

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Monday, May 1, 2023 | 15 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 82



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Council to vote on filling 5th Ward seat

90 DAYS: Council will likely appoint someone to fill seat within 60 days

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison City Council will take action to fill a 5th ward vacancy on the council Tuesday night.

Councilman Chad Cangas informed the council and Mayor Matt Mohrfeld on April 18th that he was submitting his resignation effective May 15, which makes Tuesday's council meeting his last meeting.

The council is voting Tuesday to post notice of the vacancy and fill it by either a special election within 90 days or by appointment within 60 days.

Mohrfeld said at the last meeting that the council would likely appoint a councilperson to fill the vacancy. Cangas' seat would have come up for election on the Nov. 7 general election ballot.

Cangas purchased property near Donnellson and will no longer reside within the city limits, prompting the resignation.

Cangas said that he has someone who is interested in the position, but the council would do interviews with potential candidates before appointing someone to the seat.

A petition could be filed to force a special election to fill the seat.

In other action, the council:

- will consider approving an Urban Renewal Joint Agreement with Lee County regarding the property donated by the Glen Meller family. The county is looking to put the property in an urban renewal zone before construction of the Lee County Health Department.

- will consider a contract for \$247,000 for upgrades to the Automated Weather Observing System at the Fort Madison Municipal Airport.

Old Fort Donation



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Potowonok Circle of King's Daughters donated \$1,000 to repairs at the Old Fort on Friday. Member Kate Lamb presents a check to Old Fort Director Dr. Eugene Watkins and Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld.

EMPTY NEST

“Capping” off the weekend

I told Ginnie I wished I had a seed corn cap to wear. I settled for my “Our Iowa” cap which I thought was sort of apropos. Not. We were going to a farm near Media, IL for a meeting of the Corn Item Collectors Association. Hugh Forbes, owner of the farm where the meeting was held, sort of harrumphed at my Iowa hat and pointed me toward a box of like-new, 40-year old DeKalb caps. \$5 each. Wow. What a bargain!

Growing up in Monroe, Iowa, next to a Pfister Hybrids plant, and having done my share of hoeing, roguing and detasseling, I figured I would enjoy seeing hand-held corn husking tools. I wasn't wrong. The first thing Ginnie and I saw was a variety of hand operated corn shellers. Then there were the glove type pegs and hooks, called corn huskers, used to shuck corn, before being tossed into a wagon with a bang board. (I've seen this in actual

operation once when the fields were too muddy to get into with a combine or picker.) Dick Humes, President of the Illinois State Corn Huskers told us, “The most I ever picked in 20 minutes was 560 pounds. There are 70 pounds to the bushel, and 12 pounds of cob to the bushel. Shelled corn is 56 pounds to the bushel.” Dick is the current National Champion Husker and hoping to repeat this year in Greenville, Ohio.

Steve Link is the president of the Corn Item Collectors Association. His 12 year old nephew, mentored by Dick Humes, recently won first place in the state and third place at the Nationals. Dick also mentored John Kane, who started eight or nine years ago. John won first place in the state and first place at national competition. He has won four nationals since then.

Dick worked with a girl from Iowa.

Dick worked with a girl from Iowa.

Dick worked with a girl from Iowa.

Dick worked with a girl from Iowa.

Dick worked with a girl from Iowa.

See CORN, page 8

SUNDAY EDITORIAL



FMHA gets points for pushing forward

There's something that's lingering from last week's news cycle.

It was a busy cycle with news of the shared athletic programs being salvaged between Fort Madison High School and Holy Trinity Catholic, and Fort Madison and Central Lee.

We feel exhausted from the debate, and the pressure that debate put on the friendships that are part of the fabric of this community.

There was a collective exhale when the announcement was made that the Fort Madison school board had ultimately voted to continue the shared programs. We can't ignore the hesitation in the original vote to extend the shared programs, any more than we can ignore the same sense of hesitation when the Fort Madison school board changed direction and approved all the shared agreements, albeit with more compensation from the sharing districts.

But we exhaled, nonetheless.

The sigh was short-lived as we then heard rumblings out of the Fort Madison Housing Authority of an alleged heavy-handed FMHA commissioner action to suspend director Mike Dear and a maintenance man he hired with a criminal background.

Commission Chairwoman, and Fort Madison City Councilwoman Rebecca Bowker, called for the action to suspend the two FMHA staffers.

See FMHA, page 8

INDEX

Business Directory.....P.7
Cam's Crew Benefit.....P.12
CLASSIFIEDS.....Ps.5-7
Complete Rental.....P.4
Connection Bank.....P.8
Denmark Heritage Days.....P.14
Donnellson Tunnel to Towers Walk.....P.15
FOR THE RECORD.....P.3
FROM THE FRONT.....P.8
Fullenkamp Insurance.....P.8

IOWA NEWS.....P.4
James Healthcare & Associates, Inc.....P.4
Jim Baier, Inc.....P.5
Lee County Health Department.....P.3
Lee County K9 Association.....P.13
OBITUARIES.....P.3
• Edmund B. Bartholomew, 62
• Carol L. Foss, 88
• Jeffrey A. Thompson, 60
OPINION.....Ps.4,8

Pen City Current.....Ps.6-7
Pothisakis Dentistry.....P.2
Public Notices.....Ps.5-7
Scotts Miracle-Gro Company.....P.5
Sonny's Super Market.....P.3
Southeast Iowa Regional Airport.....P.2
SPORTS.....P.2
United Way of the
Great River Region.....Ps.9-11

WEATHER

MON 01 May.....Mostly cloudy, breezy, and cool, 56° F/ 40° F
TUE 02 May.....Sunny, breezy, and cool, 61° F/ 37° F
WED 03 May.....Sunny and cool, 67° F/ 44° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 04/29.....2 5 8 36 51, Star Ball: 2 All Star Bonus: 3
LUCKY FOR LIFE 04/29.....17 19 34 36 37, Lucky Ball: 8
MEGA MILLIONS 04/28.....18 38 53 62 64, Mega Ball: 20 Megaplier: 3
PICK 3 MIDDAY 04/27, 04/28, 04/29.....4 41, 0 9 6, 7 6 6
PICK 3 EVENING 04/27, 04/28, 04/29.....2 4 9, 8 21, 111
PICK 4 MIDDAY 04/27, 04/28, 04/29.....5 7 0 8, 4 6 61, 0 8 2 0
PICK 4 EVENING 04/27, 04/28, 04/29.....2 4 1 7, 6 0 7 6, 6 9 4 9
POWERBALL 04/29.....16 53 54 57 65, Powerball: 8 Power Play: 2

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Sports

Bloodhound boys take title at WACO's Ekstrand Relays

PCC Staff

WAYLAND – The Fort Madison boys track and field team captured another first-place finish as they rolled to the title at the Ekstrand Relays in WACO.

