

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Wednesday, April 26, 2023 | 12 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 79



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## County may dump housing



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

These condos on Avenue G in Fort Madison could be up for sale soon as the Lee County Board voted to continue to investigate options for liquidating the property. The move could displace disabled residents. The Fort Madison Housing Authority board voted to end the contract to manage the property after HUD discovered they were using federal funds to pay for county property maintenance.

### SECTION 8: Six units in Fort Madison could go on market or be gifted away

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – The Lee County Board of Supervisors continues to look at ways to divest itself of real estate that isn't in the county's best financial interest.

At Monday's regular meeting of supervisors, the board made a decision to move forward with putting up six properties for sale that were being managed by the Fort Madison Housing Authority.

The Authority is struggling with operations and has scheduled a meeting Wednesday to possibly suspend newly hired Executive Director Michael Dear and a maintenance staffer pending an administrative investigation.

trative investigation.

The authority also lost a board member on Monday when newly appointed member Linda Larkin resigned.

FMHA had decided to end its contract to manage the properties for the county earlier this year and now the county wants to move the property into a private entity's hands. The contract for service from FMHA ends May 14.

Rianne Wood, the county's Mental Health Disability Services coordinator and CEO of Southeast Iowa Link (SEIL), said the county will no longer have the support of the Fort Madison Housing Authority.

See COUNTY, page 3

### AREA SCHOOLS

## FMCSO OKs new athletic agreements

Board approves 13 new agreements with Holy Trinity, Central Lee

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Community School District Board of Directors, in a quick special meeting Tuesday night, approved 13 new shared athletic agreements with area schools.

The board voted unanimously after a brief discussion period to approve the one-year agreements with Holy Trinity Catholic, Central Lee Community School District, and Burlington School District.

Under the proposed agreements, Holy Trinity would pay FMCSO a sum total of \$20,000 for 10 shared programs to cover the costs of the program. The agreements include sharing boys' and girls' track, boys' and girls' soccer, boys' and girls' wrestling, boys' and girls' tennis, girls' cross country, and baseball.

The agreements are good for one year and must be renewed annually. However, if both sides agree that the programs should split into their own programs again, the schools can come back together at any point. But if one school disengages from a shared program and the other school doesn't approve of the split, the programs split, but the school that split off can't approach the other school for a minimum of five years.

"That was to tie each other together for the long-term. To where we can't just pick and choose what sports we want to share and when we want to share them," said Board President Josh Wykert.

Board Vice-President Mio Santiago said the concept was to make schools really examine and be comfortable with the decision to split off.

"If you're going to leave the shared program to start your own team or continue

See SCHOOLS, page 3

### OPINION

## There are two sides to waste, fraud, and abuse?

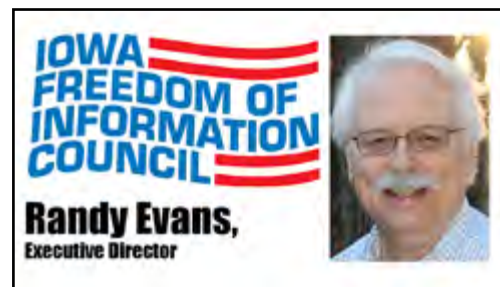
I thought the often-repeated desire to weed out waste, fraud and abuse from government spending was something Republicans, Democrats and independents could all agree on in Iowa.

Boy, am I naive.

A bit of recent Iowa government history illustrates this contradiction between our elected officials' statements and their actions.

The Iowa Communities Assurance Pool was created in 1986 to offer liability and property insurance coverage to its member-owners, about 800 Iowa cities, counties, fairs, transit agencies and other so-called 28E multi-government entities.

The insurance pool's only customers are various governments.



board of directors elected by the member-owners.

The pool's revenue comes from about \$45 million in premiums these governments pay each year. Management of the pool is handled by a seven-member

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### WEATHER

WED 26 Apr ..... Frost early, then sunny & cool, 59° F/ 38° F ●  
THU 27 Apr ..... Sunny & cool, 66° F/ 45° F ●  
FRI 28 Apr ..... Mostly sunny & warm, 70° F/ 47° F ●

OpenWeatherMap

### IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 04/24..... 6 8 15 16 31, Star Ball: 5 All Star Bonus: 2  
LUCKY FOR LIFE 04/24..... 17 18 21 25 42, Lucky Ball: 13  
PICK 3 MIDDAY 04/24..... 7 5 1  
PICK 3 EVENING 04/24..... 9 0 3  
PICK 4 MIDDAY 04/24..... 3 1 4 4  
PICK 4 EVENING 04/24..... 5 9 7 9  
POWERBALL 04/24..... 19 21 55 66 68, Powerball: 3 Power Play: 2

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# Obituaries/Lee County News

## Keokuk Art Gallery sets 67th annual competitive exhibit

KEOKUK - The Keokuk Art Center is currently planning its 67th annual competitive art exhibition. Beginning in the 1950's as the Kathryn Hart Exhibit, this yearly event has shown the work of some of the Tri-State area's best and most talented artists. Often displaying between sixty and eighty pieces, this is notably the largest exhibit of the Art Center's annual calendar.

