

TOP WEBSITE STORY Jan.-April : WB MK Mini Mart sells million dollar ticket

\$1M Mega prize won in SE Iowa

April 18, 2022
Pageviews: 8,043, Facebook: 14,998

CLIVE, Iowa - Someone who bought a Mega Millions ticket at a West Burlington convenience store won a \$1 million prize in Friday's drawing. That win came during a very busy week for Mega Millions news: There also were back-to-back jackpot winners in the game's Tuesday and Friday drawings. The \$1 million-winning ticket was purchased at MK Mini Mart, 101 E. Mount Pleasant St. in West Burlington. That ticket came within one number of having a share of Friday's

\$20 million jackpot, matching the first five numbers but missing the Mega Ball. A ticket sold in Tennessee matched all six numbers in Friday's drawing to win that night's \$20 million jackpot. Friday's big win followed a \$20 million jackpot winner in Minnesota in Tuesday's Mega Millions drawing. Friday's winning numbers were: 4-17-20-46-64 and Mega Ball 23. The Megaplier was 4. With Friday's jackpot being won in Tennessee, the game's big prize remains at an estimated \$20 million annuity, \$11.9 million lump-sum option, for the next Mega Millions drawing on Tuesday.

The Eleanor and Conrad Denning property northeast of Houghton is being managed by Lee County Conservation District after being donated to the state Department of Natural Resources. Several residents are asking the county to relook at how the property is being transitioned. Image courtesy of Iowa DNR.



See PAGE 4 for more .

Local robbery interrupts release of school children

Jan. 22, 2022
Pageviews: 6,377, Facebook 8,067

FORT MADISON - A robbery in progress reported to Fort Madison Police at around 3:15 p.m. in the 1900 block of Avenue G on Friday has resulted in several arrests.

According to Fort Madison Police

Chief Mark Rohloff, who said the incident is still under investigation, the suspects fled on foot after officers arrived on the scene at about the time children were being released from local schools. After a search of the area, several suspects were apprehended by officers with the Fort Madison Police Department

along with deputies with the Lee County Sheriff's Department. Rohloff said interviews are still being conducted at this time, but couldn't provide any other details due to the nature and preliminary status of the investigation. The names of those arrested were not released.

Referee at tourney hit by parent

April 12, 2022
Pageviews: 6,902, Facebook 2,043

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison police are close to making an arrest as a result of an incident Saturday where an official at a local basketball tournament was knocked out by a parent. According to Fort Madison Police Capt. Jamie Carle, police were called to the Fort Madison Middle School Saturday afternoon just after 3 p.m. where they found Patrick Weber, an official at the Fort Madison 3-on-3 basketball tournament, had been assaulted. Carle said officers on scene reported Weber was being treated by Fort Madison firefighters and the assailant had left the building. Carle has since taken a statement from Weber, who's also a teacher in the Keokuk school system.

Stabbing incident at local bar

Feb. 26, 2022
Pageviews: 6,832, Facebook 8,057

FORT MADISON - A 30-year-old Fort Madison man is in custody after a stabbing incident outside of a bar in the 2600 block of Avenue L at about 1 a.m. Saturday. According to Fort Madison Police, officers were called to Vinnie's Longbranch after a 51-year-old man who's name hasn't not been released, reported being stabbed in the arm after he was assaulted. Police arrested Wayne Nathaniel Buckner of Fort Madison and charged him with willfull injury. Buckner is currently being held at the Lee County Jail. The victim was taken to Southeast Iowa Regional Medical center where he is hospitalized. According to reports, the incident spilled over from an original altercation at the Ridge-wood Lounge where the two had separated voluntarily. The victim reportedly then went to Vinnie's and was attempting to leave the parking lot when Buckner allegedly approached him again and eventually produced a weapon.

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap

TUE 03 Jan Cloudy with chance of storms, 60° F/ 30° F 

WED 04 Jan Cold with chance of snow, 35° F/ 27° F 

THU 05 Jan..... Mostly cloudy and cold, 35° F/ 23° F 

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LUCKY FOR LIFE 01/01.....1 4 7 14 36, Lucky Ball: 11

PICK 3 01/01 MIDDAY.....5 3 4

PICK 3 01/01 EVENING.....1 6 4

PICK 4 01/01 MIDDAY.....0 5 6 3

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2022 – A Year in Review: January - April

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2022 – A Year in Review: January - April

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2022 – A Year in Review: January - April

Denning property takes center stage

Jan. 18, 2022
Pageviews: 5,602, Facebook 6,813

LEE COUNTY - More than a year into the Lee County Conservation District's effort to restore property in northwest Lee County to its original state, some county residents are now asking the county to take another look preserving part of the farm.

