

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Monday, October 30, 2023 | 7 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 181



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

# RUMP 4TH AT STATE



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fairfield's Carley Seeley and Washington's Iris Dahl join Fort Madison's Avery Rump and Paetyn Wiegand in box 5 at the start of the IGHSAU girls' Class 3A State Cross Country meet Saturday in Fort Dodge. Below, junior Jacob Shottenkirk checks his watch after crossing the finish line in the boys' run.

## SHOTTENKIRK 34th: Junior misses personal goal by just four spots

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT DODGE – It may not be the case, but it sure seemed like Fort Madison sophomore Avery Rump really wanted to get out of the cold.

The Bloodhound raced to a personal best 18:54.0 good enough for a 4th-place finish at Saturday's Class 3A girls IGHSAU State Cross Country meet at Kennedy Park in Fort Dodge.

Rump said she was surprised at how cold it was.

"I checked the weather a week before and I was like, 'it's not going to be that cold,' but then it got colder. And I was, like, wholly crap, how am I gonna do this?" Rump said.

Fort Madison Coach Brian Mendez said the cold is an equalizer.

"I think it kind of evens everything out, Mendez said. "We've run in races this cold, but I'm not sure we've run at state when it's been colder."

Temperatures hovered in the upper 20s, but with the north wind blowing, windchills were in the teens as both girls and boys ran the 5,000-meter run, some in shorts and sleeveless garb.

Fort Madison's Jacob Shottenkirk wanted to finish in the top 30 in the boys' Class 3A run and just missed that goal by finishing 34th with a time of 16:49.5. Paetyn Wiegand finished 86th with a time of 20:49.6.

See **STATE**, page 5



See **FORUM**, page 8

## EDITORIAL



## Election forum didn't give city voters much to consider Nov. 7

Fort Madison Partners hooked us up with another candidate forum this week.

We got a no-so-good look at those who had the courage to put their names on a ballot to serve their community.

Putting your name on any ballot takes courage. Getting up in front of a group of people and telling them why you're better, in this particular case, than the other guy, takes even more courage. And then to do it when it's livestreamed to many, many others is even more gutsy.

So let's just stipulate that you deserve respect for throwing your name in the proverbial hat.

But after that initial stipulation, there wasn't much taken away from the debate.

The challengers for the mayoral race were pretty much uninformed. And that's a waste of time.

Both had trouble completing thoughts and, in some cases, even complete sentences.

We don't carry the water here. And people may think we do, but all you'd have to do is ask any elected official if Pen City Current is in the bag and you'll get a chuckle, and a quick No.

But Mayor Matt Mohrfeld again stood legs, hips, arms, shoulders, and neck above the other two candidates.

Rodney Hoskins has put his name in for mayor now for a third time and everyone deserves their shot. We also must have an election and not a coronation. But this is the closest we've ever been of putting a crown on someone. On several occasions Hoskins answers were less than clear,

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## WEATHER

MON 30 Oct.....Sunny & chilly, 40° F/ 26° F  
 TUE 31 Oct.....Mostly sunny, breezy, & chilly, 38° F/ 20° F  
 WED 01 Nov.....Sunny & chilly, 43° F/ 30° F

## IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 10/28.....12 25 36 39 46, Star Ball: 9 All Star Bonus: 2  
 LUCKY FOR LIFE 10/28.....2 13 19 44 46, Lucky Ball: 6  
 MEGA MILLIONS 10/27.....11 32 43 57 70, Mega Ball: 6 Megaplier: 4  
 PICK 3 MIDDAY 10/26, 10/27, 10/28.....6 9 3, 9 0 4, 11 3  
 PICK 3 EVENING 10/26, 10/27, 10/28.....2 9 2, 6 5 5, 6 5 8  
 PICK 4 MIDDAY 10/26, 10/27, 10/28.....2 2 4 2, 4 6 2 4, 6 1 5 1  
 PICK 4 EVENING 10/26, 10/27, 10/28.....5 0 3 2, 2 2 1 3, 8 4 5 1  
 POWERBALL 10/28.....14 24 50 59 64, Powerball: 2 Power Play: 2

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### TERESA L. ADAIR

Teresa Lynn "TA" Adair, 72, of Niota, Illinois, passed away at 7:00 a.m. Friday, October 27, 2023 at her home.

