SPORTS: Fort Madison boys fall to Fairfield in season tennis opener • See page 5

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Friday, March 31, 2023 | 13 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 64

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Griffin gets Dalziel award

SBDC: Small Business Development Center of Iowa gives Nannette Griffin annual women's Entrepreneurship award BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – After close to a quarter century of fixing people's cars, a Fort Madison woman has been given the 2023 Deb Dalziel Entrepreneur of the Year award.

The award is Iowa's Small Business Development Center's award honoring the top entrepreneur in the state.

Nannette Griffin, owner of Griffin Muffler and Brake, was honored Tuesday in Des Moines by the state and she got to spend about 30 minutes with Gov. Kim Reynolds talking about small business in the state.

Griffin is the third Fort Madison woman to win the award. Martha Wolf and Sue Saunders won the award jointly for the Ivy Bake Shoppe in 1999, the first year the awards were handed out.

In 2008, Sally Nichols of Burlington won the award for Burlington in Bloom. In 2018, Doreen Roy of Burlington won for her business Wholesome Basket.

This award honors a woman entrepreneur who has significantly changed or improved her life and the lives of others. The award is presented in memory of Deb Dalziel, a devoted small business advocate who was director of the Small Business



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Griffin Muffler and Brake Center's Nannette Griffin was honored with the Deb Dalziel Entrepreneur of the Year award from the Iowa Small Business Development Center this week.

Development Center at Southeastern Community College. Deb passed away from cancer in 1999 at the age of 44.

Griffin has been working on vehicles since 1997 when she and husband Clark opened up a garage at their home doing repairs. Her grandfather was an automechanic and she's been around the work since she was a child.

In 2002, Griffin made an offer on a garage at their current location at 535 Avenue G in Fort Madison. But

See **GRIFFIN**, page 8

severe weather outlook Severe storms could rock area today

High winds, hail, and tornadoes possible locally BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - March may be going out like a lion instead of a lamb.

Storms moving through the area Friday could present dangerous conditions including high winds, lightning, hail and possible tornadoes.

The threat for severe storms has increased for Friday afternoon and early evening, with most of our area now in a Moderate Risk, or level 4 out of 5, of severe storms, according to the National Weather Service's Quad Cities office.

The main hazards will be damaging straight line winds of 70 mph, tornadoes, and large hail. Tornadoes could be strong in nature. The storms are projected to be fast moving from the southwest to the northeast at more than 60 mph.

Storms should present between noon and 4 p.m. locally Friday with several rounds of storms possible.

Strong westerly winds are expected after the severe weather threat ends Friday night, with gusts up to 45 mph. These strong gusts should last through Saturday morning.

Temperatures are expected to drop into the 30s and 40s after the storm moves through the area.

Central Lee Schools will be dismissing school at 1:30 p.m. to ensure the safety of students and staff in anticipation of the severe weather.

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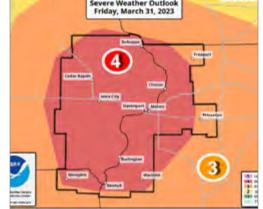


Pate encouraging Iowans to react quickly to voter notices

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

DES MOINES – Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate is encouraging Iowans who receive a 'No Activity' notice from his office in the mail to respond to it quickly. Registered voters who did not participate in the 2022 general election have been made inactive and will receive a notice in the mail to confirm their residential address. Those who do not respond will remain as an 'inactive' status. Registered voters made inactive through the list maintenance process can return themselves to active status by requesting an absentee ballot, voting in an election, submitting a new registration, or updating their voter registration prior to the end of 2026 general election cycle.

See **ACTIVITY**, page 2



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WEATHER

 FRI 31 Mar
 Windy with severe storms likely, 74° F/ 34° F

 SAT 01 Apr
 Cloudy and gusty, 47° F/ 32° F

 SUN 02 Apr
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PICK 4 03/29 MIDDAY	7466
PICK 4 03/29 EVENING	4585
POWERBALL 03/29	49244666, Powerball: 7 Power Play: 3

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Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

JAMES K. MOLINE

James Kent "Jim" Moline, 81, of Farmington, Iowa, passed away at 5:10 p.m. Wednesday, March 29, 2023, at his home in Farmington.

