

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Monday, February 27, 2023 | 8 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 45



www.pencitycurrent.com

## Explosion destroys garage



Photos courtesy of Kenny Martin

A passerby snapped a photo of a firefighter working to extinguish a garage fire in the 1100 block of Avenue E Saturday night. An explosion rocked the neighborhood, but no one was injured in the incident. Below is a view of the blaze from the Fort Madison hilltop.

### TANKS BLOW: Explosion grabs attention of city's east side

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison firefighters worked for just over an hour putting out a garage fire Saturday night. Reports started coming into LeeComm at about 8:30 p.m. Saturday of an explosion of some type in the 1100 block of Avenue E. According to Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren the fire started when a acetylene tank inside the garage blew up causing several other tanks to explode destroying the structure. "We might have some video of this from a patrol car, maybe. But one of the officers said it blew the roof up off the garage." Herren said the fire is under investigation and didn't know exactly what caused the tanks to explode. The garage was completely destroyed by the explosion and ensuing blaze. No one was injured and firefighters cleared the scene right around 10 p.m. Firefighters were assisted at the scene by Fort Madison Police.



## Good stories come from relationships

This world spins me around a lot - not just at the roughly 1,000 mph of physically spinning, although the thought of that gives me vertigo, but at a socially dizzying pace. Journalism in a town of 10,000 should be relatively easy compared to metro reporting. But it's not. It keeps my twirling. Navigating the curves of relationships and sources in this business takes not just 10-2 steering, but constant focus. And an ever-evolving skill set. Sometimes that means sitting over a sandwich or a beer and just talking about things a bit. Sometimes conversations take on a life of their own and we get a clearer picture of each other. My wife tells me no matter the age, she hopes we are all always learning. Sage counsel. But even when we learn from our mistakes, we have to learn to make it stick. Life changes, professions change, people change and processes change. We have to roll with them. Local governments are moving from emailing board agendas to the media, to just posting the agendas on their website. I don't really believe, yet, that everyone has access to websites, so I'm not sure that this transitioning fully satisfies the publishing component of open meetings laws, but I certainly have access to websites. And the agendas are posted at meeting sites. In some cases, not all, I don't get emails with agendas. So if the meeting isn't something that's in my phone calendar, I forget it happens with all the noise in my life. So I'm missing things, like the recent hiring of Central Lee football coach

See STORIES, page 8

### INDEX

Business Directory.....P.5  
CLASSIFIEDS.....Ps.5-7  
Complete Rental.....P.3  
ConAgra Brands.....P.6  
Eagle Bluff Apartments.....P.7  
FROM THE FRONT.....P.8  
Fullenkamp Insurance.....P.3  
IOWA NEWS.....P.8

James Healthcare & Associates, Inc.....P.4  
Lee County Health Department.....P.3  
LOCAL NEWS.....P.3  
OBITUARIES.....Ps.2-3  
• Robert G. Mann, 76  
• Kenneth E. Ough, 88  
• Charles W. Prock 91  
OPINION.....Ps.4,8

Pen City Current.....Ps.3,5,7  
Pilot Grove Savings Bank.....P.8  
Public Notices.....Ps.5-7  
Sonny's Super Market.....P.2  
Southeast Iowa  
Regional Medical Center.....P.2

### WEATHER

MON 27 Feb..... Rainy and breezy, 55° F/ 32° F  
TUE 28 Feb..... Mostly sunny with wind gusts, 51° F/ 38° F  
WED 01 Mar..... Mostly sunny, 53° F/ 29° F  
IOWA LOTTERY  
LOTTO AMERICA 02/25.....14 22 34 39 50, Star Ball: 8 All Star Bonus: 3  
LUCKY FOR LIFE 02/25.....26 28 38 42 46, Lucky Ball: 1  
MEGA MILLIONS 02/24.....2 22 49 65 67, Mega Ball: 7 Megaplier: 4  
PICK 3 02/23, 02/24, 02/25 MIDDAY.....997, 471, 621  
PICK 3 02/23, 02/24, 02/25 EVENING.....781, 397, 673  
PICK 4 02/23, 02/24, 02/25 MIDDAY.....9089, 6376, 9860  
PICK 4 02/23, 02/24, 02/25 EVENING.....0561, 5893, 8815  
POWERBALL 02/25.....11 24 58 66 67, Powerball: 26 Power Play: 3

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### KENNETH E. OUGH

Kenneth E. Ough, 88, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 11:47 p.m. on Thursday, February 23, 2023 at his home. He was born on November 21, 1934 in Mendota, IL to Robert & Dorothy Blotch Ough. He was a lab technician at Crandon's Paper Mill and retired as a storeroom manager at Climax in Fort Madison for many years and served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He married Janet G. Kelly on July 21, 2001 in Fort Madison, IA. He was a past Exalted Ruler for the Fort Madison Elk's Lodge and also a member of the Fort Madison Eagle's Club, where he loved to volunteer his cooking skills. He enjoyed playing pool, riding his Harley and spending time with his family & friends.

