

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Wednesday, September 21, 2022 | 19 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 162



www.pencitycurrent.com

SIRMC's Kid Zone opens

DAY CARE: Officials cut ribbon on new 70-slot daycare at Fort Madison hospital

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Officials met at the new Kid Zone Child Care Center at the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center Fort Madison campus Tuesday afternoon. "Today you see the \$1.2 million commitment we've made at Fort Madison. That money came from the hospital Foundation, so Thank You," said Matt Wenzel President and CEO of Great River Health System.

Wenzel said the day is remarkable because it shows the vision of the hospital system. "Empowering people and transforming lives and fulfilling dreams. I say that because we're after workforce, education, making Southeast Iowa a more livable community, and health care," he said.

Wenzel said the effort was to support the employees who support them with their hands and service toward health care.

The hospital transformed the former administrative suites on the ground floor of the east side of the hospital into a child care service called the Kid Zone.

Dianne Petersen, manager of the health system, said the project wouldn't have happened without the funding from the hospital foundation.

"Day care is such a huge, huge needed thing in our community today," she said.

"Most of our families are two parents working or a lot of single mother families. You can imagine what a tough thing that is to take your child and hand them over to somebody."

She said having a quality child care center with people you can trust is important in supporting their employees.

The Kid Zone was created for in-house daycare for employees, but if there are slots that aren't being filled, some of the slots could be opened to the public.

Currently there are 30 kids enrolled and there are four or five getting ready. She said people were waiting to see that it was really opened.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

A visitor to the Kid Zone checks out one of the rooms that are now in use for the child care service at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center Fort Madison.

"I'm expecting before too long we're going to be packed out and it will be exciting when that happens."

There are currently 14 staff on hand to care for children ages 6 six weeks to 12 years of age.

Petersen said the infants need a 4-1 child to provider ratio. Two year olds are 7-1 and 3 to 4 years old is 10-1 and school-age kids can be 15-1.

Wenzel said the idea for the Kid Zone came from employ-

See **DAYCARE**, page 3

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Task force puts \$93K tourism option on city table

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A proposal to re-establish the tourism board in Fort Madison met with varied responses from the Fort Madison City Council Tuesday night.

The discussion followed the regular City Council meeting as part of an hour-long work session.

Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld presented the proposal to the City Council with about eight members of a tourism task force on hand.

The task force has been meeting for several months to discuss what a new tourism focus in the city and county could look like.

The proposal includes hiring a full-time director with a \$45,000 base salary plus benefits that would include insurance, bringing the package to \$56,000 plus a \$1,500 cell phone stipend.

When all expenses including trainings, dues, office expenses, marketing, Information Technology, and mileage are included, the task force's proposal was for \$93,000 the first year. The second year would see expenses for the position increase to \$104,500.

The revenues to cover the costs would come predominantly from the city's hotel/motel tax revenue, about \$75,000 in the first year. Mohrfeld said the city collects about \$283,000 a year from the tax revenue.

An additional \$5,000 would come from fundraisers, while the task force projected \$10,000 the first year in marketing grants, \$1,000 in co-op marketing revenue, and \$2,500 from cruise ship services for an estimated total of \$93,500.

Year two of the position would see the hotel/motel revenue climb to \$90,000 pushing the revenue to

See **TOURISM**, page 8

CITY NEWS

Residents clash at meeting over homeless encampment

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Expletives were flying about at the start of Tuesday's regular City Council meeting as residents living near what has been called a homeless

encampment pleaded with city officials to take action.

Lisa Holloway, who lives on the 1300 block of 24th Street, cried as she pleaded with the Fort Madison City Council to take action regarding property near 23rd Street and Avenue N where tarps have been

hung between trees with people living on the property where no homes exist.

"I look out my door every day and see this," she said pointing to a photo in a local newspaper.

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
WED 20 Sep.....Cool with chance of thunderstorms, 78° F/ 54° F
THU 21 Sep.....Partly sunny and cool, 65° F/ 47° F
FRI 22 Sep.....Cool with chance of showers, 61° F/ 51° F

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PICK 3 09/19 MIDDAY.....4 2 4
PICK 3 09/19 EVENING.....0 1 6
PICK 4 09/19 MIDDAY.....5 8 8 9
PICK 4 09/19 EVENING.....6 4 4 1
POWERBALL 09/19.....7 15 36 46 67, Powerball: 7 Power Play: 2

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Business News

Experience A Warm Kentucky Hug

What's a Kentucky Hug? Well, it's that lingering after-effect from tasting bourbons or whiskey – that lingering warmth that you feel in your upper body surrounding you like a good 'ole hug! Join us next June as we venture to East to hit the famed Kentucky Bourbon trail and seek out that perfect "Warm Kentucky Hug."

