

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Tuesday, August 29, 2023 | 9 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 140



[www.pencitycurrent.com](http://www.pencitycurrent.com)

## Cast set for fall OFF play

**FOUR OLD BROADS:** New cast joins veterans in next production at FM playhouse

Submitted article

FORT MADISON - Old Fort Players is setting sail with another great production! With support from Shottenkirk Fort Madison. Directed by Michael Randolph, Seasoned with Mystery, Fabulous acts, And a whole lot of laughs, the four old broads return in "Four Old Broad's Aboard the High Seas" Written by Leslie Kimbell. As they embark on a "Sassy Senior's Cruise" these ladies meet some new faces and will catch up with a familiar one as well!

Set aboard the Atlantic Queen Cruise Ship in the spring of 1992. These ladies are bound for the Bahamas! You know the old saying "There's plenty of fish in the sea" right? Well Beatrice Shelton, with Richar Abel returning as this sassy senior, is ready to see just how many of these fish she can catch while making sure she has a good time.. While Maude Jenkins, The picture loving, ditsy bombshell herself, who is portrayed by Jennifer Pranger, is ready to follow in

See **PLAY**, page 8

## DISASTER DECLARATION FEMA issues flood disaster for Lee County

Grassley announced federal declaration for Spring flooding along the Mississippi River in Iowa

PCC Staff

BUTLER COUNTY -- U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) today announced the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved Governor Kim Reynolds' request for a Major Disaster Declaration following April 24 - May 13, 2023 Mississippi River flooding. The declaration triggers the release of federal resources to Iowa counties that sustained damages.

"I'm grateful to President Biden and FEMA for quickly approving Governor Reynolds' request for a major disaster declaration. Iowans are resilient. This federal funding will give communities along the Mississippi River additional tools as they continue to recover from this year's severe flooding," Grassley said.

These seven counties are eligible to receive resources from FEMA's Public Assistance Program: Allamakee, Clayton, Des Moines, Dubuque, Jackson, Lee and Scott. The program helps state and local governments, along with certain private nonprofit organizations, repair and replace disaster-damaged facilities and infrastructure.

The declaration also notes all Iowa counties may apply for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which helps prevent or reduce long-term risk to life and property from natural hazards.

Grassley this month led Iowa's federal congressional delegation in urging President Biden to grant Governor Reynolds' request for this Major Disaster Declaration.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Lee County Supervisors engage in a heavy discussion Monday morning about moving forward with plans to reduce the tax burden on county residents.

### COUNTY NEWS

## Supervisor issues narrative on county property taxes

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - Lee County Board of Supervisor Chairman Garry Seyb has issued a narrative around the spike in taxes that county taxpayers are seeing in their bills for the fall payments.

The tax statements came out in the mail last week and not only frustrated residents with the amount of the increase noted on the county's levy, but also in the way the statements came in the mail.



SEYB

The statements have a large window that actually show the amount of each person's tax bill. Seyb said the county contracted the work and, in trying to save money and resources by having someone

else do the mailing process, they didn't realize that the amount of the tax would be showing.

"We were trying to be wiser with the

cost of producing the statements and we didn't know that they would be mailed that way," Seyb said. "We'll learn from that."

The bigger issues was the increase in the amount of the county's tax ask. Seyb said the increase, which was 31% compared to the 2023 Fiscal year number, is a caibration from previous boards' decisions to not raise the levy when it was actually needed.

See **TAXES**, page 9

### INDEX

Business Directory.....P.6  
**CLASSIFIEDS**.....Ps.5-7  
Complete Rental.....P.2  
ConAgra Brands.....P.5  
Fort Colony Family Restaurant.....P.2  
**FOR THE RECORD**.....P.3  
Fort Madison Food Pantry.....P.4  
**FROM THE FRONT**.....Ps.8-9  
**IOWA NEWS**.....Ps.4,8

**JDRE.org**.....P.7  
Jim Baier, Inc.....P.7  
LCK Roofing.....P.7  
**LEE COUNTY NEWS**.....P.9  
**LOCAL NEWS**.....P.8  
**OBITUARIES**.....P.2  
• Matthew N. Burns, 47  
• Harry A. Higgins, 84  
• Mary E Russell, 86

Pen City Current.....Ps.6,8  
Pothitakis Dentistry.....P.8  
Public Notices.....Ps.5-7  
RonDavoo.....P.2  
Southeast Iowa  
Regional Medical Center.....P.8  
**SPORTS**.....P.4  
Tri-State Rodeo.....P.3

### WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap  
TUE 29 Aug.....Sunny & warm, 84° F/ 57° F  
WED 30 Aug.....Sunny & cool, 76° F/ 51° F  
THU 31 Aug.....Sunny & cool, 77° F/ 56° F

### IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 08/27.....38 41 42 45 46, Lucky Ball: 12  
PICK 3 MIDDAY 08/27.....913  
PICK 3 EVENING 08/27.....396  
PICK 4 MIDDAY 08/27.....3806  
PICK 4 EVENING 08/27.....6005

### SUBSCRIBE

Scan the code to subscribe today  
Paid & Free Options Available!



# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### MATTHEW N. BURNS

Matthew Noel Burns, 47, of Keokuk, IA, passed away on Saturday, August 19, 2023, in Alaska.

He was born on January 27, 1976, in Centerville, Iowa, to Ron and Karla Burns.



BURNS

He enjoyed growing up in Centerville, IA, where he participated in little league baseball, cross country, and marching band. After graduating from Bible college, he married Sarah J. Schrock on June 4, 1999.

Matt and his family spent about ten years doing mission work, mainly in Venezuela and Peru, where he put to good use his love for the Spanish language he had learned in high school. After returning to America, he started a business, Matthew's Construction, where he served many satisfied customers in the tri-state area for more than a decade. His children enjoyed serving alongside him in this business.

He loved spending time with his family, whether on vacation, on jeep drives, day trips, drives along the Mississippi, playing games, or just talking about life. Friends were always welcomed into his home with open arms and were made to feel like family. To know him was to love him.

He was a born-again Christian and attended the First Baptist Church in Wayland, MO, where he helped out in any way possible. Many missionaries, ministries, and camps have been the beneficiary of his time, talents, and finances. He was proud to serve his community through the Jackson Township Fire Department.

Matt is survived by his wife, Sarah J. Burns, of Keokuk, IA; one daughter, Rebekah (Eli) Miller, of Pleasantville, IA; and three sons of the home: Timothy, Daniel, and Nathaniel; and one grandson, Lane Miller. Other survivors include his parents, Ron and Karla Burns, and one sister, Kimberly (Scot) Schwestka, as well as many in-laws, uncles, aunts, and cousins.

Matt was preceded in death by his grandparents, Ray and Maxine Burns, and De Alton and Bertha Anderson, as well as his sister, Rachel Grassi.

A funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, September 1, 2023 at the First Baptist Church in Wayland, MO. Burial will be in the Hickory Grove Cemetery in Keokuk, IA.

Visitation will be from 6 - 8 p.m. Thursday, August 31, 2023 at the First Baptist Church in Wayland, MO with the family meeting with friends at that time.

Matt was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, son-in-law, uncle, grandson, and friend. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

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

## OBITUARIES

### MARY E. RUSSELL

Mary Ellen Russell, 86, of Ft. Madison, passed away on Friday, August 25, 2023 at 5:51 AM at The Kensington.

She was born on December 4, 1936 in Ft. Madison to Lewis and Clara Bohnenkamp Huett. Mary married Robert Martin and they later divorced. She then married Chadwick "Junior" Russell on February 26, 1977 in Ft. Madison and he passed away on July 7, 2016. Mary worked at Sheffer Pen in her early years and was a bartender at the Moose Lodge for several years. She was a lifelong member of the Moose Lodge, loved all animals, spending time with her friends and family and was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan.



RUSSELL

Survivors include her daughter-in-law, Patty Martin of Montrose and nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, her son Scott, one brother, Robert Huett and two sisters, Phyllis Huett and Betty Neil.

Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A celebration of life will be held on Tuesday, August 29, 2023 at 6 PM at the Ft. Madison Moose Lodge.

A memorial has been established for PAW Animal Shelter and online condolences may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

### HARRY A. HIGGINS

Harry Aloysius Higgins, 84, formally of Keokuk, IA, passed away on August 11, 2023, at the Henry County Health Center in Mt. Pleasant, IA.