He was born on January 7, 1942, in Fort Madison, Iowa, the son of Donald and



Katharyn Irene (Schau) Moline. In 1972, he married Kathy Woods, together they had three children: Carla, Kelly and Donnie.

Survivors include his three children: Carla (Jeff) Wilson of Waukee, Iowa, Kelly (Kristopher) Schmidt of Clive, Iowa and Donnie (Jennifer) Moline of Twin Lakes, Wisconsin. Also surviving are his eight grandchildren: Emma, Olivia, Jacob, Maggie, Chloe, Brynn, Grayson and Lily.

MOI INF

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Jim was a member of Embury United Methodist Church, the Donnellson Saddle Club, honorary life member of the Central Lee FFA Alumni, past board member of Lee County Cattlemen's Association and a member of the Lee County Sheep Producers. He farmed, worked at Donnellson Tire, hauled livestock throughout Southeast Iowa and drove a school bus for the Central Lee School District until his retirement. Jim was an avid Iowa Hawkeye fan. He also enjoyed camping, giving wagon rides with his team of horses, working at the Cattlemen's Beef Quarters at the Iowa State Fair and helping his buddy Bobby Reid at the Tri-State Rodeo. Most of all, he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren.

A visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Monday, April 3, 2023, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, April 3, 2023, at Schmitz Funeral Home.

Burial will be at Embury Cemetery, rural Donnellson, Iowa.

Following Jim's services, a luncheon will be held at Charleston Board of Trade in Charleston.

A memorial has been in his memory for Central Lee FFA.

Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at <u>www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com</u>.

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.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

03/29/23 - 12:33 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited Cheston Daniel Monroe, 44, of Fort Madison, at the intersection of 23rd Street and Avenue L, on a charge of driving under suspension.

03/29/23 - 9:07 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1800 block of Avenue H.

03/30/23 - 7:54 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2300 block of Avenue A.

03/30/23 - 7:59 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1800 block of 33rd Street.

Lee County Sheriff Report

03/30/23 - 1:06 a.m. - Lee County sheriff dep-

uties arrested Kenneth Eugene Morrison, 28, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office, on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

03/27/23 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to four medical calls one fire alarm.

03/28/23 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls and one trash fire.

03/29/23 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to four medical calls, two fire alarms and a tree fire.

Those listed above are arrested on suspicion of a charge and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Iowans should check voter list mailings for accuracy

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ACTIVITY - Continued from Page 1

During the first quarter of each year, the Iowa Secretary of State's Office conducts voter list maintenance as required by state and federal law. The 'No Activity' mailing occurs during each odd-numbered year.

"This mailing is just one part of the process to ensure Iowa's voter rolls remain up-to-date and as accurate as possible," Secretary Pate said. "It's a crucial component to ensure clean,

accurate and fair elections across the state."

Iowans who receive the mailing should check the appropriate box, sign their name, and return the postcard in the mail. Postage is pre-paid, so there's no need to attach a stamp. If the voter no longer lives at the address, the current resident may discard the mailing.

To check your voter registration status, visit VoterReady.Iowa.gov.

Contact Tracy to Schedule Your **COMPLIMENTARY REVIEW**

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Iowa News/Ag News



Courtesy photo

State Rep. Martin Graber (R-Ft. Madison) and State Sen. Jeff Reichman (R-Montrose) stand with Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds after she signed House file 75 into law. The new law paves the way for health care providers to open rural emergency hospitals in Iowa where stand alone hospitals aren't viable.

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AGRICULTURE NEWS

USDA to provide additional aid to America's farmers

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced that beginning in April it will provide approximately \$123 million in additional, automatic financial assistance for qualifying farm loan program borrowers who are facing financial risk, as part of the \$3.1 billion to help distressed farm loan borrowers that was provided through Section 22006 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The announcement builds on financial assistance offered to borrowers through the same program in October 2022.

The IRA directed USDA to expedite assistance to distressed borrowers of direct or guaranteed loans administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) whose operations face financial risk. For example, in the October payments, farmers that were 60 days delinquent due to challenges like natural disasters, the pandemic or other unexpected situations were brought current and had their next installment paid to give them breathing room.