The Bloodhounds racked up 140 points to edge Fairfield 133. In the girls run, the Lady Hounds finished in fourth place with 113 points. The Central Lee boys team finished 6th in Class A with 36 points.

The boys dominated the relay events taking first in the 4x100, 4x200, 4x400, Distance Medley and Shuttle Hurdle relay. Chandler Fullenkamp also earned his first first-place finish with a leap of 19-2.5 in the long jump.

In the individual sprint events, Julian Dear and Tate Settles went 2nd and 4th in the 100 meters with 11.50 and 11.70 times respectively.

Central Lee's Grant Myhre continued to shine for the Hawks in the sprint events taking 2nd place in the open 200 with a time of 22.54.

Fort Madison's Peyton Lambert was 2nd in the 800 meter run at 2:15.02. Mason McLey was 3rd at 2:15.80. Lambert also anchored the Hounds' top finishing 4x400 team.

For the Lady Hounds, Fort Madison got their usual stellar performance from Avery Rump who won the 1500 and 3000 meter runs. Addison Rump took second in the 1500 and Brylie Lorence earned her first top-fin-

ish in the shot put with a heave of 33-10.75.

Hailey Kemper set a personal best when she took first place in the 400-meter hurdles with a 1:10.53.

Complete results of the Thursday relays are below. Top five finishes are in parenthesis with first-place finishes in bold.

Fort Madison and Central Lee competed in Class A
 100 meters: FM girls – Lillian Gelsthorpe 13.58 (2nd), Emily Steffensmeier 14.37. FM boys – Julian Dear 11.50 (2nd), Tate Settles 11.70 (4th). CL boys – Corbin Pohren 11.96 (5th), Will Ferris 12.00.
 200 meters: FM Girls – Olivia Buckner 30.06, Laci Gathers 38.54. FM boys – Gavin Callahan 26.38, Mason Koser 26.78. CL boys – Grant Myhre 22.54 (2nd), Aden Ross 25.28.
 400 meters: FM girls – Caralena Crooks 1:08.28, Emma Kern 1:16.51. FM boys – Dane Butler 57.39 (5th), Noah Krogmeier 1:01.83. CL boys – no entry.
 800 meters: FM girls – Mara Smith 2:37.01, Ellie Huebner 2:52.76. FM boys – Peyton Lambert 2:15.05 (2nd), Mason McLey 2:15.80 (3rd). CL boys – Will Hayes 2:31.72.
 1500 meters: FM girls – Avery Rump 5:12.23 (1st), Addison Rump 5:23.57 (2nd).
 1600 meters: FM boys – Nolan Guzman 5:01.73 (3rd), Cameron Shutwell 5:18.82. CL boys – Grant Anderson 5:20.48, Ward Fraise 5:25.37.
 3000 meters: FM girls – Avery Rump 11:07.77 (1st).
 3200 meters: FM boys – no entry. CL boys – Anderson 11:48.53.
 100 hurdles: FM girls – Crooks 18.88, Alexa Walz 19.37.
 110 hurdles: FM boys – Chandler Fullenkamp 18.16. CL boys – no entry.
 400 hurdles: FM girls – Hailey Kemper 1:10.53 (1st), Walz 1:19.59. FM boys – Thomas White 1:06.71. CL boys – Kegan Damico 1:01.04 (4th), Ethan Bergman 1:07.01.
 4x100 relay: FM girls – Gelsthorpe, Dayonna Davis, Rylee Steffensmeier, E. Steffensmeier 55.11 (2nd). FM boys – Adam Sobczak, Dayton Lamar, Settles, Dear 44:34 (1st), CL boys – Fer-

ris, Brayden Wyrick, Grant Myhre, Pohren 46.84 (3rd).
 4x200 relay: FM girls – Gelsthorpe, R. Steffensmeier, Aija Jenkins, Davis 1:55.76 (2nd). FM boys – Kane Williams, Henry Wiseman, Nik Fullenkamp, Callahan 1:38.96 (1st). CL boys – Brendan Mulligan, Kain Arrowood, Cody Kitzman and Shane Barnhardt 1:52.64.
 4x400 relay: FM girls – Buckner, Crooks, Kern, Emma Berry 5:02.67. FM boys – Cade Packard, McLey, Guzman, Peyton Lambert 3:38.11 (1st). CL boys – Fraise, Riley Salter, Mulligan, Hayes 4:13.54.
 4x800 relay: FM girls – Walz, Addison Rump, Huebner, Avery Rump 11:00.11. FM boys – Shutwell, Calvin Johnson, Krogmeier, Richmond 9:38.39 (4th)
 Sprint Medley: FM girls – Jenkins, E. Steffensmeier, R. Steffensmeier, Davis 2:05.43. FM boys – Wiseman, Kiawante Smith, Lamar, Lambert 1:41.44. CL boys – Ross, Bergman, Damico, Fraise 1:53.86.
 Distance Medley: FM girls – Jenkins, Smith, Davis, Addison Rump 4:41.47 (3rd). FM boys – Williams, Fullenkamp, Packard, Guzman 3:51.45 (1st). CL boys – Albert Kruse, Arrowood, Salter, Anthony Galati 4:47.66.
 Shuttle Hurdle: FM girls – Crooks, Jojo Vincent, Maleena Bentley, Walz 1:20.27 (3rd). FM boys – Callahan, Sobczak, Smith and Wiseman 1:04.96 (1st). CL boys- no entry.
 High Jump: FM girls – Jenkins 5-0 (3rd). FM boys – Packard 5-8" (3rd), Guzman 5-6" (5th). CL boys – Damico 5-8" (4th).
 Long jump: FM girls – E. Steffensmeier 14-4.5 (3rd). FM boys – Fullenkamp 19-2.50 (1st), Callahan 16-7. CL boys – Brayden Wyrick 18-8.75, Pohren 17-6.
 Shot put: FM girls – Brylie Lorence 33-10.75 (1st). FM boys – Caden Barnes 43-9 (1st), Ike Thacher 40-11.75 (2nd). CL boys – Ostin Moore 36-7, Cam Thornburg 29-1.5.
 Discus: FM girls – Lorence 72-6. FM boys – Cory Arnett 124-6 (3rd), Brayton Schneider 113-0 (5th). CL boys – Brody Fuller 107-4, Owen Krogmeier 78-9.