Kenny is survived by his wife: Janet Ough of Fort Madison, IA; 2-sons: Randy & Ronnie Ough of Fort Madison, IA; 3-step daughters: Maureen Krell of Des Moines, IA, Stacy (Gregg) Prskalo of Frankfort, IL & Colleen (Nick) Lacny of Chicago, IL; 13-grandchildren; 1-great granddaughter and 1-half-brother: David Ough of Florida. He was preceded in death by: his parents, 1-step daughter: Amanda Kelly & 1-brother: Robert Ough.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A visitation will be held from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. on Monday, February 27, 2023 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A memorial service will immediately follow at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor John Heyland officiating. A memorial has been established in Kenny's memory. Online condolences to the Ough family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).



OUGH



## OBITUARIES

### CHARLES W. PROCK

Charles W. Prock, 91, of Duncanville, Texas, passed away on Sunday, February 19, 2023, at Baylor Scott & White Medical Center in Irving, Texas. He was born September 25, 1931 in Bonham, TX to Andrew and Myrtle Jagers Prock. In 1982, he married Martha Pepper. She preceded him in death on May 4, 1998. He later married Betty Schooling and she preceded him in death on June 29, 2022.



PROCK

Charles was a proud veteran serving with the United States Army during the Korean War. He worked at General Dynamics in California using his engineering degree before changing careers to become an over the road truck driver in 1969 (which led to a patented invention in his later years). Charles was an avid gardener who loved to work in his yard with his dogs, most recently, Star (aka Baby Dog), by his side, and often boasted of having 'the best looking yard on the block'. He took pride in his many plants and was especially proud of his rose bushes. He loved traveling, camping and fishing. He especially loved to visit Judy's Cafe. He considered the ladies there family & he teased them mercilessly. He loved to give everyone a hard time but was always the first to help when needed. Charles was very physically active and mentally sharp until 'the love of my dreams' (Betty's) passing but his quick wit & sarcasm still remained.

Charles is survived by a son, Robert Prock of California, as well as step-daughters: Janice (Mike) Severs of Ft. Madison, IA, Sheri (Mike) Booten of Hurst, TX, Sandy (Ted) Martin of Donnellson, IA & Tammy (Trey) Price of Ft. Worth, TX; several grandchildren and great grandchildren; his good friend & neighbor of many years, Joyce Johnson. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wives, Martha & Betty; brothers, Melvin and Paul.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Laurel Land Funeral Home in Duncanville.



# 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.**



**Lunch Specials**  
**Feb 27 - Mar 3**  
**11am - 1pm**

*Monday, February 27*

*Tenderloin, French Fries, Oreo Fluff*

*Tuesday, February 28*

*Beef Enchiladas, Spanish Rice*

*Wednesday, March 1*

*Tater Tot Casserole, Green Beans*

*Thursday, March 2*

*Fried Chicken Dinners*

**FRIDAY, MARCH 3**

**FISH & SHRIMP DINNERS**

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Founded in 2016  
P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

# Obituaries/Local News

## OBITUARIES

### ROBERT G. MANN

Robert Gilbert Mann, 76, of West Point, Iowa, passed away at 11:38 a.m. Thursday, February 24, 2023, at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City.



MANN

He was born on December 22, 1946, in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, the son of Gilbert and Dorothy (Jacobsmeier) Mann. On September 11, 1971, he married Martha Jean Elliott in Monmouth, Illinois.

Bob is survived by his wife Jean of West Point; two sons: Jeff (Melissa) Mann of Marshalltown and Jason Mann of West Point; granddaughter: Peyton Mann of Marshalltown; two brothers: Steve (Patricia) Mann of Burlington and Tom (Linda) Mann of Monmouth; three sisters: Marcia Arango of Hollywood, Florida, Mary (Jim) Howard of Bumpass, Virginia and Dottie (Tony) Vonderhaar of Houghton. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.



He was preceded in death by his parents and brother-in-law: Fernando Arango.

Bob was a graduate of St. John's High School. He owned and operated Bob Mann Trucking for many years. Bob was a member of St. Mary's of the Assumption Catholic Church where he had served on the parish council, West Point American Legion Holtz-Geers Post #668 and the West Point Knights of Columbus. He was a United States Navy veteran and served on the USS Boston during the Vietnam War. Bob enjoyed sports, bowling, working on his trucks and being with his granddaughter. He adored his granddaughter and grand-dogs.

His body has been entrusted to the crematory of Schmitz Funeral Home for cremation.

Visitation will begin at 12:00 noon, Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point, where the family will receive friends from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. A Knights of Columbus Rosary will be recited at 4:00 p.m. and a Christian Wake service at 5:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, March 2, 2023, at St. Mary's of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point, with Father Dan Dorau as celebrant.

Burial will be held in Calvary Cemetery with full military rites by the West Point American Legion Holtz-Geers Post #668.

Memorials have been established in his memory for St. Mary's of the Assumption Catholic Church or St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.schmitzfuneral-homes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneral-homes.com). Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements.

