

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and **Read** all over

Tuesday, February 7, 2023 | 9 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 34



www.pencitycurrent.com

Board battles budget

SHORT FUNDS: Supervisors concerned they may have to tap ARPA funds for payroll

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Several Lee County officials have heightened concerns about the current state of the county budget and its ability to meet obligations in the current fiscal year.

That conversation became a spirited one in a workshop following Monday's regular meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors.

Lee County Supervisor Matt Pflug said the board needed to have a heavy discussion about the current status of the general fund balance.

From that point, the work session became a sometimes cantankerous debate on how to move forward – and how we got there in the first place.

"Obviously this is the worst I've ever seen it in the 16 years



SEYB



PFLUG



FEDLER

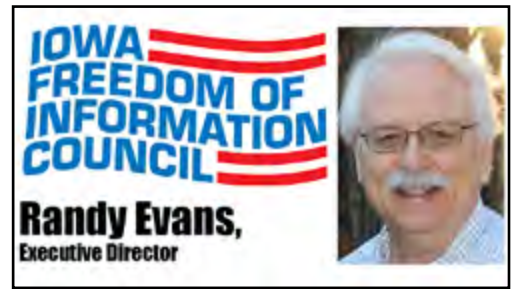
I've been on this board," Pflug said. "This is scary. We don't know if we have enough money to get through March - well, we don't

(have enough money)."

"How did we get here? We can talk about that all day," Pflug said.

Budget Director Cindy Renstrom responded that the county should have raised the levy in July of 2021, the start of the fiscal year when the county took over the Lee County EMS service.

See BUDGET, page 4



Gov. turning schools into political battlefields

A recent public opinion poll found that three-quarters of Americans want members of Congress to end their bickering and begin compromising more with their colleagues from the other party.

The poll was conducted across the United States by Marist College's Institute for Public Opinion for National Public Radio and the PBS News Hour.

If such a poll were conducted in Iowa, it's my hunch the pollsters would find people here have similar views of the inability, or unwillingness, of senators and representatives in Washington to engage in the thoughtful give-and-take art of lawmaking.

It is also my hunch that Iowans are at a similar point with respect to the Legislature's recent string of proposed laws that target our 327 public school districts.

That hunch jelled even before Gov. Kim Reynolds signaled last week where she may be headed next in her quest to transform public schools. Her new goal should bother freedom-loving moms and dads and others who understand what our Founding Fathers wanted when they established the United States — you know, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Reynolds addressed a gathering of a few hundred people at a forum organized by a national group called Moms

See EVANS, page 9

Fireman's Ball

The West Point - St. Paul Fireman's Ball will be held Saturday, February 11, 2023, at the West Point American Legion. Doors will open at 8:00 p.m. Decade of Decadence will play from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Raffle tickets may be purchased the night of the ball or in advance from any West Point fireman.

Courtesy photo



STATE NEWS

DHHS works up more child care initiatives for state

DES MOINES – The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is infusing funding into a comprehensive set of child care initiatives that focus on supporting Iowa families, quality care delivery and attracting and retaining child care workforce. The initiatives were developed and vetted with input from providers, parents, Early Childhood Iowa as well as the Child Care Task Force. With a new formalized office of Child Care within HHS, these one-time and ongoing

programs will build a sustainable and strong child care system for the state.

"Iowa families deserve a strong, reliable child care system statewide," stated Governor Reynolds. "We've made significant investments over the last few years to expand access, support providers, and partner with employers. Now, with the addition of a dedicated team within the Department of Health and Human Services, we will empower more parents to provide for their children and reach their

potential."

Highlights of the initiatives include: Increasing "front door" eligibility for Child Care Assistance (CCA) from 145% to 155%. This will provide more families with low income access to CCA subsidy, increasing the hourly wage for initial eligibility from \$17.40 to \$18.60

Increasing the payments child care facilities receive when serving CCA fam-

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
TUE 07 Feb.....Partly sunny with wind gusts, 44° F/ 27° F
WED 08 Feb.....Mostly cloudy, 44° F/ 34° F
THU 09 Feb.....Mostly cloudy with chance of rain, 42° F/ 27° F

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

JOYCE A. NEWTON

Joyce A. Newton, 73, of Oquawka, Illinois, formerly of Farmington, Iowa, passed away at 2:57 a.m. Saturday, February 4, 2023, at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, Iowa. She was born on May 7, 1949, in Keokuk, Iowa, the daughter of Don Eugene and Betty (Hedden) McBride. On April 9, 1971, she married John Newton in Dallas City, Illinois.



NEWTON

Survivors include her husband: John; one daughter: Julie (Jeff) Sims of Oquawka, Illinois; one son: Jeff (Resa) Newton of Hillsboro, Iowa; five grandchildren; Alonzo and Citlally Morales, Auset Sims, Jasmine Seitz and Sebastian Newton; one brother: Darrell (Christine) McBride of Farmington, Iowa and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and daughter: Joanna Newton.

Joyce was a 1967 graduate of Harmony High School. She worked as a waitress at Country Kitchen and the Bridge Cafe. She also worked for Riverside Plastics. Joyce was an avid reader and enjoyed ceramics, watching television shows and movies.

A visitation will be held with the family receiving friends from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington, Iowa.

A funeral service will be held at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 8, 2023, with Pastor Chad Welch officiating. Burial will be at Greenglade Cemetery, Farmington, Iowa.

A memorial has been established in her memory for the Epilepsy Research Foundation.

Schmitz Funeral Home of Farmington is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

OBITUARIES

TIMOTHY J. SEAGER

Timothy James Seager of St. Louis, MO, passed away early on Sunday, January 8, 2023, at the age of 59 while vacationing in California.