Lady Hounds record 3rd straight shutout

WASHINGTON – Teagan Snaadt is establishing herself as a premier scorer in the Southeast Conference.

The sophomore scored two more goals Thursday night as the Lady Hounds ripped off their third shutout in the past three games in a 6-0 win on the road at Washington.

Snaadt opened the scoring with under two minutes gone in the match. She would score again in the first half to give Fort Madison a 3-0 lead.

The Lady Hounds also got a score from Laura Mehmert in the first half as Taylor Johnson was keeping the net clear.


Fort Madison got two goals from Hadley Wolfe, and another from Mehmert in the second half.

Johnson had five saves in the game. Jenna Hellman and Halle Menke each had shots on goal in the game.


Snaadt leads the Hounds with 17 goals on the campaign but has eight over the last two games. Freshman Halle Menke leads the team in assists with 10 on the season.

Fort Madison is just one game out of first place trailing Burlington who's 7-0 in the Southeast Conference and 8-2 overall. Fort Madison stands at 6-1 in the conference and 7-2 overall with a showdown set for Thursday at Bracewell Stadium in Burlington.


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Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

EDMUND B. BARTHOLOMEW

Edmund B. "Ed" Bartholomew, 62, of Montrose, IA, passed away at 3:10 a.m. on Friday, April 28, 2023 at the Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House in West Burlington, IA. He was born on January 27, 1961 in Fort Madison, IA to Paul J. & Joan M. Beger Bartholomew. He married Kay L. Armstrong on September 3, 1988 in Atkins, IA. He was a lab tech for the City of Fort Madison Water Treatment Facility and was an avid hunter, fisherman and sportsman. He coached junior high wrestling and also Fort Madison Kids Club Wrestling.



Ed is survived by: his wife: Kay Bartholomew of Montrose, IA; 1-daughter: Megan (Mitchell) McKnight of Fairfax, VA; 1-son: Bryce (fiancé Teagan Manus) Bartholomew of West Des Moines, IA; 1-granddaughter: Emery McKnight of Fairfax, VA; 2-sisters: Cathy Grim of Tonto Basin, AZ & Susan (Ray) Menke of Fort Madison, IA and 1-brother: Robert Bartholomew of Fort Madison, IA. He was preceded in death by: his parents and 1-brother, Rodney Bartholomew.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A visitation will be held from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 6, 2023 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A memorial service will immediately follow at 11:00 a.m. A memorial has been established for Lee County Conservation for youth hunting opportunities. Online condolences to the Bartholomew family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

CAROL L. FOSS

Carol Louise Schroeder Foss, 88 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died Thursday, April 27, 2023 at the Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House, West Burlington, Iowa. She was born March 14, 1935 at Fort Madison, Iowa, a daughter of J. Robert Sr. and Gertrude (Boddeker) Schroeder. On September 25, 1954, she married Walter Robert "Bob" Foss at Buffalo, New York. They were married 60 years before he preceded her in death on January 20, 2015.



Carol was born and raised in Fort Madison, Iowa. She graduated from St. Joseph's High School and then attended Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Carol was a homemaker and a travel consultant. She and her husband, Bob, owned and operated Tri-Town Travel in Vernon, Connecticut for 20 years. In 2010, they returned to Fort Madison. She was Catholic and an active member of Holy Family Parish, Fort Madison. She was a member of the Lions Club for over 30 years, serving in Vernon, Connecticut being the 7th woman to join the Lions Club and the first female president of a Lions Club chapter in the country. She also served as President in Fort Madison for two years, and in 2017 she received the Melvin Jones Humanitarian Award for service. She taught a travel course at MCTC (Manchester Community Technical College) for 10 years. Carol was also a member of North Lee County Historical Society, Old Settlers Park Association, Monday Afternoon Study Club, P.E.O., Chapter KV, Holy Family Parish Altar Society and Main Street Committee.

She is survived by four daughters: Jennifer (Steve) Cordova, of California; Kathryn (Michael) Brown, of Connecticut; Peggy (Heather Fairchild) Foss, of New Hampshire; Sarah (David Bonazza) Foss, of Portugal; two sons, Jeffrey (Sheila) Foss, of Connecticut and Christopher (Ellen) Foss, of Ohio; one sister, Patricia Kious, of Fort Madison, Iowa; 14 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren and many dear nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, one brother J. Robert Schroeder Jr., and two sisters, Janice Robinson and Phyllis Lutwack.

Her family will greet friends for a visitation from 5:00 - 6:30 pm Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison with a Christian Wake to follow at 6:30 pm Tuesday evening. Mass of Christian Burial will be 11:00 am Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at Ss. Mary and Joseph Church, Holy Family Parish, with Reverend John Stack as Celebrant. Following the services her body will be cremated and private Catholic Committal Service and burial will be at Claypoole Cemetery, Wever, Iowa. A memorial has been established for Holy Family Parish, Holy Trinity Catholic Schools, and the North Lee County Historical Society, contributions may be left at the church or the Barr Memorial Chapel. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Foss Family and an online guest book may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel website, www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

OBITUARIES

JEFFREY A. THOMPSON

Jeffrey A. Thompson, 60, of Burlington, Iowa, passed away at 3:20 p.m. Thursday, April 27, 2023, at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, Iowa.



THOMPSON

He was born on April 24, 1963, in Fort Madison, Iowa, the son of Norman and Mary (Chapman) Thompson. He was married to Jacqueline Crowner.

He is survived by this two sons: Tory Thompson of Burlington, Iowa and Tyler (Brittanie) Thompson of Burlington, Iowa; two daughters: Jenna Buis of Muncie, Indiana and Chelsey Thompson of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; eight grandchildren; mother: Mary Chapman; brother: Ron Thompson and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father.

Jeff was a graduate of Fort Madison High School. He was an avid Dallas Cowboys fan and he loved spending time with his grandchildren.

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

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

A memorial has been established in his memory and can be mailed to the family at: Schmitz Funeral Home, P.O. Box 56, Donnellson, Iowa

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

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

04/27/23 - 1:58 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 4100 block of Bluff Road.

