

PEN CITY CURRENT

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Thursday, September 22, 2022 | 19 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 163



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Pickleball on the way



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Construction crews pour cement between the sprinkles on Wednesday morning at Victory Park in Fort Madison. The new surface will be the home for six new pickleball courts.

SURFACE POURED: Crews work through sprinkles to get concrete poured for courts

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison outdoor pickleball courts are getting the first pumps of concrete, and officials hope to have the courts open yet before the snow flies.

Fort Madison Pickleball Association member Lynn Hoyer said the concrete is being poured this week and that will have to cure for 28 days before the acrylic surface is applied.

The six-court center is being built in Victory Park where the former tennis courts used to be. The tennis courts were in bad condition and when updates were being considered advocates jumped in to pitch pickleball courts instead of tennis.

The park also has undergone some renovations with the removal of some dying trees and a deteriorated shelterhouse.

See **COURTS**, page 2

OFF

Old Fort Players' cast set for 'Four Old Broads' fall show

BY DOROTHY SCHULTE
Old Fort Players Director

FORT MADISON - Old Fort Players launches their 2022/2023 Season with the hilarious comedy "Four Old Broads" written by Leslie Kimball. The show performs October 7-9 & 14-16, 2022, with Pen City Current as the proud sponsor of the production.

Set in Magnolia Place, a senior assist-

ed living community in Petula, Georgia, six women, and one Elvis Impersonator add up to one hilarious comedy. Ty Clute directs the show and it's one that fans of "The Golden Girls" television show will especially enjoy.

Retired burlesque queen, Beatrice Shelton, portrayed by Richar Abel, desperately needs a vacation – and NOT another trip up to see that "precious little German village for the umpteenth time." Richar most

recently appeared in "The Queen of Bingo" & "Savannah Sipping Society." A Sassy Seniors Cruise through the Caribbean may be the ticket if she can just convince her best friend, Eaddy Mae Clayton, to stop praying and go with her. The role of Eaddy is filled by Kelly Shields. Kelly recently directed "It's A Wonderful Life" in 2021.

Unfortunately, things have not been very

See **OFF**, page 3

ALLIANT ENERGY

IUB sets hearing for Wever solar field project

Meeting to be held Sept. 27 at Cobblestone Inn

BY PCC STAFF

CEDAR RAPIDS – The Iowa Utilities Board will hold a public informational meeting on September 27 in Fort Madison. During the meeting, representatives from Alliant Energy will share details and answer questions about the proposed Wever Solar Project. As part of the company's plan to advance clean energy in Iowa to benefit customers and communities, Alliant Energy is proposing to build the project near the city of Wever in Lee County.

The public informational meeting starts at 6 p.m. It will be held at Cobblestone Inn and Suites, 4901 Avenue O in Fort Madison, IA 52627.

In the event of inclement weather, the informational meeting will be rescheduled for October 4, 2022, at the same time and place.

The proposed Wever Solar Project includes 150 megawatts (MW) of solar energy with an associated 75 MW battery energy storage system. This project will not involve the use of eminent domain. All land for this project has already been leased through voluntary agreements.

"Led by our purpose-driven strategy to serve customers and build stronger communities, our transition to renewable energy enhances the economic and environmental health of the communities we serve," said Justin Foss, strategic project manager at Alliant Energy. "Renewable energy is cost-effective, contributes to a cleaner environment and acts as an economic catalyst by creating jobs, providing income to participating landowners and attracting new businesses to communities."

Following the informational meeting

See **HEARING**, page 4

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WEATHER

THU 22 Sep.....Mostly sunny and cool, 66° F/ 49° F ☀️

FRI 23 Sep.....Cool with chance of showers, 59° F/ 50° F ☁️

SAT 24 Sep.....Sunny and cool, 76° F/ 55° F ☀️

OpenWeatherMap

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 09/20.....5 26 28 37 42, Lucky Ball: 10

MEGA MILLIONS 09/20.....9 21 28 30 52, Mega Ball: 10 Megaplier: 5

PICK 3 09/20 MIDDAY.....5 10

PICK 3 09/20 EVENING.....12 9

PICK 4 09/20 MIDDAY.....4 8 4 5

PICK 4 09/20 EVENING.....3 5 4 9

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Obituaries/Ag News

OBITUARIES

MARYLIN S. HARRIS

Marylin Sue Harris, 84, of Burlington, died Monday, September 19, 2022, at the Azria Health Care Center in Mediapolis.



