

PEN CITY CURRENT

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Wednesday, December 7, 2022 | 8 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 207



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Caucus juggle won't have big impact

COUNTY CHAIR: Move could help state Democrats and party nationally

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - The shift in the national Democratic nomination process may have left Iowa out in the February cold, but a local Democrat official says it may be good for the party.

The Democrat National Committee moved with the support of President Joe Biden to juggle the lineup and move South Carolina to the front ahead of Iowa which has been there since 1972.

Iowa's code requires it to be the first caucus in the

nation and that legislation is yet to be sorted out, but will certainly be on the list of priorities when the next legislative session gavels in.

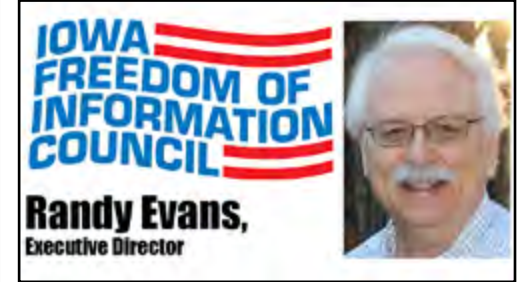
Mary Jo Reisberg, the Lee County Democratic chair, said the move could give the party a better look at candidates early on, despite Iowa not being at the front.

Reisberg who is set to step down as the chair in 2023 said the current process is confusing for younger voters and hard for shift workers and older Iowans.

She also said the process is time consuming and a financial strain on the state party.

See REISBERG, page 3

EDITORIAL



Dems need to keep focus on candidates

Judging from the furrowed brows and dire predictions in Iowa, you might have thought a national Democratic Party committee had voted to eliminate motherhood and apple pie last week.

Actually, what the committee eliminated were Iowa's first-in-the-nation Democratic precinct caucuses — a quirky, though coveted, kick-off role for Iowa Democrats in the party's presidential nomination process every four years since 1972.

After the fiasco in the 2020 Iowa Democratic caucuses, when tabulating and reporting glitches left the outcome in doubt for several weeks, the decision on Friday was as much of a surprise as Gov. Kim Reynolds' landslide re-election victory.

The critics would have you believe the national Democratic Party is not interested in rural America in general, nor Iowa specifically. The critics included some unlikely allies.

Scott Brennan, a Des Moines lawyer and member of the Democrats' rules and bylaws committee that met Friday, said the decision was a "kick in the teeth" to Iowa. U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley, a Republican, said the decision showed "complete disregard for Iowa voters + rural America."

Grassley and Brennan both favor Iowa Democrats ignoring the national committee's choice, and President Joe Biden's preference, to have South Carolina host the first presidential primary in 2024.

Grassley issued a lengthy statement last week in which he claimed "coastal elites and party bosses put their thumb on the electoral scale to drown out the voices and values of Middle America to advance their woke agenda."

The senator let his adjectives get out of

See CAUCUS, page 8



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison's Matt Emmett works on the digital lights he's installing on his home in the 800 block of Avenue E. Emmett had a Halloween display, but said his Christmas display will be something the city has never seen before.

AREA NEWS

Shooting leaves Mt. Pleasant officer on incident leave

PCC Staff

MT PLEASANT – A Mt. Pleasant law enforcement officer shot and wounded a suspect in a domestic disturbance call Saturday in Mt. Pleasant.

At approximately 10:04 p.m., officers with the Mt Pleasant Police Department and the Henry County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to a domestic

disturbance call in the 700 block of Main Street, where the male caller was allegedly being held at gunpoint.

Upon arrival, Officers encountered a male calling for help from the bathroom window. The male was able to exit the bathroom window.

While attempting to make contact with the subject, the subject brandished a weapon and an officer discharged

their weapon. The officers were not injured during the encounter. The subject sustained a gunshot wound to the right arm as a result of the officer-involved shooting.

The Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) was notified and requested to investigate the incident. Per

See SHOOTING, page 2

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WEATHER

WED 07 Dec.....Foggy and cool, 45° F/ 34° F
THU 08 Dec.....Rainy and cool, 43° F/ 37° F
FRI 09 Dec.....Mostly cloudy and cool, 43° F/ 32° F

OpenWeatherMap

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 12/05.....4 13 17 24 34, Star Ball: 1 All Star Bonus: 3
LUCKY FOR LIFE 12/05.....15 19 20 38 48, Lucky Ball: 15
PICK 3 12/05 MIDDAY.....3 7 4
PICK 3 12/05 EVENING.....7 6 5
PICK 4 12/05 MIDDAY.....3 5 6 8
PICK 4 12/05 EVENING.....7 3 1 3
POWERBALL 12/05.....35 45 47 54 55, Powerball: 14 Power Play: 2

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

JOY C. HASPER

Joy C. Hasper, 89, of Montrose, Iowa, passed away on Sunday, December 4, 2022, at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Fort Madison, Iowa.

