

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Friday, January 6, 2022 | 9 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 12



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# Bowen following path

### Playing Division 1:

Ryan Bowens' son Ben getting chance at Denver University

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP  
PCC SPORTS

MACOMB - Ben Bowen grew up around the NBA.

It's an opportunity that Bowen, the son of former Fort Madison High School and Iowa standout Ryan Bowen, learned to appreciate.

And it's why Bowen has followed his father's path into NCAA Division I college basketball.

Bowen, a redshirt freshman, plays at Denver University, and he'll be playing close to where his father, and his mother Wendy, grew up when the Pioneers play at Western Illinois on Saturday.

Ryan Bowen is in his eighth season as an assistant coach with the Denver Nuggets, and it's his 12th season as an NBA assistant. That followed a college career in which he was a four-year starter at Iowa and had a 12-year professional career that included 10 years in the NBA.

Being around professional basketball has helped in the growth of Ben's career.

"I think I've grown up in a way a lot of kids would dream about growing



Image courtesy of Denver University Athletics

The Denver Pioneers Ben Bowen, son of former Fort Madison and Iowa standout Ryan Bowen, will be playing at Western Illinois University on Saturday.

up," Ben said. "I'm very thankful for the experiences I've had. I can't credit my dad enough — he taught me everything I know (about basketball). And being around this Nuggets organization, in particular, has really helped.

"I've appreciated that (Nuggets coach

Michael Malone) has let me be around the team. My brother and I have been around on game days, on practice days. You get to see the highest level of basketball played. When you watch it

See BOWEN, page 5

## ESSENTIAL SERVICE

# Ambulance levy to be on spring ballot

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - Ongoing budget meetings with county officials this week pushed the fast-forward button on declaring ambulance services in the county as "essential services".

The county has created an EMS Advisory Panel, per state statute, to evaluate the need to declare the county's ambulance an essential service by public vote, and what a potential services levy should be set at.

That panel met Wednesday afternoon at Lee County offices in Fort Madison and recommended a ballot measure that would ask voters to approve a 75 cent/\$1,000 assessed valuation levy for the next 10 years.

See EMS, page 8

## CITY NEWS

# Eastin named new tourism director

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A familiar name in the hospitality business in Fort Madison has been selected to lead the city's newly created tourism effort.

Chi Eastin, the current manager at the Kingsley Inn in Fort Madison, has been picked by the city's new Tourism Board as the new director effective Jan. 16.

"We've been without a director for a while," Eastin said. "As a city we have a lot of catching up to do in making our place known."

She said her main focus is getting acclimated with the new board and its direction and priorities, and then getting to work bringing people into the city.

The ongoing marina project and the relocated Amtrak depot are two of the entities she wants to build around.

See EASTIN, page 8

## WATER LINE SURVEY

# City officials looking to residents for lead service inventory

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - City officials want to know what you're made of.

Your water pipes that is.

A survey is being mailed to 4,500 property owners this week asking about water line materials as the city works to compile a federal mandated lead analysis.

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Agency require the surveys of lead service lines from the city by the fall of 2024.

According to Public Works Director Mark Boussetot, the city mailed the flyers

along with the annual garbage collection calendar this week.

"Every year we send out our garbage calendars and this year we've included a lead service line inventory that we have to turn in by Oct. 16, 2024," he said.

Residents should look for the survey in the mail over the next few days, complete it to the best of their ability and knowledge, and return to the city.

The best way to return the form is to drop it off at City Hall. That can be done during regular business hours or forms can be dropped in the overnight drop box

See SURVEY, page 5

City of Fort Madison Water Department  
Lead Service Line Inventory Questionnaire

1. First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_
2. Property Address \_\_\_\_\_
3. Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_
4. At this property, what type of material is your water service line from the water pit/lock step to the structure?  
Please circle one: Lead Galvanized Iron Copper Plastic Unknown Other  
If other, please indicate \_\_\_\_\_
5. Please identify the type of structure:  
Please circle one: Single Family Multi-Family Commercial Building Other  
If other, please indicate \_\_\_\_\_
6. When was the structure built? \_\_\_\_\_
7. When was the service line installed? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Has the service line been replaced? If so, list date: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Does this structure have a water softener or water filtration system?  
Please circle one: Yes No
10. What type of material are your water service lines inside the structure?  
Please circle all that apply: Lead Galvanized Iron Copper Plastic Unknown Other  
If other, please indicate \_\_\_\_\_
11. When was plumbing installed in the structure?  
Please circle one: Before 1989 Between 1989 and 2014 2014 to Current
12. The City of Fort Madison samples water around town for lead and copper. Would you be willing to collect water samples for the Water Department if your property meets the criteria?  
Please circle one: Yes No

