

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Thursday, September 8, 2022 | 9 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 154



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Heroes recognized



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld recognized three heroes who helped save the life of Tobias Snelson in a near pool drowning on August 6 at the Fort Madison City Pool. Pictured are from left to right Ryan Wilson, YMCA Executive Director, Kelsey Dobler, a nurse who was off-duty at the pool, Tobias, Mark Box, and Aaron Gilman. Wilson said he thanks everyone who helped avoid a tragedy and said the family will receive free swimming lessons from the YMCA.

CHILDREN FIRST OF LEE COUNTY

Child market study reveals county's shortcomings

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - A six-month study looking at the challenges facing child care services in Lee County found 10 key findings, none of which seem to be surprising to child advocacy officials.

The survey was part of a First Children's Finance survey conducted in conjunction with Children First of Lee County, Lee County Child Abuse Prevention Council and with 50% of the funds provided by the Empower Rural Iowa Initiative created under Gov. Kim Reynolds' leadership.

Lee County received \$10,000 as part of a Rural Child Care Market Study grant program. The funds were coupled with a \$5,000 match from both Children First of Lee County and Lee County Child Abuse Prevention Council.

The survey results were pulled from 209 full surveys completed by parents with children, 15 employers and nine child care providers - six home based and three centers. Twelve future parents also completed surveys.

Angie Duncan, with First Children's Finance, said many other

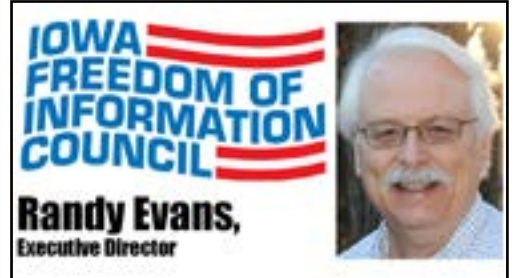
	Likely to Use Regulated Care	DHS Listed Spaces	Child Care Gap	Year-Round Spaces	Child Care Gap
Age 0 to 2	587	357	-230	353	-234
Age 3 to 4	483	553	+70	461	-22
Age 5 to 11	1,576	221	-1,355	221	-1,355
Total	2,646	1,131	-1,515	1,035	-1,611

A slide that was part of the Rural Child Care Market study key findings shows a 1,611 spot child care gap currently in the county.

surveys were completed, but a good portion of them were not fully completed and were not included in the 10 key findings she spelled out at two different public sessions Wednesday in Donnellson.

See **SURVEY**, page 4

OPINION



Wise school leaders don't keep public in the dark

These days, I stand in front of audiences and engage in what is politely called "public speaking" more often than even Mr. Gentry ever imagined when I showed up at his office door 55 years ago with a bug-eyed expression of concern.

Mr. Gentry was the guidance counselor at Davis County High School. He was in charge of class scheduling. What brought me to his doorstep was noticing I would be taking "Speech" class that semester.

Before I could say anything, however, he presciently said, "You probably are wondering about the Speech class. You will thank me someday." That "someday" has arrived. You were correct, Mr. Gentry.

Public speaking is an important part of my professional life. I have spoken to groups large and small as an advocate for citizen engagement in state and local governments. Speeches are an important way to get my message to lots of people. But just as important is hearing what is on their minds when I invite them to ask questions.

When the audience is made up of elected officials and government employees, I expect them to pepper me with challenging scenarios about public meetings and public records. I have not spoken to any school groups recently. But when the opportunity comes along, I expect them to grill me

See **EVANS**, page 8

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WEATHER

THU 07 Sep.....Sunny and warm, 84° F/ 59° F
 FRI 08 Sep.....Sunny and warm, 84° F/ 61° F
 SAT 09 Sep.....Sunny and warm, 83° F/ 60° F

OpenWeatherMap

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 09/06.....3 8 39 44 47, Lucky Ball: 3
 MEGA MILLIONS 09/06.....6 17 46 59 68, Mega Ball: 2 Megaplier: 4
 PICK 3 09/06 MIDDAY.....711
 PICK 3 09/06 EVENING.....581
 PICK 4 09/06 MIDDAY.....4890
 PICK 4 09/06 EVENING.....8573

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For the Record/Area News

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report 09/02/22 - 2:07 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Amber Rae Grooms, 38, of Fort Madison in the 800 block of Avenue G on a charge of failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

09/02/22 - 3:28 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2400 block of Avenue E.