### 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.

# Lake Cooper anglers hand out annual awards



Left to right from Seager, Noll. Rear – Britton, Vandenberg, Clark, Eaves, and Culbertson.

FORT MADISON - The Lake Cooper Angling Association held its annual awards banquet at the Fort Madison Elks Club Feb 18. LCAA President Jim Noll presents Scott Seager, Fort Madison, with the First Place Angler of the Year Award.

2022 Year End Standings

Angler of the Year – 1st place, Scott Seager, Ft. Madison, 59.66 Pts.; 2nd place - Jeff Eaves, Ft. Madison, 58.50 .

Co-Angler of the Year – 1st place, Mary Jo Clark, Ft. Madison, 59.50; 2nd place, Bill Britton, Ft. Madison, 58.16.

2022 Classic Champion - Ryan Culbertson, West Point, 167 inches.

Classic Co Angler - Mary Jo Clark, Ft. Madison, 155.625 inches

2022 Big Bass of the Year – Dave Vandenberg, Donnellson, 22.25 inches

Lake Cooper Angling Association was founded in 1986 and is one of the oldest in the state of Iowa. The LCAA is open to beginner or established anglers. A boat is not required to be a member. Potential members should be at least 14 years old (with sponsor) and have a yearning to learn how to fish. They meet monthly at the Elks' club in Ft. Madison. Members from as far as Des Moines and Kirksville, Mo. attend ten to twelve club tournaments held annually.

Activities and sponsorships, past and present include; Assist Lee County Conservation with Kids Fishing Day, Kids casting contests, food pantry donations with cases of fresh chickens, sponsored and manned the dredging project in front of Riverview Park. Members worked with the Lake Cooper Tournament Group providing management of parking and fish release at the many public major bass tournaments. Building the first of its' kind in the nation a special refrigerated fish release craft was built and operated by the club at every Fort Madison bass tournaments.

For additional information on how you can join the LCAA contact : Jim Noll, President, [jimnoll@mchsi.com](mailto:jimnoll@mchsi.com) or Text 319-470-4864.

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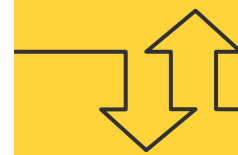
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## Empty Nest

# The WiseGuys, building genuine relationships

My wife's brother-in-law, Ron, in his mid-seventies, is a good Christian. He and his wife Becky live in Liberty, Missouri, which is a suburb of Kansas City (go Chiefs!). Ron's a friendly sort of fellow who will walk up to a stranger and begin chit-chatting.

One day while Ron was walking, he noticed a teenager shooting baskets. Ron began talking with the teen, Cal, and found out Cal needed a ride to football practice. Cal's parents were at work. Ron offered to give Cal a ride, and then picked him up when practice was

over.

Well, it turned out there was a group of teens in Liberty in the same situation. Their parents were at work or off somewhere, and the teens had no transportation. Ron has two large cars, a Lincoln Town Car and a Mercury Marquis. Soon Ron was transporting a group of boys to their practices and picking them up afterwards. He would even treat them to fast food. Of course, Ron cleared all this with the boys' parents so that the parents knew what was going on. Ron and his wife Becky even

## EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm

attended the boys' sporting events and Ron jotted down the good things the boys did and then went over those good points with the boys—something they appreciated.

Being a Christian, Ron would love the boys with Jesus' love, and tell them of his own experience with Christ. Two of them eventually asked about Jesus. Ron was elated.



Cal and Ron began talking about the possibility of the group getting together once a week on Saturday nights. Cal was insistent that, "This can't be like church!" Ron agreed.

At the meetings Ron talked to the boys about building relationships. He asked them, "Who is your best friend?" The boys hemmed and hawed. Ron tapped himself on the chest. They themselves are their

best friend. They needed to look inward. Then they needed to look vertically, to their Creator, God or Jesus Christ. Thirdly, there are horizontal relationships with teachers, parents, and friends. So, they can use their relationship with themselves, and God to build better relationships with others. Ron pointed out that wisdom is best developed in relationships. They will become wise. Hence they called themselves, The WiseGuys.

The WiseGuys' meetings on Saturday nights in Ron's home office became so

popular that once, when Ron and Becky were out of town and had to cancel the meeting, Cal called and said, "The WiseGuys have to meet." Ron and Becky hurried back so that the meeting could be held.

Each week one of the boys is a facilitator of various topics such as premarital sex, substance abuse, and career goals. Ron stays in the background and lets the boys interact amongst themselves. The meeting may consist of about 1/3 topic and 2/3 girls and football. There's a lot of roughhousing, cussing and four letter words. But as Ron points out, the Disciple Peter, a fisherman, no doubt used course language.

Speakers are sometimes invited in. There has been a yoga instructor, guidance counselor, and college professor. The meetings wind down with food and Xbox games on a huge television screen. Zoom is available for boys who can't attend in person.

