



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison firefighters and emergency responders discuss the situation at 402 Avenue F Saturday at about 8:30 after a fire was extinguished on the back side of the home Saturday night. One dog was killed in the fire, another escaped. No one was else was injured in the incident. The home's owner, Chad Higdon, was reported to be out of town at the time of the blaze.

# Saturday fire damages east side home

**LOST PET:** One dog dies as a result of house fire

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A fire broke out in the 400 block of Avenue F late Saturday evening, leaving one pet dead. LeeComm was notified of flames coming the structure at 402 Avenue F after residents in the park noticed the flames and smoke. Witness said fire appeared to be coming from the west back side of the unit. Firefighters arrived to find the back of the structure on fire and heavy smoke coming from the home. Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren said the fire is under

investigation and the value of the loss hasn't been determined. One dog was able to escape injury in the fire, but another dog was killed after firefighters discovered the animal and emergency crews tried resuscitation efforts. Firefighters were called to the scene just after 8 p.m. and were on the scene for close to two hours. The home is owned by Chad Higdon, who lives on the property but was out of town at the time of the fire. The building is valued at \$137,530. No firefighters or emergency crews were injured in the incident.

## EDUCATION NEWS

# FMCS D shows growth in recent ISASP test results

FORT MADISON — FMCS D students recently completed the Iowa Statewide Assessment for Student Progress (ISASP), the annual required statewide assessment for public school students in the State of Iowa. Students are tested in grades 3 - 11 in English-Language Arts, Mathematics and in grades 5, 8 and 10 in

Science. Students in English-Language Arts showed an overall average growth of 5.75% from 2022 to the 2023 assessments. Within this average, 4th, 7th, 8th and 10th graders showed the largest overall increase which was between 10 - 12% growth within one year. Students in Mathematics showed an

overall average growth of 4.62% from 2022 to 2023. Within this average, 7th, 10th and 11th graders showed the largest overall increase which was between 12-18% growth within one year. Science boasted achievement scores in 5th grade of 62% proficient and advanced; 8th grade of 66% and 11th grade of 73%.



# New property tax law a tough nut to crack

Have you ever read a legislative bill? I'm a very humble person, but when I sit down to read something, I have a pretty decent ability to comprehend things. At least I did. I'm getting old and comprehension is a perishable skill. I also haven't been the greatest when it comes to brain health. I smoked marijuana in college, not a lot, because I'm naturally paranoid anyway, but it did make for some interesting moments in time – moments I would certainly surrender to take back the poor decision. I was a kid and curious. Never did anything narcotic because I feared it would stop my heart. With all the evidence in my family, I'm absolutely sure it would have. But I felt like I need some narcotic trying to decipher the new property tax relief bill signed into law by Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds on Thursday, prior to the Iowa Legislature adjourning the 2023 session. It's right here. If you want a mental scramble, give this a run: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/Bill-Book?ga=90&ba=HF718>.

The law will cap, at some point, the county's and city's ability to tax for general services. For the city, it's at the current \$8.10/\$1,000 of assessed value. The county is capped at \$3.50, but supervisors just passed a budget with that figure set at \$5.85. That's a 67% increase over the general cap. The law says that cap goes into place with the first fiscal year budget beginning before July 1, 2024. I'm confused as to why it doesn't just say beginning July 1, 2023 because that's the only other remaining fiscal year budget prior to July 1, 2024.

See TAXES, page 8

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## WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap

MON 08 May.....	Early thunderstorms then partly sunny, 77° F/ 54° F	☁⚡
TUE 09 May.....	Mostly sunny and warm, 76° F/ 54° F	☀
WED 10 May.....	Mostly sunny and warm, 78° F/ 56° F	☀

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LOTTO AMERICA 05/06.....	13 20 42 43 46, Star Ball: 1 All Star Bonus: 3
LUCKY FOR LIFE 05/06.....	24 32 35 38 42, Lucky Ball: 2
MEGA MILLIONS 05/05.....	16 18 28 42 43, Mega Ball: 11 Megaplier: 3
PICK 3 MIDDAY 05/04, 05/05, 05/06.....	4 11, 4 41, 0 6 5
PICK 3 EVENING 05/04, 05/05, 05/06.....	7 71, 4 61, 1 6 6
PICK 4 MIDDAY 05/04, 05/05, 05/06.....	4 12 0, 17 37, 6 29 8
PICK 4 EVENING 05/04, 05/05, 05/06.....	7 6 3 8, 7 15 4, 8 4 6 1
POWERBALL 05/06.....	31 39 47 51 53, Powerball: 6 Power Play: 2

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Obituaries/Health News

OBITUARIES

THOMAS J. PALERMINI

Thomas “Tom” Joseph Palermi, 69, of Keokuk, passed away on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at his home in Keokuk.

Tom was born on April 1, 1954, in Chicago, Illinois, the son of Dominick Carmen and Eva Marie (Sutton) Palermi. On October 6, 1979, he was united in marriage to Martha Porter in Keokuk. They were later divorced. Tom graduated from St. Joseph High School in Westchester, Illinois, and received his degree in broadcasting at Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois.

