

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Wednesday, August 10, 2022 | 10 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 145



www.pencitycurrent.com

Fund created for new LCHD building

CHARITABLE FUND: Foundations create LCHD/EMS building fund

BY **CHUCK VANDENBERG**
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - The North Lee Community Foundation is stepping in to help make the new Lee County Health Department a reality.

At Monday's regular meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors Roger Ricketts, Executive Director of the foundation, said the group will be setting up a fund under its umbrella to help raise funds to build the new \$5 million facility.

"I was approached by some community members in both communities with information about the new health department building," Rickett's said.

"Those folks asked if the North Lee Community Foundation could be involved in helping raise some additional funds for that building through the charitable sector. We've already received in excess of \$100,000 for that new building."

The funds raised will be placed in the Lee County Health Department/EMS building charitable fund.

Ricketts said he met with Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise last week to make sure as a community foundation they could receive and disburse charitable gifts to the county to help with construction costs.

"We expect to work closely with our board and the Ke-

See **DONATIONS**, page 10



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Construction crews are busy tearing up a lot of the FMHS grounds in preparation for upcoming construction as part of the district's facilities improvement plans.

RANDY EVANS

Iowa gives too little attention to care of its elderly

People in the health care field have worked their tails off since the Covid pandemic hit Iowa with a vengeance in 2020.

Doctors, nurses and all manner of technicians and support staff have performed heroically under circumstances that often were trying.

But the death this year of a patient at a Centerville care center has struck a chord with many Iowans — and not just



Randy Evans,
Executive Director



because Covid claimed another life. The reaction has ranged from sadness to anger because the person's treatment was unprofessional, uncaring and incompe-

tent, if not bordering on criminal.

Clark Kauffman, an investigative reporter at Iowa Capital Dispatch, broke the news about the death. Because of medical privacy laws, the person's name, gender, age and hometown are being kept confidential by the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals.

Even without those details, the de-

See **KAUFFMAN**, page 4

TRI STATE RODEO

Little Miss Rodeo/ All-Around Cowboy canisters out

PCC Staff

FORT MADISON - The Tri State Rodeo's Little Miss Rodeo and All-Around Cowboy contestants have been released with the location of donation canisters. The list is below and canisters will be at the identified locations from Aug. 12 to Aug. 27.

Little Miss Rodeo Contestants

Bella Beelman- Age 7 from Argyle, IA
Daughter of Darren & Heidi Hoenig
Canister Location: Boonie's Bar & Grill of Fort Madison, IA

Arvilla Stack- Age 7 from Keokuk, IA
Daughter of Ed & Kellie Stack
Canister Location: Angels & Outlaws Boutique of Denmark, IA

Ashlyn Westermeyer-Age 5 from Montrose, IA
Daughter of Tony & Kayla Westermeyer
Canister Location: Fat Jimmy's Restaurant of Montrose, IA

Jessa Hawk- Age 7 from Donnellson, IA
Daughter of Jeremy & Tiffany Hawk
Canister Location: Casey's of Donnellson, IA

Aubrie Ferrel- Age 6 from Fort Madison, IA
Daughter of Shaide Leeper and Brad Ferrel
Canister Location: Hy-Vee Gas of Fort Madison, IA

Blakely Piklapp-Age 6 from Huxley, IA
Daughter of Garret and Tami Piklapp
Canister Location: Fareway of Fort Madison, IA

Kealyn Fuller- Age 7 from Keokuk, IA
Daughter of Haley Fuller
Canister Location: 4B Tack & More of Denmark, IA

Everlee Britton- Age 7 from Fort Madison, IA
Daughter of Kevin and Emeline Britton
Canister Location: Sub Arena Sandwich

See **CONTESTANTS**, page 10

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WEATHER

WED 10 Aug.....Sunny & Warm, 83° F/ 62° F

THU 11 Aug.....Sunny & Warm, 84° F/ 62° F

FRI 12 Aug.....Partly Sunny, 79° F/ 64° F

OpenWeatherMap

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 08/08.....2 15 17 31 48, Star Ball: 8 All Star Bonus: 2