Then the ultimate happened. Two of the boys, Jordan and River, expressed a desire to be baptized. On Sunday, Feb. 19th, at the 2nd Baptist Church in Liberty, MO, Jordan and River were fully immersed and surfaced as new young men. Reverend Jason Edwards had actual water from the Jordan River in Israel where Jesus was baptized. Rev. Edwards sprinkled a few drops of that water into the baptismal tank. He noted that Jordan and River were being baptized in water from the Jordan River—an "Ah, Ha!" moment, like it was ordained. The WiseGuys attended and observed closely. Another teen expressed a desire to become baptized also. Hallelujah, praise God!

Ron's overall approach to the guys is one of building a loving relationship with each one of them, letting God's Spirit do the rest of the work. He continues to be blessed daily in this work. His lay youth ministry is making an impact, a difference in a troubled world.

The WiseGuys' website is: [www.wiseguys.group](http://www.wiseguys.group).

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, find him on Facebook, email him at [curtswarm@yahoo.com](mailto:curtswarm@yahoo.com), or visit his website at [www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com](http://www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com).

# DIAGNOSED WITH NEUROPATHY?

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## Classifieds/Public Notices

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

### PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Lee County, Iowa**  
**Board of Supervisors**  
**Agenda**  
**DATE: Monday,**  
**February 27, 2023**  
**MEETING**  
**CONVENING TIME:**  
**10:00 A.M. (CDT)**  
**LOCATION:**  
**933 Avenue H**  
**Fort Madison, IA**

BOS Meeting  
 Mon, Feb 27, 2023  
 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
 (CST)  
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 221  
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 everyone is done speak-  
 ing before addressing the  
 Board. Please keep your  
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 cut down on background  
 noise. If you are partic-  
 ipating by phone, press  
 #6, this will mute your  
 phone.  
 Pledge of Allegiance  
 Approve Agenda

Public Input  
 Consider Approval of  
 Setback Waiver Agree-  
 ments and Amendment to  
 Joint Development Agree-  
 ment for Solar Energy  
 Project  
 Consider Approval of  
 Resolution Approving  
 GASB 87 -Right-To-Use  
 Lease Asset Policy  
 Consider Approval  
 of Letter of Support for  
 RAISE Grant for City of  
 Port Madison's Business  
 61 Reconstruction Project  
 Consider Approval to  
 Post Position for Admin-  
 istrative Assistant/Billing  
 Specialist to be Split  
 between EMS and Health  
 Department  
 Consider Approval of

Special Class C Retail  
 Alcohol License for Izaak  
 Walton League  
 Consider Approval of  
 Resolution Supporting  
 Legislation Restricting  
 Plans for Carbon Capture  
 Pipelines  
 Consider Approval To  
 Appoint County Building  
 Study Committee  
 Consider Approval of  
 Tuesday, February 21,  
 2023 Board Minutes  
 Consider Approval of  
 Claims for Payment  
 Commission or Com-  
 mittee Reports  
 Adjourn  
 Possible Workshop  
 to Follow  
**PUBLIC MEETING**

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**PUBLIC TEST**  
**OF VOTER EQUIPMENT**  
 The public test of Lee  
 County's voter equipment  
 to be used in the March 7,  
 2023 Special Election will  
 commence at 9:00 a.m.  
 on Tuesday, February 28,  
 2023 at the Lee County

Administrative Build-  
 ing, 933 Avenue H, Fort  
 Madison, and will contin-  
 ue until completed. The  
 public is invited to attend.  
 For further information,  
 please contact the county  
 auditor's office at the tele-  
 phone number or E-mail  
 address listed below.  
**NOTICE OF SPECIAL**  
**ELECTION**  
 All the qualified Elec-  
 tors of Lee County, Iowa  
 are hereby notified that  
 a Special Election will be  
 held on Tuesday, March  
 7, 2023.  
**ALL POLLS IN LEE**  
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# Classifieds/Public Notices

## PUBLIC NOTICES

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WHERE YOU MAY NORMALLY VOTE IN A GENERAL ELECTION – YOU WILL VOTE AT THE TEMPORARY LOCATION AT THIS ELECTION

### POLLING PLACES and VOTING PRECINCTS

Fort Madison Public Library, 1920 Ave E, Fort Madison- Fort Madison Ward 1, Ward 2, Ward 3, Ward 4 (A & B), Ward 5 & Madison Township & Part of Jefferson Township & Part of Washington Township

Pilot Grove Savings Bank Community Room, 506 N Main Street, Donnellson- Cedar, Charleston, Franklin, Harrison, Marion & Van Buren Townships & Cities of Donnellson, Franklin, Houghton & St Paul

Lee County Conser-

vation Center, 2652 Hwy 61, Montrose- Jefferson Township & addresses West of 243rd Ave up to Highway 218 & everything West of Highway 61 laying North of Highway 218 in Montrose Township

Ivor Fowler Center, 710 Main Street, Montrose- Addresses that lay East of Highway 61 & East of 243rd Ave in Montrose Township & City of Montrose