Tom was well-known in the Keokuk area, working at the KOKX radio station, DJ-ing at the Outside Inn, working at Metzo Metals and State Central Bank before retiring from Keokuk Savings Bank as Assistant Vice President of Mortgage/Consumer Lending. Tom was active in his community and was a member of Rotary Club of Keokuk, the Keokuk Yacht Club, the Montrose City Council and served on many boards including Keokuk Young Professionals, the Salvation Army, the Keokuk Chamber of Commerce and the Girl Scouts. He served as a Dale Carnegie instructor and enjoyed music and going out with friends and family. He was always social and knew everyone in the area.

Tom is survived by three children: Justin P. Kirchner of Fort Madison, Iowa, Dominique E. (Alec) Cornick of Burlington, Iowa, and Anne-Marie P. Morrow of Montrose, Iowa; three sisters: Mary F. (Art) Palermi of Stockton, Illinois, Therese M. Palermi of Elizabeth, Illinois, and Patricia A. (Michael) Palermi of Chicago, Illinois; seven grandchildren: Owen Dominick Cornick of Burlington, Ava Morrow of Montrose, Haley Jones of Montrose, Naomi Kirchner of Bavier, Missouri, Abagayl Kirchner of Fort Madison, and Audrey and Madalyn Kirchner, both of Indiana; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Tom is preceded in death by his parents and his brother James P. Palermi. Funeral services will be held at 1 pm on Saturday, May 13, 2023, at the Evangelical Free Church of Keokuk, with burial to follow at the Montrose Cemetery. Visitation will be held at the church from 10 am to 1 pm on Saturday directly before the service.

Memorials may be directed to the Keokuk Yacht Club. Tributes and condolences may be left at [www.dejongsfuneralhome.com](http://www.dejongsfuneralhome.com). DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.



PALERMINI



Courtesy photo

The Fort Madison FFA & Ag Department planted their Land Lab for the very first time on Wednesday! This is the land adjacent to the Fort Madison Middle School. The FFA Foundation and the Fort Madison Community School District board of directors entered into a partnership for the FFA students to have their very own farmland. This helps the students to get real-life hands-on experience with planting and farming. Students observed the process of planting soybeans. They learned about the different nutrients needed for optimal production and saw firsthand what happens behind the scenes when you see a tractor in the field. Nate Menke, who planted the soybeans and ran the equipment, and Chem Gro of Houghton, Inc. donated the seed.

LCHD Immunization clinic set for May 11

KEOKUK - Lee County Health Department will be holding a Children’s Immuniza-

tion Clinic Thursday, May 11th 2023 at Trinity United Methodist Church, 2330 Plank Road in Keokuk from 1:00 pm until 4:30pm. Please park on the south side of the building (the large parking lot) and enter in the door that states HANDICAPPED, there is a red awning over the door.

The clinic is open to children who have no insurance, are insured by Iowa Medicaid (MCO) or those who have private health insurance

that does not cover the cost of vaccines. Written parental consent is required for minors to receive vaccinations when in the care of another adult. (Please visit our website for a consent form.)

Free lead testing is available for all children ages 6 months to 6 years who reside in Iowa. Please call for appointment.

Please call 1-319-372-5225 with questions or visit our website at [www.leecountyhd.org](http://www.leecountyhd.org).



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CRAIG D. FOULKES

## Letter to the Editor

## Reader says IUB made right decision

**Jim Brown,  
Burlington, Ia**

JOHN M. MOYLAN

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Sports

Kemper, Rump, boys’ relays bring home conference titles

PCC Staff

WASHINGTON – The Fort Madison Lady Hounds’ and Hounds’ track and field teams both captures fourth place at the Southeast Conference track meet Thursday in Washington.

The boys finished with 81 points and the girls had 76. Mt. Pleasant won the girls varsity team event with 174 points while Washington won the boys with 174 points. In the girls’ event Washington was second followed by Fairfield. Mt. Pleasant was runner-up in the boys meet with Burlington taking 3rd.

Girls champions for the Bloodhounds included Avery Rump in the 3000-meter run with an 11:04.01 and Hailey Kemper in the 400-meter hurdles with an 1:11.20.

Boys champions were in the sprint relays. Adam Sobczak, Dayton Lamar, Tate Settles and Julian Dear brought home the title in the 4x100 relay with a time of 45.12. The shuttle hurdle relay team of Sobczak, Chandler Fullenkamp, Kiawante Smith and Henry Wiseman also captured first-place with a time of 1:02.80.

Runner-up honors went to Rump in the girls 1500-meter run and Dayton Lamar in the high jump for the Hound boys.

Dear was third in the boys 100-meter dash at 11.37. Wiseman was third in the 110-hurdles with a time of 15.86. The girls 4x800 team of Mara Smith, Paetyn Wiegand, Addison Rump and McKayla Schinstock got the bronze with a time of 10:45.06.

The boys sprint medley team of Settles, Dear, Lamar and Cade Packard was also third with a mark of 1:39.33. Both Hounds’ Distance Medley teams got 3rd place. The girls team consisting of Aija Jenkins, Rylee Steffensmeier, Wiegand, and Addison Rump raced to a 4:46.14, while the boys’ team of Nick Fullenkamp, Kiawante Smith, Mason McLey, and Nolan Guzman had a time of 3:51.60.

The Lady Hounds Brylie Lorence took 3rd in the shotput and discus with throws of 35-0” and 103-4”, respectively.

Complete results from the Southeast Conference Track and Field Meet are below. Top five finishes are in parenthesis with Conference titles in bold

100-meters: FM girls – Lillian Gelsthorpe 13.95, Emily Steffensmeier 14:43. FM boys – Julian Dear 11.37 (3rd), Kane Williams 12.04.