TA was born November 30, 1950 in Quincy, Illinois, the daughter of Kenneth and Ruby (Campbell) Adair. On January 31, 1981 she married James "Jay" Johnson. He preceded her in death on February 4, 2013.

She worked as a school psychologist for over 30 years in the schools of Hancock and Henderson Counties. She enjoyed entertaining friends, camping, playing cribbage, reading, trying and doing new things and cooking, especially with Dutch Ovens over coals. She was the co-author of a published cookbook that was shared with family and numerous friends.



ADAIR

TA was a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Dallas City and served on the Parish Council for several years. She was also a member of the MAC Group (Monday Afternoon Chicks) gathering in Niota and the Pirates of the Cure-Ibean Relay for Life Team.

Survivors include one brother: Joe (Rhonda) Adair, one sister: Yvonna (Ray) Massie; one step-daughter: Jocelyn (Michael Hopper) Johnson; one step-son: Eric Johnson; two nieces, three nephews, two great-nieces and one great-nephew. Also surviving are two aunts: Wanda McDowell and Kay Dempsey, one uncle: Paul Obert, many cousins and a special friend: Doug Twyman.

Besides her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents.

Cremation has been entrusted to Banks & Beals Funeral Home.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, November 2, 2023 at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City with Fr. Tony Trosley officiating. Burial will follow in Appanoose Cemetery, near Niota.

The family will receive friends from 9:00 a.m. until time of services Thursday at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established for Pirates of the Cure-Ibean Relay for Life Team or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. To leave an online condolence for the family, please visit Teresa's obituary at [banksandbeals.com](http://banksandbeals.com).

## OBITUARIES

### EUNICE E. JENSEN

Eunice Elvira Jensen, 94, of Burlington, formerly of Keokuk, passed away on Sunday, October 22, 2023, at Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House in West Burlington, Iowa.

Eunice was born on August 15, 1929, in Charleston, Iowa, the daughter of Lorenz and Hazel (Kinkeade) Woodbury. She graduated from Keokuk High School in 1948. On October 14, 1949, Eunice was united in marriage to Maurice Hellyer in Carthage, Illinois, and they had five children. On April 5, 1969, she married Charley Jensen in Kahoka, Missouri. Both Maurice and Charley are deceased.



JENSEN

Over the years, Eunice worked a variety of part-time jobs to help support her family. She found her calling was taking care of others, and she worked at Keokuk Area Hospital for over twenty-four years until her retirement. After retirement, she assisted in caregiving for the elderly.

Eunice was a member of First Christian Church of Keokuk and was actively involved in her Bible study at the assisted living home. Her Christian faith was extremely important to her. She enjoyed spending her time crocheting, doing cross stitch, playing Bingo and Scrabble, and working the Daily Gate City crossword puzzle. In her healthier days, she loved traveling, especially to Texas and on road trips with her sister, Donna. Eunice also loved being around and visiting with family and friends.

Eunice is survived by her five children: Rodney "Rod" (Glenda) Hellyer of Liberty, Texas, Robbie "Rob" Hellyer of Houston, Texas, Rusty (Brenda) Hellyer of Pasadena, Texas, Ross (Kathy) Hellyer of Dayton, Texas, and Renee (Cloyd) Page of Fort Madison, Iowa; four step-children: Eloise Gaibel of Montrose, Iowa, Richard (Pam) Jensen of Media, Illinois, RuthAnn Ames of Texas, and Doug (Deb) Jensen of Montrose, Iowa; sister Donna Wyckoff of Bondurant, Iowa; two brothers: Leroy (Mary Jo) Woodbury of Wayland, Missouri, and Daryl (Pat) Ealy of Fort Madison, Iowa; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Eunice is preceded in death by her parents and her granddaughter Jessica Hellyer.

