

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Tuesday, January 17, 2023 | 8 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 19



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Board hits back at bill

FMCS D: Santiago says public schools should stand against school choice file

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A Fort Madison school board member is advocating for a full-throated unified effort against a school choice bill that's being touted as a priority in the Iowa Legislature.

Board member Mio Santiago, the board's designated legislative liaison, told the group at Monday night's regular meeting that the move could cost the state \$300 million by the end of the third year of the program. He said some are saying upwards of \$900 million.

"Imagine if they increased public school funding by a frac-

tion of that amount - the great things we could do," Santiago said.

Santiago said the first year minimal impact even if no student were to leave a public school in the state is \$39.6 million.

The program offers families in the state \$7,600 per student in public-funded scholarships. It also offers public schools \$1,205 for each student that open enrolls out of the public system into private schools.

The program was unveiled in Governor Kim Reynolds' Condition of the State Address as the newly re-elected Republican doubled down on previous efforts to create voucher

See **BILL**, page 8

COUNTY NEWS

Supervisors to reach out on EMS levy

Chairman struck by lack of knowledge about the county ambulance service

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - A perceived lack of understanding on the part of the public has the county board of supervisors concerned about the upcoming special election to enact a levy to help pay for county EMS services.

At Monday's regular Lee County Board of Supervisors meeting, board chair Garry Seyb, said he's been getting phone calls from people concerned about the levy. He said many of those calls are laced with misinformation.



SEYB

Seyb told Supervisors he was surprised at how many people don't get the ambulances in the county all are part of one county EMS system.

"The thing that struck me most was the lack of knowledge and awareness people have around the ambulance," Seyb said.

"Some questions centered around if the Donnellson ambulance was affiliated to the Keokuk ambulance - not realizing we're one team, one fight in Lee County. It's all one group, so I think we need to get an informational campaign out there."

Seyb said Jefferson County is now struggling under a contracted service that is struggling to even staff the two ambulances under contract for the county. He added that the contractor has increased the same contract from \$330,000 to \$1.2 million for just one ambulance.

"It's important that we reach out and answer questions so they understand that Fort Madison ambulance is not Fort Madison, Keokuk ambulance is not Keokuk's, and Donnellson's is not Donnellson's. It's Lee County as a whole. We're one group

See **LEVY**, page 8

Student farmers

Students from the Fort Madison High School FFA group update the school district on a plan to farm acreage near the Fort Madison Middle School as part of the district's expanding FFA program. See Pen City Current tomorrow for the full story.

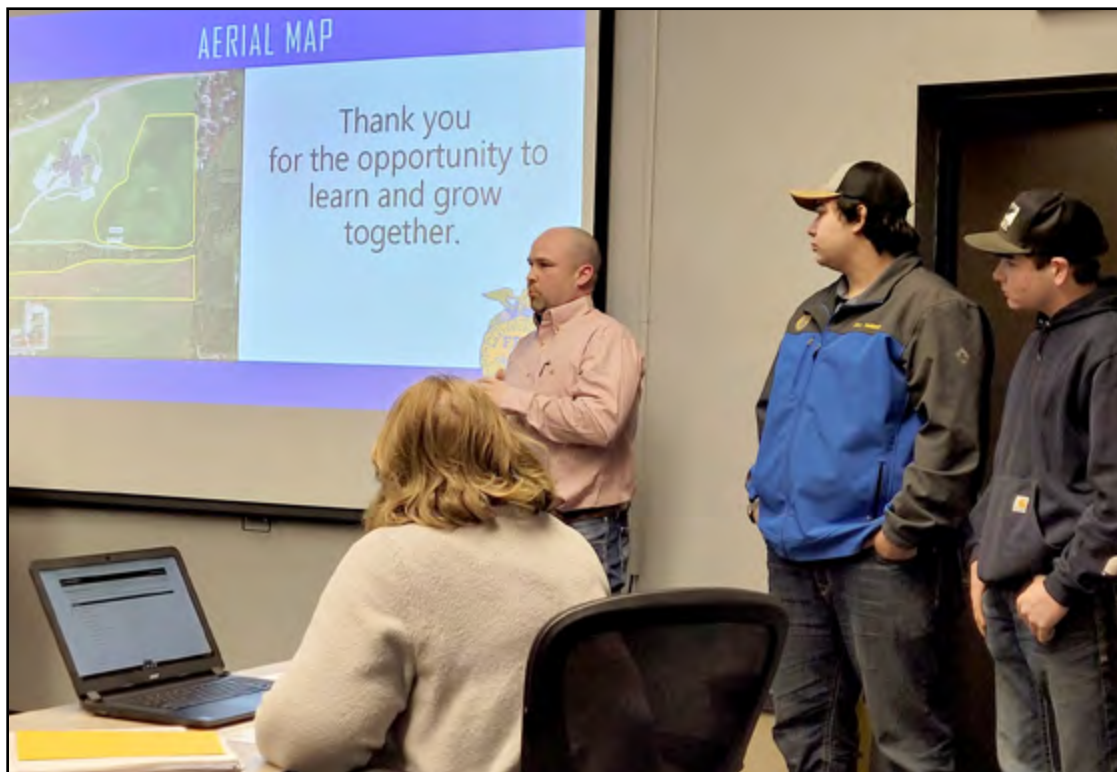


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

HOUSE FILE 13

Graber bill aims to set path for Emergency Hospital in Keokuk

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - A bill being sponsored and ushered through the Iowa House of Representatives by Fort Madison's Martin Graber could create a pathway to an emergency medical facility in Keokuk.

The real pressing question is who steps up to run the facility.

