

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Monday, November 13, 2023 | 6 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 191



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

## Bustling glass presale



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison Partners' staff, including Executive Director Tim Gobble, center, and Fort Madison Chamber Coordinator Savanna Collier, left, feverishly sell glasses at Boozie Rae's in anticipation of next week's annual Wine & Beer Walk.

## Burlington opens "The Courts" with Friday event

**GRAND OPENING:** Facility compliments "The Turf" to bring more sports activity

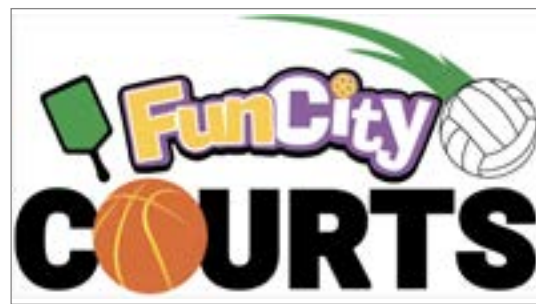
BURLINGTON - It's finally here! "The Courts" official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held Friday at the new sports complex at Fun City in Burlington.

The Midwest – Land of Four Equal Seasons. While each beautiful in their own right, they do not offer the opportunity for year-round community fitness, activity and sports training. This includes youth sports, both recreational and competitive, now fully recognized as leading in financial impact tourism within a community.

We are actually waking up to a dream that began over twelve years ago initiated by The Burlington Imagine Campaign.

Proving that dreams do come true, this has become a successful tribute to a small city, with a big dream, and an amazingly generous community of donors and volunteers.

The same people who brought you "The Turf" now bring you "The Courts". The Courts, located on the Fun City Campus, is a state-of-the-art, 40,000 square foot beauty. It is a joint venture between the Greater Burlington Area Sports Facilities (GBASF) Board of Directors, Chief Manager Andrew Ryerson, Donors and the Great River Entertainment/Fun



City (GRE) owners and management. Years of fundraising, concept design, development and construction have been

a team collaboration throughout. While the courts are run and operated by GBASF, they will work in coordination with Fun City's new "Courtside" adjacent facility, providing many exciting entertainment and concession options. It can be said that a combined indoor sports and entertainment complex of this scale is one of a kind.

Two Facilities, One Goal!

While bringing top notch sports and entertainment together for our extended community, the two new facilities aim to attract more visitors by providing the highest quality

See FACILITY, page 6

### EDITORIAL



## Missourians diss editor-in-need

People are so different anymore.

I remember growing up and being impressed with the "good neighbor" culture. Helping push a car out of the snow, helping the elderly carry things when you see them slowly moving with their hands full. Helping someone across the ice.

I was driving back from St. Louis Saturday morning at about 8 a.m. and pulled over into Troy for gas and a donut.

I put the pump handle in the reservoir on the side of the truck and dashed in for a chocolate milk, a donut, and a bottle of water. I jogged back to the car, jumped in, and turned the key. Rurr-ruuuur-rr. Rrr. Silence.

Fuuuuuuudge- Except I said the real word, the eff-dash-dash-dash word.

I went back in to see if the convenience store slash gas station had a jump box, but they just had cables. The attendant came out and tried to jump my F150 with his Wagoneer and we had no success.

After about 10 minutes of trying, he went back inside and I got on the phone with my insurance company to enact the Roadside Assistance program. They should call it the ERAP.

Eventual Roadside Assistance Program.

No one staffs any of these Roadside Assistance programs with people anymore. Everything is automated and it's one of the most frustrating things in the world. It's even worse on your phone where everything is minimized.

Just staff the damned line regionally. This is a move to save on having to pay health benefits, schedule vacation days, wages, unions etc. Just automatize the system and remove the human process.