"In too many cases, the rules surrounding our farm loan programs may actually be detrimental to helping a borrower get back to a financially viable path. As a result, some are pushed out of farming and others stuck under a debt burden that prevents them from growing or reacting to opportunities," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "Loan programs for the newest and more vulnerable producers must be about providing opportunity and tailored to expect and manage stumbles and hurdles along the way. Through this assistance, USDA is focusing on generating longterm stability and success for distressed borrowers."

In October 2022, USDA provided approximately \$800 million in initial IRA assistance to more than 11,000 delinquent direct and guaranteed borrowers and approximately 2,100 borrowers who had their farms liquidated and still had remaining debt. USDA shared that it would conduct case-by-case reviews of about 1,600 complex cases for potential initial relief payments, including cases of borrowers in foreclosure or bankruptcy. These case-by-case reviews are underway.

At the same time in October 2022, USDA announced that it anticipated payments using separate pandemic relief funding totaling roughly \$66 million on over 7,000 direct loans to borrowers who used the USDA Farm Service Agency's disaster-set-aside option during the COVID-19 pandemic. The majority of these payments have been processed and USDA anticipates it will complete all such payments in April 2023.

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Sports

Hound boys fall to Fairfield 9-0

Benda/Davis give Trojans a run at No. 1 doubles in Fairfield

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC FDITOR

FAIRFIELD - A bevy of newcomers to tennis led to a rough start for the Bloodhounds Thursday as they lost 9-0 at Fairfield.

At No. 1 singles the Trojans' Garrett Flanagan defeated Aiden Benda 6-1, 6-0. The Hounds didn't win another game in singles action as Javean Davis lost at No. 2 singles 6-0, 6-0.

At No. 3 singles Dil Hurlin downed Fort Madison's Jed Bruster 6-0, 6-0 and Ethan Cass downed George Hantzeas 6-0, 6-0 in No. 4 singles action.

Fort Madison got its best performance of the night at No. 1 doubles when Benda and Davis took Hurlin and Niko Emerson to a tiebreaker after winning 7-6 in the second set. Fort Madison dropped the first set 6-4.

The Hounds couldn't keep the momentum in the tiebreaker falling 7-1.

Cass and Rylan Anderson defeated Bruster and Hantzeas 6-1, 6-0 at No. 2 doubles.

Fort Madison didn't field a No. 5 or 6 singles player, and didn't play No. 3 doubles.

"It was a great showing by our doubles team. Those two boys did a very good job and played some close tennis," said head coach Dean Hogan.

"This was our first match of the season and some players are playing for the first time in tennis. They did a pretty good job."

Hogan said weather has hindered practices, but he said hopefully the team will gain some momentum as the season goes on.

The Hounds take on Burlington at home Monday at 4:30.





Whitetail donation

Courtesy photo

Henry County Whitetails Unlimited and Tri-County Whitetails Unlimited each gave \$2,500 and the national Whitetails matched those to make a \$10,000 total contribution to Des Moines County Conservation to purchase additional acreage by Sperry next to Big Hollow.



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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASS

PUBLIC NOTICE LEE COUNTY BOARD **OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING** MINUTES **FEBRUARY 13, 2023**

The Lee County Board of Supervisors met at the Lee County Administration Building in Fort Madison on Monday, February 13, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. Present: Garry Seyb,

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Ron Fedler, Chuck Holmes, Matt Pflug and Tom Schulz.

All votes are unanimous unless indicated otherwise.

The Board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Moved by Fedler, seconded by Holmes,

to approve the agenda. Motion carried. **Public Input-Brent**

RENTAL

PUBLIC NOTICES

Dresser reminded the Supervisors that there is an information meeting on opposition to the CO2 Pipeline on Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lee County Fair Grounds Learning Center.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Plug, to approve a contract with Heartland Business Systems for Microsoft 365

migration and network refresh, not to exceed \$400,000.00 and to allow IT Director Kevin Harter to execute the contract. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Fedler, to approve a Haul Road Agreement with IC Midwest. Motion carried. Moved by Fedler,

seconded by Holmes, to approve a Letter of

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Engagement with Dorsey & Whitney Law Firm for services related to establishing an Urban Renewal Area at the Meller property. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Pflug, to approve a Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement with Alex Meierotto for demolition and relocation of an existing building on the ambulance base property in Keokuk. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Pflug, to approve Resolution #2023-41.