Blessing Health System, who shut-



GRABER

tered the Keokuk Hospital and Emergency Room in October, is the best option according to Rep. Graber (R-Fort Madison), but he said there's been no indication that will happen.

Graber introduced House Study File 13 at the beginning of the session and said it may take a back seat to school choice and property tax priorities, but it

is on the House priority agenda.

"It makes sense for that to be Blessing," Graber said Monday.

"But I haven't had conversations with Blessing. I have a feeling this is going to have to be a joint effort of (Keokuk), the state, and even the county."

Graber said he hopes the legislation, which he said should be very bipartisan, will move through to Governor's

See **GRABER**, page 3

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap

TUE 17 Jan.....Partly sunny and windy, 43° F/ 30° F
WED 18 Jan.....Mostly cloudy with afternoon rain, 39° F/ 33° F
THU 19 Jan.....Mostly cloudy with chance of rain, 37° F/ 25° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 01/15.....5 8 13 41 44, Lucky Ball: 10
PICK 3 01/15 MIDDAY.....771
PICK 3 01/15 EVENING.....103
PICK 4 01/15 MIDDAY.....4771
PICK 4 01/15 EVENING.....4891

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Opinion/Health News

All creatures are God's creatures

This story comes from Marcia Wiedemeier in Burlington.

It was a hot Sunday morning. As we were getting ready for church, my husband, Dan, looked out the bathroom window and spied a pink, hairless baby bird spread-eagled on top of the air-conditioning unit.

Oh, dear. There was no sign of a nearby parent.

I put on shoes and walked around the house to rescue the fledgling. On the way I spied an old robin's nest on top of the yard light that had been vacated by the latest brood. Ah, ha! Using a ladder, I climbed up and placed the baby bird in the empty robin's nest.

There, our consciences were eased. What more could we do? Oh, I suppose we could have brought the orphan into the house and attempted to feed it bread and milk with tweezers. But, really, we were late for church, and sometimes you just have to let Nature take its course.

The nest was in full view of our kitchen window. So every time I was at the sink, I would see it. A couple of days after placing the baby bird in the nest, what did I see?--A little head with a beak wide open, bobbing up and down. Yes, Yes!

And then a common sparrow flitted to the nest and poked food in its mouth. Oh, wow! I called Dan at work to tell him about, "Our baby!"

He rushed home for lunch to see it and we were the proud parents. Both of us kept vigil on the progress of our newborn and cheered the adult each time she flew in with food. We gave each other daily updates.

Soon the baby bird sprouted fuzzy feathers, and

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



perched on the edge of the nest flapping its wings. Later in the day we saw the mama

and baby hopping around in the grass with the baby making short flights. Soon, junior was making longer flights, catching insects.

While sitting on our porch a few days later, our now finely feathered youngster flew near our patio for a visit, seeming to thank us. "Here I am. You saved my life."

Oh, what joy!

It appeared to us that the baby was growing larger than the mother, and had different markings. Had the mother taken in a baby from a different kind of bird?

Using our, "Peterson Field Guide to Birds" we identified the now near adult as a Brown Headed Cowbird. "Cowbirds are known to have laid eggs in nests of over 200 species of birds. Some birds reject the cowbird eggs, but most raise them, even to the exclusion of their own young."

Oh, my.

Weeks later, we still saw the easily recognizable pair in our back yard. So whenever I hear someone say, "Oh, it's just nuisance sparrows at our feeder," I remind them that all God's creatures are here for a reason, and all God's creatures have the ability to care for each other, even if it is another, what some people consider to be, junk bird.

SEIRMC reminds of visitor guidelines

WEST BURLINGTON - Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, West Burlington and Fort Madison, asks the communities' support in adhering to the current visitor guidelines. These guidelines are in place to protect patients, visitors and staff at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center. With our current state of increased influenza, respiratory viruses (including RSV), and COVID-19 cases, these guidelines become even more important.

Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center visitor guidelines are as follows: ADULT INPATIENTS • Adult inpatients may have two visitors per day (must be the same two visitors for the entire day).

- Visitors must be at least 14 years old.
- Patients who are being admitted from the Emergency Department, after normal visiting hours, may have one visitor for up to two hours to help with completing the patient history and getting settled in the patient room.
- Inpatients who are having a procedure may have one visitor present during the procedure. Patients in these situations may have one designated visitor for their stay and will have received education and utilize proper PPE.
- COVID-19 infectious period.
- Under investigation for COVID-19.
- Isolation precautions, except for restrictive and contact precautions.

PEDIATRIC INPATIENTS

- Patients 17 years old and younger, may have two support people per day (must be the same two visitors for the entire day). Only parents or legal guardians can stay overnight in the patient's room.

BIRTHPLACE/WOMEN & FAMILY CENTER

- Obstetric inpatients may have two designated adult support people. The two support people must be the same the entire stay.
- Nursery and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) patients may have one birth parent plus one significant other who must remain in the room for the duration of the visit.

OTHER HOSPITAL AREAS

- Active Emergency Department patients may have two visitors at a time. Visitors must remain in the patient's room the entire visit.
- Outpatient Procedures (Outpatient Surgery / Heart & Vascular) patients may have one visitor, who must remain in the patient's room for entire visit.
- Outpatient Area (Day Hospital / Cancer Care) patients may have one visitor, who must remain in the patient's room for entire visit.

