

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 | 7 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 188



www.pencitycurrent.com

CITY NEWS

FM Hardees hit by armed robber Tuesday

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison Police were on the lookout for a suspect wanted in connection with an armed robbery Tuesday evening at a Fort Madison restaurant.

Authorities were called to the 1400 block of Avenue H, where a suspect alleged to have been armed with a knife entered Hardees Restaurant at 1435 Avenue H and demanded money. Initial reports indicate that the manager at the facility was injured and taken to Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center

with injuries unrelated to the weapon. Police, along with the Lee County EMS and Fort Madison Fire & Rescue responded to the incident. The restaurant lobby was cordoned off with police tape at about 8 p.m.

Pen City Current will have more on this breaking news as details warrant.

NEXT ELECTION

Fraise jumps into county supervisor 2024 race

PARTY FLIP: Auditor will run for District 1 seat on the Republican ticket

LEE COUNTY – With everyone focusing their attention on the school/city general election underway today, another piece of election news surfaced last night that will impact the 2024 general election.

Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise, who announced her retirement from the Lee County Auditor's post at year's end, and then rescinded that retirement, has announced she will be seeking the District 1 Supervisor's post in 2024.



FRAISE

The odd part of the news is that Fraise, who's run on the Democratic ticket for the past 10 years as Lee County Auditor, will now run on the Republican ticket. She was registered as a Republican earlier in her life.

After 27 years as an employee of Lee County, Fraise said she was approached by Lee County Republican leadership to run for the Supervisor's office. She said it's been her personal approach to vote for the candidate and not the party in explaining the shift from Democrat to Republican in 2024.

Fraise said Lee County Treasurer Becky Gaylord made a similar move in 2022 when she was elected to her post.

"She was a Democrat, too, and she switched. What they told her was they want the best candidate on their ballot. They didn't care that she'd been a Democrat. They want the best candidate on their ticket," Fraise said.

She said she's not concerned about

See FRAISE, page 6

MOHRFELD GETS TWO MORE



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise talks to Lon Spurgin, a polling volunteer, Tuesday morning outside of Fort Madison City Hall where the city's 1st Ward residents voted.

RINK ROLLS HAMELTON: City puts Kevin Rink back in At-Large seat

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Residents of Lee County sent a resounding message that as a majority they are happy with the direction of the city.

Residents re-elected Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld to two more years in the mayor's chair, and re-elected Kevin Rink to the At-Large City Council seat for another four-year term.

Mohrfeld was challenged by first-time office seeker Jerry Reuther and three-time candidate Rodney Hoskins.

Rink was challenged by Jerry Hamelton for the at-large



MOHRFELD



RINK

seat. Hamelton has challenged Rink before and also put his name in for appointments to council seats when vacancies have been created. However, he was never selected by the City Council to fill a seat.

Rink won all the precincts and outpaced Hamelton 587 to 330. Rink almost doubled Hamelton's vote total in all precincts except FM 2 where Rink won 82-75.

See ELECTION, page 4

INDEX

Business Directory.....P.6
CLASSIFIEDS.....Ps.5-6
Complete RentalP.3
DiscoverTheForest.org.....P.6
EndFamilyFire.org.....P.5
Fort Colony Family Restaurant.....P.4
Fort Madison Family YMCA.....P.4
FROM THE FRONT.....Ps.3-4,7
Fullenkamp Insurance.....P.3

JDRE.org.....P.4
Jim Baier, Inc.....P.5
Lee County
Health Department Hospice.....P.2
LEE COUNTY NEWS.....P.7
LOCAL NEWS.....Ps.3-4,7
OBITUARIES.....P.3
• Minote M. Monical, 93
Pen City Current.....Ps.5-7

Public Notices.....Ps.5-6
SCENE AROUND TOWN.....P.3
Sonny's Super Market.....P.7
Southeast Iowa Regional Airport.....P.4
Tony Wolfe Insurance Services.....P.4

WEATHER

WED 08 Nov..... Patchy fog, chance of rain, 68° F/ 40° F
THU 09 Nov..... Sunny and cool, 55° F/ 33° F
FRI 10 Nov..... Sunny and cool, 52° F/ 29° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 11/06.....13 15 26 44 46, Star Ball: 5 All Star Bonus: 5
LUCKY FOR LIFE 11/06.....9 11 12 20 32, Lucky Ball: 10
PICK 3 MIDDAY 11/06.....5 6 6
PICK 3 EVENING 11/06.....114
PICK 4 MIDDAY 11/06.....12 8 3
PICK 4 EVENING 11/06.....0 0 6 7
POWERBALL 11/06.....12 25 40 59 61, Powerball: 26 Power Play: 2