Please return your completed questionnaire to Fort Madison City Hall at 811 Avenue F between 8:00am - 4:00pm Monday - Friday or after hours to our night deposit box located in the utility on the northeast corner of the building. Questionnaires are also available on the city website at www.fortmadisonia.com and can be mailed to jacob@fortmadisonia.com

Thank you for your assistance.

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## WEATHER

THU 06 Jan..... Mostly sunny and windy, 36° F/ 24° F  
FRI 07 Jan..... Chance of rain and snow, 36° F/ 24° F  
SAT 08 Jan..... Partly sunny, 36° F/ 24° F

## IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 01/04..... 212 30 37 46, Star Ball: 1 All Star Bonus: 2  
LUCKY FOR LIFE 01/04..... 2 5 11 13 40, Lucky Ball: 15  
PICK 3 01/04 MIDDAY..... 9 9 0  
PICK 3 01/04 EVENING..... 416  
PICK 4 01/04 MIDDAY..... 6134  
PICK 4 01/04 EVENING..... 3707  
POWERBALL 01/04..... 12 32 56 67 68, Powerball: 26 Power Play: 3

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### MAXINE H. ALLEN

Maxine H. Allen, 92, of Keokuk, IA died Thursday, December 29, 2022 at her home.

She was born October 3, 1930 in Keokuk, IA the daughter of Harry M. and Pearl G. Scofield Bird. She attended Keokuk Schools and Southeastern Community College.



ALLEN

Maxine was united in marriage to Norman D. Allen. They later divorced. To this union, three sons were born.

Maxine had been employed at JC Penny in Keokuk for twenty-one years until they closed.

She was a former member of the Southside Boat Club in Keokuk and the Emanuel United Methodist Church.

Maxine enjoyed life. Maxine also enjoyed traveling out West and to Panama City, FL. She loved joining her friends for lunch dates and then going shopping. Maxine treasured the time she spent with her family. Her greatest joy in life were her grandchildren.

She is survived by two sons, Larry Allen of Quincy, IL and Rick Allen (Theresa) of Keokuk, nine grandchildren, Shelly Schilson (Tom) of Keokuk, Nick Allen (Teleah), Chris Allen and Andrew Allen all Quincy, IL Jacklyn "Jackie" Allen of Keokuk, David Allen of Keokuk, Ron Allen (Tanya) of Keokuk and Tammy Lindley (Theodore) of CA, nine great-grandchildren, Halie Todd (Jake), Kodie Schilson (Maggie), Kolbie Schilson (Mariah), Darren Blickhan, James, Emilee and Dale Allen, Tawney and Teddy Lindley, Jr. and five great-great-grandchildren, Braxton Todd, Jackson Schilson, Hadlie Todd, Paisley Schilson and Brodie Schilson, many special nieces and nephews and one daughter-in-law, Tammy Allen of Keokuk.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one daughter, Anna Marie at birth and one son, Terry Allen. She was also preceded in death by three sisters, Mary Ellen Davis, Doris Helberg and Ruth Hall and four brothers, Carl Bird, Charles "Chuck" Bird, Glen Bryant Bird and William Bird.

A memorial service will be held on May 20, 2023 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk.

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

## OBITUARIES

### MYRNA L. SALDEEN

Myrna Lynn Saldeen, 82, of Burlington, Iowa, passed away at 11:45 p.m. Sunday, January 1, 2023 at the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in West Burlington, Iowa.

Myrna was born December 10, 1940 in Dallas City, Illinois, the daughter of Cecil LaVern and Mary Janet (Hamm) Burr. Myrna married Dale Thompson. To this union they had two children: Timothy and Lora. They later divorced. She later married Joshua H. Saldeen. He preceded her in death on May 4, 2022.