VISITOR REQUIREMENTS

- General visiting hours: 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Visitors must use the main entrance Monday through Friday, and the Emergency Department entrance Saturday and Sunday.
- Wear a hospital-grade procedural mask at all times while in patient care areas including patient and waiting rooms.
- Stay in the patient's room or designated visitor area.
- Clergy may visit patients. They must wear a face shield over their mask during the visit.
- Do NOT visit if you are experiencing flu-like symptoms or are not feeling well

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

RANDALL D. SMITH

Randall Dean Smith "Crapaw", 69, of Fort Madison, died Monday, January 9, 2023, at his home.

Born August 15, 1953, in Burlington, he was the son of Weldon Eugene and Doris Jeanette Werner Smith. On May 26, 1978, he married Diana Lynn Rice in Burlington.



SMITH

He attended Burlington Community High School. Randall worked for Modern Welding for 42 years.

Randall was an outdoorsman and enjoyed camping, boating and fishing at their cabin near Oakville. He enjoyed restoring old vehicles and watching old shows. He enjoyed watching Mary Tyler Moore, Andy Griffith and Gunsmoke. He knew

which channel and when to turn to it to catch one of the episodes. Whenever The Ten Commandments movie came on, he always had to watch it. Randall loved spending time with his kids and grandkids, ordering pizza and sitting around the fire pit. He was fondly called "crapaw" by his grandkids, which he was very proud of.

Survivors include wife, Diana Lynn Smith of Burlington; two daughters, Stephanie (Mathew) Kinner of Burlington and Shayna (Jesse) Smith of Fort Madison; six grandchildren, Malena and Claytin Kinner, Randall, Laila, Harper, and Amelio Smith; many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Steven and Ronnie Smith.

Visitation will be from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM Saturday, January 14, 2023 at Prugh Funeral Service, 3940 Division St.,

The Celebration of Life for Mr. Smith will follow the visitation, Saturday, January 14, 2023, Doris' Tavern.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of Prugh Crematory following the service.

Memorials have been established for Lee County Hospice and St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Prugh Funeral Service is in care of the arrangements.

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

Pen City Current obituary policy

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

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Hospital bill would make it easier for providers to hold down costs

GRABER - Continued from Page 1

desk very quickly.

"In a couple weeks I could hold a legislation that gets approved. Sen. (Jeff) Reichman is working it on the senate side and I've had conversations with the governor. She's aware of the bill, but I just don't want her to lose sight of it," Graber said.

The bill will increase Medicare and Medicaid payments to those facilities by 5%. It would also generate a quicker reimbursement payment.

The bill is centered around changing Iowa code to allow for licensure of Rural Emergency Hospitals that are essentially triage centers where emergent care can be rendered, with minimal observation times of about 24 hours before a patient is transferred to licensed in-patient hospitals.

Graber said there's language that requires a certificate of need, but if the community looking to add the emergency facility has had a hospital in it recently, such as the Blessing Keokuk Hospital, that certificate can be waived by the same company.

"If Blessing wanted to come back in and restart that emergency facility they wouldn't need to show that certificate of need."

Graber said his research indicates there are many hospitals in Iowa that aren't financially secure and this bill could help more than just Lee County.

"I was told there were at least 10 hospitals that have a similar problem financially. Like everything else, until someone digs in and gets some facts, you don't know. There are 33 hospitals in the state that are financially insecure," he said.

He said the county is doing everything it can to assist the people of Keokuk in emergency situations. But it's not ideal.

"I appreciate what the county is doing with the ambulance service. That's spot on for what we're dealing with, but ideally the Emergency Hospital would be the difference maker," he said.

The House bill will be run through committees this week, and Graber hopes it hits the floor before the end of the week.

"School choice and property tax will get in first, but the House has about 13 priorities this year, and this is one of them," he said.

Graber said he still isn't sure if the bill is signed into law it will be a profitable venture for hospitals, but it will make things easier for them.

"Its the extra 5% and you get paid quicker," he said. "But if I'm in the health care business, I'm doing things for more reasons than to just make a buck."

Graber said this could be the model that other emergency hospitals follow, saying whoever comes in to Keokuk to open the facility would be looked as a "white knight".

"This could be the model for any other ones that get done in Iowa. Whoever would come in here, would be a hero. They saved the day."

The only hurdles could be if another legislator tried to add an amendment onto the bill, Graber said.

"I think it will go through clean and clear. I expect it to be very bipartisan and I don't know why anyone would vote against this for what it delivers."

The federal version of the bill was introduced by Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley, so current Iowa House Speaker Pat Grassley, the elder Grassley's grandson, is familiar with the bill.

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BLOODHOUND WRESTLING

Thacher, Pennock third at J-Hawks Invitational Saturday

BY PCC SPORTS

CEDAR RAPIDS - Logan Pennock and Ike Thacher both captured third place finishes at the J-Hawk Invitational Saturday in Cedar Rapids.

The Jefferson High School annual tournament is a tune up for the post season which is just three weeks away.

Fort Madison will join Bettendorf, Burlington, Davenport North, Davenport West, Dubuque Senior, Iowa City High and Iowa City Liberty at Bettendorf High School on Feb. 11.

The state dual meet based on rankings will be held Feb. 4 at Xtreme Arena in Coralville.

Thacher lost in the semifinals to Chase Hutchinson after knocking off Abe Parker by fall in the second period. Hutchinson scored four take downs in the match and Thacher was able to get out of the first one in the first period.

He then took down Raphael Etuma of Iowa City High by fall at 2:20, forcing a rematch with Parker and a 6-2 decision. Parker's only points came in a reversal in the first period.

Pennock also got a bye in the first round and then won in sudden victory over Kane Shimp of Cedar Falls. Pennock scored a near fall in the third period, but Shimp got out of the control in two seconds for a reversal. Pennock would counter with a reversal in the waning moments of the third period to seal the win.