SUBSCRIBE

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



Touching the Community with Care



Lee County Health Department Hospice

Your Choice for Compassionate Hospice Care

in Lee, Des Moines, Henry, and Van Buren counties in Iowa
& Hancock and Henderson counties in Illinois

Hospice Services include

*24/7 on-call nursing staff • Skilled nursing services
Social worker visits • Music & massage therapy
Homecare aide assistance • Volunteer services
Spiritual & grief support*

Providing comforting end-of-life care since 1989



#3 John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison
(319) 372-5225 or (800) 458-6672
Medicare Certified

www.LeeCountyHD.org

Obituaries/Local News

OBITUARIES

MINOTE M. MONICAL

Minote Mae Monical, 93, of Keokuk, Iowa died Monday, November 6th, 2023, at the Montrose Health Center in Montrose, Iowa.

Minote Mae Monical was born to Amos Elmer and Lulu Esther (English) Monical on July 1st, 1930, in Keokuk, Iowa. She was baptized into the United Presbyterian Church (2nd), along with her siblings, in Keokuk on April 16th, 1933.

She was a life-long resident of Keokuk, Iowa and had lived at 1701 S. 7th Street her entire life, until her recent move to the Center in Montrose. She graduated from Keokuk High School in 1948. She worked for many years at and retired from her position as a bookkeeper at the J.C. Penney store in Keokuk.

Minote was preceded in death by her parents, her brother George Edward Monical, and sisters, Kathryn Marcella Monical (Robert) Edwards, Lulu Agnes Monical (John) Kavanaugh, Hazel Electa Monical, Mary Ruth Monical (Wayne) Riter, Patricia Louise Monical, Betty Jean Monical (Bob) Rench and sisters-in-law Mary Madeline Bowden (Ed) Monical and Dawn Marie Ritter (Ed) Monical. She is survived by several nieces and nephews who all remember her fondly.

Her services will be held Thursday, November 9th, with the visitation at 11:00am to be held at the DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home located at 917 Blondeau Street in Keokuk. A procession will leave from the Funeral Home after the visitation concludes. Graveside services will follow at 12:30 pm at the Oakland Cemetery located at 1800 Carroll Street, Keokuk with the Pastor Dave Barrett as the officiant.

Memorials may be made to the Keokuk Lion's Club to support their work to improve the lives of those suffering visual impairments and toward the prevention of preventable blindness.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com.

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



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

A Fort Madison Police officer tapes off the door at the entry way of Hardees in Fort Madison Tuesday night at about 8 p.m. Officers were investigating an armed robbery that occurred at about 7:40 at the restaurant. One manager was injured in the incident.

FM City manager search narrowed to three candidates

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – City staff will be welcoming three candidates for its vacant city manager spot just in time for the downtown Beer and Wine Walk.

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

On Monday night, a representative from Hinson told the City Council during an update that the city got 14 potential candidates to submit credentials for the position. City staff, in conjunction with Hinson and Southeast Iowa Regional Planning winnowed the field down to three that will be in town on Nov. 17.

The representative said the firm is making good progress on the search.

He said the search committee looked over all the applications and narrowed that down to six that were contacted for online interviews.

“Ultimately based on those Zoom interviews there were three that were invited to

come to Fort Madison. We're planning on doing that Friday the 17th and Saturday the 18th,” he said.

“We're looking at an aspect of the candidates coming to town and doing tours in the afternoon and then have a chance to come to the wine walk and just be available on a drop-in basis for the public. Then they would be free to participate in the event.”

The Wine Walk would give the candidates a chance to meet the public while he city can showcase the community and then turn around on Saturday for the council to conduct interviews.

Those interviews will start around 9 a.m. and wrap up around noon. Then the council will engage in some discussions around the input from the staff and council that weren't part of the steering committee.

The council would then deliberate and determine forward direction with the candidates and the search firm.

See **SEARCH**, page 4

Celebrating **60 Years** of Service to You.

Integrity. Commitment. Teamwork.