200-meters: FM girls – Mara Smith 28.50, Dayonna Davis 29.50. FM boys – Nick Fullenkamp 24.35.

400-meters: FM girls – Caralena Crooks 1:07.15, Hailey Kemper 1:077. FM boys – Cole Packard 52.62 (4th), Peyton Lambert 54.87 (5th).

800-meters: FM girls – McKayla Schinstock 2:55.14, Ellie Huebner 2:59.52. FM boys – Nolan Guzman 2:10.07, Lambert 2:16.40.

1500-meters: FM girls – Avery Rump 5:07.26 (2nd), Addison Rump 5:25.51(4th).

1600-meters: FM boys – Mason McLey 4:55.34, Cameron Shutwell 5:18.64.

3000-meters: FM girls – Avery Rump 11:04.01 (1st).

3200-meters: FM boys – no entry.

100 hurdles: FM girls – Crooks 19.27.

110 hurdles: FM boys – Henry Wiseman 15.86 (3rd), Chandler Fullenkamp 18.08.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison’s Hailey Kemper races to a 400-hurdles title at the Southeast Conference track meet Thursday in Washington.

400 hurdles: FM girls – Kemper 1:11.20 (1st). FM boys – Thomas White 1:06.25.

4x100 relay: FM girls – Gelsthorpe, Davis, Rylee Steffensmeier, E. Steffensmeier 55.38 (5th). FM boys – Adam Sobczak, Dayton Lamar, Tate Settles, Dear 45.12 (1st).

4x200 relay: FM girls – Gelsthorpe, Chloe Sokolik, R. Steffensmeier, Smith 1:54.80. FM boys – Settles, Fullenkamp, Williams, Lamar 1:37.57.

4x400 relay: FM girls – Smith, Paetyn Wiegand, Addison Rump, Schinstock 4:38.47. FM boys – Packard, McLey, Guzman, Lambert 3:45.14

4x800 relay: FM girls – Schinstock, Addison Rump, Wiegand, Smith 10:45.06 (3rd). FM boys – Noah Krogmeier, Calvin Johnson, Evan Richmond, Shutwell 9:49.87 (5th)

800 sprint medley: FM girls – Gelsthorpe, Aija Jenkins, R. Steffensmeier, Davis 2:05.72 (5th). FM boys - Settles, Dear, Lamar, Packard 1:39.33 (3rd).

Distance medley: FM girls – Jenkins, R. Steffensmeier, Wiegand, Addison Rump 4:46.14 (3rd). FM boys – Fullenkamp, Kiawante Smith, McLey, Guzman 3:51.60 (3rd).

Shuttle hurdle: FM girls – Sokolik, Maleena Bentley, Crooks, Alexa Walz 1:18.03 (4th). FM boys – Sobczak, Gavin Callahan, Smith, Wiseman 1:02.80 (1st)

High Jump: FM girls – Jenkins 4-10”. FM boys – Lamar 6-0” (2nd).

Long Jump: FM girls – E. Steffensmeier 13-4”. FM boys – Callahan 7:05.25” (5th).

Shot put: FM girls – Brylie Lorence 35-0” (3rd). FM boys – Ike Thacher 41-7” (5th)

Discus: FM girls – Lorence 103-4” (3rd). FM boys – Brayton Schneider 128-11 (5th), Cory Arnett 128-7”.

Hawks knock off Danville 2-1 in SEISC match

Kent, Lowenberg both score to lift Hawks over .500 in loop play

PCC Staff

DANVILLE – Central Lee boys downed Danville 2-1 in SEI Super-conference boys’ soccer action Friday night in Danville.

Danville opened the scoring with a goal at the 17:17 mark in the first half and led 1-0 at the break.

The Hawks tied things up at 15:41 in the second half when Ayden Kent scored unassisted. Neither team would score again in regulation forcing an overtime session.

Landan Lowenberg would score on a rebound off of Dante Merschman’s header that hit the crossbar to give Central Lee the win 2-1.

The Hawks improve to 5-6 overall and 4-3 in the SEISC with the win. They travel to Burlington Notre Dame for a 7 p.m. game Monday night.

Hounds runner-up at Central Lee Invite

DONNELLSON – The Fort Madison Bloodhounds finished runner-up at the Central Lee Invitational Saturday morning at Green Acres Golf Course in Donnellson.

Brennan Ulik led the Bloodhounds with a 79 on the par 72, double nine-hole event.

Emmett Kruse shot an 82 for Fort Madison.

The Hounds finished with team score of 330 behind Hillcrest Academy’s 316. Jordan Simpson fired an 84 for Fort Madison followed by Brady Wade’s 85, Aidan Pennock’s 94 and Kane Williams’ 97.

Hillcrest’s Rowan Miller was medalist at the event with a 75, edging teammate Jace Rempel who carded a 76.

Ulik recorded a birdie on the 4th hole the second time around as did Wade. Kruse stroked a birdie 3 on the 7th hole the second time around.

Central Lee finished fifth overall led by Bo Herdrich’s

79. Caleb Larson shot an 81. Larson birdied the second hole with a 2 on the 140-yard par 3. Herdrich had a 4 on the 500-yard par 5 4th hole for the Hawks who finished with 351 points.

Mylan Lowenberg carded a 91 and Cale Clark shot a 101 for the Hawks.