Entries for the 2023 exhibit will be accepted from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 29th at the Round Room Gallery. Artists may enter up to four pieces of their work for an entry fee of \$5.00 per piece. The five categories include painting, drawing & printmaking, photography, three dimensional, and other media. Cash awards will be given for Best of Show, First Place in all five categories and an additional five Merit Awards.

This year's opening reception will be held on Sunday, May 7th, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. with awards being presented at that time. After a week-long display, entries may be picked up at the gallery from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 13th.

The Round Room Gallery is located at 210 North 5th Street within the Keokuk Public Library/Keokuk Art Center. For additional information concerning the exhibit, please call the Art Center at (319) 524-8354

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# IT'S TIME



### Colorectal cancer screening saves lives!

**The recommended age for colorectal cancer screening has been lowered from 50 to 45** because colorectal cancer cases are on the rise among young and middle-age people. Colorectal cancer is one of the only cancer screening tests that can prevent cancer by finding precancerous polyps in the colon or rectum and removing them before they become cancer or find cancer early when it may be easier to treat. There are several screening options available. So, if you are over the age of 45, or at high risk for colorectal cancer, talk to your doctor about when to start getting screened and which screening option is best for you.



## OBITUARIES

### HELEN HENNIES

Helen Hennies, 104, of Fort Madison, Iowa died peacefully on April 21, 2023, after being blessed with a long, sweet life.



HENNIES

She was born on February 22, 1919, in rural Lee County, Iowa, the third child of Grover and Hazel (Grimm) Rohdy. She taught in a country school for two years before marrying Howard Hennies in 1940.

Helen was a proud farmer's wife who wrapped her family in love. She served hearty meals, ironed the bedsheets, and made sure the candy jar was always full. She had a twinkle in her eye and an infectious chuckle, and doled out nuggets of wisdom like sweet treats. She was a talented seamstress who specialized in beautifully crafted bridal and formal gowns, her quilting skills were legendary. In her later years, she traded her sewing and quilting needles for books. She was partial to love stories, though none could compare to the bond she shared with her beloved Howard, whom she had been patiently waiting to see again.

Helen is survived by her children: David (Mary) Hennies of Arlington, Minnesota, and Deanna (Don) Reynolds of Argyle, Iowa and Marceline, Missouri; her six grandchildren: Erinn Lind of Gilbert, Arizona, Shannon Brownell of Chicago, Illinois, Megan (Jason) Fox of Omaha, Nebraska, Michael (Rachel) Hennies of St. Louis, Missouri, Sarah Mader (Brian) of Marine on St. Croix, Minnesota, and Angela (John) Davies of Stillwater, Minnesota; and eleven cherished great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her loving sisters: Jeane Grossman and Betty Jury, who were her faithful companions and bingo partners in her final years.

Helen was preceded in death by her husband: Howard; her parents: Grover and Hazel Grimm Rohdy; her brothers: Dale, Robert, Charles, and Don Rohdy; her sister: Ruth Hennies, and her great-grandsons: Jacob and Lucas Hennies.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate Helen's beautiful life on Sunday, April 30, 2023, at the United Church of Christ in Donnellson. Visitation will begin at 1:00 p.m., followed by a memorial service at 2:00 p.m. with Tony Keefe officiating and a reception at the church following burial at Primrose Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Donnellson or the Donnellson Public Library.

Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com).

### ELSIE B. TWEEDY

Elsie B. Tweedy, 91, of Montrose, died Friday, April 21, 2023 at her home on the farm.

She was born on June 14, 1931 in Fort Madison, IA the daughter of Herman and Mary Hardinger Senf.

Elsie graduated from the Montrose High School with the Class of 1948.

On August 7, 1948 she was united in marriage to David Tweedy in Keokuk, IA. He preceded her in death on May 9, 2014.

She was a true farmer's wife, dedicated to her husband, children and grandchildren, her life's mission was to raise her family and provide a wonderful home for them.