SALDEEN

Earlier in life Myrna worked for the IAAP in Middletown, Iowa. She later began her favorite job, a stay at home mother. Her greatest joy was her family. She was a devoted Christian and a longtime member of the Grace Bible Church in Dallas City. Myrna was a Gold Star Mother, having lost her son, Timothy Scott Thompson, on January 18, 1992 while serving in the military.

Survivors include one daughter: Lora (Mike) Gittings of Lomax; two step-children: Ann Jeanette (Patrick) Moyers of Oquawka and Suzanne (Brian) Grisham of Lomax; 10 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren and several step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren. Also surviving are three sister: Sharon (Richard) Reed and Beth (Ralph) Todd all of Terre Haute, Illinois and RoseMary (Thomas) Lorenzen of Salem. Iowa; three brothers: Rod (Kay) Burr of Terre Haute, Illinois, Paul (Eva) Burr of Sandoval, Illinois and Samuel Burr of Lomax and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband: Joshua; one son: Timothy and one brother: Larry LaVern Burr.

The funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, January 6, 2022 at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City. A luncheon will follow the service at Grace Bible Church in Dallas City.

The family will receive friends from noon until time of services Friday at the funeral home.

Cremation will be accorded following the service. A memorial fund has been established for a memorial bench in memory of her son. To leave a condolence for the family, please visit Myrna's obituary at [banksandbeals.com](http://banksandbeals.com).

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**Charles Vandenberg, Editor**

(319).371.1670  
[charles.v@pencitycurrent.com](mailto:charles.v@pencitycurrent.com)

**Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager**

(319).371.4125  
[lee.v@pencitycurrent.com](mailto:lee.v@pencitycurrent.com)

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# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### BRUCE I. BRANDT

Bruce Ira Brandt, 88, of Keokuk, IA died Sunday, January 1, 2023 at Bickford Assisted Living in Burlington, IA with family at his bedside.

He was born September 12, 1934 in Burlington, IA the son of Ira and Doris Southerland Brandt. Bruce graduated from West Burlington High School as President of the Senior Class and later graduated from Burlington Community College.



BRANDT

He married Helen K Harlan and they had four children, two of which died at birth. They later divorced. On September 24, 1966 Bruce was united in marriage to Gretchen Cathryn Thiem, who survives, and together they had two children. Other survivors include the children Kimberly K Boyd (husband, Jim) of Keokuk, Kirk I Brandt (wife, Monica Pandeale) of Oakland, CA, Katherine M Sulentic (husband, Joseph) of Cosgrove, IA, and Karl T Brandt (wife, Tammy) of Cedar Rapids, IA; twelve grandchildren Emily, Courtney, Megan, Max, Margareta, Fredericka, Augustus, Carrera, Kolby, Taylor, Kaden and Trinity plus spouses; and nine great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his cousins Jareen Brueckner, Irene Brandt, Judy Amenell, Carol Brandt, Pat Davis and his many close friends and fishing buddies.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two children at birth, cousins and several very dear friends.

Bruce began his career at Hubinger (later Roquette) in Keokuk in 1955. He first worked in Engineering Services and then was a maintenance superintendent until he retired (the first time) in 1979. He then went to work for ADM/Ogilvie Mills in Keokuk until 1992 when he returned to Roquette America. There he stayed until his "second" retirement in 1997. For the next twelve years, Bruce continued working part-time for Roquette until fishing won out as his permanent role. Bruce had been on the Board of Trustees for the Keokuk Municipal Waterworks for 28 years until 2016. He was most proud and honored to have been involved with the construction of the current state-of-

the-art facility.

Bruce was an active member of the United Presbyterian Church since 1954. He had served as a Deacon, Elder, Committee Chair, taught Sunday School and was a member of the new building committee. He was also a 50+ year member of the Masonic Lodge and a member of the Keokuk Jaycees. Bruce was a Boy Scout leader and twice took scouts to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

Bruce was athletic and competitive and enjoyed playing hockey and tennis in addition to playing basketball in high school and college. He took an interest in building and flying model planes over the years as well. But most of all Bruce loved fishing, fishing and more fishing. He often joked he was born with a fishing pole in his hand. Bruce taught multiple kids and adults alike the art of fly fishing and earned the name "Guido" honestly. Bruce was a giving, caring soul and was in his element as long as he was helping or teaching someone. Twice a year, for over twenty years Bruce headed for Canada with his fishing buddies and looked forward to every trip as memories were made.