Holy Trinity finished with a 401. Jameson Denning shot an 85 for the Crusaders. Nathan Box had a 102.

Luke Hellige shot a 104, Andy Mehmert played a 110 and Brock Scheetz shot a 117 for HTC.

Keokuk was third with a 348 team score. Holy Trinity was seventh with a 401.

**Lee County Health Department**

**May COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Schedule**

Who Qualifies for a Bivalent vaccine?

- If you haven’t received ANY COVID vaccines
- If you haven’t receive ANY COVID boosters
- If you are 65+ and it has been FOUR months since your last vaccine
- If you are severely immunocompromised and it has been FOUR months since your last vaccine

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**Trinity United Methodist Church**  
Thursday, May 11, 2023  
12:00pm-1:00pm

**Lee County Health Department**  
Thursday, May 25, 2023  
12:00pm-1:00pm

**LEE CHD**  
Lee County Health Department

**Clinics for those 12 years and older**

**Donnellson Public Library**  
Monday, May 8, 2023  
12:00pm-2:00pm

**Keokuk Public Library**  
Monday, May 15, 2023  
1:00pm-3:00pm

**Montrose Public Library**  
Wednesday, May 17, 2023  
10:00am-11:30am

**West Point Public Library**  
Thursday, May 18, 2023  
2:00pm-3:30pm

**Lee County Health Department**  
Monday, May 22, 2023  
2:00pm-4:00pm

**Fort Madison Food Pantry**  
Wednesday, May 24, 2023  
10:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-3:00pm

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Lee County, Iowa**  
**Board of Supervisors**  
**Agenda**  
**DATE: Monday,**  
**May 8, 2023**  
**MEETING**  
**CONVENING TIME:**  
**10:00 A.M. (CDT)**  
**LOCATION:**  
**933 Avenue H**  
**Fort Madison, IA**

**---AGENDA---**

Board of Supervisors  
May 8, 2023, 10:00  
- 11:30 AM (America/Chicago)  
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or smartphone.  
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Pledge of Allegiance  
Approve Agenda  
Public Input  
Consider Approval of  
Memorandum of Un-  
derstanding with Chief  
Information Officer for  
Enhanced IT Security  
Services  
Consider Approval of  
Agreement with Work  
Source for Janitorial Em-  
ployee  
Consider Approval of  
Maintenance Agreement  
with Idemia for Livescan  
Fingerprint Machine  
Consider Approval of  
Recommendation from  
Building Committee to  
Request Contract for

Review from Poepping,  
Stone and Bach for  
Architectural Services for  
Keokuk EMS Building  
Consider Approval of  
Joint Agreement with City  
of Fort Madison for Urban  
Renewal Area Consent  
Agenda  
• Monday, May 1, 2023  
Board Minutes  
• Claims for Payment  
Personnel Actions:  
A. Seasonal Hire- Con-  
servation  
B. Step Increase- Sher-  
iffs Office  
Reports:  
A. Manure Manage-  
ment Annual Report for C  
& M Hogs in Charleston  
Township  
B. Commission of  
Veteran Affairs Quarterly

Report  
C. Recorder's Report of  
Fees Collected  
D. Auditor's Report of  
Fees Collected  
E. Treasurer's Report of  
Fees Collected  
Commission or Com-  
mittee Reports  
Adjourn

Possible Workshop  
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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**PROCEEDINGS**  
**FORT MADISON**  
**CITY COUNCIL**  
**5/2/2023**

At 5:30 P.M., Council  
met in regular session on  
Tuesday, May 2, 2023,  
with Mayor Mohrfeld  
presiding and Council  
Members Rink, Andrews,  
Bowker, Amandus, Gray,  
Roller and Cangas pres-  
ent.  
Mohrfeld presented a  
proclamation for Travel  
and Tourism Week to Chi  
Eastin of the Fort Madi-  
son Tourism Bureau.  
On motion, Council

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

approved the Consent Agenda: Minutes of 4/18/2023; New Liquor License: Hill Side Inn, effective 6/1/2023; Liquor License Renewal: Quality Inn & Suites, effective 5/26/2023; Amendment: Buffalo61 Bar & Grille, catering privilege, effective 4/25/2023; Claims dated 4/27/2023 and April Library Claims; and Payroll of 4/21/2023.

Mohrfeld opened the

HELP WANTED

ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY

The Lee County Attorney is accepting applications for a full-time Assistant County Attorney. Primary duties involve all aspects of trial work including daily court appearances, assistance with investigations; charging of criminal cases; interaction and training with law enforcement, victim and witness contact, representing the State at hearings, trials, and in other legal proceedings; and other duties as assigned. The duties of this position may change as determined by the County Attorney.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

Graduation from an accredited law school and admission to practice law in the State of Iowa with a law license in good standing and no history of discipline.

Must be able to simultaneously handle multiple areas of responsibility with minimal supervision, properly prioritizing tasks and duties as dictated by changing demands. Must be able to simultaneously advance all assigned cases in a large trial case-load.

Prior trial experience and prosecution experience is preferred but not required.

**SALARY:**

Salary range to start between \$68,000.00 and \$73,000.00 per year commensurate with experience, as well as a very competitive benefits package.