They say every Bourbon is a Whiskey, but not every Whiskey is a Bourbon...how is that? It's all in the process of distilling and aging. Bourbon is kind of like whiskey's "sweet spot" since corn is a sweet grain. The more corn, the sweeter the

whiskey. And to be called bourbon, it must be at least 51 percent corn. Plus, bourbon, by law, must be aged in a brand-new, charred white oak barrel to earn that bourbon whiskey label.

Why does Kentucky claim to have the "superior" bourbons? Approximately 95% of all bourbon is produced in Kentucky as of 2018 and at that time had more than 8.1 million barrels of bourbon aging – which would provide 2 barrels per person living in Kentucky! They lay claim that it's the water. The water in Kentucky is hard – meaning, it has a high pH and a high proportion

of minerals, including calcium and magnesium. These elements are optimal for distilling. The yeast in bourbon adores those minerals and aid in the fermentation process creating distinctive, crisp, Kentucky bourbon.

While there are 37 distilleries along the Kentucky Bourbon Trail, and would take weeks to visit them all, we've handpicked 7 along the "Signature" trail for your enjoyment! We'll be stopping for tours/tastings at Maker's Mark Distillery, Heaven Hill Bourbon Experience, Four Roses Distillery, Woodford Reserve Distillery, Buffalo Trace Distillery, the Evan



Williams Bourbon Experience, and of course no tour to Kentucky would be complete without a visit to the Jim Beam American Stillhouse.

This tour truly encompasses the Spirit of Kentucky – the history, the craft and the culture.

There's something for everyone – tours, tastings, free time in downtown Louisville, a riverboat dinner cruise aboard the Mary M. Miller and even a show at the Derby Dinner Playhouse. This tour is scheduled for June 8-12, 2023 and at only

\$1475 per person double membership price, it's sure to fill fast. So grab some friends and get those reservations in early! You can call us at 319-753-2864 ext. 162 or book online by visiting us at www.TrailwaysTravel.com.

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Tuesday, September 20
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Wednesday, September 21
Beef Enchiladas, Spanish rice

Thursday, September 15
Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, September 16
Grilling on the Sidewalk

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Obituaries/For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

09/15/22 - 11:52 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Kristen Leelynn Greik, 26, of Fort Madison, in the 800 block of Avenue G, on 2 warrants for probation violation. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

09/15/22 - 5:22 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 5800 block of Avenue O.

09/15/22 - 6:35 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 500 block of Avenue G.

09/15/22 - 6:43 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3100 block of Avenue N.

09/15/22 - 10:42 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2800 block of Avenue K.

09/15/22 - 11:31 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1700 block of Avenue G.

09/16/22 - 10:05 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2900 block of Avenue I.

09/16/22 - 4:33 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Tracy Lynn Livengood, 51, of Fort Madison, in the 3100 block of Avenue O, on a charge of driving while barred.

09/16/22 - 5:42 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Tracy Lynn Meyers, 54, of Fort Madison, at the intersection of 10th Street and Avenue F, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

09/17/22 - No time reported - Fort Madison police cited Tessie Morton, 41, no home address reported, on U.S. Hwy. 2, on a charge of driving while suspended.

09/17/22 - 7:55 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2800 block of Avenue N.

09/17/22 - 9:02 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2800 block of Avenue N.

09/17/22 - 10:50 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2800 block of Avenue N.

09/17/22 - 6:41 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Mark Edward Carter, 34, of Burlington, in the 2800 block of Avenue N, on charges of 4th degree criminal mischief \$300-\$750 and 1st degree harassment. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

09/18/22 - No time reported - Fort Madison police cited Daryl Honadel, 35, no home address reported, at the intersec-

tion of 34th Street and Avenue L, on a charge of driving while suspended.

09/18/22 - 8:41 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 100 block of Richards Drive.

09/18/22 - 1:52 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Cathy Jeanette Searns, 66, of Keokuk, in the 1200 block of Avenue D, on a charge of disorderly conduct - loud noise.