Joy was born on April 20, 1933, in Keokuk, Iowa, the daughter of Forrest "Dick" and Bernice (Mills) Ruark. She graduated from Keokuk High School in 1951, and on February 14, 1955, she was united in marriage to Charles Lee Hasper in Quincy, Illinois. He preceded her in death on July 12, 2014.

Joy was employed as a bookkeeper and secretary for Gem City Storage and Transfer in Keokuk until her retirement in 2000. She farmed for sixty-six years with her husband and enjoyed spending her free time shopping and traveling.

Joy is survived by two children: Steve (Candi) Hasper and Beth Hasper, both of Montrose; her brother Mike (Sherry) Ruark of Hamilton; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and her fur-babies.

Joy is preceded in death by her parents, her husband Charles, her son Randy Hasper, three brothers and two sisters-in-law.

No services will be held at this time.

Memorials may be directed to the Keokuk Humane Society.

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

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

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM F. EWERS

William Francis Ewers, 87, of Keokuk, Iowa passed away at 10am on December 2, 2022, surrounded for days by his family.

Bill was born August 21, 1935, the son of William and Thelma (Bowers) Ewers. He married Virginia Mae (Hendricks) "Ginger" on June 24, 1961 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Keokuk. The two had been together for 66 years and were rarely seen apart. She survives.



EWERS

Bill is also survived by daughters Lori (Phil) Orth of Omaha, NE, Teri Carman of Peoria, IL and Debi (Tom) Boeck of Keokuk, IA; son Bill (Diane) Ewers of Peoria, IL; grandchildren are Blake (Cindy) McNew, Brant McNew, Alli Orth, Rob Carman, Ryan (Kaitlyn) Carman, Amberose Carman, Andria Carman, Luke Boeck, Brian (Raegan) Boeck, Jacob Boeck, Adam Boeck, Will Ewers, Taylor Ewers, Madi Ewers, Cody Ewers and two great grandchildren Norah McNew and Pierce Carman and several nieces and nephews; brother-in-law Jim (Jane) Watson and one very special puppy, Maggie.

He is preceded in death by his parents, two sisters and brothers-in-law, Betty and Leo McNally and Marilyn and Bob Roan; sister-in-law Pati Huff; nephews David and Steve McNally, Frank Sartory; granddaughter Virginia Ewers and son-in-law Bill Carman.

At Keokuk Senior High School, he earned the nickname, "The Sweetheart of Keokuk", as he led his basketball team to a state championship.



Bill decided to join the Military and was a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division. He later became a member of the Keokuk Fire Department and for many years as well, worked with his cousin Ralph Hechler at Tri-State Welding.

A lifelong resident of Keokuk, Bill knew no stranger and was a friend to everybody, often waving to them all, even if he couldn't recall their name and quietly mumbled a name instead. In his late fifties he started a new career in real estate. You could see his name all over town with Cramer Realty signs posted in many yards. He eventually co-owned Cramer Realty and finally retired in his mid-seventies.

Bill was a member of the Knights of Columbus and a devoted member of All Saints Catholic Parish in Keokuk.

While the kids were growing up Bill spent countless hours dedicated to their activities at both St. Vincent's and Cardinal Stritch High School, which included Booster Clubs and Scouts. Bill was a simple family man and vacations were few as he and Ginger preferred quality time in their own back yard, with the entire family engaged in various games. In his later years he and Grandma kept just as busy with all the grandkid's activities as well.

The family would like to thank the wonderful staff for the excellent care he received at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in West Burlington, IA. As much as he will be missed, we are comforted to know he will be welcomed by all his friends and family in heaven!

Visitation will be on December 17, 2022 from 9-11am at Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with a funeral mass following at 11am at Church of All Saints. A luncheon will follow at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

A private burial will be at a later date at the Keokuk National Cemetery.

Memorial gifts may be made to Keokuk Catholic Schools or Church of All Saints.

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

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No details released in shooting

SHOOTING- Continued from Page 1

protocol, the officer has been placed on Critical Incident Leave, pending the investigation.

The name of the subject is being withheld, pending the continued investigation. The name of the officer is being withheld, pending an interview with DCI.

Officials aren't releasing any further information at this time.