Harry was born on June 29, 1939, in Kirksville, MO. He graduated from Kirksville High School in 1957 and served four years in the United States Air Force. On April 15, 1972, Harry was united in marriage to Doris Bowman, who passed away on July 6, 2019.



HIGGINS

Harry is survived by one brother, John Higgins of Greentop, MO and one sister-in-law, Carolyn Higgins of Greentop, MO, and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Catherine (Ludden) Higgins; his wife, Doris, three sisters, Annabel Stober, Margaret Snell, and Mary Hatfield; one brother, George Higgins; and three brothers-in-law, Jim Stober, Gus Snell, and George Hatfield.

Harry worked at the Burlington Ammunition Plant for many years and enjoyed water dog racing. A graveside service with military rites will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, September 2, 2023 in the Hickory Grove Cemetery in Keokuk, IA with Reverend David Brownfield, Ph.D. officiating.

The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA is assisting the family with arrangements.

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



Stress-free hosting for your next party  
**COMPLETE RENTAL**

**SAVE 15%** Party Supplies



Images for reference only. Actual product may vary.



**Complete Rental**  
**(319) 372-8105**  
[www.CompleteRentalFM.com](http://www.CompleteRentalFM.com)

\*Offer good August 22-31, 2023. Not good with any other offer.

**Fort Colony**  
Family Diner  
**Open 7 Days A Week**  
**DAILY SPECIALS**  
**Breakfast All Day**  
**(319) 372-5759**  
5102 Ave. O, Fort Madison, IA 52627

**ITALIAN SAUSAGE**  
FRESH-MADE DOUGH  
SPECIAL RECIPE SAUCE  
HAND-PINCHED, FRESH ITALIAN SAUSAGE  
100% WISCONSIN CHEESE  
baked to perfection in our "WOW" ovens!  
Open Monday-Saturday 11AM - 8:30PM | Closed Sunday  
**Ron Davoo** always fresh, always friendly  
fried chicken & pizza pies  
**Ron's All-time Favorite!**  
Ron Litchfield - Owner/ Pizzapreneur 605 South 10th St. Burlington, Iowa 52601  
Phone (319) 752-5767 / Cell (319) 572-2495 | Email: Ron.Litch4176@msn.com | <https://www.facebook.com/RonDavooPizza/>

**LCK ROOFING AND REPAIR**  
Gutters & More  
**JASON STOTT**  
OWNER/OPERATOR  
(319) 371-2554  
[Lckroofingandrepair1@gmail.com](mailto:Lckroofingandrepair1@gmail.com)  
SENIOR/MILITARY DISCOUNTS

**Charles Vandenberg, Editor**

(319).371.1670  
[charles.v@pencitycurrent.com](mailto:charles.v@pencitycurrent.com)

**Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager**

(319).371.4125  
[lee.v@pencitycurrent.com](mailto:lee.v@pencitycurrent.com)

Copyright © 2023 by Pen City Current

All published materials are property of Pen City Current and cannot be used without express written permission.

**PEN CITY CURRENT**  
It's Black & White and Read all over

Member LION Publishers  
[www.lionpublishers.com](http://www.lionpublishers.com)



Pen City Current, [www.PenCityCurrent.com](http://www.PenCityCurrent.com), and Pen e-Saver are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Monday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

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

# For the Record

## For the Record

**Fort Madison Police Report**  
 08/11/23 - 6:20 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1400 block of Avenue E.  
 08/11/23 - 7:05 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Chadwick Scott, no age listed, in the 1700 block of Avenue G, on a charge of domestic abuse assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.  
 08/11/23 - 9:19 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Deseri Lane Brown, 25, of Fort Madison in the 2800 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving while license denied/revoked.  
 08/12/23 - 12:12 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 300 block of 10th Street.  
 08/12/23 - 1:11 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 5600 block of Avenue O.  
 08/13/23 - 12:56 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Andrew Garnett Davis, 34, of Fort Madison in the 4100 block of Avenue O, on a charge of OWI. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.  
 08/13/23 - 2:19 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 200 block of Avenue H.  
 08/13/23 - 8:15 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2600 block of Avenue L.  
 08/14/23 - 12:35 a.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Dominick Zachari Schafer, 20, of Fort Madison in the 2000 block of Avenue H, on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.  
 08/14/23 - 3:21 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 600 block of 34th Street.  
 08/14/23 - 3:49 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue L.  
 08/15/23 - 7:59 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2900 block of Avenue I.  
 08/15/23 - 9:04 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 5000 block of Avenue O.  
 08/15/23 - 2:03 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 5000 block of Avenue O.  
 08/15/23 - 6:54 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2100 block of Avenue E.  
 08/16/23 - 11:20 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1700 block of Avenue G.  
 08/16/23 - 2:58 p.m. - Fort Madison

son police responded to a report of a burglary in the 300 block of Avenue F.  
 08/17/23 - 11:01 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 4600 block of Avenue J.  
 08/17/23 - 11:59 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2500 block of Avenue I.  
 08/17/23 - 7:36 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Michael Vincent Mastropietro, 38, no hometown listed, in the 5400 block of Avenue O, on charges of 2nd degree criminal mischief \$1500-\$10000 and 1st degree harassment. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 08/17/23 - 9:42 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Tasha Marie Carter, 42, no hometown listed, in the 1800 block of Avenue L, on a warrant for failure to appear - driving while barred. She was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 08/18/23 - 12:06 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit & run in the 1900 block of Avenue F.  
 08/19/23 - 7:32 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Stephani Smith, 42, of Fort Madison, in the 2600 block of Avenue H, on a charge of assault w/bodily injury. She was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 08/19/23 - 8:57 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 600 block of 3rd Street.  
 08/19/23 - 11:42 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Colten Conrad Boyer, 31, of Fort Madison, in the 1700 block of Avenue H, on a charge of 1st offense OWI. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 08/20/23 - 9:20 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident at 48th Street and Avenue O.  
 08/20/23 - 4:07 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Joshua Dean Potter, 36, of Fort Madison, in the 2400 block of Avenue G, on a charge of driving while barred and a Des Moines County warrant for fingerprint needed.  
 08/20/23 - 4:56 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Sherry Lynn Thomas, 27, of Fort Madison, in the 1900 block of Avenue L, on a warrant for failure to appear - domestic abuse. She was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 08/21/23 - 10:43 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Sierra Lynne McGee, 33, of Fort Madison, in the 4900 block of Avenue O, on 2 warrants for failure to appear - driving under suspension, a warrant for failure to appear - 4th degree theft, and a warrant for probation violation - forgery. She was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 08/21/23 - 11:18 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Randy Allen Davis, 60, of Fort Madison, in the 2700 block of Avenue J, on a charge of disorderly conduct - loud noise. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 08/22/23 - 12:08 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Chris Ann Turner, 39, of Fort Madison, in the 1400 block of 33rd Street, on a charge of failure to appear - driving while barred. She was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 08/22/23 - 1:14 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2300 block of Avenue H.  
 08/22/23 - 1:44 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1600 block of Avenue I.  
 08/22/23 - 1:58 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Michael John Goldensohn, 55, of Fort Madison, in the 900 block of 34th Street, on charges of public intoxication and 1st offense trespassing. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 08/22/23 - 2:28 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Marc Anthony Johnson, 54, of Fort Madison, in the 1100 block of 48th Street, on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance - 1,2,3rd.  
 08/22/23 - 7:49 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Skyline Drive.  
 08/23/23 - 12:00 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited Eric Eugene Fortune, Sr., 56, of Fort Madison, in the 1600 block of 20th Street, on a charge of driving while barred.  
 08/23/23 - 10:09 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited Donald James Hillman, 45, of Fort Madison, in the 1600 block of Avenue I, on a charge of 4th degree theft greater than \$300 less than \$750.  
 08/24/23 - 12:45 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Abigail Brooke Stegall, 21, of Fort Madison, in the 1200 block of 20th Street, on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance - 1,2,3rd. She was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 08/24/23 - 4:45 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited Javen Robert Peterman, 23, of Fort Madison, in the 1200 block of 28th Street, on a charge of driving while barred.  
 08/24/23 - 11:09 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1600 block of Avenue G.  
 08/24/23 - 2:38 p.m. - Fort Madison