The property in question was owned by Eleanor Denning who's family inherited the farm in the 1870s, according to Phil Peitz who address the Lee County Board of Supervisors on the issue Monday morning.

The farm was donated to the state and fell under ownership of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. It is managed by the Lee County Conservation District.

The state put the property through an investigation with the State Historic Preservation Office who took more than a year to return a report on the study to the LCCD.

Lee County Conservation Board member Tom Pollpeter said the LCCD board of directors has been following the recommendations of that SHIPO report to the

letter and doesn't plan on wavering from its recommendations,.

The property had three barns two on the north side of the property near Houghton and one on the south side. Pollpeter said the recommendations were to return the northside of the farm to original natural prairie, while the south side has a barn that is recommended to be preserved. Two other barns on the north side, and a playground the Denning's put in are being phased out.

"From day 1 it was always the intention of the state, and the conservation district to turn that area into a wildlife area," Pollpeter said.

"We never wavered from that. We did our homework. We had the state historic preservation commission due extensive studies on the property. They were so thorough even the chicken coop was in that study.

"This is a clash of passions. They want barn and property restoration and we've always planned for wildlife restoration. If Eleanor had wanted that property restored, she shouldn't have left it to the DNR."



Semi crashes into St. Paul business

Jan. 6, 2022
Pageviews: 4,108
Facebook 9,814

ST. PAUL - A 61-year old Mississippi man was killed early Thursday morning when the semi-trailer he was driving plowed into a St. Paul business.

According to Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber the accident occurred at the intersection of 130th Street and 205th Avenue.

The semi, driven by Richard Cathey Jr, 61, of Senatobia, Miss, went through the intersection eastbound and crashed head first into the Tri-State Stove Inc. building just east off Locust and Main Streets in town at about 3 a.m.

"At this point we don't know whether it was weath-

er-related or medical, but the driver was headed east bound and applied the brakes and went head-on into a building," he said this morning.

Cathey was pronounced dead at the scene.

Weber said a second male passenger in the vehicle, 69-year-old Alexander Levell, also of Senatobia, was in the bunk of the semi sleeping and was taken to Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center's Fort Madison campus for non life-threatening injuries.



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Former county staffer killed in auto crash

April 14, 2022
Pageviews: 5,782, Facebook 3,118

LEE COUNTY – The Lee County Sheriff's Office responded to a single vehicle accident near Highway 2 and West Point Road Friday at 5:11 p.m. Upon arrival, deputies observed a GMC Acadia stuck in a fence in a field northwest of the intersection with an unresponsive female driver behind the wheel.

After further investigation, the driver, who was later identified as Luan Carol Schmitt of New London, was traveling west bound on Highway 2 when it lost control and entered the north ditch near West Point Road coming to rest in a fence.

Schmitt was transported to Great River Health in Fort Madison where she succumbed from her injuries.

FM Police look into shots fired

Jan. 18, 2022
Pageviews: 2,072,
Facebook: 7,713


FORT MADISON - Fort Madison police are looking into gun fire that was reported in the 2800 block of Avenue K at 8:38 p.m. Monday night.

According to a release from Fort Madison Police Chief Mark Rohloff no one was injured, but four shell casings were recovered from the scene, and damage was observed to a second-story window at a residence in the area.

That information correlates with information from a witnesses who told Pen City Current four consecutive shots were heard prior to police arrival.

Rohloff indicated the residence was occupied at the time, but no one was in the room that received the damage to the window.

*There's Snow
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Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Thursday, December 22 through Monday, January 2.
Our special 2022 Year In Review editions will publish
Tuesday, January 3 through Thursday, January 5.
Breaking news will continue to be published on our website 24/7.

*As we take time for our family this holiday, we thank you for your support and patronage
and wish you all a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!*

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2022 – A Year in Review: January - April



Deputies remove animals from Argyle home

Feb. 23, 2022
Pageviews: 2,971, Facebook 8,422

LEE COUNTY - A family in Argyle volunteered to surrender 42 animals that were caged in their home as part of an alleged illegal breeding operation.

Lee County Sheriff's deputies executed a search warrant on the property in rural Lee County after a tip was received about a possible unlicensed breeding operation at the home.

According to sheriff's investigators, the owners of the property were cooperative with law enforcement and workers with the Animal Rescue League of Iowa who came down to take custody of the animals.