HARRIS

Born February 23, 1938, in Fort Madison, she was the daughter of Clifford Henry and Erma Ellen Evermon Mott. She married Marrison Harris and together had two children. They later divorced.

Marilyn graduated Fort Madison High School in 1956 then graduated from Burlington Beauty School in 1957 with a Master of Cosmetology.

She held many jobs over the years. She started out as a beautician from 1957-1995 while working for Sylvania Electronic Tubes from 1961-1965, Homemaker from 1965-1975, Leigh Leopold 1975-1989, then Walmart from 1990-1995. In 1995, she retired.

Marilyn loved to craft, sew and cook.

Survivors include her son, Michael (Tamara Bjorklund) Harris of New London; daughter, Jennifer (Robert) Lipper of New London; six grandchildren, Adam Harris, Amber Harris, Brianna Rose, Scott Rose, Sydney Lipper, and Samuel Harris; five great-grandchildren, Abrieauna, Addison, Kayleigh, Jacob, and Andrew.

She is preceded in death by her parents.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of Prugh Crematory.

The Celebration of Life for Mrs. Harris will be from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM Monday, September 26, 2022 at Prugh~Thielen Funeral Home.

A memorial has been established for the Special Olympics.

Prugh Funeral Service is in care of the arrangements.

A photo tribute can be viewed and condolences can be sent to the family by visiting Marylin's obituary at www.prughfuneral.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.

Courts could be ready by Nov.

COURTS - Continued from Page 1

Hoyer said the next step is to allow the concrete to set.

"While they do that, they will be putting up the new fencing and then we hope the weather will stay nice enough that we can still play this year, hopefully within 40 days," she said.

The project started last October and the group has received several grants including a grant from the Southeast Iowa Regional Riverboat Commission and a grant from the city of Fort Madison.

"We've received some other grants, but some of those people don't want to be known," Hoyer said.

"And the people supportive of this have been so generous and excited about the project. We've even seen an uptick in

the number of people playing inside at the YMCA now that the outdoor park is coming."

But she said the group is still taking donations.

Donna Amandus, another committee member said the group will be memorializing benches and they will be sponsoring 10 benches for the park.

Anyone interested in sponsoring a bench can contact Amandus at 319-470-4881.

Donations can be made out to the Fort Madison Beautification Foundation and can be mailed to the Fort Madison Partner's office at 614 7th Street in Fort Madison, IA 52627.

Taiwan to buy Iowa soybeans

DES MOINES -- Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig, Iowa Corn Promotion Board, Iowa Soybean Association and Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) today hosted members of the Taiwan Agricultural Trade Goodwill Mission. The delegation's primary purpose for visiting Iowa was to sign letters of intent for the purchase of corn and soybeans.

"Today's letters of intent represent the next stage of Iowa's longstanding, bilateral friendship with Taiwan," said Gov. Reynolds. "They're also powerful proof of Iowa farmers' global reputation for high-quality agricultural production – and the enormous benefits that flow to our economy as a result. I'm deeply grateful to Taiwan for committing to Iowa, and I can't wait to see where this relationship goes in the future."

The Taiwan Agricultural Trade Goodwill Mission delegation's itinerary also includes visits with elected officials, ag producers and commodity groups, and university representatives during their stay in the U.S.



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For the Record/From the Front

Familiar faces dot stage at OFP

OFP - Continued from Page 1

pleasant at Magnolia Place Assisted Living since Nurse Pat Jones (Alicia McDuffie) began working there. Alicia is new to OFP and enjoys being part of the cast of veteran actors. The part of Imogene Fletcher will be portrayed by Kayla Schleidt. As the newest resident who is suddenly losing her memory. Kayla will put her considerable comic talents to good use just as she did in "Dixie Swim Club."

Maude Jenkins is obsessed with her favorite soap opera and planning her own funeral. Sherry Stice will fill the role of Maude. Sherry has appeared in "Barefoot in The Park," "Drinking Habits" and many others. And then there's Sam Smith, retired Elvis impersonator, who keeps trying to bed every woman in the building! As the sole male actor in the cast, Mike Randolph ("Making God Laugh" and "As Long As We Both Shall Live") is holding his own and loving every minute portraying the King. He may be a bit young to remember Elvis in real life, but education via YouTube is a wonderful thing.

A mystery unfolds with laughter as the gals try to outsmart the evil Nurse Pat and figure out why so many residents have been moved to "the dark side," what exactly IS that mysterious



Photo courtesy of OFP

Mike Randolph as Sam Smith, a retired Elvis impersonator shows off in front of his latest lady friend Imogene, played by Kayla Schleidt.

pill, and what happened to Doctor Head? Hilarity ensues as Imogene goes undercover and Maude enters the Miss Magnolia Senior Citizen Pageant to throw Pat off their trail. If they can solve the mystery, they may make it to the cruise ship after all.