LUCKY FOR LIFE 08/08.....4 21 34 37 48, Lucky Ball: 11

PICK 3 08/08 MIDDAY.....796

PICK 3 08/08 EVENING.....480

PICK 4 08/08 MIDDAY.....7217

PICK 4 08/08 EVENING.....7839

POWERBALL 08/08.....32 45 51 57 58, Powerball: 12 Power Play: 2

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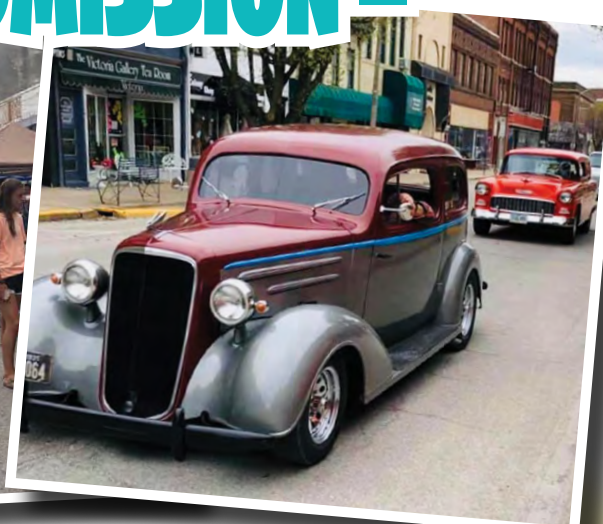
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FORT MADISON, IA • THURSDAYS



**June 9th,
July 7th,
August 18th
3-8PM 2022
7th & Avenue G**



For the Record/Business News

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

08/03/22 - 11:03 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3000 block of Avenue P.

08/03/22 - 1:47 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident at the intersection of 9th Street and Avenue G.

08/03/22 - 6:35 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2800 block of Avenue I.

08/03/22 - 9:15 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Johnny Nickala Rhoer, 53, of Fort Madison, in the 3500 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving while barred.

08/04/22 - 3:52 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2700 block of Avenue M.

08/04/22 - 6:32 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 5000 block of River Valley Road.

08/04/22 - 10:02 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1500 block of 18th Street.

08/04/22 - 3:58 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 4600 block of Avenue J.

08/04/22 - 5:22 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Allen William Penrod, 25, of Fort Madison, in the 1200 block of 33rd Street, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

08/05/22 - 8:23 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Rodney Lee Monroe, 45, of Fort Madison, in the 1500 block of Avenue M, on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

08/05/22 - 8:26 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2600 block of Avenue G.

08/06/22 - 11:18 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited Christine Marie Sumner, 56, of Fort Madison, in the 2200 block of Avenue F, on a charge of 5th degree criminal mischief.

08/06/22 - 11:58 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited Brandi Nicole Sumner, 33, of Fort Madison, in the 2200 block of Avenue F, on a charge of 5th degree criminal mischief.

08/06/22 - 9:52 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Randy Conrad Holtkamp, 62, of Fort Madison, in the 2700 block of Avenue M, on a Des Moines County warrant for violation of a no-contact order. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

08/07/22 - 9:16 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 2700 block of Avenue O.

08/07/22 - 1:45 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 900 block of 4th Street.

08/07/22 - 5:10 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Brian Joseph Kempker, 36, of Fort Madison, in the 2700 block of Avenue O, on charges of 2nd degree theft greater than \$1,500 and less than \$10,000 and 4th degree theft greater than \$300 and less than \$750.

08/08/22 - 12:49 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 2700 block of Avenue M.

08/08/22 - 5:01 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit & run in the 500 block of 9th Street.

08/08/22 - 7:37 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Dustin Michael Damico, 39, of Fort Madison, at the intersection of 19th Street and Avenue M, on a charge of driving under suspension.

08/08/22 - 8:19 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the

1500 block of Avenue H.

Lee County Sheriff Report

08/03/22 - 9:57 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Nathan Eric Washburne, 44, listed as homeless living in Fort Madison, at the North Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

08/03/22 - 12:50 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Deborah Christine Armstrong, 65, of Donnellson, at the North Lee County Courthouse, on a judgment hold warrant. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

08/03/22 - 3:40 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Cheryl Lynne Gabauer, 41, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office, on a warrant for 5th degree theft less than \$300. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

08/04/22 - 10:59 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Jesse Dakota Yount, 31, of Missouri, at the North Lee County Courthouse, on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

08/04/22 - 5:37 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Chad Alan Riddle, 39, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on a judgment hold warrant. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

08/05/22 - 8:10 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Jenny Lynne Leis Brook, 36, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on a judgment hold warrant. She was taken to Lee County Jail and later released after weekend service.