09/18/22 - 1:55 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Erik James Scott, 45, of Fort Madison, in the 1200 block of Avenue D, on a charge of disorderly conduct - loud noise. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

09/18/22 - 8:46 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3000 block of Avenue H.

09/18/22 - 11:00 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft at the intersection of 24th Street and Avenue H.

09/19/22 - 8:38 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1600 block of Avenue H.

09/19/22 - 2:31 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1900 block of Avenue E.

09/19/22 - 5:14 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1400 block of Avenue F.

09/19/22 - 5:29 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1100 block of 22nd Street.

09/19/22 - 7:03 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 900 block of 4th Street.

09/19/22 - 7:52 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1900 block of Avenue M.

Lee County Sheriff Report

09/15/22 - 11:06 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Victoria Robin Hieatt, 45, of Dallas City, in the 3100 block of Hwy. 218, Salem, on a warrant for 5th degree theft less than \$300. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

09/16/22 - 10:17 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies responded to a report of a single-vehicle accident in the 2600 block of Hwy. 16. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Bodin Edward Lasswell, 21, of New London, was traveling westbound on Hwy. 16 when it left the roadway, lost control and skidded across the highway

and into the south ditch, was driven back onto the roadway and stopped in the westbound lane. Lasswell was transported to Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center Fort Madison by Lee County Ambulance and the vehicle was towed from the scene. No citations were reported.

09/16/22 - 11:01 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Jasen Scott Tripp, 46, of Keokuk, in the 1900 block of Orleans Avenue, Keokuk, on warrants for intimidation with dangerous weapon and 2nd offense domestic abuse assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

09/18/22 - 12:00 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Kody Michael Saar, 28, of Hamilton, at the South Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

09/18/22 - 2:21 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Rebecca Sue Billing, 37, of Hamilton, at the sheriff's office, on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

09/19/22 - 3:09 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Cody Allen Lawson, 29, of Birmingham, at the sheriff's office, on a warrant for child support/paternity. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Hancock County Sheriff Report

09/09/2022 - WILLIAMSON, REBECCA A (46 of Nauvoo, IL) McDonough County Warrant

09/09/2022 - SPRINKLE, ANTHONY L (32 of Augusta, IL) Hancock County Warrant

09/11/2022 - JONES, DERICK W (32 of Knoxville, IL) Hancock County Warrant

09/11/2022 - RAGAIN, COLTON W (24 of Carthage, IL) Illegal Squealing/Screeching Tires

09/12/2022 - TAYLOR, LEROY (58 of Monmouth, IL) Failure to Reduce Speed to Avoid Accident

09/13/2022 - BLACKWELL, JERRY L (30 of Burlington, IA) Hancock County Warrant

09/14/2022 - STARK, GREGORY T (60 of Quincy, IL) Hancock County Warrant

09/14/2022 - THORNTON, MICHAEL B (41 of Rushville, IL) Disorderly Conduct

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

OBITUARIES

ALBERT E. DUNN

Albert Eugene Dunn, 61, of Keokuk, IA died Saturday, September 17, 2022 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL.

He was born February 1, 1961 in Iowa City, IA the son of Ralph Jr. and Joy Bell



DUNN

Houston Dunn. Albert graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 1979.

On April 10, 1982 Albert was united in marriage to Tresa Hodges at New Testament Christian Church in Keokuk. She survives.

Other survivors include one son, Keith Dunn of Keokuk, one daughter, Rachel Foster (Heath) of Charlestown, NH and four grandchildren, Olesya, Asher, Rilynn and Ezren. He is also survived by one brother, Robert Dunn (Linda) of Kiln, MS and two sisters, Sandy Johnson (Tim) of Burlington, IA and Joyce Schenelle (Dustin) of Ursa, IL and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Albert had been employed at Henniges in Keokuk for thirty-two years, until his retirement in 2016.

He was a member of Cornerstone Church in Keokuk.

Albert was ornery and took pride in helping others. He played an instrumental role in establishing the Cowboy Church in Wayland, MO, where he and his wife were the first two people to be baptized in the church. Albert enjoyed building things, guns, spending time outdoors and hunting. He adored his grandchildren and loved to spend time with them.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

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



Parents, employees at heart of center

DAYCARE - Continued from Page 1

ees who wanted to use the administrative space.