son police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue L.  
 08/24/23 - 3:35 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2600 block of Avenue L.  
 08/24/23 - 4:31 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1800 block of Avenue H.  
 08/25/23 - 8:29 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 2500 block of Avenue L.  
 08/25/23 - 11:26 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 2000 block of Avenue D.  
 08/26/23 - 8:52 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1100 block of 24th Street.  
 08/26/23 - 10:15 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2800 block of Avenue N.  
 08/26/23 - 7:56 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Benjamin Gurney Skiles, 46, of Keokuk, at 35th Street and Avenue Q, on a charge of driving while barred.  
 08/26/23 - 8:12 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Timothy Kempker, 34, of Fort Madison, at 35th Street and Avenue Q, on charges of controlled substance violation - AGMS and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 08/26/23 - 11:20 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Equilis Marquis Lee, 19, of Fort Madison, in the 2800 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving while barred.  
 08/27/23 - 11:51 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1300 block of 14th Street.  
 08/27/23 - 3:02 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Rocky Hellweg, 39, of Fort Madison, at 10th Street and Avenue F, on charges of public intoxication, disorderly conduct - loud noise, possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of controlled substance - 1,2,3rd. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 08/27/23 - 8:54 p.m. - Fort Madison

son police responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of Avenue G.  
 08/27/23 - 9:40 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Michael Eugene Cochran, Jr., 41, of Fort Madison, in the 1400 block of Avenue B, on a charge of 1st degree burglary. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
**Lee County Sheriff's Report**  
 08/11/23 - 12:46 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident in the 2200 block of Golden Road. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Clinton James Wray, 49, of Montrose, backed up a struck an unattended vehicle while conducting an investigation. No injuries were reported.  
 08/11/23 - 7:26 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jacob William Klesner, 38, of Fort Madison in the 3000 block of Hwy. 103 on a charge of violation of a no contact order. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.  
 08/11/23 - 7:50 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Patty Ann Robinson, 64, of Keokuk, in the 3400 block of Hwy. 218 in Keokuk, on charges of no insurance and driving while barred. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on his own recognizance.  
 08/12/23 - 2:15 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Nathan Daniel Huffman, 38, of Hamilton in the 400 block of Avenue D in West Point, on charges of public intoxication and disorderly conduct. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released after pleading guilty and paying a fine.  
 8/12/23 - 7:50 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on in the 2400 block of 255th Street. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Teresa Renee Woodley, 57, of Montrose, struck a railroad crossing arm. No injuries or citations were reported.  
 8/12/23 - 4:33 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident in the 1900 block of 150th Avenue. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Daniel Bernard Sallen, 81, of Farmington, had collided with a residential mower tractor driven by Steven Wayne Schau, 72, of Donnellson. Schau was life-flighted with injuries. Sallen was cited for driving while

suspended and following too closely.  
 08/12/23 - 8:07 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jessica Lee Gerdes, 43, of West Point, in the 400 block of Avenue D in West Point on charges of disorderly conduct, public intoxication and assault on a police officer. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.  
 08/12/23 - 8:22 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 1800 block of 250th Avenue West Point. A vehicle driven by Angel Ramone Tarre Valderrama rolled after turning northbound on 250th Avenue. Three passengers were in the vehicle at the time. No injuries were reported.  
 08/12/23 - 9:01 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Angel Ramone Tarre Valderrama, 38, of Montrose in the 1800 block of 250th Avenue in West Point on charges of OWI-1st offense, failure to maintain control, no insurance and no valid driver's license. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on a promise to appear.  
 08/12/23 - 11:02 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Cornell Alexander Fields, 34, of Burlington in the 400 block of Avenue D in West Point on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia, and having an open container. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released after pleading guilty and paying a fine.  
 08/14/23 - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested James Burnett Gilbert Jr., 69, of Keokuk at the sheriff's office on charge of contempt. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.  
 08/15/23 - 8:35 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Darrell Lynn Pack, 66, of Keokuk at the sheriff's office on a charge of a violation of a sex offender verification. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.  
 08/15/23 - 8:50 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Justin Robert Bowden, 41, Montrose in the 100 block of N. 7th Street, on a warrant for violation of sex offender registration. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.  
*Those listed above are arrested on suspicion of a charge and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*



## Lunch Specials

### Aug 28 - Sept 1

### 11am - 1pm

<p><b>Monday, August 28</b>                  Lasagna, Cottage Cheese, Garlic Toast</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, August 29</b>                  Meatloaf, Loaded Potatoes, Corn</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, August 30</b>                  Chicken &amp; Noodles, Mashed Potatoes</p>
<p><b>Thursday, August 31</b>                  Fried Chicken Dinners</p>
<p><b>Friday, September 1</b>                  Lunch on the Sidewalk</p>



# TRI-STATE RODEO

**SEPT 6 - 9, 2023 FORT MADISON, IOWA**

*Ian Munsick* **ALABAMA** **CHRIS JANSON**

## RILEY GREEN

**ALSO FEATURING:**  
 BOYD POLHAMUS (ANNOUNCER) • JUSTIN RUMFORD (BARRELMAN)  
 COWBOY KENNY STEEL RODEO FREESTYLE MOTOCROSS  
 DUSTY TUCKNESS & NATHAN HARP (BULLFIGHTERS)  
 STUMPTOWN • NATU BAND • THE TANK ANTHONY BAND

**GET TICKETS ONLINE AT**  
[WWW.TRISTATERODEO.ORG](http://WWW.TRISTATERODEO.ORG) OR  
**CALL THE RODEO TICKET OFFICE AT**  
**(319) 372-2550**



## CRUSADER VOLLEYBALL

# HTC girls take 4th at Bondurant Invite

Crusaders play some of best teams in state at season-opener tournaments; take on New London Thursday on the road

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC SPORTS

BONDURANT – The 2nd-ranked Holy Trinity Crusaders opened the fall season at the talent-rich Bondurant-Farrar Invitational Saturday.

The girls took 4th place after a 3-3 showing on the day and going undefeated through pool play.

In the first round, the Lady Crusaders knocked off host Bondurant-Farrar with a 15-13 tiebreaker after dropping the first set 20-22 and then winning the second set 21-18 to force the tiebreaker play.

Holy Trinity then blew past Ames 21-6, 21-10 and Fort Madison 21-10, 21-8 to win their pool. In championship play, the Crusaders fell to Class 2A No. 12 Wapsie Valley 21-17, 21-16, Class 1A No. 15 North Tama 21-17, 21-18, and Class 4A No. 2 Indianola 21-10, 21-15.

Mary Kate Bendlage and Presley Myers led the offensive attack for HTC with 29 kills each on the day. Bendlage was 79-97 attacking while Myers went 54-61.

Natalie Randolph, returning from missing last

season, recording 21 kills and was 65-83 at the net. She also had 33 assists and 33 digs to go with five blocks.

Myers led the Crusaders with 11 blocks.

Anna Bendlage led in assists with 43 and went 33 of 33 serving. Myers was 41-43 serving with nine aces. Adalyn Kruse was 50-50 serving with six aces.

Head Coach Melissa Freesmeier said the competition is always firm and fun to start the year and the girls responded well.

“I thought our kids did a great job of responding to the competition up there. In the gold we went 0-3, but we grew so much in that time. For Natalie to play in all six matches was awesome for her and our team,” Freesmeier said.

“When you face a Wapsie Valley or a North Tama, you know those are top five programs and then to go up against Indianola, which is No. 2 in 4A, that was amazing and fun. We had some really good rallies against them and we played hard.”

Freesmeier said the team as a whole is again developing chemistry early in the season.

“We have expectations of that and we’re gonna keep building.”

The girls will face another perennial stiff opponent Thursday when they travel to New London to take on the Class 1A No. 8 Tigers. Prior to that, they will travel to Wapello Tuesday night for a tournament starting at 5 p.m.

# Hounds 3rd, Lady Hounds 4th at Cedar Rapids Invite

PCC Staff

CEDAR RAPIDS – Paetyn Wiegand led the the Fort Madison girls’ contingency Saturday at the Cedar Rapids Prairie Invitational to open cross-country action for the Lady Hounds.

Wiegand took sixth place with a 21:36.10 followed by Addison Rump who came in 7th with a 21:45.8.