08/05/22 - 11:01 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Clara Isabel Rose Swackhammer, 33, of Mt. Pleasant, at the sheriff's office, on charges of possession of contraband and

possession of a controlled substance. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

08/06/22 - Lee County sheriff deputies had no activity to report.

08/07/22 - 1:30 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Adam Robert Cloyed, 34, of Fort Madison, at the North Lee County Courthouse, on warrants for violation of a domestic no-contact order, 1st degree harassment, and 4th degree criminal mischief \$300-\$750. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

08/07/22 - 1:08 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Pele Oscar Wise, 44, of Indiana, at the sheriff's office, on a charge of disorderly conduct - fight/violence. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

08/07/22 - 1:12 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Hunter John West, 18, of Argyle, at the sheriff's office, on a charge of disorderly conduct - fight/violence. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

08/07/22 - 1:15 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Ashly Ann Sholl, 38, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

08/08/22 - Lee County sheriff deputies had no activity to report.

08/09/22 - 4:45 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested James Richard Chaney, 35, of Burlington, at the Des Moines/Lee County Line, Wever, on a warrant for contempt - failure to pay fine/cost. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Those listed above are arrested on suspicion of a charge and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

BURLINGTON TRAILWAYS

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As yesterday officially kicked off as "National Elvis Week" it seems appropriate that we share with you 2 of our Burlington Trailways tours that have a bit of "Elvis" in them!

Set for December 5 - 10, 2022, we invite you to join us, along with a few other private motorcoach groups, to enjoy Graceland and the complex privately as it has been rented out solely for our groups only. Not only may you explore the grounds freely, but you will also enjoy a great meal before a tribute Elvis concert complete with a large stage, full band and backup singers for a show performed by one of the best Elvis impersonators around. The next evening you may explore Graceland all decked out for Christmas as the mansion has once again been rented out solely for our groups. We will be staying at The Guesthouse at Graceland where the rooms reflect Elvis' personal style. Of course, we will be doing other Memphis touring and then make our way to Nashville for a stay at the beautiful Gaylord Opryland hotel and take in the Country Christmas Dinner show along with ICE! Please know this tour is almost sold out - don't wait and be disappointed.

Our second tour with a taste of Elvis is our Branson Christmas Celebration, Nov. 14 - 17, 2022.

While we will be seeing several shows and enjoy great meals and attractions, our main emphasis today is that we will be attending the Dean Z's Rockin' Christmas Show and the Ultimate Elvis Show. Dean Z's musical resume is unmatched. He has performed around the globe for nearly two decades and was named by the Elvis Presley Enterprises (EPE) as the World's Greatest Elvis Tribute Artists in 2013. Having attended a Dean Z Elvis show myself, I guarantee that you will almost forget that it isn't the true, live Elvis performing right before your eyes! Again, this is a tour that sells out quickly, don't hesitate to make your reservation soon.

Come celebrate Elvis with Burlington Trailways on one of these great tours - or both! Call us at 319-753-2864 ext. 162 for more information, or visit us online at www.TrailwaysTravel.com

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P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

From the Front

Investigations show dereliction of care of seniors

KAUFFMAN - Continued from Page 1

partment's records lay out a horrible sequence of events in the final weeks of the person's life. Through those records we see this patient was all but abandoned by Centerville Specialty Care and its employees.

That by itself would have been troubling. But this tragedy illuminates a far larger issue — the inadequate oversight Iowa state government gives to the nursing homes and care centers that house our most vulnerable residents.

These people are no longer able to look after themselves. Many do not have relatives close by to watch over their care. That's why government licenses these facilities, sets standards they must meet, and then monitors them closely to know whether they are meeting state and federal regulations.

Too often, unfortunately, state government has all but ignored these people and overlooked shortcomings at these facilities. In part, that's because the owners are sources of campaign donations for political leaders. In part, that's because it is difficult for residents and their relatives to make their voices heard.

Here is one sign of this reality: The death in Centerville has brought no expressions of concern from our government leaders, no press releases, no press conferences, and no promises by lawmakers or the governor to improve the oversight of these facilities.