He then got a shot at top-seeded Cael Seaton of Iowa City High. Seaton recorded a fall at 1:20 in the first period sending Pennock into consolation 3rd place wrestling where he pinned Boone's Gavin Hollenkamp in just :48 and then took out John King of Waukee Northwest 8-6.

Pennock scored a takedown and near fall for four points in the first period. King was able to maneuver a reversal with 11 seconds left in the match. Pennock gained control again in the second period with a takedown and then got an escape out of another King reversal for a 7-4 lead going into the final period.

King would get two points for control :18 seconds into the third period, to make it 7-6 Pennock. The Bloodhound would escape halfway through the period to shore up the 8-6 win and third place.

Aidan Pennock took 4th place in the 152 lb bracket. After a first round bye and a pin in the quarterfinals, Pennock would fall to eventual champion and top-seed Carson Klostermann in the semifinals. He would then fall to Logan Stotts of Waukee Northwest for 4th place.

Landon Rudd took fifth place at 182 and Teague Smith took sixth after suffering losses on two medical forfeits at 172.

Complete results from Saturday's event are below:

126 - Logan Pennock (25-8) placed 3rd and scored 18.0 team points. Champ. Round 1 - Logan Pennock (Fort Madison) 25-8 received a bye () (Bye). Quarterfinal - Logan Pennock (Fort Madison) 25-8 won in sudden victory - 1 over Kane Shimp (Cedar Falls) 21-10 (SV-1 5-3). Semifinal - Cael Seaton (Iowa City, City High) 27-1 won by fall over Logan Pennock (Fort Madison) 25-8 (Fall 1:20). Cons. Round 3 - Logan Pennock (Fort Madison) 25-8 won by fall over Gavin Hollenkamp (Boone) 10-11 (Fall 0:48). 3rd Place Match - Logan Pennock (Fort Madison) 25-8 won by decision over John King (Waukee Northwest) 20-4 (Dec 8-6)

145 - Nolan Riddle (26-6) placed 7th and scored 11.0 team points.. Champ. Round 1 - Nolan Riddle (Fort Madison) 26-6 won by fall over Elijah Troche (Cedar Rapids Jefferson) 1-8 (Fall 1:01). Quarterfinal - Nic VanArkel (Valley, West Des Moines) 20-9 won by decision over Nolan Riddle (Fort Madison) 26-6 (Dec 7-5). Cons. Round 2 - Alex Beaty (Forest City) 5-2 won by decision over Nolan Riddle (Fort Madison) 26-6 (Dec 9-3). Cons. Round 3 - Nolan Riddle (Fort Madison) 26-6 won by fall over Conner Doyle (Cedar Falls) 13-13 (Fall 2:21). 7th Place Match - Nolan Riddle (Fort Madison) 26-6 won by fall over Ryan Strong (Waterloo East) 23-9 (Fall 1:27)
152 - Aidan Pennock (20-8) placed 4th and scored 18.0 team points. Champ. Round 1 - Aidan Pennock (Fort Madison) 20-8 received a bye () (Bye). Quarterfinal - Aidan Pennock (Fort Madison) 20-8 won by fall over Henry Koehn (Cedar Falls) 21-9 (Fall 3:22). Semifinal - Carson Klostermann (Alburnett) 36-1 won by fall over Aidan Pennock (Fort Madison) 20-8 (Fall 1:36). Cons. Round 3 - Aidan Pennock (Fort Madison) 20-8 won by fall over Jahkari Clark (Valley, West Des Moines) 24-9 (Fall 0:56). 3rd Place Match - Logan Stotts (Waukee Northwest) 25-4 won

by fall over Aidan Pennock (Fort Madison) 20-8 (Fall 1:49).

160 - Joe Hartman (5-10) place is unknown and scored 4.0 team points. Champ. Round 1 - Joe Hartman (Fort Madison) 5-10 won by fall over Jared Lopez (Muscatine) 4-20 (Fall 1:39). Quarterfinal - Damarion Ross (Fort Dodge) 26-2 won by fall over Joe Hartman (Fort Madison) 5-10 (Fall 3:25). Cons. Round 2 - Shayden Washburn (Alburnett) 25-14 won by fall over Joe Hartman (Fort Madison) 5-10 (Fall 1:36). Cons. Round 3 - Isaac Vollmecke (Waukee Northwest) 11-21 won by fall over Joe Hartman (Fort Madison) 5-10 (Fall 3:48)

170 - Teague Smith (26-5) placed 6th and scored 11.0 team points. Champ. Round 1 - Teague Smith (Fort Madison) 26-5 received a bye () (Bye). Quarterfinal - Teague Smith (Fort Madison) 26-5 won by fall over Jesse Hendershot (Iowa City, City High) 2-13 (Fall 0:46). Semifinal - Reece Klostermann (Alburnett) 26-6 won by decision over Teague Smith (Fort Madison) 26-5 (Dec 7-5). Cons. Round 3 - Mason Wray (Valley, West Des Moines) 24-9 won by medical forfeit over Teague Smith (Fort Madison) 26-5 (M. For.). 5th Place Match - Charles Ebeling (Davenport Central) 16-11 won by medical forfeit over Teague Smith (Fort Madison) 26-5 (M. For.)