The Lady Hounds captured fourth place in the Orange Division as McKayla Schinstock took 13th with a 22:22.1. The next two scoring runners were Hadley Wolfe at 32nd with a 24:37.9 and Charlie Huebner finishing 34th with a 25:11.4, giving Fort Madison 90 points total.

Ellie Huebner also ran with a 26:03.5.

The Fort Madison boys’ team came home with third place in the Orange Division with 70 points. The top five runners’ positions total the team score.

Nolan Guzman took 6th at 18:06.4, followed by Jacob Shottenkirk with a 9th-place finish at 18:30.2.

Riley Tripp was a top-15 finisher placing 14th with a 18:36.2. Calvin Johnson and Hunter Wiegand were the other two scoring runners for the Hounds. Johnson was 20th at 19:10.3 and Wiegand was right behind in 21st place with a 19:10.4.

Other runners for Fort Madison include: Mason Mc-Ley with a 19:17.1 (24th), and Castille Johnstun 20:30.1 (40th).

## State employers see minimal unemployment insurance rates again

PCC Staff

DES MOINES – Governor Kim Reynolds today announced that the schedule of unemployment insurance rates used to tax Iowa employers will remain at the lowest possible level allowed by law. This marks the second consecutive year at the current rates, and only the second time Iowa’s rates have been at this level during the past 25 years.

“Today’s announcement will be welcome news to any Iowa business that may be fearing the impact of the uncertainty in the economy on a national level,” said Governor Reynolds. “We have done everything possible to insulate Iowa employers from ongoing inflation and other rising costs and our efforts have ensured that the tax burden for employers in Iowa will be the lowest possible rate for the second time in the last 25 years.”

“Under the leadership of Governor Reynolds, Iowa’s wise investments and prudent stewardship of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund have allowed us to provide stability to Iowa’s employers,” said Beth Townsend, Executive Director, Iowa Workforce Development. “Additionally, the positive impact of returning Iowans to work in the shortest time possible through the efforts of the Reemployment Case Management program have helped to keep the UI Trust Fund healthy and well-funded.”

Iowa law requires Iowa Workforce Development to establish a table each year to determine the impact of unemployment tax rates on eligible employers. The trigger for deciding which unemployment insurance

See RATES, page 8



# FT MADISON FOOD PANTRY INVITES YOU TO SHARE YOUR GARDEN BOUNTY

EXCESS GARDEN PRODUCE IS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED  
FOR OUR PANTRY SHELVES  
DELIVER TO 3421 AVE L, FT MADISON, IA  
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY  
9-12 AND 1-3

# Classifieds/Public Notices

# SHOP Classifieds

PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE AT [WWW.PENCITYCURRENT.COM](http://WWW.PENCITYCURRENT.COM) OR CALL (319)371.4125

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

#### SALARY:

Salary range to start between \$68,000.00 and \$83,000.00 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 September 30, 2023 at 4:30 PM.

Lee County is an Equal Opportunity Employer



## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDINGS FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL 8/1/2023

At 5:30 P.M., Council met in regular session on Tuesday, August 1, 2023. Mayor Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Gray, Andrews, Yager, Amandus, Roller and Bowker (via zoom) present. Council Member Rink was absent.

On motion, Council approved the Consent Agenda: Minutes of 7/18/2023; New Vapor License: Steam Demons Vape Lounge; Liquor License Renewals: Fort Madison Lodge #671, Loyal Order of the Moose; New 14-Day Liquor License effective 8/27/2023: Holy Trinity Catholic Schools, Liquor License Refund of \$211.25 to Corks and Barrels; Claims dated July 27, 2023 and July Library Claims; Payroll of 7/28/2023.

On motion, Council approved Ordinance No. D-102, amending Title 7, Police, by adding a new Chapter 13, Special Events. On motion, Council approved the 2nd reading of an ordinance amending Title 4, Business, Chapter 6, Pawnbrokers, Secondhand Dealers. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-54, approving the hiring of a City Manager Search Firm. On motion, Council

adopted Resolution No. 2023-55, authorizing the filing of an application for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources REAP grant for construction of Connecting Fort Madison Phase IV Street Trail Connector. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-56, appointing City Treasurer Peggy Steffensmeier as the primary contact and Mayor Matt Mohrfeld as the Alternate Contract to represent the City with the Iowa Communities Assurance Pool.

On motion, Council approved moving forward with a Request for Proposals from interested parties to operate Old Fort Madison.

At 6:46 P.M., on motion, Council approved entering Closed Session to discuss the purchase of particular real estate, pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(j). Visitors then exited the Council Chambers. At 7:15 P.M., visitors were allowed to enter Council Chambers and, on motion, Council approved exiting Closed Session.

On motion, Council directed to have staff negotiate within the price range discussed (1 nay - Bowker).

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

/s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor

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

### CLAIMS AUGUST 1, 2023

AHLERS & COONEY, PC, PROF FEES .. 396.00  
ALTORFER INC., YEARLY MAINT. ON CAT ..... 1,533.87  
ANSER IOWA, ANSWERING SERVICE ..... 220.00  
ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES, UNIFORM/SHOP SUPPLIES ..... 786.47  
BAKER TILLY MUNICIPAL ADVISORS, 2023 DISCLOSURE DOCU. .... 1,900.00  
BEN MOSHER, CITY BAND 2023..... 90.00  
BEVERLY BROGDON, CITY BAND 2023 ..... 120.00  
BREANNE HELMERS, CITY BAND 2023 ... 50.00  
BRIAN HAYES, CITY BAND 2023..... 110.00  
BURLINGTON MUNI WATER, BACTERIA SAMPLE ..... 170.00  
CARLY FEDLER, CITY BAND 2023..... 100.00  
CAROL LAUFFER, CITY

BAND 2023..... 120.00  
CARRIE JAMES, CITY BAND 2023..... 120.00  
CHERYL HARDIN, CITY BAND 2023..... 120.00  
CHUCK HOLMES, CITY BAND 2023..... 110.00  
CHUCK WILLIAMS, CITY BAND 2023..... 110.00  
COLLIN CAMPBELL, CITY BAND 2023 ..... 120.00  
DAVID BABCOCK, CITY BAND 2023..... 120.00  
DAVID FOEHRING, CITY BAND 2023..... 100.00  
DAVID ZACCARI, CITY BAND 2023..... 630.00  
DEB ROSKAMP, CITY BAND 2023..... 120.00  
DI-DI JACKSON, CITY BAND 2023..... 30.00  
DIANE POWERS, CITY BAND 2023..... 100.00  
DIGIMATION, TRAINING ..... 10,995.00  
DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY, TONER ..... 213.86  
EDDIE MENDEZ, BOOT ALLOWANCE ..... 125.00  
ELIANNA KENSETT, CITY BAND 2023 ... 20.00

ERIN HARMON, CITY BAND 2023..... 110.00  
EUROFINS ENVIRONMENT TESTING, SLUDGE SAMPLE ..... 308.16  
FASTENAL COMPANY, PARTS ..... 10.88  
FORT MADISON WATER DEPT, WATER @ AIRPORT ..... 17.92  
GETZ FIRE EQUIPMENT, TRAINING ..... 400.00  
GLOBAL INDUSTRIAL, DIFFERENCE FROM TRASH CANS ..... 276.41  
GREENWOOD CLEANING SYSTEM, PAPER PRODUCTS ..... 263.09  
GREG PENANCHER, CITY BAND 2023 .. 110.00  
HACH COMPANY, TESTING SUPPLIES.. 1,854.73  
HUFFMAN WELDING & MACHINE, STEEL REPAIR ..... 647.14  
IOWA MUNICIPAL WORKERS, WORKMAN'S COMP #2 ..... 9,232.00  
IOWA ONE CALL, LOCATES..... 120.40  
JAMES LEWISTON,

EXPENDITURES	
General	\$ 48,001.05
Special Revenue	48,110.82
Road Use	15,207.20
Debt	600.00
Capital	23,908.82
Water	34,287.17
Sewer	32,829.34
Sld Waste, IWC	25,854.48
SW Utility	693.35
	<u>\$229,492.23</u>

REVENUES	
General	\$105,682.51
Special Revenue	256,139.39
Road Use	50.00
Debt	1,499.71
Capital	637,194.01
Water	263,743.74
Sewer	338,832.35
Solid Waste/IWC	84,973.91
SW Utility	17,505.04
	<u>\$1,705,620.66</u>