Funeral services will be held at 12 pm (Noon) on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at First Christian Church of Keokuk. Visitation will be held at the church on Thursday from 10 am to 12 pm (noon) directly before the service. Burial will be held at 1 pm on Friday at Oakwood Cemetery in Hamilton.

Memorials may be directed to First Christian Church of Keokuk.

Tributes and condolences may be left at [www.dejongsfuneralhome.com](http://www.dejongsfuneralhome.com).

DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in-charge of arrangements.

### 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.

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Monday, October 30  
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Tuesday, October 31  
Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Corn

Wednesday, November 1  
Scalloped Potatoes & Ham, Applesauce

Thursday, November 2  
Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, November 3  
Tuna & Noodles, Blueberry Fluff

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# Obituaries/For the Record

## For the Record

**Fort Madison Police Report**  
 10/25/23 - 4:36 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of property damage accident in the 4800 block of Avenue.  
 10/26/23 - 8:22 a.m. - Fort Madison Police cited April Love Cline, 46, of Fort Madison in the 2200 block of Avenue J, on a charge of driving while barred.  
 10/26/23 - 11:59 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 5600 block of Avenue O.

10/26/23 - 1:15 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the Fort Madison area.

10/26/23 - 1:21 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Donald James Hillman, 46, of Fort Madison in the 1900 block of Avenue M, on a charge of possession of a controlled substance and possession of a drug paraphernalia. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

10/26/23 - 3:43 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1800 block of Avenue D.

10/26/23 - 6:26 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Amber Lee Peck, 34 of Fort Madison in the 1200 block of 18th Street, on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

10/26/23 - 9:51 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Scott Allen Gilman, 55, of Fort Madison in the 1100 block of 25th Street on a charge of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

### Keokuk Police Report

09/25/23 - 7:45 a.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a two-vehicle accident in the 400 block of Messenger Road. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Denise Nicole Coovert, 37, was headed southbound on Messenger preparing to turn left and was struck from behind by a vehicle driven by Alexis BreeAnn Moore, 19 of Keokuk. No injuries were reported and Moore was cited for following too closely.

10/22/23 - 6:01 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a car vs bicycle accident at 10th and Fulton. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Robert Carl Rook, 32, of Keokuk and struck a juvenile on a bicycle after the juvenile allegedly failed to stop at a stop sign due to not having any brakes. No citations were issued, the juvenile was transported by EMS personnel for evaluation.

10/25/23 - 11:10 a.m. - Keokuk Police arrested Douglas Richard Deck, 59, of Keokuk in the 1100 block of Seymour Street on warrants for Assault with a weapon and 1st-degree harassment. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

10/25/23 - 1:30 p.m. - Keokuk Police arrested a 13-year-old juvenile on a charge of 5th-degree theft. He was released to a parent.

10/25/23 - 6:34 p.m. - Keokuk Police cited Amber Elizabeth Wolff, 30 of Keokuk in the 3100 block of Main Street on a charge of 3rd-degree theft.

10/26/23 - 5:50 a.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a vehicle vs deer collision in the 1600 block of Hwy. 61 southbound. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Sydney Rhae Huddleston, 23, of Mt. Union, struck a deer. Huddleston was not

injured and her vehicle was towed from the scene.

### Lee County Sheriff's Report

10/25/23 - 5:59 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Joshua James Vollmer, 41, of Keokuk, at the South Lee County Courthouse on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

10/26/23 - 9:17 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident on Hwy. 61 eastbound near 175th Street. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Jesse Lee Shires, 32, of Burlington entered Hwy. 61 eastbound and was struck by a vehicle driven by Diana Ryder Peck, 69, of Fort Madison in the right rear side. Shires vehicle spun and came to a stop on 175th Street, Ryder's vehicle rolled and came to a stop 20-feet from the collision. Peck was transported to Great River Hospital in Burlington. Shires was uninjured and was cited for failure to yield.