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It's Black & White and Read all over

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Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

CLARK E. PFEIFERLING

Clark Evan Pfeiferling, 57, of Keokuk, IA died Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Ft. Madison, IA.

He was born September 13, 1965 in Keokuk, IA the son of Edwin and Betty Rotter Pfeiferling. He attended Keokuk High School.



Clark had been employed at Vista Bakery in Burlington, IA.

He enjoyed playing pool and performing card tricks. Clark was carefree, fun loving and never met a stranger. He enjoyed cruising around town in his Oldsmobile and was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need.

He is survived by one daughter, Brittany of Keokuk, one sister, Christina Pfeiferling of Keokuk, one brother, Craig Pfeiferling of Keokuk and several nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, Clifford Pfeiferling and one sister, Cindy Pfeiferling.

A memorial service will be held at 5 p.m., Friday December 9th, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with Rick Kent officiating.

Visitation will be held prior to the service from 4-5 p.m., Friday, at the funeral home with family meeting with friends at that time.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorial-home.com.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

12/05/22 - 8:34 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1500 block of 18th Street.

Lee County Sheriff Report

12/05/22 - 10:12 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Jenny Lynne Leis Rook, 36, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on a judgment hold warrant. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

12/05/22 - 12:00 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested

Adrian Cayle Elliott, 22, of Illinois, at the sheriff's office, on a judgment hold warrant. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

12/05/22 - 6:57 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Joel NMN Seals, 23, of Iowa City, at the sheriff's office, on a temporary hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

12/05/22 - 7:43 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Shannon Oliver Gittings, 41, of Iowa City, at the sheriff's office, on a temporary hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Those listed above are arrested on suspicion of a charge

and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

12/03/22 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to five medical calls, one lift assist, one report of smoke, and one false alarm

12/04/22 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls, one lift assist, and one fire alarm.

12/05/22 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to two false alarms, an oven fire, four medical calls, and one lift assist.

Shuffle could realign state Dems

REISBERG - Continued from Page 1

The 2020 caucuses put Iowa in the spotlight as the night was marred by slow returns and conflicting information for weeks.

"If there's not a candidate that lights a fire, the process gets confusing," she said.

"I think in many ways the change in the caucus/primary schedule is positive for the Democratic party. It will allow for a wider variety of voices to be heard earlier in the process and will give attention to the interests of more members of our base."

Many Iowans are clamoring for the state to remain at the front of the nominating calendar because of the revenue from campaigns, but Reisberg said Lee County didn't see a lot of that money.

"Locally, presidential candidates didn't spend money in Lee County for printing and other services and their events were often in open venues so there was not a huge financial boost for the county," she said.

"Overall, I think the change is a good for Iowa Democrats and the Democratic Party nationally."

Reisberg said the process will allow for other candidates to be heard early, just not as much in Iowa.

"Although we will lose the opportunity to meet as many of the candidates face to face, it might push us to find more ways to either make the caucus more accessible for shift workers, older Iowans, and single parents, or to change to a primary system," she said.

Proponents of the move say Iowa no longer effectively represents the diversity of national Democratic Party electorate, but opponents of the move like U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley say the move snubs the state.



Lunch Specials
Dec 5 - 9
11am - 1pm

Monday, December 5
Tenderloin, Fries, Baked Beans

Tuesday, December 6
Beef Enchiladas, Spanish Rice

Wednesday, December 7
Goulash, Breadstick, Blueberry Fluff

Thursday, December 8
Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, December 9
Chili Dog, French Fries, Cottage Cheese

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Opinion

Love was found on the auction block for Weidemeiers

Marcia Marshall was not going to be out-bid. She started the bidding high for a date with the good looking blonde haired gentleman in a flashy tuxedo. She had a feeling about this guy. When other ladies bid, Marcia, on the edge of her seat, immediately raised them. The other ladies could tell by the set of Marcia's jaw and the gleam in her eye that Marcia would pay whatever it cost for Burlington's eligible bachelor. They let Marcia have the date with Dan Wiedemeier (Weed-a-meyer) for a whopping \$200, which in 1987 was a substantial amount. (It still is.)

This was a benefit for the March of Dimes at the Pzazz in Burlington. Eligible bachelors let themselves be auctioned for dates. With ages ranging from 25 to 50, the bachelors looked sharp in their tuxedos, their hair slicked back with Vitalis, and smelling of Polo. Dan Wiedemeier's spiel was that he would pick up his date in a limousine, take her to dinner, then to a production at the Little Theater. The ladies' mouths watered. But Marcia beat them out. She had to have a date with this man. She had a feeling.

