

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Thursday, November 17, 2022 | 9 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 196



www.pencitycurrent.com

## City joins retail project

**MARKET ANALYSIS:** Council votes to join FMEDC, Chamber in data collection

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - City officials voted Tuesday night to join a \$15,000 retail market study, but one city councilman hopes it isn't another report that sits on a shelf.

At Tuesday's regular City Council meeting, the council voted 7-0 to join Fort Madison Economic Development Corp. and the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce in a study to be completed by The Retail Coach.

Fort Madison Partners Executive Director Tim Gobble told the council the group is recognized for their efforts and successes in other communities Fort Madison's size.



GOBBLE

Gobble said there were two organizations that gave a proposal for the project and he said The Retail Coach was a better fit for the city's needs.

"It was pretty glaring when we looked at the delivearbles and The Retail Coach stood out mainly for the invovlement in Iowa communities similar to Fort Madison,' Gobble said.

Carrol, Pella, Spencer are all comminities about the same size as Fort Madison that have contracted with this group."

Gobble said he felt comfortable moving forwarding with

See **COUNCIL**, page 8

### COUNTY NEWS

## Opioid funds start trickling into county

PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY - Lee County opioid settlement funds are starting to trickle into the county.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors' meeting, Supervisor Garry Seyb said the funds are being held in an interest bearing account until a clearer picture reveals itself on how the funds can be used.

Seyb told the board the opioid money seems to be coming into the county faster than expected, but the decision to put it in an interest-bearing account is the right way to go.

"Taking that money and putting it in an interest-bearing account and sitting it there until we get a clearer picture is the best way to go. What we've seen over the last year is we've got a lot things to consider, the ambulance service, the healthcare building... a lot of things coming on," Seyb said.



SEYB

The county has received several opioid payments, the most recent a \$41,000 payment this week, and was informed of an additional \$8,700 this week from another company.

The funds are settlement funds from manufacturers, distributors, and pharmaceutical companies engaged in providing opioid medications to the public.

The county was originally estimated to get close to \$725,000 over an 18-year period. Seyb said he's hearing that money could be coming forward.

However, several states, including Wisconsin, are considering selling the settlement payments to financial institutions in exchange for discounts or fees estimated at between 12 and 15%.

That would allow the county to capture its full share at one time rather than wait for payments over time.

"Just like they did with ARPA, which starated out very narrow in scope, but as

See **OPIOID**, page 5



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Students from Central Lee Middle School help prepare meals for the End of Month meal Wednesday night at St. John's Church on Avenue E. The students from Elliott Test Kitchen help prepare and serve the meal at the church every month.

### GREAT RIVER HEALTH

## McCoy installed as new President/CEO at GRHS

PCC STAFF

WEST BURLINGTON – Great River Health System Board of Directors has unanimously approved the selection of Dr. Michael McCoy

as full-time President and CEO of Great River Health. Previously, Dr. McCoy served as Acting President and CEO.

"The board is confident that Dr. McCoy has the experience and

qualities to lead the organization. We are committed to our mission of empowering our people to provide compassionate, highquality care,

See **MCCOY**, page 8

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### WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap

THU 17 Nov.....Mostly cloudy with chance of snow, 33° F/ 18° F  
FRI 18 Nov.....Partly sunny and cold, 25° F/ 14° F  
SAT 19 Nov.....Partly sunny and cold, 28° F/ 11° F

### IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 11/15.....17 28 33 34 36, Lucky Ball: 11  
MEGA MILLIONS 11/15.....6 19 28 46 61, Mega Ball: 18 Megaplier: 2  
PICK 3 11/15 MIDDAY.....2 5 5  
PICK 3 11/15 EVENING.....2 8 2  
PICK 4 11/15 MIDDAY.....8 4 4 2  
PICK 4 11/15 EVENING.....7 0 8 3

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### MARK K. STRINGER

Mark K. Stringer, 73, of Nauvoo, Illinois, passed away at 6:53 a.m. Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics in Iowa City, Iowa, in the company of his loved ones.