Gov. Kim Reynolds has never been bashful about criticizing President Joe Biden for lapses by the federal government. But she has been mute since Iowa Capital Dispatch first disclosed the death in Centerville.

Records from the Department of Inspections and Appeals paint a damning picture of the inaction by employees at Centerville Specialty Care. The 67-bed skilled nursing center helps patients recover following illness or injury. The center is owned by Care Initiatives, a West

Des Moines company that is Iowa's largest operator of care centers.

The unidentified patient was admitted to the Centerville facility in January, with the goal of becoming well enough to transition back into the community. Four weeks later, on Feb. 26, the resident tested positive for Covid.

That by itself is not surprising. The elderly are the most susceptible to contracting the disease.

But the person's physician was not notified immediately by the Centerville staff of the positive test. Instead, the physician learned three days later, on March 1, when the person's oxygen saturation level had fallen to 86 percent, well under the normal level of 95 to 100 percent.

The doctor prescribed an antibiotic, a steroid medication and other drugs for the resident. That same day, the doctor also ordered the patient be given supplemental oxygen, a chest x-ray, a laboratory test to detect anemia or infection, and a blood test to see if there were blood clots.

Those treatments and tests were to be performed that same day. But 19 hours later, with none of the treatments having been provided and none of the tests having been conducted, the patient died from Covid-related pneumonia.

In a stunning display of incompetence, or coverup, a state inspector found the doctor's orders were not entered into the care center's computers until after the person's death. That's right — after the person died.

Staff nurses refused to speak with the inspector. The director of nursing said she could not recall details about the death. The care center administrator said she had no explanation for why her staff ignored the doctor's instructions.

A state inspector also found the deceased resident's medical records showed the person was diabetic. But on 53 occasions the Centerville staff failed to comply with

the physician's orders regarding the person's blood-sugar levels. On 24 occasions just in February, the patient did not receive medications the doctor prescribed — and the doctor was not notified.

Stefanie Bond, a spokeswoman for the Department of Inspections and Appeals, told Kauffman that for 10 months in 2020, the federal government pulled state inspectors out of nursing homes because of concern about Covid. That order was lifted in January 2021, but state inspectors have been trying to deal with a backlog of complaints and routine inspections.

Kauffman's reporting shows the Centerville tragedy is not isolated.

In April 2021, after state inspectors resumed their work, a resident of the Exira Care Center in Audubon County was found in a pool of blood after falling and suffering a head injury. Two months later, the same woman was again found in a pool of blood after falling. But this time, she was dead — although state inspectors did not investigate either incident until May of this year.

Toby Edelman, an attorney with the Center for Medicare Advocacy, a national nonprofit organization, told Kauffman: "Many of the most significant quality-of-care and quality-of-life problems in nursing facilities are identified through complaint investigations. When the state fails to conduct timely complaint investigations, witnesses and evidence are lost and serious problems are not cited, corrected and appropriately sanctioned."

John Hale of Ankeny, an advocate for Iowa nursing home residents, was more blunt, telling Kauffman, "Our Legislature, the body that is supposed to provide oversight of how our precious taxpayer dollars are being used, doesn't seem to care."

Randy Evans is director of Iowa Freedom of Information Council can be reached at DMRevs2810@gmail.com.

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Fort Madison, IA Housing Authority (FMHA)

Executive Director (ED)

For more information please go to
<http://fortmadison-ia.com/390/Fort-Madison-Housing-Authority>

The FMHA ED serves as the primary source of housing expertise for the FMHA and reports directly to the Board of Commissioners.

Candidates for this position must possess strong leadership qualities, strong communication and collaboration skills, program management experience, and excellent planning and organizational ability. In addition, aptitude with both financial management and community relations is must as the FMHA ED must effectively and efficiently direct operational budgets, improve revenue, develop and implement the FMHA strategic plan as well as enhance relations with the community, internal stakeholders and vendors.

Education or Work Experience Requirements: Bachelor's degree, Associate's Degree and two years experience, or four years of related work experience.

To Apply: The Fort Madison Housing Authority is an equal opportunity employer. Interested candidates must submit a writing sample and have the ability to discuss relevant experience during an interview. To submit resume and relevant writing sample, please email Rebecca Bowker, Chair Fort Madison Board of Commissioners, at Rejobo74@gmail.com.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE

The Mount Pleasant City Council will meet in Regular Session Wednesday, August 10, at City Hall, 307 E. Monroe Street, second-floor meeting room at 5:30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Roll Call.
2. Consent Agenda: To the Public - All items with an asterisk (*) are routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion and a roll call of the Councilmembers. There will be no separate discussion of items unless the Mayor, a Councilmember or citizen so request, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered in its normal sequence on

the Agenda.