Jackson Township Fire Station, 3640 Argyle Road, Keokuk- Des Moines & Jackson Townships

West Point American Legion, 309 5th Street, West Point- West Point Township and City of West Point

Wever Town Hall/ Fire Station, 1692 354th Ave, Wever- Denmark, Green Bay, Pleasant Ridge & Washington Townships

Heritage Center, 508 Main Street, Keokuk- Keokuk Ward 1, Ward 2 (A & B) & Ward 3

Evangelical Free Church, 2315 S 7th Street, Keokuk- Keokuk Ward 4

First Christian Church, 3476 Main Street, Keokuk- Keokuk Ward 5, Ward 6 & Ward 7

Pre-registered voters are required to provide an approved form of identification at the polling place before receiving and casting a regular ballot. Voters who are not pre-registered, such as voters registering to vote on Election Day-and voters changing precincts must also provide proof of residence. A voter who is unable to provide an approved form of identification (or prove residence if required) 1) may have voter's identity/residence attested to by another registered voter in the precinct, 2) prove identity and residence using Election Day Registration documents, or 3) cast

a provisional ballot and provide proof of identity/residence at the County Auditor's office by March 13, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. Election Day Registrant attestors must provide an approved form of identification. For additional information about providing proof of identity and/or residence, visit: <https://sos.iowa.gov/voterid> or phone 319-372-3705.

Any voter who is physically unable to enter a polling place has the right to vote in the voter's vehicle. For further information, please contact the County Auditor's office at the telephone number or e-mail address listed below.

Telephone: 319-372-3705 E-mail address: [elections@leecounty.org](mailto:elections@leecounty.org)

I, Denise Fraise, hereby certify that the following public measure will appear on the Special Election Ballot:

Public Measure MW Shall the following public measure be adopted? Yes No

Shall the Lee County Board of Supervisors be authorized to impose an ad valorem property tax for the purposes of creation and maintenance of a stable revenue stream for its essential EMS services, in the amount of .75 (75 cents) per \$1,000.00 (One Thousand Dollars) of assessed value on all taxable property within the county to be used for funding of emergency medical services for a maximum period of 10 (ten) years?

Certified by: Denise Fraise

Lee County Auditor And Commissioner of Elections

**PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDINGS FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL 2/21/2023**

At 5:30 P.M., Council met in adjourned session on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, with Mayor Mohrfeld in the chair and Council Members Andrews, Bowker, Cangas, Gray, Rink, Amandus and Roller were present.

On motion, Council approved the Consent Agenda: Minutes of 1/31/2023 and 2/7/2023; Liquor License Renewal for Columbus Club, effective 2/7/2023, Claims dated 2/16/2023, February Library Claims; & Payroll of 2/10/2023.

Mark Long, EMS Director, updated the Council on the need for the citizens to pass an EMS Levy. Amanda Rogers, Best You Coalition, gave a report on the group's activities.

At 5:57 P.M., Mohrfeld opened the public hearing concerning the Fiscal Year 2024 Maximum Property Tax Dollars Levy. With no oral or written comments, Mohrfeld closed the public hearing at 6:02 P.M. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-10, approving the Fiscal Year 2024 Maximum Property Tax Dollars Levy. On separate motions, Council approved the first reading, waived the second reading, and approved Ordinance No. D-099, amending Title 9, Traffic, Chapter 7, Stopping, Standing, Parking, Section 6, Parking Prohibited, by adding the east and west side of 48th Street from the intersection of Avenue O, approximately 2,000 feet south, as no parking, on it's third reading.

On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-11, approving the Mayor and Clerk's signatures on a 28E Agreement with Great River Regional Waste Authority. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No.

2023-12, approving the Mayor's signature on a Purchase Agreement for property located at 2216-2220 Avenue L. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2022-13, approving a professional services agreement with Firitas LLC, of Galesburg, Illinois, for consulting services for Old Fort Madison.

On motion, Council approved setting public hearing for 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, 3/7/2023, on an amended and substituted lease agreement with the Tri-State Rodeo Corporation. On motion,

### EXPENDITURES

General	\$ 35,844.04
Special Revenue	117,104.83
Road Use	8,286.06
Capital	173,658.29
Water	4,562.79
Sewer	9,923.83
Solid Waste/IWC	21,552.95
SW Utility	00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$370,932.79</b>

### REVENUES

General	\$ 18,508.83
Special Rv	17,664.00
Road Use	150.00
Debt	2,136.75
Water	59.49
Sewer	8,316.56
Sld Waste, IWC	19.10
SW Utility	46.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$46,900.83</b>

### CLAIMS 2-21-2023

ALEXIS FIRE EQUIPMENT CO, FIRE TRUCK REPAIR	3,237.19
ALTORFER INC., MACHINE INSPECTION	1,024.09
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, OFFICE SUPPLIES	194.27
ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES, SHOP SUPPLIES	698.70
ASKEW SCIENTIFIC CONSULTING, PRE-TREATMENT STUDY	3,198.68
ASPEN MILLS, UNIFORM	672.13
BARCO MUNICIPAL PRODUCTS INC, SIGN MATERIALS	2,377.05
BJ 'S PERFORMANCE, REPLACE TIRES	942.98
BROZENES HYDRAULIC SERVICE, CURB GUARD/PARTS	548.02
BUILDING MATERIALS	

Council approved the Mayor's reappointments of Paul Wilkerson, Sue Pieper and Jim Decker to the Parks Board, and Joel Amandus to the Planning and Zoning Commission, terms expiring 3/31/2026. On motion, Council approve the Mayor's appointment of Carl Hierstein to the Library Board, filling an unexpired term, term expiring 7/1/2024.