PAYROLL 7/28/2023	
General	206,627.10
Old Fort	1,645.97
Empl Bnfts	7,380.01
Road Use	26,506.94
Water	35,701.96
Sewer	32,081.87
Solid Waste	16,715.15
Storm Water	3,066.74
	<u>\$329,725.74</u>

### Open Interviews for Production Technicians Weekly from 8-10am



**Starting pay \$19.<sup>90</sup>/hr**  
**Advance to \$21.<sup>64</sup>/hr within 12 months**  
**Advance to \$23.<sup>98</sup>/hr within 30 months**  
**Shift differentials of \$0.<sup>45</sup> for 2<sup>nd</sup> and \$1.<sup>00</sup> for 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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



**Classifieds/Public Notices**

**PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS**

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

CITY BAND 2023 ... 30.00	4..... 30,000.00	MICROBAC LABORATO-	INC., CONCRETE	SEITHER & CHERRY	VICE LLC, NUISANCE
JAMES SALISBURY,	LEILA ROBERTS, CITY	RIES LLC, DAILY SAM-	BLADE..... 900.00	CO., REPAIR VOLTAGE	..... 540.00
CITY BAND 2023 ... 70.00	BAND 2023..... 100.00	PLING..... 392.00	PERMAR SECURITY	@ PLANT ..... 9,384.43	TRUCK REPAIR INC.,
JANET PETERSON,	LISA KNIPE, CITY BAND	MID-IOWA SOLID	SERVICES, SECURITY	SHANE BRYANT, CITY	SERVICE CALL
CITY BAND 2023	2023..... 620.00	WASTE EQUIPMENT,	MONITORING ..... 252.06	BAND 2023..... 30.00	..... 3,509.99
..... 120.00	LYNCH DALLAS, P.C.,	BULLDOG NOZZLE	PITNEY BOWES, ME-	SKYLER CALE, CITY	TYLER TECHNOLO-
JESSE DEESE, CITY	PROF FEE - GENERAL	..... 9,901.90	TER RENTAL..... 171.00	BAND 2023..... 110.00	GIES, CREDIT CARD
BAND 2023..... 20.00	.....2,119.06	MIDAMERICAN ENERGY	POEPPING STONE &	SOLUMLANG DESIGN -	MACHINES..... 1,797.00
JET GAS, TANKWAGON	MACQUEEN EQUIP-	COMPANY, HEAT	BACH, CODE REVIEW	FINAL PAYMENT	UPS, POSTAGE ..... 26.43
DIESEL..... 2,455.05	MENT, PINS/SPACER	..... 1,014.84	..... 712.50	..... 3,000.00	USA BLUE BOOK, OIL
JL TIME & ATTENDANCE	..... 71.96	MIDWEST BREATHING	POSTMASTER, FORT	SOUTHEASTERN	BLOWERS..... 1,238.03
COMPANY, APRIL TIME-	MADISON MEYER, CITY	AIR LLC, ANNUAL AIR	MADISON, WATER	COMMUNITY COLLEGE,	UTILITY EQUIPMENT
CLOCK ..... 354.20	BAND 2023..... 90.00	TEST ..... 181.00	BILLS/PAST DUES	TRAINING ..... 30.00	COMPANY, PIPING
JOHN ROSKAMP, CITY	MADISON TURF & TIM-	MIGUEL LANDEROS,	..... 1,775.56	STATE HYGIENIC LABO-	..... 400.00
BAND 2023..... 60.00	BER, MOWER	NUISANCE ..... 1,765.00	RAILROAD VEGETATION	RATORY, WATER SAM-	WALLJASPER VETERI-
KALEB SUTCLIFFE,	..... 12,574.55	MUNICIPAL SUPPLY	MANAGEMENT, BULK	PLE..... 40.50	NARY CLINIC, RENTAL
CITY BAND 2023	MATTEW MOORE, CITY	INC., RADIO READS	WATER REFUND	STOPSTICK, LTD,	FEE..... 1,320.00
..... 120.00	BAND 2023..... 90.00	..... 4,477.75	..... 250.68	STORAGE BAGS..118.00	WATER SOLUTIONS UN-
KARLEY PLATE, CITY	MADISON MEYER, CITY	NAKODAH DUNLAP,	RAINBO OIL COMPANY,	TERRY PETERSEN,	LIMITED, CHEMICALS
BAND 2023..... 50.00	BAND 2023..... 120.00	CITY BAND 2023 ... 60.00	DEF ..... 348.80	CITY BAND 2023	..... 3,940.48
KAYDEY PLATE, CITY	MCMASTER CARR	NATHAN COTTRELL,	REHRIG PACIFIC COM-	..... 120.00	WEST BURLINGTON
BAND 2023..... 50.00	SUPPLY CO, GASKET/	CITY BAND 2023 ... 30.00	PANY, RECYCLE CON-	TESS THOMPSON, CITY	HYDRAULICS, CON-
LAND & WATER VEGE-	WASHER..... 15.56	OLIVIA SHIELDS, CITY	TAINERS/ PARTS	BAND 2023..... 90.00	CRETE BROOM/HAN-
TATION COMSSION,	MERRY SPOHNHEIMER,	BAND 2023..... 80.00	..... 38,012.41	THOMAS WHITE, CITY	DLES ..... 96.19
VEG. CONTROL .. 990.00	CITY BAND 2023 ... 60.00	PANTHER UNIFORMS,	SE IA REGIONAL PLAN-	BAND 2023..... 110.00	ZAYNE SPEER, CITY
LEE COUNTY ECO-	MICHAEL HOLLISTER,	INC., SAFETY VEST	NING COMM, SEIBUS	TIM VAN GINKLE, CITY	BAND 2023..... 20.00
NOMIC DEVELOPMENT,	CITY BAND 2023	..... 313.13	(APR-JUN 2023)	BAND 2023..... 90.00	TOTAL ..... 182,594.99
COMMITMENT - YEAR	..... 120.00	PATRIOT DIAMOND,	..... 13,664.00	TRI-STATE LAWN SER-	GENERAL ..... 73,950.13

**BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

Auto Detailing . Car Wash . Sign Rental

**Turbo Wash**

(319) 372-WASH (9274)  
Fort Madison

Gift certificates available

Locally owned & operated

Patrick Profeta  
General Manager

**Keokuk Auto Credit**  
We Tote the Note

No Credit Check Low Weekly Payments

[www.keokukautocredit.com](http://www.keokukautocredit.com)

1728 Main Office: 319-524-2334  
Keokuk, IA 52632 Fax: 319-524-2373

**Surprisingly great rates right around the corner.**

Jess Sutcliffe, Agent  
2623 Avenue L  
Fort Madison, IA 52627  
Bus: 319-372-5982  
[www.fortmadisoninsurance.com](http://www.fortmadisoninsurance.com)

I'm your one-stop shop for the service you deserve at a price you want. Call me for surprisingly great rates and Good Neighbor service right in your neighborhood.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

Individual premiums will vary by customer. All applicants subject to State Farm® underwriting requirements.

State Farm  
Bloomington, IL  
2001878

**State Farm**

**ADVERTISE YOUR SERVICE BUSINESS**

Monthly  
**Only \$50<sup>00</sup>**  
2x2 Business Card Size Ad  
with Social Media

OR

150 classified line ad with your logo only \$24<sup>99</sup>  
Place your ad online 24/7 [www.pencitycurrent.com](http://www.pencitycurrent.com)  
Email your ad to [classifieds@pencitycurrent.com](mailto:classifieds@pencitycurrent.com)

Call Lee today  
**319.371.4125**

**DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY**  
Est. 1877

Business Cards  
Photo Correction  
Flyers  
Office Supplies  
Vinyl Banners  
T-Shirt Printing

Coffee Mugs  
Posters  
Art Supplies  
Printing  
Office Furniture  
Trifold Brochures

621 Avenue G Fort Madison, IA  
621 Avenue G Fort Madison, IA

319.372.2721  
[doddprinting.com](http://doddprinting.com)

ENJOY FREE DELIVERY TO FORT MADISON, KEOKUK, BURLINGTON & THE SURROUNDING AREAS!

General Insects  
Termites

**Cullen**  
PEST CONTROL

(319) 372-1060

Toll Free 1-888-818-7378  
Email: [cullenpest@hotmail.com](mailto:cullenpest@hotmail.com)  
[www.cullenpest.com](http://www.cullenpest.com)

Residential Commercial

Mice  
Bed Bugs

"Cause who needs bugs?"