182 - Landon Rudd (23-9) placed 5th and scored 14.0 team points. Champ. Round 1 - Landon Rudd (Fort Madison) 23-9 won by fall over Tristen Kern (Davenport Central) 5-13 (Fall 1:23). Quarterfinal - Andy Franke (Muscatine) 17-9 won in sudden victory - 1 over Landon Rudd (Fort Madison) 23-9 (SV-1 8-6). Cons. Round 2 - Landon Rudd (Fort Madison) 23-9 won by medical forfeit over Theron Castle (Valley, West Des Moines) 11-3 (M. For.). Cons. Round 3 - Drew Gerdes (Cedar Falls) 20-10 won by decision over Landon Rudd (Fort Madison) 23-9 (Dec 8-2). 5th Place Match - Landon Rudd (Fort Madison) 23-9 won by fall over Luke Schneider (Alburnett) 21-17 (Fall 3:07).
195 - Isaac Thacher (27-4) placed 3rd and scored 20.0 team points. Champ. Round 1 - Isaac Thacher (Fort Madison) 27-4 received a bye () (Bye). Quarterfinal - Isaac Thacher (Fort Madison) 27-4 won by fall over Abe Parker (Waukee Northwest) 13-11 (Fall 3:05). Semifinal - Chase Hutchinson (Valley, West Des Moines) 19-6 won by decision over Isaac Thacher (Fort Madison) 27-4 (Dec 9-2). Cons. Round 3 - Isaac Thacher (Fort Madison) 27-4 won by fall over Raphael Etuma (Iowa City, City High) 7-12 (Fall 2:20). 3rd Place Match - Isaac Thacher (Fort Madison) 27-4 won by decision over Abe Parker (Waukee Northwest) 13-11 (Dec 6-2)

Lozano joins Doherty, Settles at Iowa Shrine Game

FORT MADISON - Another Fort Madison Bloodhound has been selected to play in the Iowa Shrine Bowl game in July.

Senior Mateo Lozano received a letter of invitation last week and will play on the South's offensive squad.

Lozano joins Tanner Settles who will play on the defensive side of the ball for the South team. Fort Madison Head Coach Derek Doherty was selected as the South's running backs' and receivers' coach.

Lozano anchored the Bloodhounds offensive line that racked up more than 2,500 yards of total offense helping the Bloodhounds qualify for state from his center position.

The Bloodhounds finished the regular season with a 7-2 record and fell to Waverly-Shell Rock in the 4A playoffs.

Lozano joins Settles who was also selected to play in the senior state All-Star game that is slated for July 23rd at University of Northern Iowa.

The senior linebacker recorded 58.5 tackles this season.



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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF
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Regular City Council
Meeting
Wednesday,
January 18, 2023
6:00 PM
West Burlington
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TENTATIVE AGENDA**

CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLE-
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PROVAL OF AGENDA
CONSENT AGENDA
All items on the Con-
sent Agenda are Action
items that will be con-
sidered by a single vote.
Council members may
request that an item be
pulled for discussion and
held for a separate vote.
Items on the Consent
Agenda may include
claims over the City
Administrator's authorized
spending limit, payments
related to previously
approved contracts, and

non-controversial or rou-
tine expenses as defined
by the City's Purchasing
Policy.
1. Approve minutes
from the Regular City
Council meeting on Janu-
ary 4, 2023
2. Approve Liquor
License renewal for The
Broadway Bar & Grill
3. Approve 3-Year
Right-of-Way Permit Re-
newals for Danville Mu-
tual Telephone, LISCO,
Centurylink
4. Approve payment
to Des Moines County
GIS for GIS Services -
\$8,166.92
5. Approve payment to
Shive-Hattery for engi-
neering services related
to the Force Main Study
- \$7,950
6. Approve payment
to French-Reneker-As-
sociates for engineering
related to Phase 2 of the
Mt. Pleasant Resurfacing
Project - \$1,851.08
7. Approve payment
to Keokuk Contractors -
\$21,735
8. Approve payment to

Southeast Iowa Regional
Planning Commission
for the City's local match
in the Great River Hous-
ing Trust Fund Owner
Occupied Rehab Project
- \$15,000
9. Approve Clerk's
Monthly Financial Report
for December 2022
10. Approve payment
of Claims as listed on
the January 18, 2023
Expense Approval Report
- \$172,292.25
**COUNCIL & STAFF
REPORTS**
• ADMINISTRATOR:
• PUBLIC WORKS:
• POLICE DEPART-
MENT:
• FIRE/BUILDING DE-
PARTMENT:
• CLERK/FINANCE/IT:
• OTHER STAFF RE-
PORTS:
• COUNCIL REPORTS:
• COMMUNITY RE-
PORTS:
CITIZEN INQUIRIES
NEW BUSINESS
1. Consider a Res-
olution authorizing an
application for Surface
Transportation Block

Grant (STBG) funding for
Phase 3 of the Mt. Pleas-
ant Street Resurfacing
Project from Hwy 34 Exit
Ramp to Sunset Drive
2. Consider appointing
a City representative to
serve on the Des Moines
County Emergency Man-
agement Commission for
2023
3. Consider the Set-
tlement with Iowa Pump
Works related to the
South Lift Station Project
4. Consider authorizing
City Administrator Mand-
sager to execute the final
Registration Apprenticeship
documents for the
Wastewater Apprenticeship
position.
OLD BUSINESS
CITIZEN INQUIRIES
ADJOURN

**PUBLIC NOTICE
LEE COUNTY BOARD**

**OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 15, 2022**
The Lee County Board
of Supervisors met at
the Lee County Admin-
istration Building in Fort
Madison on Tuesday,
November 15, 2022 at
10:00 a.m.
Present: Matt Pflug,
Garry Seyb, Ron Fed-
ler, Rick Larkin, Chuck
Holmes.
All votes are unanimous
unless indicated other-
wise.
The Board opened the
meeting by reciting the
Pledge of Allegiance.
Moved by Fedler,
seconded by Larkin, to
approve the agenda.
Motion carried.
There was no Public
Input.
Moved by Seyb,
seconded by Holmes,

to approve an amended
quote of \$75,340.58 from
Bargen Incorporated for
concrete joint repair on
2.8 miles of X23 and 2.8
miles of 280th Avenue.
Motion carried.
Moved by Fedler, sec-
onded by Larkin, to ap-
prove two tax abatement
resolutions. Roll call:
Fedler-aye, Larkin-aye,
Seyb-aye, Holmes-aye
and Pflug-aye.