09/02/22 - 5:59 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 700 block of 13th Street.

09/02/22 - 7:52 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Lori Marie Vincent, 57, of Fort Madison in the 1400 block of 28th Street on a charge of failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

09/02/22 - 11:49 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Kody Kim Turner, 30, of Fort Madison in Riverview Park on a charge of probation violation. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

09/03/22 - 2:04 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1300 block of 14th Street.

09/03/22 - 11:55 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1500 block of Avenue M.

09/03/22 - 12:50 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited Carrie Ann Tate, 61, of Fort Madison in the 1100 block of 29th

Street on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

09/03/22 - 12:50 a.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Delva Lynn Beavers, 54, of Fort Madison in the 1100 block of 29th Street on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

09/03/22 - 1:22 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested a 12-year-old male juvenile in the 1100 block of Avenue F, on a charge of assault with bodily injury. He was released to a parent.

09/03/22 - 4:50 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Mark Bernard Hunold, 67, of West Point in the 500 block of Avenue H, on a charge of disorderly conduct and public intoxication. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

09/03/22 - 6:08 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Luke Austin Hummell, 44, of Fort Madison, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

09/03/22 - 9:18 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Joseph Howard Orr, 41, of Fort Madison in the 3000 block of Avenue M, on a charge of domestic abuse. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

09/03/22 - 9:18 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Tamara Ann Scholz, 46, of Fort Madison in the 3000 block of Avenue O, on charges of domestic abuse, possession of

a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

09/04/22 - 5:00 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2600 block of Avenue H.

09/05/22 - 2:42 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Joel Tyler Bell, 37, of West Point in the 2900 block of Avenue H, on two warrants. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

09/05/22 - 3:02 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2600 block of Avenue I.

09/05/22 - 5:19 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2600 Avenue G.

09/05/22 - 8:51 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 600 block of 5th Street.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

09/02/22 - 3:43 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Ruben Joseph Bowman, 44, of Burlington, was arrested on an active warrant and taken to Lee County Jail.

09/02/22 - 4:22 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Lacy Erin DeBrower, 38, of Ladora, Ia., in Iowa City and jailed on a temporary hold.

09/03/22 - 3:34 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Dalton Jerald McK-

eown, 26, of Fort Madison at 3900 block of Avenue O, on charges of OWI-2nd offense, revoked license, no proof of insurance and speeding. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

09/03/22 - 1:17 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's Deputies, arrested Drake D. Woods, 28, of Keokuk in the 3400 block of 276th Avenue on a charge of domestic assault with bodily injury. He was taken to Lee County Jail and then released.

09/04/22 - 1:17 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Megan M. Taylor 33, of Keokuk in the 3400 block of 276th Street on a charge of domestic abuse assault with injury. She was taken to Lee County jail and released.

09/04/22 - Lee County Sheriff's Deputies arrested James Leroy Defawn Haley, 23, of Argyle at the sheriff's office on a charge of domestic assault impeding air flow. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

09.02/22 - Lee County sheriff's deputies arrested Kaila Ray Boock, 23, of Burlington, at the North Lee County Courthouse on a failure to appear charge. She was taken to Lee County Jail and release on bond.

Those listed above are charged on a presumption of a crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Gambler to take stage at Legacy in Carthage

The next show at The Legacy Theater in Carthage is The Gambler Returns: a Tribute to Kenny Rogers at 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 17.

Award winning country recording artist Alan Turner presents a night of Kenny Rogers' music that spans over six decades of hit songs. Turner recreates music popular with all generations with his heartfelt performances, a gift for storytelling and Rogers' distinctive voice.