Elsie is survived by her three sons, Rodney Tweedy (Jennie) of Montrose, IA, Steve Tweedy (Kathy) of Revere, MO and Walter Tweedy (Peggy) of Montrose, IA, two daughters, Mary Bell (Gene) of Laclede, ID and Sherry Wells (Dave) of Alexandria, MO, her daughter-in-law, Vickie Tweedy of Montrose, IA, seventeen grandchildren and fifty great grandchildren, eleven great-great-grandchildren, two sisters, Joyce Weirather (Jerry) Keokuk and Linda Senf of Montrose, IA, two brothers, Rick Senf of Montrose, IA and Ron Senf of Arizona, numerous nieces and nephews.

Besides her husband, she was also preceded in death by her parents, son, Dan Tweedy and one great-grandson, Noah Bell.

According to her wishes her body was donated to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinic for medical research.

There will be no visitation or services.

Memorials may be made to the donor's choice.

The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk is assisting the family with services.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://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.

**Charles Vandenberg, Editor**

(319).371.1670  
charles.v@pencitycurrent.com

**Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager**

(319).371.4125  
lee.v@pencitycurrent.com

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



## From the Front

# HTC agrees to \$20K for 10 shared agreements

**SCHOOLS** - Continued from Page 1

your own team, however you want to phrase it, both schools are going to have to be pretty darned sure they are going to be able to support those teams for the next five years," he said.

Board member Paul Wilkerson asked if that wasn't a convenient way for FMCS D to end the sharing agreement.

Santiago said the terms were negotiated with the HTC board.

"They're comfortable with it. I don't think we need to negotiate against ourselves," he said.

Wilkerson asked Wykert how the district arrived at the compensation rates for the other schools.

"We did an analysis of the sports we share, the coaching costs that go into them, transportation fees, dues, officials, field rentals if there are any, and then prorated it on a per-athlete basis," Wykert said.

He said the basis was using non-football athletes at HTC, which he said was 18 and figuring what percent that was of total athletes in the shared program, which was 236. That generated a percentage of 7.6% and the \$20,000 was more representative of that percentage than the \$10,000.

Wilkerson said not all the costs should have been factored in.

"I'm not sure it's fair to use some of the expenses for this. I understand things that would add to the cost, but as far as officials, that would be the same if it was one kid or 100 kids. The athletic director, if he was involved in this, I

don't see how it would take any more of his time to do those things," he said.

"I'm having a hard time dealing with what that is."

Wykert said the same formula was applied to Central Lee's per student figure.

"What if that number is different at the end of the year? Do we make an adjustment?" Wilkerson asked.

Wykert said with regard to HTC's payment, officials there said it would be easier to sell to their board a lump sum rather than a per-athlete charge.

Wykert said it was his understanding Holy Trinity is set to vote on the payment at its Thursday night meeting. The agreements have to be sent to the state Department of Education by April 30.

Board member Carol Ross asked if Central Lee was okay with the \$350 payment and Wykert said they were.

Central Lee Superintendent Dr. Andy Crozier said he didn't know the per athlete payment had increased to \$350 until he heard it from the media, but said the Central Lee board had approved the shared agreement back in March.

Fort Madison Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater wasn't in attendance at the FMCS D board meeting due to a previously scheduled appointment.

Board member Dianne Hope thanked Wykert and Santiago for their work in getting a resolution.

"This whole thing on both sides - we could have done a much better job. Both boards knew the agreement was expiring, so HTC could have taken action just as well as we had. It's been a tough week."

She said many messages were left on her voicemail and some she had to delete.

"It was hard. It's unfortunate that we cannot agree to disagree and do it in a very respectful way. I'm sorry for those of us that had to maybe take that."

Wykert handed out a statement on behalf of the board following the meeting.

"As a board, we are pleased to reach a new agreement for Fort Madison CSD students to take part in shared athletic programs with HTC for the 2023-24 school year... Additionally we are happy to have come to an agreement with Central Lee so that our wrestling student-athletes can continue to compete and collaborate with one another.

"We believe these agreements support our school district's mission of ensuring all students learn the academic and life skills necessary for personal success and reasonable living. We strive to ensure that every student succeeds not only in academics, but also when participating in clubs, activities, and service to the community."

# County could gift properties

**COUNTY** - Continued from Page 1

"We have one apartment building and we have townhouses," she said. "We're highly focusing on Fort Madison because we don't have property management as of May 14. The Housing Authority will no longer be involved."