Your Neighborhood Hardware and Rental Store!

**KEMPKER'S**  
True Value RENTAL

1904 Avenue H Fort Madison | 608 S 9th St Burlington | 1405 E Washington St Mt Pleasant

Visit us online: [kempkerstruevalue.com](http://kempkerstruevalue.com)

**Dirty Dog Detailing & Boarding**

Grooming by appointment  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday  
319-371-9044

Over 51 Years Combined Professional Animal Experience

2090 250th St  
Donnellson, IA 52625

Owners Barb Ball & Natalie Dauma  
Family owned & operated

**Generations of Great Service**

- 24 Hour Service
- FREE Estimates
- Servicing All Makes

**YOUR Heat & Air guy**

**Full Service HVAC Company**  
Serving Fort Madison, Burlington, and surrounding areas with over 30 Years Experience!

**Ft. Madison: 319-372-4328**  
**Burlington: 319-752-4328**  
**All Areas: 877-380-4328**

[www.YourHeatAndAirGuy.com](http://www.YourHeatAndAirGuy.com)

**Classifieds/Public Notices**

**PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS**

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

SPECIAL REVENUES	4,741.39
..... 268.06	TOTAL ..... 12,910.72
ROAD USE.....10,112.33	
CAPITAL PROJECTS	
..... 14,045.60	
WATER..... 31,657.24	
WASTEWATER	
..... 12,658.57	
SOLID WASTE	
..... 39,733.14	
AIRPORT..... 51.92	
STORM WATER ....118.00	
..... 182,594.99	

**LIBRARY CLAIMS  
JULY 2023**

ACCESS SYSTEMS, INK	294.91
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, SHELF MATERIAL	1,617.39
BAKER & TAYLOR, SHELF MATERIAL	2,169.58
BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING, SHELF MATERIAL	211.99
BRODART COMPANY, HOLDERS	110.57
CENGAGE LEARNING INC./GALE, SHELF MATERIAL	180.63
DAILY DEMOCRAT, SHELF MATERIAL	145.00
DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY, PAPER	130.60
EXCEL IT SERVICES, CLOUD BACKUP	1,963.22
FP MAILING SOLUTIONS, POSTAGE METER LEASE	575.55
KANOPIY, INC., ONLINE MATERIAL	20.00
KEMPKERS TRUE VALUE, CEILING TILES/POSTS/ZIP TIES	193.67
LOKTRONICS SECURITY CORP., ALARM MONITORING	234.00
MEDIACOM BUSINESS, PHONE SERVICE	412.43
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY, HEAT	12.12
MOBILE BEACON, HOTSPOT	66.00
MOWEN CLEANING SERVICE LLC, JANITORIAL SERVICE	905.10
OVERDRIVE, INC, BOOK CONTENT FEE	2,456.70
PETERS HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, REINSTALLED DRAIN LINE	325.00
PETTY CASH - SARAH CLENDINENG, ART SUPPLIES	143.68
QUILL LLC, WALL MOUNT	235.23
SHOWCASES, SECURITY STRIPS	437.40
TECHSOUP, INTERNET HOTSPOT	45.00
WEST DES MOINES PUBLIC LIB, BOOK REPLACEMENT	24.95
TOTAL	12,910.72
GENERAL	8,169.33
SPECIAL REVENUES	

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
Fort Madison CSD  
Regular Board Meeting  
08/21/2023 -  
06:00 PM  
Central Office Board  
Room  
1930 Avenue M  
Fort Madison, Iowa  
52627  
MEETING MINUTES**

Public Comments are welcome. They are limited to 3 minutes. Any member of the public who wishes to participate in public comments must be physically present at the meeting and follow the appropriate sign in procedures.

**Attendees**  
Voting Members Dianne Hope, Director Josh Wykert, Board President Lois DiPrima, Director Brad Menke, Director Mio Santiago, Vice President Paul Wilkerson, Director  
Non-Voting Members Dr. Erin Slater, Superintendent Kim Harmon, Dir. of Curriculum, Sp. Ed & Student Services Sandy Elmore, Director of Business Services

I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum The meeting was called to order by President Wykert at 6:00 p.m.

II. Recognition of guests President Wykert welcomed members of the audience in attendance and explained the procedures for the meeting.

III. Reading of Foundation documents The Board read and reviewed the Foundation documents consisting of the Vision, Mission and Belief statements and the Goals for the Fort Madison Community School District.

IV. Monthly communications A. Student Representative Report - There was none. B. PK-6; 7-12 Renovation and Construction Update The Board received an update on the progress of the Middle School PK-6 and High School 7-12 Renovation and Construction Project. C. District Successes! Superintendent Slater shared highlights from District successes. D. Superintendent Goal Report Superintendent Slater shared the schedule of activities of staff in preparation for the 2023-2024 School Year. E. District Presentation V. Approve the agenda Motion made

by: Mio Santiago Motion seconded by: Lois DiPrima

Voting: Unanimously Approved VI. Consent Agenda Motion made by: Lois DiPrima Motion seconded by: Dianne Hope

Voting: Unanimously Approved A. Minutes 1. Regular Board Meeting - July 17, 2023 2. Board Work Session - August 07, 2023 B. Financial Reports 1. July Balance Sheet 2. Revenue Summary Report 3. Expenditure Report 4. Student Activity Report

C. Accounts payable 1. July General Account Board Bills for Approval 2. August General Account Board Bills for Approval 3. Student Activity Account Board Bills for Approval

4. Nutrition Account Board Bills for Approval 5. American Express Board Bills for Approval D. Consider personnel resignations 1. Kendra Higbee - Transportation, CO 2. Todd Prunty - Teacher, MS 3. Debra Moore - Food Service, MS 4. Quentin Schneider - Track Coach, HS 5. Breana Hawkins - Associate, RE 6. Sally Pollpeter - Associate, MS 7. Debra Vincent - Food Service, RE 8. Kelly Skaar - Associate, MS 9. Bill Kester - Transportation, CO E.

Consider employment of personnel 1. Ryan Peters - Teacher, HS 2. Stephanie Banks - Teacher, MS F. Consider contract modifications 1. Allison Dickerson - Teacher, LE 2. Jessica Reu - Teacher, RE 3. Stephanie Olson - Teacher, LE 4. Charlotte Nagel - Teacher, RE G. Consider leave of absence H. Consider open enrollment requests I. Other reports 1. 23-24 Donations 2. 23-24 Fund-raisers 3. MS/HS Renovations and Additions Project Summary VII. Action Items A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services 1. Consider approval of Preschool Handbook for the 2023-2024 School Year Motion made by: Paul Wilkerson

Motion seconded by: Brad Menke Voting: Unanimously Approved B. Superintendent 1. Quarterly Policies for Approval 1. Policy 104: Antbullying/Harassment Policy

Motion made by: Mio Santiago Motion seconded by: Lois DiPrima Voting: Unanimously Approved 2. Regulation 104-R(1): Anti-Bullying/

Harassment Policy - Investigation Procedures Motion made by: Dianne Hope Motion seconded by: Lois DiPrima Voting: Unanimously Approved 2. Chronological Policies for Approval 1. Policy 701.03: Financial Records Motion made by: Dianne Hope Motion seconded by: Mio Santiago Voting: Unanimously Approved

2. Policy 507.09: Wellness Motion made by: Lois DiPrima Motion seconded by: Brad Menke Voting: Unanimously Approved 3. Chronological Policies for Review Motion made by: Lois DiPrima Motion seconded by: Paul Wilkerson Voting: Unanimously Approved

1. Policy 705.03: Payment for Goods and Services 2. Policy 705.04 Expenditures for a Public Purpose 3. Policy 706.01: Payroll Periods 4. Policy 706.02: Payroll Deductions 5. Policy 706.03: Pay Deductions 6. Policy 707.01: Secretary's Reports 7. Policy 707.02: Treasurer's Annual Report C. Board Secre-

tary/Director of Finance 1. Consider Approval of Disposal Report for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023 Motion made by: Mio Santiago Motion seconded by: Lois DiPrima

Voting: Unanimously Approved 2. Consider Approval of Bid and Alternate to Premier F & E in the amount of \$273,893.30