04/27/23 - 11:53 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit & run in the 3400 block of Avenue N.

04/27/23 - 12:06 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident at the intersection of 28th Street and Avenue L.

04/27/23 - 1:47 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Nicho-

las Anthony Bethurem, 42, of West Point, in the 1800 block of Avenue H, on a charge of 4th degree theft greater than \$300 less than \$750.

04/27/23 - 3:45 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1700 block of Avenue H.

04/27/23 - 6:15 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested a 16-year-old female juvenile, of Wever, in the 800 block of Avenue E, on a charge of 5th degree theft less than \$300. She was released to a parent.

04/27/23 - 8:00 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Jacob John

Montgomery, 36, of Denmark, in the 4100 block of Bluff Road, on a charge of driving while barred.

04/27/23 - 9:45 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 5800 block of Avenue O.

Lee County Sheriff Report

04/27/23 - Lee County sheriff deputies had no activity to report.

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



LUNCH SPECIALS
MAY 1 - 5
11 AM - 1 PM

Monday, May 1

Tenderloin, Mac & Cheese, Baked Beans

Tuesday, May 2

Carved Ham, Cheese Potatoes, Corn

Wednesday, May 3

Burnt End Sandwich, Fries, Mandarin Salad

Thursday, May 4

Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, May 5

Lunch on the Sidewalk

Touching the Community with Care



LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
#3 John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison
(319) 372-5225 . www.leecountyhd.org

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Superintendent Crozier says Central Lee in good financial shape

Dear Editor,

At its April meeting, the Central Lee Board of Education approved the district's tax levy for the 2023-24 school year.

The district was able to drop the tax rate another 3 cents from the previous year, to a rate of \$10.73 per \$1,000 of taxable property value. We also were able to maintain the income surtax percentage at 3 percent. In 2018, the district had a tax rate of \$12.19 and an income surtax rate of 9 percent. We have been able to realize a significant decrease over the past six years, even with a general obligation bond for capital improvements.

Statewide, Iowans are concerned about property taxes. Those concerns are magnified by the fact that most property owners have seen notable increases in their assessed valuations. It is important to understand, however, that property valuations and the school district portion of property taxes will not necessarily increase at the same rates.

Public school districts are fairly limited in what we can modify in our tax levies. Unlike other entities, if we give employees a 4 percent increase in compensation, we do not necessarily have the

authority to increase property taxes to pay for it. Much of our levy is automated and includes a large portion of state funding. Thus, the discussion around our tax levy related largely to our management fund, physical plant and equipment levy (PPEL), and cash reserve levy. The district has very little flexibility outside of those areas.

Central Lee is in its best financial position in over two decades primarily due to our increasing enrollment and sound financial management. We have experienced these budgetary successes while also providing salary increases and retention bonuses for staff. We have increased staffing numerous times over the past seven years, including at the high school for computer science, work-based learning, and math. At the K-8 level, we have added additional elementary sections and middle school core teachers. With continued enrollment growth on the way, we are investing in our schools so that we can continue to improve at everything we do.

Last year, I referenced a changing tide in public education funding. This tide could become a tsunami in the years ahead. This past year, the state

legislature chose to fund private schools over public schools with an investment of \$1 billion over the next four years. When you couple that with drastic changes in the tax code over the next few years, there will likely be limited funds available for public education. We have the right to be concerned about the financial stability of Central Lee based on decisions being made in Des Moines.

We are also hearing a lot of negativity about public schools from our state leaders. We must keep in mind the incredible dedication of our teachers and staff to the students of Central Lee. While they may not get the support they deserve from the state level, they are tireless in their efforts to provide the best possible learning experiences to our students.

I suggest that we ignore the noise from the media and legislators, and instead thank and appreciate the educators in our local community for everything they do. Without them, we would truly be lost.

Sincerely,

Dr. Andy Crozier
Central Lee Superintendent

BACK PAIN?

Do You Have Hip Pain? Are You As Stiff As a Board When You Try to Get Up From a Chair? Have You Run Out of Hope?

How 5 Lies About Low BACK PAIN May Keep You Hurting, Frustrated & Exhausted...Forever!

NEW Scientific Breakthroughs Often Make Short Work of Low Back Pain...Just What Big Medical Centers and High Priced Clinics Are PRAYING You Never Figure Out On Your Own!

Hi, I'm Dr. Jason James, and if you've got any kind of back, hip or leg pain, your worries may be over in just a few minutes. Why? Because I'm the owner of James Healthcare & Assoc. clinic, and I've discovered what may be the best healing secrets for "bad backs" — EVER!



Dr. Jason James, D.C.

I'd be stupid to make such a claim if I couldn't back it up. But I am so confident we can help your back, I insist on giving you a 100% SATISFACTION PLEDGE at James Healthcare. I hate empty promises, and I also hate the lies most folks have been told about their backs. That's why it's important I expose these MYTHS about back pain.

MYTH #1: Sciatica (pain down your leg) is always caused by a herniated disc!

No way...even though most doctors will sell you a \$3,000 MRI at the first sign of leg pain. But they don't tell you about a 5-inch muscle in the hip that can squeeze the sciatic nerve. And it feels EXACTLY like you've got the worst slipped disc on earth. It's a major discovery and...

The good news is that it can be easy and inexpensive to correct! How? Just keep reading! But first, here's a picture to show you where the pain comes from:



MYTH #2: Stiffness from Arthritis means you're getting old...and it must be the reason for all your pain and stiffness!

Not true, because thousands of folks with arthritis in their backs have absolutely NO PAIN! Then why do YOU feel like your back will snap if you bend forward or twist too fast? Because the truth is:

Your stiffness may be caused by a hidden, even more dangerous problem than arthritis, and it can lead to a hip replacement!

You see, most folks believe that something mysterious (like maybe an "arthritis fairy") waved a wand over them, and they're cursed... doomed to suffer forever.

But did you know that many arthritis problems are CAUSED by a combination of unseen imbalances in the spine and surrounding muscles? It's the most common cause of hip replacements but not that hard to correct if we catch it in time. It's like the tires on your car...

If the alignment is off just a teeny-weeny bit, at first you don't notice, but over a few thousand miles you start to see signs of wear...that is, if you're lucky enough to catch it before a flat on the freeway ruins your day. In your spine, you're lucky if you catch untreated imbalances before they ruin your spine! How to fix them? Just look at Myth #3.