3. Receive & file communications.
4. Approve agenda.
- *5. Approve minutes of previous meetings.
- *6. Approve payment of bills.
- *7. Receive reports of Officers.
8. Old Business
 - a) 3rd reading/adopt proposed ordinance to regulate development in flood plains.
 - b) Resolution authorizing acceptance of easement for FRA TCO.
 - c) Authorize Mayor to sign Bond Counsel Engagement Agreements for modification of certain contractual terms in Resolution No. 2012-17 and for NTE \$4,020,000 Sewer Revenue Capital Loan Notes (SRF)
 - d) 5:30 p.m. Public Hearing on the modification of certain contractual

terms included in Resolution No. 2012-17.

- e) Resolution modifying certain contractual terms included in Resolution No. 2012-17.
- f) Resolution fixing date for a meeting on the proposition to authorize a Loan and Disbursement Agreement and the issuance of Notes to evidence the obligations of the City thereunder.
- g) 5:30 p.m. Public Hearing on proposal to abandon reversion rights and to obtain right of first refusal rights in lieu thereof regarding property located at 200 N. Main Street.
- h) Resolution to amend property agreement for property located at 200 N. Main Street.
9. New Business-
 - a) Resolution setting Public Hearing to take bids for Bluegrass Rd Iris

Street.

- b) Encroachment permit for First United Methodist Church awning.
- c) Encroachment permit for FRA TCO sign.
- d) Resolution setting Public Hearing for an ordinance to allow and regulate backyard chickens.
10. Public Forum.
11. Adjourn to meet in regular session on Wednesday, August 24, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

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PART-TIME DISPATCHER

LeeComm is hiring for the position Part-Time Dispatcher with a starting wage of \$19.40. Applicant will be expected to work -days, nights, weekends, and holidays. Hours per week will vary between 12-28+ depending on needs of the department. Please [click here](#) to fill out the attached application and email it to travis@leecom.org no later than 4pm on August 24th.

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.

Application forms can be downloaded at www.leecounty.org 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

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LEE LEE COUNTY IOWA

HELP WANTED

Lee County Fair Manager

Manages all day-to-day operations of the Lee County Fair and properties on the fairgrounds. Coordinates all financial information with the Fair Board. General knowledge of QuickBooks, ensures invoices are accurate, payments are paid and deposits are done in a timely manner. Ensures all proper licenses and permits are filed with appropriate authorities. Manages and peruses all sponsorship relationships. Manages rentals and ensures cleaning of Learning Center and Entertainment Pavilion, facilities Storage Move In and Move Out. Manager is required to be at all Fair Board meetings, the first Wednesday of the month, the entirety of the fair, attend the Fair Conference in Des Moines in December, is the collaborator between the Lee County Fair Board and the Lee County Extension Office, and the Lee County Fair Board and the Lee County Speedway.

High school diploma or equivalent is preferred, as is knowledge of the Lee County Fair and the Fairgrounds. Proficient in Word, Excel, QuickBooks, Windows Fair Management for Open Art Hall, and WordPress website design.

Please submit cover letter and resume to manager@leecountyfair.com, along with a list of 3 references and phone numbers. Application deadline is August 24, 2022.

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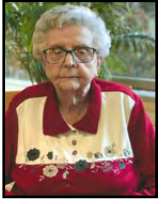
It's Black & White and Read all over

Obituaries/Opinion

OBITUARIES

MARY LOU FERNETTI

Mary Lou Ferneti, 90, of Niota, Illinois, passed away at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, August 7, 2022 at The Kensington in Fort Madison Iowa, surrounded by her family.



FERNETTI

Mary Lou was born on January 24, 1932 in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of Glenn and Wilda (Hummel) Siegrist. Early in life she married Bruce Currless. They later divorced. On August 25, 1956 she married Buonavetia Doray "Jocko" Ferneti in Nauvoo. He preceded her in death on April 16, 2012.