A funeral service will be held at 12 noon, Monday, January 9th at the United resbyterian Church in Keokuk with Pastor Diane Ludington officiating. Burial will be in the Oakland Cemetery. Visitation will be held prior to the service Monday from 11 am - 12 noon at the church with family meeting friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to the Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice. The family would like to extend their heartfelt appreciation to this organization as well for their kindness.

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

#### Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

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**BLOODHOUND SPORTS**

# Hound wrestlers come out of break with win

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The holiday eggnog didn't take its toll on the Bloodhound wrestlers.

The Hounds came out of the break and scored a 47-28 win over Washington in a Southeast Conference dual meet Thursday night in the Hound Dome.

The Hounds took advantage of some late wins and some open Demon weights to get the win. The Hounds won by forfeit in five weight classes, while only surrendering a match at 106.

"I knew Washington would have some open weights, but I also knew they had some tough kids, too, so we did not take them lightly by any means," Head Coach Ryan

Smith said.

"We didn't hit the wall coming out of the break."

Fort Madison got late decisions from Logan Pennock at 132, wrestling up a class from his normal 126, and from Nolan Riddle at 145.

Pennock outscored Washington's Jack Kleese 10-0. Pennock just missed going to state last year at 120 pounds, finishing third in the Iowa City districts. He said he's using that loss and some losses this year to get ready for this year's district qualifier.

"I've had a couple matches I shouldn't have lost this year, but I'm using that to get ready for districts - to come back and make it to state this year," Pennock said.

"Just learning to never give up and fight your hardest. I went through

a lot, got beat quite a bit, but this year it feels a bit different. It feels like I'm more capable."

Isaac Thacher wrapped things up with a pin over Curtis Stender at 195 a minute into the second period.

Riddle also finished 3rd last year with the top two in each weight class advancing to state. This year's rules have changed and the top 3 will advance to state.

"Today went pretty well for us as a team. I really wanted to get a pin, but that didn't happen. Just gotta keep working," the junior said.

"I think I need to create more offense and wear them down before I try going for it. I need to get my offense firing on all cylinders and make sure I'm in good shape with a good mindset."

Smith said he gave the kids about five days off during the break. He was



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Hounds' Logan Pennock wraps Jack Kleese at 132 pounds Thursday night. Pennock won 10-0 to help Fort Madison to a 19-point win over Washington.

impressed with Emmett Kruse's win at 160 and Hayden Woolever's fight at 126.

Woolever lost 15-5 and kept the points for Washington down to four as opposed to six for a pin.

"He kept fighting the whole way and kept it to four points. That was a good match for him."

Kruse knocked off Washington's Chase Greiner 6-3 at 160.

"He did a great job and was fighting with one of their better kids. That was

a good win," Smith said. "Emmett's a tricky kid to wrestle and uses his legs to his advantage."

The Hounds travel to Iowa City West on Saturday for tournament.

Complete results from Thursday's match are below.

220: Colley Billingsly (WASH) over Daniel Sokolik (FOMA) (Fall 0:50) 285: Cory Arnett (FOMA) over (WASH) (For.) 106: Nate Edmonds (WASH) over (FOMA) (For.) 113: Tateum Schelich (FOMA) over (WASH) (For.) 120: Aaron Boone (WASH) over

Noah Swigart (FOMA) (Fall 1:24) 126: Caden Greiner (WASH) over Hayden Woolever (FOMA) (MD 15-5) 132: Logan Pennock (FOMA) over Jack Kleese (WASH) (MD 10-0) 138: Jude Carter (WASH) over Calvin Johnson (FOMA) (Fall 0:49) 145: Nolan Riddle (FOMA) over Lane Schrock (WASH) (MD 9-0) 152: Aidan Pennock (FOMA) over (WASH) (For.) 160: Emmett Kruse (FOMA) over Chase Greiner (WASH) (Dec 6-3) 170: Teague Smith (FOMA) over (WASH) (For.) 182: Landon Rudd (FOMA) over (WASH) (For.) 195: Isaac Thacher (FOMA) over Curtis Stender (WASH) (Fall 3:02)

## ACCIDENT & INJURY LAW

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## From the Front

# Bowen doing well with transfer to Denver University Pioneers

**BOWEN** - Continued from Page 1

enough, and you're around it enough, you get to pick up on different things. I've been very fortunate, because it's helped me along in my journey."