She said as it stands right now, the authority is already hands off on the property, but they are coordinating getting subcontractors lined up for work.

Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise said the property could be put up for sale via sealed bids by the county.

Two apartments are currently vacant, but the rest are full.

Chairman Garry Seyb asked how the county ended up owning the properties. Wood said federal Medicaid wouldn't provide state and federal allocations to continue the county home. So when that closed, the county had to find capacity in 2001 for those residents to migrate into their own spaces.

The county purchased the properties outright with the exception of Lincoln Ridge where the county created a mechanism for a private 501c3 organization to run, but now the county has control of those operations.

Currently the county has 18 properties in Lee County, not including Lincoln Ridge in Keokuk.

In Fort Madison, county-owned properties are at 617 and 615 3rd Street, 325, 327, 329 and 331 Avenue G, and 313 Avenue G where there are four apartments in one structure.

The county also owns eight apartments in Keokuk.

Tom Schulz said the market value for the apartments in Fort Madison is questionable and they all have

congregate living areas.

All the properties are section 8 approved, according to Wood.

Supervisor Matt Pflug said anyone who would purchase the buildings would be eligible for Section 8 funding.

Supervisor Tom Schulz asked for the current building committee to meet again later this week to put together a package to bring to the board for approval with the idea being to move forward to liquidate the responsibility by selling or gifting the property to a non-profit. He said a market analysis wouldn't be a bad idea.

Wood said a new owner would have the latitude to make the condos family dwellings. Four of the six have three bedrooms.

"But we have them earmarked for people with disabilities so, generally speaking, they were admitting one tenant at the time

which wasn't conducive to keeping the properties filled," she said.


Schulz said committee discussions centered around not having anyone displaced, so the current living conditions will have to be maintained for whatever period they want to stay there, which decreased the investor value.

"I think it's the moral responsibility of this group to see that through. Obviously, this group can vote otherwise."

Fraise said County Attorney Ross Braden advised that anyone buying the property would have to honor the remainder of any leases in place.

"I want to make sure that we're saying here that to get a few more dollars out of this, we're willing to take people with significant disabilities and tell them they are out at the end of the year. That's what I'm hearing," he said.

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W-2319204 3/17/8



**Classifieds/Public Notices**

**PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS**

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
LEE COUNTY BOARD  
OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
MARCH 6, 2023**

The Lee County Board of Supervisors met at the Lee County Administration Building in Fort Madison on Monday, March 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Present: Garry Seyb, Ron Fedler, Chuck Holmes and Tom Schulz.

Absent: Matt Pflug  
All votes are unanimous unless indicated otherwise.

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

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

Public Input: Andrew

Johnson and Ray Menke spoke with the Board about establishing an ordinance with setbacks for the proposed CO2 Pipeline.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Schulz, to appoint Emily Benjamin to fill a vacancy on the Conservation Board. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Schulz, to rescind a motion made at the February 21, 2023 Board meeting, approving payment for seasonal employees for Conservation out of the Land Acquisition Fund. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Fedler, to approve hiring three seasonal employees for Conservation. Motion carried.

The Board held a dis-

cussion on a legal opinion given by County Attorney Ross Braden on action the Board took on hiring a Construction Manager for the Keokuk Ambulance Base. Moved by Holmes, seconded by Fedler, to rescind action taken regarding hiring a Construction Manager for the Keokuk Ambulance Base. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Schulz, to approve hiring an Engineering Firm for Design Services for the Keokuk Ambulance Base. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Holmes, to approve changes to the design of the Health/EMS Building, lowering the cost by \$1.5 million. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler,

seconded by Schulz, to approve a Class C Retail Alcohol License for Sheaffer Memorial Golf Park, for the period March 1, 2023 through February 29, 2024. Motion carried.

Moved by Schulz, seconded by Fedler, to approve a Class C Retail Alcohol License for Green Bay Bar & Grill, for the period April 20, 2023 through April 19, 2024. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes seconded by Fedler, to approve a Class E Retail Alcohol License for Wever Junction, for the period April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Holmes, to approve Resolution #2023-46. Roll call: Fedler-aye, Holmes-aye, Schulz-aye

and Seyb-aye.

**RESOLUTION  
NO. 2023-46**

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lee County has by Ordinance Number VI-11 adopted a plan for a County-wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District in Lee County, Iowa; and,

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 404.4 provides for prior approval of eligibility for a tax exemption by the governing body of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: Shirley Wagner 2487 305th Street Montrose IA 52639

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

PASSED AND APPROVED this 6th day of March, 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Fedler, to approve the Monday, February 27, 2023 Board Minutes. Motion carried. Moved by Schulz,

**BUSINESS DIRECTORY**



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General Manager

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# Classifieds/Public Notices

## PUBLIC NOTICES

seconded by Holmes, to approve the payment of claims.