Handling Sound and Lights is Matt Abel. Codee James and Ty Clute are featured in their small but vital roles as the voices of the soap opera actors that fascinate Maude. Rounding out the cast and shining bright in her small role is Tegan Hamilton as Lurleen. "Four Old Broads" written by Leslie Kimball,

is produced by Special Arrangement with Samuel French Inc. & Concord Theatricals. Friday and Saturday shows begin at 7:30 and the Sunday matinee begins at 2:00 pm. Adult tickets are \$15, Senior, Vet & Military are \$12, and Students are \$10. You can reserve a seat by phone or Facebook Messenger.

Also going on at the theater ... "Miracle on 34th Street, The Play" auditions are September 26 & 27, 5-7 pm. Then on November 19th, OFP will host comedian Jeremy Nunes in a fundraising event. Join this funny man for a night of laughs. "In 2018, Jeremy's

comedy was a big hit and helped raise funds to support OFP. We're so happy to have him back," President Matt Abel said. "This in addition to our performance in August for Neihart Travel and Tours has helped keep us in the black."

Old Fort Players is located in downtown Fort Madison at 725 Avenue G. Send a Facebook message, send an email to oldfortplayersfm@gmail.com or call 319-372-9559 for more information. Like them on Facebook (Fb@oldfortplayers) or visit www.oldfortplayers.com to keep up with everything that's going on at the theater.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

09/20/22 - Fort Madison police had no activity to report.

Lee County Sheriff Report

09/20/22 - Lee County sheriff deputies had no activity to report.

09/21/22 - Lee County sheriff deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Hwys. 103 and 218. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Alexandria Dominique Cain, 25, of Fort Madison, was traveling westbound on Hwy.

103 when it stopped at a stop sign. A vehicle driven by Rebecca Lynn Haage, 47, of Fort Madison, was also traveling westbound on Hwy. 103 and came to the stop sign behind Cain's vehicle. Haage began to pull away from the stop sign before Cain, striking the rear of Cain's vehicle. No injuries or citations were reported and both vehicles were able to be driven from the scene.

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

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Charles Vandenberg, Editor

(319).371.1670
charles.v@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager

(319).371.4125
lee.v@pencitycurrent.com

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PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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Sports/From the Front

HOUNDS PREVIEW

Hounds put 4-0 record to the test

FORT MADISON - The script for the Fort Madison football team is getting pretty consistent. Fort Madison has started 2-0 for the past seven years and went 6-0 in 2021, cracking the top 10 for the first time in more than 12 years, only to lose the final three games of the season. They will put their 4-0 mark on the line at Homecoming Friday night at Richmond Stadium's Youel Field against Mt. Pleasant (0-4). The Panthers boast the top passing quarterback in Class 4A in terms of yardage with Jacob Richtman. Richtman has 1,068 yards and nine touchdowns on the year, which indicates the Panthers aren't afraid to air it out. Doherty said the Panthers bring "Danger" to mind. "Danger comes to mind," he said. "A quarterback that's putting up those numbers and they're not afraid to throw the ball. They're willing to be dangerous and, offensively, they have the stats."