He was born and raised in Fort Madison, IA, where he was a corrections officer for several years. He moved to St. Louis where he worked for Aldi, retiring in 2022.



SEAGER

Tim's friends and family meant the world to him—calling, texting, and reaching out to make sure everyone around him was ok or to see if they needed anything. If someone reached out to him for help, he would drop what he was working on and go to their aid.

Tim was an avid biker, gardener, music lover, and traveler. He had the opportunity to travel to numerous countries with his late husband, James H. Rainey, and best friends known as the "One World Explorers." He was a staple on his street, "Middle Murdoch" in St. Louis.

Anyone who met Tim was immediately taken by his sincerity and genuine interest in other people and his ability to make anyone feel like they had a friend. Friends and family were always impressed by his positive outlook on life and how to look for the "silver lining."

Tim is survived by his father, Adonis Seager; sisters Lydia Seager, Juanita (David) Hornbaker and Wanda (Rod) Billings, and his nieces and nephews: Brad, Byron, Brandi, Amy, Natasha, Megen, Donnie, Mariel, Brooke, Heather, Erica, Drew and Jesse; his belated husband, James H. Rainey's family: Bill (Gloria) Rainey, Dana (Scott) Vickers, Maris (Amy) Rainey, Cyndi (Todd) Bredenkamp, and Wendy (Jeremy) Morris, along with nieces and nephews, Jessica, Tianha, Tyler, Ellen, Kyle, Jonah, Leland, Noah and Olivia.

He was preceded in death by Husband James H. Rainey; Mother Opal Marie Seager; Brothers Jerry Leon Seager and Carl Daniel Seager; Grandparents Melvin and Mildred Magers; Grandparents Lydia and Jess Seager

A Celebration of Life will be held at Hoffmeister Colonial Mortuary at 6464 Chippewa Street, St. Louis, MO 63109, from 2-4pm on Saturday, February 25, 2023. Tim will be laid to rest beside his husband, James H. Rainey, on Sunday, March 5th at 1pm at St. Joe Cemetery/ Mausoleum located at 2500 Mesker Park Drive Evansville, IN 47720. A celebration of Tim's life along with lunch will follow, 2pm at Howell Shelter House 1101 S Barker Ave, Evansville, IN 47712.

DIAGNOSED WITH NEUROPATHY?

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State aid focuses on providers

CARES - Continued from Page 1

ilies.

In a two-year pilot project, full-time child care facility employees will be categorically eligible for CCA, regardless of income.

"What we're announcing today expands eligibility, enhances the quality of care and supports our providers. The team has crafted a multi-faceted strategy that really hones in on addressing the collective challenges we face in the state with child care. And as a working mom who relies on child care, I see this investment as invaluable" said Kelly Garcia, HHS Director.

Go to the HHS website for a full description of these initiatives.

Obituaries/Lee County News

OBITUARIES

SANDRA M. IVERSON

Sandra Mae "Sandy" Iverson, 72, of Keokuk, IA died Sunday, January 29, 2023 at Edwards Hospital in Naperville, IL.



IVERSON

She was born on December 3, 1950 in Moline, IL the daughter of Glenn and Martha (Nye) Carter. She graduated from Keokuk High School with the Class of 1969. She attended college to study nursing.

On June 21, 1970 she was married to Richard Allen Iverson. They later divorced.

Sandy had been employed at Stone Container in Keokuk for twenty one years. She also bartended at the Holiday Inn and worked as the community Business Manager at the Historic Hotel Iowa and then at Taco Bell.

She attended the Church of the Nazarene in Keokuk.

She enjoyed sewing and spending time at the river enjoying the scenery. Sandy had a generous spirit and was always there to help anyone and everyone. Sandy loved to cook for her family and friends. Spending time with her family and babysitting her grandchildren and great nieces and nephews brought great joy to her life.

She is survived by her daughter, Kelly Caposieno (Heide) of Darien, IL, her son, James Iverson of Quincy, IL, her bonus daughter #2, Lora Washburn (Jeff) of Keokuk, three grandchildren, Jimmy Gagnier, Lexi

Gagnier and Emmy Rose Iverson, two bonus granddaughters, Whitney Edwardson (Tuck) and her family and Bethany Meyers (Matt) and her family. She is also survived by one brother Glenn Carter (Lynn) of Montrose and two sisters, Nancy Rockhold (Ron) of Keokuk and Lynn Ann Muir of Morrison, IL and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her companion of twenty-five years, Rodney Bryant, her father, Glenn Carter, her mother and stepfather, Martha and John Puder, one brother, Steve Carter and one brother-in-law, Al Muir.

A Memorial Service will be held at 12 noon on Saturday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with her dear friend Pastor Corey Nelson and Pastor Dana Jurgens officiating.

Visitation will be held prior to the service from 10 a.m. - 12 noon with the family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to the Grace Kids Church of Louisville, KY.

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

Task force arrests Montrose man

MONTROSE - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Montrose man on Felony and Misdemeanor drug charges.

Joseph Patrick Frank age 45, of Montrose, IA was arrested on 2/1/2023 at 108 Cedar St in Montrose. Frank is charged with:

- POSSESSION OF METHAMPHETAMINE 3RD OFFENSE, a class D Felony; POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA, an Aggravated Misdemeanor; POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA, a Simple Misdemeanor; MAINTAINING A DRUG HOUSE, an Aggravated Misdemeanor

The incident was the result of the Montrose Police Department responding to 108 Cedar St. in regards to a call from the homeowner. The Montrose Police Department would contact the Lee County Narcotics Task Force and a search warrant was executed which resulted in the arrest of Frank on the aforementioned charges. Frank was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center. The Lee County Narcotics Task Force was assisted by the Lee County Sheriff's Office, the Montrose Police Department, the Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, and the Lee County Attorney's Office.

The defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty. The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy.

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From the Front

Increasing health care cost could make matters worse

BUDGET - Continued from Page 1

Pflug said that was something the county couldn't have seen coming, but the county needs to find a way out now.

Supervisor Ron Fedler said the county should have raised the levy when they gave out "those huge raises" beginning in fiscal year 2022.

Fedler got pushback from Supervisor Chairman Garry Seyb and Renstrom on that scenario.

Renstrom said supervisors have been very reluctant in the past to raise the levy.

"Do you know how hard it was for me to get you guys to change general supplemental (which is the fund that's responsible for employee benefits)?" she said. "Some of you guys didn't want to raise the levy."

County Auditor Denise Fraise agreed.

"That's right. You guys wanted to keep that at 2%."

Pflug said the board never wants to raise taxes.

"That's our commitment to taxpayers, that we try to hold the line on the levy. That's what we try to do, but now we're in a huge mess. We're going to have to pull money from somewhere to cover some of these deficits.

"Do we have the tough talk about taking a wage freeze? I know it's never popular."

Seyb said the current funding shortfalls don't have anything to do with the raises, but the county's neglect in keeping up with inflationary pressures over the past 12 years.

He said a wage freeze isn't an option with negotiations already underway. He rolled out a barrage of numbers showing how the county is still behind on keeping with rising costs of payroll and other regular costs.

"We're going to have to raise taxes. There is no option other than that, if they (the state) don't take that option away from us," he said.

He said the average of county levies in Iowa over the last 11 years was \$10.64/\$1,000 of assessed valuation. He said Lee County's levy for 2023 is \$10.32.

"While it seems like it's been a great job on the part of the county, when you look at it, it shows we have not kept up with the increases in inflation in the budgets," he said.

Over the past 12 years, Seyb said raises in Lee County averaged 2.33% for county administration, 2.27% in the sheriff's office, and 2.55% for county regular staff over the last 11 years not including 2023.

"When you factor in what we did last year, the raise that everyone seems to focus on, when we factor that in to the last 12 years, the administration unit went to 3.06%, the sheriff went to 3.33% over the last 12 years,

and personnel went to 3.17."

Seyb said the last few years has been crazy with the cost of living, so he went back 12 years to get a more comprehensive snapshot. He said the inflation rate was 2.36 % between 2012 and 2023.

"If you look at what the raises did, we really haven't given raises. We've barely kept up with the cost of living over the last 12 years."

Pflug pressed Seyb harder on the current financial situation.

"What does that have to do with the mess we're in now?" Pflug said.

"You can go back and look at the snapshot of 10-12 years, but we've got problems right now."

Seyb said the county needs to right the ship now and not engage in a "knee jerk reaction."

He said the county needs to be cautious on raises for 2023-24 and 7% isn't in the ballpark, but neither is 0.

"I don't understand why we would do that because it negates what the raises were last year," he said.

The county is also looking at a potential \$330,000 increase in its employee health insurance program.

Seyb said the current budget is \$49 million and in 2020 the budget was just under \$27 million.

"How the hell can we do that without raising taxes? We can't," he said.

"The bottom line is everyone is paying more, You're paying more and I'm paying more as a family."

With Lee County still .30 under the average levy in Iowa, he said it's time to get back in line with the current taxing structure.

"What I'm saying is this body - instead of keeping up with natural inflation, we go back to 'we can't raise the levy, we can't raise the levy, we can't raise the levy.' And that is what's gotten us to this point," Seyb said.

In the last two years, the county has added \$5.4 million in expenses combined for the EMS Ambulance service and the creation of a separate IT budget. That budget had been siphoned off of each department based on the amount of equipment in each department, and had not previously been its own functional revenue/expense line.

"What I'm saying is we're going to have to raise taxes, but that shouldn't be at the sacrifice of our employees," Seyb said.

Seyb said the county could have raised taxes in the past, but they chose not to.

Fedler said Seyb was the strongest advocate for pay rais-

es in 2022, saying they could do it without raising the levy.

"I argued the opposite - that you can't spend this much more money and not increase your revenue. It's a recipe for disaster," Fedler said.

"Because of that, when it came to voting, I voted no. I could see this coming just from managing my own business. You can't increase expenses and not increase your revenue without that coming back to haunt you."

Seyb said this current situation is not solely because of the raises, citing the ambulance department and the closure of the Keokuk Hospital/ER.

Pflug said the county has to keep the fund balance closer to \$3 million for emergencies.

"This is an emergency. Now we're at a scary level."

Renstrom said the county may have to dip into ARPA funds to meet obligations.

Seyb said that hasn't been determined yet, but Ambulance revenues are above projections in the ambulance department.

Pflug said the county is benefitting from several funds right now, but without them, it would be in financial trouble.

"What if we didn't have the opioid settlement money, or the ARPA fund? We'd be in serious trouble. And you can't run a county that way, you just can't do it."

Supervisor Tom Schulz said that's what the county's been doing.

"Unfortunately, we have been. So now we have to correct that," Schulz said.

Renstrom said the county is looking at a \$2.8 million balance at the end of the fiscal year 2024, which is June 30, 2024. But she said that's with a projected increase from 3.5% to 6 percent if the state allows them to do that.

"When people open up their tax bills, they aren't happy. We can have this dialog all day."