10/26/23 - 1:32 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kody Kim Turner, 31, of Fort Madison at the North Lee County Courthouse on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

*Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

### Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

10/25/23 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to five medical calls, one lift assist, one fire alarm and multiple vehicle crash.

10/26/23 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls, one odor of smoke, one pendant push.

## OBITUARIES

### NANCY UNDERWOOD

Nancy Underwood, 76, of Ft. Madison, passed away on Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 7:43 AM at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City.

She was born on December 25, 1946 in Burlington to John and Edythe Miller Underwood. Nancy enjoyed quilting, embroidery and doing puzzles.

Survivors include two brothers, Richard (Vicki) Underwood and Charlie (Peggy) Underwood both of Ft. Madison; one sister, Bonnie (Mike) White of Camdenton, MO and nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother, Roger and a sister, Shirley Hunter.

Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. There will be no formal services at this time. Online condolences may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

### JOHN SCHWIETE

John "Kenny" Schwiete, 77, of Keokuk, passed away on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at River Hills Village in Keokuk.

Kenny was born on June 25, 1946, in Keokuk, the son of John and Gladys (Ealy) Schwiete. He graduated from Keokuk High School in 1967, and was employed at the ordinance plant, the Holiday Inn and Montgomery Ward before finishing the last thirty years of his working career at Hy-Vee in Keokuk. When he wasn't working, Kenny enjoyed cheering for the St. Louis Cardinals.

Kenny is survived by two brothers: Randy (Andrea) Schwiete and Ricky Schwiete, both of Keokuk; and several cousins including Patty Schwiete of Keokuk.

Kenny is preceded in death by his parents.

A private graveside service will be held at Sunset Memorial Park in Keokuk. Memorials may be directed to the family for expenses.

Tributes and condolences may be left at [www.dejongsfuneralhome.com](http://www.dejongsfuneralhome.com).

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**CLASS 3A STATE PLAYOFFS**

# Solon shows Hounds there's still more work to do

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Apples and oranges.

As Fort Madison continues to build a football program that's respectable around the state, the lessons of that construction weren't lost on the Bloodhounds as they suffered a 50-7 loss at the hands of No. 2 Solon in the opening round of Class 3A state football playoffs Friday in Solon.

"Apples and oranges," said Head Coach Derek Doherty after the running clock that had been in effect since the six-minute mark of the second quarter ticked away.

"The size of their sideline compared to ours. It's a tough hill to climb. We've been in a lot of those games this year. "We've lost to 2, 3, 4, and 5. Those are our losses," Doherty said.

"We've got to keep plugging away and figure out how to get to that level. We're improving obviously, but how do you get there?"

Doherty said Solon does specialized things and things with purpose and reason, such as games like tonight.

Fort Madison got one stop in the first half, on Solon's first possession, and then the Spartans scored on every possession, six total, through the first half, opening up a 43-0 lead at the end of the half.

A 16-yard TD run from sophomore Conlan Poynton set the Solon lead at 36-0 to start the running clock with 6:27 left in the first half.

Conlan opened the scoring in the first quarter with a 55-yard run off tackle. They would score six plays later after a 4-and-out from the Bloodhounds. Junior Tyler Bell found Milo Ashbacher on a 45-yard pass play and the Spartans executed a fake extra point where the holder flipped the ball to the kicker who ran off the end for the 2-pointer.

Bell would throw two more touchdown passes in the first quarter, both on short in routes in the front part of the endzone. The last touchdown of the first half came on a 15-yard run by Poynton.

The Spartans would get to the 50-point mark with about five minutes gone in the third period on a 1-yard keeper by Eddie Johnson and then Solon started moving in the backups.

Doherty said Fort Madison is trying to build a program that can compete with the schools on the I-80 corridor and create a legacy program like the Solons of the state.

"We're working like hell to make that happen," Doherty said. "Working ourselves to death almost it feels like. We're getting after it and feel like we're doing



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison's Teague Smith, left, accepts the state playoff trophy following Friday's loss to Solon in the Class 3A opener in Solon.

the right things. And then you have setbacks, but our kids fought a lot and our coaching staff has fought a lot."