**RESOLUTION
NO. 2022-105**

WHEREAS, the Board
of Supervisors of Lee
County has by Ordinance
Number VI-11 adopted
a plan for a County-wide
Urban Revitalization Tax
Exemption District in Lee
County, Iowa; and,
WHEREAS, Iowa Code
Section 404.4 provides for
prior approval of eligibility
for a tax exemption by



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- 3% annual pay increases per contract
- \$175 monthly Company contribution to pension from date of hire
- 3% Company match to 401(k); 100% immediately vested
- Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO starting at \$27.69 per weekly payroll deduction
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- Starting wage \$28.27/hr with targeted standard wage of \$30.05/hr
- \$.45 2nd shift / \$.65 3rd shift pay differentials
- Position is continuous shift operation
- 3% annual pay increases per contract
- \$175 monthly Company contribution to pension from date of hire
- 3% Company match to 401(k); 100% immediately vested
- Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO starting at \$27.69 per weekly payroll deduction
- Plus Dental, Vision, Life, STD and more!



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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

the governing body of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: Kevin Krogmeier and Alyssa Hemann 2029 150th Street West Point IA 52656

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

PASSED AND APPROVED this 15th day of November 2022.

Lee County Board of Supervisors. /s/ Matt Pflug, Chairman; /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.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-106

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lee County has by Ordinance Number VI-11 adopted a plan for a County-wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District in Lee County, Iowa; and, WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 404.4 provides for prior approval of eligibility for a tax exemption by the governing body of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: Cal Chandler 1471 330th Avenue Wever IA 52658

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

PASSED AND APPROVED this 15th day of November 2022.

Lee County Board of Supervisors. /s/ Matt Pflug, Chairman; /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 Seyb, seconded by Holmes, to approve replacing a Correctional Officer. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Larkin, to approve the Monday, November 7, 2022 Board Minutes. Motion carried.

Moved by Larkin, seconded by Holmes, to approve the payment of claims. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Holmes, to approve a step increase for Karl Rokosz, Maintenance in Secondary Roads, from \$25.89/hr. to \$26.62/hr., effective 12/2/22. Motion carried.

Received and filed the Veteran Affairs Commission Quarterly Reports for January through March, April through June and July through September 2022 and the Veteran Affairs Commission Minutes of Meeting for January 25, 2022, February 14, 2022, March 22, 2022, April 27, 2022, May 24, 2022, June 27, 2022, July 26, 2022, August 24, 2022 and September 27, 2022.

Committee Reports: Fedler reported on a RUSS Board meeting. Holmes reported on a Conservation Board meeting. Seyb reported on an Empowering Families Commission meeting, a Childcare Steering Committee meeting, a Conference Board meeting and interviews for the new EMS Director. Larkin reported on a Regional Mental Health Board meeting and the director interviews. Pflug reported on the Conference Board meeting.

The Board canvassed the November 8, 2022 General Election.

For United States Senator Chuck Grassley 6,964
 Michael Franken 4,476
 Write-ins 13
 For United State Representative Mariannette Miller-Meeks 6,970
 Christina Bohannan 4,441
 Write-ins 11
 For Governor/Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds/Adam Gregg 7,182
 Deidre DeJear/Eric Van Lancker 4,032
 Rick Stewart/Marco Batta-

glia 247
 Write-ins 4
 For Secretary of State Paul D. Pate 7,097
 Joel Miller 4,290
 Write-ins 6
 For Auditor of State Todd Halbur 6,683
 Rob Sand 4,640
 Write-ins 6
 Treasurer of State Roby Smith 6,561
 Michael L. Fitzgerald 4,789
 Write-ins 6
 Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig 6,993
 John Norwood 4,295
 Write-ins 9
 Attorney General Brenna Bird 6,633
 Tom Miller 4,730
 Write-ins 4
 State Representative District 99 Matthew Rinker 533
 Dennis M. Cohoon 205
 Write-ins 2
 State Representative District 100 Martin L. Graber 6,513
 Rebecca Bowker 4,154
 Write-ins 11
 County Board of Supervisors District 2 Tom Schulz 901
 Donna Amandus 870
 Write-ins 3
 County Board of Supervisors District 3 Chuck Holmes 2,098
 Write-ins 64
 County Treasurer Becky Gaylord 7,074
 Chris Spann 4,306
 Write-ins 7
 County Recorder Nancy Booten 8,206
 Write-ins 290
 County Attorney Ross J. Braden 8,068
 Write-ins 270
 Cedar Township Trustee Philip R. Peitz 94
 Write-ins 1
 Cedar Township Clerk Robert W. Moeller 94
 Write-ins 0
 Charleston Township Trustee Douglas W. Hopp 255
 Write-ins 1
 Charleston Township Clerk Joan Crowe 234
 Write-ins 3
 Denmark Township Trustee Todd Ross 272
 Write-ins 13
 Denmark Township Clerk Randolph W. Woodroffe 274
 Write-ins 5
 Des Moines Township Trustee Joe Bryant 205
 Write-ins 11
 Des Moines Township Trustee-to fill a vacancy Jeremy Johnson 217
 Write-ins 3
 Des Moines Township Clerk Jason Newberry 228
 Write-ins 4
 Franklin Township Trustee Jack Kirchner 168
 Write-ins 0
 Franklin Township Trustee-to fill a vacancy