Staff with Animal Rescue League of Iowa inspect an animal Tuesday after rescuing more than 40 dogs at home in Argyle in rural Lee County. Image courtesy of ARL

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said evidence from the search warrant was turned over to Lee County Attorney Ross Braden for possible charges.

Investigator Chad Donaldson said Iowa code regarding hording of animals for breeding is complicated, but did confirm that there were no permits or licensing for the breeding that was occurring on the property. He said the owners were cooperative with investigators and are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

The Animal Rescue League posted today that they are looking for homes for the 42 dogs that were taken from the property. They also posted a fundraising mechanism on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ARLIowa> and have raised more than \$6,000 for the animals in less than two days.

Local authorities were provided a tip about the alleged operations last week and went to work notifying appropriate agencies that would be involved in investigation, as well as obtaining the search warrant.

Craft takes RiverFest to Quincy

April 8, 2022
Pageviews: 2,479, Facebook 8,500

FORT MADISON - A pain of progress has come to Fort Madison, at least for this summer.

RiverFest 2022 organizer Charles Craft announced Friday morning that the annual music festival along Fort Madison's scenic riverfront will move to Quincy this summer.

Craft released a statement indicating the festival would be tough financially to put on with all the construction progress taking place in the city.

The release in its entirety reads as follows:

"After careful consideration and contemplation, we must share the following news with you regarding RiverFest 2022. First, we want to thank all of the fans, our

fantastic sponsors, our committee, our staff, our volunteers, and the City of Fort Madison for their steadfast and continued support. Without this support, RiverFest Fort Madison would not have enjoyed the success we've seen for the past six years.

While we have been carefully monitoring the construction project at Riverview Park, several concerns came to light. The loss of 60% of our parking, unsuitable ground conditions at our festival site stemming from the Marina project, and the road construction on Avenue H, among other factors have led us to the conclusion that we simply cannot sustain the highest quality event and experience that our loyal fans and sponsors deserve. We have looked at mitigation efforts to keep RiverFest in its original location and nothing we came up with was determined to be a suitable plan. While these things mean that the riverfront is not suitable for our needs this year, RiverFest enthusiastically supports the Marina

Sheriff deputies nab DM county robbery suspects

Feb. 10, 2022
Pageviews: 2,683, Facebook 4,307

DENMARK - Lee County deputies apprehended two men in connection with a suspected armed robbery out of Des Moines County early Thursday morning.

Authorities were alerted to suspects being pursued by Henry County and Des Moines County deputies after an armed robbery took place at the Outpost Bar and Grill in Burlington.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said the two suspects were able to elude deputies on foot near Geode State Park after the vehicle they were riding in hit stop sticks that were deployed.

Then reports came into LeeComm referencing another stolen vehicle just after 5 a.m. in northern Lee County near Bridgeport. Weber said deputies swarmed the area in case the vehicle was taken by the suspects sought in connection with the robbery.




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2022 – A Year in Review: January - April



Gibb buys School House apartment building

March 29, 2022
Pageviews: 2,122, Facebook 9,723

FORT MADISON - A man known to most for his comfort food and cold beer now has a hefty stake in real estate in Fort Madison.

Chase Gibb, the owner of the Buffalo61 Bar and Grille in Fort Madison purchased School House Apartments in the 1800 block of Avenue F from Todd Schneider several weeks ago.

Gibb said he and Schneider came to terms fairly quickly on a \$2.2 million purchase agreement.

He closed on some Burlington properties at the year's end, but had been talking with Schneider about the Fort Madison apartments since October on a tip from a real estate agent.

"It's an impressive building, but it wasn't a traditional real estate transaction because there were so many grants and tax credits involved in how Schneider funded the project," Gibb said.

Schneider used historic tax credits to refurbish the former Fort Madison Middle School, as well as took advantage of some

energy credits when he had solar panels installed on the roof of the building and the carports to help offset utility costs.

"There were a lot of hoops we had to jump through with the Iowa Economic Development Authority because there are still five years of regulations and rules I have to follow as far as renting the apartments to people who meet income thresholds," Gibb said.

Gibb said he has property managers who handle the day-to-day operations and considers himself more of an investor.

"I started investing in real estate about 10 years ago. I didn't discuss it a lot because it's passive income for me. I'm a big believer in diversifying investments. And what I've learned over time is, and I love the restaurant business, but you have to be very hands on in that game and I can do that now," he said.

