

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Monday, July 3, 2023 | 8 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 115



www.pencitycurrent.com

Disaster funds ready

GRANT FUNDS: State offers up Individual Assistance Grant program funds

BY **CHUCK VANDENBERG**
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – The Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program (IIAGP) has been made available by Governor Kim Reynolds for those impacted in Lee County by the June 29, 2023, severe weather and households who meet the grant qualifications.

According to Jason Dinwiddie, Lee County Emergency Management Agency Coordinator, the city of Montrose, Keokuk, and the surrounding area were impacted by severe storms that caused damage to homes and infrastructure in the Lee County area. Due to the damages sustained by individuals, a request for assistance was sent to the Governor.

The IIAGP provides grants of up to \$5,000 for households with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Grants are available for home or car repairs, replacement of clothing or food, and temporary housing expenses. Applicants should note that original receipts are required for those seeking reimbursement for actual expenses related to storm recovery.

The grant application and instructions are available on the Iowa Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management website at <https://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/assistance/> or by contacting the disaster team at Community Action of Southeast Iowa at 319-753-0193. Potential applicants have 45 days from the disaster

See **STORM**, page 8

OPINION

City, crews did well in wake of derecho storm



Thursday's derecho that raced through Lee County, blowing up Montrose and Keokuk, while doing a substantial amount of damage in Fort Madison and outlying areas, was something close to evil.

A larger swath of devastation rolled through central Iowa several years ago, but this was probably the most substantial storm damage we've seen in many decades. A generational storm.

I don't have a garage and as I watched the skies turn gray and then dark gray and then blacken out my windows at about 10:50 a.m. Thursday I couldn't help but go open the door and step out.

I tried to get a couple phone photos from the deck of my porch and saw large branches – large branches blowing horizontally north on 6th Street above the houses.

“What the hell?”

The driving rain, wind, and lightning pushed me back inside.

I went to the side window and watched parts of the trees on my block fall and almost hit my truck.

Enough is enough. That F150 is better off moving around. So I ran out with my gray backpack containing my cameras and started shooting, driving around looking for pictures.

My first thought was Old Settler's Park because storms usually have some impact there.

OMG.

An arboreous warzone.

You couldn't even see the playground equipment that was almost buried under branches. Trees split due to wind and several with lightning patterns on

See **WORK**, page 8

BOOK SIGNING

Paranormal author to sign at Odd Marvel

BY **CHUCK VANDENBERG**
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A special part of this Thursday's Downtown Summer Market will be a book signing at the Odd Marvel at 801 Avenue G.

Cheryl Ann Fletcher, author of *AfterLife vs. Schizophrenia My Truth*, will be signing copies of her book at the downtown Fort Madison shop from 1 to 4 p.m. on July 6.

Fletcher is an author/director/screenwriter and is also producing a moving called *One in Six Million* and has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

She's helped law enforcement and conducted paranormal investigations locally and throughout the country.

Locally, she's visiting some historical grave sites including a surgeon who worked at Missouri State Penitentiary.


A local woman contacted Fletcher about some phenomenon that was taking place near her home in Fort Madison. She's also done some investigative work at the Kingsley Inn.

“She reached out to our paranormal team and we did an investigation into her home,” Fletcher said.

“We captured some amazing audio and pictures of angels above the gravesite. Did a huge investigation for two days.”

Fletcher's book is about her experiences working for the afterlife. She said she is very well connected to people who are labeled schizophrenic, but are

See **BOOK**, page 8



RAW: Afterlife vs Schizophrenia My Truth
by Cheryl Ann Fletcher
190 pages

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Category: [Sensations And Psychology/Afterlife](#) [Read a FREE excerpt](#)

About the Book

In this book you will read legitimate stories base on my experiences as a renown psychic medium. I'm not afraid to share details with the world. In this book my experiences with the afterlife go from mild to extreme and will leave you at times speechless. There are twists and turns and at times you'll wonder no more, because my experiences with the afterlife are some you've heard about or have had similar episodes you've question about your own life. I have explained here what it's really like to live in my ongoing life and I am sure many can relate to these situations. Here you will experience everything I've gone through and how I have dealt with my abilities and defended who I am to my last breath. There's no place to hide your feelings and you will be drawn to express your truth, too.