Roll call: Fedler-aye, Pflug-aye, Holmes-aye, Schulz-ave and Sevbaye.

RESOLUTION #2023-41

LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS **RESOLUTION OF THE** LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS **APPROVING A HIRING** FREEZE - EFFEC-**TIVE MARCH 1, 2023** THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

WHEREAS, Lee County is experiencing a budget shortfall in Fiscal Year 23; and

WHEREAS, a hiring freeze is one way to attempt to control the cost of providing services.

NOW THEREFORE, the Lee County Board of Supervisors approves a hiring freeze for Lee County Iowa government (excluding Commissions and/or Compensated Boards) from March 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023; and

NOW THEREFORE, Lee County Board of Supervisors will consider specific requests from Department Heads for

Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Holmes, to allow Chair to sign Opioid Settlement Agreements with Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens and Walmart. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Schulz, to approve the Monday, February 6, 2023 Board Minutes. Motion carried with Holmes abstaining.

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

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Holmes, to approve a step increase for Amber Daugherty, Correctional Officer, from \$20.83/hr. to \$22.41/hr., effective 2/14/23 and a step increase for Sandra Barker, Records Clerk, from \$17.02/hr. to \$17.48/ hr., effective 2/22/23. Motion carried.

Received and filed the Recorder's Report of Fees Collected for the month of January 2023, the Auditor's Report of Fees Collected for the month of January 2023 and the Sheriff's Monthly Report for January 2023.

Committee Reports: Holmes reported on a Township Officials' Training and a Pioneer **Cemetery Commission** meeting. Fedler reported on a RUSS Board meeting. Seyb also attended the Township Officials' Training.

At 10:45 a.m. Holmes made a motion to adjourn. Pflug seconded the motion. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Administration Building in Fort Madison. Garry Seyb, Chairman Attest: Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor



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exceptions on a case by case basis; and

NOW THEREFORE, the Lee County Board of Supervisors may approve adding an employee or replacing a vacancy by temporarily lifting the hiring freeze by resolution; and

NOW THEREFORE, any exceptions must be presented and approved by the Lee County Board of Supervisors before any advertisement, etc. for any new position and/or replacement of a vacancy in any positions.

Dated at Fort Madison, lowa on the 13th day of February 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron

Claims paid February 13, 2023

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Ace Hardware, unif
Agriland FS, Fuels
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PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE FORT MADISON AIRPORT COMMISSION MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023 6:00 P.M. MUNICIPAL AIRPORT 50 AIRPORT ROAD, FORT MADISON, IA 52627

AGENDA

ROLL CALL APPROVAL OF MIN-UTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING BUSINESS:

HELP WANTED

Immediate Opening JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN

The West Point Municipal Utility System has an immediate opening for a Journey Line Mechanic. Applicants must have a strong journeyman rating and must be able to perform all duties with regard to overhead and underground electric line construction.

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Send a confidential resume to West Point Utility System, PO Box 69, West Point, IA. 52656 Or to:<u>billingclerk@westpointiowa.com</u>.

Applications are available per request. Any questions please feel free to call Dawn @ 319-837-3100 West Point, IA 52656 or to cityofwestpointiowa@gmail.com No phone calls, please



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From the Front

Griffin credits relationship with SBDC at SCC for award

GRIFFIN - Continued from Page 1

Griffin said she had to dig for funding resources and create a business plan to get the package put together to open the business.

She started reaching out to local economic development officials, including Janine Clover at SCC.

"I contacted our local chamber back then, I think it was Steve Seager running it then, and he told me to get ahold of Janine Clover at SCC, so that's when it began with Janine." She was able to take advantage of the Iowa Economic Development's Targeted Small Business low-interest loans and Fort Madison's revolving loan fund.