ANNIVERSARY

FULLENKAMP INSURANCE

307 5th Street West Point | 319-837-6178 or 800-292-2208
Monday through Friday 7:30-5 · Saturday by appointment
www.FullenkampIns.com

Complete Rental Price Beat Guarantee

Show us an advertised price or quote
We'll beat it by 15%

5636 Avenue O, Fort Madison, IA
319-372-8105
Located right across the road from Jim Baier in Fort Madison

*Not valid with any other discounts

Charles Vandenberg, Editor

(319).371.1670
charles.v@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager

(319).371.4125
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



Pen City Current, 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

Local News/From the Front

Peitz gets WP mayor's seat

ELECTION - Continued from Page 1

Had the outcome been different Rink said he would have been fine with that. But he said he made some promises to people that he wanted to see through, despite saying he was hell-bent on not running again after the last election.

"I made a promise to Chief (Joey) Herren to see that fire station started in my last term," Rink said Tuesday night.

"I thought (the election) would be a little closer. I was pretty nervous. I told my wife if I'm re-elected great - if not, I served our city well. My uncle is Ernie Schiller and said he never slept so well the night he was defeated."

Mohrfeld was clearly disappointed in the turnout for the election with less than 1,000 people voting Tuesday.

The two-term mayor defeated Reuther 568-293 and Hoskins 568-83. Mohrfeld won all precincts again doubling the other candidates in all precincts and absentee voting, with the exception of FM 2 where he beat Reuther by just 20, 85-65.

"It is interesting though. Low turnout you can't analyze. I'm wondering what exactly did all those other people vote for? My charge was are things better than they were four years ago, are they not?" Mohrfeld said.

But he said the tally does show a mandate from the voters who went to the polls.

"It's a mandate for progress, a mandate for growth, for taking a comprehensive look at tomorrow," he said.

"The path we're on is riddled with change. They like it. Don't get me wrong, there's a whole lot of people on a beautiful November day that didn't go vote. But we have a nice stable council. Now we have to get a city manager hired and navigate House file 718."

Richart Thiele will take the 1st Ward council seat running unopposed. Angela Roller (2nd Ward) and Donna Amandus (3rd Ward) both were also re-elected to the council unopposed.

In other area elections. Gary Peitz will take over for

Joseph Loving as Mayor of West point. Loving didn't seek re-election and Peitz rolled over Phillip Kruse 152-43. Bruce Wellman, Will Stuekerjuergen, Wendy Vonderhaar, Brian Meierotto and Larry Buchholz will be seated on the West Point City Council. Vonderhaar and Buchholz are new to the council.

Josh Wykert, Amy Thacher, Keith Hehr and Kelly Newton were all unopposed for the Fort Madison School board. Thacher led all vote getters with 1,045.

In Montrose, Matt Mullins retained his seat as Mayor running unopposed. Mullins collected 47 votes. Jeff Junkins and Darcie Uhlmeier both won seats on the Montrose City Council with 44 and 39 votes respectively.

In Keokuk, Kathie Mahoney was re-elected to the mayor's office 243-78 defeating Xai Coffman. Devon Dade defeated Christopher Dailey for the at-large council seat 220-83. Shelley Oltmans, Tyler Walker, Dan Tillman and Roger Bryant were all re-elected unopposed. A 4th Ward write-in campaign generated 34 votes. The results of that write-in won't be available til Wednesday, according to Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise.

In Donnellson Jeremy Marshall collected 42 votes for a city council seat, the only one on the ballot. Houghton saw Gale Thompson elected mayor with 25 votes. Jay Henrich, Terrell Wilson, Marty Bentler, Kurt Lowenberg and Cheryl Brock won the five seats on the Houghton Council.

John Dingman won the St. Paul Mayor's seat with 19 votes. Rod Cox, Marty Bentler, Ted Moeller, Paul Kenel and Brent Pieper were elected to the St. Paul Council.

Matt Doty and Bill Young were elected unopposed to the Central Lee School District Board, along with Mark Hulsebus.

Seth Anderson, Laurie Mendenhall, and Kim Wyatt were elected to the Keokuk School board for three of four seats open. A write-in candidacy generated 353 votes.

Moudy Nabulsi was re-elected to the Southeastern Community College board district 4, while Janet Fife-LaFrenz retained her seat on the board in the 5th district.

FMPD encourages safe driving during holidays

FORT MADISON - As the Thanksgiving Holiday approaches many people will choose to take to the roads and highways of the state to visit family and friends and give thanks for what we have been provided, not to mention the football and turkey.

The Fort Madison Police Department, along with the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau, asks that all people drive in a safe and defensive manner. From our point of view, it is better to get to your destination, even if it may be a little late, than to not get there at all.