Justin Schau 7
 Write-ins 11
 Franklin Township Clerk Daniel Meh 172
 Write-ins 0
 Green Bay Township Trustee Thomas K. Gregg 261
 Write-ins 0
 Green Bay Township Trustee-to fill a vacancy Darin Ranck 244
 Write-ins 1
 Green Bay Township Clerk Charles Rump 250
 Write-ins 1
 Harrison Township Trustee Leon Schau 129
 Write-ins 2
 Harrison Township Clerk Barb Schau 131
 Write-ins 0
 Jackson Township Trustee Robert Fox 568
 Write-ins 1
 Jackson Township Clerk Paul E. Rule Jr. 546
 Write-ins 0
 Jefferson Township Trustee Sam Wilson 302
 Write-ins 1
 Jefferson Township Clerk Linda L. Wheeler 307
 Write-ins 2
 Madison Township Trustee Janet J. DenAdel 13
 Write-ins 0
 Madison Township Clerk Jeff Vorhies 12
 Write-ins 0
 Marion Township Trustee Jason J. Brune 128
 Write-ins 0
 Marion Township Trustee-to fill a vacancy Randy Stuecker 132
 Write-ins 0
 Marion Township Clerk Miles Stanley Wellman 123
 Write-ins 0
 Montrose Township Trustee Travis Page 335
 Write-ins 1
 Montrose Township Clerk Nathan Gosnell 314
 Write-ins 26
 Pleasant Ridge Township Trustee Adrian Steffensmeier 2
 Tim Steffensmeier 2
 Write-ins 8
 Pleasant Ridge Township Clerk Roger Fullenkamp 131
 Write-ins 0
 Van Buren Township Trustee Jeffrey J. Horsey 139
 Write-ins 4
 Van Buren Township Clerk Darren Sturdivant 135
 Write-ins 1
 Washington Township Trustee Warren Rickelman 551
 Write-ins 9
 Washington Township Clerk Larry Buechel 546
 Write-ins 4
 West Point Township Trustee Lon Newton 2

Robert Moeller 2
 Tina Blint 2
 Write-ins 14
 West Point Township Clerk Mike Chapman 2
 Tina Blint 2
 Write-ins 3
 Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioner Joe Bentler 8,886
 Ralph Krogmeier 23
 Write-ins 198
 County Agriculture Extension Council Roger Fullenkamp .. 6,605
 Miles Stanley Wellman 5,489
 Russell Schwartz 5,097
 David Tull 4,505
 Lizabeth A. Moeller 5,377
 Ralph Krogmeier 6,114
 Write-ins 96
 Supreme Court Justice Dana Oxley
 Yes 6,569
 No 2,805
 Matthew McDermott
 Yes 6,488
 No 2,746
 Court of Appeals Gina Badding
 Yes 6,539
 No 2,577
 Paul B. Ahlers
 Yes 6,384
 No 2,659
 Constitutional Amendment #1
 Yes 8,069
 No 2,700
 Moved by Holmes, seconded by Fedler, to accept the canvass as presented. Motion carried.
 At 12:15 p.m., a motion was made by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to adjourn. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 21, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Administration Building in Fort Madison.
 Matt Pflug, Chairman
 Attest: Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor

Claims paid November 15, 2022

Access Systms, equip 1403.79
 Airgas USA, splys 209.97
 Alliant Enrgy, svs 44.31
 E Andries, exps 23.00
 Jim Baier, svs 973.70
 Bates Sntatn, svs.. 240.00
 Benco Dntl, edu 525.24
 E Biddenstadt, exps 343.00
 J Booth, exps 323.00
 Bnd Tree Med, splys 2802.10
 Brightree Hm Hlth, svs 3263.50
 Burlington Fire, svs 12807.62
 Comm Heating, svs 140.00
 A Cook, exps 104.00
 Culligan, water 109.69
 Democrat Co, publ 1637.38
 Dly Gate City, publ.. 87.32
 L DeFord, exps 150.50
 DM Co Hlth Dpt, svs 5070.08
 LDettmers, exps 58.00

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Lee County is taking applications for a Road Maintenance Worker II, to work at the West Point Maintenance Shop. Duties will include the operation of light and heavy equipment and trucks to perform road maintenance and construction projects, occasionally plowing snow, and the performance of manual labor as required. Requires a high school graduate or G.E.D. equivalent and must possess a valid Class A commercial driver's license with air brake and tanker endorsements. Wage range is \$22.47 to \$27.35.

Lee County provides equal opportunity in employment to all persons regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion or disability.

For a job description and to apply, download an application from our county website, www.leecounty.org or you can pick an application up at the Engineer's office and return your completed application along with a resume to Lee County Engineer, P.O. Box 158, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627, or email it to bhull@leecounty.org and copy it to shartson@leecounty.org Applications will be accepted until 4 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2023.

If you have any questions please contact Lee County Engineer, Ben Hull at (319) 372-2541 or email him at bhull@leecounty.org.