They finally opened up in 2003 and then four years later in 2007 the service center burned down. The Griffin's rebuilt the business following the fire, but took 10 months to get reopened.

Nannette and Clark have been at that location for the past 20 years.

Clover put in the nomination for Nannette and, after research, Griffin discovered that Wolf and Saunders were the first-ever winners of the award.

"So we're bringing it back to Fort Madison."

Griffin received a large placard and an award designed by Heavy Metal Renaissance of Woodbine. The large Griffin Logo is attached to a metal circle and perched on a water pump out of a vehicle.

After Clover put in the nomination, Griffin

said she forgot about it until Clark reminded her by asking if she had heard anything, which she hadn't. But she was scheduled to be a speaker at the Dream-Builders program across the street at SCC's Fort Madison center.

"I told him, No, I hadn't heard anything. And then that night at the DreamBuilder's presentation (Clover) couldn't keep it a secret any longer," Griffin said. She attended a recep-

tion at the Capitol in Des Moines and then had proclamations read in the House and Senate and then got to meet with the Governor in her office.

"She met with us for about a half hour, which I thought was really great."

Griffin credited Clover and her relationship with the college for sparking her career.

"I think it's the relationship I've formed with the college and Janene. Even through Covid, PPP, and anything they could help us with to stay in business I utilized that. I've talked at their entrepreneur classes and DreamBuilders and just tell the story about what it takes," she said.

"When I look back at the progression, 11 years ago I hired a business coach and I know now that in the beginning I wasn't the best I could've been, but I've always looked at learning more and being better."

She also said small business owners need tenacity, a desire to learn, and must be committed.

The customer experience has always been important to Nannette and she has taken many steps to give her customers the best service possible. Griffin Muffler and Brake has become AskPatty certified, a female friendly certified shop and she is a Tech-Net professional.

In 2019, Nannette founded the Southeast Iowa Chapter of Midwest Auto Care Alliance. It had been a goal of hers to have a chapter in the southeast region because it was a threehour drive to the closest one in Des Moines.

She is leading change in the industry by uniting fellow automotive repair shops to participate and work together.

Nannette also graduated with an Accredited Masters in Automotive Management (AMAM) with Automotive Management Institute (AMi). Those holding this professional designation have extensive training and education in managing and leading a successful service repair operation.

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May 5th, 2023 at Sheaffer Golf Course in Fort Madison



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United Way of the Great River Region











X 2

Friday, May 5, 2023 • Sheaffer Memorial Golf Park • Fort Madison, Iowa Friday, Oct. 6, 2023 • Deer Run Golf Course • Hamilton, Illinois 12:00 Noon Shotgun start for both

Team Sponsor - Includes cart, lunch, free soda & water, 2 mulligans/golfer & 5 drink tickets/golfer.

May	Oct	Both
\$400	\$400	\$720
4/24/23	9/25/23	4/24/23

May event team roster due 5/1/23. October event team roster due 10/2/23.

Registration deadlines in red

Please fill out the Sponsorship Opportunities page for payment options

Packet pick-up will begin at 10:00 am. Waiver & release must be signed before play begins. Lunch at 11:00 am.

leam Name:		
Team Contact:		_Email:
Phone:	_ Address:	
City, State, Zip:		

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United Way of the Great River Region







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4-person team (not required). Provide a jpeg of your logo to			
UWGRR.			
Team Sponsor - Includes cart, lunch, free soda & water,	\$400	\$400	\$720
2 mulligans/golfer & 5 drink tickets/golfer.	4/24/23	9/25/23	4/24/23
Hospitality Sponsor - Includes name & logo on beverage	\$300	\$300	\$540
carts, at the buffet line & throughout the golf course. Provide	4/28/23	9/29/23	4/28/23
a jpeg of your logo to UWGRR.			
Hole Sponsor - Includes sign by green & marketing opportunity.	\$100	\$100	\$180
Provide a jpeg of your logo to UWGRR.	4/24/23	9/25/23	4/24/23
Do sure to sizele the energy ship encerturity yes	• .		

Sponsorship forms and payment can be sent to United Way of the Great River Region, PO Box 251, Keokuk, IA 52632