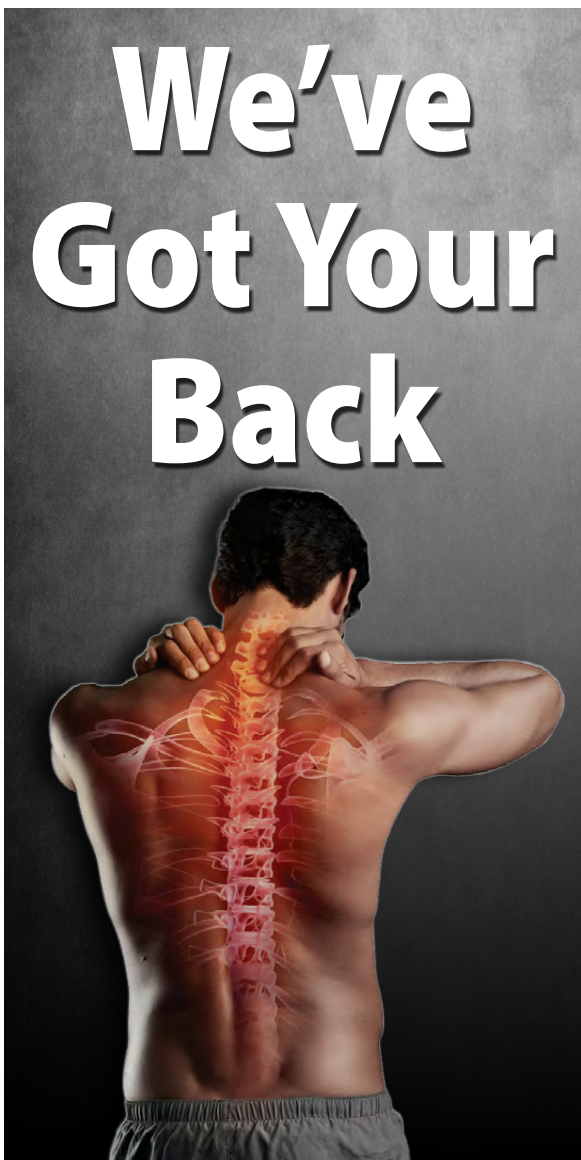
But Fort Madison's defense is up to the task and has found ways to stay there even when trailing as they did in the first three games of the year. The dawgs have a combined 14 sacks and 31 tackles for loss on the year. Fort Madison has six kids with more than 10 tackles and are swarming to the football, which is a very Bloodhound-traditional defense. Doherty said that's a tribute to unselfish play and systematic defense. "What I mean by that is you gotta guy like Tanner Settles at outside linebacker, and I'm extremely biased and would defend him on any hill, but he's one of the best linebackers in the state. He's the best edge setter - the kid does same innate things, but he doesn't have the statistics that put him in the talks as the best linebackers in the state," Doherty said. "Without him, you don't have a guy like Hayden

See **HOUNDS**, page 8

Public to have input on Wever solar field project

HEARING - Continued from Page 1

on September 27, Alliant Energy plans to apply for a generating certificate from the Iowa Utilities Board, which is required for the project to be constructed. Alliant Energy is also working closely with local county officials. The proposed Wever Solar Project will be owned and operated by Alliant Energy. Persons with disabilities requiring assistive services or devices to observe or participate in the informational meeting should contact the Iowa Utilities Board at (515) 725-7300 in advance of the scheduled date to request that appropriate arrangements be made. Residents who have a question about the project and are unable to attend the informational meeting on September 27, can email Alliant Energy by using the "Contact Us" form atalliantenergy.com/solar.



Introducing Charles Frank, MD Spine Surgery

"Treating spine problems takes detective work and problem solving, which fits with my interest in physics. And growing up on a farm helped me develop the mechanical skills to diagnose and fix them. Surgery is the last option in spine treatment. There are many options for treatment before surgery." - Charles Frank, MD

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES July 25, 2022

The Lee County Board of Supervisors met at the Lee County Administration Building in Fort Madison on Monday, July 25, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Present: 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 Larkin, seconded by Fedler, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

There was no Public Input.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Holmes, to approve an Economic Development Assistance Contract with PV Pallet Inc. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Larkin, to approve Resolution #2022-79.

Roll call: Holmes-aye, Larkin-aye, Fedler-aye and Seyb-aye.

Resolution #2022-79

RESOLUTION FOR PARTICIPATION IN SS4A GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, as part of the new Federal Transportation Bill, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), there is over \$1B of roadway safety funding available in the form of Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grants. To be an eligible applicant for this new safety funding, a county MUST have an eligible Action Plan in place; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa County Engineers Association (ICEA) plans to apply for a SS4A grant to develop and supply all 99 counties in Iowa with an eligible Action Plan at no cost to the counties. ICEA encourages all 99 counties to participate in this grant application; and

WHEREAS, the Lee County Board of Supervisors will commit to achieve significant declines in roadway fatalities and serious injuries in Lee County; and

WHEREAS, the Lee County Board of Supervisors recognizes the Action Plan and will assist the County Engineer's department in achieving the goal of a dramatic decrease in roadway fatalities and serious injuries and zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries by the years 2030 and 2050, respectively; and

WHEREAS, the Lee County Board of Supervisors, after consulting with the Lee County Engineer, desires to participate in a joint SS4A grant to develop and receive an eligible Action Plan for Lee County.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY that this County does hereby request to be included in the statewide SS4A grant to develop Actions Plans for all 99 counties in Iowa.

Resolution adopted this 25th day of July, 2022.

