

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Monday, March 20, 2023 | 6 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 55



www.pencitycurrent.com

Speed cameras coming?

SUPERVISORS: County mulling over idea of putting cameras on Hwy. 218/27

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Slow down on Hwys. 218 and 27. Just start it now.
Lee County is currently in discussions to add speed cameras on that main circuit through the county.
Penalties for speeding would be civil and not criminal, but Lee County Supervisor Chairman Garry Seyb and Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said the move is geared to get people to slow down.
Weber has said for most of his five years as sheriff that Lee County needs to do more to save lives on roadways.

“Fifty-two percent of traffic was speeding northbound and I worry for our citizens who live in and have to travel the area around Highway 27,” Weber said.
“Motorists passing through ignore our state posted speed limit and endanger our friends and families who are crossing over it every day.”
Seyb said it’s something Weber has been looking at for some time.
“He reached out and we talked about it. We haven’t really put it out there in public space as we were research-driven to start with,” Seyb said.”

See CAMERAS, page 6

HOUSING AUTHORITY FMHA to end contract with county

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Housing Authority has given notice to the Lee County Board of Supervisors that they intend to end a services contract for county-owned apartment buildings.
The move comes as the County reviews its current building inventory with an eye toward divesting itself of properties to streamline revenues and expenses.
Housing Authority Director Michael Dear submitted a letter to county officials on March 16 following a meeting that day of the FMHA board of commissioners.
“At today’s regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fort Madison Housing Authority, the commissioners

See CONTRACT, page 6

SHARED PROGRAMS FMCSO parts ways with HTC for football program

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Officials at Fort Madison High School have announced the sharing program with Holy Trinity Catholic, specific to the Bloodhound football team, will not be renewed for the upcoming 2023 football season.
A statement released Wednesday afternoon indicated that only football will be impacted at this point.
The Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) engaged in a reclassification process for all statewide football programs as it does every two years. The organization finalized those plans on Monday and it was determined the Fort