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 P.M.

/s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor

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

### PAYROLL

General	\$203,979.36
Old Fort	2,858.25
Road Use	29,646.64
Water	31,010.67
Sewer	29,972.66
Solid Waste	14,431.62
Airport	312.77
Storm Water	3,097.51
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$337,387.64</b>

INC, DOORS/SILL	3,001.44
CITY OF FORT MADISON, LEACHATE DISCHARGE (E&W)	
ALTORFER INC., MACHINE INSPECTION	2,079.10
CITYBLUE TECHNOLOGIES, LLC, PRINT HEAD FOR MAP PRINTER	506.69
CULLEN PEST CONTROL, MONTHLY PEST CONTROL	129.00
DAILY DEMOCRAT, PUBLICATIONS	619.87
DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY, OFFICE SUPPLIES	7.70
DOUDS STONE, LLC, ROADSTONE	3,446.83
DUNKIN GARAGE & TOWING, OIL CHANGE	200.00
EUROFINS ENVIRONMENT TESTING, SLUDGE TEST	308.16
FARM & HOME SUPPLY, WIRE	49.99
FIRE SERVICE TRAINING BUREA, TRAINING	

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- Opportunities to earn up to \$29.46/hr

- \$.45 2nd shift / \$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
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## PUBLIC NOTICES

..... 112.18	..... 186.13
FLOYD'S EZ WAY,	QUILL LLC, PENS/FOLD-
TRASH PICK-UP.. 903.50	ERS/USB..... 520.88
FORT MADISON WATER	RAINBO OIL COMPANY,
DEPT, WATER..... 52.17	PUMP KIT..... 100.00
GREAT RIVER REGION-	RED LION RENEW-
AL WASTE, LANDFILL	ABLES, ELECTRIC
FEES ..... 21,658.30	..... 1,963.64
GREAT WESTERN SUP-	ROBERT BROWN,
PLY CO, JANITORIAL	CLOTHING/BOOT
SUPPLIES ..... 149.61	ALLOW ..... 647.66
HALL'S EXCAVATING &	ROBERTS TIRE CEN-
SEPTIC, HOUSE FIRE	TERR CORP, REPLACED
DEMO..... 5,000.00	TIRES.....4,911.86
HUFFMAN WELDING &	SELECTIVE INS. CO,
MACHINE, CLOTHING,	FLOOD INS @ OLD
SUPPLIES, ETC... 418.70	FORT..... 5,012.00
HUMBURD AUTO SER-	SHERWOOD COMPANY,
VICE, REPLACE TIRE	FORT MADISON SIGN
..... 218.13	..... 6,675.00
HY-VEE ACCOUNTS RE-	SLAVISH, INC, MAN-
CEIVABLE, JANITORIAL	HOLE TOPS/RISERS
SUPPLIES ..... 88.70	..... 6,507.25
ICONNECTYOU, FIN-	SOUTHEAST IA RE-
GERPRINT INTERNET	GIONAL MED, PRE-EM-
..... 5.00	PLOYMENT SCREEN
IDEXX DISTRIBUTION,	..... 330.00
INC., TEST KITS	SOUTHEAST IOWA CITY
..... 1,277.32	CLERK, CITY CLERK
IOWA PRISON INDUS-	MEMBERSHIP ..... 20.00
TRIES, SIGNS..... 118.60	SOUTHEASTERN
KARL JUDD, TRAVEL	COMMUNITY COLLEGE,
REIMB ..... 15.00	TRAINING ..... 15.00
KENT BRISBY, UNI-	STERLING BARNES,
FORM GEAR..... 103.35	CLOTHING ALLOW-
LISCO, PHONE/INTER-	ANCE..... 24.60
NET ..... 1,969.05	TIM'S REPAIR SHOP,
MACQUEEN, EQUIP-	CLAMPS/CHAINS
MENT PARTS.. 86,277.34	..... 249.50
MADISON TURF &	TRUCK REPAIR INC.,
TIMBER, OIL/FILTERS/	HYDRAULIC LINES
BLADES ..... 3,355.08	..... 201.59
MARICORP, US DOCKS	UNITY POINT CLINIC,
PHASE 2 ..... 167,151.04	DRUG SCREENING
MCCLURE ENGINEER-	..... 168.00
ING CO., PROF FEE	UPS, SHIPPING..... 27.74
..... 13,725.50	USA BLUE BOOK, BAT-
MUNICIPAL EMERGEN-	TERY/BOARD ..... 509.89
CY SERVICE, FOAM	WOODROFFE SAWMILL
CONCENTRATE	INC, LUMBER ..... 100.00
..... 2,450.00	TOTAL ..... 361,216.79
MICROBAC LABORATO-	GENERAL ..... 30,162.13
RIES LLC, SAMPLING	SPECIAL REVENUE
..... 1,251.50	..... 99,282.25
MIDWEST BREATHING	ROAD USE..... 8,286.06
AIR LLC, SERVICE/	CAPITAL PROJECTS
TESTING ON AIR COM-	..... 173,658.29
PR..... 720.26	WATER..... 4,562.79
MOHRFELD ELECTRIC,	WASTEWATER
REPLACE DRAIN	..... 9,923.83
..... 149.83	SOLID WASTE
MUNICIPAL SUPPLY	..... 21,552.95
INC., RISERS.... 2,571.02	AIRPORT..... 13,788.49
NAPA AUTO PARTS,	TOTAL ..... 361,216.79
SPARK PLUG..... 7.98	
NORTH LEE CLERK	
OF DISTRICT COURT,	
COURT FEES ..... 55.00	
PRODUCTIVITY PLUS	
ACCOUNT, SEAL KIT	