Marcia was 41. Her husband had died four years earlier. She found herself alone and had given up hope of finding another life compan-

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



ion. When Marcia's friend goaded her into attending the

March of Dimes Bachelor For a Date Auction, she reluctantly agreed, only if they could drive separately. Marcia had to go to work in Mt. Pleasant the next morning at 6:30. She had kissed enough frogs, she doubted she'd find a prince at an auction.

At the meet-and-greet before the auction, Marcia met Dan Wiedemeier. "My my," she thought, "what a handsome gentleman. He carries himself with such confidence, and has impeccable manners." Maybe she wouldn't leave the auction so early after all.

Following the auction, Marcia was writing a check to the March of Dimes. Dan Wiedemeier approached and suggested they meet afterwards for a nightcap to get to know each other and exchange telephone numbers. Now she had his business card.

When she arrived home that night, her phone was ringing. It was Dan checking to make sure she had arrived home safely. What a gentleman! Marcia was smitten and so was Dan.

Over the next few months it was a whirlwind of activity and romance. Dan would call her from work to see how she was doing. When he traveled on business, he would write her love letters—letters that Marcia still has today, wrapped in ribbon.

His three kids became her instant family. Dan's parents and Marcia's parents agreed that the two were meant to be. Marcia and Dan were married on November 19, 1988, a year after meeting. They were married for 33 years and lived in a beautiful home close to Starr's Cave Nature Center. Dan never stopped being a gentleman.


Dan was also a most prestigious business man, and well known in telecommunications and transportation circles. Prior to moving back to his hometown of Burlington in 1987, he retired as Vice President of AT&T in New York. In Burlington he held too many public, volunteer and business positions, and received too many awards to mention, the most noteworthy being the Burlington Chamber Emmy Award.

Dan Wiedemeier passed away in April of this year at the age of 83. He is waiting for Marcia in heaven to welcome her to Glory and pay back the \$200 she so lovingly paid for him. RIP, Dan Wiedemeier, the love of your life will join you some day.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
MEETING MINUTES
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2022**

The Lee County Board of Supervisors met at the Lee County Administration Building in Fort Madison on Monday, October 17, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Absent: Matt Pflug
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.

At 10:01 a.m. Seyb opened a Public Hearing for input on an amend-

ment to the FY23 County Budget. There were no comments received before the hearing and no comments from those in attendance at the hearing. At 10:02 a.m., Fedler made a motion to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Larkin. Motion carried.

Moved by Larkin, seconded by Fedler, to approve Resolution #2022-94.

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

**RESOLUTION
2022 - 94**

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing has been completed concerning the Proposed Lee County Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 in accordance with the Iowa

Department of Management guidelines and, per Iowa Code Section 331.434, Subsection 5; NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa, the Public Hearing is acknowledged and the Budget Amendment as presented is hereby adopted.

Dated at Ft Madison, Iowa on the 17th day of October 2022.
Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Vice-Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Member; /s/ Rick Larkin, Member; and /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member.

Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Fedler, to approve Resolution #2022-95.

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

**RESOLUTION
#2022 – 95**

Resolution for Amended Appropriations FY2023

Whereas, Resolution #2022-75, dated June 27, 2022 must be updated to correctly reflect the adjustments to appropriations for each of the different county officers and departments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, in accordance with Section 331.434, Subsection 6, Code of Iowa.

Now, Therefore, be it resolved, by the Lee County Board of Supervisors to amend Resolution #2022-75 as stated below:

was acquired by the state or a political subdivision of this state, the County Treasurer shall give notice to the appropriate governing body which shall pay the amount of taxes due. If the governing body fails to immediately pay the taxes due, the Board of Supervisors shall abate all of the taxes.

Section 2. The Lee County Treasurer has requested that taxes be abated on 5001 Avenue O, Fort Madison. This property is owned by Lee County and will be the site of the new Health/EMS Building. Total taxes abated are \$1,157.00.

Section 3. The County Treasurer is hereby directed to strike the amount of property taxes due on this parcel in accordance with Iowa Code Section 445.63.

Section 4. The County Treasurer is hereby directed to forgive the amount of property taxes due on this Lee County parcels in accordance with Iowa Code Section 445.63.

Section 5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Dated this 17th day of October, 2022

Lee County Board of

Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Vice-Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Member; /s/ Rick Larkin, Member; and /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Fedler, to approve the Monday, October 10, 2022 Board Minutes. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Larkin, to

**HELP
WANTED**

Water Treatment Plant

**Full Time
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Technician/
Operator**

Performs routine laboratory work analyzing wastewater and sludge samples. Maintains the quality control program, inventory of chemicals, and monitors industrial waste for billing purposes.