/s/ Garry Seyb, Vice-Chair. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, County Auditor.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Holmes, to approve replacing the Tax Department/Accounting Supervisor in the Treasurer's Office. Holmes made a friendly amendment to add hiring the replacement September 1, 2022 in order to receive training. Fedler agreed to the amendment. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Larkin, to approve Resolution #2022-80.

Roll call: Fedler-aye, Larkin-aye, Holmes-aye and Seyb-aye.

RESOLUTION #2022-80

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lee County has by Ordinance Number VI-11 adopted a plan for a County-wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District in Lee County, Iowa; and,

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 404.4 provides for prior approval of eligibility for a tax exemption by

the governing body of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: Steven and Laura Sanders 1676 354th Avenue Wever IA 52658

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 25th day of July, 2022.

Lee County Board of Supervisors. /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 Larkin, seconded by Holmes, to approve the first reading of an amendment to the Election Precinct Ordinance. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Holmes, to approve the Monday, July 18, 2022 Board Minutes. Motioned carried.

Moved by Larkin, seconded by Fedler, to approve the payment of claims.

Motion carried. Received and filed the Recorder's Report of Fees Collected for the month of June 2022.

Committee Reports: Seyb reported on a Department Head meeting and a Tourism meeting.

At 10:25 a.m. a motion was made by Fedler, seconded by Holmes, to adjourn. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Monday, August 1, 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 25, 2022

ABC Fire Extng, svcs 269.50
Access Enrgy, svcs 1212.64
Access Systems, svcs 146.25
Agriland FS, fuel 12478.77
Alliant Enrgy, svcs 2368.86
Area Distr, svcs..... 154.82
J Baier, svcs 3471.70
Blessing Hlth, svcs 260.00
Burlington Fire, svcs 35585.09
CenturyLink, svcs 90.95
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Casey's, fuel 346.22
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Centurylink, svcs .. 3753.53
CMS Medicare, fees 631.00
Cobblestone, lodging 265.82
Country Inn, lodging 262.56
Dairy Queen, meal.. 29.28
Discounty Tire, svcs 82.80
Dish, svcs 69.38
Ditacademy.org, MEI 149.00
Dollar General, svcs 29.20
Dollar Tree, svcs...118.75
Donnellson Tire, tire repair..... 25.88
Experts Exchange, svcs 9.99
Ezcaters Subway, svcs 29.34
Facebook, survey ..113.61
Fairfield Inn, lodging 215.04
Fareway, concessions 193.76
Farm & Home, svcs 102.75
Flags USA, flag..... 90.00
Galls, svcs 293.80
Getsling.com, software 290.26
Grainger, svcs..... 95.09
Gum.com, svcs..... 8.00
Hancock Journal, publications 1268.91
Harbor Freight, svcs 9.49
Hulu, svcs..... 13.90
Holiday Inn, meal....11.72
lodging Julien, lodging 905.29
Huffman's, shop tools 640.77
HyVee, svcs..... 1987.64
IA Dept Public Safety, svcs 30.00
Industrial Motors, svcs 459.00
International Svcs Fee, svcs 0.20
Josh's Frogs, svcs 133.97
Kempker's, paint 1028.70
Kohlmorgan Hauling, trash..... 595.15
Less Lethal, equip 3800.00
Lot One, meal..... 14.76
Lowe's, svcs 295.92
Liberty Utilities, util 883.63
Max's Pizza, meal... 14.95
McFarland-Swan, svcs 1349.70
Mediacom, svcs.... 4800.00
Medpro Waste, svcs 87.15

Menard's, svcs..... 965.03
Netflix.com, svcs 21.39
Office Max, svcs ...411.90
O'Reilly Auto, filter .. 75.58
Outback, meal 30.00
Pancheros, lunch.... 12.57
Panda Express, meal 13.70
Philipps 66, gas 67.00
Pilot, meal..... 16.02
Pizza Ranch, meal.. 26.39
Quadient Leasing, postage..... 892.80
Raising Cane, meal 12.49
Rathbun Water, water 272.45
Russell Cellular, svcs 35.00
Shell Oil, fuel 135.00
Sheraton, lodging 573.44
Sherwin Williams, svcs 274.09
Shoe Mall, shoes.. 108.71
Shottenkirk's, svcs 1542.71
Sinclair Tractor, disk blades 546.67
Sirchie Finger Printing, svcs 151.08
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Wristband Express, svcs 442.83
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D Coovert, svcs 120.00
Daily Gate City, publ 133.00
C Davis, exps 96.29
L DeFord, exps 135.90
LDettmers, exps 51.30
Dodd Prtg/Stat, svcs 6.07
Donnellson Tire, svcs 50.00
Douds Stone, svcs 92.39
Drake Hdwr, svcs 2933.80
Family Res, svcs .. 1399.50
Fifth Dist Rec, dues 20.00
FM Hsing Auth, svcs 1672.30
FM Water, svcs..... 270.40
Foundation 2, svcs 513.15
D Fraise, exps 40.00