See FOOTBALL, page 4

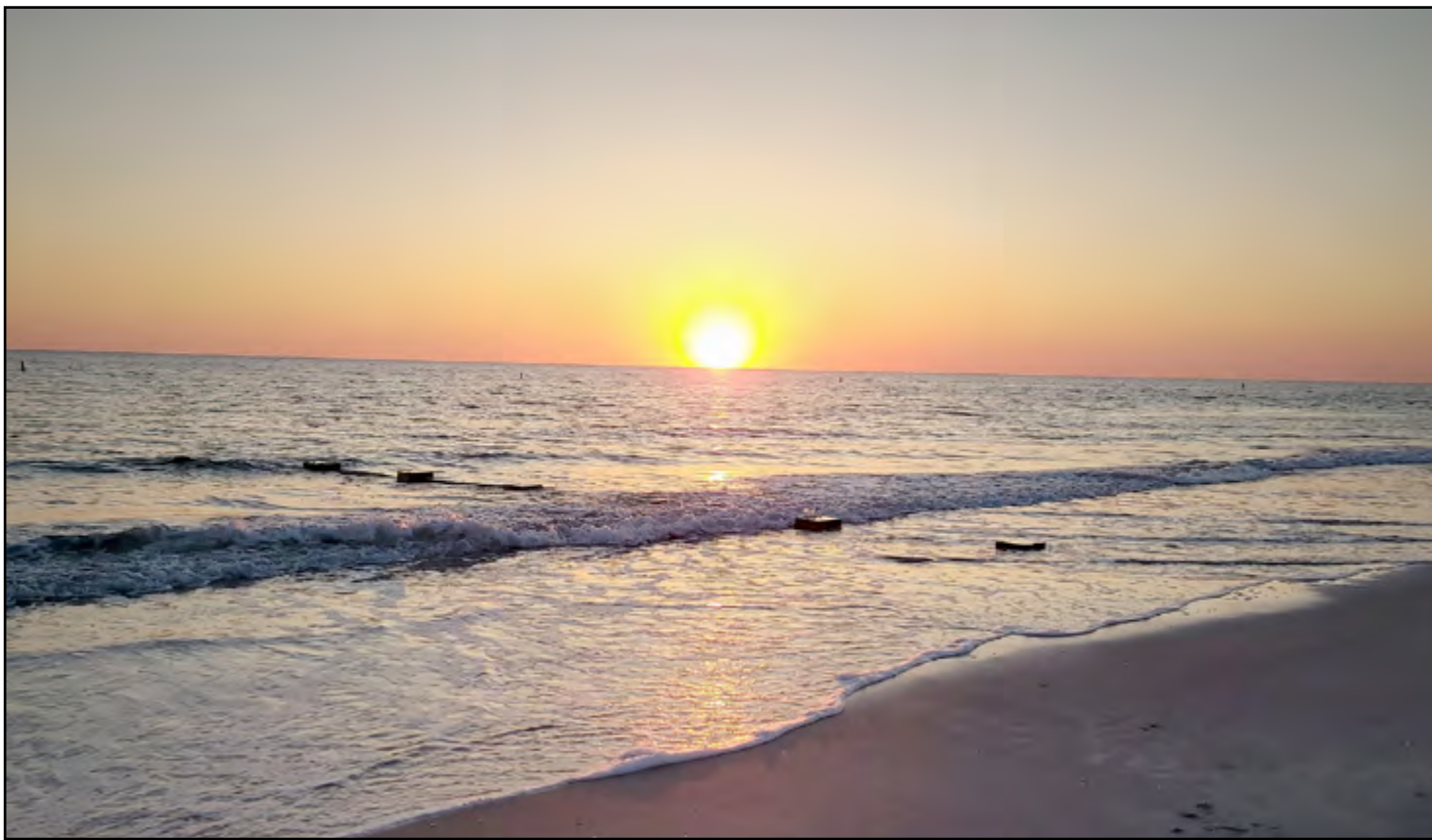


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The sun just touches the horizon at Medeira Beach near St. Petersburg, Florida Wednesday night. The beauty of the moment is a brief shroud and reprieve from the trudgings of every day life

BESIDE THE POINT

Getaway to the Gulf provides a brief reprieve

There’s something permanent about a sun kissing the Gulf of Mexico on a not-so-warm spring evening.
All you can see is surf, and the stretch of the sun’s reflection off the gray water toward you. No matter where you stand, that reflection comes straight at you. It’s kind of

magical until you think about the physics of it - and the instinctual smile created by the moment fades.
The world overwhelmed me...again last week when I made a trip to an Iowa City hospital and got more not-so-good news. I hate that place.

Never in my life have I felt like a number more than a person than in a hospital. Bedside manners are in place and courtesies rules the visit, but at the end of it all, your family’s just a stat line on a spreadsheet.

See GETAWAY, page 6

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WEATHER

MON 20 MarMostly sunny and breezy, 53° F/ 35° F
TUE 21 Mar Cloudy with chance of rain, 48° F/ 40° F
WED 22 Mar Cloudy with chance of rain showers, 60° F/ 44° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 03/1835 37 44 45 46, Star Ball: 1 All Star Bonus: 4
LUCKY FOR LIFE 03/188 18 19 29 41, Lucky Ball: 4
MEGA MILLIONS 03/1726 28 29 39 49, Mega Ball: 25 Megaplier: 3
PICK 3 03/16, 03/17, 03/18 MIDDAY574, 415, 982
PICK 3 03/16, 03/17, 03/18 EVENING.....517, 573, 757
PICK 4 03/16, 03/17, 03/18 MIDDAY.....9902, 0512, 7354
PICK 4 03/16, 03/17, 03/18 EVENING9519, 2183, 3099
POWERBALL 03/18.....14 20 30 54 69, Powerball: 11 Power Play: 2

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

MARY L. FEDLER

Mary Linn Fedler, 69, of West Point, Iowa, passed away at 11:57 p.m. Thursday, March 9, 2023, at the West Point Care Center in West Point, Iowa.