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Classifieds/Public Notices

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RK Dixon Co, parts 531.58	GRRWA, svcs..... 13382.00	Liberty Util, gas... 1016.49	AT Conf, svcs 265.61	RSM US LLP, svcs 520.00	TW training, edu 1000.00
Donnellson Tire, svcs 1199.29	J Hall, exps 427.00	CLiles, svcs 52.00	O'Reilly Auto, splys 49.68	S.J. Smith Co, svcs 169.29	US Cell, svcs 2622.12
Empower Trust, svcs 1050.00	K Harter, exps..... 131.55	Lincare Inc, splys.. 358.19	Onmedia, adv 840.00	J Saunders, exps.... 88.00	C VanBerkum, exps.. 6.00
B Fader, exps 421.00	A Hayes, exps..... 208.00	McFarlands, splys.. 811.48	Optum Phrm, splys 2447.52	J Schneider, svcs 110.00	L Vermazen, exps.... 9.00
Farm/Home, splys .. 37.69	Jireh Inc, svcs..... 5052.24	MidAmer Enrgy, gas 91.85	Panther Unif, unif.... 16.00	Shottenkirk Inc, svcs 79.95	J Vradenburg, exps .. 2.00
Federal Enginr, svcs 15225.99	Rvrfrnt Brdctg, publ 200.00	Midway Frtlr, svcs 3535.15	M Park, exps..... 365.50	SE IA Reg Med, svcs 300.00	L Wallingford, svcs 284.84
Floyds EZ Way, svcs 60.00	Kiesler's Police, splys 2035.84	Midwest Radar, svcs 840.00	RPttrsnRahn, exps 44.50	Stanard/Assc, edu .. 36.00	West Group, splys 1650.34
T Forseen, svcs..... 161.50	J Knapp, svcs 149.00	O Miller, exps..... 319.50	Pen City Current, publ 832.50	St Hygienic Lab, svcs 50.00	West Pnt Utility, svcs 113.24
Garner FdMart, fuel 840.37	BKRiesberg, exps... 82.00	Mntrs Hlth Ctr, svcs 10689.04	K Pflug, svcs..... 87.50	Stericycle, svcs..... 579.67	Windstream, svcs ... 307.22
J Giebelhausen, exps 75.50	LeeCo Auditor, svcs 1391.55	Motorola Sol, equip 6726.12	M Pflug, exps..... 40.00	R Swainey, exps... 142.50	WYDOT, unif..... 530.82
	LeeCo Hlth, svcs .. 1793.25	L Mullins, exps..... 169.00	Prairie Farms, splys 505.60	M Terhune, exps... 527.00	
	LeeCo Sheriff, svcs 7894.51			P Tripp, exps..... 312.00	

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From the Front

Schulz: We either raise money or we reduce services

LEVY - Continued from Page 1

and we support each other.”

He said if there is a major accident or fire and three ambulances are called, they are receiving ambulances from other points in the county.

Seyb also said the county needs to hold some community forums.

Supervisor Matt Pflug said the people he’s talking to are scared and he’s looking for a heavy turnout.

“Keokuk, we’re not used to this, and we lost our hospital and we have to react,” Pflug said.

“We’re going to see a pretty good turnout and I’m going to get out and push it. Even the early voting.”

Supervisor Tom Schulz said it’s important for the public to realize that either the county finds money for the service, or they have to reduce the service.

“I don’t think anyone wants to pick up the phone and dial 9-1-1 and hear, ‘Oh sorry, no one is available,’” Schulz said. “Leave a message at the tone.”

Seyb said he’s reached out to department heads to look into their budgets to help address those concerns. He said the board appropriately voted to fund nine additional staff to stand up a 24/7 Keokuk service.

The board also voted to go from 19 polling locations for the special election on March 7, to just 10 to save on election expenses.

The board also unanimously approved using \$230,000 in opioid settlement funds to help offset some of the deficit spending in the EMS department, specifically payroll.

Program could cost state \$156 million in first year

BILL - Continued from Page 1

programs. The program is phased in over three years.

The first year all public school students including incoming kindergartners would be eligible for the program. Current private school students would be eligible if the families are under 300% of the federal poverty guidelines, or about \$83,000 for a family of four.

The second year increases the income guidelines to 400% of poverty guidelines or about \$111,000 per family of four. The third year would open the program to all students in the state.

Estimates out of the governor’s office indicate that 14,000 students would take part in the program in year one, an additional 6,000 in year two, with close to 20,000 additional in year three. There are no caps on the number of scholarships.

Those opposing the move say it could cost the state \$300 million.

“The governor’s budget estimates that approximately 14,000 students will take advantage of a voucher at a cost of \$106.2 million in year one,” Santiago said.

“This is one of those things we’ve been hearing about for several years and we’re fortunate as a public school that the legislature has not voted vouchers in. It seems it’s a little bit different makeup with the supermajority. It seems like it will be a lot closer now than we ever have been.”

Santiago encouraged the board and members of the public to reach out to local legislators, including State Rep. Martin Graber (R-Fort Madison) and State Sen. Jeff Riechman (R-Montrose), to voice their opinion on the matter.

He also suggested that all three public school superintendents from Fort Madison, Keokuk, and Central Lee get together and issue a joint statement to the the legislators spelling out their opposition to the measure.

“We need to let Mr. Graber know with one voice that the public schools in south-east Iowa think this is a bad idea,” he said.

“Where we have to take our stand is in the House. They felt they have all the votes but they haven’t voted yet. That’s where we’ve been able to stave it off year after year after year.”

Board member Dianne Hope said nothing in the bill requires any private schools to accept every student, nor requires them to hold open meetings, or requires them to adhere to the same test assessments and standards.

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- Wash hands often, especially after sneezing, coughing, using a bathroom, or blowing your nose. It is always important to wash your hands before touching your face.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth whenever possible.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes or cough into your sleeve.
- Disinfect any surfaces you frequently use, such as doorknobs, faucet handles, children’s toys and remote controls.

If you do catch one of these viruses, consult your medical provider for any symptoms that are severe or concerning.

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