**LIBRARY - FEB 2023**

ACCESS SYSTEMS,
TONER..... 185.99
AMAZON CAPITAL SER-

VICES, DVD'S... 1,250.41
BAKER & TAYLOR,
SHELF MATERIAL
..... 2,405.34
BLACKSTONE PUBLISH-
ING, SHELF MATERIAL
..... 159.16
CENGAGE LEARNING
INC./GALE, SHELF MA-
TERRIAL ..... 147.49
DEMCO, PAPER/BOOK
JACKETS ..... 275.80
DODD PRINTING & STA-
TIONERY, PAPER
..... 216.27
EXCEL IT SERVICES,
CLOUD BACKUP ... 35.31
GREENWOOD CLEAN-
ING SYSTEM, TOWELS
..... 188.84
IOWA LIBRARY ASSOC.,
2023 MEMBERSHIP
..... 155.00
KANOPY, INC., PLAY
CREDITS..... 21.00
MEDIACOM BUSINESS,
PHONE..... 383.57
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY
COMPANY, HEAT
..... 797.10
MOHRFELD ELECTRIC,
REPLACED BATHROOM
LIGHTS.....110.00
OVERDRIVE, INC, LI-
BRARY MATERIAL
..... 264.98
PENGUIN RANDOM
HOUSE LLC, SHELF
MATERIAL..... 300.00
PETERS HEATING & AIR
CONDITIONING, REPAIR
FURNACE ..... 212.96
PETTY CASH - SARAH
CLENDINENG, CRAFT
SUPPLIES ..... 73.73
QUILL LLC, BATTERY/
PENS/LABELS ..... 97.89
RONALD JOHNSON,
BALLOON SCULPTING
CLASS..... 400.00
SCHOLASTIC INC.,
SHELF MATERIAL
..... 1,130.06
SERVICEMASTER, JANI-
TORIAL SERVICE
..... 905.10
TOTAL ..... 9,716.00
GENERAL ..... 5,681.91
SPECIAL REVENUES
..... 4,034.09
TOTAL ..... 9,716.00

**PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE CITY OF FORT MADISON PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION TUESDAY,**

**FEBRUARY 28, 2023 6:00PM COUNCIL CHAMBERS CITY HALL 811 AVENUE E, FORT MADISON, IA 52627**

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes – January 24, 2023 Meeting
3. Zoning Code Updates – Discussion regarding extent of research required to complete zoning code updates.
  - Review Zoning Map
  - Review/Explore Zoning District Uses
  - Discuss District boundary changes, map modifications to better incorporate proper uses
4. Adjournment

**PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Fort Madison, Iowa, will meet in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, at 5:30 PM on March 7, 2023, at which time and place a hearing will be conducted concerning a fifteen (15) year amendment to a lease agreement with the Fort Madison Rodeo Corporation (Tri-State Rodeo) for the Tri-State Rodeo Arena Complex and areas used during the Tri-State Rodeo, in Fort Madison, Lee County, Iowa. You may appear at the hearing to express your views concerning the above. Written statements may be submitted to the Fort Madison City Clerk, P.O. Box 240, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 or [mblind@fort-madison-ia.com](mailto:mblind@fort-madison-ia.com), no later than 4:30 PM on March 7, 2023 or delivered before the hearing is closed. Melinda L. Blind City Clerk

**PUBLIC NOTICE ORDINANCE NO. D-099**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 9, CHAPTER 7, SECTION 6 (PARKING PROHIBITED) OF THE FORT MADISON CITY CODE**