**DESIRED MINIMUM
QUALIFICATIONS**

Education and Experience:

1. Graduation from high school diploma or GED equivalent
2. Valid Iowa driver's license
3. Obtain a Grade II Wastewater Certification in the State of Iowa.
4. Certified Laboratory Assistant preferred
5. Ability to perform complex laboratory analyses

Apply at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, IA or email applications to jcul-len@fortmadison-ia.com by Friday, December 16th, 2022.



**HELP
WANTED**

Water Treatment Plant

**Full Time
Operator**

Operates and repairs all pumps and appurtenances necessary to produce high quality and adequate quantity of water to meet system demands. Performs routine maintenance on equipment, collects and analyzes water samples, and completes inspections.

**DESIRED MINIMUM
QUALIFICATIONS**

Education and Experience:

1. Graduation from high school diploma or GED equivalent
2. Valid Iowa driver's license
3. Obtain a Grade II Water Treatment License in the State of Iowa
4. Ability to perform basic laboratory analyses

Apply at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, IA or email applications to jcul-len@fortmadison-ia.com by Friday, December 16th, 2022.



LEE COUNTY IOWA			
Expenditures by Department			
FY2023			
100%			
Department	Budget	Appropriation	Amended Appropriation
Board of Supervisors	4,587,588	4,587,588	4,587,588
Auditor	941,497	941,497	941,497
Treasurer	837,401	837,401	837,401
County Attorney	1,137,812	1,137,812	1,137,812
Sheriff	4,693,237	4,693,237	4,693,237
Recorder	559,564	559,564	559,564
Pioneer Cemetery	39,850	39,850	39,850
Safety/Risk Management	111,446	111,446	111,446
Secondary Roads	9,602,956	9,602,956	9,602,956
Veteran Affairs	134,107	134,107	134,107
Conservation	2,012,756	2,012,756	2,012,756
Board of Health	4,633,344	4,633,344	4,633,344
GR/CPC/Court/Comm. Housing	899,464	899,464	899,464
Human Services	58,000	58,000	58,000
Medical Examiner	256,880	256,880	256,880
Lee County EMS	3,289,627	3,289,627	3,289,627
Maintenance	686,166	686,166	686,166
Building Repair & Maintenance	525,968	525,968	525,968
Non-Departmental (Includes Transfers)	8,025,638	6,705,858	8,025,638
TOTAL	43,033,301	41,713,521	43,033,301

Dated at Ft Madison, Iowa on the 17th day of October 2022.

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

There was no Public

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Larkin, to approve renewal of Flex Benefits with Midwest Group Benefits, for the period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Larkin, to approve replacing a Sheriff's Deputy. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Larkin, to ap-

prove Resolution #2022-96. Roll call: Fedler-aye, Larkin-aye, Holmes-aye and Seyb-aye.

RESOLUTION #2022-96

LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

APPROVAL OF THE ABATEMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES AS

RECOMMENDED BY THE LEE COUNTY TREASURER AND

IN ACCORDANCE WITH IOWA CODE CHAPTER 445.63

BE IT RESOLVED by the Lee County Board of Supervisors as follows:

Section 1. Iowa Code Section 445.63 states that when taxes are owing against a parcel owned or claimed by the state or a political subdivision of this state and the taxes are owing before the parcel



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PUBLIC NOTICES

approve the payment of claims. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Holmes, to approve a step increase for Lindsey Lofthus, Administrative Assistant, from \$22.24/hr. to \$22.90/hr., effective 11/1/22 and a step increase for Amanda Walden, Legal Secretary, from \$18.89/hr. to \$19.40/hr., effective 10/4/22. Motion carried.

Received and filed the Treasurer's Report of Fees Collected for the month of September 2022, the Auditor's Report of Fees Collected for the month of September 2022 and the Sheriff's Monthly Report for September 2022.

Committee Reports: Larkin reported on an EMS Advisory Board meeting, an Economic Development Board

meeting and a Regional Mental Health Board meeting. Holmes reported on a Conservation Board meeting. Fedler reported on a RUSS Board meeting, a Board of Health meeting and a Juvenile Detention Board meeting. Seyb reported on the EMS Advisory Board meeting, the Economic Development Board meeting, a call with Nu Star Pipeline Company, an Empowering Families meeting and a Focus Group with other counties for applying for DOT grants.