STRINGER

Born on December 3, 1948, in Alhambra, Los Angeles, California, the son of Jack and Rana (Truitt) Stringer. On December 19, 2009, in Alpine, Utah, he married Esther Smith.

He is survived by his wife; six children; three step children; three sisters and one brother. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Mark was a United States Army veteran and served two tours in Vietnam. He was a devout member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. A graduate of the Brigham Young University school of law, Mark served professionally as a lawyer, international negotiator, judge, and juvenile court guardian ad litem. He was a celebrated community actor and an outstanding lyric baritone vocalist, whose favorite stage performance was as the lead actor in a 1986 production of King Arthur in Camelot. He recently served on the creative team at the Flood Museum in Nauvoo, Illinois and was an avid collector of curiosities.



His body has been entrusted to the funeral home of Schmitz-Banks & Beals for cremation. A Memorial Service will be held at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, November 17, 2022, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Nauvoo, Illinois with Bishop Ken Anderson officiating.

A memorial has been established in his memory.

Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home of Nauvoo is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at [www.sbbfuneralhome.com](http://www.sbbfuneralhome.com).

## OBITUARIES

### GAYLE A. LONG

Gayle Ann Long, 59 of Keokuk, IA died Saturday, November 12, 2022 at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City, IA. She was found by her friends unresponsive at her home on Sunday, November 6, 2022 and was rushed to Iowa City where she passed away after suffering a stroke.



LONG

Gayle was born August 8, 1963 in Keokuk, IA the daughter of Richard and Judith Howell Long. She graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 1981 and later attended massage school and became a message therapist.

She had many jobs through the years, from selling tombstones, where she would run off kids from playing on them then knowing they returned as soon as she left, to Why Not Waterbeds where she was somewhat of a local "celeb" in the television commercials. She settled in at Keokuk Steel Casting and was a member of Local Steel Workers Union. She worked up the ladder to a position of respect where she was loved by all she worked with for nearly twenty years.

Gayle had many loves, never settling down with anyone, but no one ever left her heart.

She collected many things from all things miniature, marbles and Buddas. She loved to go searching for geodes, arrowheads and various artifacts. She followed her dad's lead in collecting coins, rare bottles and was an expert metal detector. She loved to play slots and was always up to gamble on a good bet. She also enjoyed attending live band concerts. She loved to travel and was always game for a trip with friends. Gayle loved her family and also collected many close friends of which she considered family with all her heart. She was caring and generous, taking in many strangers as family, never turning down anyone in need and never failing to give all she could. She was lovely inside and out turning heads everywhere she went. Truly one of the kindest souls to ever bless our lives.

She will be greatly missed, always loved and forever remembered for her smile and loving heart whenever needed. She always had time to talk, have a shot at her kitchen table which should be preserved as a landmark in our town and in our lives.

She is survived by two loving uncles, John Howell of Keokuk and Mitchell Long of Wayland, MO as well as numerous cousins of all ages. She was preceded in death by her mother, Judith on October 19, 2022, her father, Richard on October 22, 2022 one brother in childhood, Randy Long.

A Gathering of Remembrance will be held on Thursday from 5 pm - 7 pm at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to Community Action of Southeast Iowa.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

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Tuesday, November 15  
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Wednesday, November 16  
Mediterranean Chicken Breast, Cheese Potatoes

Thursday, November 17  
Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, November 18  
Burnt Ends, Baked Beans

# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### CHERYL S. HOLMES

Cheryl "Sonny" Selby Holmes, 83, of Fort Madison, Iowa, went home to be with the Lord on Monday, November 14, 2022, at Klein Center, in West Burlington, Iowa surrounded by his children.