Motion carried.  
Committee Reports:  
Schulz reported on a meeting with EMS Management about the Keokuk Ambulance Base and a County Building Study Committee. Holmes reported on a Children First Board meeting and a meeting with USDA Staff concerning the Health/EMS Building. Seyb reported on a Childcare Steering Committee meeting.

At 10:50 a.m. it was moved by Holmes, seconded by Fedler, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Administration Building in Fort Madison.

Garry Seyb, Chairman  
Attest: Denise Fraise,  
Lee County Auditor

### Claims paid March 6, 2023

Nxt Deg Comm, svcs	
.....	227.75
ABC Fire Extn, svcs	
.....	797.95
Access Enrgy, svcs	
.....	774.56
Access Systms, svcs	
.....	168.10
AgriLand FS, fuel...	370.92
Airgas USA, splys	
.....	332.83
Alliant Enrgy, svcs	
.....	3709.15
Amazon, splys	192.62
Animal Hse, edu	2.00
Blessing Hlth, svcs	
.....	305.00
Bound Tree, splys	
.....	2850.46
Brotcke Well, splys	
.....	30120.00
BTX IA, svcs	78.00
City/Donnellson, svcs	
.....	126.07
Comm Action, svcs	
.....	1105.99
Cordray Htg/Clg, parts	
.....	2510.00
RK Dixon, equip	705.59
Dodd Prtg/Stat, splys	
.....	60.00
Douds Stone, mtrl	
.....	49724.83
Eastern IA Tire, svcs	
.....	6479.56
Electronic Enrg, parts	
.....	1422.66
Farm/Home, splys	
.....	173.91
R Fedler, exps	65.00
FM Water, svcs	148.32
City of FM, prmts	20.00
GarrattCallahan, svcs	
.....	750.00
N Granaman, svcs	
.....	1618.45
S Gray Rpr, svcs	220.50
Grt Prairie AEA, svcs	
.....	589.25
Grt Scts, svcs	4500.00
Hartricks Lmbr, svcs	7.96
Huffman Wldng, equip	
.....	23.97
ICS Jail Splys, splys	
.....	593.01
Ideal Rdy Mix, mtrl	

.....	611.13
IA Co Attrnys, edu	
.....	545.00
IA DOT, svcs	290.82
IA Law Enfmt, ed	
.....	1575.00
IA Prison Ind, splys	
.....	3759.00
IA State Univ, Edu	
.....	750.00
Jays Auto, svcs	60.75
Jet Gas, fuel	11565.22
Jireh Inc, fuel	1445.21
P Kaltefleiter, svcs	90.40
Kempkers, splys	76.33
Klingner Assoc, svcs	
.....	3098.25
Kraus Auto, svcs	659.29
LeeCo Fair, reg	25.00
Liberty Util, gas	844.03
LJ Ins, ins	91678.00
Menards, equip	574.15
MidAm Enrgy, gas	
.....	1908.70
Dly Gate City, publ	57.72
Montrose Hlth, svcs	36.11
Newman Signs, svcs	
.....	196.60
OMG Midwest, svcs	
.....	32388.98
PCC, svcs	4309.83
Pen City Current, svcs	
.....	59.99
Per Mar Sec Svcs, svcs	
.....	301.25
Pitney Bowes, equip	
.....	478.77
Prairie Farms, splys	
.....	663.60
Prvnt Chld Abs, edu	
.....	25.00
Proforma, splys	529.42
J Raj, svcs	300.00
Rathbun Wtr, svcs	155.40
River Hills, svcs	9742.00
K Rokosz, svcs	342.38
Shottenkirk, svcs	1149.00
SE IA Grg Door, svcs	

### HELP WANTED

#### WATER TREATMENT PLANT FULL TIME OPERATOR

**GENERAL PURPOSE**  
Operates and repairs all pumps and appurtenances necessary to produce high quality and adequate quantity of water to meet system demands. Performs routine maintenance on equipment, collects and analyzes water samples, and completes inspections.

#### DESIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Education and Experience:
1. Graduation from high school diploma or GED equivalent
  2. Valid Iowa driver's license
  3. Obtain a Grade II Water Treatment License in the State of Iowa
  4. Ability to perform basic laboratory analyses

Apply at City Hall  
811 Avenue E  
Fort Madison, IA or  
email applications to  
[jcullen@fortmadison-ia.com](mailto:jcullen@fortmadison-ia.com)  
by Friday, April 28th

Applications can be found on the city website at  
[www.fortmadison-ia.com](http://www.fortmadison-ia.com)



.....	364.60
SCC, svcs	6392.00
PSpiekrmr, exps	19.00
Supr Radio Com, equip	
.....	975.92
US Cell, svcs	1767.80
West Grp, splys	1236.21
Wex Bank, fuel	6459.92

### PUBLIC NOTICE THE MOUNT PLEASANT CITY COUNCIL WILL MEET IN REGULAR SESSION WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023, AT CITY HALL, 307 E. MONROE STREET, SECOND-FLOOR MEETING ROOM AT 5:30 P.M.

#### AGENDA

1. Roll Call.
2. Consent Agenda: To the Public - All items with an asterisk (\*) are routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion and a roll call of the Councilmembers. There will be no separate discussion of items unless the Mayor, a Councilmember or citizen so request, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered in its normal sequence on the Agenda.

### HELP WANTED

#### WATER DISTRIBUTION FULL TIME DISTRIBUTION CREWMAN

**GENERAL PURPOSE**  
Under the general direction of the Distribution Supervisor, prepares excavations, installs and repairs water mains and appurtenances, reads water meters, and completes service work orders.

#### DESIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Education and Experience:
1. Graduation from high school diploma or GED equivalent
  2. Valid Iowa driver's license
  3. Obtain an Iowa Grade II Water Distribution License within four years from hire date
  4. Ability to operate tools and equipment pertinent to the water distribution field.
  5. Work in confined spaces
  6. Frequently stands, squats, bends over, kneels, reaches, and lifts above and below shoulder height.

Apply at City Hall  
811 Avenue E  
Fort Madison, IA or  
email applications to  
[jcullen@fortmadison-ia.com](mailto:jcullen@fortmadison-ia.com)  
by Friday, April 28th

Applications can be found on the city website at  
[www.fortmadison-ia.com](http://www.fortmadison-ia.com)



3. Receive & file communications.
4. Approve agenda.
- \*5. Approve minutes of previous meetings.
- \*6. Approve payment of bills.
- \*7. Receive report of Officers.
8. Old Business-
  - a) 5:30 p.m. Public Hearing on building code adoption ordinance.
  - b) 1st reading of proposed ordinance for

- c) 2nd reading of proposed ordinance updating solid waste charges.
- d) Renewal of a Class E Retail Alcohol License for Hy-Vee Food Store #1433 Iowa located at 1700 E Washington Street.
9. New Business
  - a) Resolution Directing the Acceptance of a Proposal to Purchase \$1,700,000 (Dollar Amount Subject to

- Change) G/O Capital Loan Notes, Series 2023.
- b) Change Order# 1 for Downtown West Gateway Plaza.
- c) Approve motion setting Public hearing to amend FYE2023 budget.
10. Public Forum.
11. Adjourn to meet in regular session on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

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**PEN CITY CURRENT**

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The GRASS is a LITTLE GREENER at  
THE **Scotts Miracle-Gro**  
COMPANY

# HIRING EVENT

**Thursday, April 27 • 9am-4pm**

**at 1910 48th Street in Fort Madison**

**On-the-Spot Interviews**

### Positions Available:

- Filler Operator- 3rd Shift, \$25.75 to start with increases each 6 months up to 2 years.
- Machine Operator - 3rd Shift, \$20.80 to start with increases each 6 months up to 2 years.
- Forklift Operator - 3rd Shift \$23.15 to start with increases each 6 months up to 2 years
- Lab Technician - \$26.50-\$31.00 per hour, depending upon experience.

**All positions offer a \$.50 shift differential in addition to the posted hourly wages.**

**Not available for the Hiring Event?**

**Apply online at**

**<https://scottsmiraclegro.com/careers>  
to schedule a personal appointment.**



**From the Front**

# New bill would curb state auditor's ability to audit

**EVANS** - Continued from Page 1

In 2019, the Associated Press disclosed that for many years, the board overseeing the Iowa Communities Assurance Pool had routinely held two of its six meetings each year at luxury out-of-state vacation resorts. The insurance pool paid the cost of the board members' travel to these venues in Florida and Michigan, along with their lodging and meals for several days.

In August 2019, one month before the Associated Press report, the pool's board of directors met over three days at The Boulevard Inn, a bluff-top hotel at the Lake Michigan resort community of St. Joseph, Mich. Room rates there in August typically are about \$400 per night.