At 10:25 a.m. a motion was made by Larkin, seconded by Fedler, to adjourn. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 24, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Administration Building in Fort Madison.

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

**Claims paid
October 17, 2022**

Access Enrgy, svcs 717.06
Access Systms, equip 467.91
Ace Hardware, splys 155.51
Agriland FS, fuel 1051.73
Airgas, splys 241.23
Alliant, svcs 27237.29
Altorfer, parts 170.28
Bates Sntatn, svcs.. 480.00
Benco Dntl, splys.. 351.18
Blessing Hlth, svcs 135.00
J Booth, exps..... 327.00
Bnd Tree Med, splys 1753.54
R Bradley, svcs..... 130.00
Brghtrt Hlth, svcs 3263.50
CenturyLink, svcs 70.81
ClickSt Web, svcs..... 44.85
Cmplt Rntl, equip..... 76.00
A Cook, exps 198.50
D Cosby, svcs..... 150.00
Cnslng Assc, svcs 4320.00
Cullen Pest, svcs.... 130.00
Culligan, wtr..... 56.45
Democrat Co, publ 1328.00
L DeFord, exps 203.50
Denco Hwy, svcs.. 2600.00
DMCo Hlth Dpt, svcs 6629.89

LDettmers, exps 91.00
Dodd Prtg, splys ... 124.00
Dnnllsn Tire, svcs ... 720.00
Dble A Glass, svcs.. 155.00
ESRI, svcs..... 4300.00
B Fader, exps 437.50
Faeths, splys 178.82
T Forseen, svcs..... 175.50
Garner FdMrt, fuel 996.84
Grrtt-Cllhn, svcs..... 750.00
GB Auto, svcs..... 121.88
N Granaman, svcs 1398.93
GRRWA, svcs..... 13418.17
Grt Wstrn Sply, splys 292.73
Hall Excvtng, splys 1620.00
J Hall, exps 280.50
Hncck Co Hlth, svcs 1035.00
A Hayes, exps..... 299.00
R Heidbreder, exps 56.50
Hellige Lawn, svcs 1025.00
Henry Co Treas, svcs 2455.62
hibu Inc, publ..... 143.00
Home Thrpy Sol, svcs 1961.20
Hope Haven, svcs .. 142.20
J Hudson, exps..... 294.00
Ideal Rdy Mix, mtrl 2002.30
IA DOT, svcs..... 300.00
IA Off/St Mdcl, svcs 10305.64
IA Plains Signing, svcs 1500.00
IA St Pen, svcs 7500.00
S Jeffries, exps..... 253.00
Jet Gas, fuel 3895.07

J Johnson, exps..... 53.00
JW Medical, equip 931.00
Keo Med Equip, splys 110.15
Rvrfrnt Brdctg, publ 200.00
King-Lynk Fnrl, svcs 1355.00
Kirchner Trkg, svcs 180.00
Khlmrn Hlg, svcs 1095.15
BKrmrRsbgr, exps 114.00
LeeCo Adtr, CtrlPur 41.20
LeeCo EMS, svcs... 681.00
LeeCo Ext Svcs, svcs 350.00
Liberty Util, gas.... 363.34
MLong, exps 168.00
Lynch Dallas, svcs.. 332.50
Martin Equip, equip 7876.35
Martins Lock, splys 246.00
McFarlands, splys 3219.89
Mrschmn Elect, svcs 880.00
MidAmer Enrgy, gas 181.24
O Miller, exps..... 418.50
L Mullins, exps..... 300.50
JJ Nichting, equip 1773.68
AT Conf, svcs 284.09
OReilly Auto, parts 285.23
Onmedia, adv 840.00
Optum Phrm, rx .. 1598.61
M Park, exps..... 138.50
R PttrsnRahn, exps

..... 47.00
Pen City Crnt, publ 652.50
Matt Pflug, exps..... 40.00
Prairie Farms, splys 243.20
Reg Util Svcs, svcs 2333.66
RicohUSA, splys..... 67.14
B Roberts, exps.... 657.00
M Ross, exps..... 206.00
Sanofi Pasteur, splys 10740.12
J Saunders, exps.. 108.50
L Schau, svcs 275.00
Schmitz Fnrl, svcs 1012.10
TSchroeder, exps 186.50
SIADSA, svcs 1760.00
Solutions, svcs 536.70
SE IA Reg Med, svcs 213.00
St Hygnc Lab, svcs... 25.00
Stffnsmr Bro, svcs .. 229.56
Stericycle, svcs..... 579.67
Stryker Sales, rfnds 17870.40
R Swainey, exps ... 235.50
Truck Repair, parts 594.39
US Cell, svcs 2027.79
L Vermazen, exps.... 4.50
L Wallingford, svcs 577.24
West Pt Lmbr, splys 21.26
West Pt Utility, svcs 1279.98
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T Wilson, exps 3.50
B Zinnert, exps 561.00
4imprint, splys..... 276.37

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Leaders need to set aside personal disappointment

CAUCUS - Continued from Page 1

hand. As with many things in life, everyone wants to be first. But that is impossible. Everyone cannot go first.