Be it enacted by the City Council of the City of Fort Madison, Iowa: SECTION 1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend Title 9, Chapter 7, authorizing the City Council to add a no parking zone, as recommended by the Chief of Police. SECTION 2. The City Council of the City of Fort Madison does hereby amend Title 9, Traffic, Chapter 7, Stopping, Standing, Parking, Section 6, Parking Prohibited, by adding the following:

Street.....48th Street Side ..... East and West Area ..... Commencing at the intersection of Avenue O, extended a distance of approximately 2000 feet south to the south most driveway access of 1910 – 48th Street (Scott's Miracle Gro)

SECTION 3. REPEAL. All other sections of this Ordinance in conflict with these provisions shall be repealed.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. If any section, provision or part of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any section, provision or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 5. WHEN EFFECTIVE. This ordinance shall be in effect from and after its final passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

/s/Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor  
ATTEST:  
/s/Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk

**PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE**

**CENTRAL LEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT DONNELSON, IOWA 52625**

**CENTRAL LEE DISTRICT OFFICE TENTATIVE AGENDA FEBRUARY 28, 2023 WORK SESSION 7:00 A.M.**

1. Call to Order
2. High School Presentation
3. Finance Review - FY24 Budget
4. Adjournment

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Iowa News/From the Front

# Telling good tales depends on having good sources

**STORIES** - Continued from Page 1

Chuck Banks to the Bloodhounds staff. Chuck is very nice fit for head coach Derek Doherty's program. He believes in a culture of building a program that not only the athletes buy into, but the community as well. Banks had a rough go of it at Central Lee hampered by COVID and diminishing numbers.

But his relationship with the Fort Madison staff resulted in him being absorbed into the Hounds system. And we're excited for that addition.

Those relationships are critical in small towns, but much harder to hang onto. That may seem counterintuitive, but it's not. Everyone knows everyone. Stories are shared, and the inquisitive nature of beings leaves us all a little exposed.

A mayor is exposed regularly, and mostly because

he or she put their name on a ballot. Councilmembers are exposed, supervisors are exposed... journalists are exposed.

I open my life to readership almost on a weekly basis. People know a lot about me, but in my six years with Pen City Current, I've learned quickly and profoundly, they want it that way.

I write these pieces every week to create debate, to help people who've just had a rough week and are looking for a good start to the next one.

I write in the hopes that these words find their way to someone who really needs them that day - looking for balance. Or someone who's a little lost and sees in about six minutes they aren't the only ones.

Sometimes I feel like I'm on a short cliff with my fingers searching for just a crack to hang onto or maybe even climb from. And sometimes you feel like you're on

the top of the cliff enjoying the view.

I'm dancing around a little bit here to lay some foundation. I'm not an attorney, but I like lawyer shows.

Here's the deal. Journalism is all about relationships and trust. When you're having a casual conversation with sources, they need to know whether they're on the record or not. They should always assume they are, but clarify when they don't want to be. After six years most of my sources I consider friends. So trust comes into play very quickly.

When they ask you to sit on a story and you do, that's capital being spent.

When I do sources a solid and sit on a story it's with the intention that when the story breaks and those related to it are ready to go public, the favor of sitting on the story is repaid. It's a gamble we measure against the reward many, many times.

And many times being the nice guy has burned me. Many times. But it also has instilled a sense of fair play with the people we tell stories about. And they like that...for the most part.

But it's also a thing we do to build repute and trust with all sides of news. Sometimes we win with that approach and sometimes we lose. But at the end of the day it all figures in how the news gets released, and how stories are told.

The relationship has to grow and change and grow strong roots. And every now and then we test the boundaries a bit, and like a making a muscle grow, you have to tear it down to build it up.

This past weekend we tore things down a bit in hopes that the relationship gets stronger. We believe it will, and in the meantime friendships grow under the surface - but that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is editor and co-owner of Pen City Current and can be reached at [editor@pencitycurrent.com](mailto:editor@pencitycurrent.com).

## Murder by the Book opens March 24

BURLINGTON - Crisp witty exchanges and constant plot twists abound in the mystery-thriller Murder by the Book, which Players Workshop will open on March 24, 2023, at the Workshop at 1431 Grove St., Burlington.

Set in London, this light-hearted and inventive thriller by Duncan Greenwood and Robert King unfolds as a frustrated mystery writer indulges in vitriolic word duels with his estranged wife, until she finally snaps and shoots him. But is he dead? A would-be detective attempts to solve the murder before the police, but deadly games are afoot as the tables constantly turn for both the victim and the killers.

The cast is as follows: Allan Allsup (Mount Pleasant) as the writer, Hadley Fleener as his secretary, Joanne Arms as the wife, Joseph Harmon (Ft. Madison) as the "detective," and James Beres as the publisher.

Murder by the Book is directed by Kent Lewis, assisted by Njeri Patrik. Bill Ell is the producer.

The play will be at the Workshop on March 24-25, 30-31, April 1 at 7:30 p.m. and on March 26 and April 2 at 2:00 p.m.

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