GateHse Media, publ 179.69
N Granaman, svcs 1286.04
Griffin Muffler, parts 1303.58
Hartricks Lmbr, parts 3.98
M Hellige, exps 4.00
Hill Prtg, mtrls 671.71
Huffman Wlding, equip 902.83
HyVee, svcs..... 1593.66
ICONNECTYOU, svcs 160.00
Ignite Catering, ldg 264.00
Indutrl Motors, parts 52.92
IA Co Rec Assc, svcs 1225.98
IA Wrkfrce Dvlm, chgs 164.86
ISAC, reg 250.00
Jet Gas, fuel 31741.79
Jireh Inc, fuel 5321.12
JW Medical, svcs 3381.00
Keo Water, svcs 498.46
Kohlmorgan Hlg, svcs 500.00
LeeCo Auditor, Ctrl Pur 434.00
LeeCo EMS, fees 522.20
LeeCo Hlth, svcs 12896.90
Lovewell Fencing, svcs 6085.00
Lynch Dallas, svcs.. 264.00
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O Miller, exps..... 435.15
D Moffitt, rfnds 777.00
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Mntsrse Hlth Ctr, svcs 9939.43
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R Patterson Rahn, exps 49.05
PCC Amblnc, svcs.. 276.53
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Reg Util Svcs, svcs 1474.39
RicohUSA, chgs 1399.62
RSM US LLP, svcs 106.50
RTVision, svcs.....11090.00
J Saunders, exps.... 70.20
A Schiller, svcs 2418.45
J Schneider, svcs ... 550.00
T Schroeder, exps 3.15
SIADSA, svcs 12972.50
Solutions, svcs 47.85
SCC, edu 1200.00
MTherhune, exps.... 546.75
Univ IA, svcs..... 2442.08
Total Maint, svcs..... 304.00
US Bank Equip, maint 257.23
VB Co Hosp, svcs 13340.02
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Opinion

GoFundMe has made helping families easier

Growing up in Bloomfield in the 1950s and 1960s, I remember seeing empty coffee cans next to the cash registers in places like Ollie O'Briant's drug store, Bill Tews' coffee shop and Isham Pottorff's gas station.

The cans had handwritten signs taped to the side — a common fundraising technique of the day. Those simple solicitations were the go-to means of seeking donations to help a local family with their expenses from a serious medical setback or help victims of a house fire. The donations might go for new band uniforms for the high school or provide a financial boost for local Little League teams.

Brian Burnam had an "angel tree" in his family's supermarket each Christmas for many years. It linked families needing a helping hand with shoppers who might contribute.

The coffee cans and gift tree were easy ways to connect beneficiaries with the kind-hearted, charitable spirit of people in the community. That spirit of helping others — friends, neighbors and even strangers — is one of the intangibles of living in rural Iowa that is still alive and well these days, despite disagreements that sometimes divide us.

But technology seems to have pushed the coffee can aside. In the process, though, the change has broadened the reach of that lend-a-hand spirit. The results often are stunning.

All of this comes to mind as people across the nation responded last week to the tragedy of Pieper Lewis of Des Moines. The homeless teenager was 15 when she fatally stabbed a 37-year-old man in 2020 after she said he raped her five times during a period when she was being prostituted by another man who had befriended her.

Lewis pleaded guilty of involuntary manslaughter. Last week, she was placed on probation for five years and was ordered to pay \$150,000 in restitution to the dead man's family.

The restitution obligation angered her former teacher, especially because of Lewis' victimization as a foster child who had been kicked out of her last home and then was abused in sex-trafficking. The teacher, Leland Schipper, did not reach for an empty coffee can. Instead, he set up an account on the GoFundMe website and posted a note explaining Lewis' abuse and her current legal predicament.

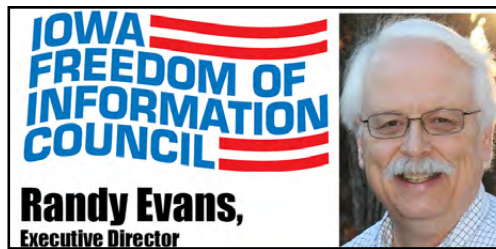
"Pieper does not deserve to be financially burdened for the rest of her life because the state of Iowa wrote a law that fails to give judges any discretion as to how it is applied," Schipper said on GoFundMe. "Pieper needs us now."