For half a century, Iowa has enjoyed its time in the national presidential spotlight every four years. But as that spotlight has grown brighter, Democrats in other states have objected to the disproportionate share of attention Iowa always gets from candidates running for president.

If you poured truth serum down the throats of Iowa Democratic leaders, they would admit the caucuses are a quirky process that is more time consuming for participants than simply voting in a primary election. That flaw with the caucus structure undermines the near mythological status accorded to Iowa.

Those who work on caucus night are left out and could not be counted. So were people who could not set aside two or three hours to stand shoulder to shoulder in a school lunchroom or a church meeting room. Those who were out of town could not participate, either, because there was no absentee ballot option.

And then there were the problems for interested Democrats who could not drive at night, or who were fearful of venturing out in nasty winter weather, or who were in poor health.

There are some painful facts that Brennan and other Iowa Democratic leaders should agree on, chief among them that the most important task for the party should be recruiting, training, equipping and supporting strong Democrats to run for local and state offices.

The outcome of Iowa elections in recent years underscores that uncomfortable fact of life for Democrats.

A Democrat last occupied the governor's office in 2010. That also was the last time the party held majorities in both the Iowa House and Iowa Senate. And Democrats last had a majority in one legislative chamber, the Senate, in 2016.

Iowa Democratic leaders should not allow their attention to be diverted by a no-win fight over which state gets to

go first in 2024 in helping to choose the Democratic nominee for president.

It would be wise for Brennan and Iowa Democratic Party chair Ross Wilburn of Ames to put aside their personal disappointment and consider whether a chaotic fight across the United States over the Democrats' nominating calendar is a recipe for party discord and division heading into the 2024 presidential election.

Frankly, it is silly for anyone to assert that Iowa is the only place for candidates to go to discern Democrats' presidential preferences or to divine the thinking of people in Middle America. It is nonsense to believe that campaigning in another state is too expensive or that candidates schmoozing in coffee shops and cafés cannot occur anywhere else.

South Carolina is about half the size of Iowa, but its population is 50 percent larger than Iowa's. And blacks make up a significantly larger share of South Carolina's population, although the number of white residents living there is larger than Iowa's total population.

There is one wrinkle that complicates all of this. An Iowa law requires the state's Republican and Democratic caucuses to be held first, before any other state's presidential nominating event.

There is no way the Iowa Legislature, with both chambers in firm control of Republicans, is going to let the Iowa Democratic Party off the hook. And some top Democrats in Iowa — and Republican Grassley, too — want to see the Iowa party ignore the national party's decision and hold Iowa's Democratic caucuses ahead of any other state.

But Scott Brennan and Ross Wilburn should avoid the temptation. Doing so would lead to chaos and acrimony among Democrats nationally — which is just what Grassley and other top Iowa Republicans hope to see.

Randy Evans is a weekly columnist appearing in Pen City Current and can be reached at DMRevs2810@gmail.com.

Kruse goes for 31 in Lady Hounds win

PCC Staff

FORT MADISON - The Lady Hounds seem to be firing on all cylinders at the outset of the 2022-23 season.

Senior Camille Kruse lit up Danville for 31 points Monday night as Fort Madison rolled to a 66-41 win at the Hound Dome.

The Bloodhounds are regularly running an 8-girl rotation which provides for fresh legs and energy that leads to tenacious defense.

The Hounds opened a 19-15 first quarter lead with Kruse accounting for 12. She would add eight in the second quarter as Fort Madison pushed the lead to 9 at 34-25 at the end of the first half.

Kruse now has 73 points on the year and is averaging just over 18 points a game.

Danville cut the lead to two in the second period in the middle of a 6-0 run where the Lady Hounds were held scoreless for four minutes.

But the Hounds would turn the table in the final three minutes going on a 9-2 run to end the half.

Fort Madison would push the lead to as much as 12 in the third period with a 44-32 lead and would pull away from there.

Senior Molly Knipe added two 3-balls in the fourth quarter to propel the Hounds to the win. Knipe finished with seven. Aija Jenkins had 11 and Taylor Johnson had seven for the Lady Hounds.