"But in 10 years I don't know if that's something I'll still want to be as heavily involved in."

Gibb said real estate was more of a hobby in the past and was fun, but now he can take the returns on that initial hobby, and become more ingrained in the market.

Lamb follows in father's footsteps

April 18, 2022
Pageviews: 2,145, Facebook: 4,810

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison has found a new Activities Director, the third one in less than two years. But this one just might stick around.

2000 FMHS graduate Jeff Lamb was officially hired as the Fort Madison Community School District AD starting June 20. The move was approved by the Board of Directors at Monday's



LAMB

regular school board meeting.

Lamb is the son of Timm and Kate Lamb, and the brother of current Fort Madison Middle School Principal Patrick Lamb.

Timm is a past Activities Director and track coach at Fort Madison High School, providing Jeff with a built-in mentor and resource for his new position.

But Lamb said it's a new experience and moving closer to home has always been a priority for him and his wife, Rachel.

Lamb has a master's degree in education, but

has coached most of his life. He was a grad assistant at Georgia State College before returning to Iowa at Marshalltown Community College, where he started his collegiate baseball career after graduating from FMHS.

He played juco ball at Marshalltown, then transferred to Drexel University near Philadelphia. The university dropped the baseball program Lamb's junior year, prompting him to transfer to West Chester University in Pennsylvania where they made the NCAA tourney his senior year.

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2022 – A Year in Review: January - April

Meller donates property to County

Jan. 13, 2022
Pageviews: 1,641, Facebook 9,027

FORT MADISON - Details were released Wednesday on an agreement between Lee County and the owners of property where the former Iowan hotel was located.

The county and Circle M Inc., owned by the Glen Meller family, had been in talks since November about the property. The county is interested in possibly building a new Lee County Health Department on the site.

The county released details of the tentative agreement indicating that the Meller family has agreed to donate the property to the county for the new facility.

The county would be acquiring 7.76 acres of land valued at about \$117,000 from the family.

Becky Carlsen, a spokeswoman for the family, said the decision was easy for Glen Meller and his family.

“They are happy to have this property go to such an important entity of the county. The property was once a thriving business in our community and they look forward to it being a vital part of the area again,” Carlsen said Wednesday.

The county is currently considering using \$2 million of American Rescue Plan Act funding to build the facility. The county is also investigating a state Community Development Block Grant and a potential non-voted bond to help pay for the facility.

Mayor wants 1,000 new residents in four years

Jan. 19, 2022
Pageviews: 1,585, Facebook 6,122

FORT MADISON - He said if you don’t put a target on the wall, you’ll never hit it.

Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld put a big target on the wall Tuesday night, right next to the target he put up for the new Fort Madison Marina.

Mohrfeld told the Fort Madison City Council Tuesday night he wants to add 1,000 residents to the pop-

ulation of the city in the next four years.

“When we look at Fort Madison and the last census we see our population is slowly being undermined and slowing down and that is not healthy for our community,” Mohrfeld said.

“What were really talking about with a better town is we need to grow our town and it’s time to put that bullseye on the wall. And we need to say that out loud. In four years we need to add 1,000 people to our town.”

Mohrfeld that will require some very specific strategies. First of which he said was adding 400 units of housing in four years.



MOHRFELD

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City FD rings out Kern



Feb. 6 2022
Pageviews: 1,764, Facebook 8,732

FORT MADISON - A firefighter stood guard over a large silver bell and LeeComm called out a final page for Fort Madison Firefighter Eric Kern Saturday morning.

Kern, who served over three decades with the Fort Madison Fire Department, was laid to rest in a private burial after a public funeral at Fort Madison High School. A procession through town passed the Fort Madison Fire Department and up Rodeo hill gave those along the route a final chance to salute.

Police stood guard at intersections with fingertip to eyebrow as first responders from around the state rolled through Fort Madison in honor and memory of their brother.

Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren remembered Kern as a friend and a member of his department’s family. The two coached sports together and raised chil-

dren together. When Herren said he was losing a friend, you could see this man of confidence - a confidence that’s demanded when lives are on the line - meant it, and was shaken.

I didn’t know Capt. Kern except if I saw his name reflecting in red on the bottom of his bunker gear at structure fires or vehicle accidents over the past six years.

Some on the Fort Madison Fire Department I know very well, some I know on a casual basis, and some I haven’t had a chance to meet and engage with. Capt. Kern was the latter.

At Saturday’s funeral that became a circumstance of misfortune. This man enjoyed a Busch Light I found out from the service. And he apparently was an 80s rock man. Kansas, Guns N’ Roses, Led Zeppelin.