She was born on November 27, 1953, in Quebec, Canada. She was adopted by Linus and Celeste (Winnike) Freitag from a convent in Wisconsin. On February 9, 1974, she married Ron Fedler at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point.



FEDLER

She is survived by her husband: Ron; two sons: Linus (JoAnna) Fedler of Fort Madison, Iowa and Adam (Keri) Fedler of Tioga, North Dakota; one daughter: Nicole (Matt) Lepper of Abingdon, Illinois; eleven grandchildren and several nieces, nephews, cousins and in-laws.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother: Rick and sister-in-law: Debbie. Mary Linn was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and the Altar and Rosary Society of the church. She enjoyed golf cart rides with her husband Ron and dog Ollie. Her greatest joy was being with children.

A visitation was held Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point. A parish rosary was recited at 4:00 p.m. and a Christian wake service was held at 5:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

A Mass of Christian burial was held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Marcy 15, 2023, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in West Point with Father Joseph Phung as celebrant.

Burial was in Calvary Cemetery in West Point.

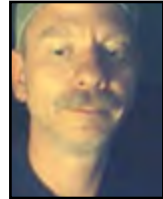
Memorials have been established in her memory for PAW Animal Shelter or West Point Care Center.

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

OBITUARIES

RAYMOND S. DAVIS

Raymond Samuel Davis, 58, of Keokuk, IA died Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at his home. He was born November 14, 1964 in Keokuk, IA the son of David L. Sr. and Roberta Glorine Klesner Davis. Raymond graduated from the Iowa School of the Deaf in 1983 and attended Iowa Western Community College, both in Council Bluffs, IA.



DAVIS

Raymond had been employed at County Market in Keokuk for fourteen years and later at Dave's Place in Keokuk for three years.

He attended New Testament Christian Church in Keokuk.

Raymond had a green thumb and could grow just about anything. He enjoyed watching movies, especially The Three Stooges and anything with drama and action. Raymond was a wonderful cook. He loved to decorate his home for Christmas and host a holiday gathering for family and friends with an abundance of great food and good times. He also enjoyed spending time at the river and attending all types of activities for the deaf.

He is survived by four siblings, David Davis (Pam) of Idaho, Diana Moulton (Chuck Spiller) of Keokuk, Violet Spoore of Keokuk and Penny Davis of Keokuk. He is also survived by longtime friend, who was like a sister, Becky Riney of Keokuk, longtime friend, Donna Anderson of Keokuk and friend, Quianna Ellis of Keokuk and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one nephew, Harley Moulton.

A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m., Monday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA. Burial will be in the Sunset Memorial Park.

Visitation will be held from 6-8 p.m., Sunday at the funeral home with family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to the family.

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

Pen City Current obituary policy

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

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Lack of eye contact is a sign of autism.



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Obituaries/Local News

OBITUARIES

DARRELL MOELLER

Darrell "Henry" Moeller, 83, of Salem, IA, passed away Saturday, March 11, 2023 at his home, in his favorite chair, with his wife by his side.

Darrell was born a leap year baby on February 29, 1940, the son of Albert and Mary Scharpman Moeller. He was united in marriage to Joyce Lampe on May 30, 1964. Darrell lived and farmed all his life in the rural Salem and Houghton area. His passion was raising livestock and tilling the soil. Throughout the years, he worked many jobs off the farm to support his family. His biggest joy was his family. He enjoyed going to sale barns and connecting with friends and strangers alike. For many years, he sold seed to countless friends and neighbors. Ears of corn and stalks of beans were often found in his truck during the annual search for the best genetic variety.