Not surprisingly, the AP report caught the eye of State Auditor Rob Sand — just as it might if the Des Moines City Council or Iowa Board of Regents were meeting regularly at resorts in Florida every winter and in Michigan every summer.

Sand notified the insurance pool his staff wanted access to its records so his auditors could review the pool's spending to determine whether the payments for the out-of-state trips and other reimbursements to board members had a legitimate public purpose and complied with state laws.

"We look forward to fighting for taxpayers' right to know what is happening with their money," Sand told the AP.

Months later, after providing some but not all of the documents Sand wanted, the insurance pool sued the auditor in an attempt to void his subpoena. The pool took the position Sand did not have legal authority to conduct such a review. In the view of the pool's lawyers, the pool was established under a section of Iowa law that puts it outside of the state auditor's scrutiny and on a legal footing that puts it outside the state open meetings and public records laws.

This month, the Iowa Supreme Court ruled unanimously the insurance pool is correct, that it is not subject to the state auditor's oversight. The court's decision said while it may

be good policy to subject the government insurance pool to oversight by the auditor, the Legislature has not chosen to do that.

That brings us to today.

If you thought the Legislature might be working now to revise the statutes under which the Iowa Communities Assurance Pool and similar government insurance pools are organized — bringing them within the oversight of the state auditor in an attempt to guard against waste, fraud and abuse, you would be wrong.

Your mistake can be forgiven, though.

Yes, lawmakers are working to eliminate what they perceive to be waste, fraud and abuse in government programs as diverse as unemployment insurance benefits, Medicaid and food assistance for the poor. And, given lawmakers' comments, you might logically think it would be on their radar, too, if a government board was routinely meeting at vacation destinations in other states, with taxpayer money paying the cost.

But instead of looking to change the law to allow the auditor to ferret out any such misuse of government money, lawmakers have used the Supreme Court's recent decision to pounce on the auditor. It's probably just a coincidence the state auditor is a Democrat and a majority of senators and representatives are Republicans.

The Iowa House last week amended and approved a controversial bill, Senate File 478, that would severely limit the ability of the auditor to review a state government agency.

Iowans who are concerned about waste, fraud and abuse in their government should be troubled by the message this legislation sends.

The bill would prevent the state auditor from going to court to enforce a subpoena for a state agency's records if the agency does not want to cooperate. The bill sets up an arbitration procedure where such disputes would be decided by a three-person panel, with the agency appointing one arbiter, the auditor appointing a second arbiter and the governor appointing the third arbiter.

Sand said the legislation would allow a state government agency to keep records from the state auditor if the governor agrees.

The Cedar Rapids Gazette reported the National State Auditors Association, in a letter to Iowa officials, said the arbitration panel envisioned by the bill "presents a clear threat to the state auditor's independence."

The letter went on: "As comprised, it clearly favors the audited agency rather than having an objective third party decide the matter. Access to records necessary to conduct an independent audit is essential for the proper oversight of public funds."

The House-passed version still needs approval by the Senate and Gov. Kim Reynolds' signature before it can become law. With adjournment of the 2023 session looming, Iowans having an opinion on the legislation should share it with their state senators this week.

There is an interesting footnote to this controversy:


Among the members of the board of directors of the Iowa Communities Assurance Pool who traveled to those out-of-state meetings the Associated Press wrote about is Michael Bergan of the Winneshiek County town of Dorchester.

The same Michael Bergan, a state representative, was the floor manager of the bill when it was debated and approved last week by the House.


Randy Evans can be reached at [DMRevs2810@gmail.com](mailto:DMRevs2810@gmail.com).

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**Lunch Specials**  
**April 24-28**  
**11am - 1pm**

**Monday, April 24**  
Meatloaf, Loaded Potatoes, Corn

**Tuesday, April 25**  
Chicken Fajitas, Spanish Rice

**Wednesday, April 26**  
Tater Tot Casserole, Green Beans, Blueberry Fluff

**Thursday, April 27**  
Fried Chicken Dinners

**Friday, April 28**  
Lunch on the Sidewalk



# UNITED WAY GOLF OUTING



• May 5th, 2023 at Sheaffer  
Golf Course in Fort Madison  
Shotgun start 12pm

•   
**CINCO**  
**DE MAYO**

**LIVE UNITED**



Call 319.524.4504 for information



# United Way of the Great River Region



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**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**

\$400

4/24/23

**Oct**

\$400

9/25/23

**Both**

\$720

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.