MYTH #3: Your Back is "Out"!

Sure, that's exactly how it feels. But guess what, we found that's usually not the case. It sounds good, but we now know better. You see, there are 7 different reasons for that painful, locked-up and stuck feeling that causes so much misery:

- low-grade spasm
- pelvis torque and tension
- imbalance of hips

- fallen or dropped arches
- stiff vertebra joint
- adhesions in leg muscle
- pinched nerve

It's NOT just your spine, and it's NOT just your muscles. As a matter of fact, if one of the major muscles that stabilize the spine is partly spasmed, a "2nd stringer" will have to carry the load. But this is a serious problem...

It's like having your plumber doing all the dangerous electrical work!

Sure, he may get it done, and it may work at first, but how long until there's a fire? Or your back locks up? Which leads me to our next myth:

MYTH #4: "It's Only a Muscle!"

Boy, it's scary how many people think muscle problems are no big deal. Unfortunately, tight, bound-up, and spasmed or tight muscles can wear out joints faster than you can say, "Charley Horse!"

That's why it's important to examine the spine AT THE SAME TIME as the muscles that control it. It's also why we've had such outrageous success with even the worst backs at James Healthcare. Because we deal with BOTH the spine and muscles at the same time. We have spine doctors (chiropractors), pain doctors (nurse practitioners) and muscle professionals (therapists) and together they deliver an outstanding way to help "bad backs". This ties in to Myth #5 and the diagram:



MYTH #5: "Muscle Relaxants" will help your muscles heal! Good grief, NO!

Your muscles tighten up for a reason, and muscle relaxants are like turning back the clock on a time bomb...you know it's still going to blow up! Sure, you may feel better now, but you'll pay later...and pay "in spades"! So don't fall for these lies about your low back. They'll keep you hurting, frustrated and exhausted forever!

WOULDN'T YOU RATHER:

Turn over in bed without pain waking you up?

Get up in the morning without being as stiff as a board?

Be able to stand for as long as you want without sitting down for relief?

Lean forward over the sink without that "stabbing" in your back or leg?

SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGH:

A hidden muscle may be causing your SCIATICA! Does Your Back Seem "Too Old" for Your Own Body? Not everyone qualifies for treatment, so help us see if you do. If you check off even one box, drop what you're doing and call James Healthcare NOW. And bring this coupon when you come in for your 39-Point "Back-Pain Track-Down Exam". Now check off what describes you:

- Tension...always tight across the beltline
- Bent—crooked off to one side and can't stand up straight if your life depended on it
- Trigger Point...zinging pain to butt-cheek
- Stiff as a board...creek and groan when you first get out of bed in the morning
- Traitor...can't trust your back and what it's going to do—or when!
- Vice-like...constantly locked down tight!
- Shooting...vicious but short-lived
- Lumbago...hard to pin it down—just seems to hurt all the time, but it's hard to say where
- One-sided...right at that "bone" on one side
- Jack hammer...pounding off and on like a heartbeat or a toothache in your back
- Aching from 1-5 years
- Chronic pain for over 5 years

No one will try to sell you anything, and you make no commitment...you just find out what's wrong!

P.S. Why You MUST Not Wait! Because of appointment availability, we can only honor this \$27 offer or bringing in a new or gently used winter coat through October 31, 2022. So don't say, "Well, maybe I'll be better tomorrow." Don't put your life on hold. Don't call in sick again. Live your life pain free! Tie your own shoes for a change.

Call NOW! (319) 524-3339
James Healthcare & Associates, Inc.
612 Main Street

"I broke my back when I was 41 years old and have had problems from then on, until June 2017. Dr. James gave me my life back! I have very few back problems now. It is great to be able to do my everyday duties without back problems."—Roger Kirchner

Alliant gives \$165K for trees

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA (April 28, 2023) – Jefferson, Letts and Washington are set to benefit from Alliant Energy's tree planting program. They are among 51 Iowa communities (see full list below) that will receive funds from a program developed in partnership with Trees Forever. Grants are designated for communities to plant a diverse mix of trees to aid energy efficiency as well as replace trees destroyed by the emerald ash borer.

The grants, which total \$165,370, will help communities plant trees in public places like local parks, schools, libraries, community buildings and streets. Trees provide more shade and cool the air, helping lower overall energy costs. A diverse tree population also helps build resiliency against tree diseases to create a healthier ecosystem.

"Our commitment to improving the environment and supporting the communities we serve is unwavering," said Julie Bauer, Executive Director of the Alliant Energy Foundation. "The grants awarded will not only help communities achieve tree restoration goals and improve energy efficiency, but they will provide benefits for generations to come."

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James Healthcare & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Dr. Jason James, DC
Dr. Mack Kohnke, DC
Ashley Neuweg, ARNP
612 MAIN STREET • KEOKUK, IA

319-524-3339

Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
FORT MADISON
AIRPORT COMMISSION
MONDAY, May 1, 2023
6:00 P.M.
Municipal Airport
50 Airport Road,
Fort Madison, IA 52627**

AGENDA

ROLL CALL
APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
BUSINESS:
1. Dirt Work Update
2. AWOS Grant / Bid Letting Update
AIRPORT MANAGER REPORT
ADJOURNMENT

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
Agenda
DATE: Monday,
May 1, 2023
MEETING
CONVENING TIME:
10:00 A.M. (CDT)
LOCATION:
933 Avenue H
Fort Madison, IA**

---AGENDA---

Board of Supervisors Meeting
May 1, 2023, 10:00-11:30 AM (America/Chicago)
Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
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United States: +1 (571) 317-3122
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<https://meet.goto.com/install>
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
10:01 a.m. Public Hearing for Approval of FY24 County Budget
Consider Approval of Resolution Approving FY24 County Budget
Public Input
Consider Approval to Replace Assistant County Attorney
Consider Approval to Renew Fiscal Agent Agreement with Children First
Consider Approval to Purchase GMC Pickup from Deery Brothers for Secondary Roads
Consider Approval of Proposal By Meller Excavating and Asphalt to Repair Bridge 63.1 at Augusta
Consider Approval of Notice to Bidders for Construction of West Point Maintenance Building
Consider Setting Public Hearing Date for Construction of West Point Maintenance Building
Consider Approval of Agreement with Advanced Correctional Healthcare for Nursing Services At Jail
Consider Approval of Addendum to Agreement with Quadient Leasing for Postage Machine at DHS Building in Keokuk
Consider Approval of Resolution Designating

