

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Friday, August 4, 2023 | 6 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 136



www.pencitycurrent.com

Council votes to hire search firm

HINSON: Group to work with SEIRPC to bring in new city manager

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The search for a new Fort Madison City Manager is ramping up with the hiring of a firm out of Mason City.

Hinson Consulting of Mason City was hired by the Fort Madison City Council on Tuesday to conduct a search for the city's next city manager, with an assist from Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission.

SEIRPC Executive Director Mike Norris outlined the process for the search with city leaders at their regular meeting Tuesday in Fort Madison.

Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld reached out to Norris to help navigate the process and define the role of the city manager.

Norris said there have been some “honest and lively” discussions with city staff and select elected officials to date.

“The group is prepared to work with the search firm and they know what they are looking for,” Norris told the council Tuesday.

“I think everybody has a similar, but slightly different, vision for where they want the city to go and they totally

See NORRIS, page 5

HEALTH NEWS

Van Buren hospital gets state grant

DES MOINES - Today, Gov. Kim Reynolds and the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services announced the awardees of Iowa's Centers of Excellence Program grant totaling more than \$2.2 million in funding to support and improve health care delivery in rural Iowa.

Centers of Excellence increase access to specialized multi-disciplinary care and are devoted to tackling the major health needs and disparities confronting rural Iowans. The awarded funds will help regional and local health systems build and enhance systems to ensure rural Iowans have the same access to specialized care as those living in metro areas.

“The Centers of Excellence grants not only support health care providers in improving access to specialty care in rural communities, but sustaining it long term,” stated Governor Reynolds. “I'm thrilled that this program will help three more regional health systems address the specific needs of their surrounding communities, and I'm committed to growing legislative support for these efforts.”

Iowa was recently ranked second in the nation among all states for the best health systems based on cost, access, and outcomes.

The awardees include
Cass Health

Cass Health's Centers of Excellence will offer services in Adams, Adair, Audubon, Cass, and Montgomery counties. Their program aims to improve rural maternal health services in southwest Iowa. This regional partnership will provide women in these communities with maternal health services, including prenatal and postnatal care that they would not have access to otherwise. Sustaining and growing OB outreach clinics in this rural region aims to reduce transportation and financial resource barriers. This will increase routine access to prenatal and postnatal care.

Mahaska Health

Mahaska Health's Centers of Excellence will offer services in the fourteen-county region of Jefferson, Appanoose, Davis, Iowa, Jasper, Keokuk, Lucas, Mahaska, Marion, Monroe, Poweshiek, Van Buren, Wapello, and Washington. This project aims to improve

See VAN BUREN, page 5



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Rescue crews from Fort Madison Fire Department and Lee County Sheriff's Department responded to a one-vehicle rollover near Truck Repair just south of Fort Madison on Hwy. 61 at about 3:40 p.m. Thursday. One person was trapped in the vehicle and was transported to the hospital with injuries.

DROUGHT

Southeast Iowa drought conditions getting better

DES MOINES - The month of July ended in dry conditions, with Iowa receiving 3.10 inches of rain, more than an inch below normal. This marks the fifth month in a row of less than normal rainfall. According to the Iowa Drought Plan, 4 of the 5 regions of the state are in “drought watch”. The US Drought Monitor shows that nearly all of Iowa faces some dryness or drought, with

over half the state facing moderate drought conditions.

Over the last five months, Iowa has received just over a foot of rain, which is only 67 percent of the expected 18 inches. Although July was below normal for rainfall for the state, southwest Iowa ended the month with normal rainfall of 4.45 inches.

“After a dry spring and early summer the

hope was for a return to normal rainfall in July, but that was not the case,” said Tim Hall, Iowa Department of Natural Resources coordinator of hydrology resources. “Normal monthly rainfall declines as we move through summer and into fall, so the opportunities for getting out of drought this year become more limited, but not impossible, as time passes.”

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
FRI 04 Aug.....Partly sunny & warm, 87° F/ 67° F
SAT 05 Aug.....Showers & thunderstorms likely, 82° F/ 67° F
SUN 06 Aug.....Warm, showers likely, 80° F/ 63° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 08/02.....118 33 41 51, Star Ball: 10 All Star Bonus: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE 08/02.....4 15 31 39 46, Lucky Ball: 14
PICK 3 MIDDAY 08/02.....775
PICK 3 EVENING 08/02.....4 3 2
PICK 4 MIDDAY 08/02.....2 3 1 4
PICK 4 EVENING 08/02.....8 6 1 1
POWERBALL 08/02.....18 34 37 45 51, Powerball: 14 Power Play: 2

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Obituaries/Scene Around the Area



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber sat with Congresswoman Marianne Miller-Meeks and staffer John Kaufman on Thursday to talk about issues facing law enforcement in the 1st Congressional District of Iowa. They also discussed the funding appropriation for the future Lee County EMS facility in Fort Madison that was approved with the annual House of Representatives Agriculture Bill

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...creak 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.

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OBITUARIES

MELODY A. RITER

Melody Ann Riter, 76, of Keokuk, IA died Wednesday, August 2, 2023 at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City, IA.