Seyb asked Pflug if the alternative was laying off half the county employees.

"No, we never want to do that."

"Then what's the alternative?" Seyb pressed.

Supervisor Chuck Holmes said Jefferson County runs with one ambulance and Lee County has four, hinting that could be a spot for savings.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber pleaded with the board to not do what Jefferson County is doing.

"Do not do what Jefferson County is doing. Please."

Seyb asked the board when would be the right time to raise taxes.

"We're paying less now than we have the past 12 years on average."

Because the discussion was in a work session no action was taken. The county could have until the end of April to complete this year's budget with current legislation pending. Typically the budget for the coming fiscal year would be submitted by March 30.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
DECEMBER 5, 2022**

The Lee County Board of Supervisors met at the Lee County Administration Building in Fort Madison on Monday, December 5, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Present: Matt Pflug, Ron Fedler, Rick Larkin, Charles Holmes.

Absent: Garry Seyb
All votes are unanimous unless indicated otherwise.

The Board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Larkin, seconded by Holmes, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

There was no public input.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Holmes, to approve a Joint Development Agreement with Alliant Energy for a Solar Project in the Wever area. Motion carried.

Moved by Larkin, seconded by Holmes, to re-appoint Heather McCormick to the Board of Health. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, to approve Resolution #2022-111. Roll call: Larkin-aye, Fedler-aye, Holmes-aye, Pflug-aye.

RESOLUTION #2022-111

Assessed/Taxable Values of Utility Companies for 2022

(Payable in 2023-2024 Fiscal Year)

Be it Resolved, that pursuant to §433.9, Code of Iowa, there be ordered entered in the minute

book the length of lines and the assessed value of the property of each of utility companies situated in each city, township, or lesser taxing district in its county as fixed by the Director of Revenue and certified to the County Auditor.

Gas and Electric utility assessed and taxable values are determined on a company-by-company basis. The taxes on said utility property when collected by the County Treasurer shall be disposed of as taxes on real estate. A detailed report showing the value for each company by taxing district is on file in the County Auditor's Office.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Matt Pflug, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Member; /s/ Rick Larkin, Member; /s/

Charles Holmes, Member; Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

2022 Utility List
Burlington Northern Santa Fe Taxing Entity, Miles Assessed Value
Green Bay Township-Ft Madison School, 5.59 6,039,708
Jefferson Township-Central School, 6.29 6,796,022
Jefferson Township-Ft Madison School, 8.71 9,410,707
Washington Township-Ft Madison School, 1.62 1,750,327
Charleston Township-Central School, 1.25 1,350,561
Des Moines Township-Central School, 7.24 7,822,448
Jackson Township-Keokuk School, 3.06 3,306,173

Montrose Township-Central School, 5.89 6,363,842
Montrose Township-Keokuk School .57, 615,856
Keokuk-Keokuk School, 5.26..... 5,683,160
Montrose-Central School, 1.04..... 1,123,667
Ft Madison-Ft Madison School, 9.53... 10,296,674
Keokuk Junction Railway Keokuk-Keokuk School, 1.00..... 945,000
Van Buren Mutual Telephone Cedar Township-Van Buren School, 1.08 ANR Pipeline
Denmark Township-Ft Madison School, 0 874,961
Denmark Sanitary District-Ft Madison School, 0 124,322
Green Bay Township-Ft Madison School, 0 4,111,357

Jefferson Township-Central School, 0..... 982
Jefferson Township-Ft Madison School, 0 690,633
Washington Township-Ft Madison School, 0 1,165,414
West Point Township-Fort Madison School, 0 14,283
Mid America Pipeline Cedar Township-Central School, 0..... 107,056
Cedar Township-Van Buren School, 0.. 106,898
Franklin Township-Central School, 0..... 276,587
Harrison Township-Central School, 0..... 63,575
Jefferson Township-Ft Madison School, 0 200,955
West Point Township-Central School, 0 69,055
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Fax: 319-524-2373

Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

Jefferson Township-Central School, 0..... 124,113	Franklin Township-Ft Madison School, 0.. 7,469	NE Missouri Electric Power Co.	Pleasant Ridge Township-Ft Madison School, 0 886,630	Jefferson Township-Ft Madison School..... 9.70 70.69
Jefferson Township-Ft Madison School, 0 93,995	Jefferson Township-Central School, 0..... 49,428	Denmark Township-Ft Madison School, 0 623,958	Washington Township-Ft Madison School, 0, 128,102	Pleasant Ridge Township-Ft Madison School 7.30	Des Moines Township-Keokuk School..... 1.14
Des Moines Township-Central School, 0 137,600	Jefferson Township-Ft Madison School, 0 542,489	Franklin Township-Central School, 0..... 464,513	West Point Township-Ft Madison School, 0 46,999	West Point Township-Central School .. 3.58	Jackson Township-Keokuk School..... 1.66
Ft Madison-Ft Madison School, 0..... 112,052	Marion Township-Central School, 0..... 18,940	Franklin Township-Ft Madison School, 0 92,165	Sinclair Pipeline Jefferson Township-Central School, 0..... 67,625	West Point Township-Ft Madison School..... 2.88	Montrose Township-Central School..... 57.73
Nustar Ammonia Pipeline Cedar Township-Ft Madison School, 0..... 265,600	Marion Township-Ft Madison School, 0..... 27,210	Green Bay Township-Ft Madison School, 0 774,188	Jefferson Township-Ft Madison School, 0 56,391	Charleston Township-Central School .. 2.25	Montrose Township-Keokuk School..... 3.98
Cedar Township-Mt Pleasant School, 0.. 8,003	Charleston Township-Central School, 0 271,757	Harrison Township-Central School, 0..... 359,444	Charleston Township-Central School, 0 21,621	Des Moines Township-Central School 35	Van Buren Township-Central School..... 34.77
Franklin Township-Central School, 0..... 163,526	Des Moines Township-Central School, 0 251,236	Harrison Township-Van Buren School, 0.. 230,413	Des Moines Township-Central School, 0 110,833	Jackson Township-Keokuk School..... 2.47	Van Buren Township-Van Buren School..... 10.33
			Des Moines Sanitary District-Central School, 0 10,547	Montrose Township-Central School..... 9.81	Montrose-Central School 12.23
			Ft Madison-Ft Madison School, 0..... 66,983	Montrose Township-Keokuk School..... 2.03	Donnellson-Central School..... 11.72
			McLeod USA Denmark Township-Ft Madison School..... 6.41	Keokuk-Keokuk School 7.57	Franklin-Central School 2.77
			Green Bay Township-Ft Madison School..... 2.80	Ft Madison-Ft Madison School..... 7.66	Houghton-Ft Madison School..... 4.38
			Jefferson Township-Central School..... 2.91	West Point-Ft Madison School..... 41	St Paul-Ft Madison School..... 1.27
				Iowa Telecom Cedar Township-Central School..... 4.37	West Point-Ft Madison School..... 9.14
				Cedar Township-Van Buren School..... 21.91	Qwest Denmark Township-Ft Madison School..... 55
				Cedar Township-Ft Madison School..... 26.02	Green Bay Township-Ft Madison School..... 44.37
				Cedar Township-Mt Pleasant School..... 8.15	Jefferson Township-Central School..... 4.73
				Denmark Township-Ft Madison School..... 35.10	Jefferson Township-Ft Madison School..... 37.93
				Franklin Township-Central School..... 71.77	Madison Township-Ft Madison School..... 83
				Franklin Township-Ft Madison School..... 6.27	Washington Township-Ft Madison School..... 58.26
				Harrison Township-Central School..... 37.33	West Point Township-Ft Madison School..... 12.40
				Harrison Township-Van Buren School..... 23.58	Jackson Township-Keokuk School..... 53.91
				Jefferson Township-Central School 22.38	Montrose Township-Central School..... 9.65
				Jefferson Township-Ft Madison School..... 11.26	Montrose Township-Keokuk School 8.82
				Marion Township-Central School..... 5.77	Keokuk-Keokuk School 106.60
				Marion Township-Ft Madison School..... 50.28	Ft Madison-Ft Madison School..... 69.20
				Pleasant Ridge Township-Ft Madison School 42.81	MCC Telephony of Iowa West Point Township-Ft Madison School..... 11.49
				Washington Township-Ft Madison School..... 15.90	Keokuk-Keokuk School 14.86
				West Point Township-Central School .. 7.58	Montrose-Central School 17.23
				West Point Township-Ft Madison School..... 44.46	Ft Madison-Ft Madison School..... 114.86
				Charleston Township-Central School 70.76	West Point-Ft Madison School..... 28.72
					Windstream Keokuk-Keokuk School 2.76
					Iowa Network Services Franklin Township-Central

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- Starting pay is \$19.90/hr
 - Advance to \$21.64/hr within 12 months
 - Advance to \$23.98/hr within 30 months
 - Annual pay increases per contract
 - \$175 Company Contribution to your pension from date of hire
 - 3% Company Match to 401(k)

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time 4-7PM
location QUALITY INN, FM

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- Opportunities to earn up to \$29.46/hr
- \$1.00 3rd shift pay differentials
- 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

School..... 5.78
 Franklin Township-Ft
 Madison School..... 3.48
 Marion Township-Ft Madi-
 son School..... 7.71
 West Point Township-Ft
 Madison School..... 3.01
 Charleston Town-
 ship-Central School.. 4.96
 Des Moines Town-
 ship-Central School.. 3.64
 Local Internet Service Co.
 Jefferson Township-Ft
 Madison School..... 4.18
 Madison Township-Ft
 Madison School..... 5.82
 Washington Township-Ft
 Madison School..... 4.08
 Dakota Access Pipeline
 Cedar Township-Central
 School, 0..... 7,381,947
 Cedar Township-Van
 Buren School, 0
8,511,522
 Cedar Township-Ft Madi-
 son School, 0... 1,425,891
 Franklin Township-Central
 School, 0.....19,877,112
 Harrison Township-Cen-
 tral School, 0... 5,120,407
 Charleston Town-
 ship-Central School, 0
 20,776,965
 Des Moines Town-
 ship-Central School, 0
 2,545,302
 Montrose Township-Cen-
 tral School, 0.. 23,218,271
 Montrose Township-Ke-
 okuk School, 0
 1,664,230
 Danville Mutual Tele-
 phone
 Green Bay Township-Ft
 Madison School..... 9.70
 Jefferson Township-Cen-
 tral School..... 3.01
 Jefferson Township-Ft
 Madison School..... 5.28
 Washington Township-Ft
 Madison School..... 10.41
 West Point Township-Ft
 Madison School..... 1.14
 Jackson Township-Ke-
 okuk School..... 7.41
 Montrose Township-Cen-
 tral School..... 5.93
 Montrose Township-Ke-
 okuk School..... 3.10
 Keokuk-Keokuk School
 10.07
 Ft Madison-Ft Madison
 School..... 15.71
 Mid America Energy
 Denmark Sanitary Dis-
 trict-Ft Madison School, 0
 137,392
 Green Bay Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 76,558
 Jefferson Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 505,728
 Washington Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 289,628
 West Point Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 25,604
 Charleston Town-
 ship-Central School, 0
 69,572
 Ft Madison-Ft Madison
 School, 0..... 4,982,385
 Donnellson-Central
 School, 0..... 193,926
 West Point-Ft Madison
 School, 0..... 423,005
 West Point Utilities
 West Point Town-
 ship-Central School, 0