Depositories
Discussion and Possible Action on Recommendation from Building Study Committee For County Owned Apartments
Consent Agenda
• Monday, April 24, 2023 Board Minutes
• Claims for Payment Personnel Actions:
A. Step Increase - Conservation
B. New Hire - Sheriff's Office
C. Additional Wages - Community Services Reports:
A. Commission of Veteran Affairs Minutes of Meeting
B. Manure Management Annual Update - Knee Deep Solutions
C. Commission or Committee Reports
Department Head Report - County Engineer Adjourn

Possible Workshop to Follow
**PUBLIC MEETING
CITIZENS WELCOME**

Vision and hearing assistance available upon request

Contact Title VI Administrator
319-372-3705
County Website:
www.leecounty.org

**PUBLIC NOTICE
TENTATIVE AGENDA
FORT MADISON
CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, May 2, 2023
5:30 P.M.
City Council Chambers,
City Hall**

INVOCATION
ROLL CALL
PROCLAMATION:
Travel and Tourism Week

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 April 18, 2023;
• New Liquor License: Hill Side Inn, LLC, 1135 Avenue E, effective June 1, 2023 – Class C Retail; Liquor License Amendment: Buffalo61 Bar & Grille, 6111 Reve Court, effective April 25, 2023 – Catering Privilege;
• Liquor License Renewal: Quality Inn & Suites, 6169 Reve Court, effective May 26, 2023 – Class C Retail;
• Setting public hearing for Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 5:30 P.M., on the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget Amendments;
• Claims dated April 27

and April Library Claims; and
• Payroll of April 21, 2023.
COMMUNITY REPORTS: North Lee County Historical Society
UPDATE: Old Fort Madison
PUBLIC HEARINGS
Concerning Public Improvement Project 2022-03, Airport AWOS Replacement
Close Public Hearing
2. A. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to adopt a resolution approving plans, specifications and form of contract for the project.
B. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to adopt a resolution



HIRING EVENT

**Thursday, May 4 • 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.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

awarding construction contract for the project in the amount of \$247,924 to Voltmer Electric, Inc., of Decorah, Iowa, and approving contract and bonds of Voltmer Electric, Inc., pending receipt of documents.

C. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to adopt a resolution approving the Mayor's signature on an Agreement for Engineering Services with McClure of Clive, for construction administration and closeout services for the Airport AWOS Replacement Project.

D. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to adopt a resolution approving the Mayor's signature on a Federal Aviation Administration grant application for Airport Improvement Project (AIP) funding for the AWOS Replacement Project.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

3. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to adopt a resolution approving the Mayor's signature on an Urban Renewal Joint Agreement with Lee County, Iowa, as the Lee County Board of Supervisors, under the Lee County Urban Renewal Plan, propose construction of a new Health Department facility at 5001 Avenue O.

4. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to adopt resolution directing the City Clerk to publish notice of the City Council's intent to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Chad Canagas, Fifth Ward Council Member, by appointment.

OTHER - None

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, May 16, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway proposes to install a 80-ft-tall communications towers in their railroad right-of-way in Fort Madison at (latitude, longitude) 40.622714, -91.345453, which will be licensed through the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). As part of its responsibilities assigned by FCC for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), BNSF invites the public to notify BNSF of any effects the placement of this tower may have on properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, or any concerns the public may have with regard to the potential impact the tower may have on natural and cultural resources subject to NEPA or NHPA review and consideration. Please direct your comments to Jennifer Schwaller at HDR, 10450 Holmes Rd, Suite 600, Kansas City, MO 64131 or jennifer.schwaller@hdrinc.com. Comments must be received within 10 days of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE GREEN BAY LEVEE & DRAINAGE DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2023

The Green Bay Levee & Drainage District met at the regular meeting on Thursday, March 30,

2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Heartland Co-Op, Wever. Present were trustees Rick Kuntz, Brandon Bonar and clerk, Kimberly Spear. Trustee Mike Walker was present via telephone. Also present were other members of the community.

All votes are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

Spear read the minutes from the regular meeting held on February 23, 2023. Moved by Kuntz, seconded by Bonar, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Pat Kaltefleiter gave the Pump Master report. River stage was 11.80. Discussion was had regarding the purchase of a power washer. Moved by Bonar, seconded by Kuntz to approve the purchase of a 3200 psi power washer. Motion carried.

Moved by Bonar, seconded by Kuntz, to accept the Pump Master Report as presented. Motion carried.

Discussion was had regarding CRP contracts. Moved by Walker, seconded by Bonar to offer to reseed 10% of the area in question to increase points needed to stay in the CRP program. Motion carried.

Discussion was had regarding the mowing contracts. Bid packets are put together to be sent out.

The ammonia and CO2 pipelines are moving ahead in the approval process. IFC is still working on permitting in regards to the barge loading project.

Walker had a conference call regarding the 408 permit. A summary of completed projects has been sent and waiting to hear back on approval for the 100+4.

Discussion was had regarding the Pump master pay. Moved by Kuntz, seconded by Bonar to increase pay to \$12/hr for

pumping and \$17/hr for miscellaneous work effective immediately. Motion carried.

The district is still waiting to hear on insurance quotes.

There are no new updates regarding the main ditch FEMA check.

Moved by Kuntz, seconded by Bonar to approve the Clerk's Report. Motion carried. Current balances are \$564,799.97 in the Operating Fund.

At 7:48 p.m. Kuntz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bonar. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting of the Drainage District will be Thursday, April 27, 2023.

Respectfully submitted by Kimberly Spear, Lee County Auditor's Office.

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF WEST BURLINGTON Regular City Council Meeting Wednesday, May 3, 2023 6:00 PM West Burlington City Hall 122 Broadway Street

TENTATIVE AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL PERFECTING & APPROVAL OF AGENDA CONSENT AGENDA

All items on the Consent Agenda are Action items that will be considered by a single vote. Council members may request that an item be pulled for discussion and held for a separate vote. Items on the Consent Agenda may include claims over the City Administrator's authorized spending limit, payments related to previously approved contracts, and non-controversial or routine expenses as defined by the City's Purchasing Policy.