My truth I give you here are the events that's happened to many others, but no one wants to admit the voices are there or they've experienced my truth and you'll soon see they are real and not just imaginary in the thoughts of many who hide their truth. There are so many people living within these pages and they share my mind like we are twins to the unbelievable. I give you the Aha moments that will jump out at you as walk through these pages together. Here there are no doubts as the truth unfolds right before your eyes. I pray you can handle the RAW truth, but it wouldn't surprise me if you're hiding under a cover as this book sharpens your reality of the afterlife or those experiences you questioned once upon a time. I hide nothing here and there's no doubts place. I spell it out and leave nothing un-turned in the heads of skeptics or authority figures they assume what they are hearing couldn't be real. Hearing from the afterlife but they assume that they are crazy and that it couldn't be. Some are afraid to share what they've encountered for fear they will be told they need medication or they need to check into a psych ward. We are simply gifted people and in this book you will be able to identify with your own encounters you had or encounters from the afterlife you will experience. Once you realize it's ok to believe that there really is life after death this will open your minds eye.

Imagine a book that shakes you to the core or puts you on your knees and sends you to tell your story to the world. We are spiritually alive after death and many say its life after death but our spirit lives on forever. I've had an amazing life to have been able experience the unadulterated evil and the most Divine and to have lived to tell about this extraordinary life is a blessing of its own.

Courtesy Image

Author Cheryl A. Fletcher will be at The Odd Marvel at 801 Avenue G, during this Thursday's Downtown Summer Market. The paranormal writer/director/producer will be on hand from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. with books for sale and to be signed.

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WEATHER

MON 03 Jul.....	Sunny and warm, 86° F/ 67° F
TUE 04 Jul.....	Sunny and hot, 90° F/ 70° F
WED 05 Jul.....	Warm with storms & showers likely, 84° F/ 61° F
IOWA LOTTERY	
LOTTO AMERICA 07/01.....	13 16 23 43 52, Star Ball: 2 All Star Bonus: 3
LUCKY FOR LIFE 07/01.....	3 26 27 29 48, Lucky Ball: 11
MEGA MILLIONS 06/30.....	13 22 47 51 55, Mega Ball: 9 Megaplier: 3
PICK 3 EVENING 06/29, 06/30, 07/01.....	0 9 0, 6 6 9, 7 0 9
PICK 3 MIDDAY 06/29, 06/30, 07/01.....	8 4 5, 7 1 3, 6 1 2
PICK 4 MIDDAY 06/29, 06/30, 07/01.....	3 6 0 4, 2 3 8 7, 6 2 1 3
PICK 4 EVENING 06/29, 06/30, 07/01.....	6 3 5 2, 1 0 2 0, 1 5 0 4
POWERBALL 07/01.....	4 17 35 49 61, Powerball: 8 Power Play: 2

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Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

HOLLICE CLARK, JR.



CLARK, JR.

Hollice Clark, Jr., 91 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died Friday, June 30, 2023 at the Great River Hospice House, West Burlington, Iowa. He was born May 28, 1932 at Fort Madison, a son of Hollice, Sr. and Elvia Ann (Wilkinson) Clark. On December 17, 1959, he married Betty Jean Marsh at Monmouth, Illinois. She preceded him in death January 12, 2002.

Hollice was a lifelong resident of Fort Madison. For 44 years, he worked at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant. He was a member of the Second Baptist Church, Fort Madison, Iowa. He enjoyed gardening and flowers.

He is survived by one son, Hollice (Pam) Clark, III of Bradley, Illinois; four daughters: Elvia Clark, Janet (Gary) Cartmill, Theresa Clark-Kline, and Tobian Clark, all of Fort Madison; 13 grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, one great great granddaughter, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; five brothers: Russell, Theodore, Robert, Hayden, and Allen; five sisters: Martha Lackey, Ruth Webster, Kathryn Clark, Blanch Bates, and Grace Harris; one son David Clark; one daughter Joyce Johnson, one granddaughter Patrice Cartmill; one great grandson, Tykell Clark, and one son-in-law Johnny Kline.

Visitation will be held 9:00 - 11:00 am Wednesday, July 5, 2023 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. His funeral service will follow and begin at 11:00 am Wednesday, July 5, 2023 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, with Reverend Gary Cartmill officiating. Burial will be at the Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison. A memorial has been established. Contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to served the Clark family and an on-line guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

SHIRLEY V. RODHOUSE

Shirley V. Rodhouse, 64, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Fort Madison. Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and no services are planned.