This full band production show includes "The Gambler," "Lady," "Islands In The Stream," "Lucille," "She Believes In Me" and so many more.

Alan Turner is an outstanding country music singer and songwriter in his own right, starting to sing at the age of 6. When he was 10, Turner tells that his father gave him Kenny Rogers' album, The Gambler, shortly before he died. He says this led to his love of country music and especially the songs of Kenny Rogers.

Coming from southeastern Michigan, Alan Turner and his Steel Horse Band have a full schedule of performances as well as The Gambler Returns tribute. In 2010 he and the band had the honor of meeting Kenny Rogers and being an opening act.

"His kindness and friendship to me left a permanent impression on my heart," said Turner.

This show is generously sponsored by Quality Chevy Dealers, including Carson Motors in Carthage.

Tickets for The Gambler Returns and other upcoming shows are available at The Legacy Theater box office from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Stop in, call the office at 217-357-9479, or order on line at www.thelegacytheater.com.

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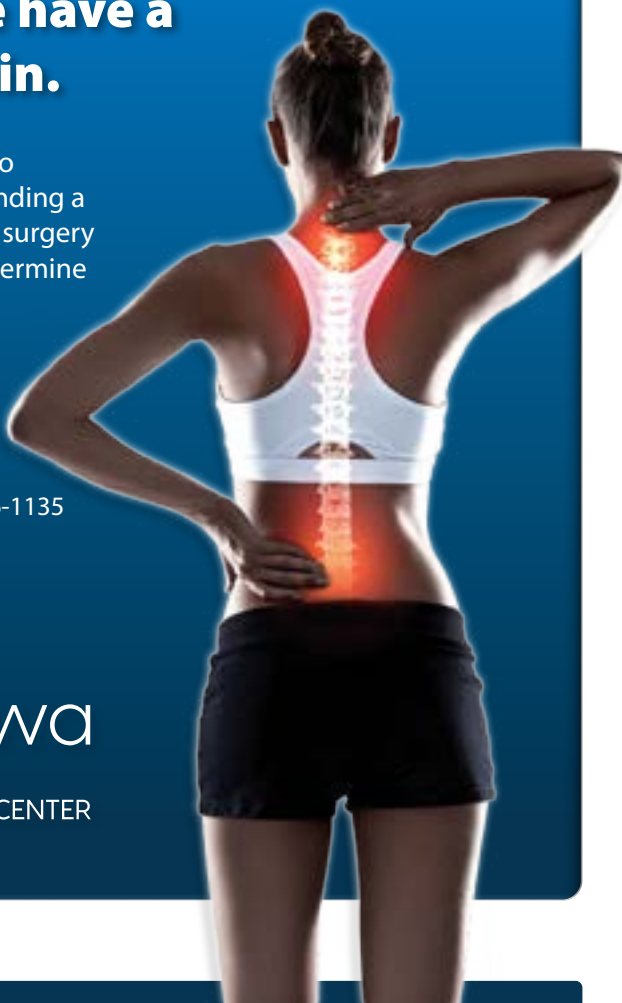
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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

LUCAS A. NYE

Lucas Arthur Nye, 15, of Keokuk, IA died Sunday, September 4, 2022 as the result of an automobile accident.

He was born August 9, 2007 in Carthage, IL, the son of Chance and Amy Sloop Nye.



Lucas was currently a sophomore at Keokuk High School in Keokuk, IA. He was involved with many school activities. He was determined and competitive. He golfed on the high school golf team, played football as a freshman, wrestled with Keokuk Kids Wrestling Club, played on a Canton basketball team and South East Soccer Academy (SESA) traveling soccer team. Lucas was a member of Keokuk Sister Cities and volunteered with Konnections at Keokuk High School. He was looking forward to joining the military and becoming a pilot.

Lucas was an active member of The Crossing Church in Keokuk and had a strong faith that was a vital part of his life. He loved his church and church family. He served his church every Sunday by volunteering in the nursery, at the guest services booth and served in the café. Lucas could usually be found at the café drinking an iced coffee.