Darrell was a member of the Henry County Cattlemen's Association, and he was the recipient of Cattleman of the Year in 2016. He was a member of St. John the Baptist Church and the Knights of Columbus in Houghton. He served in the National Guard and was a member of several tractor clubs. He enjoyed watching NASCAR, watching the RFD Ag programs and rooting for the Chicago Cubs. Darrell loved jigsaw puzzles, visiting coffee shops with friends, and playing euchre. However, his greatest joy was spending time with his wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Darrell is survived by his loving wife Joyce of 58 years; children Jeanne (Mark) Owens of Homestead, IA, Steven (Kimberly) Moeller of Reisterstown, MD, Jeffrey (Andrea) Moeller of Salem, IA, and Carrie (Christian) Johnsen of Des Moines, IA; grandchildren Rebecca (Kody) Curtis, Elizabeth Owens, Michelle (Anthony) Mashek, Olivia and Grace Moeller, Lindsey and Kyle Moeller, Emma and Cooper Huckabone, Karoline and Leif Johnsen; great-grandchildren Kolter and Truett Curtis; brothers Marvin, Paul (Sharon Walden) and Greg (Lana) Moeller; sisters Vera (Lonnie) Glasscock, Eileen (Robert) Barnett; and sister-in-law Kay Wesley. He is preceded in death by parents Albert and Mary Moeller; brothers Dennis, Victor, Kevin, and Larry Moeller; sister Marilyn Boecker; sister-in-laws Dorothy Moeller, Jeanne Moeller, Patricia Steffensmeier and Glenda Moeller; brother-in-laws John Arnold and Rodger Boecker.

Visitation will begin at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Houghton, where the family will receive friends from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. A Knights of Columbus rosary will be recited at 6:30 p.m.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Houghton with Father Joseph Phung as celebrant.

Burial will be in Saint John's Cemetery in Houghton, Iowa.

In lieu of flowers, memorials have been established to Salem Fire and Rescue and Houghton Fire and Rescue.

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

FMAAA resuming FINALE

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Area Arts Association located at 825 Avenue G is resuming their free performance series called FINALE to coincide with the current Carol Gunn Captured Impressions pastels exhibition. The March FINALE to be held on Saturday, March 25th at 7pm in the Main Gallery of the Art Center will push into performance art using the spoken word. FINALE: LETTERS from the River of Time dives into the

archives of the Nauvoo Historical Society with additional letters made available from the Fort Madison Historical Society and Dr. Eugene Watkins, along with some FMAAA Members to provide a rich cross section of thoughts.

About this month's performance event... The spoken word can convey a great deal of meaning as we lend inflection and personality

See FINALE, page 4



MOELLER

OBITUARIES

GARRY D. BRISCOE

Garry Dean Briscoe, 83, of Keokuk, Iowa, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family and friends on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at his home in Keokuk.

Garry was born July 17, 1939, to William and Lucille (Hoewing) Briscoe in Alexandria, MO. He graduated from Keokuk Senior High in 1957. Garry received his Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts from Keokuk Community College in 1959. He went on to receive his Bachelor's Degree from Northeast Missouri State University in Kirksville, MO. Garry was united in marriage to Norma Lou Squires on November 24, 1963, at the First Christian Church in Keokuk, Iowa. She survives.

Garry was employed as an Inventory Control Manager at Dial Corporation for many years, retiring in the early 1990s. He loved sports and was an Iowa Hawkeyes and Keokuk Chiefs super fan, traveling to the Keokuk Chiefs games with his family and held season tickets to the Iowa Hawkeyes football & basketball games for many years. Garry also ran the clock for the Keokuk football team for 40 years. In his younger years he played second base and basketball for the Keokuk Komets at Keokuk Community College. Garry was a self-made man, never met a stranger and was an inspiration to many.