OBITUARIES

HERBERT E. FAUL



FAUL

Herbert E. "Gene" Faul, 83, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 10:40 a.m. on Friday, June 30, 2023 at his home. He was born on September 29, 1939 in Macomb, IL to Charles & Alta Ballou Faul. He married Karan A. Kreighbaum on July 29, 1962 in Fort Madison, IA. He was a retired pipefitter at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant with 36 years of service and served in the U.S. Air Force during the Cuban Conflict and the Vietnam War. He was a member of the First Christian Church, Claypoole Masonic Lodge 13 AF & AM and the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union Local 212.



Gene is survived by: his wife: Karen Faul of Fort Madison, IA; 2-sons: James Faul of Mesa, AZ & Joseph (Lisa Glasgow) Faul of Garrison, IA; 2-grandchildren: Taylor & Christopher Faul; 1-great granddaughter: Arabella; 2-brothers: Max (Portia) Faul of Dallas City, IL & Ralph (Paula) Faul of Dallas City, IA and 1-sister: Patricia Patch of Galesburg, IL. He was preceded in death by: his parents, 1-son: John Faul and 1-brother: Charles Faul.

A visitation will be held from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 5, 2023 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 6, 2023 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Leslie Dalstra officiating. Burial will be at Oakland Cemetery. A memorial has been established for First Christian Church or Wounded Warriors. Online condolences to Gene's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

06/28/23 - 8:32 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Ciara Aiyana Robinson, 23, hometown not reported, at 20th Street and Avenue L, on a charge of 1st offense trespassing. She was released.

06/28/23 - 11:09 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1600 block of Avenue G.

06/28/23 - 2:22 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 4600 block of Avenue J.

06/28/23 - 5:57 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2600 block of Avenue L.

06/29/23 - 8:35 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1700 block of Avenue H.

06/29/23 - 8:35 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1700 block of Avenue H.

06/29/23 - 9:44 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2200 block of Avenue E.

06/29/23 - 1:13 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Kayetta Sue Corral, 33, of Fort Madison, in the 2900 block of Avenue H, on a warrant for extortion. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

06/29/23 - 7:26 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Joshua Isaac Daniels, 39, of Fort Madison, in the 1200 block of 23rd Street, on a charge of 2nd degree criminal mischief \$1,500-\$10,000. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

06/29/23 - 11:16 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 900 block of 2nd Street.

06/30/23 - 8:36 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1200 block of Avenue F.

Lee County Sheriff Report

06/28/23 - Lee County sheriff deputies had no activity to report.

06/29/23 - 5:48 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Jesse Lee Lewis, 29, of Fort Madison, at the South Lee County Courthouse, on a judgment hold warrant. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

06/30/23 - 1:15 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Ashlea Nicole Adams, 42, of Montrose, in the 3100 block of 250th Avenue, Montrose, on charges of intimidation w/dangerous weapon intent, possession of a controlled substance - 1,2,3rd, possession of drug paraphernalia, and 1st offense domestic assault - bodily injury.

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

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Thursday, July 6
Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, July 7
Lunch on the Sidewalk

Sports

CLASS 2A SUBSTATE BASEBALL

Hawks, Falcons to play suspended substate game Monday

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC Editor

KEOSAUQUA – The much-needed storms may have pulled us from drought conditions, but they sure wreaked havoc on Saturday’s Class 2A Substate 5, Region 10 baseball game in Van Buren.

The Central Lee Hawks and West Burlington, who have battled in two one-run games already this year, stand at a 5-5 tie in the top of the seventh after storms suspended Saturday’s game.

When the game was called at close to 10 p.m. after lightning kept cracking the skies above the Mildred and Eddie Ferguson Sports Complex in Keosauqua, Central Lee was up in the bottom of the 7th with no outs.

Bo Herdrich had just drawn a walk and James Hemingson was up with one strike.

That’s exactly where the game will resume on Monday at 7 p.m. at Central Lee. The Hawks were supposed to have hosted the game but field conditions moved the event to Van Buren County.

The game was originally ruled a completed game and a win for the Hawks with Iowa High School Athletic Association officials ruling that the game had to revert to the end of the last full inning completed which would have given the Hawks a 5-4 win and move them into the quarterfinals against Mediapolis Wednesday in Van Buren.

After the game was called Central Lee Athletic Director Wes McGraw phoned IHSAA

officials to confirm the ruling, which he got. But then he found a ruling under tournament guidelines that said the game should be suspended and restarted at that moment of the suspension.

“I’ve made another call and they will be evaluating the situation further,” McGraw said after the game.

Head Coach Shane Weirather said following Saturday’s game that he was moving forward as if the Hawks had won and would await a decision from the association.

“That’s our understanding is that we won, but we’ll see what happens,” he said Saturday night.