Lucas was currently working at a job he loved at Fat Jimmy's. He loved his co-workers and everyone that came into the restaurant adored him.

Lucas was a kind and caring person that was known for his quick wit and humor. His laugh and smile was infectious and he would light up any room he walked into. He was a jokester, but good luck pulling one over him. Lucas lived his legacy. He was always looking to help people, yet never wanted attention or credit for his good work. Lucas would befriend anyone, especially if you were a cute girl. He was quite the ladies' man. Lucas was always kind and respectful to others. He made a big impact on his peers and everyone else around him. Lucas was our Angel on earth and was loved by everyone. We have been blessed to know his beautiful soul.

He was a food aficionado, would try anything and liked to experiment with cooking. He had an eclectic taste in music, beyond his years. Lucas also enjoyed flying his drone. He loved to travel and relished family vacations. Lucas was a loving son and brother. He was very close to his family and loved his brothers dearly.

He is survived by his parents, Chance and Amy Nye of Keokuk, two brothers, Audrick Haist and Carter Nye both of Keokuk, his Goldendoodle, Larry, grandparents, Bill and Barbara Sloop of Carthage, IL and Chad and Gina Nye of Keokuk and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his great-grandparents, Frank and Iris Kunde, Delmar and Leta Nye, and Elizabeth Doyle.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, at the Keokuk High School Wright Field House in Keokuk with Pastor A.J. Fuhrman and Pastor Jason Harting officiating. Burial will be in the Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk at a later date.

There will be a special visitation for students only and their parents from 2:30 - 5 p.m., Friday. Regular visitation will be held from 5-8 p.m., with family meeting with friends from 6-8 p.m. at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk.

Memorials may be made to his family for an Education Fund for Lucas' brother Carter or to The Crossing Church Keokuk Campus.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM E. HELLER

William E. "Bill" Heller, 99, of Keokuk, passed away at 11:33 AM Saturday, September 3, 2022, at the University of Iowa Hospital.

William was born June 23, 1923, in Keokuk, Iowa, the son of Walter G. and Besse (Powell) Heller. Bill graduated from Keokuk High School and in 1943 entered the United States Navy during World War II and served as a Radar Operator 3rd Class on the Battleship New Jersey. He received his Honorable Discharge in 1946. On August 24, 1947, he was united in marriage to Doris Sorenson in Keokuk. She preceded him in death in 2013. In 1950 he began his career with the United States Postal Service retiring in 1980, after 30 years of service.



Bill was a member of the United Presbyterian Church in Keokuk, the Boy Scouts of America, the Sea Scouts and the Keokuk Elks Club. He was a beloved and well-known fixture in Keokuk for many years.

Bill is survived by his sons, Timothy E. Heller of Houston, Texas and Christopher W. (Roselle) Heller of Bucklin, Missouri; a daughter, Susan (Jim) Heller-Ligman of Dunlap, Tennessee; four grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a son and a granddaughter.

A memorial service will be held at 2 pm on Friday, October 7, 2022, at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk. Military honors will be rendered at the funeral home by the American Legion Post #41 and the United States Navy. The service will be live-streamed at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com. Burial at a later date will be held at Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk. Memorials may be directed to the Sorenson Heller Music Award or the Boy Scouts Troop #43.

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

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.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.



Lunch Specials

Sept 5 - 9

11am - 1pm

Monday, September 5 • NO LUNCH SERVED
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Tuesday, September 6
Tenderloin, Tater Tots, Jello Salad

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PEN CITY CURRENT

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Health News/From the Front

Strategy sessions for child care begin Sept. 13

SURVEY - Continued from Page 1

“What we’re going to look at is sort of the supply and demand of child care of Lee County, and then the next step is the solutions,” Duncan said.

Now that we know the problem and have a picture - how do we go about solving that.”

The first key finding was that 77% of the families in Lee County with children ages 0-5, have both parents in the workforce. That number increases to 80% for families with children 6-17.