Applicants should submit, by email or mail, a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and three references to:

Ross J. Braden  
Lee County Attorney  
25 N. 7th Street  
PO Box 824  
Keokuk, Iowa 52632  
[rbraden@leecounty.org](mailto:rbraden@leecounty.org)

Applications must be received by May 19, 2023 at 4:30 PM.

Lee County is an  
Equal Opportunity Employer



public hearing at 5:4X P.M. concerning PIP 2022-03, Airport AWOS Replacement. With no oral or written comments, Mohrfeld closed the public hearing. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-27, approving plans, specifications and form of contract for the project. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-28, 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. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-29, approving the Mayor's signature on an Agreement for Engineering Services with McClure of Clive, Iowa, for construction administration and closeout services for the Airport AWOS Replacement Project. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-30, approving the Mayor's signature on a Federal Aviation Administration grant application for Airport Improvement

EXPENDITURES	
General	\$ 29,264.21
Special Revenue	52,131.58
Road Use	6,531.20
Debt	19,266.38
Water	93,102.49
Sewer	58,131.62
Sld Waste, IWC	32,936.28
SW Utility	17,850.00
	<u>\$309,213.76</u>

REVENUES	
General	\$978,076.95
Special Revenue	582,984.37
Road Use	4,409.50
Debt	274,307.77
Water	2,999.59
Sewer	7,537.72
Solid Waste/IWC	1,839.29
SW Utility	105.24
	<u>\$1,852,260.43</u>

**CLAIMS - 5/2/2023**

3E ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, RELAY ..... 48.52

ACCESS LEASING SYSTEM, PRINTER LEASE ..... 721.30

ACCESS SYSTEMS, COMPUTER/IT LEASE ..... 5,095.42

AGRINEED, INC, LAWN SEED..... 70.00

ALEXIS FIRE EQUIPMENT CO, SERVICED COMPRESSOR ..... 2,828.00

ALLIANT ENERGY, ELECTRIC..... 34,644.12

ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES, UNIFORM ..... 1,984.25

BATES SANITATION & ASPHALT, PORTA-POT-TIE RENTAL ..... 170.00

BITUMINOUS MATERIALS & SUPPLY, HOT PATCH..... 1,954.33

BJ 'S PERFORMANCE, REPAIR TIRE ..... 218.61

BRIAN S GREEN, SAFETY BOOTS ..... 300.00

BRYSON HENNIGAR, TRAINING ..... 91.99

BURLINGTON MUNI

Project (AIP) funding for the AWOS Replacement Project.

On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-31, 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. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-32, directing the City Clerk to publish notice of the City Council's intent to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Chad Cangas, Fifth Ward Council Member, by appointment.

On motion, Council approved the submission of a 2020 Census Count Resolution Request. On motion, Council approved the Mayor's appointment of Monte Butler to the Fort Madison Housing Authority, term expiring 6/3/2024.

/s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor

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

PAYROLL 4/21/2023	
General	\$216,834.10
Old Fort	2,992.91
Emp. Benefit	7,786.66
Road Use	25,307.51
Water	31,649.90
Sewer	30,902.46
Solid Waste	13,994.21
Airport	486.54
Storm Water	3,017.48
	<u>\$332,971.77</u>

WATER, BACTERIA SAMPLE ..... 170.00

CALHOUN-BURNS AND ASSOC, PROF FEE ..... 8,010.29

CITY OF FORT MADISON, LEACHATE DISCHARGE ..... 2,646.30

CORE & MAIN LP, ANGLE BALL..... 1,137.46

CULLEN CONSTR. & EXCAVATING, SWR REPAIR - 12 ST.... 13,062.50

DAVE VRADENBURG, REPLACED DOORS @ DEPOT ..... 1,950.00

DRAIN DOCTOR LLC, CLEANED OUT MAIN LINE..... 240.00

DRIPS, LLC, SANDBAGS ..... 93,625.00

DUNKIN GARAGE & TOWING, OIL CHANGE ..... 731.07

EUROFINS ENVIRONMENT TESTING, SLUDGE SAMPLING ..... 308.16

FARM & HOME SUPPLY, TOWELS/BATTERY ..... 554.84

FIRE SERVICE TRAIING BUREA, CERTIFICATION FEES ..... 50.00

FLOYD'S EZ WAY, GAR-

BAGE SERVICES - FEB ..... 1,607.00

FORT MADISON WATER DEPT, WATER @ RV/ AIRPORT..... 59.40

HOWARD R GREEN COMPANY, PROF FEE - GIS ..... 707.00

HUFFMAN WELDING & MACHINE, BOLTS ..... 1,290.21

IA DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, TERMINAL FEES ..... 300.00