Central Lee held a 5-4 lead in the bottom of the sixth inning, but the Falcons tied things in the top of the seventh.

After Central Lee’s Chase Johnson set the Falcons down in order in the top of the sixth,

See **HAWKS**, page 5

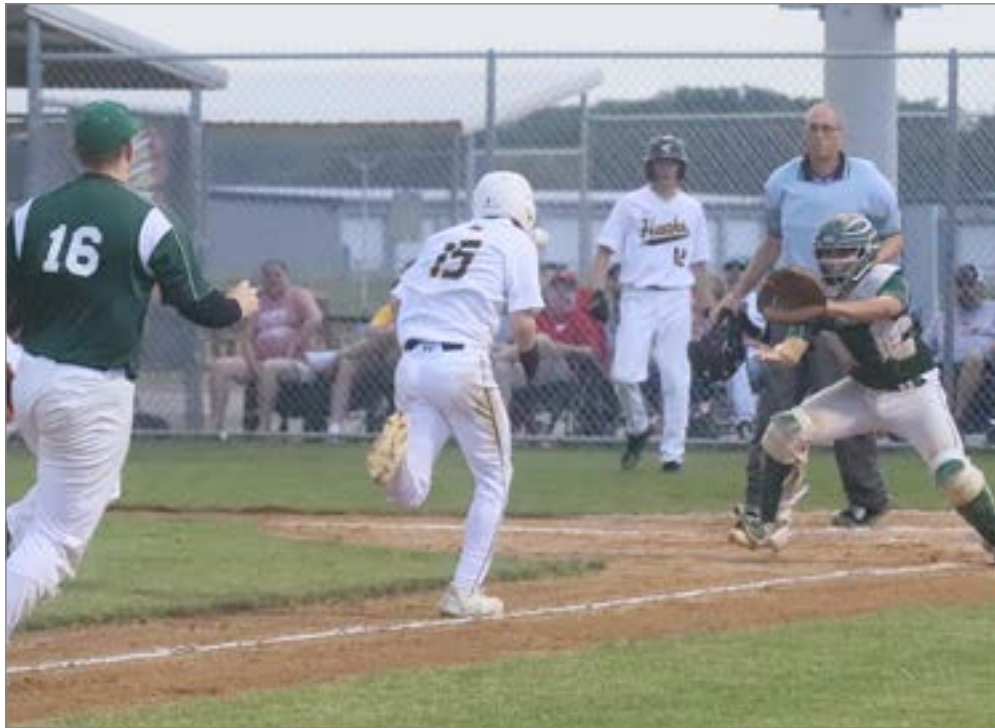


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Hawks’ Blake Davis gets caught in a run down between third and home in the first inning. Davis would be called out at home on the play.

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Sports

On first call, Hawks were declared winners

HAWKS - Continued from Page 3

West Burlington's Cody Allen did the same in the bottom of the sixth.

Then Caleb Bush singled to lead off the 7th and Lyblie Christofferson came in to courtesy run. Jace Figuero then singled moving Christofferson, the tying run, into scoring position. Brock Thuleen struck out. That brought Hayden Vandenberg to the plate. Vandenberg had homered in the third inning and has four homers against the Hawks.

Weirather chose to put Vandenberg on with an intentional pass to load the bases with one out.

On a wild pitch, Christopherson tried to score, but was called out on a ruling for not sliding. Christopherson appeared to beat the throw to plate, but collided with catcher Bo Herdrich's arm that was stretched out over the baseline.

Because Christopherson didn't slide for the play, he was ruled out at home and a dead ball was ordered. The speedy Figuero, seeing the chaos, came all the way around from second and slid into home. But the dead ball rule forced him back to third.

"It all depends on catcher position. If the catcher's up the line they have a right to the plate, but they have to slide and then you had a dead ball on the Figuero slide so - there was a lot going on there," Weirather said.

Figuero would eventually score to tie the game on another wild pitch from Johnson. But Allen would fly out to left in the rain to end the inning at 5-all.

Weirather said he would rather take a chance with Allen then pitch to Vandenberg with two on.

"He's just too good, so dangerous. Extra bases off that kid's bat is nothing. Most of the time with high school hitters you see a lot of singles. But shoot, he doubles - home runs - extra bases and that snowballs into their team really getting excited," Weirather said on the decision.

"I think we had a better chance facing the other kid. No disrespect to him, but Hayden really has my respect. He's got maybe four home runs against us this year."

Weirather has also intentionally passed Vandenberg five times this year.