The second finding was that the most preferred form of child care in the county is a regulated setting. 55% of parents prefer a licensed center, while the next most preferred was a Dept. of Human Services Registered Development Home with 15% of parents wanting that setting.

The survey also showed that less than half of parents are using the method of child care they preferred. Only 40% indicated their children are currently in a preferred child care setting. In that grouping the most common reason they gave was that providers weren’t accepting enrollments.

Parents are also finding it difficult to locate child care. 77% of parents with children 0-5 and 64% of parents with children ages 5-12 looking for care in the past 12 months found it somewhat difficult or very difficult to find child care.

The other remaining key findings were that median family incomes were higher than assistance thresholds for

assistance; parents indicated the child care is effecting their employment performance with 64% missing a day of work due to lack of child care and 58% having to leave work early.

Employers indicated child care is affecting productivity and attendance, and five employers who completed the survey were willing to appoint someone to sit on a child care board of directors at a child care program.

With regard to providers, seven said they would be willing to expand, but staffing, funding and location were all issue preventing the expansions.

Ginger Knisely, Lee County’s Children’s First Director said she’s looking forward to the strategy sessions that are also part of the market study that focus on actionable items moving forward.

Those session are open to anyone willing to participate in all five sessions taking place from 5 to 8 p.m.: Sept. 13, Sept. 27, Oct. 11, Oct. 25, and Nov. 8 at the Lee County Economic Development Center in Montrose. Food will be provided.

“I am excited to have new people joining in the conversation around child care and early childhood in general. I am hopeful that the facilitated strategic planning session to come over the next two months will lead to some concrete strategies we can use as a community to improve the overall child care situation in Lee County.”

SHIIP insurance program to be held at SIRMC WB

The Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) will present a Welcome to Medicare seminar Tuesday, Sept. 20, at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in West Burlington. The seminar will cover:

- Medicare Parts A and B benefits
- Prescription drug benefits (Part D)
- Medicare Advantage plans
- Medicare supplement insurance

The two-hour seminars will begin at 5 p.m. in the Oak Room on the lower level of the hospital, 1221 S. Gear Ave. West Burlington. Registration by Monday, Sept. 12, is required. Call 319-768-3342.

SHIIP is a free, confidential service of the State of Iowa that provides unbiased information to help Iowans make decisions about Medicare and other health coverage. People should enroll in Medicare as soon as they turn 65.

Appointments with volunteer SHIIP counselors are available at Southeast Iowa Medical Center in Fort Madison and West Burlington. To make an appointment, please call 319-768-3342.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
July 11, 2022**

The Lee County Board of Supervisors met at the Lee County Administration Building in Fort Madison on Monday, July 11, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Present: Matt Pflug, Garry Seyb, Ron Fedler, Chuck Holmes and Rick Larkin.

All votes are unanimous unless indicated otherwise.

The Board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Public Input: Dr. Phil Caropreso, Keokuk, read a statement explaining the significance of the Health Department. Judy Bartachek, Denmark, urged the Board to use all remaining ARPA funding towards building the Health/EMS Building. Pete Karczmarczyk, Fort Madison, said that the Health Department really needs a new building. Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld, said he does not want to pit the Marina against the Health/EMS Building. Both projects are needed. Valerie Natoli, Fort Madison, told the Board to make sure they have the money to build the Health/EMS Building. Chi Eastin, Fort Madison, runs the Kingsley Inn. She told the Board how many people come to Fort Madison to look at trains and feels like the Marina Project will be an asset to the City. Anita Hunold, Hospice Volunteer, said the Health Department needs their own home. Rebecca Bowker, Fort Madison, said both projects are worthy and thanked the Board for their insight. Michele Ross, Lee County Health Department Director, thanked the Board for committing to building a new facility. Mike Mohrfeld, Chair of Lee County Economic Development, said the new Marina would address the quality of life issue that Lee County lacks.