Fifteen thousand people across Iowa and around the United States heard Schipper's plea. By Sunday, \$541,700 had been contributed — enough to satisfy her restitution debt and pay for a college education.

The success of this GoFundMe initiative is not a fluke.

Every day in cities large and small, people set up similar fundraising accounts in the hope of connecting with sympathetic souls who will help make a difficult task a bit easier to bear.

Unlike the coffee can method, which only makes a connection with prospective donors when they walked past the cash registers, GoFundMe solicitations have a reach that can



stretch from border to border and beyond 24 hours a day.

That's the way it as last March 5, when freak early season tornadoes tore a swath between Winterset and Chariton. Tragically, seven people died, and dozens of other lives were upended by widespread damage to homes and cars.

One of the haunting images of the storm's toll was the charming family portrait of Michael and Kuri Bolger and their three young children. The photo showed the couple seated in the bed of an old pickup truck, with their kids peering through the truck's rear window.

The Blue Springs, Mo., family was visiting Kuri's parents in Winterset when the tornado struck. Everyone sought shelter in the home's pantry, but Michael, Kinlee and Owen were killed, along with Kuri's mother, Melissa Bazley.

Friends quickly established a GoFundMe account to help Kuri and her family. It would have taken a truckload of coffee cans to accommodate the donations — which came from 10,000 donors across the United States and ultimately reached \$567,600.

The response to another family's loss in the same storm brought tears, too. Jesse Theron Fisher of Chariton was camping south of there with his uncle, Garold Smith, at Red Haw State Park when the 170 mph winds hit. They were staying in the camper because their home had been damaged in a recent fire.

The two friends huddled together in the camper as the tornado passed overhead. Afterward, Smith crawled out of the rubble and called for his nephew.

"Then I found him laying on the ground," Smith told KCCI a few days later. "Every time I close my eyes that's all I can see. Why couldn't I have went with him?"

Friends jumped in with a GoFundMe account that raised \$26,400 to pay for Fisher's funeral and provide money for Smith's needs moving forward.

Anne Morgan of Bloomfield is one of those unsung heroes every community is blessed to have. The former educator has raised tens of thousands of dollars for college scholarships and untold other amounts for people who sometimes just need a helping hand.

She always gravitated to the traditional ways of raising money — until friends encouraged her to try GoFundMe when a family needed a financial assist for long-delayed home improvement work.

"I had to be convinced to set up a GoFundMe page," she later posted. "I was told this was a better method to reach those away from Davis County and to reach a younger generation. Well, in a day's time we received \$955 towards our goal."

Save those coffee cans for other uses. You can't argue with success — or with the kindness of friends and strangers during times of adversity or special needs.

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



"This election is critical to fundamental human rights and our Democracy. We have this one chance to make Iowa a place where future generations want to work and play."

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Sports

Defense will have to keep an eye on Richtman

HOUNDS- Continued from page 4

Segoviano getting 12.5 tackles Friday night. And Hayden will be the first one to tell you that.”

Doherty said defensive coordinator Jason Crooks makes the system simple for the Hounds, allowing play that is fast and physical.

“And it’s showing with those stats. They’re great, but we have to continue to do it with these tougher games coming up,” Doherty said.

“We know what we’re capable of and have to continue doing it.”

After the Mt. Pleasant game, the Hounds travel to Coan Field in Clinton (1-3) and then go to No. 7 Iowa City Liberty (3-1) before hosting No. 5 North School (3-1) in Fort Madison.

The Hounds wrap up the regular season at home against Burlington. Burlington and Fort Madison both received votes in this week’s AP Iowa High School top-10 rankings.

Doherty said some fresh faces on the defense are making a name for themselves including Cory “CJ” Arnett and Brody Cashman.

“CJ, we were just talking about him in practice and he’s really bloomed. I wouldn’t want to have to deal with him at nose. He’s extremely physical and very athletic for a big guy,” Doherty said.

“He just wants to play football. He wanted to play jayvee on Monday, but we couldn’t let him do that and he was a little bummed. But that’s just how much he loves football.”

Doherty said Cashman doesn’t know how good he is.

“I wish he understood that. We’re still working with him and he’s extremely athletic. I don’t know if his belief system is full yet in himself, but he’s getting better. He’s putting in the work and starting to reap some of those rewards.”

Cashman had a pick Friday night and Doherty said he came back to the sidelines saying he should have taken it back for a touchdown.