"When we first announced that this was going to happen and we were going to solve this problem, there was a momma in the room and she started crying," he said.

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From the Front/Sports

Resident threatens city over encampment

CLASH - Continued from Page 1

"I wanna know what the city is going to do to protect me from that man over there."

Holloway pointed to Randall Cummings, who has apparently paid cash for the property, and accused him of verbally harassing her.

Cummings denied Holloway's accusations and said he owns the property and keeps vagrants, drunks, and drug users off the property.

Cummings said he has four addresses and lives on the property, but the city won't give him an address. He said the city won't give him utilities on the property.

But he warned city officials if they encroached on the property.

"You guys do what you wanna do, but it's a fight you're fixin' to get from me," Cummings said before walking out of the meeting.

Holloway said she can't sleep with her windows open out of fear and doesn't feel safe in her own home.

"Who's going to protect me? That's my question."

Mohrfeld encouraged Holloway to meet with the police department before she left the meeting and Holloway did leave with Capt. Dustin Fullhart before she left.

Holloway said the issue has been going on for several months and the city hasn't done anything to address the ongoing issue.

Another resident in the area also complained about the neighborhood.

Richard Bohnenkamp, who lives in the 1200 block of 23rd Street, said he has made the decision to carry a weapon now while in the neighborhood.

Bohnenkamp said he's lived in the area for more than two decades and it's been a nice, quiet neighborhood and the last several months has been "bedlam".

He said there are odors emanating from the property and he hasn't seen any children. Bohnenkamp said Police Chief Mark Rohloff told him they had permits to camp there, but they couldn't stay overnight.

"They stay at night all the time. They were going through my yard at 3:30 or 4 in the morning. What were they looking for? Car keys," he said.

"This is trouble and it has to be taken care of. If you want to look for someplace to put these homeless people, fine, do it. But if you can't find a place, take 'em to your back yard and put up with them. We've put up with them for three months now."

Pat O'Connell, the city's attorney said the city is taking action, but he couldn't talk in too much detail because it is pending litigation.

But O'Connell did say court documents have been filed and an abatement process is underway under the city's nuisance code. He also said the city is also heading to court on the issue in case of non-compliance or repetition of the offenses.

"We're going to hit it from two different angles and it will be handled as swiftly as code staff can handle it," he said. "We do have to wait until the date of expiration on the warning letter we sent. Once that hits, which is next week, then we'll be off to the races on trying to clean it up."

In other action, the council:

- approved a resolution to move several residents and about 2,400 feet of city water lines on West Point Hill outside city limits to Rathbun Regional Water Association.
- approved an engineering agreement with Veenstra & Kimm Inc. of Coralville for design and engineering services to replace a booster station on Denmark Hill.

SPORTS

HTC girls win own tourney without dropping a set

FORT MADISON - The Holy Trinity Catholic girls swept through three matches Monday night to claim the title at the HTC Invitational at Shottenkirk Gym.

The girls knocked off Fort Madison 21-5, 21-10, Keokuk 21-18, 21-12, and then dispatched Danville 21-17, 21-2 to take their bracket before rolling through Burlington 21-8, 21-9 in the championship match.

Presley Myers had the best night of her young career leading the Crusaders with 27 kills on the night for the freshman. Mary Kate Bendlage had 19 kills and Brooke Mueller had 17.

Anna Bendlage had 68 assists on the night for the Crusaders.

Taegan Denning was 45 of 46 serving with nine aces for HTC. Myers was 37 of 39 with eight aces.

Central Lee went 1-2 at the tournament losing to Mediapolis 15-21, 14-21 and then to Burlington 14-21, 18-21 before beating Wapello 21-11, 21-17 in the night cap.

Makayla Morrison had 27 kills and 25 digs and was 17 of 17 from the service line on the night to lead the Lady Hawks. Kenna Sandoval had 34 assists, while Karlie Pohren had nine assists and 12 digs for Central Lee.