We had much in common except I prefer to capture the fire from afar, while he preferred to capture it literally. I take the photos of the accident while he took the victim’s hand.

Davis found guilty in Horns’ deaths

Feb. 24, 2022
Pageviews: 1,911

LEE COUNTY - A Donnellson man has been found guilty of two counts of homicide in the deaths of Michael and Linda Horn, also of Donnellson.

On Friday, February 18, 2022 Chad Ray Davis, 55, pleaded guilty as charged to two Counts of Homicide by Vehicle While Operating Under the Influence, both Class B Felonies under Iowa law.

Davis now faces sentencing on the convictions, which are each punish-

able by up to 25 years in prison, for his involvement in the traffic accident on Highway 2, east of Donnellson on August 4, 2020. According to reports from the accident, Davis was driving a pickup truck and struck the Horns from behind. Michael Horn was driving a motorcycle with Linda seated behind him as a passenger on the vehicle.

Sentencing is set for April 15, 2022. If ordered concurrent, Davis will be sentenced to up to 25 years within the Iowa Department of Corrections. If ordered consecutive he could face a 50-year indeterminate sentence.

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2022 – A Year in Review: January - April

Siemens cuts 32% of staff under market pressure

Feb. 9, 2022

Pageviews: 1,518,
Facebook 8,532

FORT MADISON - A series of lawsuits between GE and Siemens over theft of trade secrets, patent infringements and rulings limiting the wind power companies ability to import and export have resulted in a reduction in workforce locally.

At meetings with employees this morning, Siemens-Gamesa announced 121 employees would be laid off permanently which represents about 32% of the current workforce.

The workforce at Siemens the Hutchinson, Kansas facility were reduced by 69 employees.

After today's workforce reduction, 254 employees remain at the Fort Madison facility and 117 employees remain at the Hutchinson facility. Siemens-Gamesa employs approximately 1,700 highly skilled workers across the United States, in manufacturing, assembly, service and support, and offices.

Lee County Economic Development Group President Dennis Fraise said the staff at LCEDG is working with company HR officials to help

relocate some of the displaced workers. Fraise said he confirmed the layoffs with plant manager Tony McDowell early Wednesday afternoon.

"Lee County EDG will work with plant leaders and the IowaWORKS Rapid Response team to help the displaced workers find new opportunities in Lee County," Fraise said.

Siemens officials said the reduction was motivated by two reasons. A ruling of the International Trade Commission after several legal tussles over power generation patents and trade secrets between GE and Siemens, and a lag in the renewables market.

Hwy. 61 bid doesn't stop city's project

March 1, 2022

Pageviews: 1,480,
Facebook: 7,896

FORT MADISON - Despite bids that came in at least 26% over engineering estimates, the city is moving forward with the next phase of Hwy. 61 rehabilitation from 10th to 18th Streets.

At Tuesday's Fort Madison City Council meeting, the council voted 6-0 to accept a bid from Jones Contracting of West Point, the firm that has anchored the project to this point, for just under \$8 million

to reconstruct Hwy. 61 in the next segment.

Bids were opened on the project on Feb. 15 with Jones having the lowest bid. A second bid from Hawkeye Contracting came in at \$9.3 million.

Mayor Matt Mohrfeld and City Councilman Tom Schulz pushed against the inconsistency of HR Green's estimates.

HR Green has been in Mohrfeld's sights for the past three years. In 2019, HR Green missed on a project that was set to restore curbs and sidewalks in four blocks of

downtown Fort Madison on Avenue G. HR Green estimated \$1.5 million for the work, and the one bid that came in was \$3.4 million.

Mohrfeld also took HR Green to task over poor performance of the PORT Trail along Avenue B, saying the design was poorly assembled.

Most recently, the city took HR Green to task for asking to move a part-time inspector that was to be used on multiple projects, to a full-time inspector for the upcoming 10th to 18th Streets' project.

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2022 – A Year in Review: January - April

Breeders meet with sheriff over concerns

March 31, 2022
Pageviews: 1,472, Facebook: 4,010

LEE COUNTY - Four area licensed breeders joined six law enforcement officers Thursday evening to talk about how to curb illegal breeding in Lee County.



WEBER

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber invited the group together to talk about the issues in the wake of the arrests of David and Gina Sams of rural Argyle who were keeping more than 300 animals in and around the couple's rural home.