That kind of education has paid off.

"I don't credit myself as being the fastest guy or the strongest or most athletic guy on a basketball court, but I think I have a pretty good basketball IQ, and I think that's in part being able to grow up around the game," Ben said.

Ben, who graduated from Mountain Vista High School in Colorado, took a redshirt season last year at Wyoming. He entered the NCAA's transfer portal after the season and transferred to Denver. He's played in all 16 games this season, averaging 2.3 points and 1.8 rebounds in 15.2 minutes per game.

"I think I learned a lot last year, playing for (Wyoming coach Jeff) Linder and his staff," Ben said. "They're good coaches, and I learned a lot from them, just being able to watch the older guys that I got to watch. Now, this year, I get to put those things to use."

Playing closer to home helped in his decision to go to Denver.

"That was definitely part of it, for sure," Ben said. "There's an academic side, as well. Obviously, DU is a pretty well-respected school. I feel like I want to stay in Colorado and start my life after basketball, whenever that may be. So that education piece was important for me when I was looking at schools after entering the transfer portal."

## City would like surveys returned ASAP

**SURVEY** - Continued from Page 1

on the northeast side of the building, or mailed.

The forms can also be filled out, converted digitally and sent to the city Public Works email at [jcullen@fortmadison-ia.com](mailto:jcullen@fortmadison-ia.com). Questionnaires are also available on the city website at [www.fortmadison-ia.com](http://www.fortmadison-ia.com).

Bousselot said even though the deadline for the city's report is October of 2024, the city is trying to get out in front of the project.

He said if the city gets 60% to 80% of the surveys returned the survey's in pretty good shape, but if the city only gets 30% or so returned they will have to relaunch and target those that haven't turned in the information.

"We're trying to get ahead of it and get all these questions answered," he said. "We have an Excel document we have to complete for every one of our 4,500 service customers."

The first part of the questionnaire is for identification and record updates to coordinate properties with contact information for property owners.

The rest of the survey pertains to any work done on water line services from the city's hook up in the right of way into the home.

Several questions pertain the service line, specifically materials used from the city hook-up to the home and then the make up of lines inside the home.

"These are questions around materials used from the curb stop to the home - lines that the property owners have responsibility for," he said.

"If they don't know the answers, they can choose that option, but a lot of property owners have made upgrades and have that information at hand. The more information we have, the better off we are."

The survey also asks what type of structure the property is e.g. single family, multi-family, commercial or other. There is space to explain any "other" designations.

The city also wants to know when the structure was built and when, if any, upgrades to the water service lines were done.

Bousselot said that information can help the city determine what type of materials have been used if work was done to code.

The city also is required to do some testing around town for lead and copper and are looking for property owners to allow testing to be done on their property.

He said the city would like to have the surveys returned as soon as possible.

"We're telling people ASAP so we can fill in the missing data. That's a drop dead date for us. We're going to give this a few months before we send out more or go knocking on doors," Bousselot said.

"So we're asking them to return them as soon as possible."

Denver is 10-6 this season, 1-2 in the Summit League, heading into a two-game road swing that starts Thursday night in St. Paul, Minn., against St. Thomas.

"We played Denver when I was at Wyoming last year," Ben said. "I remember sitting on the bench and saying to one of my roommates, 'These guys are going to be pretty good in a couple of years. They play really hard.' I was just fortunate to get into this position and get into contact with them. I'm really happy with how things worked out. It's been an awesome experience."

Saturday's game at Western Hall will have a home-court feel for Ben. His mother grew up in Burlington, so he's expecting a large contingent from eastern Iowa.

"My grandparents are coming over with a busload of their friends," Ben said. "My uncle's coming down from the Quad Cities and is bringing a bunch of people. (Teammate) Tevin Smith (who is from Danville, Ill.) is going to have a bunch of people there, and we've been talking about how it's going to feel like a home game for us."

The chance to play for a Division I team is something Ben appreciates.

"It means a lot," he said. "Because when I was younger — fifth, sixth, seventh grade — I was not the best player on my team, I wasn't close to being the best player in the state. I was on the back end of things. It's cool to see the work I've put in paying off. Obviously I'm still working hard and I want to accomplish more things in the basketball world. This is only the beginning for me."