Mary Lou was a 1951 graduate of Nauvoo High School. Following high school she graduated with a Teachers Degree from Western Illinois Teachers College in Macomb, Illinois. She taught for one year in Lewistown, Illinois. She and her husband, Jocko, later returned to the Nauvoo area, where she owned and operated the Art Needle Workshop from 1982 until retiring in 2019.

Mrs. Ferneti was a member of the Nauvoo United Methodist Church, Nauvoo Historical Society and the Nauvoo Weld House Museum. Her hobbies included needle work, quilting and playing Bingo with friends at The Kensington. She enjoyed attending her grandsons' sporting events.

Survivors include one son: Stephen (Barbara) Ferneti of Lomax, Illinois, three grandsons: Glenn (Jaime) Ferneti of Keokuk, Iowa, Kellen Ferneti of Galesburg, Illinois and Bryant (Kacy) Ferneti Puxico, Missouri; two step-grandsons: Ryan Walker of Lomax, David Walker of Macomb, Illinois; one great-granddaughter: Harper Grace Ferneti and two step-great-grandsons: Cameron and Brody Robertson.

Mary Lou was preceded in death by her parents and her husband: Jocko.

The funeral service for Mrs. Ferneti will be held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 10, 2022 at the Nauvoo United Methodist Church with Pastor Mark Anderson officiating. Burial will follow in the Nauvoo City Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 9:00 a.m. until time of services Wednesday at the church.

Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home of Nauvoo is assisting the family. A memorial fund has been established for the Nauvoo United Methodist Church or PAW's Animal Shelter of Fort Madison. To leave a tribute for the family, please visit Mary Lou's obituary at sbbfuneralhome.com.

Fans beginning to test the fun of high school sports

I could tell he wanted to ask a question.

The young boy kept wandering past me as I wrote a story at the state high school baseball tournament in Iowa City. He and his friends were fascinated by the makeshift media work area at Duane Banks Field — they were especially interested in the free popcorn that was available.

Finally, after his third or fourth pass at walking by and looking at my laptop screen, he summoned the courage to ask a question.

"Do you like your job?"

"Sure," I said in as convincing a tone as one can have after covering a game that was about to be decided by the 10-run rule while sitting out in 85-degree heat and humidity.

"Is it fun?"

"Sure," I said. "Some days are better than others." Same tone.

"Well ... thanks," he said, and walked away.

I pondered the second question as I drove home that night. After 30-plus years in the business, was it fun?

The answer I gave — "Some days are better than others" — fit well, I thought.

And then I wondered about high school sports. Are they fun anymore?

I thought about that after watching the student section of one of the championship teams spend the entire game taunting opposing players or coaches, and the opposing fan base.

I thought about that after watching the grandfather of a player, who was sitting in front of me during the Class 3A title game, screaming at the opposing coach for daring to intentionally walk his grandson in key situations. Both times the opposing team retired the next hitter and got out of jams, but Grandpa thought there was a lot of disrespect in that strategy.

Grandpa wasn't happy with the umpiring, by the way, and neither was Grandma, who screamed, "I THOUGHT THE BEST UMPIRES WERE SUPPOSED TO WORK THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES!" as her grandson's team was winning 4-0. And Grandpa wasn't happy that tables for the media were right behind his seat, so during the fifth-inning stretch he decided to "accidentally" stand up, shoving with his shoulders the table right into my stomach.

I realize these people are still the exception to the rule, but more and more of them are becoming the exception to the point they may not be exceptions.

What is heartening, though, is the athletes are at least having fun. The champions celebrated, as champions do. The runners-up left dejectedly, but I'm guessing it didn't take too long for them to appreciate that even in losing, they made it to the championship game, and the memories of that tournament run with their friends and classmates will mean more down the road than the defeat will.

The 2022-23 high school sports season begins with full practices this week. Soon many of us will be back in the grandstands, outside or inside. I'll be on the sidelines, or somewhere right alongside of you in the seats.

So let the coaches coach. Let the officials officiate — there is a shortage of officials, by the way, so feel free to get your license if you wish.

And remember that the athletes are the ones for whom these games mean the most.

Let's continue to make more days be better than others.

John Bohnenkamp is an award-winning sports reporter and regular contributor to Pen City Current.