Irelynd Sargent had seven boards and seven steals for the Hounds.

Fort Madison (4-0, 1-0) travels to Fairfield (0-4, 0-1) on Friday night in a junior varsity/varsity doubleheader.

College football's transfer portal is a dizzying ride

It didn't take Deion Sanders long to make an impression with his new team.

Sanders, who took over as Colorado's football coach over the weekend, met with his new players on Sunday night and, with cameras rolling — it is Deion, after all, so there are always cameras around — told his players that it would be wise to just put their names in the NCAA's transfer portal as soon as possible.

The video, released on social media on Sunday night, made more than a few people uncomfortable but hey, welcome to college football's new world.

It wasn't the most stable world to begin with — coaches leave for new jobs, players transfer — but with the NCAA's new rules, it's wide open, with revolving doors that spin faster than ever.

It's the world that everyone was clamoring for in recent years. It was unfair, the argument went, that players had to sit out a year after transferring, while coaches could leave at any time. The transfer portal made sense, but like everything else in college sports, there are the unintended consequences.

Players who don't get much playing time as freshmen suddenly become targets from opposing coaches, and rather than stay around and work to get better, they go somewhere else for a situation that looks much more beneficial, but may not be. And coaches like Sanders are more likely to come in and clean house right away, sending players packing who might not have another home lined up.

Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz met with the media via Zoom on Sunday night after the Hawkeyes accepted a bid to the TransPerfect Music City Bowl, but almost all of the discussion was about all of the changes to the Hawkeyes' roster.

Quarterback Alex Padilla, a backup to Spencer Petras the last two seasons, entered his name in the portal last week, which he could do as a graduate — Padilla will graduate from Iowa next week and has two years of eligibility remaining. Wide receivers Arland Bruce IV and Keagan Johnson, along with running back Gavin Williams, announced their departures last week and Bruce confirmed on Monday his name was in the portal, the first day underclassmen could enter it.

At the same time, Ferentz is adding a quarterback, Michigan's Cade McNamara, in the portal, and the Hawkeyes are looking at other players as possible additions.

Even the usually conservative Ferentz knows it's time to go shopping.

"You have to change your framework, your perspective," Ferentz said. "Every guy we recruit, our goal is to have them graduate from Iowa and finish their careers at Iowa and if that's not possible, then we'll look for guys that maybe are interested in doing that."

Ferentz is already heading into the bowl game without his two top quarterbacks. Petras, who suffered an arm/shoulder injury in the loss to Nebraska in the regular-season finale, needed surgery on the injury and won't play. Padilla is already off the roster, so that leaves redshirt freshman Joe Labas and freshman Carson May as the only quarterbacks available.

December is always a month when coaches question just who will be available for a bowl game — there's not just the portal, there are those players who might want to prepare for the NFL draft right now and decide not to play one last game. That's why Ferentz sent his own message to his team — be all-in, or the Hawkeyes will move on without you.

"That's kind of my encouragement when I talked to the team yesterday, was just take some time here, deliberately take some time over the next few days and make sure if you want to be here, you're here and your feet are here and full-fledged and part of the team," Ferentz said. "Because we've dealt with this in the past, and I imagine most colleges have, where a guy's trying to make a decision, do I go to the NFL, don't go to the NFL, and it's not good for anybody when you get in that situation."

"I would venture it's going to be the same way with the portal, 'Do I leave? Do I stay?' It's just a different time in sports right now. So my encouragement to our guys is if you're serious about playing in this game, then let's go, and if you're not, then wait back, and then we'll handle each situation individually in terms of the players."

Ferentz said he doesn't take it personally if a player chooses to leave.

"It's kind of a sign that we're moving into different times," Ferentz said. "So you just have to accept it, I think, and you deal with it. You always hate to lose any player from the program. I said that earlier, and I do mean that sincerely. But (Pittsburgh Steelers coach) Mike Tomlin, I think, was quoted saying, 'You don't want a hostage in the building either.' So if a guy's not really interested — and those are his words, not mine — but if a guy's not a hundred percent on board, it's probably best for everybody just to go separate ways, and then our task is to look at the portal and look at the transfer market and try to learn more about them, just like we would any recruit that we're looking at coming out of high school, and try to bolster the roster."

By Monday afternoon, the portal seemed jammed with all kinds of familiar names from big-time programs. The NCAA's new portal rules allow a transfer window now, and then another one in the late spring after teams complete their spring workouts.

It's a world of spinning doors these days, and it's a dizzying ride.

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