During this holiday time Law Enforcement Officers throughout the State of Iowa will be out enforcing Iowa's seat belt, drinking and texting laws, as well as all other traffic laws, in order to ensure a safe driving holiday.

The Fort Madison Police Department wishes everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

City to conduct City manager interviews on Nov. 18

SEARCH - Continued from Page 3

Backgrounds checks and reference checks have been completed and good feedback was provided for all three candidates. The criminal, credit and educational verification checks are now in progress.

Mayor Matt Mohrfeld said the Saturday events would involve three separate rooms with a round-robin format where all the candidates get in front of everyone in a rotation. The candidates would get different questions for each candidate in each room.

Mohrfeld said he was looking for suggestions for about six people from the community to sit in on the city manager candidate interviews.

In other action, the council:

- heard an update from Fort Madison YMCA Director Ryan Wilson on the success of this summer's city pool operations.
- approved a third reading of an ordinance change to rezone the property where the new PAW Animal Shelter is being erected to I-2 General Industrial from R-1 Single family.

Classifieds/Public Notices

SHOP Classifieds

PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE AT WWW.PENCITYCURRENT.COM OR CALL (319)371.4125

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
MEETING NOTICE
MONTROSE CITY
COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 8, 2023
4:30 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING
MONTROSE CITY HALL**

AGENDA

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC: The Mayor and City Council welcome comments from the public during discussion. If you wish to speak, please step up to the Council table, state your name and address for the record and limit the time used to present your remarks to five minutes in order that others may be given the opportunity to speak. The normal process on any particular agenda item is that the motion is placed on the floor, input is received from the audience, the Council is given an opportunity to comment on the issue or respond to the audience concerns, and the vote is taken. On ordinances, there is time provided for public input at the time of the first reading. In consideration of all, if you have a cell phone, please turn it off or put it on silent ring.

CALL TO ORDER.
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed under the Consent Agenda will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a request is made prior to the time the Council members vote on the motion.

1. Approve Agenda as written.
2. Approve October, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.
3. Approve October 2023 Treasurer's Report as presented.
4. Approve Payment of Claims as presented.

PUBLIC FORUM: This is a time set aside for comments from the public on topics of City business other than those listed on this agenda. Please understand that the Council is not likely to take any action on your comments at this meeting due to requirements of the Open Meetings Law, but may do so at a future meetings. The Mayor and City Council welcome comments from the public; however, at no time is it appropriate to use profane, obscene, or slanderous language. The Mayor may limit each speaker to five minutes.

EMPLOYEE COMMITTEES:
COMMITTEE RE-

PORTS:
Public Safety Chief Shields submitted his police report
General Government & Enterprise
Culture & Recreation
Public Works
Economic & Community Development

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discuss Nuisance Abatement updates
 2. Update on alley way usage
- NEW BUSINESS:**
1. Discuss city barn repairs or replacing building.
 2. Review and possibly approve Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield health insurance renewal.
 3. Approve Annual Finance Report for submission to the state.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

ADJOURNMENT:
*Please note that this agenda may be changed up to 24 hours before the meeting time as provided by Section 21,4(2). Code of Iowa.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
MEETING NOTICE
The Mount Pleasant City Council will meet in Regular Session
Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at City Hall,**

**307 E. Monroe Street,
second-floor meeting
room at 5:30 p.m.**

AGENDA

1. Roll Call.
2. Consent Agenda: To the Public - All items with an asterisk (*) are routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion and a roll call of the Councilmembers. There will be no separate discussion of items unless the Mayor, a Councilmember or citizen so request, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered in its normal sequence on the Agenda.
3. Receive & file com-

munications - Update local Hazard Mitigation Plan, Gail R Thomas SEIRPC - Zone Change Application SWI/4 , Sec 8, Twp 7 IN Range 6W

4. Approve agenda.
- *5. Approve minutes of previous meetings.
- *6. Approve payment of bills.
- *7. Receive report of Officers including Resolution 2023-83 approving October transfers.
8. Old Business-
a) 3rd reading/adopt ordinance to amend accessory building and shipping container ordinance.
- *b) Renewal of a Class B Retail Alcohol License for Aldi, Inc. at 1309 E. Washington Street.
- *c) Renewal of a Class

C Retail Alcohol License for Little Mexico Restaurant at 107 S Jefferson Street.