Motion made by: Mio Santiago Motion seconded by: Paul Wilkerson Voting: Unanimously Approved 3. Consider Approval of Bus Purchase for the 2024-2025 school year in the amount of \$143,798. Motion made by: Lois DiPrima

Motion seconded by: Mio Santiago Voting: Unanimously Approved 4. Consider approval of Salary List - Additional Hourly Support Staff Motion made by: Dianne Hope Motion seconded by: Lois DiPrima Voting: Unanimously Approved

VIII. Discussion Items A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services B.

Superintendent 1. Discussion of 2023-2024 FMCS D Calendar

The Board discussed changes to the calendar due to excessive heat and the delayed start of the School Year. C. Board Secretary/Business Manager D. Board Member Attendance The report was accepted as presented. E. Staff Attendance IX. Comments from the audience These were none. X. Legislative update The Board discussed the timelines and requirements for the upcoming School Board Election. XI. Announcements A. Updated Orientation: 4th & 9th Graders - August 25, 2023 B. Updated Classes Begin - August 28, 2023 C. Preschool Begins - August 28, 2023 D. Board Work Session: September 11, 2023, 6:00 pm - Central Office Board Room E. Regular Board Meeting: September 18, 2023, 6:00 pm - Central Office Board Room XII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

**WARNING  
SIGNS  
OF  
T1D**



Headaches  
Weight Loss  
Blurry Vision  
Extreme Thirst  
Frequent Urination  
Increased Appetite  
Fruity Breath Odor  
Fatigue and Weakness  
Rapid Deep Breathing

**VROOM. VROOM.  
Get Pre-Approved in Seconds.**

*\*maybe even faster than this car gets to 60, just sayin'!*



**www.JimBaier.com**  
Click here to visit us online now



## From the Front

# Condition of trust allows lower rates for unemployment insurance

**RATES** - Continued from Page 4

rate table to implement is derived from a formula based primarily on the balance in the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund, unemployment benefit history, and covered wage growth.

The latest calculations based on this formula mean contribution rates in calendar 2024 again will be drawn from Table 8. Last year, the switch to Table 8 from Table 7 saved employers an estimated \$72.20 per employee (based on employee wages totaling \$36,100 or more with employers paying the median tax rate and remaining in the same tax rank).

Iowa was able to make the switch to Table 8 in 2023 due to decisions by Gov. Reynolds that helped keep the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund in a strong position following record benefit payouts during the pandemic. In 2021, Gov. Reynolds invested \$237 million in ARP funds into the trust fund. In 2020, Reynolds previously had directed that \$490 million of Cares Act coronavirus relief funds be used to backstop the trust fund during record unemployment.

## Follow Us @pencitycurrent



# Rink, Emmett among OFP newcomers in Four Old Broads

**PLAY** - Continued from Page 1

Beatrice's footsteps after her big win in The Miss Magnolia Senior Citizens Pageant. Maude is ready to try to compete with Beatrice and cast her line and reel "em in too!"

While Sam Smith, our retired Elvis Presley impersonator, with Michael Randolph also returning the role. And Imogene Fletcher, His fun loving and experimental Fiancée, portrayed by Melanie Emmett, are ready to settle down and are hearing wedding bells as they prepare to start their new life together at Magnolia Assisted Living Facility. They decide The Atlantic Queen is the perfect place to have their wedding and honeymoon all in one!

Then there's Eaddy Mae Clayton, our resident bible thumping widow, who is portrayed by Suzanne Overberg. Eaddy, well... she just wants to know what all the fuss is about on the topless sun deck and get to know herself a little better along the way too.

You'll also see other characters such as: Steven Dupree (Aka Miss Tequila Mockingbird), portrayed by RaCayla Adams, with a little twist to the role Steven is ready to take his spotlight and shine bright with all the sass and glamor. Portrayed by Ty Clute is our villain Herbert, who might talk sweet but his fingers sure are sticky! Kevin Rink and Lori Amberger will also be cast as Horace and Edna Bumpus who, depending on which one you ask, have been married for sixty-four blessed years! Definitely the veteran couple!

Also portrayed by Ty Clute will be our detective Jim Rockstone, better known as Melvin Trickle. As this odd yet thorough detective searches the scene of the crime as we get to know this goofy character. Next we have our Captain. Captain Sterling will be portrayed by Kevin Zachmeyer. Captain Sterling is thrown for quite the loop when introduced to our Four Old Broads and is planning a big night of fun at the captains dinner! Last but not least we have our Bubbly cruise director Judy who will be voiced by Codee James.

Richar Abel, Jennifer Pranger, Ty Clute, Michael Randolph, RaCayla Adams and Codee James have been in previous productions with Old Fort Players. You might recognize all six from our last production The Odd Couple Female Version! Suzanne Overberg has also been in previous OFP productions.

Melanie Emmett, Kevin Zachmeyer, Lori Amberger and, Kevin Rink are all first time cast members with OFP and we welcome them all with open arms!

"Four Old Broads Aboard the High Seas" is produced by Special Arrangement with Samuel French, Inc. Performances are scheduled to run October 6-8 & 13-15, 2023. This performance is recommended for audiences 18 and older. Contains Adult Content and Sexual Themes.

The theater is located in downtown Fort Madison at 725 Avenue G. Send a Facebook message, send an email to [oldfortplayersfm@gmail.com](mailto:oldfortplayersfm@gmail.com) or call 319-372-9559 for more information. Like them on Facebook (Fb@oldfortplayers) or visit [www.oldfortplayers.com](http://www.oldfortplayers.com) to keep up with everything that's going on at the theater.

### GENTLE, CARING DENTISTRY

# FOR YOUR WHOLE FAMILY



- Family Dentistry
- Teeth Whitening
- Dental Implants
- Extractions

Now accepting new patients

Ft. Madison East  
(319) 372-3614

Ft. Madison West  
(319) 372-4882

West Burlington  
(319) 753-2515

New London  
(319) 367-2311

Mediapolis  
(319) 394-3255

Burlington  
(319) 752-7993

[www.DrMarkDDS.com](http://www.DrMarkDDS.com)

# Welcome

**Ayesha Javed, M.D.**, has joined Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center Internal Medicine Clinic in West Burlington.



"I enjoy spending time with my patients and getting to know them holistically. Providing my patients with information about their disease processes, helps us develop a treatment plan that works for them. Building this partnership fosters compliance."

— Dr. Ayesha Javed



scan to see her video

**Dr. Javed is accepting new patients. To make an appointment, call 319-768-1000.**



Southeast Iowa  
Regional MEDICAL CENTER

Right **place**. Right **care**. Right **here**.



## From the Front

# Supervisor gives recap, outlook on county's tax levy

### TAXES - Continued from Page 1

Seyb said his statements aren't representative of the board, but his views of how the tax levy had to be ramped up this fiscal year.

"This is just basic information as the total Lee County Budget is very complicated with monies flowing in and out. It is possible to maintain a stable levy if the increases in assessments equal the inflationary and operational costs encountered during a given year," Seyb wrote in the document sent to Pen City Current Friday.

The document in its entirety is reprinted below.

**Facts:** On May 1st, 2023 a resolution was passed to approve the FY2024 Budget (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024). This budget set the FY2024 levy rate at 13.53266. This represented a 31% increase over the previous FY23 rate of 10.32445. The resolution passing the FY2024 Budget was passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote of all Supervisors (District 1 – Fedler; District – 2 Schultz; District – 3 Holmes; District – 4 Seyb; District – 5 Pflug)

**Bottom Line Up Front:** During this last year FY23 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023) Lee County would have run out of General Fund (GF) money to operate by the middle of July 2023 without the emergency use of two million dollars in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money. This money was re-allocated by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) from the Lee County Health/EMS building to the General Fund. (ARPA funds are one-time funds not available every year. In other words, these funds will not be available for our current FY24 budget)

**Reality:** The previous FY23 Levy rate (10.32) would have to be raised to (13.53) in FY24 or the county would have to cut services and have massive layoffs across multiple departments to make up the difference. Lee County requires a "Carry Over" balance in the General Fund of approximately 3 million dollars to be considered healthy and it would not exist without the 31% increase. The "Carry Over" balance pays for all bills to operate the county from July 1st until we begin to receive tax payments in September. We have to end the Fiscal Budget year with enough funds to "carry us" until tax payments come in.