Also under Public Input, Tim Fenci, CEO of Danville Telephone, said the company is looking to partner with the County to provide fiber optic services.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Larkin, to approve a payment of \$250,000 out of the ARPA funds to the Fort Madison Marina Project. Seyb then amended his motion to add giving \$50,000 a year for five years from ARPA funds, with the balance being paid the final year that ARPA funds can be spent. Larkin seconded the amendment. Roll call: Seyb-aye, Larkin-aye, Fedler-nay, Holmes-nay and Pflug-nay. Motion failed. Moved by Holmes, seconded by Fedler, to give \$100,000 from the General Fund in payments of \$20,000 per year for five years to the Marina Project. Roll call: Holmes-aye, Fedler-aye, Seyb-aye, Larkin-aye and Pflug-aye. Seyb then made a motion to give \$150,000 from the ARPA funds to the Marina Project. Larkin seconded the motion. Roll call: Seyb-aye, Larkin-aye, Fedler-nay, Holmes-nay and Pflug-nay. Motion failed.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Larkin, to give \$3.5 million of ARPA funds towards the Health/EMS Building. Roll call: Seyb-aye, Larkin-aye, Fedler-nay, Holmes-nay and Pflug-nay. Motion failed. Moved by Fedler, seconded by Holmes, to give the remaining ARPA money towards the Health/EMS Building. Roll call: Fedler-aye, Holmes-aye, Larkin-aye, Seyb-aye and Pflug-aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Fedler, to

accept the property at 5001 Avenue O in Fort Madison, from the Glen Meller family to build a new Health/EMS Building. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve a Class C Beer Permit for Garner One Stop, Montrose, for the period August 27, 2022 through August 26, 2023. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Holmes, to approve a Certificate of Substantial Completion for the North Courthouse Tuck Point Project. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Holmes, to approve an agreement with Nyhart Company for Actuarial Services for Fiscal Year 2023. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Fedler, to approve Resolution #2022-77 and allowing Chairman Pflug to sign the contract with Dr. Wooster. Roll call: Holmes-aye, Fedler-aye, Larkin-aye, Seyb-aye and Pflug-aye.

**RESOLUTION #2022-77
APPOINTING LEE
COUNTY MEDICAL
EXAMINER**

WHEREAS a county medical examiner shall be appointed by the Lee County Board of Supervisors for a two-year term pursuant to Code of Iowa Section 331.801(1), and

WHEREAS, Dr. Meghan Wooster has agreed to serve as County Medical Examiner

for Lee County pursuant to an approved Contract Agreement between Lee County and Dr. Wooster for County Medical Examiner SERVICES, and

THEREFORE, Be It Resolved that effective October 1, 2022, Dr. Wooster is and shall be appointed to serve and act as Medical Examiner for Lee County and shall have all powers, rights, and duties, in such position including appointment of Deputy Medical Examiners in accordance with Code of Iowa Chapter 331 and otherwise as provided by law.

Be it Further Resolved that Dr. Wooster shall serve a two-year term, which may automatically renew for like-terms without further Resolution, unless or until this appointment is terminated in writing.

APPROVED AND AD- OPTED this 11th day of July 2022.

Lee County Board of Supervisors. /s/ Matt Pflug, Chairman; /s/ Garry Seyb, Vice-Chair; /s/ Ron Fedler, Member, /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member and /s/ Rick Larkin, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Holmes, to approve the July 1, 2022 raises for the County Maintenance Department. Motion carried.

Scott Edwards \$25.42

Jason Mott..... \$22.24
Jeffrey Sugars \$23.77
Kirk Nafziger...\$65,211.97

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Larkin, to approve the Tuesday, July 5, 2022 Board Minutes. Motioned carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Holmes, to approve the payment of claims. Motion carried.

Received and filed the Treasurer's Report of Fees Collected for the month of June 2022 and a Manure Management Annual Update for Holtkamp Farms in Franklin Township.

Committee Reports: Holmes reported that he had a zoom meeting with the Workforce Development Director. Pflug reported on a Board of Health meeting.