They were charged with seven counts of animal neglect. Both Sams pleaded not guilty this week on all seven counts. The animals were taken by the Animal Rescue League of Iowa and are now being cared for in their custody.

Brian Mohrfeld, a USDA licensed

breeder and president of Select Puppies in West Point, Iowa said he came to the meeting because he wants to help southeast Iowa out of the image of illegal breeding.

"That's why we're here. This is just another southeast Iowa deal and this isn't what we want to hear," he said.

Mohrfeld said the illegal breeders don't hurt his business directly, but it makes the whole group look bad when illegal activity is taking.

He said anyone can come and look at his facility any time, and state and federal inspectors do random checks on the licensed facilities. Weber said he's also done random inspections of Mohrfeld's property and said he was impressed with the operations.

"It's the people that have hundreds who aren't going through the state like you guys have to, that we're looking to take care of," Weber said.

Central Lee board OKs one-time bonus

Feb. 10, 2022
Pageviews: 1,593, Facebook: 12,711

DONNELLSON — At its meeting Tuesday night, the Central Lee Board of Education unanimously passed a bonus for all district staff who return for the 2022-23 school year.



CROZIER

The bonus is in addition to a 3 percent employee salary increase for next year.

"Over the past two years, our staff members have overcome so many challenges to meet the needs of our students. By providing this bonus, we want to show our appreciation for the very best school staff in southeast Iowa," said Dr. Andy Crozier, Superintendent. "We also hope that this bonus will help us retain our incredibly talented and hard-working employees as we approach the next school year. In this way, we look to help address the labor shortage affecting school districts in Iowa and across the country. We

know that it is our staff on why students choose to be at Central Lee."

In recent weeks, district leadership and the board have worked to determine appropriate bonus levels, aiming to reduce disparities among employee groups. Teachers, administrators, full-year office staff, full-year management staff and bus drivers will each receive \$1,000. Associates, building secretaries, custodians, salaried staff and cooks will each receive \$750.

All full-time staff returning for next school year and who sign a contract this spring are eligible for the bonus, which will be distributed in November 2022. The district will be using federal COVID relief funds for this expenditure.

Crozier said the bonuses are not part of the incentives that Gov. Kim Reynolds announced in her Condition of the State address earlier this year. He said the bonuses will be paid with federal education stimulus money that was allocated in 2020.

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10th Street moves to Kingsley

March 20, 2022
Pageviews: 1,924
Facebook: 14,209

FORT MADISON - Food service is back at River Rocks with a familiar face creating menu and catering options.

Dave Taylor, owner of 10th Street Station in Fort

Madison and Two Guys Baking, has entered into a partnership with River Rocks in downtown Fort Madison to provide food service at the bar, as well as expand on upon his catering and Take-and-Bake business.

Appetizers were on the menu this weekend during what's called a soft opening, where a limited menu is offered to pa-

trons to get a feel for what works, as well as gauging kitchen and customer flows.

Taylor said the idea cropped up when he started hearing from people who were looking for more options in Fort Madison as well as additional catering services. They were doing some limited catering out of 10th Street and their bak-

Warsaw man killed in rural auto accident

April 21, 2022
Pageviews: 2,278, Facebook 7,298

LEE COUNTY - A 69-year-old Warsaw man was killed Wednesday as a result of a collision in western Lee County.

According to Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber, emergency crews from Lee County Sheriff's Department, Donnellson Fire & Rescue, Lee County EMS, Donnellson/West Point Police Department, Iowa State Patrol, Iowa Dept. of Transportation, as well as PAW animal shelter responded to the accident at U.S. 27 (Hwy. 218) and 200th Street.

Upon arrival rescue personnel determined that Steven K. Brownlee, of Warsaw, Ill., the driver of a vehicle headed north-bound on Hwy. 27, was deceased. PAW officials helped care for pets that were in the vehicle.

The collision also involved a delivery truck headed west-bound off 200th Street, or Franklin Road.



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2022 – A Year in Review: January - April

City creates plan for vacant lots

April 6, 2022
Pageviews: 1,247, Facebook 5,519

FORT MADISON - The city of Fort Madison is looking to deal on about eight properties in town, three of which officials are hoping to see some business development on.

At Tuesday’s meeting of the Fort Madison City Council, City Clerk Melinda Blind said the city has some properties it is looking to divest itself of and the properties will be put up for bid on the city’s website.

“The city has some properties we need to sell. We’ve done up little flyers and they will be listed on the city web-site. We have signs that will be placed in the yards, too,” she said.