HOLMES

Sonny was born on July 8, 1939, in his childhood home outside of Augusta, Iowa, to Ivan and Dorothy Holmes. He married the love of his life and high school sweetheart, Judith Juel, on June 26, 1959. Sonny was a lifelong hard worker and dedicated his entire professional career serving the Fort Madison Community School District. He began his tenure with the district as a bus driver while he was still in high school, and eventually became head bus mechanic for the district. Following his retirement, he and Judith opened Kountry Klassics Bed and Breakfast in Fort Madison, which diligently served hundreds of guests from across the country for many years. In 2007, Sonny was awarded the Bed and Breakfast Innkeeper of the Year Award from the Iowa Lodging Association for his many years of professional service in the hospitality industry. Sonny and Judith also maintained a thriving chicken farm, which supplied many families and small businesses in the Fort Madison area with farm fresh eggs for many years.

Outside of his many career ventures, Sonny fervently dedicated much of his time to both the Denmark Congregational Church, in Denmark, and later Harmony Bible Church, in Danville. He enjoyed singing in the Harmony Bible Church choir and participating on various mission trips on behalf of the church. He also loved caring for his various pet dogs, gardening, listening to the Gaithers, vacationing during the winter months in Zephyrhills, Florida, camping and spending time with his family and friends. Sonny was, above all, a joyful and passionate follower of Jesus Christ. He maintained his

trademark "sunny" and kind personality throughout his life, and even during his late battle with dementia.

Sonny's family would like to extend their heartfelt thank you to the staff of both Sunnybrook Assisted Living of Fort Madison and Klein Center, in West Burlington, where Sonny spent his most recent years living. Their care and compassion to Sonny is much appreciated.

He is remembered lovingly by his son, Dean Holmes, of Fort Madison, Iowa; his daughter, Dana (Craig) Kelly, of Fort Madison, Iowa; his three grandchildren, Trail (Sarah) Kelly, of West Point, Iowa, Bryce (Brien) Jarvis, of Canton, Illinois, and Carlee Kelly, of New London, Iowa; and five great-grandchildren. Sonny was preceded in death by his parents, Ivan and Dorothy Holmes; wife, Judith "Judy" Holmes; his brother, Terry Holmes; sister, Joyce Anderson; and his daughter in-law, Ramona Holmes.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2022, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory in Fort Madison. A funeral service will follow at 10:30 a.m., at the funeral home with Dr. John Boal officiating. Burial will follow the service at Fairview Cemetery in Fort Madison. Following the burial, friends and family of Sonny are welcome to attend a luncheon at Augusta Community Hall, in Augusta, Iowa. Memorials in Sonny's memory may be made to the Fort Madison Saddle Club or the Fairview Cemetery Association. King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory in Fort Madison is in charge of the arrangements.

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## OBITUARIES

### DONALD W. SALLEN

Donald William Sallen, 87, died June 23, 2015 at his home in Prescott, Arizona. He was born October 7, 1927 in Fort Madison, Iowa, a son of Henry and Thresa Sallen. On November 28, 1952 he married Sylvia Cogelja in Indiana. They were married 63 years. She died December 25, 2021.

Don was a veteran of the United States Navy, serving in WWII as a photographer at the Hawaii Navy Headquarters. Later he used this training to do photography for Sear and Roebuck and Montgomery Ward catalogues at ETM Studio which he owned in Chicago, Illinois.

He is survived by his nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and five brothers: Urban, Leroy, Eugene, Adrian, and Gerald. A private Catholic Committal Service and burial was held in November 2022 at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Fort Madison, by Deacon Dave Sallen, his nephew. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Sallen Family.

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## Agriculture news

# USDA prepares to roll out more pandemic assistance

WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack Tuesday announced plans for additional emergency relief and pandemic assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). USDA is preparing to roll out the Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase Two as well as the new Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP), which are two programs to help offset crop and revenue losses for producers. USDA is sharing early information to help producers gather documents and train front-line staff on the new approach.

“We have worked diligently to help agricultural producers bounce back from devastating natural disasters as well as the coronavirus pandemic through an extensive suite of programs,” said Vilsack. “No matter how well we design these targeted efforts, we often find that some producers fall through the cracks or were harmed more severely than their neighbors. These new programs apply a holistic approach to emergency assistance – an approach not focused on any one disaster event or commodity but rather one focused on filling gaps in assistance for agricultural producers who have, over the past few years, suffered losses from natural disasters and the pandemic.”