IDEAL READY MIX COMPANY, FILL SAND ..... 155.93

IOWA ASSOC OF MUN. UTILIT, SEISG (APR-JUNE)..... 6,828.22

IOWA ONE CALL, LOCATES ..... 118.40

JUSTIN TAYLOR COMPANIES LLC, TREATED POLES..... 16,014.00

KELLY EQUIPMENT, INC, STRAW BALES ..... 126.00

LEE COUNTY RECORDER, RECORDING FEES ..... 39.00

LYNCH DALLAS, P.C., PROF FEE - GENERAL ..... 5,002.00

MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT, NITROGEN ..... 114.75

MADISON TURF & TIMBER, BELTS/PULLEY/ SPINDLES..... 1,271.31

MCFARLAND PAPER PRODUCTS/HANDSOAP ..... 383.35

MICROBAC LABORATORIES LLC, DAILY SLUDGE SAMPLING ..... 228.00

MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY, HEAT ..... 3,675.79

MIGUEL LANDEROS, NUISANCE ..... 461.38

MIKE SCHNEIDER, POSTAGE ..... 21.63

MOHRFELD ELECTRIC, WIRING ELECTRIC TO DOORS ..... 694.18

MUNICIPAL SUPPLY INC., METERS ..... 10,045.36

NAPA AUTO PARTS, FILTER/SPARK PLUG ..... 10.85

PERMAR SECURITY SERVICES, RELOCATED EQUIPMENT .. 190.00

PITNEY BOWES, MEETER RENTAL..... 171.00

POSTMASTER, FORT MADISON, WATER BILLS/PAST DUES ..... 1,946.03

QUILL LLC, NOTE PADS/ BLK RIBBON ..... 98.90

RAMAKER & ASSOC. INC, PROF FEE - ANNUAL MAIN. .... 950.00

RHINO INDUSTRIES, INC., GEOTUBES/DEWATERING SERVICES ..... 31,063.00

SHARON NABULSI, MAILBOX REPAIR ..... 909.30

SINCLAIR TRACTOR, LINKS ..... 12.36

SOUTHEAST IA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, PHYSICALS ..... 4,381.00

SOUTHEASTERN

COMMUNITY COLLEGE, TRAINING ..... 15.00

STATE HYGIENIC LABORATORY, FLUORIDE SAMPLE ..... 20.00

TERRABOUND SOLUTIONS, DOG WASTE BAGS..... 356.00

TRUCK REPAIR INC., REPAIRED PUMP ..... 559.18

TURBO WASH INC., WASH TOKENS ... 350.00

UPS, SHIPPING ..... 62.05

USA BLUE BOOK, FITTINGS/TEES ..... 371.58

UTILITY EQUIPMENT COMPANY, BLUE POLY ..... 172.00

VEENSTRA & KIMM, INC, PROF FEE - COMBINES SWR ..... 9,175.00

WATER SOLUTIONS UNLIMITED, CHEMICALS ..... 15,001.97

TOTAL ..... 285,570.29

GENERAL ..... 23,151.37

SPECIAL REVENUE ..... 111,354.69

ROAD USE..... 6,869.49

CAPITAL PROJECTS ..... 9,960.29

WATER ..... 67,878.98

WASTEWATER ..... 61,751.22

SOLID WASTE .. 3,552.69

AIRPORT..... 271.40

STORM WATER... 780.16

TOTAL ..... 285,570.29

**LIBRARY CLAIMS  
APRIL 2023**

ABC FIRE EXTINGUISHER, FIRE EXT. ANNUAL INSPECT ..... 58.00

ACCESS SYSTEMS, INK ..... 164.34

AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, CONVERTER CABLES ..... 351.94

BAKER & TAYLOR, SHELF MATERIAL ..... 2,128.19

BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING, SHELF MATERIAL ..... 114.37

CEDAR RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY, SHELF MATERIAL REPLACEMENT ..... 20.00

CENGAGE LEARNING INC./GALE, SHELF MATERIAL ..... 202.72

DAVE VRADENBURG, INSTALL RAILING ..... 1,100.00

DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY, PAPER ..... 117.98

EXCEL IT SERVICES, CLOUD BACKUP ... 39.46

FHP-FARM AND HOME PUBLISH, SHELF MATERIAL..... 87.25

FRANK MILLARD & CO. INC, REPAIR ROOF ..... 1,583.00

KANOPY, INC., PLAY CREDITS..... 26.00

KEMPKERS TRUE VALUE, LOCKS/WEED KILLER ..... 76.98

LIBRARY MARKET, CAL-NDAR ANNUAL SUB. .... 1,500.00

MEDIACOM, BUSINESS PHONE..... 382.37

MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY, HEAT ..... 308.33

NAVIANT, PREVENTIVE MAIN..... 892.50

OVERDRIVE, INC, EBOOKS/AUDIOBOOKS ..... 349.96

PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE LLC, SHELF MATERIAL..... 123.75

PETTY CASH - SARAH CLENDINENG, PROGRAM SUPPLIES ..... 145.01

QUILL LLC, TONER/INK ..... 244.35

SCHOLASTIC INC., SHELF MATERIAL ..... 288.07

SERVICEMASTER, JANITORIAL SERVICE ..... 905.10

TOTAL ..... 11,209.67

GENERAL ..... 9,029.06

SPECIAL REVENUES ..... 2,180.61

TOTAL ..... 11,209.67

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
WEST BURLINGTON  
REGULAR CITY  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY,  
APRIL 19, 2023**

The West Burlington City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at West Burlington City Hall, 122 Broadway Street, West Burlington, Iowa, with Mayor Ron Teater presiding.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: ALSO PRESENT: 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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

City Administrator Mandsager participated electronically.

PERFECTING & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes from the Regular City Council meeting on April 5, 2023
- Minutes from the Special City Council meeting on March 23, 2023
- Liquor License renewal for Uncle Ronnies Bar & Grill, LLC
- Payment to Ferguson Enterprises - \$7,234.18
- Payment to Morning Sun Farm Implement, Inc. for Kubota mower - \$9,500



Classifieds/Public Notices

SHOP Classifieds

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PUBLIC NOTICES

• Payment to Des Moines County GIS for GIS Services - \$7,215.34

• Payment of Claims as listed on the April 14, 2023, Expense Approval Report - \$164.191.42

Moved by Lees, seconded by Young, to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Motion carried by the following votes:

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

COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS

• ADMINISTRATOR: Council discussed donating one daily admission pass to each child who participates in the library's Summer Reading Program. Last year 218 daily admission coupons were returned.