After filling out the seven pages of automated data entry, we got a text saying what company had been notified and they should be able to get to us between 90 and 120 minutes. Sometimes you just have to be patient. I let the truck rest and tried to restart in 5-10 minute intervals. After about three tries, I Googled tow shops in Troy. I called the first one and what do you know, they

See BATTERY, page 6

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### WEATHER

MON 13 Nov.....Sunny & cool, 61° F/ 36° F ●●  
 TUE 14 Nov.....Sunny & cool, 63° F/ 41° F ●●  
 WED 15 Nov.....Sunny & cool, 65° F/ 44° F ●●

### IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 11/11.....5 25 27 38 50, Star Ball: 7 All Star Bonus: 4  
 LUCKY FOR LIFE 11/11.....10 24 27 31 37, Lucky Ball: 11  
 MEGA MILLIONS 11/10.....13 33 59 68 70, Mega Ball: 8 Megaplier: 3  
 PICK 3 MIDDAY 11/09, 11/10, 11/11.....6 5 4, 9 0 9, 6 6 8  
 PICK 3 EVENING 11/09, 11/10, 11/11.....4 2 2, 4 2 9, 8 1 2  
 PICK 4 MIDDAY 11/09, 11/10, 11/11.....8 2 9 8, 4 6 7 3, 7 1 6 9  
 PICK 4 EVENING 11/09, 11/10, 11/11.....3 2 0 2, 0 2 2 8, 0 4 7 7  
 POWERBALL 11/11.....112 14 24 57, Powerball: 7 Power Play: 4

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### JOANNE M. BEACH

Joanne Marie Beach, 78, of West Point, Iowa passed away at 9:14 p.m. Friday, November 10, 2023 at her home surrounded by her family.

She was born on August 4, 1945 in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of Mary (Peggy) Lampe & Lloyd Brown. She grew up in West Point, Iowa and graduated high school in 1963. After high school Joanne enrolled in the nursing program at the University of Iowa and graduated with her nursing degree in 1965.



BEACH

Survivors include her two children: Mary Lou (Jeff) Birdsell of Montrose, Iowa and James Bechtel of West Point, Iowa; four grandchildren: Danielle (Ian) Kreps of Fort Madison, Iowa, Caleb Birdsell of Montrose, Iowa, Jessy (Billy) Foutch of Bushnell of Illinois, and April Birdsell of Good Hope, Illinois; five great grandchildren: Rhett, Finnley, Jace, Scarlett, and Remi; sister Sue (Tom) Newton of Iowa City, Iowa, and niece Laura (Adam) Kahler and children Owen, Mason, and Addy. She is also survived by several cousins and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, stepfather Dale Turner, and sister Nancy Ratkowski.

Joanne began her nursing career at Sacred Heart Hospital in Fort Madison, she then changed directions and started to work in private practice for several doctors in West Point and Fort Madison. Eventually Joanne decided she wanted to work closer to home and she began working at the West Point Care Center. She was an excellent nurse and often received requests from family members to care for their loved ones.

Joanne married Ronald Bechtel in 1966 in West Point, they had two children together, they later divorced. Joanne married the love of her life Dick Beach on September 30, 1977. They met through mutual friends. She told her family that she had met her soulmate. Dick owned Beach Quarry, where she worked with Dick after she retired from nursing. They enjoyed each others company whether it was joy riding, fishing, gardening, or watching TV, as long as they were doing it together. Dick preceded her in death July 2009.

She had many interests in life including golf cart riding which was her favorite, reading, playing euchre especially when she was on the winning team, gardening, canning, and spending time with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. Monday, November 13, 2023 at the Schmitz Funeral Home, West Point, Iowa.

The family will receive friends 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at Saint Mary's Catholic Church in West Point.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at St. Mary's Catholic Church with Father Dan Dorau as celebrant.

Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery.

Memorials have been established in her memory for St. Mary's Catholic Church or Calvary Cemetery.

Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements.

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

## OBITUARIES

### ELIZABETH L. HARVEY

Elizabeth L. "Betty" Harvey, 92, of West Point, Iowa, passed away at 12:40 a.m. Saturday, November 11, 2023 at the West Point Care Center.