ERP Phase Two will assist eligible agricultural producers who suffered eligible crop losses, measured through decreases in revenue, due to wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, winter storms, freeze (including a polar vortex), smoke exposure, excessive moisture and qualifying droughts occurring in calendar years 2020 and 2021.

PARP will assist eligible producers of agricultural commodities who experienced revenue decreases in calendar year 2020 compared to 2018 or 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. PARP will help address gaps in previous pandemic assistance, which was targeted at price loss or lack of market access, rather than overall revenue losses.

**Emergency Relief Program Phase Two**

ERP is authorized under the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act, which includes \$10 billion in assistance to agricultural producers impacted by wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, winter storms and other eligible disasters experienced during calendar years 2020 and 2021.

Phase Two builds on ERP Phase One, which was rolled out in May 2022 and has since paid more than \$7.1 billion to producers who incurred eligible crop losses that were covered by federal crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.

ERP Phase Two includes producers who suffered eligible losses but may not have received program benefits in Phase One. To be eligible for Phase Two, producers must have suffered a loss in allowable gross revenue as defined in forthcoming program regulations in 2020 or 2021 due to necessary expenses related to losses of eligible crops from a qualifying natural disaster event.

Eligible crops include both traditional insurable commodities and specialty crops that are produced in the United States as part of a farming operation and are intended to be commercially marketed. Like other emergency relief and pandemic assistance programs, USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) continues to look for ways to simplify the process for both staff and producers while reducing the paperwork burden. The design of ERP Phase Two is part of that effort.

In general, ERP Phase Two payments are expected to be based on the difference in certain farm revenue between a typical year of revenue as will be specified in program regulations for the producer and the disaster year. ERP Phase Two assistance is targeted to the remaining needs of producers impacted by qualifying natural disaster events, while avoiding windfalls or duplicative payments. Details will be available when the rule is published later this year.

**Deadline for Emergency Relief Program Phase One**

Producers who are eligible for assistance through ERP Phase One have until Friday, Dec. 16, 2022, to contact FSA at their local USDA Service Center to receive program benefits. Going forward, if any additional ERP Phase One prefilled applications are generated due to corrections or other circumstances, there will be a 30-day deadline from the date of notification for that particular application.

### **Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program**

PARP is authorized and funded by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

To be eligible for PARP, an agricultural producer must have been in the business of farming during at least part of the 2020 calendar year and had a certain threshold decrease in allowable gross revenue for the 2020 calendar year, as compared to 2018 or 2019. Exact details on the calculations and eligibility will be available when the forthcoming rule is published.

### **How Producers Can Prepare**

ERP Phase Two and PARP will use revenue information that is readily available from most tax records. FSA encourages producers to have their tax documents from the past few years and supporting materials ready, as explained further below. Producers will need similar documentation to what was needed for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) Phase Two, where a producer could use 2018 or 2019 as the benchmark year relative to the disaster year.

In the coming weeks, USDA will provide additional information on how to apply for assistance through ERP Phase Two and PARP. In the meantime, producers are encouraged to begin gathering supporting documentation including:

- Schedule F (Form 1040); and
- Profit or Loss from Farming or similar tax documents for tax years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022

See PARP, page 5

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## Scene Around Town/From the Front



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Some winter wear was once again hung on trees in Central Park in Fort Madison. For the past several years, good samaritans have hung winter outerwear for those in need as the cold temperatures descend upon the area.

## County could see more settlement funds stream in

**OPIOID** - Continued from Page 1

time went on they started widening that gap of what it can be used for," Seyb said.

"It's great for the county. It's great for the board to give us more options on what to do with it."

According to settlement guidelines, the funds have to be used on opioid abuse mitigation efforts, but those are wide-ranging options.

ARPA grant writer Chuck Vandenberg said there are multiple other settlements in the works and those have yet to trickle down into the hands of the attorneys working on behalf of almost all the counties in the state to secure the funding.