RITER

She was born June 3, 1947 in Keokuk, IA the daughter of Everett Sr. and Dorothy Page Frueh. Melody graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 1965 and attended Southeastern Community College.

On September 5, 1980, Melody was united in marriage to Joe Riter in Keokuk. He survives.

Other survivors include five nieces, Joy Jairl of Keokuk, Rebecca Kaylyn (Joe) of Las Vegas, NV, Wendy Canida (Mike) of Keokuk, Amanda Dailing and Jenny Ross (Jamie) of Kahoka, MO, and two nephews, Randy Frueh of Ames, IA and Jeff Johnson (Christy) of Aylett, VA. She is also survived by numerous great-nieces and great-nephews and cousins and a special sister-in-law, Katie Downey of Kahoka, MO.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one sister, Sherry Jairl, one brother, Everett "Butch" Frueh, Jr., one sister-in-law, Betty Riter and one nephew, Brian Jairl.

Melody had been employed by several local businesses through the years, including Thomas Trucking, A&W Restaurant, Dryden, Keokuk Steel Castings, Southeastern Community College and lastly by the City of Keokuk as an assistant to the City Clerk, until her retirement in 1997.

She was a member of the American Legion Women's Auxiliary and the Keokuk Racers Reunion. Melody was also a faithful member of New Testament Christian Church and taught Sunday School for many years.

Melody enjoyed bowling and won a state championship. She found joy in life's simplest pleasures. She had a passion for shopping, especially for purses and her travels to Florida brought her many cherished memories. Melody found solace in the pages of books and had a deep love for animals.

A funeral service will be held at 12 noon, Monday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Joy Jairl officiating. Burial will be in the Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk.

Visitation will be held prior to the service, Monday, from 10 a.m.-12 noon at the funeral home with family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital or ASPCA Guardian or to the City of Christmas.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

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Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

DIXIE D. HAYES

Dixie D. Hayes, 84, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 3:16 p.m. on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, at the University of Iowa Hospitals in Iowa City, IA. She was born on April 22, 1939, in Fort Madison, IA to Joseph & Geraldine Rudd Smutzer. She married Melvin G. Hayes on December 23, 1956, in Fort Madison, IA. He preceded her in death on March 8, 2015. She was an LPN for many years and attended the Living Hope Church of the Nazarene in Fort Madison. She enjoyed attending Salvation Army Luncheons. Dixie was God fearing all of her life and her family was her world.



HAYES

Dixie is survived by: 2-daughters: Dawn Hayes of Fort Madison & Jenifer Willdrick, both of Fort Madison, IA; 3-grandchildren; 5-great grandchildren; 4-great great grandchildren & 2 on the way; and 1-sister: Nancy Canfield of Jacksonville, IL. She was preceded in death by: her parents, husband, 1-son in law: Chance Willdrick, & 3-brothers.

A visitation will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Monday, August 7, 2023, at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The funeral service will immediately follow at 10:30 a.m. with Pastor Donna Palmetter officiating. Burial will be held at Oakland Cemetery. A memorial has been established in Dixie's name. Online condolences may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

08/02/23 - 12:25 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Kody Kim Turner, 31, of Fort Madison, at 18th Street and Avenue H, on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

08/02/23 - 3:22 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1600 block of 20th Street.

08/02/23 - 4:12 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Jassue Emmanuel Gallegos, 42, of Coralville, in the 5400 block of Avenue O, on a warrant for failure to appear - driving while barred and a charge of driving while barred. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

08/02/23 - 4:23 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 600 block of 11th Street.

08/02/23 - 4:38 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Tracy

Lynn Meyers, 55, of Fort Madison, in the 2700 block of Avenue O, on a warrant for voluntary absence from custody. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

08/02/23 - 4:52 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 200 block of 26th Street.

08/02/23 - 8:09 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Ginger Elaine Roth, 61, of Fort Madison, in the 2800 block of Avenue J, on a warrant for failure to appear - driving while suspended. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

08/02/23 - 8:10 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 2400 block of Henry Ladd Drive.

08/02/23 - 10:25 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1700 block of 38th Street.

Lee County Sheriff Report

08/02/23 - 1:31 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Michael Douglas Zurek, 28, of Burlington, in the 2600 block of Bower Street, Burlington, on a temporary hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Fort Madison Fire and Rescue Report

07/31/23 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to one false alarm at high school, three medical calls and one lift assist.

08/01/23 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to six medical calls.

08/02/23 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to one medical call and one lift assist.

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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It's Black & White and Read all over

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a USDA Child Nutrition Program administered in Iowa by the Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services. CACFP provides meal reimbursement to child development home providers and child care providers receiving child

care assistance payments for serving nutritious meals to children enrolled in their child care homes. Per Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, meals served are available to all enrolled participants for no separate meal charge. To participate in the CACFP, contact Community Action of Southeast Iowa at 319-753-0193 or tamee.org.

decoursey@caofseia.org, or website www.caofseia.org.
The institution is an equal opportunity provider.