1. Approve minutes from the Special City

Council Meeting on April 18, 2023

2. Approve minutes from the Special City Council Meeting on April 19, 2023

3. Approve minutes from the Regular City Council meeting on April 19, 2023

4. Approve Elizabeth Grobstich resignation from the Police Department and request to serve as a Reserve Officer

5. Approve payment to French-Reneker-Associates, Inc. for engineering services performed on the Resurfacing Mount Pleasant Street Project - \$1,912.05

6. Approve payment of Claims as listed on the May 3, 2023 Expense Approval Report - \$60,687.12

COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS

• ADMINISTRATOR:
• PUBLIC WORKS:
POLICE DEPARTMENT:

MENT:
• FIRE / BUILDING DEPARTMENT:

• CLERK / FINANCE / IT:

• OTHER STAFF REPORTS:

• COUNCIL REPORTS:
• COMMUNITY RE-

PORTS:

CITIZEN INQUIRIES

PUBLIC HEARING

1. City Council will hold a Public Hearing to consider the City's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

2. City Council will hold a Public Hearing to consider amending the current 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget

NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider a Resolution adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

2. Consider a Resolution amending the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

3. Consider a Resolution adding Landry Begner to the Fire Department

4. Consider Approving a Letter of Understanding between the City of West Burlington and the Communication Workers

of America

5. Consider a Resolution supporting Midwest Realty Group's application for Workforce Housing Tax Credits to support the construction of twelve (12) new single-family residences

OLD BUSINESS
CITIZEN INQUIRIES
ADJOURN

PUBLIC NOTICE WEST BURLINGTON SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2023

The West Burlington City Council met in Special Session on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 10:00 p.m. at West Burlington City Hall, 122 Broadway Street, West Burlington, Iowa, with Mayor Ron Teater presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathy Newberry, Andy Crowner, John Johnson, Melanie Young, and Therese Lees

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Ron Teater, Police Chief Jesse Logan, Fire Chief/Building Inspector Shaun Ryan, Public

Works Director Mike Brissey, City Clerk Kelly Fry, and City Administrator Gregg Mandsager

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Finance Manager Moore and City Administrator Mandsager attended the meeting electronically via Zoom.

PERFECTING & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Lees, seconded by Johnson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Newberry, Crowner, Johnson, Young, and Lees

NEW BUSINESS

Consider the Board of Adjustment's decision to grant a Special Use Permit to allow the construction of a 47-unit affordable

Gota news tip?

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PUBLIC NOTICES

senior housing project (to be known as Alice Place West Burlington).

Council reviewed the Board of Adjustment's decision to grant a Special Use Permit to allow Multi-Family Residential development with more than four attached dwelling units in a B-2 General Business District. According to City Code, multi-family dwellings with greater than four attached dwelling units are only permitted when approved by the Board of Adjustment as a Special Use. The Board of Adjustment met on April 13 and after considering the request and hearing input from neighboring property owners, agreed to grant a Special Use Permit to allow the construction of a 47-unit affordable senior housing project (to be known as Alice Place

West Burlington).

Moved by Lees, seconded by Newberry, to approve the Board of Adjustment's decision to grant a Special Use Permit to allow the construction of a 47-unit affordable senior housing project (to be known as Alice Place West Burlington) in a B-2 General Business District. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Newberry, Johnson, Young, and Lees

Consider amending Resolution 2023-10 in support of a Proposed Affordable Senior Housing Project

Agenda Item #1.

Council considered an amendment to Resolution 2023-10, which was approved on April 5, 2023, in support of a senior housing project. Paragraph 4 of the Resolution was amended to read as

follows:

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the West Burlington City Council supports the development of the Alice Place West Burlington senior housing project, and agrees to work with the developer to negotiate a 15-Year Tax Increment (TIF) Rebate Agreement to rebate 80% of the increment on an annual basis, up to a maximum of \$594,421.

The City of West Burlington is committed to entering into a TIF rebate agreement upon the developer securing the necessary grant funding with the Iowa Finance Authority."

The developer will submit the amended Resolution along with his application to the Iowa Finance Authority to secure funding through the

LIHC Program and HOME Program.

Moved by Lees, seconded by Young, to approve an amendment to Resolution 2023-10 in support of a Proposed Affordable Senior Housing Project. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Newberry, Johnson, Young, and Lees

Consider a Resolution amending the Max Levy Resolution 2023-07

Finance Officer Moore prepared an amendment to Resolution 2023-07 to correct the maximum amount of property tax dollars the City plans to collect in Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The amended language states the maximum property tax dollars for the affected tax levies for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 shall not exceed \$ 3,515,240, which does not represent an increase

of greater than 102% from the maximum property tax dollars requested for FY23.

Moved by Crouner, seconded by Newberry, to approve a Resolution amending the Maximum Levy Resolution. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Newberry, Crouner, Johnson, Young, and Lees

Consider a Resolution setting a Public Hearing date to consider the Budget for Fiscal Year 0223-2024

Due to the amendment made to the Max Levy Resolution, Council must hold another Public Hearing on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and adopt the budget documents again to reflect the amendment to the Max Levy amount. Council agreed to set a

Public Hearing date of May 3, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. No other changes have been made to the budget.

Moved by Lees, seconded by Young, to approve a Resolution setting a Public Hearing date of May 3, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. to consider the Budget for Fiscal Year 0223-2024. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Newberry, Crouner, Johnson, Young, and Lees

CITIZEN INQUIRIES ADJOURN

Moved by Crouner, seconded by Young, to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 p.m. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Newberry, Crouner, Johnson, Young, and Lees

Approved
Ron Teater, Mayor
Kelly D. Fry, City Clerk

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From the Front

Corn Assn. display triggers crop memories

CORN - Continued from Page 1

She won state and ended up getting second at the nationals. She would have won first place, but she turned her back to the wagon, and kept over throwing the bang board. Ears on the ground don't count.

Shucking crews traveled around in the 1920's and '30's. Someone who could pick 100 bushels a day could earn as much as \$5 per day. Shuckers earned from a dollar a day to five dollars, depending on how much they could pick.

I was stopped cold in my tracks by a pair of high-top boots that had a foot long knife blade extending outward from each ankle. "What in tarnation?" I asked. They're called "corn cutters" I was told, and they were worn by the farmer walking through the field, cutting cornstalks close to the ground, in order to make shocks. In the winter the farmer could go out to the field, strip the corn from the stalks, and feed his livestock.

Corn husking tools weren't the only thing on display. There were also feed sacks, hand held planters, pot scrubbers, a cork compressor, billboard hammer, luggage measuring stick used by train porters, an ice thickness gauge, buggy brakes, a funnel style hearing aid (Ginnie said I needed this), something called a "sugar devil," for measuring sugar, a pie marker, turpentine hacker, and so much more. The owner explained the use of each tool.