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Golfers (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

**FUN extras available on site include: BIG Raffle \$10/ea. • Hole Games • Silent Auction Items • 50/50 Tickets (cash only) \$2/ea, 6/\$10 or yd/\$20**

**Have a great time while supporting 18 community agencies and other United Way priorities!**

*Your donation is tax deductible for the portion above actual expense.*

PO Box 251 • Keokuk, IA 52632 • Tel: 319-524-4504 • E-mail: [director@unitedwaygrr.org](mailto:director@unitedwaygrr.org)



# United Way of the Great River Region



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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**

## Golf Outing Sponsorship Opportunities

Circle your choice of options below  
**Deadlines in red**

	May	Oct	Both
<b>Corporate Sponsor</b> - Includes name & logo on advertising, banner at the event, hole sponsor sign, marketing opportunity, 4-person team (not required). Provide a jpeg of your logo to UWGRR.	\$1,000 3/31/23	\$1,000 9/1/23	\$1,800 3/31/23
<b>Team Sponsor</b> - Includes cart, lunch, free soda & water, 2 mulligans/golfer & 5 drink tickets/golfer.	\$400 4/24/23	\$400 9/25/23	\$720 4/24/23
<b>Hospitality Sponsor</b> - Includes name & logo on beverage carts, at the buffet line & throughout the golf course. Provide a jpeg of your logo to UWGRR.	\$300 4/28/23	\$300 9/29/23	\$540 4/28/23
<b>Hole Sponsor</b> - Includes sign by green & marketing opportunity. Provide a jpeg of your logo to UWGRR.	\$100 4/24/23	\$100 9/25/23	\$180 4/24/23

Be sure to circle the sponsorship opportunity you are interested in.

If you are sponsoring a team, please fill out the team registration page also.

**For Corporate, Hospitality or Hole Sponsorship please email a jpeg file of your logo to [director@unitedwaygrr.org](mailto:director@unitedwaygrr.org) on or before the appropriate deadline.**

Check payment type:  Invoice me  Check included  Master Card or VISA

Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card number: \_\_\_\_\_ exp: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_



# Cam's Crew Benefit

## FIGHT LIKE CAM

Join us at  
the Eagle's Club

4821 Avenue O

Ft. Madison, IA

Saturday, May 6, 2023

Starting at 2:00 p.m.

### Raffle Drawings

New 65 inch Smart TV

Disney Encanto

1. Encanto Kid's Electric Scooter
2. Swagtron Electric Skateboard  
Kick Assist Smart Sensors

### Auction

50/50 Drawing

Bake Sale

Karaoke

Food will  
be served  
(Free  
Will Donation)



In September 2022, Camdyn was diagnosed with metastatic Wilm's Syndrome Tumor, a very aggressive cancer that is now at stage 4.

On September 13th, Cam underwent a 7 hour surgery to remove the kidney and tumor at the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital.

This has also spread to the lymph nodes and both lungs. *Cam is still undergoing blood transfusions, radiation, and chemotherapy in Iowa City, and may require further travel for treatment. His family is asking for help for recurring expenses.*

**Please join us to help support this brave 6 year old cancer victim and his family with expenses they are incurring due to ongoing and future treatment.**

Hosted by: Candy Cresswell - family

Lenette Morriscal - family

Assisted by Kelly Mahoney

Questions Call Candy 319-670-8531

Or Kelly - family friend 319-561-0820





Lee County K9 Association

# CHICKEN DINNER FUNDRAISER

**The Charleston Board of Trade**

1962 253rd St. • Donnellson

**Sunday, May 7th • 4-7pm**

*Non-alcoholic drinks are included*

Adult ..... **\$12**

Child (*under 12*)..... **\$8**



**Come out for  
a great dinner  
to support  
our county  
K9 department**



**Get Your Tickets by May 2<sup>nd</sup> at**

**Lee County Sheriff's Office**

**F6 Outdoors**

**Tri State Outdoor Products, LLC**

**Charleston Board of Trade**

**Central Lee Science Club**

**or from**

**Bob Conley 319-470-2327**

**Earl Stuekerjuergen 319-470-2128**

**All proceeds go to Lee County K9 Association**



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DONNELSON, IA



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TUESDAY,  
JULY 4

RACE STARTS AT 7:30AM

DONNELSON FIRE DEPARTMENT

616 N. Main Street  
Donnellson, IA 52625

donnellson@t2t.org



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VISIT US AT T2T.ORG



@TUNNEL2TOWERS #T2TRUN