Garry is survived by his wife Norma; daughters Kelli (Steve) Rose of Keokuk and Melissa (Phillip) Shaneyfelt of Jacksonville, Florida; grandchildren Tiffany (Scott) Lange, Mathew (Lexie) Ritter, Brittany (Coleman) Wiseman, Whittany (JP) Flambeau, Bryce (Jenna) Rose, Katie Shaneyfelt and Kaylie Shaneyfelt; great-grandchildren Carver, Nolan and Lauren Lange, Alten Lowman, Harry Huffman, baby boy Wiseman due June 1st, Austin Follmuth, Khi and Calum Flambeau and Sam and Jack Rose; half-sister Lora (Randy) Comstock of Alta Loma, California; half-brothers Tim (Vicki) Briscoe of Keokuk and David (Karen) Maddox of Fort Madison; sisters-in-law Robin Briscoe of Keokuk and Teresa (Stephen) Price of Blue Springs, Missouri; several nieces, nephews and cousins; many special friends including Gene Weber, Byron Klapprott, Bob Dunlap & Jim Vandenberg; and 2 cats Herkey & Minnie.

Garry is preceded in death by his parents, brothers William "Bill" Briscoe and John Briscoe, sister Betty Adams, brother-in-law Lee Squires, granddaughter Jennifer Shaneyfelt, nephews Jamey Briscoe and Tyler Price, and father-in-law and mother-in-law Owen and Mary Squires, and Herschel Seaton.

Funeral services was held at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at Trinity United Methodist Church, 2330 Plank Road in Keokuk. Visitation was held at the church from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Tuesday directly before the service. Burial was at 3:30 PM that afternoon at Frazee Cemetery in Wayland, Missouri, following a luncheon at the church.

Memorials may be directed to the City of Christmas or Bentley's Playground (KPLAY).

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com.

DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.



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From the Front/Classifieds

Numbers push FM into 4A with HTC

FOOTBALL - Continued from Page 1

Madison football program would be classified as a 3A program without including the nonpublic enrollment numbers of HTC.

“If the enrollment numbers of HTC were to be included in the classification, the Fort Madison football program would be forced into a 4A classification. As a result, FMCS D will not be renewing the sharing agreement with HTC for the football program beginning the 2023-2024 school year,” the statement from the district indicated.

Head Bloodhound Football Coach Derek Doherty said the move would impact about five players but only a couple would impact things immediately. He said for the health of the program, it’s probably the best move.

“It does suck, because I love those guys,” Doherty said.

“I found out earlier today that that was going to happen. It’s definitely a double edged sword, We’re happy to be playing 3A football because that’s where we sit. When you look at BEDs that’s where it would have been, so the activities office based that decision on whether to be 3A or 4A.

“But there are really good football teams all the way through. If you look at size of schools, though, we’re a 3A.”

Doherty said Fort Madison was only getting one or two per year, but last year that number grew and he was seeing more in the Athletic Enhancement program.

“We were only getting one to two a year. Last year we ended up getting six. Adam Sobczak is a

big loss, he’s been fantastic, and Conner Gehling was just giving football a shot. Hope that benefited him in basketball.”

Doherty said the shared programs have gone back and forth with different coaches.

“I totally understand what happened. HTC has done that in the past with Coach (Michael) Sheerin because they didn’t want the Fort Madison girls on the HTC team, which turned out to be a blessing because Coach (Sebastian) Seifert was able to put our team back together at FMHS and have success.”

Holy Trinity Athletic Director John Goetz said, “I talked to Jeff. He didn’t give me anything other than that they are in discussions.”

“I understand the situation 100%, but I feel bad

for our kids who have put their heart and soul into playing football,” Goetz said. “These kids get along and it’s good for the two schools to do that.”

Goetz said he hopes going forward the two schools can continue the positive relationships they’ve had in the past.

“I would hope we could keep that relationship going. We’ve had a great relationship with Fort Madison. We’ve had kids participate in tennis, soccer, football, baseball, and I just hope we can continue with that in a positive way with Fort Madison,” he said.

“I don’t want it to be negative.”

Goetz said he spoke with Fort Madison Activities Director Jeff Lamb Wednesday afternoon. Lamb declined to comment for the article.