August 9, 2023 6:00pm
Council Chambers
City Hall
811 Avenue E,
Fort Madison, IA 52627

To Discuss the Following:

AGENDA

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes – April 12, 2023 Meeting

PUBLIC NOTICE
Meeting Notice
City of Fort Madison
BOARD OF
ADJUSTMENT
Wednesday,

3. Case File #23-07: Variance request to reduce setback to allow for a building expansion at

2597 Hwy 61 for Siemens Wind Power, Inc.
4. Adjournment

HELP WANTED



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If you are interested in this position please send your resume and cover letter to Trinity United Methodist Church, 2330 Plank Road, Keokuk, IA 52632 att: SPRC

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CAUTION
POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

From the Front

Search firm to help with onboarding process

NORRIS - Continued from Page 1

align with each other.”

He said there have been three different meetings where the entire hiring process, including the maintenance of the position, have been discussed.

Norris said the city received three different proposals for the consulting work. He said he followed up with references, including Oskaloosa, Decorah, and Fairfield, after the committee narrowed in on Hinson.

“Really, they couldn’t have been happier with that consulting firm,” he said. “I’m looking forward to this phase of the process starting with the community and the search firm to advertise this far and wide, and to be a part of the team that will represent Fort Madison, Iowa.”

Mohrfeld said the city is looking at a Thanksgiving timeline for the hire.

Councilwoman Rebecca Bowker asked how long the city would contract with the search firm.

Norris said the process starts with the hiring Tuesday. Then he said by early September, advertisements will go out with interviews taking place in mid-October.

“There’s really not a standard contract that starts on that date and ends on this date. It really ends when the person is hired and the city is satisfied,” Norris said.

Mohrfeld said Hinson offered an onboarding service, which means sitting down with City Council to look at goals and expectations once the position is filled.

“It also means looking at a 3-month, 6-month, one-year review. That’s critical so it puts the city back on the path of doing those six month and annual reviews,” Mohrfeld said.

Councilwoman Rebecca Bowker asked if the onboarding costs would be included in the current contract. Mohrfeld said that was an add-on, but it will be washed out by the payroll savings without having the city manager on staff.

Mohrfeld thanked Norris for making the process smoother and bringing everyone together for the process. City Building director Doug Krogmeier also said Norris was instrumental in moving the project forward.

Van Buren hospital gets award

VAN BUREN - Continued from Page 1

access to high quality, specialty health care by creating regional hubs of medical expertise. Regional alliances exist in maternal care, obstetrics, and general surgery. This project will build upon these partnerships and expand them to cardiology and oncology.

Van Buren County Hospital

Van Buren County Hospital’s Centers of Excellence will offer services in Van Buren, Davis, Jefferson and Lee counties. Local partners came together to form the South-

east Iowa Complex Care Network, which will focus on the needs of geriatric patients and will offer an innovative system of collaboration and managed care that will guide patients with complex care needs to all available resources, while simplifying access to services and delivering improved health outcomes.

Each awardee will receive up to \$250,000 per year for three years. Contracts will be established with each awardee later this month to begin this work.

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(319) 372-8105
www.CompleteRentalFM.com

*Offer good July 25-August 7, 2023. Not good with any other offer.

we'll be back soon!

Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Wednesday, August 9 through Thursday, August 24 for our annual summer break. The e-Edition will resume Friday, August 25. The news will still be published on our website.

Thank for reading!

PEN CITY CURRENT
Black & White and Red all over

www.PenCityCurrent.com

Health News/Iowa News

Old Couch Music Fest Returns August 12th

OLD COUCH MUSIC FEST **FREE FOR ALL AGES**
SAT, AUG 12
 Gates 5:30PM • Music 6:30PM
MUSIC BEER FOOD
 Derek Luttrell Band
 Eric Pettit Lion
 Frankie Joe & Kinfolk
 Rockin Rhinoz
 NORTH 3RD STREET IN FRONT OF THE CAPITOL
 DOWNTOWN BURLINGTON

BURLINGTON, IOWA - The popular Old Couch Music Fest returns on the 300 block of N 3rd St in front of the Capitol Theater August 12th. This FREE music event is fun for the entire family!

Bands playing:

- Derek Luttrell Band
- Eric Pettit Lion
- Frankie Joe & Kinfolk
- Rockin Rhinoz

There will be kids movies playing inside for kids throughout the music fest. There will be beer, soft drinks, water, popcorn, and food trucks selling throughout the event. Bring your own couch, loveseat, chair, or whatever you want to sit on and join us for the Old Couch Music Fest!

This free outdoor music festival has become the Capitol's biggest event of the year.

Saturday August 12th. Gates open 5:30pm. Music starts at 6:30pm.

Health Dept. offering child immunizations

Lee County Health Department will be holding a Children's Immunization Clinic Thursday, August 10th, 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 their website at www.leecountyhd.org 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.

At this time, they are giving childhood immunizations by appointment only. Please call 319-372-5225 to schedule an appointment.

2022 All Around Cowboy
Little Miss Rodeo

LITTLE MISS RODEO & ALL AROUND COWBOY



WWW.TRISTATERODEO.ORG

FORT MADISON - IOWA
TRI-STATE RODEO
 1948-2023

SEPT 4TH

FORT MADISON, IOWA
 #TSRFAMILYTRADITION