Moved by Lees, seconded by Young, to approve the donation of daily pool passes for the Burlington Public Library Summer reading program.

Motion carried by the following votes:

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

• FIRE/BUILDING DEPARTMENT:

• CLERK/FINANCE/IT:

• OTHER STAFF REPORTS:

• COUNCIL REPORTS: Crowner announced that 4th of July Raffle Tickets were available to sell for group fundraisers and registration forms are now available for various 4th of July events.

• COMMUNITY REPORTS: Library Director Brittney Jacobs updated Council on Burlington Public Library Update

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Teater presented a Proclamation to the Library for National Library Week, which is April 23 - 29th, 2023.

CITIZEN INQUIRIES

No inquiries.

Cody Schlueter, West Burlington Police Officer, spoke in favor of the Council hiring Chris Chiprez as a Police Officer for West Burlington.

Ringo Covert, Retired West Burlington Officer

spoke in favor of hiring Chris Chiprez and felt he would be an asset to the department

Latron Covert, West Burlington Police Officer, spoke in favor of hiring Chris Chiprez and felt his experience and training would be a benefit to other officers in the department.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider a request from Burlington Public Library to donate daily pool passes for the WB Summer reading program

Council discussed donating one daily admission pass to each child who participates in the library's Summer Reading Program. Last year 218 daily admission coupons were returned.

Moved by Lees, seconded by Young, to approve the donation of daily pool passes for the Burlington Public Library Summer reading program.

Motion carried by the following votes:

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

Consider a quote from Dave Bessine Electric for the removal and installation of the pedestrian traffic signal pole on W. Mt. Pleasant St.

Public Works received a quote of \$9,829.55 from Dave Bessine Electric to repair a traffic signal on Mt. Pleasant Street in front of St. Mary's Church that was struck by a vehicle and damaged. The repair will be covered by the individual's insurance.

Moved by Crowner, seconded by Johnson, to approve a quote from Dave Bessine Electric for \$9,829.55.

Motion carried by the following votes:

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

Consider approving a quote from ProLine Striping for roadway striping services

Public Works received a quote of \$22,269.14 from ProLine Striping to paint various street marking lines on West Agency, Washington Rd, Mt. Pleasant St., South Broadway St, and Division St.

Public Works

Director Brissey informed Council that they only received one bid for striping.

Moved by Lees, seconded by Newberry, to approve a quote from ProLine Striping for roadway striping services for \$22,269.14 Motion carried

by the following votes:

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

OLD BUSINESS

CITIZEN INQUIRIES

ADJOURN

Moved by Young, seconded by Lees, to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. Motion carried by the following

votes:

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

Approved

Ron Teater, Mayor

Kelly D. Fry, City Clerk

West Burlington City Council Minutes

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Starting pay \$19.90/hr

Advance to \$21.64/hr within 12 months

Advance to \$23.98/hr within 30 months

Shift differentials of \$0.45 for 2nd and \$1.00 for 3rd

2nd & 3rd shifts available

\$175 monthly Company Contribution to pension from date of hire

3% Company Match to 401(k); 100% immediately vested Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, STD and more!



Located at Conagra 2467 Henry Ladyn Dr, Fort Madison, IA



Summer Job Opportunity

Pay is \$18.00 per hour

Shift Differentials: \$0.45 2nd & \$1.00 3rd

Conagra Brands' Fort Madison manufacturing facility is looking for entry level production associates for temporary, summer work on all shifts. To be considered for employment, you must be flexible to work any shift, Saturdays and Sundays as required and at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma.

Please visit

conagrabrands.com/careers

to apply!

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# Local GOP not happy with state GOP

**TAXES** - Continued from Page 1

But... whatever.

There's also language in the law about combining levies, using assessed valuation growth revenues to further reduce property tax demands, allowing an additional 30% borrowing, or bonding, capacity without going to voters.

The 68-page bill has calculations to figure growth and tax rates that were put together by actuarials at the state house. It now has a plethora of organizations, including the Iowa State Association of Counties, League of Cities, auditors' groups, and many others working to figure out what the actual impacts of the new law are.

It would appear that local governments will have some flexibility to add to the \$3.50 cap until July 1, 2025 when the cap becomes a hard cap. That's also, coincidentally or not, the same year that the new hyper-inflated assessments will kick in.

So it begs the question to me, fully admitting that I don't yet have a decent

grasp on this new law, is there going to any property tax relief at all? If they cap local government's general fund levy at 33% of where it is now set for Lee County, and then property owners pay 20 to 35% more in taxes off the increased valuations of their homes, property, land, and buildings. Is there any real savings there?

Or does it just look like property tax relief. The assessed valuation growth caps also escape me since the state through calibrations essentially sets the values based on market conditions. If the county is too low or too high the state will come in and equalize things. Assessors don't just get to make up numbers for valuations, it's based on market conditions. If the formula says they go up based on purchase prices, then they go up. The state would see the same thing.

The crazy thing is this law passed with one legislator voting against it...a Democrat.

