg moved and Councilmember Crull seconded that the Council approve the proposal to hire Precision Roofing and Coatings LLC from Roseville, IL to replace the metal sheeting roofing at the Public Works Department Building. The cost of the roof is \$29,524.00. Motion approved, 5-0.

Councilmember Batty moved and Councilmem ber Griffith seconded that the Council approve amendment #2 to the agreement with the Henry County Optimist Club on the rules and regulations they must follow for use of the City's right of way for their flag fundraiser. Motion approved, 5-0. It was moved by Councilmember Crull and seconded by Councilmember White that the Council approve the Standard Operating Guidelines for the Mount Pleasant Fire Department for 2022. Motion approved, 5-0. Councilmember Batty moved and Councilmember Griffith seconded that the Council authorize the Mayor to sign the Engineering Service

Agreement with Shive-Hattery for the Lee Town Park Masterplan. Motion approved, 5-0.

It was moved by Councilmember Crull and seconded by Councilmember Engberg that the Council adopt the following entitled Resolution No. 2022-58:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA AP-PROVING THE SALARY INCREASE OF CHRIS ELLINGTON

Roll call vote 5-0. Resolution adopted, signed by the Mayor, and hereby made a portion of these minutes.

Councilmember Engberg moved and Councilmember White seconded that the Council approve the site plan for a multiple-family dwelling at 909 E. Henry Street. Motion approved, 5-0.

It was moved by Coun-

Steve Engberg, Mayor Pro Tem ATTEST: Lori Davis,City Clerk

> HELP WANTED

TAX/ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR

The Lee County Treasurer is seeking a qualified applicant for the position of Tax/ Accounting Supervisor.

The position involves collecting and apportioning taxes for governmental subdivisions, special district funds, managing and investing county funds, and assisting taxpayers.

Must possess an ability to maintain accurate records. Ideal candidate will have some experience with accounting, real estate transactions, and supervision.

of the June 22, 2022, City Council meeting;

the payment of bills totaling \$652,199.59; the request from Access Energy to close the east ber Engberg seconded that the Council approve the agenda as printed with the deletion of item 9.h.

Roll call vote 5-0. Mo-

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DISTRICTS, BOUNDAR-IES AND OFFICIAL MAP" BY ADDING CHAPTER 19.15A ENTITLED "FLOODPLAIN MAN-AGEMENT (OVERLAY) DISTRICT", AND BY AMENDING CHAPTER 25 OF THE CITY CODE OF MOUNT PLEASANT,

IOWA, ENTITLED "MUNICIPAL FEES AND CHARGES" TO ES-TABLISH A FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT PERMIT FEE:

Roll call vote 5-0. Motion carried.

Councilmember Griffith moved and Councilmember Batty seconded that the Council approve Change Order #1 for the Madison Street Project resulting in an increase of \$13,549.80 to reconfigure cilmember Crull and seconded by Councilmember Batty that the Council approve the Mayoral appointment of Alex Achen to the Library Board for a six-year term to fill the expired term of Jerry Naylor. Motion approved, 5-0.

Public Forum - Maria Mellado-Bottger, 600 E. Henry, addressed the Council with questions and comments regarding the nuisance case against her property.

It was moved by Councilmember Crull and seconded by Councilmember Engberg that the Council adjourn. Motion carried. Adjourned at 5:53 p.m. to meet in regular session, Wednesday, July 27, 2022. Application forms can be downloaded at <u>www.leecoun-</u> <u>ty.org</u>. or obtained at the Lee County Treasurer's Office, 933 Avenue H, Ft. Madison, IA 52627 or 25 N 7th Street, Keokuk, IA 52632 or by calling 319-372-3405.

Completed application should be sent or delivered to

Chris Spann, Lee County Treasurer or emailed to <u>cspann@leecounty.org</u>

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Lincoln Elem 14th St & Ave E (playground)

11:15-11:35

• FM High School

20th St & Ave C (by pool)

11:00-11:30

- ECC 23rd & Ave J No meals July 4-8
- YMCA
 220 26th St
 No meals on Fridays

11:50-12:10

Victory Park
 23rd St & Ave F
 (playground)

12:30-12:50

• Richardson Elem. 33rd St & Ave L (playground)

1:00-1:20

• Salvation Army 1415 Ave M (south side) Central Lee Sports Boosters



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

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eric@myconnectionbank.com	Player 3:	Player 4:	

Central Lee Sports Boosters



SPONSORED BY -Pilot Grove-Savings Bank-



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 | Scott Fogarty - scottjfogarty@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