At 11:15 a.m. a motion was made by Fedler, seconded by Holmes, to adjourn. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, July 18, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Administration Building in Fort Madison.

Matt Pflug, Chairman
Attest: Denise Fraise,
Lee County Auditor

**Claims paid
July 11, 2022**

Access Sysms, equip 505.00
Agriland FS, fuel 1369.69
Airgas USA, splys 332.29
Alliant Enrgy, svcs 9944.39
Auto-Owners, ins 2231.00
Auto Door Grp, svcs 225.00
Ball Volvo, splys.... 143.00
Bates Sntatn, svcs.. 240.00
R Goodrich, svcs.. 3738.72
Benco Dntl, vs 1018.06
Blades/Green, svcs 4345.00
B Bonar, exps 200.00
Brotcke Well, svcs

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Executive Director (ED)

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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.

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..... 241.40 1868.30 44.85	Hartricks Lmbr, parts 12.98 350.00
Building Mtrl, splys.. 98.10	Centre State Intl, svcs	Cullen Pest, svcs.... 365.00 17.17	R Kuntz, svcs 200.00	Rathbun Wtr, svcs ... 112.00
K Burkhardt, exps	..... 2569.47	Culligan, wtr..... 78.20	Health Sol, svcs..... 331.00	Lawson Prdcts, svcs	RicohUSA, splys... 152.39
		H Curtis, svcs 14.00	Hellige Lawn, svcs.. 250.00	..... 1219.13	SIACC, svcs 26594.60
		Democrat Co, publ.. 28.29	Home Thrpy Sol, svcs	LeeCo Treas, fees	Sidwell Co, svcs ... 8810.00
		Darkside Tint, splys	..... 2423.40	..... 259890.66	Solutions, svcs 12311.08
		..... 1741.00	A Huber, equip..... 1800.00	LeeCo Treas, costs	K Spear, exps 32.40
		D Wolfe Land, svcs	Huffman Wldng, equip	..... 39986.02	S Thompson, svcs.... 81.00
		..... 750.00	..... 664.15	Liberty Util, gas.... 293.51	Truck Repair, parts
		Dell Mrktg, equip	J Huling, exps 18.18	McFarlands, splys.. 21.99	..... 5007.75
		..... 26852.65	Humburd Auto, svcs	D Mehl, exps..... 223.85	US Cell, svcs 215.03
		DM Co Hlth Dpt, svcs	..... 65.05	Midway Frtlr, svcs	US Treasury, costs
		..... 4357.49	Ideal Rdy Mix, mtrl	..... 567.95	..... 474.81
		Douds Stone, mtrl	..... 5476.67	MtHamill Elvtr, splys	Van Hying Trckng, svcs
		..... 529.20	Idemia Indntity, svcs	..... 96.55	..... 770.00
		Dougs Electric, svcs	..... 3133.00	Mutual Whl, parts.... 14.76	Vermeer Sales, equip
		..... 1000.00	Impact7G, svcs.... 6025.00	NAPA Auto, parts.. 966.49	..... 59.00
		Electr Engrg, svcs	IA DOT, svcs..... 2162.68	Newman Signs, svcs	Vertical Comm, svcs
	 2170.80	IA St Pen, meals 1883.52 141.18
		Farm/Home, splys .. 79.41 7500.00	JJ Nichting, equip	Vinson/Sill, svcs 714.08
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	 297.50	Jays Auto, svcs..... 51.40	AT Conf, svcs 269.66	West Pnt Utility, svcs
		Floyds EZ Way, svcs	P Kaltefleiter, exps.. 48.34	O'Reilly Auto, parts 93.67
		..... 195.00	J Kemper, svcs 208.64	..... 85.91	Wex Bank, fuel ... 9170.33
		Z Fuller, exps 128.39	Kempkers, splys ... 122.61	P Palmer, rfnd..... 73.70	Windstream, svcs ... 751.34
		Garratt-Callahan, svcs	K Kester, svcs..... 25.00	K Pflug, svcs..... 93.01	911 Custom, equip
		..... 750.00	Kimball Midwest, svcs	Powerphone, svcs	..... 3136.00
		N Granaman, svcs.. 392.84 103.22 6412.50	
		Grt Prairie AEA, svcs	Kirchner Trkg, svcs	Prairie Farms, splys	

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Scene Around Town/From the Front

Ransom payments should be made known to taxpayers

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

with some of the real-life challenges that confront school administrators and their governing boards.