#### How did we get to this point?

It is my opinion that there were several indicators over the last decade that should have caused previous Boards of Supervisors to incrementally raise the levy rate. In an effort to keep the levies as low as possible for the taxpayers, this was not done. The ultimate effect of this was the deterioration of the General Fund leading to its eventual collapse this last FY23 ending June 30, 2023.

What has been the levy rate over the last decade?

2013 – 10.89, 2014 – 10.45, 2015 – 11.29, 2016 – 10.89, 2017 – 10.38, 2018 – 10.38, 2019 – 10.38, 2020 – 10.38, 2021 – 10.67, 2022 – 10.25, 2023 – 10.32 The average rate is:  $116.28/11 = 10.57$

This means the average levy rate for FY23 ending June 30, 2023 was 25 cents less than the 11-year average.

#### Key Budgetary Moments:

In FY20 the private ambulance company became insolvent at one point not able to make payroll. They agreed to stay on during the FY21 year so the county could start up a county-funded ambulance. However, they required a \$500,000 increase in funding. (No raise in GF levy)

On July 1, 2021 (FY22) the newly established Lee County Ambulance stood up at a projected cost of \$4.5M dollars. The best information obtained was the ambulance would have an annual revenue of \$2.5M; leaving approximately \$2M to fund through the General Fund. (No raise in GF levy)

FY22 Ambulance Revenue came in at \$1.3M; creating a shortfall of \$1.2M. (No raise in GF levy)

FY23 Ambulance Revenue came in at \$2.2M; creating a shortfall of \$300K. (Note: I believe the ambulance will exceed revenue projections in FY24. They will now qualify for additional Medicare/Medicaid paybacks not previously qualified for in FY22/23)

In FY21 a Pioneer Commission was created after discovering that the county is required to have and fund a commission to maintain cemeteries that have had 12 or fewer burials in the last 50 yrs. The commission was provided funding in FY22 at \$40k annually. They do have their own levy rate of approximately .024.

In FY22 the Lee County IT Manager resigned, and

a new director was approved to be hired. This caused a closer look into our county IT support. The board approved a team from across the state to come in and assess Lee County IT infrastructure/operations. The assessment provided to the board was to say the least an eye opener necessitating a restructuring of IT and creating an IT Department. Existing IT funds (approximately \$350k) that were broken out into individual departments were pooled together and placed under the control of the newly appointed IT Director. These funds were insufficient to meet the recommendations as outlined by the State IT Team. A total of \$1.1M was provided to the IT department or a \$750K increase expenditure to the General Fund. (No raise in GF levy)

In September of 2022, Chairman of the Board Matt Pflug focused all county supervisors on the General Fund balance that had dipped consistently below 1.5 million dollars.

On October 1st, Keokuk Area Hospital notified the public that the hospital would be closing. This created a requirement to add an additional ambulance and 9 EMTs to the fleet to meet critical response times throughout the county. This created an immediate unbudgeted expenditure of \$750K in the middle of a year. (Some of this cost was offset with one-time OPIOID payments that had been received from a settlement)

**Inflationary Costs Over the last DECADE** – None of the above consider inflationary costs of such things as: heating/cooling, insurance, fuel, maintenance, etc. (No raise in GF levy)

**Declining population over the last DECADE** – Less people in the county; less revenue. (More people in county paying taxes costs less for each taxpayer. Conversely less people in county costs more per taxpayer)

**Staffing Costs: Salary and Benefits** (No raise in GF levy over the years.)

The 12-year average salary increase for all employees in the county is 3.18%. This includes the 10% raise given in FY23.

According to the Bureau of Labor statistics average inflation between 2012-2023 is 2.36%.

This means, at best, employees have seen an average increase when adjusted for inflation of .82%. However, this does not consider any adjustments to health insurance increases to be paid by employee that effectively eliminates the raise given.

We must take care of our employees so they can take care of you.

#### My Vision for the Future

The Lee County Board of Supervisors (BOS) has already begun to take steps to reduce the massive increase this year that was required to make the General Fund Healthy. As stated before, the only two ways to reduce the levy is to cut expenses or find additional revenue.

#### Cost Savings (Cuts):

**Building Review Committee** – After discussions with the Lee County Farm Bureau in February of 2023 a question was asked how many buildings/properties the county owns? In attempting to answer the question for the Farm Bureau meeting it was determined that the county owns multiple buildings, some of which are currently being rented out. The Board of Supervisors (BOS) formed a building review committee to review all buildings/properties owned by the county and make recommendations to the full board. We currently have several buildings identified that we are looking at transferring to other entities relieving the county of the responsibilities of maintenance and insurance costs. (General Fund Savings)

**Consolidation of Courts** – During the 2023 State Legislative session there was an amendment that would have allowed by a simple majority vote of the Lee County Board of Supervisors to name a single county seat. This would have cleared the way to consolidate the courts (just the courts) into a single courthouse. The amendment was removed at the last minute from the property tax bill. I have already approached some of our and other legislators requesting that the amendment be re-introduced, passed, and signed by the Governor. Should this take place during the 2024 Iowa Legislative session, the BOS could take action to reduce our court to a single courthouse. This would save us heating/cooling, insurance, maintenance, security officer, and allow for con-

solidation of our attorneys into one location. With the consolidation of the attorney's office, we would be able to sell the building across the street the county owns again saving heating/cooling, insurance and maintenance costs. Additionally, both these building would be back on the tax rolls providing additional revenue. THIS WOULD NOT AFFECT ANY OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED IN FT. MADISON.

**Review of Department Operations** – We are constantly reviewing all operations across departments for efficiencies and areas where we, as a county, maybe have staffing that are under utilized or providing services that could be absorbed by private business. I do not want to set any expectations of major savings in this area as I do believe that our Department Heads do an amazing job of controlling costs. There are some areas that we are statutorily required to have, but if we identify cost savings the cuts will be made.

#### Additional Revenues:

**Investment Opportunities** – Credit here goes directly to our Lee County Treasurer Becky Gaylord and her team. Becky asked a question sometime late Spring of 2023; could she invest county funds into short-term interest-bearing accounts? After doing some research and checking with the state auditor's office, it was determined that; yes, she could!!! By asking this one question and following through, the Lee County General Fund is seeing monthly interest payments from the money that is invested in the tens of thousands. We are on pace to see over a million dollars in the General Fund from interest payments.

**Speed Cameras** – I know the speed cameras have had varying degrees of support. I am not going to discuss pros/cons of the practice, only how the funds generated may be used. The speed camera fines will be maintained in a separate interest bearing (Automated Traffic Enforcement Camera – ATEC) account from July 1st to March 31st each year. At the beginning of the 4th quarter, 25% of whatever funds are in the ATEC Account will be transferred into the County Reserve/Emergency Fund (CREF), which will also be an interest-bearing account. Of the remaining 75%, there are allocations equaling 12% going to departments within the county that are involved specifically with our highways, effects of speed, or the application of the speed camera program. There is an additional stipulation paying for all Lee County students enrolled in drivers' education. All remaining funds may be allocated for county purpose by the Lee County BOS. Any funds not allocated by May 31st will be placed into the CREF account. July 1st the fund begins to grow again following the same process. We will not know how much revenue will be generated. That is the reason for the percentages. If no one speeds; no money. Best guess revenue is estimated at \$1Million. This revenue is unique in that we can grow the CREF account so as to be prepared for future unforeseen emergencies thereby not putting stress on the General Fund when things come up as they do. To get funds out of the CREF account takes a super majority vote of the Lee County BOS; meaning 4 out of 5 would have to agree.

#### Population:

We have multiple organizations across the county working on economic development and encouraging growth in Lee County. We have a lot of hurdles to clear before we see any real growth in population. We must first slow the exodus from Lee County and then encourage others to join us. There are real challenges and, yes, I realize the large tax increase this year does not inspire growth. But we must get on solid footing before we can grow. There are currently initiatives that need to improve such as childcare, housing, generational poverty, and drug use. We are working on it. Opioid funding from a national settlement is expected to total as much as \$2M over the next 15 yrs. The Lee County BOS will have to determine the best way to utilize these funds to address opioid abuse.

#### Conclusion:

It is my sincere hope that I have conveyed to you, the taxpayer, the major budgetary struggles the Lee County Board of Supervisors have had to struggle with. I know this in no way lessens the blow of a 31% increase in rates. However, I hope you do know that we, as a board, do not take the decisions lightly.