The properties for sale are at 2614 and 2618 Avenue O, a block and a half south of Hy-Vee; 2715 Avenue O, which is one block to the west; 1301 Avenue I, a half-block southwest of the Daily Democrat; 1410 and 1412 Avenue E; and 1713 and 1715 Avenue H.

Blind said the city is using a process that Burlington uses to move city property into the hands of developers.

“We will put a minimum bid on it and people can come in and fill out a form and then turn it in. Then the bid comes before the city council where the mayor can use his gavel,” Blind said.

She said bidders will have to be responsible citizens without any reports of nuisance properties in their name. The city will list the properties on the website where they will stay until someone shows interest in it.

She’s already had calls from interested parties about city properties that might be for sale.

“Hopefully, we might seem some changing of the hands on these.”

There are also three other properties that are being advertised for development proposals.

Those three are located at 1320, 1324, and 1328 Avenue H which is property across from River City Motors Plus on Business 61.

City approves FMPD K9 program

Feb. 1, 2022
Pageviews: 442, Facebook 3,113

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Police Department could introduce a new K9 officer to the community before the end of the spring.

At Tuesday’s regular City Council meeting, the council approved a request from the Fort Madison Police Department to bring a K9 officer onto the police department.

The cost of the project will be \$77,000 and will be reflected in the 2022-23 budget, however Police Chief Mark Rohloff said his diligence on the program indicates that there could be a zero cost factor to the city with donations and sponsorships of the program.

City Councilwoman Rebecca Bowker said she supports a K9 program in the department, but still had concerns with a two-week training period for the officer and the animal and didn’t

recommend the kennel being used.

She said Iowa State Penitentiary, her employer who has a successful K9 program in place, is not recommending the kennel either. But Rohloff said he’s had conversations with several law enforcement groups including Lee County K9 Association in the information gathering process.

The officer/handler will go through training in March with the animal and the K9 could be with the department by April.

“I’m frustrated and concerned that the kennel we’re using is only going to give our handler two weeks training. I’m still for the program and support the police department, but the liability exposure here in a two-week training for a K9 handler is problematic for me,” Bowker said.

“You have a K9 on the street that’s not properly handled and it bites one person, that pretty much bankrupts the city.”



McGowan, Thacher, Sokolik qualify

Feb. 13, 2022
Pageviews: 510, Facebook 12,208

IOWA CITY - The Fort Madison Bloodhounds had a shot at two titles at Saturday’s Class 3A state wrestling qualifier at Iowa City High. That quickly turned into the Bloodhounds having wrestlers competing for 2nd place in eight of 10 wrestle back classes.

Ike Thacher (195), Jakob McGowan (170), and Daniel Sokolik (220) all won in true 2nd place matches to advance to this week’s Iowa High School Athletic Association State Wrestling Tournament at Wells Fargo Arena. The tournament starts on Wednesday.

Thacher was 30 seconds from being eliminated in his wrestle back at 195 trailing 17-5 against Liberty’s Ethan

Armstrong. Armstrong led 13-4 going into the final period. He scored a takedown at 35 seconds into the period for a 15-4 lead, but Thacher escaped a half a minute later. Armstrong would score two more points getting control of Thacher with 33 seconds left in the match and the 17-5 lead.

The Bloodhound worked another escape with 21 seconds left and the two scrambled to their feet where Thacher executed what amounted to a hip toss and landed on top of Armstrong with 13 seconds left in the match and was able to register the pin with 7 seconds on the clock.

“I wasn’t really looking to score at that point. I knew time was running down and I needed to hit something big,” Thacher said.

District realignment boots Seyb from race

March 7, 2022
Pageviews: 867, Facebook: 1,860

FORT MADISON - Redistricting of county supervisor districts by state legislators has pushed a candidate for the Lee County Board of Supervisors out of this year’s election.

According to Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise, some minor shifts in the district maps received Thursday had major consequences for Peter Seyb who was looking to run for the county supervisor in the 3rd district on the Republican ticket.

Current supervisor Rich Harlow has already given notice that he will not be seeking re-election to another term on the board beginning in 2023. Monday was the first day candidates could file petitions to be placed on the ballot. Fraise said no one has turned in papers on the first day.

The 2nd and 3rd District seats are both up for election. Fort Madison City Councilman Tom Schulz and City Councilwoman Donna Amandus have both indicated they will be running for the 2nd District seat being vacated by Rick Larkin, who will have served a total of six terms as supervisor at the end of 2022. Larkin also served four terms in the Iowa House from 1994 to 2002.