He said despite some major injuries on the year, the Hounds still managed to get to the playoffs.

Doherty said the seniors this year made him want to stay in Fort Madison.

"You get a guy like Teague Smith who comes back five months from ACL surgery to lay it on the line for his football team. In this selfish world, you don't find that."

He also mentioned the dedication of Leif Boeding, Oliver Santiago, and the others who are involved in everything. He said Jamarus Kline always puts a smile on his face.

"I know I'm leaving a ton of guys out, but our seniors are very special to me."

Even with the Hounds getting just one score, Doherty said it was important.

"Call me crazy and they proved me wrong, but I think we could've scored on their (starters). We were moving the ball early. We just couldn't capitalize on some things. In a game like this and an opponent like

that you have very small room for errors," he said.

"We didn't get away with them."

Junior Marcus Guzman was just 8 of 20 on the night, but on several occasions had receivers open in the Spartans' secondary, but the northern wind pushed a lot of the balls deep and Fort Madison just couldn't get anything going.

Guzman had 124 yards on the eight completions. Leif Boeding had the biggest night for the Hounds, hauling in five of Guzman's eight completions for 114 yards including a 33-yard pass play in the third quarter that resulted in a 1st and goal from the 1. Hayden Segoviano would carry it in from there on the next play for the Hounds' only score of the night.

Solon's run defense held Fort Madison to just 14 yards on 19 carries on the night.

Ben Ramatowski led the Bloodhounds on defense with 5.5 tackles, five solo. Senior Ike Thacher had two tackles for loss and a five-yard sack.

Fort Madison finishes the year at 6-4 with their second straight state playoff appearance. Last year the Hounds qualified for state in Class 4A before exiting with a loss to Waverly-Shell Rock.

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## Local News/From the Front

# Coldest race senior Wiegand has ever run

STATE - Continued from Page 1

Avery said she layered up as much as she could without being restricted.

"I was shivering and was running around trying to stay warm. It definitely messed up the pre-race. It made everything numb. I was drooling, it wasn't fun... and I'm sure it wasn't pretty," she said.

"Everyone had a good day, I had a PR by a lot."

The sophomore said her plans include moving up next year, but she just wants to let this win settle in and then see how next year plays out.

Shottenkirk said he was numb running so he just put it behind him.

"I kind of just tried to ignore it the best I could. I couldn't really feel anything the whole race, so the only thing I could do is just run it off."

The junior who ran last year with the Bloodhound boys' team said he was very happy with the result, but was hoping for a little better finish.

"I wanted to be top 30 and I didn't get that, but I'm happy," he said.

"I think the only difference in this

year's was the weather. And the only difference I had was the undershirt and gloves. Next year I want to make All-State, that's my goal."

Wiegand, who qualified two years ago but suffered some medical issues and was injured last year, said she was satisfied with just getting to run and finish.

"This was definitely the coldest race we've run in all year. Maybe the coldest ever. It was really cold. The wind blowing in your face made it colder and made your eyes water," Wiegand said. "I don't know what place I got or the times, but I finished and I'm happy about that."

Pella runners won both the boys' and the girls' events. Marissa Ferebee took the top spot in the girls' run with an 18:38.6. Rump's regular season annual rival Iris Dahl finished 5th, three seconds behind Rump at 18:57.5.

The Dutch's Canaan Dunham took the boys' run at 15:18.5, a full seven seconds in front of the pack. Washington's Micah Rees took 4th with a 15:47.9. Behind Rees, Shottenkirk had the second-best Southeast Conference time.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison sophomore Avery Rump passes the two-mile mark in third place at the girls' 3A State Cross Country meet. Rump would finish the meet in 4th, four spots better than her freshman finish of 8th.

## Wine walk presales Nov. 10

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Wine & Beer Walk is right around the corner for 2023! The Walk will take place Friday, November 17th from 5-8:00 pm. "We're celebrating our 13th year doing this event" says Tim Goble, Fort Madison Partners Executive Director. "We again have a great variety of local and regional vendors serving up seasonal flavors, as well as some of their favorites for you to enjoy at a variety of locations in the Historic Downtown Avenue G District- 25 locations will be participating". More information about vendors and locations can be found on the Fort Madison Partners Facebook page.