But at the local level, Lee County Republicans, including Supervisors Garry Seyb and Tom Schulz, are full-throated against the move. They see it as seizing more local control from counties and cities and they've voiced those concerns to our area legislators, State Rep. Martin Graber R-Fort Madison and State Sen. Jeff Reichman R-Monrose. Clearly to no avail.

Seyb is also miffed that an amendment that would have given Lee County the ability to shutter one of the courthouses . Seyb said Thursday that he didn't understand how that amendment, which was specific to Lee County, was dropped off at the end of the session.

We experienced the same type of pass-and-learn mentality with the Back the Blue bill several years ago. Many legislators admitted to not knowing the full impact of the law, which leveled out salaries of county sheriffs throughout the state when compared to other similar positions in the state.

The point here is that we have to have better com-

prehension of bills before they're signed. I'm gonna wait to see the analysis of the bill before really jumping in on whether this will actually reduce property taxes at all. Maybe it will.

But with the increased assessments coming, and they are coming in 2025, we are looking at paying more in taxes based on the valuations. If taxing entities can reduce their levy because of the increased valuations then it could be closer to a zero-sum game if expenses can be controlled.

The county purchased an ambulance service in 2021 and we had a hospital close its doors. An increase in revenue is needed to pay for those emergency services and governments experience inflationary pressures, too. Costs are going up.

Paying more in property taxes to keep county services solvent makes sense. You do it at the pump, at the grocery store, construction – it's just the economy we're in.

Writing a law we can understand makes sense, too. 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](mailto:Charles.v@pencitycurrent.com).*

# Retired educators hear Test Kitchen story

LEE COUNTY - Lee County Retired School Personnel met recently for their May meeting at the First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ in Ft. Madison.

The program was presented by Kumar Wichramasingha, who started the Elliot Test Kitchen, in Ft. Madison which offers after school programming, stem activities, cooking, homework help, and ACT preparation.

Kumar was a chef in his native country of Sri Lanka before arriving to the U.S. in 1986. He was fortunate to meet George and Jean Alton, both teachers in the Ft. Madison School district. The couple invited Kumar to share their home and gave him the opportunity to pursue higher education at SCC. With their passion for learning, Kumar was able to get the education he needed which enabled him to fulfill his American dream of becoming a chef and a leader of a healthcare organization.

To show his gratitude for the opportunities provided to him in Ft. Madison, he paid "it forward" by giving back to the community. In 2015, Kumar bought a building, 807 Ave G, remodeled it, and added a kitchen. His idea was to combine education with food. In Sri Lanka, teachers were highly respected, and he valued education.

Kumar wanted a safe place for students to come after school. He named his program "Elliot" after James T Elliot, the successful healthcare businessman for whom he worked. Kumar contacted Mr. Elliot and asked if he could name his project after him. "Test" refers to education and "kitchen" refers to preparing meals for the children.

Kumar's innovative thinking started with 10 students but quickly grew to 30. The students arrived after school to the smell of cookies baking. This was "wind down" time from school. Students receive help with homework, in math, science, robotics, history, music and ACT prep. Many times, with busy family schedules, kids do not eat at home with their families. At the kitchen, kids learn to cook, prepare a meal, and eat together. Before eating, they offer a prayer to say what they are thankful for.

# 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.





LUNCH SPECIALS  
MAY 8 - 12  
11 AM - 1 PM

Monday, May 8
Minit Seak, Mashed Potatoes, Corn
Tuesday, May 9
Goalask, Cottage Cheese, Garlic Knot
Wednesday, May 10
Tater Tot Casserole, Green Beans
Thursday, May 11
Fried Chicken Dinners
FRIDAY, MAY 12
LUNCH ON THE SIDEWALK



# FORT MADISON HIGH SCHOOL ART SHOW

## AWARDS

1ST, 2ND AND 3RD PLACE AWARDED IN THE  
FOLLOWING DIVISIONS - PENCIL, PEN & INK,  
CHARCOAL, CHALK PASTEL, OIL PASTEL, BRUSH  
MARKER, DIAMOND PAINTING, ACRYLIC PAINTING,  
WATERCOLOR PAINTING, SCRATCH ART, CERAMICS,  
SCULPTURE, MIXED MEDIA, BLACK & WHITE  
PHOTOGRAPHY, COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY, COLORED  
PENCIL AND JUDGE'S CATEGORY - AS WELL AS THE  
TOP AWARD FOR OVERALL BEST OF SHOW

05/12/23

RECEPTION 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM  
AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED AT 7:00 PM  
@ FORT MADISON HIGH SCHOOL

---

PLEASE COME AND ENJOY  
AMAZING ARTWORK  
CREATED BY OUR STUDENTS,  
MUSIC AND SNACKS!

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS  
PLEASE CONTACT FMHS ART  
TEACHER DANA SMITH -  
DANA.SMITH@FMCSD.ORG





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**FREE  
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# MAY 19



5pm – 8pm  
Friday, May 19, 2023  
CENTRAL PARK  
downtown Fort Madison



**FOOD TRUCKS  
AND VENDORS  
WANTED**

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OR SEND  
EMAIL FOR  
REGISTRATION  
DETAILS

[david.zaccari@fmcsd.org](mailto:david.zaccari@fmcsd.org)

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JOHN-PAUL  
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# 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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319-470-3805  
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319-470-8670  
Car Show  
319-759-4331

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5K



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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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