Hugh and Sheila Forbes, owners of the farm where the Corn Item Collectors were meeting, are collectors of many things besides corn tools, like old gas pumps, signs, and International tractors. Most people get silver for their 25th wedding anniversary. Hugh and his first wife bought a gas pump.

They also own six "W" or Wheatland Farmall tractors, which are rare as hen's teeth. They're called "Wheatlands" because they weren't used for row crops. They were used mainly for pulling a disk or field cultivator. The Forbes have a 400, 450, WD9, 560, 600, and 650, all Wheatlands, and many more Farmalls, including propane powered tractors, and a couple of "High Clears" used in sugarcane and high crops.

My DeKalb seed corn cap fits just fine. Ginnie likes it too. I'm hoping my old Pfister buddies don't hand shuck and shell me.

Authority staff keeps pushing on

FMHA - Continued from Page 1

A special meeting was called to vote on the action to suspend the two, but Commissioner Jamie Carle, a Fort Madison police captain, voted to table the action. Dear's suspension was never acted on and the action against the maintenance man was tabled. Bowker then resigned immediately, the second resignation in less three days. Commission member Linda Larkin resigned at the beginning of the week.

But life goes on at the Housing authority, and with the close to 200 area residents the authority helps with housing assistance, that's good.

But because there are so many people helped by the program, it deserves a closer look.

We've reached out to the Dept of Housing and Urban Development for clarifications about authority oversight. HUD officials said they don't have a role in the day-to-day operations of the authority other than adherence to the federal contract that controls the authority's funding.

The oversight of the authority seems to rest with the Commission. The commission is comprised of now just three members, most of whom have less than two years on the board.

Training for commission members is optional at best. The authority itself has gone through three directors in the past three years.

HUD conducted a site audit in 2022, the first one in close to five years. Typically, those audits are done every three years, but with COVID, the visits got spaced out. When HUD caught wind that funds were being spent contrary to language in the contract, specifically on upkeep of property owned by the county, they started paying attention.

The authority staff continues to do the work of the program and for the people who get that assistance - whether it's through the federal Housing Voucher program or FMHA property.

After some initial digging, it appears that the staff has been moving at the direction of the commission and HUD, including ending the contract with the county to manage those properties.

After several visits to the authority offices, the frustration level is pretty high with the staff there over the appearance that the authority is in disarray. But despite the recent hiccups in procedure, the housing assistance program continues to function under Dear's leadership.

What needs looked at is not the operational side of the program, but the oversight.

The authority is a governmental agency per Iowa Code, but the code, as it is in most cases, is very ambig-

uous.

HUD can, and occasionally does, penalize authorities for misuse of funds, but their spokespeople have been very clear about delineating HUD's oversight with the commission's. Commission members are appointed by Fort Madison mayor and approved by the City Council.

Yet the council has very little, to any, additional oversight of the authority.

The authorities' bylaws are more than 50 years old and have been amended only one time to include Equal Opportunity Housing language. The authority is actually called the Fort Madison Low Rent Housing Agency, a name that has been lost to political correction.

So, absent any clear oversight, and a board of commissioners that has seen two resignations in the past seven days, Dear and company are moving ahead.

As Mayor Matt Mohrfeld works to reset the FMHA Commission in the wake of Bowker's resignation, a couple things need highlighted.

Bowker gave 18 years to the Commission, while also serving on the City Council and running for state office. That service to community can't, and shouldn't, be ignored.

Neither should the efforts of Dear and his staff in holding down the "fort", as well as his argument for grace in hiring a man with a criminal background. Dear does have authority to staff the authority as needed. The commission doesn't appear to have authority to sign COVID couch living, maybe a little tempered, well-intentioned, and well-thought grace is in order. But that grace is on Dear. He knows it and is comfortable with it.

So we let Mike Dear, who took this job just four months ago, continue to do what he was hired to do. The Mayor and council go to work resetting the commission so it can guide the housing authority operations in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations.

This story is one to watch because the work is too important. We've asked for data from HUD on FMHA scoring from audits over the past 12 years and we've asked for documentation from the authority to see what communication took place regarding contract infringements HUD alleges took place in Fort Madison.

Until that time, the beat goes on.

Speaking of a good beat, I stopped in at V.O's in Burlington and tried poutine for the first time. The chef there had recently reconfigured the appetizer and included grilled shrimp on the fries, cheese curds, gravy, and seasoning. Seriously...that's something to make a trip for, but that's Beside the Point.

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

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UNITED WAY GOLF OUTING



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

• 
CINCO
DE MAYO

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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

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
Corporate Sponsor - 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
Team Sponsor - 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
Hospitality Sponsor - 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
Hole Sponsor - 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 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 2nd 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

DENMARK HERITAGE DAYS

DENMARK, IOWA



1972 Chevy
C 10 4X4



1928 Hart Par
Model H



1920 Alamo Blue Line
Type A 2 H.P.

JUNE 2, 3, 4, 2023

FRIDAY

Tractor/Gas Engine Registration 7 a.m.
Town Wide Yard Sales 8 a.m.
Live Music in shelter house 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

by Jefferson Connection

SATURDAY

Breakfast at Fire Station by Fire auxillary 7:30 a.m.- 9:30 a.m.
Town Wide Yard Sales 8 a.m.
Flag Raising by Boy Scouts 9 a.m.
Sidewalk Chalk Drawing Contest 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Custom Cars & Pickups 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Tractor Parade 1 p.m.
Silver Steppers 2:30 p.m.
Pedal Tractor Pulls 3 p.m.
Live Auction 4 p.m.
Live Music in shelter house 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

by Jive Radio

SUNDAY

Breakfast at Church 7:30 a.m.
Church in the Park 10 a.m.
Ham Ball Dinner at Church 11 a.m.
Live Music in shelter house by
Brenden Tapp 11 a.m.
Cornhole Tournament by River City Baggers 11 a.m.
Tractor Parade 1 p.m.

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TUESDAY,
JULY 4

RACE STARTS AT 7:30AM

DONNELSON FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Donnellson, IA 52625

donnellson@t2t.org



FOR MORE INFO & REGISTRATION,
VISIT US AT T2T.ORG



@TUNNEL2TOWERS #T2TRUN