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

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OF TAXES LEVIED ON TAXABLE PROPERTY IN THE BURLINGTON HILL URBAN RENEWAL AREA, IN THE CITY OF FORT MADISON, IOWA, PURSUANT TO SEC-

TION 403.19 OF THE CODE OF IOWA WHEREAS, the City of Fort Madison ("City") adopted the Burlington Hill Urban Renewal Plan ("Plan" or "Urban Renew-

al Plan") for the Burlington Hill Urban Renewal Area ("Area" or "Urban Renewal Area") by Resolution No. 2005-54 adopted on September 6, 2005; and WHEREAS, the Urban

Renewal Area is legally described as follows:

The north part of the southwest ¼ of the northwest ¼ and the west part of the southeast ¼ of the northwest ¼ of Section 35, Township 68 N R 4W, consisting of 9.27 acres.

Commonly known as 3212 Crabtree Lane, Fort Madison, Lee County, Iowa.

WHEREAS, the City subsequently adopted Ordinance No. C-427 to implement the division of property tax revenues under Iowa Code Section 403.19 in the Urban Renewal Area; and

WHEREAS, all debt that has been certified for reimbursement from the Urban Renewal Area has been fully paid and there are no current obligations under the Plan to be paid from any tax increment within Urban Renewal Area; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, the City has determined to repeal Ordinance No. C-427 providing for the division of taxes levied on taxable property in Urban Renewal Area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT MADISON, STATE OF IOWA:

Section 1. That Ordinance No. C-427 is hereby repealed in its entirety and shall have no further effect.

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall be in effect after its final passage, approval, and publication as provided by law.

PASSED AND APPROVED the 20th day of December, 2022.

/s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor

ATTEST:  
/s/ Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk

### PUBLIC NOTICE ORDINANCE NO. D-094

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. C-310 PROVIDING FOR THE DIVISION OF TAXES LEVIED ON TAXABLE PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF FORT MADISON URBAN RENEWAL PLAN #9 PROJECT AREA, IN THE CITY OF FORT MADISON, IOWA, PURSUANT TO SECTION 403.19 OF THE CODE OF IOWA.

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Madison ("City") adopted the City of Fort Madison Urban Renewal Plan #9 ("Plan" or "Urban Renewal Plan") for the City of Fort Madison Urban Renewal Plan #9 Project Area ("Area" or "Urban Renewal Project Area") by Resolution No. 99-02 adopted on January 5, 1999; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Renewal Area is legally described as follows:

All of the Southwest Quarter Section of Section 27, T.68N, R.4W, Washington Township, Lee County, Iowa; and that portion of the Southeast Quarter of Section 28, T.68N, R.4W, lying east of County Road X32, Washington Township, Lee County, Iowa. The entire area is currently zoned I-2, General Industrial.

WHEREAS, the City subsequently adopted Ordinance No. C-310 to implement the division of property tax revenues under Iowa Code Section 403.19 in the Urban Renewal Area; and

WHEREAS, all debt that has been certified for reimbursement from the Urban Renewal Area has been fully paid and there are no current obligations under the Plan to be paid from any tax increment

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## Classifieds/Public Notices

### PUBLIC NOTICES

within Urban Renewal Area; and  
 WHEREAS, accordingly, the City has determined to repeal Ordinance No. C-310 providing for the division of taxes levied on taxable property in Urban Renewal Area.  
 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT

MADISON, STATE OF IOWA:  
 Section 1. That Ordinance No. C-310 is hereby repealed in its entirety and shall have no further effect.  
 Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.  
 Section 3. This Ordinance shall be in effect after its final passage, approval, and publication as provided by law.  
 PASSED AND APPROVED the 20th day of December, 2022.  
 /s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld,  
 Mayor  
 ATTEST:  
 /s/ Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk

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 PASSED AND APPROVED the 20th day of December, 2022.  
 /s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld,  
 Mayor  
 ATTEST:  
 /s/ Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk

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## From the Front

# Ballot measure would mandate EMS service

EMS - Continued from Page 1

The Lee County Board of Supervisors will hold a short meeting Thursday at 10:30 a.m. to vote on approving the language of the essential services designation. That language will then be published in local media and a special election will be held on March 7.



SEYB

The move will require a 60% supermajority, and if passed, will require the county to provide EMS services.