Bo Herdrich worked a walk to lead off the top of the seventh and Hemingson had a strike when a bolt of light-

ning stopped the contest for 30 minutes. IHSAA guidelines require at least 30 minutes suspension after each observation of lightning. The game was called after about 45 minutes of delays.

Both teams put up two runs in the first inning before things settled in. Central Lee got two more in the bottom half of the second sparked by Hemingsen's RBI single that went off a diving Figuero's glove dribbling into left field.

Vandenberg would cut the lead to one at 4-3 with a solo blast to left center, but that's all the Hawks would give up in the third.

Cory Jones would hit a two-out RBI single in the bottom half of the third to make it a two-run game at 5-3.

West Burlington would get one back when Figuero's grounder to short drew a high throw to get the senior racing down the line. The two-out error allowed Levi Fletcher-Bates, who singled to open the inning, to score from second.

Both teams went unscathed through the fourth and fifth innings, setting up the sixth inning dramatics.

The Hawks' Gannon Wells and Chase Johnson combined for seven hits and five runs, four earned while striking out seven and walking three. However, neither will be available for Monday's game due to throwing more than 40 pitches Saturday.

West Burlington starter Brady Diewold will be available Monday, but Allen will not. The two allowed five runs, three earned on nine hits and struck out four.

Central Lee's Ryan Roberts is 3-3 with a run scored. Jones is 2-3 with a run scored and an RBI to lead the Hawks at the plate as play stands.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Pitcher Chase Johnson and catcher Bo Herdrich talk about strategy on a mound visit in the fifth inning Saturday during Central Lee's substate 5 game against West Burlington.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
Agenda
DATE: Monday,
July 3, 2023
MEETING
CONVENING TIME:
10:00 A.M. (CDT)
LOCATION:
933 Avenue H
Fort Madison, IA

---AGENDA---

Board of Supervisors
 Jul 3, 2023, 10:00
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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 Public Hearing for Interfund Loan From General Fund to EMS Fund
 Consider Approval of Resolution Approving Interfund Loan From General Fund to EMS Fund Public Input
 Consider Approval of Quote by Denco Highway Construction for Joint and Crack Sealing of X50
 Consider Approval of Quote from Carl A. Nelson for Geotechnic Study

Consider Approval of Service Agreement with Accurate Controls for Cameras and Controls At Jail
 Consider Approval of Resolution Appropriating Funds for IT for FY24
 Consent Agenda
 • Monday, June 26, 2023 Board Minutes
 • Claims for Payment
 • Class C Retail Alcohol License for Boonies Bar and Grill
 Personnel Actions:
 A. Position Change-Conservation Reports:
 A. Veteran Affairs Minutes of Meeting
 Commission or Committee Reports

Adjourn
 Possible Workshop to Follow
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 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
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PUBLIC NOTICES

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.

- Minutes from the Regular City Council meeting on June 21, 2023
- Renewal of the Barracuda E-Mail Protection Subscription - 3 yr renewal - \$13,994.64
- Payment to SHI International Corp for Bitdefender Software - \$6,860
- Payment to Lexipol

HELP WANTED

WATER DISTRIBUTION - FULL-TIME DISTRIBUTION CREWMAN

GENERAL PURPOSE

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

DESIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

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

Apply at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, IA or email applications to jcullen@fortmadison-ia.com by Friday, July 21st.

Applications can be found on the city website at www.fortmadison-ia.com



for annual Law Enforcement Policy Manual & Daily Training Bulletins - \$6,217.03

- Liquor License Renewal for Wal-Mart
- Payment to Net3 Technology for a 12-month subscription to networking and data protection services and support - \$8,942.88
- Accept Steve Swafford's resignation from the Planning & Zoning Commission
- Payment of Claims as listed on the Expense Approval Report - \$778,761.85

COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS

- ADMINISTRATOR:
- PUBLIC WORKS:
- POLICE DEPARTMENT:
- FIRE/BUILDING DE-

HELP WANTED

WATER TREATMENT PLANT FULL-TIME OPERATOR

GENERAL PURPOSE

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

DESIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

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

Apply at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, IA or email applications to jcullen@fortmadison-ia.com by Friday, July 21, 2023.