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11am - 1pm

Monday, August 8

Tenderloin, French Fries, Slaw

Tuesday, August 9

Roast Beef Sandwich, Cheese Potatoes

Wednesday, August 10

Meatloaf, Loaded Potatoes

Thursday, August 11

Beef Enchiladas, Spanish Rice

Friday, August 12

Grilling on the Sidewalk

we'll be back soon!

Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Thursday, August 11 through Wednesday, August 24 for our annual summer break.

The e-Edition will resume Thursday, August 25.

The news will still be published on our website.

Thanx for reading!

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

RICHARD F. RADEL

Richard Francis "Dick" Radel, 65, of rural Nauvoo, Illinois, passed away at 10:37 p.m. Thursday, August 4, 2022 at the Memorial Hospital in Carthage, Illinois.

Born September 23, 1956 in Fort Madison, Iowa, the son of Max and Betty (Bostock) Radel.

He was a graduate of Nauvoo-Colusa High School. He enjoyed playing sports in school, especially basketball. He was named All-County 2 years. He attended Southeastern Community College in Burlington and graduated from Northeast Missouri State University with a degree in Law Enforcement.

Dick was active in the family farm, near Powellton, Illinois, as well as, owning and operating his own trucking business. His business allowed him to travel from coast to coast. He retired from trucking in 2021. He continued to drive part-time for the past year for his nephew, Joe Radel. He enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his nieces and nephews. He was an avid New York Yankees, Green Bay Packers and Iowa Hawkeyes fan.

Survivors include two brothers: Bill (Gayle) Radel of Nauvoo and Jim (Carol) Radel of Kansas City, Missouri; two nieces: Stephanie (Matt) Wilson of Kansas City and Blake (Jason) Radel of Mt. Pleasant; two nephews: Matt (Aja) Radel of Kansas City and Joe (Chelsea) Radel of Burnside; one great-nephew: Asher Radel and two great-nieces: Sutton Radel and McKinley Radel.

Friends may call from 12:00 P.M. until 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 10, 2022 at Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo, where the family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m.

The funeral service for Mr. Radel will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, August 11, 2022 at Schmitz-Banks & Beals with Fr. Tony Trosley officiating. Burial will follow in the Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Cemetery, Nauvoo.

A memorial fund has been established for the Nauvoo Fire and Rescue or Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church. To leave a tribute for the family, please visit Mr. Radel's obituary at sbbfuneralhome.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

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

OBITUARIES

MICHAEL R. ROACH

Michael Rae Roach, 70, Fort Madison, Iowa died Saturday, August 6, 2022 at the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, West Burlington, Iowa. He was born August 20, 1951 in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, a son of Donald David and Grace Marie (Boeddecker) Roach. He married Sharon Kay Bartlett, together they had two children, Kristi and Dan. They divorced. On March 22, 2005, he married Patricia Ann Sarrazin. She survives.



ROACH

Mike was a 1969 graduate of Fort Madison High School. He served 20 years in the Iowa Army National Guard. He worked at First Miss. For more than 40 years he work for himself, M/R Construction. He was a old school craftsman with an eye for detail. His free time was always focused on his family, spending time with them, passing on life lessons, core values, and work ethic. His happy place and home base was Happy Hollow Stables. He and Patti checked off a few bucketlist items with vacations to Alaska and California. He also loved nature, horses, fishing, and gardening.



He is survived by his wife, Patti Roach of Fort Madison; two children: Kristi Roach (Leonard Baker) and Dan Roach, both of Fort Madison; two step-children, Luke (Cortney) Boylan of West Point, Iowa and Randi (Nate) Lieving of Donnellson, Iowa; and nine grandchildren: Kay, Cole, Mason, Malani, Cooper, Brody, Taytem, Lorelei, and Callan. He had five siblings: Richard (Rosemary) Kellems of Arizona; Tony (Ruth) Kellems of Iowa City, Iowa; James (Chris) Kellems of California; Dave (Chris) Kellems of Wisconsin; Pauline (Tony) Noll of Burlington; one sister-in-law Jan Roach of Mt. Pleasant; numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother Richard "Dick" Roach.

His family will greet friends from 4:30 - 7:00 pm Wednesday, August 10, 2022 at the Barr Memorial Chapel. A Christian Vigil Service will follow and begin at 7:00 pm Wednesday at the funeral home. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30 am Thursday at Ss. Mary and Joseph Church, Holy Family Parish, with Reverend John Stack as Celebrant. Burial will military rites will be at Gethsemane Cemetery, Fort Madison. A memorial has been established. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Roach family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

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From the Front

Donations sought for new LCHD

DONATIONS - Continued from Page 1

okuk board to continue to raise money to help you build that building and that's why we're here today," Ricketts said.