Fort Madison girls went 0-2 at the event, losing 5-21, 10-21 to Holy Trinity Catholic and to Keokuk 21-19, 14-21, 14-16. No stats for the Lady Hounds

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
July 18, 2022**

The Lee County Board of Supervisors met at the Lee County Administration Building in Fort Madison on Monday, July 18, 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 Larkin, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Public Input: Conservation Board member Mary Van Pelt, told the Board that the road near the entrance to Wilson Lake needs attention. They have been receiving complaints from campers.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Fedler, to approve a Real Estate Contract with Circle M, Inc. for property on which the County intends to build a Health/EMS Building. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve a Settlement Agreement and Release with Century Link. Motion carried. The cost to the County is \$115,000.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Holmes, to approve replacing a full-time Paramedic. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Larkin, to approve a Class C Liquor License for Boonies Bar & Grill, for the period August 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Fedler, to approve a Class C Liquor License for Charleston Board of Trade, for the period August 23, 2022 through August 22, 2023. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Holmes, to re-appoint Liza Alton to a five-year term on the Conservation Board. Motion carried.

Moved by Larkin, seconded by Holmes, to approve the Monday, July 11, 2022 Board Minutes. Motioned carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve the payment of

claims. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Larkin to approve the following Personnel Actions: a correction to a step increase for Jason Mott, Building and Grounds Maintenance Tech, from \$22.24 to \$22.90, effective 7/1/22; a correction to a step increase for Erica Lambert, Accounting Tech II, from \$22.24/hr. to \$22.90/hr., effective 7/1/22; a correction to a step increase for Kimberly Spear, Accounting Tech II, from \$22.24/hr. to \$22.90/hr., effective 7/1/22; a step increase for Caroline Veihl, Admin/Outreach Coordinator, from \$25.89/hr. to \$26.66/hr., effective 7/26/22; a step increase for William Carson, EMT, from \$17.40/hr. to \$19.80/hr., effective 7/1/22 and a step increase for David Sugars, Maintenance in Secondary Roads, from \$25.89/hr. to \$26.62/hr., effective 7/22/22. Motion carried.

Received and filed the Sheriff's Monthly Report for the month of June 2022.

Committee Reports: Holmes reported on a Conservation Board meeting. Larkin reported on a Regional Mental Health meeting and a meeting with the Fort Madison Partners. Seyb reported on an EMS Advisory Council meeting. Fedler reported on a RUSS Board meeting. At 10:55 a.m. a motion was made by Fedler, seconded by Holmes, to adjourn. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Monday, July 25, 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 18, 2022**

- ABC Fire Extng, svcs 58.95
- Ace Hardware, splys 68.09
- Advd Crctnl Hlth, svcs 8667.16
- Aetna, rfnd 85.73
- All Season Music, svcs 1326.01
- Allen Precsn, equip 142.95
- Alliant Enrgy, svcs 19206.98
- Amazon, splys 305.82
- Amerigroup, rfnd 41.80
- Animal House, mtrls 2.00
- Aspire Nursing, rfnds 658.70
- Assoc Erly Chldhd, equip 455.00
- Assured Prtnrs, costs 3402.00
- Bckyrd Theater, equip 6999.00
- J Baier, svcs 92.95
- Bates Sntatn, svcs.. 480.00
- Benco Dntl, splys.. 242.34
- J Booth, exps..... 390.15
- Bnd Tree Med, splys 2279.09
- Brightree Home, svcs 3263.50
- A Cook, exps 156.15
- M Cook, exps..... 361.35
- Culligan, water..... 31.49
- Democrat Co, publ 945.00
- Daniels Jntrl, svcs 4328.41
- Daves Place, rfnd 337.20
- Dodd Prtg, splys ... 630.00
- M Dodson, exps..... 2.99
- Dnnllsn Lmbr, equip 967.30
- Dnnllsn Tire, svcs ... 230.00
- N Dooley, svcs..... 609.37
- Estern IA Tire, tires 3794.80
- Elvin Bch Farms, mtrls 400.00
- B Fader, exps 144.45
- Federal Enginrg, svcs 2540.00
- Garner FdMart, publ 1520.43
- GateHse Media, publ 359.38
- J Giebelhausen, exps 13.95
- Gov Forms, mtrls.. 539.02
- Grt Prairie AEA, svcs 60.00