Artists encouraged to share works

FINALE - Continued from Page 3

to emote the words into something larger than what is on the page. Handwritten letters stand in as an archival window to thoughts, feelings, and happenings at a given point in time. They can be an interesting glimpse of a moment that happened or was considered. Put them together and it can be powerful. Set them in the introspective space that Carol Gunn’s work suggests with imagery that asks “what’s behind that bend” or “just over that hill” and you have the setting for a lovely juxtaposition. Join us as members of the Nauvoo Historical Society and FMAAA Members along with Dr. Watkins share these letters from a different point in time with the present.

FINALE began in 2021 inspired from the Covid years to provide a space for performers of all sorts to begin performing again – getting the band back together, trying out new material or new sets, or just practicing being in front of people again – then evolved into the way the Art Center ends that month’s gallery exhibition. It is another night to gather in the Main Gallery, enjoying the exhibition’s final days enjoying performance and readings in addition to the visuals. It continued through 2022 with highlights like the Iowa Ear Ensemble experimental music members Patrick Hazel, Grace Bell, Will Parsons, and John Lake getting back together after more than 20years for a final show in June, and ending the year with a lively piano performance by Vincent Garza in December. The Art Center is resuming this monthly event on Saturday, March 25 at 7pm and is finally pushing into the “art performances of all sorts” space it is supposed to occupy. Please spread the word!

Do you have a letter of your own to share? Or a story about letters? Please email the Art Center at fortmadisonart@gmail.com to be added to the program for that evening!

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
Agenda
DATE: Monday,
March 20, 2023
MEETING
CONVENING TIME:
10:00 A.M. (CDT)
LOCATION:
933 Avenue H
Fort Madison, IA

BOS Meeting
 Mon, Mar 6, 2023 10:00 AM -11:00 AM (CST)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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If you would like to pose a question to the Board, please use the Chat feature and wait for the Chairman to address you. If you are participating by phone, please wait until everyone is done speaking before addressing the Board. Please keep your microphone muted to cut down on background noise. If you are participating by phone, press #6, this will mute your phone.

Pledge of Allegiance
 Approve Agenda
 Public Input
 Consider Approval of Green Bay Township Request for County to Borrow Funds for Injunction

Consider Approval of Setback Waiver Agreements and Amendment to Joint Development Agreement with Alliant Energy for Solar Energy Project
 Discuss Fort Madison Housing Authority’s Board Decision Related to Lee County Contract for County Owned Apartments and Possible Options Moving Forward

Consider Approval of Final Construction Progress Voucher for HMA Resurfacing of J 62, Project #FM-CO56 (112- -55-56)
 Discussion of Senate File 527 and House File 643

Consider Approval to Invest \$1.5 Million in County Funds in CD at Farmer’s Savings Bank
 Consider Approval of Second Reading and Possible Waiver of Third Reading of Pioneer Cemetery Ordinance
 Consent Agenda
 • Tuesday, March 14, 2023 Board Minutes
 • Claims for Payment
 • Tax Abatement Reso-

lution
 Reports:
 A. Manure Management Annual Update for Marvin Holtkamp in Franklin Township
 B. Recorder’s Report of Fees Collected
 Commission or Committee Reports
 Adjourn

Possible Workshop to Follow
PUBLIC MEETING
CITIZENS WELCOME

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PUBLIC NOTICE
TENTATIVE AGENDA
FORT MADISON
CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY,
MARCH 21, 2023
5:30 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL
CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

INVOCATION
 ROLL CALL
 VISITORS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS:

At this time persons may address Council on any matters not on the Council agenda. After identifying yourself by name and address, please briefly state your issue. PLEASE NOTE: This is not an opportunity to discuss issues with Council or to get information. In accordance with Open Meetings law, Council may not deliberate upon, nor take action on any complaint or suggestion or respond to any allegations which are not part of the published agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA
 1. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to approve the consent agenda:

- Minutes of March 7, 2023;
- Liquor License Renewal: Walgreens, 2639 Avenue L, effective May 21, 2023 – Class E Retail Alcohol License;
- Claims dated March 16, 2023, March Library Claims; and
- Payroll of March 10, 2023.