Just like in past years, we have a sponsor for the glasses:

Eternelle' Beaute' Full Service Salon & Spa so graciously agreed to partner with us for 2023. Also, the "Early Bird Commemorative Glass Sale Event" will be held at Boozy Rae's- located at 622 7th Street, - from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. on Friday, November 10th. This will be the ONLY night to get your commemorative 2023 glass at the \$10.00 price. After the 10th, the glasses will be available at the Partners office, The Funky Cowgirl and Eternelle' Beaute' during business hours for \$20.00 until the 17th. The glasses won't be available until the Pre-Sale Event on the 10th. The day of the event, the only place to buy the glasses will be at the Partners offices, located at 614 7th Street until they are

gone.

The Wine & Beer Walk makes for a perfect evening with loved ones or a bubbling night with friends and family. If you have been here before, we know you will come again. If you haven't attended the award-winning Fort Madison Wine & Beer Walk, see for yourself how the event puts the spirit back into iconic Avenue G in downtown Fort Madison for the holiday season! It is encouraged all to adhere to the CDC and LCHD guidelines to make the event safe and fun for all vendors and patrons alike. See you on November 17th from 5:00-8:00pm! All proceeds benefit Fort Madison Beautification Foundation- a 501c3 organization.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Bloodhound junior Jacob Shottenkirk races to the finish line in the boys' Class 3A IHSAA State Cross Country meet in Fort Dodge. Shottenkirk finished 34th overall, just off his goal of a top-30 finish.

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## Classifieds/Public Notices

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

### PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Lee County, Iowa**  
**Board of Supervisors**  
**Agenda**  
**DATE: Monday,**  
**October 30, 2023**  
**MEETING**  
**CONVENING TIME:**  
**10:00 A.M. (CDT)**  
**LOCATION:**  
**933 Avenue H**  
**Fort Madison, IA**

**---AGENDA---**

Lee County Board of Supervisors  
 Oct 30, 2023, 10:00 -11:30 AM (America/Chicago)  
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noise. If you are participating by phone, press #6, this will mute your phone.  
 Pledge of Allegiance  
 Approve Agenda  
 Public Input  
 Consider Approval of Resolution Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans Consider Approval of Final Payment

for Project STBG-SWAP-C056(109)-FG-56, HMA Resurfacing on County Road 103  
 Consider Approval of Opioid Advisory Committee  
 Consider Approval of Scope of Work Change Contract with Poepping, Stone, Bach & Assoc. for Additional Services on Keokuk Ambulance Building

- Consent Agenda
- Monday, October 23, 2023 Board Minutes
- Claims for Payment Personnel Actions:
  - A. Step Increases (4) -EMS
  - B. New Hire (Replacement) - Secondary Roads Reports:
    - A. Manure Management Annual Update for Jason Newberry in Des Moines Township
    - B. Commission of Veteran Affairs Quarterly Report
    - C. Manure Management Annual Update for Sandy Bottom Swine in Des Moines Township Commission or Committee Reports
- Adjourn

Possible Workshop to Follow  
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Lee County provides equal opportunity in employment to all persons regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion, or disability.

For job descriptions and to apply, download an application from our county website, [www.leecounty.org/employment.aspx](http://www.leecounty.org/employment.aspx), or you can pick an application up at the Engineer's office and return your completed application along with a resume to Lee County Engineer, P.O. Box 158, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627, or email it to [engineer@leecounty.org](mailto:engineer@leecounty.org). Applications will be accepted until 4 p.m. on Thursday, November 2, 2023.

If you have any questions, please contact Lee County Engineer Office at (319) 372-2541 or email them at [engineer@leecounty.org](mailto:engineer@leecounty.org).



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## Lee County News/From the Front

# Hamelton would add good voice of dissent to council

**FORUM** - Continued from Page 1

prompting an unsavory comment from challenger Jerry Reuther.