But Seyb, who’s brother Garry is already on the board, lives in Des Moines Township, which got bumped in the redistricting into District 4. That district isn’t in play in this election cycle and is currently held by Garry Seyb.

Merry Christmas to All!

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but how much love
we put into giving.
— Mother Teresa*

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2022 – A Year in Review: January - April

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<i>Cape Air</i>	<i>Family YMCA</i>	<i>Lee County Recorder</i>	<i>Regional Medical Center</i>
<i>Carrie Schneider</i>	<i>Fort Madison</i>	<i>Lee County Republicans</i>	<i>Stacy Snaadt</i>
<i>Casebine Community</i>	<i>Housing Authority</i>	<i>Lee County Treasurer</i>	<i>Stanley & Jane Haessig</i>
<i>Credit Union</i>	<i>Fort Madison</i>	<i>Lee County</i>	<i>State Farm Insurance</i>
<i>Catfish Bend Casinos</i>	<i>Public Library</i>	<i>Veterans Affairs</i>	<i>– Jess Sutcliffe</i>
<i>Celene M. Coppage</i>	<i>Fort Madison United</i>	<i>Linda Baxter</i>	<i>Steffes Group, Inc.</i>
<i>Charles Scoville</i>	<i>Methodist Church</i>	<i>Linda Peitz</i>	<i>Team Staffing</i>
<i>Chuck Holmes for Lee</i>	<i>Fraise Auction</i>	<i>Linda Pumphrey</i>	<i>Solutions, Inc.</i>
<i>County Supervisor</i>	<i>& Real Estate</i>	<i>Making Stitches</i>	<i>The Colony Shop</i>
<i>Cindy Schiedel</i>	<i>Full Steam Staffing</i>	<i>Martha Wolf</i>	<i>The Madison</i>
<i>City of Fort Madison</i>	<i>Fullenkamp Insurance</i>	<i>Mary Ilmberger Scott</i>	<i>Tony Wolfe</i>
<i>City of West Point</i>	<i>Geoff Shields</i>	<i>Matt Mohrfeld</i>	<i>Insurance Services</i>
<i>Complete Rental</i>	<i>Glo-Run</i>	<i>Megan Kruse</i>	<i>Tri State</i>
<i>Conagra Brands</i>	<i>Green Acres Bar & Grill</i>	<i>Michael Avery</i>	<i>Outdoor Products, LLC</i>
<i>Connection Bank</i>	<i>Heartland Co-op</i>	<i>Mobile Nursing</i>	<i>Turbo Wash</i>
<i>Cullen Pest Control</i>	<i>Hillcrest Hostas & More</i>	<i>Services, LTD.</i>	<i>Union Presbyterian</i>
<i>Cynthia Baxter</i>	<i>Hinterland Dairy</i>	<i>Mohrfeld Electric</i>	<i>Church</i>
<i>Dan Reiter</i>	<i>Hope Associates</i>	<i>Montrose Health Center</i>	<i>United Way of the</i>
<i>Debra Herrick</i>	<i>Real Estate</i>	<i>Moose Lodge 671</i>	<i>Great River Region</i>
<i>DeJong-Greaves-Printy</i>	<i>Jennifer Fett</i>	<i>Old Fort Players</i>	<i>Vigen Memorial Home</i>
<i>Funeral Home</i>	<i>Jim Baier, Inc.</i>	<i>Pilot Grove Savings Bank</i>	<i>W-M Johnson Truck Line</i>
<i>Denmark Heritage Days</i>	<i>JoAnn Lampe</i>	<i>Pothitakis Dentistry</i>	<i>Welch’s Insurance</i>
<i>Dirty Dog</i>	<i>Karen Hope</i>	<i>Pothitakis Law Firm, P.C.</i>	<i>Wendy Bailey</i>
<i>Detailing & Boarding</i>	<i>Kempker’s</i>	<i>Printy Funeral Home</i>	<i>Wondra Chiropractic</i>
<i>Dodd Printing</i>	<i>True Value Rental</i>	<i>Rebecca Bowker</i>	<i>& Acupuncture</i>
<i>& Stationery</i>	<i>Keokuk Auto Credit</i>	<i>for Iowa House</i>	<i>Your Heat & Air Guy</i>
<i>Don Griffiths</i>	<i>King-Lynk</i>	<i>RonDavoo</i>	
<i>Downtown Summer</i>	<i>Funeral Home, Inc.</i>	<i>RSVP of Lee County</i>	