..... 26,201
 West Point Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 928,969
 Interstate Power and
 Light Co.
 Cedar Township-Van
 Buren School, 0.. 644,218
 Cedar Township-Ft Madi-
 son School, 0... 2,863,000
 Cedar Township-Mt
 Pleasant School, 0
 474,256
 Franklin Township-Central
 School, 0..... 2,352,220
 Franklin Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 27,207
 Green Bay Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 6,155,982
 Harrison Township-Cen-
 tral School, 0..... 338,307
 Harrison Township-Van
 Buren School, 0... 97,450
 Jefferson Township-Cen-
 tral School, 0... 3,659,107
 Jefferson Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 11,859,484
 Harrison Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 62,609
 Marion Township-Central
 School, 0..... 986,182
 Marion Township-Ft Madi-
 son School, 0... 5,244,571
 Pleasant Ridge Town-
 ship-Ft Madison School, 0
 88,368
 Washington Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 4,830,330
 West Point Town-
 ship-Central School, 0
 457,459
 West Point Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 409,773
 Charleston Town-
 ship-Central School, 0
 4,823,021
 Des Moines Town-
 ship-Central School, 0
 6,234,822
 Des Moines Township-Ke-
 okuk School, 0... 183,230
 Des Moines Sanitary Dis-
 trict-Central School, 0
 238,745
 Jackson Township-Ke-
 okuk School, 0.. 7,011,018
 Montrose Township-Cen-
 tral School, 0... 6,496,417
 Montrose Township-Ke-
 okuk School, 0
 1,563,240
 Van Buren Township-Cen-
 tral School, 1,002,974
 Van Buren Township-Van
 Buren School, 0.. 913,449
 Keokuk-Keokuk School, 0
 83,415,853
 Montrose-Central School,
 0..... 3,547,147
 Ft Madison-Ft Madison
 School, 0..... 40,526,149
 Ft Madison-Central
 School, 0..... 447,459
 Donnellson-Central
 School, 0..... 2,191,375
 Franklin-Central School, 0
 707,667
 Houghton-Ft Madison
 School, 0..... 473,105
 St Paul-Ft Madison
 School, 0..... 327,849
 Union Electric Transmis-
 sion
 Cedar Township-Central
 School, 0..... 788,402

Cedar Township-Mt
 Pleasant School, 0
 927,863
 Green Bay Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 342,648
 Harrison Township-Cen-
 tral School, 0... 1,713,395
 Jefferson Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 339,495
 Madison Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 418,161
 Washington Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 45,216
 Jackson Township-Ke-
 okuk School, 0
 1,525,989
 Montrose Township-Cen-
 tral School, 0..... 174,830
 Van Buren Township-Cen-
 tral School, 0.....1,787,411
 Keokuk-Keokuk School, 0
 102,533,505
 Montrose-Central School,
 0..... 67,563
 Ft Madison-Ft Madison
 School, 0..... 48,876
 Access Energy
 Cedar Township-Central
 School, 0..... 69,677
 Cedar Township-Van
 Buren School, 0.. 297,296
 Cedar Township-Mt
 Pleasant School, 0.. 5,650
 Denmark Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 849,498
 Franklin Township-Central
 School, 0..... 670,145
 Franklin Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 74,109
 Green Bay Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 753,158
 Harrison Township-Cen-
 tral School, 0..... 737,403
 Harrison Township-Van
 Buren School, 0.. 437,476
 Jefferson Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 252,662
 Marion Township-Central
 School, 0..... 37,358
 Marion Township-Ft Madi-
 son School, 0..... 445,553
 Pleasant Ridge Town-
 ship-Ft Madison School, 0
 1,140,533
 Washington Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 719,824
 West Point Town-
 ship-Central School, 0

..... 240,949
 West Point Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 540,477
 Charleston Town-
 ship-Central School, 0
 257,920
 Des Moines Town-
 ship-Central School, 0
 11,501
 Van Buren Township-Cen-
 tral School, 0..... 593,203
 Van Buren Township-Van
 Buren School, 0.. 154,903
 St Paul-Ft Madison
 School, 0..... 20,199
 ITC Midwest
 Cedar Township-Ft Madi-
 son School, 0..... 403,523
 Denmark Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 7,455,850
 Franklin Township-Central
 School, 0..... 375,624
 Green Bay Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 5,407,460
 Harrison Township-Cen-
 tral School, 0..... 204,253
 Jefferson Township-Cen-
 tral School, 0... 4,947,090
 Jefferson Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 6,281,229
 Madison Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 2,707,621
 Pleasant Ridge Town-
 ship-Ft Madison School, 0
 333,071
 Washington Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 1,119,885
 West Point Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 1,558,871
 Charleston Town-
 ship-Central School, 0
 449,350
 Des Moines Town-
 ship-Central School, 0
 746,262
 Jackson Township-Ke-
 okuk School, 0
 1,274,328
 Montrose Township-Cen-
 tral School, 0..... 412,482
 Montrose Township-Ke-
 okuk School, 0... 274,990
 Keokuk-Keokuk School, 0
 17,719,201
 Ft Madison-Ft Madison
 School, 0..... 1,119,787
 Donnellson-Central
 School, 0..... 176,354
 Houghton-Ft Madison
 School, 0..... 4,985