"What we're seeing is that as the settlements come in, they are using the same mechanism that was put in place with the very first settlement," Vandenberg said.

"That work's already been done. With that, the state gets half of the settlement dollars for statewide mitigation and the counties get the other half based on a formula already in place."

That formula gives the county about 1.5% of the total county allotment in Iowa. That figure is one of the 10 highest in the state based on opioid use and distribution in the county.

## Area ag producers could benefit from programs

**PARP** - Continued from Page 4

for ERP and for calendar years 2018, 2019 and 2020 for PARP.

Producers should also have, or be prepared to have, the following forms on file for both ERP and PARP program participation:

- Form AD-2047, Customer Data Worksheet (as applicable to the program participant);
- Form CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan for an individual or legal entity;
- Form CCC-901, Member Information for Legal Entities (if applicable); and
- Form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELIC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification.

Most producers, especially those who have previously participated in FSA programs, will likely have these required forms on file. However, those who are uncertain or want to confirm should contact FSA at their local USDA Service Center.

In addition to the forms listed above, underserved producers are encouraged to register their status with FSA, using Form CCC-860, Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification, as certain existing permanent and ad-hoc disaster programs provide increased benefits or reduced fees and premiums.

### More Information

Through proactive communications and outreach, USDA will keep producers and stakeholders informed as program eligibility, application and implementation details unfold.

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# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

### PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
AGENDA**

**FORT MADISON  
CITY COUNCIL**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**Date: THURSDAY,**

**NOVEMBER 17, 2022**

**Time: 4:00 P.M.**

**Place: City Council  
Chambers, City Hall**

ZOOM Only Meeting  
Join Zoom Meeting -  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81775259385>

Meeting ID: 817 7525  
9385

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ROLL CALL

RESOLUTIONS

1. (Blank) MOVED AND  
(blank) SECONDED to  
adopt a resolution setting  
public hearing for Public  
Improvement Project  
2022.01 – Fort Madison  
Marina Improvements:  
Floating Docks.

2. (Blank) MOVED AND  
(blank) SECONDED to  
adopt a resolution setting  
public hearing for Public  
Improvement Project  
2022.02 – Fort Madison  
Marina Improvements:  
Fuel System.

ADJOURNMENT

3. (Blank) MOVED AND  
(blank) SECONDED to  
adjourn until Tuesday,  
December 6, 2022 at 5:30  
P.M.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Notice to Bidders  
Iowa Department of  
Natural Resources**

Starting July 27th,  
2022, the Department of  
Natural Resource will be  
accepting sealed con-  
struction bids via email.

Sealed bids will be  
received by the Iowa  
Department of Natural  
Resources, at the Wal-  
lace State Office Building,  
502 East 9th Street, Des  
Moines, IA, 50319-0034,  
or via email at [constructionbids@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:constructionbids@dnr.iowa.gov)  
until 11:00am, December  
8, 2022 for the public im-  
provement projects listed  
below, at which time they  
will be opened publicly.  
After the bid opening, bid  
results may be obtained  
by visiting the Depart-  
ment's website at [https://  
programs.iowadnr.gov/  
engreal/projectlist.asp](https://programs.iowadnr.gov/engreal/projectlist.asp). In  
addition to attending the  
bid opening in person,  
interested parties may  
also call in to the following  
number to listen to the bid  
opening:

Conference call num-  
ber: +1 (484) 416-2391  
PIN: 133-543-968#

In order to improve  
sound quality, please  
mute your phone by  
pressing \*6. If you have  
questions, you can  
unmute your phone by  
pressing \*6.

Sealed bids sent via  
email must be sent to  
[constructionbids@dnr.  
iowa.gov](mailto:constructionbids@dnr.iowa.gov) All bids, and  
required documentation,  
must contain a scanned  
original signature. – Elec-  
tronic signatures are not  
allowed. When email-  
ing bid documents, the  
subject line of the email  
must state the following:  
Project Number, Project  
Name, and Bid Letting  
Date. Please ensure the  
first page of the emailed  
attachment, or first of  
multiple attachments, is  
the bid proposal. No bids  
shall be accepted via  
FAX.