One such real-life headache is ongoing in the Cedar Rapids Community School District. It played out a year ago at Des Moines Area Community College. And the Linn-Mar Community School District in Marion may have the same headache, too.

The issue is cyber-security and ransom attacks that are carried out by unknown criminals. These people hack their way into an institution's computer network and try to steal personal information of employees and, potentially, private student information, too.

The Cedar Rapids district was hit by just such an attack on July 2, forcing the cancellation of summer school the following week. A month later, the Linn-Mar district announced it was investigating the source of a problem that took down its telephones and knocked out its computer systems.

At DMACC, a cyber incident in the summer of 2021 forced the Ankeny college to shut down parts of its computer network, ending online classes, delaying students from signing up for new classes, and knocking out internet service for several weeks.

It should surprise no one that cyber criminals are attacking government institutions and trying to extract a ransom. Businesses in Iowa have been hit this way, too, costing them significant amounts of money and extra labor.

There is an important difference between private businesses and government institutions, however. One belongs to the people of Iowa. The other does not.

The Cedar Rapids school district did pay a ransom in an effort to protect the personal information of its employees — 8,790 people, in all. The information that may have been compromised includes employees' full names, Social Security numbers, driver license numbers, banking account and routing numbers, and their personal medical information.

My government transparency radar goes off when I hear that school officials have refused to disclose how large the ransom was, to whom it was paid or how it was paid. The school is offering a free year's worth of credit monitoring services to employees to see if their personal information is used.

The attackers who struck DMACC last year also demanded payment of a ransom. The college refused. But administrators now also refuse to tell

the Cedar Rapids Gazette how much ransom was sought or how much the college actually spent to combat the security breach — for outside experts, for new equipment and repaired equipment, and for higher cyber insurance premiums.

Linn-Mar officials have not said whether any personal information on employees or students was compromised. Nor have they even confirmed whether a cyber attacker was responsible for that district's computer problems.

Were I standing in front of the School Administrators of Iowa or the Iowa Association of School Boards to address their members, I would expect to be grilled like a cheap steak about my position on the intersection of Iowa's public records laws and information about these cyber security incidents.

I would remind these officials that Iowa's public records law allows school districts or other government entities to keep confidential their cyber security procedures and their emergency response procedures. That is just common sense.

No one expects them to be required to make public what the records law describes as the vulnerability assessments made on their computer networks, the information contained in security and response plans, or the passwords and security codes needed to access certain parts of their computer networks.

But it is common sense, too, that administrators would be expected to make public, upon request, basic information that the tax-paying public is interested in: That would include the amount of ransom that was sought or that was paid in response to an intrusion by cyber criminals, as well as an accounting of how much a school district or community college paid to clean up its computer networks after a cyber-attack.

It would be detailed enough so the public can determine whether their local school district or college is taking all reasonable precautions to guard against such an attack. The public is entitled to know whether their local school is show to adopt recommended security precautions.

After all, the cyber criminals who struck the Cedar Rapids school district's computers already know how much ransom they received and how it was paid. The only people being kept in the dark now are the taxpayers in the district and the parents of its 15,800 students.

Even if a school's lawyers show how these details could legally be kept confidential, I would remind school officials that secrecy is never a good way to build public trust and confidence in the management of a district or college.

Randy Evans can be reached at DMRevans2810@gmail.com.

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Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld and Greg "Shoeloose" The Clown Brockman pose for a photo Tuesday at the Fort Madison City Council meeting, where Brockman received an honor from the Mayor.

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