COMMUNITY REPORT: Pen City Cruisers – Chad Schneider
 Discussion and Possible Action: Waiver of Pavilion Rental Fee
PUBLIC HEARINGS

Concerning the Sale of City-Owned Property at 1713-15 Avenue H
 Open Public Hearing
 Close Public Hearing
 2. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to adopt resolution approving the sale of City-Owned property at 1713-15 Avenue H to (blank) for a cost of (blank).

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

3. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to adopt resolution approving the Mayor’s signature on a one-year lease agreement with Sanchez Boxing.

4. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to adopt resolution approving the Mayor’s signature on Change Order #3 for Public Improvement Project 2021-02, Avenue F Bridge Over French Creek, and 2021-03, 27th Street Bridge Over Dry Creek.(SEE COUNCIL REPORT NO. 2023-10)

5. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to adopt a resolution ordering construction, setting public hearing and bid letting for Public Improvement Project 2022-03, AWOS Replacement.

OTHER
 6. (Blank) MOVED and

(blank) SECONDED to approve the bid of 3E of Burlington, Iowa, in the amount of \$115,270 for lights for the Riverview Park Marina Project.

7. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to approve the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget and setting Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 5:30 P.M., as date and time for hearing.

8. Update/Discussion and Possible Action Concerning Old Fort Madison

DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND CITY MANAGER’S FINANCIAL REPORT

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS/MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT - The City Council next regular meeting will be 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

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 21, 2023, at which time and place

Classifieds/Public Notices

SHOP Classifieds

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PUBLIC NOTICES

a hearing will conducted concerning the sale of City property located at 1713-1715 Avenue H, legally described as follows:

Lot Number Four (4) of Webster's Subdivision in Outlot Number Ten Hundred Eighty-Six (1086) of the Original Plat of the

Town of 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, no later than 4:30 PM on March 21, 2023 or delivered before the hearing is closed.

Melinda L. Blind
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From the Front

Cameras still need to go to board

CAMERAS - Continued from Page 1

“This is going to be coming up before the board to look at because it will involve a contract.”

Seyb said initially he wasn't on board with the idea because of the public perception, but since that time he's been paying attention to traffic patterns as he drives to work on the stretch of highway four days a week.

“I do support it at this point. Initially, I had some thoughts about and wanted to take some time to consider it.”

He said he feels most reactions to it will be negative, but he's encouraging people to look at the move objectively.

“I would tell taxpayers this will go into the general fund and could help keep the levy down a little bit as well, but the most important thing is that it will save lives.”

“Most people will believe this is revenue-driven, but where I came to sit was the safety aspect. We can't afford to hire another officer to be out there 24/7. When I think about the loss of life we've had on our roads in Lee County...this provides that reminder that there is a speed limit. There is a speed limit and we need to slow down.”

The contract will include the installation of the cameras, monitoring the cameras, and issuing civil citations, very similar to other cities in Iowa such as Cedar Rapids.

Seyb said Cedar Rapids cameras generate over \$1 million annually, but he said they have many cameras along the Hwy. 380 corridor.

Weber said he'd like to see some of the revenue go to drivers' education programs for the three county schools, as well as helping prop up the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) programming locally.

Seyb said those allocations will have to be sorted out by the board of supervisors.

The agenda item isn't on for discussion during this week's regular meeting, but it could come up during a workshop following Monday's meeting.

County to discuss buildings again

CONTRACT - Continued from Page 1

discussed at length the feasibility of remaining in the contract with the County for the maintenance and administration of the County housing units. Due to recent objections by HUD, it was determined our agency needs to terminate the contract giving appropriate 60-day notice,” Dear wrote.

Dear said the county will be collecting rents on the properties in Fort Madison and any calls for maintenance will be directed to contractors.

“Considering the current climate of how the County is reviewing its own building(s) and operations, our Board is available to work through any disposition of these buildings and assist as we are able under current restrictions with (Housing and Urban Development).

The Housing Authority recently came under scrutiny by HUD for handling of current federal funds in conjunction with county contracts.