Note: The United States  
Postal Service (USPS)  
does not deliver mail or  
packages directly to the  
address provided above  
but rather to the Capitol  
Complex Mail Room. Ex-  
tra time should be allotted  
for proposals sent by the  
USPS. The Iowa Depart-  
ment of Natural Resourc-  
es shall not consider bids  
if they are not received by  
the Department of Natural  
Resources mail room or  
reception staff, by the  
time and date described  
in this Notice to Bidders,  
regardless of whether  
the bid was mailed or  
received at the Capitol  
Complex Mail Room or  
other state government  
location prior to that time  
and date.

Project documents,  
including drawings, spec-  
ifications, proposal forms,  
and addenda items for the  
project are available at  
Beeline and Blue, at 2507  
Ingersoll Ave, Des Moines  
IA 50312. Please visit  
[www.beelineandblue.com](http://www.beelineandblue.com)  
or contact (515) 244-1611  
for more information.  
Alternatively, Bid Docu-  
ments can be viewed or  
printed online at [https://  
programs.iowadnr.gov/  
engreal/projectlist.asp](https://programs.iowadnr.gov/engreal/projectlist.asp)

The Department shall  
comply with all public im-  
provement procurement  
laws, as outlined in the  
plans and specifications  
and including but not limit-  
ed to: Iowa Code chap-  
ter 26 related to public  
construction bidding; Iowa  
Code chapter 73 relat-  
ed to preferences; Iowa  
Code chapter 573 related  
to labor and materials  
on public improvements;  
rules promulgated by the

Department of Adminis-  
trative Services – General  
Services Enterprise as  
they may apply; rules  
promulgated by the De-  
partment of Natural Re-  
sources and the Natural  
Resources Commission,  
as they may apply; and  
any federal statutes, rules  
and/or executive orders  
that may be associated  
depending on funding  
sources. Bidders shall  
comply with these laws  
to be considered and are  
encouraged to be familiar  
with public improvement  
procurement require-  
ments and the bidding  
documents before submit-  
ting a bid.

Each bidder shall  
accompany the bid with a  
bid security as defined in  
Iowa code section 26.8.  
Scanned copies of the bid  
security will be accepted  
for those bidders submit-  
ting bids electronically.  
Additionally, the submis-  
sion of an electronic bid  
security in the form of a  
certified check, cashier's  
check, or money order,  
the original security must  
be mailed to the De-  
partment at the Wallace  
State Office Building,  
502 East 9th Street, Des  
Moines, IA 50319 within  
(5) business days of the  
bid letting date. The bid  
security must be in an  
amount set forth in the  
bidding documents and  
made payable to the Iowa  
Department of Natural  
Resources. Failure to  
execute a contract for the  
proposed work and file an  
acceptable Performance  
Bond, in an amount equal  
to 100% of the contract  
price and a certificate of  
liability insurance, within  
thirty (30) days of the  
date of the award of the  
contract, will be just and  
sufficient cause for the  
rescinding of the award  
and the forfeiture of the  
bid security.

**SAC COUNTY PROJECT  
NO. 23-01-81-01**

Black Hawk Marsh WPA  
Streambank Stabiliza-  
tion

Proposal Guarantee:

\$12,500.00

Completion Date:

06/30/2023

Project Description:

This project consists of  
armoring approximately  
2,430 feet of streambank  
with fieldstone.

**TAMA COUNTY  
PROJECT  
NO. 22-05-86-01**

Union Grove State Park  
Pavement Preservation

Proposal Guarantee:

\$6,250.00

Completion Date:

08/31/2023

Project Description:

This project consists of  
pavement preservation/  
roadway maintenance by  
patching and seal coating  
asphalt roads and placing  
crushed rock surfacing  
as directed by DNR Field  
Engineer at Union Grove

State Park.