9. New Business-
a) Resolution setting Public Hearing on zone change application for vacant land at 2000-2200 block of W Washington Street.
- b) Resolution setting Public Hearing to sell/transfer 202 N Porter.
- c) Resolution approving continued support for Main Street Mount Pleasant.
10. Public Forum.
11. Adjourn to meet in adjourned session on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at 5 :30 p.m.

Follow Us @pencitycurrent



VROOM. VROOM. Get Pre-Approved in Seconds.

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



Jim BAIER, INC

www.JimBaier.com

Click here to visit us online now



END FAMILY FIRE

8 kids a day are accidentally killed or injured by **FAMILY FIRE.**

FAMILY FIRE is a shooting involving an improperly stored gun, often found in the home.

ENDFAMILYFIRE.org

ad COUNCIL

Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF
WEST BURLINGTON
Planning and Zoning
Commission Meeting
Tuesday, November 14,
2023 - 5:30 PM
West Burlington**

**City Hall
122 Broadway Street**

TENTATIVE AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL
PERFECTING & AP-

PROVAL OF AGENDA
PERFECTING & AP-
PROVAL OF MINUTES
1. Consider approval of
minutes from the Planning
and Zoning meeting on
January 12, 2023
NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider a Final
Plat for Wayne Johnson
Subdivision
2. Consider a Final Plat
for the Fourth Addition to
Whiteacre, Inv. Subdivi-
sion
3. Discuss Updates to

the City's Comprehensive
Plan and Zoning and Sub-
division Regulations
4. Appoint Chairman for
2023
5. Appoint Vice-Chair-
man for 2024
6. Appoint Representa-

tive to serve on the Board
of Adjustment for 2024
OLD BUSINESS
ADJOURN

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



Patrick Profeta
General Manager

Keokuk Auto Credit
We Tote the Note

No Credit Check Low Weekly Payments
www.keokukautocredit.com

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



DODD
PRINTING & STATIONERY

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 319.372.2721 doddprinting.com

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

Complete Comfort. Affordable Price.



YORK

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

24 Hour Service • FREE Estimates • Servicing All Makes

www.YourHeatAndAirGuy.com

Dirty Dog Detailing & Boarding

Grooming by appointment
Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday

Over 31 Years Combined Professional Animal Experience
319-371-9044

2090 250th St, Dennington, IA 52625
Owners Barb Ball & Natalie Dauma
Family owned & operated

**YOUR AD
HERE**

319.371.4125



Life insurance can be life-changing

Jess Sutcliffe, Agent
2623 Avenue L
Fort Madison, IA 52627
Bus: 319-372-5982
www.fortmadisoninsurance.com

Life won't always go as planned. That's why there's life insurance. It can help you protect your family's future, no matter what happens. Call me today.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

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



State Farm Life Insurance Company (Not licensed in MA, NY or WI)
State Farm Life and Accident Assurance Company (Licensed in NY and WI)
Bloomington, IL
2001574

Auto Detailing . Car Wash . Sign Rental

Turbo Wash

(319) 372-WASH (9274)
Fort Madison

Gift certificates available

Locally owned & operated

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

Got a news tip?

Call Chuck
(319)371.1670

or submit it online at www.PenCityCurrent.com

General Insects Termites Mice Bed Bugs

Cullen
PEST CONTROL

(319) 372-1060

Toll Free 1-888-818-7378
Email: cullenpest@hotmail.com
www.cullenpest.com

Residential Commercial "Cause who needs bugs?"

EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD HAS A *Naturehood*



DiscoverTheForest.org



Local News/From the Front

Fraise says learning curve is small

FRAISE - Continued from Page 1

the optics of running on the Republican ticket, and she said she has no idea who would be running against her.

Ron Fedler has said this will be his last year, but many elected officials change their minds after last-minute discussions.

But her platform on the board would be to not let her party influence her decisions.

"I won't be beholden to any party, Oh God no," she said. I just want what's best for the county. Jim and I've been just talking about it a lot lately. I thought, 'I just want to retire and just do nothing,' but then I thought 'I'm only 62 years old. I was going to do something anyway, so why go get a job and learn something new, when I already know this job.'

Very few would have a resume that stacks up against Fraise's in experience in going about the county's business.

"I've been sitting at that table for years and I don't have any say in anything. Obviously there is some work behind the scenes, but no vote," she said.

Fraise was the county Election Administrator for 17 years and then when Anne Pederson retired as Auditor, Fraise ran without any opposition. She hasn't been opposed in any of her re-election bids.

She wants to parlay that candidacy success into the run at County Supervisor.