Housing Commission Chairwoman Rebecca Bowker said the housing authority would have to take another look at the contracts after a meeting on Feb. 22.

“I think there's been a misunderstanding about what the housing authority has done and what HUD's expectations were. That's the issue with the contract and we're going to look at that.”

Fast forward to March 16, and now the FMHA is canceling its contract with the county.

The Housing Authority, since its steady operation under Patti Toops, has seen two directors in the past year and a complete resetting of the board, including bringing back Linda Larkin, who ushered in the Housing Authority decades ago.

A county panel formed to review the properties owned by the county will meet again on Thursday at 9 a.m. to talk specifically about the apartments owned by the county under housing assistance programs and what to do with them.

They will also be discussing the Fort Madison Newberry Center, a facility downtown where senior programming takes place.

The generosity of two old men

GETAWAY - Continued from Page 1

Your position on that stat sheet determined by your ability to pay - private pay, employer-based insurance, Medicare... Medicaid. Everything moving your position up and down and determining if you get a big room, small room, care to extend your life, or care to ease



its end.

If you aren't a student of health care billing, you go along for the ride.

It's the ride that's ticking me off.

We needed a test done and the specialist and scheduler both told me the test couldn't be done for seven months. That's no joke. Seven months.

I called BS and said I would take my mom to Mayo clinic and get it done in a week. They found a spot at the end of the month saying they didn't have the staff to get through imaging tests quicker. Not sure how that became my problem, but it did.

We have to fix health care in this country. Tired of seeing the fear in the faces of my family. Maybe life is more about fear than the value I want to give that emotion.

So to filter out the garbage going through my heart and my head, I took a short trip Florida - one my brother had been pressing me to go on for years.

Due to the generosity of a couple good men, I was able to experience the St. Pete area and Madeira Beach in a way a lot of people don't - from 10 miles out in the gulf looking back in.

I was smart enough to take a couple Dramamine as these waves pitched our cutter 6 to 8 feet back and forth. My nephew and our host threw large hooks of squid into the sloshing gulf pretty much to no success. We moved a couple times and then headed back in to the intercoastal waters where things were tolerably smoother.

We stopped at a pub, a move fairly regular over the trip.

The food was incredibly good all week long. Typically Mahi-Mahi, or shrimp, a variety of slaws, fries, conch fritters, and the soothing company of my brother's family, and the retired owner of a Florida rail construction firm.

This is a sea man right out of a Hemingway yarn. Gray bear, broad shoulders, and the love of life on the water. Always seated at the head of the table, his simple life, too, was rooted in family and spending time with like-minded people. A cigar and a beer were always at his elbow during the down times.

It was these six days that reminded me that people are inherently good. Most people at their core want good company, peace of mind, a good meal, and fresh air.

We got all that and more on this run, but one thing became very clear to me - I am exhausted. Emotionally, physically... mentally. Several times I fell asleep sitting up in a chair at our host's bar near the pool, or at the small table at the apartment we were staying in.

We chose to drive straight through to Florida and straight through on the way back. It was about 18 hours.

On the way back it was my turn to drive and I couldn't stay awake for more than an hour without feeling like I was going to doze off. It was extremely dangerous and after about an hour break for my brother, we had to switch back.

I felt awful, but it hit me at that point - things have to change in my life.

The balance is gone.

More time at hospitals, having to strategically manipulate people to get them to do what they should be doing in the first place, trying to be a better man than I was as a kid, all while the wife lives in Texas, the daughter in New York, and the other daughter on my coffee table.

When everything is pushed aside and you get the time to tuck your hands in a windbreaker standing on gray coarse sand looking northwest into a blood orange sunset, the pressure was supposed to subside.

It didn't. That pisses me off.

The balance will return.

It better - because after a week in the sun, I came home with a wicked burn, some nice memories, and more chaos than I care to sort out... but that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is editor and co-owner of Pen City Current. He can be reached at Charles.v@pencitycurrent.com.



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