Fort Madison’s passing game came alive in last week’s 37-7 win over Washington at home. Senior signal-caller Aidan Boyer has thrown for 688 yards and eight touchdowns against just one pick.

He has completed more than 70% of his passes and his hit four different receivers for touchdowns. Those same four receivers have more than 100 yards on catches on the season.

Henry Wiseman has 247 yards and two touchdowns while kick return specialist Kane Williams has 153 receiving yards and three touchdowns.

Doherty said a lot of that credit goes to wide receivers engaging and holding blocks.

“Henry Wiseman got another touchdown Friday night, but he doesn’t get that if Leif Boeding isn’t holding his block downfield,” Doherty said.

“We’re very physical there and Coach (Justin) Menke has been preaching that from the beginning. We might get some holds for being that aggressive, but that’s football.”

Fort Madison ran a very clean game last week, drawing just one flag on the night.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison sophomore Cory “CJ” Arnett has stepped up in a varsity role on both the offensive and defensive sides of the ball. Arnett and the 4-0 Hounds play host to Mt. Pleasant on Homecoming Friday night

Doherty said the Panthers, who aren’t as big as they have been in the past, will set up in blitz packages most of the time.

“They blitz 90% of the time with inside and outside pressure, they’re mixing it up and pinning their ears back saying here we come. We have to prepare for that danger,” he said.

Richtman only has 26 yards on the ground so he’s not the dual threat that the Hounds have faced all year. However he’s not afraid to tuck and run with 24 carries on the year.

Zerek Venghaus has 138 yards on 28 carries and a couple touchdowns to lead Mt. Pleasant out of the backfield.

Fort Madison is led by Teague Smith on the ground with 297 yards and three TDs. Smith is grinding out the yards at about 4.5 yards per attempt.

Hayden Segoviano continues to lead the Bloodhound defense. With his 12.5 tackles Friday night against Washington, Segoviano has 31.5 tackles on the year, three sacks, and 6.5 tackles for loss.

Smith, Settles, Daniel Sokolik, Ike Thacher, Cashman, and Arnett each have double digit tackles on the season. Cashman, Thacher, and Arnett each have three sacks on the year.

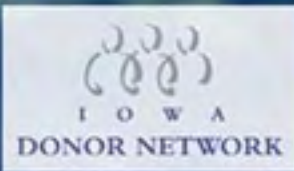
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FOR LEE COUNTY SUPERVISOR



Rebecca
BOWKER
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WHERE: Ft. Madison Eagle's Club

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EVERY VOTE MATTERS

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Thank you for investing \$18 million in Iowa's airports.

Thank you for investing in our small businesses across Iowa.

Thank you for investing \$300 million in Iowa's broadband.

**Thank you for investing \$100 million in
Iowa's water infrastructure.**

**Thank you for investing \$200 million in grants
to registered and licensed Iowa daycare providers.**

Thank you for the expanded direct payments to Iowa families.

**Thank you for investing in our counties across Iowa,
including \$6.5 million in Lee County.**

**Kim Reynolds called the American Rescue Plan Act
a "Blue State Bailout", but is happy to give ARPA money
to our communities without giving credit where credit is due.
Chuck Grassley and Marianne Miller Meeks both voted against
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fight Iowa's childcare shortage; fund broadband and housing;
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Rebecca **BOWKER** *for* **IOWA HOUSE**



- **I support teachers, paraeducators, and those who put our children first**
- **I support and value labor that has built southeast Iowa**
- **I support and recognize families need child care, transportation, and leaders who listen**

“ *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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Donna Amandus

For County Supervisor



“I will continue to work hard to improve the quality of life for the people of Lee County”

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Michael L. Fitzgerald, State Treasurer

The Triple “A” Candidate

Mission

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Accomplishments

It has been a great honor to work for Iowans. I am proud of our accomplishments which have made a difference in the lives of Iowans. As state treasurer, I’ve returned over \$249 million through the Great Iowa Treasure Hunt, helped over 200,000 families save \$6 billion in College Savings Iowa and introduced the IAble savings plan for persons with disabilities.

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.
I will continue to Promote Fair Government and Safe Financial Strategies.
I will continue to work for Iowans.*

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“

Iowa Republican policies are making the Reynolds Workforce Crisis substantially worse, in four specific ways:

- (1) Attacking public schools and false accusations of having a “sinister agenda.”*
- (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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must take upon
themselves the
education of the
whole people and be
willing to bear the
expense of it.”

John Adams
2nd President
of the United States

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