- GRRWA, svcs..... 6263.28
- GrtAm Financial, equip 174.42
- Grn Scene Lawn, svcs 3975.00
- J Hall, exps 499.95
- A Hayes, exps..... 64.80
- Hellige Lawn, svcs 1000.00
- E Heston, svcs 714.72
- hibu Inc, publ 139.00
- T Hinkle, rent 182.00
- J Hudson, exps..... 241.20
- Humana, rfnd..... 278.45
- IA Chronic Care, edu 1000.00
- IA Dpt Rev, tax.... 1673.08
- IA Office St ME, svcs 15262.04
- IA St Pen, meals 12307.75
- IA St Univ, svcs..... 440.00
- ISAC, reg 625.00
- D Jannusch, unif..... 86.91
- Jays Auto, svcs..... 51.40
- S Jeffries, exps 158.40
- C Johnson, exps... 177.00
- J Johnson, exps..... 37.35
- B Jones, wages 528.79
- Keo Hosp, rx..... 175.40
- G Knisley, exps..... 5.84
- P Knustrom, exps 283.95
- Kohlmorgan Hlg, svcs 595.15
- BKrmrRiesberg, exps 158.40
- S Landon, svcs..... 220.50
- LeeCo Adtr, Ctrl Pur.. 1.06
- LeeCo Lbry, contr 26612.50
- LeeCo Sheriff, svcs 9309.03

- LeeCo Treas, fees 273270.88
- LeeCo Treas, costs 15501.20
- Lynch Dallas, svcs 3230.50
- McFarlands, splys 2078.61
- Mediacom, svcs..... 225.05
- Menards, splys 168.25
- MidAm Enrgy, gas 157.21
- R Moore, svcs 300.00
- L Mullins, exps..... 212.40
- MES, unif 219.07
- JJ Nichting, parts.. 801.02
- OReilly Auto, parts.. 62.01
- OMG Midwest, svcs 23477.19
- Onmedia, adv 600.00
- Optimizer Systms, svcs 625.00
- Optum Rx, splys ..1411.03
- Outlaw Tees, splys 1320.00
- M Park, exps..... 262.80
- P Patrick, svcs..... 750.00
- M Pflug, exps..... 40.00
- Phoenix Sply, splys 719.40
- Postmaster, svcs 130.00
- Prairie Farms, splys 243.20
- Quill Corp, splys ... 102.95
- Red Lion Rnwbls, svcs 2983.60
- Reg Util Svcs, svcs 5800.00
- RicohUSA, splys... 205.45
- B Roberts, svcs 412.87
- S.J. Smith Co, svcs 2957.82
- K Schleidt, svcs 750.00

- J Shoup, svcs 750.00
- Shred-It, splys..... 54.96
- SE IA Reg Med, svcs 750.00
- Star Equip, equip... 324.39
- St Hygnc Lab, svcs... 25.00
- Stericycle, svcs..... 579.67
- Stryker Sales, equip 207.06
- P Tripp, exps..... 346.05
- US Cell, svcs 2329.18
- Vigen Mmrl, svcs.. 1845.00
- West Pt Utility, svcs 1495.00
- T Wilson, exps 2.70
- Windstream, svcs 55.00
- WPS GHA, rfnd 409.92
- B Zinnert, exps 310.50

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Lee County News/From the Front

New tourism head would be housed at Fort Madison Partners

TOURISM - Continued from Page 1

\$108,500.

“The Lee County Tourism Task Force has been engaged in the strategic planning process for about six months,” Mohrfeld said.

He said it started as a small group of three or four and then took on a regional flavor with three half-day sessions at Lee County Economic Development Group’s facility in Montrose.

“We came together as a county to look at what tourism would look like moving forward for Lee County and then narrowed it down to what it would look like for Fort Madison.”

He said the vision of the proposal is to Grow Fort Madison - Visit Here - Stay here.

The Tourism Bureau would be an independent 501c6 organization with one full-time director partnering with the City of Fort Madison, Fort Madison Partners, Lee County Economic Development Group, and the Fort Madison Tourism Board, which is the current task force.

The board would include representatives from the city, hospitality, retail, industry, events, attractions, and citizens. The bureau has set a start date of Jan. 1, 2023.

The bureau would be housed, at least for the first

two years, at the Fort Madison Partners’ office in the old Cattermole Library.

Councilman Rusty Andrews pushed back that the entity could be possibly housed at the pavillion in Riverview Park.

“I’m not saying that’s the perfect place, but I’m really hung up on shoving something else in the Partners’ office. I’m sorry, but I’ve never stepped in there. I don’t know what to go in there for,” he said.

“It’s sitting down there empty with the utilities paid on it and it was built as an office building. The only fear is someone sitting down there solely by themselves, but we had somebody solely sitting down in the basement of City Hall,” he said.