Ricketts is the Executive Director of the Keokuk Area Community Foundation and North Lee Community Foundation and said the fund will be a non-endowment designated fund established for the sole purpose of receiving charitable contributions, gifts, grants and donations for the construction of the new Lee County Health Department/EMS building.

Ricketts said the foundation will also be paying for the marketing and promotional materials for the new fund out of their operations so every dollar raised will go toward the construction of the new building.

The new building is to be located on Avenue O where the former Iowan property sat. The property was donated to the county by the Glen Meller family and will carry the Meller family name.

County Supervisors have committed to completely fund the new building up to \$5.4 million including using the remaining \$3.7 million in America Rescue Plan Act funds. The building will be constructed in a Fort Madison Urban Renewal Area and that authorization request was submitted to the city last week.

The remainder of the costs will be from donations, a potential Community Development Block Grant and possibly some debt service if needed. The debt service would come in the form of a reverse referendum that allows the county to issue bonds to cover the costs without a vote of county residents.

If that option is pursued, a public hearing would be held to consider the debt service, as well as a pe-

tion option for residents if they choose to force the borrowing onto a ballot.

Anyone wishing to donate to the charitable fund can do so by going to northleecf.org, clicking on the "Donate" button, which will pull up a list of current funds under the Foundations' umbrella. Then simply click on the "Donate" button next to the Lee County Health Department/EMS Building fund to make the donation.

The link wasn't currently active as of this posting, but should be active by Wednesday according to foundation officials.

The funds raised in the trust will be payable from the foundation directly to the county for costs associated with the construction of the building, according to Ricketts.

Ricketts said one of his motivations was that during the pandemic, he contacted the Health Department to see how the foundation could help. He said the staff was so easy to work with and helpful that he made a vow to himself that if there was ever a way to help the Lee County Health Department, he wanted to do that.

"That opportunity came about when some folks came to me and said, 'We're going to build this building on Avenue O, would the Community Foundation help us raise some money,' and we said yes."

In other action, supervisors:

- approved a guarantee with Great River Regional Waste Authority to provide about a half a million dollars to oversee monitoring the landfill in the event it would ever close. Board Chairman Matt Pflug said recent improvements and plans will add about 140 additional years to lifespan of the landfill.

- discussed amending a sign-on bonus for EMS employees to include incorporating a relocation bonus as part of the current sign-on bonus program.

Youth canisters out

CONTESTANTS - Continued from Page 1

Shop of Fort Madison

Taylor Seager-Age 6 from Fort Madison, IA

Daughter of Mitch and Kayla Seager

Canister Location: Kempkers True-Value of Fort Madison

Peightyn Johnson-Age 6 from Revere, MO

Daughter of Chub Johnson & Shelby Moss

Canister Location: Stage 2 Consignment Store of Fort Madison

Autumn Collier-Age 5 from Fort Madison, IA

Daughter of Amanda Orton & Carl Riis

Canister Location: Columbus Club of Fort Madison, IA

Bristol Kirby-Age 5 from Farmington, IA

Daughter of Jami Rice and Kyle Kirby

Canister Location: Grandma T's Restaurant of Donnellson, IA

Baylor Calvert-Age 5 of Argyle, IA

Daughter of Anna Calvert and Austin Kemper; Cole and

Brittany Calvert

Canister Location: Huffman's Farm & Home of Fort Madison, IA

Avistyn Hobby-Age 6 of Laharpe, IL

Daughter of Travis and Jennifer Hobby

Canister Location: Fortress Bank of Laharpe, IL

All-Around Cowboy Contestant

Lane Palmer- Age 7 from Keokuk, IA

Son of Cory and Melissa Palmer

Canister Location: Countryside Veterinary Care of Carthage, IL

Clay Robeen-Age 6 of White Hall, IL

Son of Chris & Shanda Robeen

Canister Location: 4B Tack & More of Denmark, IA

Hunter Billings-Age 7 from West Point, IA

Son of Cheyenne Billings & Shannon Billings

Canister Location: Jet Stop of West Point, IA



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