Currently the county is not required to provide the services. However, county officials took over ambulance operations in July of 2021 after the private service in the county was facing financial collapse.

"It should scare the daylights out of them," said Jason Dinwiddie, director of operations under Director Mark Long. "Knowing that at any time, as a board, you guys could say we don't have the money to do this, we're gonna sell everything off - it's not our problem to figure out."

Supervisor Chairman Garry Seyb said he's looking at the election as a mandate from the taxpayers to say with one voice that ambulance services are essential in Lee County.

"I'm looking for the taxpayer out there to tell us they consider this an essential service and I gotta believe in my heart they're going to come back and say it absolutely is," Seyb said.

Lee County Supervisor Matt Pflug said either way the taxpayers are going to foot the bill because the county owns the service.

"Do we fund it out of general basic or do we show what the 75 cents per thousand looks like to the taxpayers. That could be the selling point," Pflug said.

The 75 cents is the maximum allowed under state statute for an essential services levy. That amount would generate about \$1.2 million that would be dedicated to the county's ambulance service... well short of the projected budget of \$4.6 million proposed Wednesday.

The rest of the funds to operate the ambulance would come from billables in the form of insurance,

private pay, and medicare and medicaid reimbursements, and a Ground Emergency Medical Transport federal subsidy.

"Keep in mind that 75 cents will not cover the budget, but what it does is dedicate those funds. They cannot be used for anything else by this board or a future board during that time," he said.

"We've gotta pay for it and, if we don't have the funds to do that, the only other option we have is to cut services."

Seyb said it was important for the whole county to realize the value of declaring EMS essential services, even the bigger cities.

"If there's a big accident on Hwy. 27 and we have to pull three ambulances there isn't an ambulance in Fort Madison or Keokuk," Seyb said.



SCHULZ

"And when people are suffering a cardiac issue or other emergency they expect an ambulance."

Director Long told the board he was also asking for a 9% increase in salaries for the department.

Dinwiddie said Lee County is now competitive with other counties in salary, but he said Lee County crews are asked to do more while they're on shift.

"Our crews, Fort Madison, Keokuk, they both ran between 1,500 and 2,000 calls apiece last year. That's unheard of. Absolutely unheard of," he said.

"The people I'm talking to working in other places didn't run 1,500 calls service-wide. Our people are looking at that and going..."

Other county departments have asked for 7% increases for staff per recommendations from the county's compensation board for elected officials.

Supervisor Tom Schulz said the optics could be bad asking for that kind of a pay raise while also asking for a 75 cent/\$1,000 levy to help operate the service.

Schulz also said even if approved, the levy still leaves operations at about \$800,000 to \$1 million short of projected budget figures.

# Eastin officially starts with city Jan. 16

EASTIN - Continued from Page 1

She also is looking south to the successful programming that has gone on there for the past 20 years in the direction of Keokuk Area Convention and Tourism Bureau Director Kirk Brandenberger.

"Keokuk been doing a great job. Kirk has done that job for two decades and I want us to get to the equivalent of that," Eastin said.

Getting more people to come and stay in Fort Madison than we've had is a top priority of mine. The depot is one year in and the marina is coming into focus and we can capitalize on that."

Eastin was the power behind the city's wildly popular Railcam video feed that was part of the Kingsley Inn's marketing program. She said those types of initiatives are what the city needs, along with a full-time person marketing the city.

Fort Madison has utilized a part-time staffer for the past seven years with Jean Peiton serving in that capacity. Eastin said having a full-time person is just what Fort Madison needs with all the recent momentum, including Mayor Matt Mohrfeld's, pillar program aimed at bringing 1,000 new residents to the city.

"It's very important for someone to be around and available. They've been using me as that person at the Kingsley, but their needs to be a dedicated person to answer those questions because there is so much good going on Fort Madison," she said.

Julie Hohl, the chairman of the Fort Madison Tourism Bureau, said Eastin will bring a lot to the city.

"I am very much looking forward to working with Chi," Hohl said.

"She brings a lot of great experience to the table that will be ideal for this position. I believe Chi will provide Fort Madison visitors, City Council, and board members with a high level of insight, service, and commitment to the City's dedication to tourism."

Tim Gobble, executive director of Fort Madison Partners, said the sharing resources will be beneficial to the entirety of Fort Madison's economic and tourism efforts.



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