“You’re right by the Fort, right by the boat, by the museum...if you have decent management overview like this board, I thought that was a decent location.”

Councilman Tom Schulz also pushed back on the proposal also saying there were better locations and that the Partners’ building has no parking access and no handicap accessibility.

“I’m 100% on board, but I think what we’ve got in front of us today is not the direction we should be going,” Schulz said.

Mohrfeld said the issue of where it would be located was kicked around a lot, but they wanted a place that was move-in ready with high speed Internet access.

Councilman Chad Cangas said he thought the whole proposal was very ambitious considering the price tag and that the city is just a year away from being in a precarious budget situation.

City manager David Varley said if the city does go with the tourism bureau, the city won’t have as much surplus to fund other efforts.

“If we do this, we won’t have as much flexibility to spend on things like Amtrak and pickleball courts. So those things we’ve funded in the past, we won’t have the ability to fund in the future,” Varley said.

Councilwoman Rebecca Bowker asked the issue be put on the agenda for future action, but didn’t want the council to micromanage the bureau.

“When we get to dictating how to do this and that and other things, we have to have faith in the subject matter experts to make the right decision. And if two or three years from now we see a direction that isn’t appropriate, then we hold them accountable,” she said.

The discussion ended with Mohrfeld telling the council the issue would be brought back up and eventually be brought to the council for action.

Eppers-O’Malley Dinner Set for October 13

The Lee County Democratic Party is hosting their annual Eppers-O’Malley Dinner on Thursday, October 13th at Meyers Courtyard, 629 Blondeau Street, Keokuk. The social hour will be 5:15 - 6:15 pm and the program/dinner will follow at 6:30 pm. Speakers will include Christina Bohannon, candidate for U.S. House; Joel Miller, candidate for Secretary of State; John Norwood, candidate for Secretary of Agriculture and Land Stewardship; Rob Sand, who is running for re-election as State Auditor; Rebecca Bowker, candidate for State Representative; and Donna Amandus, candidate for Lee County Supervisor, District 2.

Tickets are \$25 each. Tickets may be purchased by check mailed to The Lee County Democratic Party, P.O. Box 1302, Keokuk IA 52632. Your tickets will be mailed to you or held at the door. You may also stop by our Keokuk office at 300 Main Street or call 319-526-3160 to make other arrangements.

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Christina Bohannon
Candidate for U.S. Representative



Michael Fitzgerald
Candidate for State Treasurer



John Norwood
Candidate for Secretary of Agriculture



Rob Sand
Candidate for State Auditor



Tom Miller
Candidate for Attorney General



Joel Miller
Candidate for Secretary of State



Rebecca Bowker
Candidate for House District 100



Dennis Cohoon
Candidate for House District 99



Erik Van Lancker
Candidate for Lt. Governor



Nancy Booten
Candidate for County Recorder



Chris Spann
Candidate for County Treasurer



Donna Amandus
Candidate for Supervisor District 2



Ross Braden
Candidate for County Attorney

Maxwell Mendenhall
Candidate for Supervisor District 3

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- **I support and value labor that has built southeast Iowa**
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“ *I grew up knowing what it is like to not have it all. I recognize that everyone deserves a fair shot, not to be judged by color, clothing, or the balance of their bank account. Southeast Iowans are not lazy, so why cut unemployment? Southeast Iowans want to work, so why not raise the threshold for child care assistance? Southeast Iowans are the future, why not fund education to the fullest? My friends and neighbors, we love this community – that is why I ask for your support now and in November.* **”**

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For County Supervisor



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Agenda

As state treasurer, I have expanded the duties and scope of the state treasury through innovative programs and advanced technology. I will continue to keep Iowa’s money safe, fight to create a retirement savings plan to help everyday Iowa employees gain access to retirement solutions and keep a vigilant eye on IPERS.

Summary

*I have a passion to serve Iowans as their state treasurer.
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“

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- (2) Continued attacks on Labor rights and unemployment benefits.*
- (3) Refusing to fix our state’s worst-in-the-nation childcare crisis.*
- (4) Driving people out of the state with their relentless culture war.*

Iowa Republicans have spent 2022 pouring gasoline on the flames of the culture war and made many of these challenges much worse.

”

Senator Zach Wahls, Iowa Senate Minority Leader

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John Adams
2nd President
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