Interstate Power and
 Light-Gas
 Green Bay Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0
 714,383
 Iowa Fertilizer Co.
 Green Bay Township-Ft
 Madison School, 0.. 5,000
 Liberty Utilities-Gas
 Jefferson Township-Cen-
 tral School, 0..... 214,292
 Jackson Township-Ke-
 okuk School, 0... 787,414
 Montrose Township-Cen-
 tral School, 0..... 43,116
 Montrose Township-Ke-
 okuk School, 0... 484,531
 Keokuk-Keokuk School, 0
 11,032,899
 Montrose-Central School,
 0..... 250,344
 Moved by Fedler, sec-
 onded by Holmes, to ap-
 prove a contract with Cott
 Systems for digitization
 of the Recorder's Books.
 Motion Carried.
 Moved by Larkin, sec-
 onded by Fedler, to ap-
 prove a Five-year Lease
 Agreement with Quadiant
 Leasing for the postage
 meter in the South Lee
 CPC/DHS building. Mo-
 tion carried.
 Moved by Fedler,
 seconded by Holmes, to
 approve three tax abate-
 ment resolutions. Roll
 call: Fedler-aye, Holmes-
 aye, Larkin-aye, Pflug-
 aye.

Mississippi River Road
 Montrose, IA 52639
 For exemption from
 taxation according to the
 provisions of Iowa Code
 Section 404.3, §3. Said
 applications shall be
 forwarded to the Coun-
 ty Assessor for review
 pursuant to the provisions
 of Section 404.5 Code of
 Iowa.
 PASSED AND AP-
 PROVED this 5th day of
 December 2022.
 Lee County Board
 of Supervisors /s/ Matt
 Pflug, Chairman; /s/
 Ron Fedler, Member; /s/
 Rick Larkin, Member; /s/
 Charles Holmes, Member;
 Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise,
 Auditor. Motion carried

RESOLUTION #2022-113

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 SU-
 PERVISORS OF LEE
 COUNTY, IOWA, that
 they hereby approve the
 application of: Donna
 Avilino 117 High Point
 Fort Madison IA 52627
 For exemption from
 taxation according to the
 provisions of Iowa Code
 Section 404.3, §3. Said
 applications shall be
 forwarded to the Coun-
 ty Assessor for review
 pursuant to the provisions
 of Section 404.5 Code of
 Iowa.
 PASSED AND AP-
 PROVED this 5th day of
 December 2022.
 Lee County Board
 of Supervisors /s/ Matt

RESOLUTION #2022-112

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 SU-
 PERVISORS OF LEE
 COUNTY, IOWA, that
 they hereby approve the
 application of: William
 and Sue Butler 3157

VROOM. VROOM.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Pflug, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Member; /s/ Rick Larkin, Member; /s/ Charles Holmes, Member; Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-114

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: Roger and Sheila Baker 3074 Old Quarry Road 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 5th day of December 2022.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Matt Pflug, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Member; /s/ Rick Larkin, Member; /s/ Charles Holmes, Member; Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Fedler, to approve the Tuesday, November 28, 2022 Board Minutes. Motioned carried.

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

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Larkin, to approve a step increase for Kyle Haney, Sheriff Deputy, from \$27.68/hr. to \$30.12/hr., effective 12/09/22; a step increase

for Steven Steffensmeier, Maintenance in Secondary Roads, from \$22.47/hr. to \$25.14/hr., effective 11/2/22; a position change from Part Time to Full Time for Eric Bengé, EMT, \$19.55/hr. effective 11/28/22; a step increase for Tabatha Cleveland, Legal Secretary, from \$19.40/hr. to \$19.97/hr., effective 12/6/22, and a change of position for Becky Gaylord, from Deputy Treasurer \$63,202.70/annually to Elected Treasurer \$76,147.83/annually, effective 1/2/23. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Larkin reported on a Port Authority meeting stating they are doing well and growing to better serve the community. Holmes reported on a Children's First meeting where the 2020 Census reported a loss of 8% population in Lee County. Employers in Lee County are also recognizing the need for childcare and making plans to improve the situation. Michele Ross, Lee

County Health Department Administrator, gave an update on Covid and flu vaccines available in Lee County.

At 10:31 a.m. a motion was made by Holmes, seconded by Larkin, to adjourn. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 12, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Administration Building in Fort Madison.

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

Claims paid December 5, 2022

Nxt Deg Comm, svcs	220.00
Access Systms, svcs	297.00
Agriland FS, Fuel	558.95
Airgas USA, splys	262.30
Alliant Enrgy, svcs	2004.73
Amazon C, splys	28.29
Animal House, mtrls	3.00
Jim Baier, svcs	144.55
Barr Mem Chpl, svcs	1200.00
Big Timber Cnstrct, svcs	800.00
Blessing Keo, svcs	3033.16
B Bonar, exps	200.00
Bnd Tree Med, splys	3387.41
K Brookhiser, rent	185.00
Brzn Hydrlic Svcs, svcs	271.01
Calhoun-Burns, svcs	2107.30
CenturyLink, svcs	70.81
Cit/Donnellson, svcs	116.02
Comm Action, svcs	861.00
H Curtis, svcs	155.50