"I had thought about it off and on and off and on and I would ask myself if I want to keep doing this and I do. I really do. I really do love Lee County and I want to see it prosper and grow," she said.

The new property tax bill is what she said is the biggest challenge facing the county. House File 718, which was signed into law by the Governor in May forces local governments to reduce their reliance on property taxes for revenue growth over the next four years to a base general fund levy of \$3.50. The County has set up plans to reduce its general levy by 25% each year to get to the state-mandated rate by 2027.

The county currently has a \$5.85/\$1,000 assessed valuation on the state's rollback. Fraise said the county won't be able to conduct itself as it does if that number results in a reduction in revenue and services would likely take a hit.

She said she would be willing to consider cutting services that can be found in the private sector to curb expenses.

There are a lot of unknown factors the county is dealing with including what assessed values will look like, increasing insurance costs, and where the state will ultimately settle in on the new law. There is some discussion percolating that the new law will get a facelift in the new session.

"I'd really like to continue providing the services we are right now, but I just don't know if that's possible with these budget constraints," she said.

"That \$3.50 cap has been here for about 40 years. But things cost so much more - why would they settle on 3.50?"

Fraise said the learning curve with the budget would also be non-existent.

"I know how the budget works after working with (Budget Director) Cindy (Renstrom) in this office. It'd be a very easy transition. There wouldn't be any learning curve," she said.

Priorities for her would be economic development. She said she wouldn't support increasing the contribution to Lee County Economic Development Group.

"They are doing well out there and I'm really excited about the solar field," she said.

The county will see a utility tax off the solar field in a similar way they do with current pipelines that run through the county.

Her work over the past 27 years has also brought her in close contact with other department heads and that would be another qualification she has that other candidates would not.

"I've worked with the other department heads and I feel like I've gained their respect. I know their pain and I think the learning curve there would be very small."

Fraise said.

Partners again offer FM Day at Carver-Hawkeye

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Area Chamber of Commerce has once again partnered with the University of Iowa Athletics to secure premium seating for the community to enjoy an Iowa Men's Basketball game. This year, we will cheer on the Iowa Hawkeyes as they take on the Northern Illinois Huskies on Friday, December 29th with game time still to be announced. Tickets go on sale Monday, November 6th at 9:00 am at the Fort Madison Partners office, located at 614 7th Street.

Several businesses in the community have stepped up but we are seeking more sponsors to help us provide a t-shirt with every ticket purchase.

"We are excited to have the community sitting in the stands of Carver Hawkeye Arena all sporting a Fort Madison Day t-shirt!" said Savanna Collier, Chamber Director. Tickets will be available for \$15 for youth and \$20 for adults. The Chamber is also working out transportation to and from the game with tickets being \$12.

To ensure prompt delivery prior to Christmas, the opportunity to purchase tickets runs through Friday, November 17th at 12:00 pm. Tickets ordered after November 17th are not guaranteed a t-shirt with their ticket purchase. The Fort Madison Partners office is located at 614 7th Street and is open M-F 8:30 am - 4 pm. To make other arrangements, please call 319-372-5471.

Other perks are being negotiated at this time with the Athletic Department at the University of Iowa.

Follow Us @pencitycurrent



VETERANS DAY
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Honor your family members that answered the call to serve in our special Veterans Day edition on Friday, November 10th.

It is our honor to publish this information. There is no charge for this service.

Click this ad to submit your photos and information using the form on our website or email it to Lee.V@PenCityCurrent.com.

Please include photo (color or black & white), veteran's name, branch of service, tour(s) of duty, your name and contact information in case of questions. A brief personal message is also welcome.

Submissions are due by the end of the day Thursday, November 9th.

SAMPLE LISTINGS

(NOT SHOWN ACTUAL SIZE)



Leonard Anderson
US Army
Korean War



SSGT Ezekiel
'Zeke' James
Ross
Iowa National Guard
Charlie Company 224th
Engineer Battalion
Operation Iraqi
Freedom 2004-2005
A Brother in Arms

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

PO Box 366, Fort Madison, IA 52627 • News (319)371.1670 • Advertising (319)316.3621



Lunch Specials
Nov 6 - 10
11am - 1pm

Monday, November 6
Minit Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Beans

Tuesday, November 7
Pork Loin, Loaded Potatoes, Corn

Wednesday, November 8
Beef Enchiladas, Spanish Rice

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9
FRIED CHICKEN DINNERS

Friday, November 10
Tater Tot Casserole, Bread Stick