Applications can be found on the city website at www.fortmadison-ia.com



PARTMENT:

- CLERK/FINANCE/IT:
- OTHER STAFF REPORTS:
- COUNCIL REPORTS:
- COMMUNITY REPORTS:
- CITIZEN INQUIRIES NEW BUSINESS

- Consider purchase of a Confined Space Retrieval System from Ferguson for \$7,944.17
- Consider a Resolution adding Jayla Alston and Andrew Strausbaugh to the Fire Department
- Consider entering into a contract with the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission for Grant Administration Services related to Phase 2 of the Gear Avenue Trail Project

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From the front

Odd Marvel hosts Thursday book signing

BOOK - Continued from Page 1

actually supersensitive to the afterlife.

She said she can tell those that are posing and those who are actually engaged with the afterlife.

“How do I tell? I can tell if someone is faking it or not. It’s about the fake factor. People I have come up against honestly are absolutely not, and a lot put on the show,” she said.

“Some I have tested that have worked with me in the paranomal realm at a ghost hunt and they hear the same thing I hear and it documents on audio and video. There’s no possible way they can be hearing the same thing I do on the other side of the property.”

Fletcher said she’s sold more than 5,000 books in the last two months. Fans can get the book from Book Locker at www.booklocker.com or at Amazon or Barnes and Noble.

Fletcher will be signing and selling the books inside The Odd Marvel.

Community Action at front of disaster help

STORM - Continued from Page 1

declaration to submit a claim.

The Disaster Case Management Program is also available for those who have serious needs related to disaster-related hardship, injury, or adverse conditions. Disaster case managers work with clients to create a disaster recovery plan and provide guidance, advice, and referral to obtain a service or resource. There are no income eligibility requirements for this program; it closes 180 days from the date of the governor’s proclamation which was signed on June 30, 2023. For information on the IIAGP, the Disaster Case Management Program, or to see if you meet the eligibility requirements, contact the disaster team at Community Action of Southeast Iowa at 319-753-0193.

Montrose had generational damage

WORK - Continued from Page 1

the bark.

Avenue F was completely blocked by fallen trees and branches.

I drove through some of it to get pictures of that and then headed around Fort Madison. Trees were laying on homes and branches were dangling from power lines.

But then I saw what all communities want to see. The things that give us the warmies as residents of Fort Madison.

Fire Chief Joey Herren out in the storm (without a jacket I might add) talking with residents of homes with heavy damage and trees laying on lines. Fort Madison Police Captain Jamie Carle was out of his cruiser pulling branches off the street to allow motorists, like me, to get through even though being on the streets wasn’t the wisest move at that time. I started following the four FMFD fire trucks that were out on calls and investigating damage. I followed one back to Old Settlers Park, where two of the firefighters were cutting branches on Avenue F with a chainsaw, trying to open up roads, while city crews pulled the branches out of the way into a waiting trailer.

Public Works crews drove dump trucks and end loaders around the city picking up the heavy debris.

At one point, power was out across the city. Mine was restored at about 6 p.m. My internet didn’t come back on until Saturday morning.

That sucked because I had to do Pen City Current off a mobile hotspot, which wasn’t nearly as fast as our home internet.

I also couldn’t stream TV so I had to break my binge watching of The Rookie.

I get that through Hulu and it’s a decent series. Those are so hard to find anymore. I typically have television on in the background to help balance my brain. I know it’s weird, but silence can be deafening to me at times and I look to the comfort of the television in the background.

I started calling around to get information from

officials that are responsible for getting us up and running as a community or collective communities.

Jason Dinwiddie told me there were no confirmed tornadoes, but there were straightline winds that were above 80 mph consistently and possibly 110 to 120 mph gusts.

Sheesh.

“I can’t go 50 feet without running into something bad,” Dinwiddie said.

“This is the worst I’ve ever seen in Montrose.”

Keokuk got banged around pretty heavily, as well, and some areas were still without power on Saturday.

I’ve talked with friends who are still without electricity and internet Saturday afternoon, which can be very frustrating for sure. I offered laundry services and a place to get internet and some cooler air, but people are resilient.

That resiliency was in full display Thursday and Friday into the weekend. Even with a holiday weekend upon us, our resources were hard at work getting things back to normal as soon as possible.

Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld said he was proud of how quickly staff got to putting the city back together. We agree. It gave us all the feels to see a city plan coming to bear on a pretty large problem.

Good work to everyone. Also good work to Jacob Goldstick, Doug Frenz, and the team at Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course. The course is in pretty darned good shape this year. I had my best round ever this weekend, so you know that course was in good shape. 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.

Got a news tip?
Call Chuck (319)371.1670



As we remember and celebrate all who fought for our independence, Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Tuesday & Wednesday, July 4th & 5th. The e-Edition will resume Thursday, July 6th.

Please celebrate safely and responsibly. We care about all of you.

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