Democrat Co, publ..	41.55
Darkside Tint, splys	240.00
Dodd Prtg/Stat, splys	149.87
M Dodson, exps	30.34
Donnellson Tire, veh	350.95
Dble A Glass, svcs	246.08
Douds Stone, mtrls	6421.07
Drake Hdwr, equip	2227.50
R Dyer, edu	290.00
Electronic Engrg, parts	877.50
EMSLRC, edu	8.50
Family Res, svcs	1446.15
Farm/Home, splys	27.34
Federal Engrn, svcs	625.00
Ron Fedler, exps	65.00
Fehseke/Gray, svcs	350.00
Floyds EZ Way, svcs	75.00
Garratt-Callahan, svcs	750.00
GB Auto Svcs, svcs	115.95
GeoComm, svcs	1713.75
GRRWA, svcs	5.00
GrtAmer Financial, mntl	28.32
Hall Excvtng, svcs	250.00
Horsepower, cntrb	2652.00
Huffman Wldng, equip	143.16
J Huling, exps	176.54
Humana Phrmcy, rx	313.70
Ideal Rdy Mix, mtrl	4218.72
IA Prison Ind, splys	616.00
IA St Pen, meals	7500.00
Jet Gas, fuel	24032.28
P Kaltefleiter, exps	81.00
Karl Chevrolet, svcs	212.00
Kempkers, splys	57.41
Keokuk Housing, svcs	5307.54
King-Lynk Fnrl, svcs	1200.00

Klingner Assoc, svcs	10623.25
R Kuntz, svcs	200.00
Lee Co Auditor, IT rb	57476.40
Lee Co Sheriff, svcs	433.02
LeeCo Treas, costs	20222.72
Liberty Util, gas	313.31
Lincare Inc, splys	175.00
Mail Svcs, pstg	1782.84
MidAmer Enrgy, gas	73.06
Motorola Sol, equip	508302.90
OMG Midwest, svcs	122.72
PCC, svcs	6623.38
Penn City Assoc, dues	300.00
Matt Pflug, exps	25.00
Pitney Bowes, equip	478.77
Prairie Farms, splys	252.80
Rainbo Oil, oil	944.66
Rathbun Water, svcs	155.40
J Rea Jr., svcs	136.43
P Settles, svcs	192.60
G Seyb, exps	21.00
SIADSA, svcs	5120.00
SCC, edu	2048.50
C Spann, svcs	40.00
P Spkrmr, exps	19.00
Stanard/Assc, edu	46.00
US Cell, svcs	562.09
UMIMRA, svcs	1700.00
Vanguard Appr, svcs	2730.00
Verizon, svcs	160.48
Mike Walker, svcs	200.00
Wshngtn Co Pblc, svcs	745.09
West Pt Lmbr, splys	13.99
Wex Bank, svcs	7776.46
Windstream, svcs	498.96



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EVANS - Continued from Page 1

for Liberty. The group advocates for changes in state laws to give parents more say in how public K-12 schools operate.

The governor said Iowa needs to “restore sanity, to make sure our schools are a place of learning and not indoctrination.”

She floated the idea of changing Iowa law so that if one school district decides to remove a book from its libraries or classrooms, then every other school district would be required to remove the same book and allow students to read it only with their parents’ permission.

The governor believes public school districts are dominated by “an extreme and extremely loud minority” who are hostile to parents’ values. She criticized public schools for “demonizing our country” and for having “an obsession with race in the classroom.”

It is important to note, however, that Reynolds did not cite specific examples to buttress her claims. It is also important to note that the demographics of Iowa’s school districts vary widely — from some that are made up of nearly all Caucasian kids, to some in which most students are not Caucasian, to others in which students come from families speaking dozens of languages are spoken at home.

Reynolds did not share with her audience how Iowa schools’ current book-review process works when complaints are made by people in the community or by students. That is important, because those decisions to keep, remove or restrict access to certain books involve committees of educators, students and ordinary citizens, and school superintendents and the school boards elected by voters ultimately are the final arbiters.

School districts also have policies in place now that allow parents to ask that their child not be given certain books for classroom assignments and not be allowed to check out certain books from the school libraries.

What is troubling about Reynolds’ latest proposal is that it would allow a handful of parents in one school to substitute their judgment for the book decisions that rightfully should be made by tens of thousands of other parents across Iowa. And the logistics of complying with such an ill-conceived law could quickly overwhelm teachers and administrators.

The idea of banning books runs counter to most people’s concept of freedom. It seems to be a practice more common in authoritarian countries, rather than the world’s leading democracy.

If there are books some parents do not want their own children reading, those parents already have a way to keep those books out of their kids’ hands at school. No one is trying to take that role away from parents. But those parents should not have veto power over the books that other parents are comfortable allowing their kids to read.

Many of those “comfortable” parents realize the internet has content accessible to anyone, including school kids, that is far more graphic and more offensive than anything students will find in their school library.

PEN America, a national nonprofit organization that advocates for free expression, issued a report last fall that said Texas schools banned more books from their libraries than any other state — 801 books in 22 school districts. Most of the books dealt with race, racism, abortion and LGBTQ topics.

Through history, officials have tried to ban access to such acclaimed titles as “To Kill a Mockingbird,” “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” and “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.”

Suzanne Nossel, PEN America’s top executive, said in a statement issued with the banned-book report: “This censorious movement is turning our public schools into political battlegrounds, driving wedges within communities, forcing teachers and librarians from their jobs, and casting a chill over the spirit of open inquiry and intellectual freedom that underpin a flourishing democracy.”

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Respiratory Season is Here!

Complete with Influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and COVID-19!

The colder temperatures keep us all cozy and warm inside, but this closeness and the decreased indoor air flow only increase the spread of uninvited viruses.



Keep your family safe during Respiratory Season by following these tips:

- Stay home if you are feeling sick.
- Get a vaccination/booster for any viruses circulating. In our region this includes flu and COVID-19.
- 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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