**POTTAWATTAMIE  
COUNTY PROJECT  
NO. 22-04-78-03**

Lake Manawa Law

Enforcement

Boat Storage Addition

Proposal Guarantee:

\$12,500.00

Completion Date:

08/31/2023

Project Description:

Lake Manawa has a law

enforcement boat storage  
building that isn't large  
enough or tall enough  
for their new, modern  
boats. This 40x48 addi-  
tion will add the storage  
space and overhead door  
heights needed to get the  
larger boats under a roof.  
The project will be a post-  
frame structure with four  
(4) overhead doors and  
storage loft in the rear of  
the building.

we'll be right back!

Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition  
Monday, November 21.  
Watch our website for all the latest news.  
Thank for reading!

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ad COUNCIL UAS

## From the Front

# McCoy takes over as CEO/President of GRHS

**MCCOY** - Continued from Page 1

while being good stewards of our resources in Southeast Iowa,” stated Douglas Martin, Great River Health System Board Chair.



McCoy

Dr. McCoy joined Great River Medical Center’s medical staff in 1990 and was appointed Chief Medical Officer of Great River Health in 2015.

“I look forward to continuing my work with the board, medical staff and employees of the health system.

Our priority is to continue to deliver outstanding services close to home and to strengthen our relationships in our communities,” McCoy said.

McCoy replaces Matt Wenzel, who resigned abruptly on Oct. 14 after serving five years as president and CEO.

# Retail plan could include recruitment

**COUNCIL** - Continued from Page 1

them and then breaking data down in segments.

The first would be data collection, including cell-phone geolocation data, that would tell the city where people are moving about in the city.

He said the data information would be critical in recruitment and also expansion of existing retail.

He said the first option for work on the project would be data analysis to including retail opportunities, development and redevelopment opportunities, and developers for recruitment as well as marketing and branding.

The cost factor has the group initially just looking at data collection and not recruitment efforts. He said recruitment would be an additional \$20,000.

“We thought ‘lets look at the data first to see if it was something we could work with and make sure it’s what we want to present as a community’”

Gobble said the groups have decided to move forward with the project and Mayor Matt Mohrfeld attended one of the meetings and recommended Gobble present to the council to share in the cost.

Any additional expenses in the contract, which includes travel and project expenses for trips to the city, would be paid for out of Fort Madison Partners’ budget. The proposal includes up to \$3,500 for those expenses.

Gobble said the most vital part of the program from his viewpoint is the contacts that would be generated by working with The Retail Coach.

“They will supply us a listing of retail individuals that fit our community, as well as developers that are looking to move forward with projects,” he said.

Councilwoman Donna Amandus asked if the project could be moved to the recruitment phase if stakeholders are happy with the data.

“We could move forward after that,” Gobble said.

Mohrfeld said a woman from Pella was on the Zoom call that he sat in on and she said she was more impressed with the data collection than the recruitment phase.

“I was very suprised when she said that, and she said they were at the same place as we are,” Mohrfeld said.

“If we’re gonna move the needle, we’ve gotta move the needle.”

Mohrfeld asked City Manager David Varley if the city could carve the \$5,000 out of the city budget and Varley said that would be workable.

Councilwoman Rebecca Bowker said the data will be valuable as other communities, and even nations, have used it to track not only retail, but virus tracking as well.

“It’s a good source of information. We want those niche stores that appeal to certain demographics,” she said.

Councilman Rusty Andrews reminded the council of other plans that the city has paid for that sit on shelves and don’t get utilized.

“I do see money spent on a lot of these studies and they do find themselves on a bookshelf somewhere,” he said.

“I hope we find a way to utilize this and get our money’s worth. We’ll all get a copy of it and we’re gonna read it and then someone asks us a question six months later about business in Fort Madison and we say we don’t know and come to find out it was in that (study).

“We’re gonna look pretty dumb.”

In an unrelated action, Councilman Tom Schulz submitted his resignation effective Dec. 31 in order to assume his new elected position to the Lee County Board of Supervisors.

# Got a news tip?

Call Chuck  
(319)371.1670

or submit it online at [www.PenCityCurrent.com](http://www.PenCityCurrent.com)

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