Mohrfeld had plans, data, coherent thoughts, and a zest to see through to the end, the projects the city has put in motion. A new fire station, a new public works building, road improvements, and yes, an unapologetic 5-star marina.

Reuther had no concrete plans other than to get to work and find things for people in Fort Madison to do. It's not without merit, but there was nothing concrete, when several of the questions asked for specifics. Mohrfeld provided specifics, everyone else just chatter. He also said he had little to no knowledge of critical new state property tax laws or the city's agenda.

So let's just put this where it is and say Mohrfeld, of the three candidates put in front of us, is unequivocally and inarguably the best candidate to keep leading the city.

Progress is visible and almost contagious. You may not like the way it's being done, but it's tough to say it would get done any other way. Mohrfeld for Mayor.

So that brings us to what was a fairly interesting challenge to the Fort Madison City Council at-large seat.

Jerry Hamelton made a very interesting comment. His past candidacies have included ballots, special elections, and appointments to try to bring a different voice to the council.

Kevin Rink, who has served more than a decade on the council, made the case for being part of moving the city forward. Rink has been a visible part of the city for more than 20 years volunteering with social service clubs and on various other committees.

However, Hamelton made an interesting case for a dissenting opinion. Some of the best laws in the land have been shaped by visceral dissent on the courts of the state

## FM man arrested by task force

LEE COUNTY - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of Fort Madison man on felony and misdemeanor drug charges.

Donald James Hillman, age, 46, of Fort Madison is charged with; Possession of methamphetamine 3rd offense, a class D felony, and Possession of drug paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor.

The charges came after the Lee County Task Force executed a search warrant at a residence in Fort Madison. It is alleged that Hillman had possession of a controlled substance and drug paraphernalia.

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force was assisted by the Fort Madison Police Department and the Lee County Attorney's Office.

The defendant in this case is presumed innocent until proven guilty. The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy.

and nation. Someone who's always looking at the other side of things can be very productive.

Hamelton admittedly isn't seen as much in town events as Rink, but said he needs to be on the council to provide that other opinion. He was also very brisk at attacking Mohrfeld and his relationship with nephew Michael who are at the front of both the public, non-profit, and private operations of the city's new marina.

There's a lot of sentiment about that relationship being counter-productive to a sense of fair play. That's a legitimate concern from a small community. However, we are a small community and those relationships are common. And you also have to ask yourself, if not them, who?

The marina renovation has been talked about for more than a decade, but under Mohrfeld(s) leadership and investments, it's now almost done. And this is no small venture. Anyone who has seen the reconstructed view and efficiency of the marina can't be anything but impressed. I'm more than excited to sit on that patio with a salad and a drink. The view is incredible - most likely to be described as the very best views of any marina or restaurant in the state. We're not sure when all the blue water will arrive, but other than that, this is very likely the 5-star marina the mayor promised.

But Hamelton pushed back on the city's \$1.5 million spend saying those funds should have gone to a new fire

department or public works building. We don't agree or disagree with that statement, but the process may be the win.

There are other seats up for election but none opposed so the council will remain intact with either Rink or Hamelton taking this at-large seat, but we think it's time city voters put Hamelton on the council to be that voice.

Keep in mind it's one vote of seven, and that's not meant to devalue the power of that one vote. However, Hamelton is engaged at least in the financial workings of the city, although not engaged publicly like the others. Maybe a seat at the table brings a productive mind and a powerful dissent to the discussion.

In this small of a community, it's imperative that we give proper consideration to the dissent and, if Hamelton's willing to be that voice, maybe after failed attempts to be elected and appointed it's prudent that we look in that direction.

And as far as looking in different directions, we were invited to see the progress of the marina on Thursday and a look in any direction on the patio of that future hospitality center gives anyone the sense of something great coming, and it is - But that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is editor and co-owner of Pen City Current and can be reached at [Charles.V@PenCityCurrent.com](mailto:Charles.V@PenCityCurrent.com).

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