She was born on April 1, 1931 near Hamilton, Illinois, the daughter of Marie (Mitze) and Alvin Buckert. On September 11, 1954 she married Francis M. "Frank" Harvey at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Keokuk, he preceded her in death on December 6, 1997.



HARVEY

Survivors include her five sons: Jim (Margie) Harvey of Neenah, Wisconsin, Don (Patty) Harvey of Montrose, Jerry Harvey of West Point, Tom Harvey of West Point, and Pat Harvey of West Point; one daughter Pam (Chad) Kesselring of Montrose; grandchildren: Jeff (Catherine) Harvey, Mindy (Justin) Gloede, Katie (Marcus) Schneider, Tyler (Shelly) Harvey, Eric (Lauren) Harvey, Travis Harvey, Ashley (Micheal) Pilcher, Leah (Kurt) Adams, Abby (Collin) Eaves, Rylie (Keiten Benner) Kesselring, Brittany (Andy) Topel, Karley Harvey, and Danica Douglas; 18 great grandchildren including one baby girl on the way; one brother Larry (Cheryl) Buckert of Warsaw; Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; two daughters-in law Karla and Kara Harvey; three brothers: Bob, Russell, and Fred Buckert; and two sisters: Joyce Hartweg and Linda Moore.

Betty worked at Heatilator in Mount Pleasant where she later retired. She was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, St. Mary's Altar and Rosary Society, The American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, and a former member of St. Ann Circle Daughters of Isabella.

She enjoyed the holidays, playing cards, decorating for the holidays, spoiling her grandchildren and great grandchildren, spending time with her family, watching Hallmark Christmas shows, annual Christmas cookie baking, and spending time with her friends.

A visitation will be held from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point, where the family will receive friends from 3:00 p.m to 6:00 p.m. A parish Rosary will be recited at 3:30 p.m. and a Christian Wake Service at 6:00 p.m.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, November 16, 2023 at St. Mary's Catholic Church with Father Dan Dorau as celebrant.

Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery.

Memorials have been established in her memory for West Point Fire and Rescue or Western Illinois Old Threshers.

Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com).

#### Pen City Current obituary policy

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



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# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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

## Obituaries/Business News

### OBITUARIES

## SYLVIA "SUE" HARVEY

Sylvia "Sue" Harvey, 85 of Kahoka, MO passed away peacefully Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at the Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL.

She was born March 20, 1938 in Fort Madison, Iowa the daughter of Frank and Jennifer (Curl) Branch. Sue was a graduate of Fort Madison High School and attended beauty school in Burlington Iowa. Sue was a beautician in Fort Madison until her retirement from Basic Beauty, Basic Needs. Sue was a member of Luray Baptist Church.



HARVEY

Sue married the late Charles Edward Harvey on December 26, 1993. Sue was a loving and supportive mother, grandmother and friend. She enjoyed shopping and traveling with friends and family. Sue collected frogs and blue glass to display. She also enjoyed arranging flowers for weddings and memorials and ran The Westend Flower Shop out of her garage for many years in the month of May.

Left to cherish her memory is her son, Tracy Smith, a stepson, Rodney (Joni) Harvey, her grandson, Kurtis Smith, her granddaughter, Kasi Freeze and a great grandson, Jaxen Freeze, nieces, nephews and longtime friend, Barb Knox

Sue was preceded in death by her parents, granddaughter, Roxanne Smith, brothers; Eb Branch, Joseph Branch, Frank Branch, George Branch, Harvard Branch and Jim Branch, sisters; Mildred Cox and Bessie Privia, and longtime friend Gert.

A memorial service will be held 11a.m., Monday, November 13 at Luray Baptist Church in Luray, MO.

The Vigen Memorial Home in Kahoka is assisting the family with arrangements.

## Mediapolis Telephone releases details on broadband grant

LEE COUNTY - Mediapolis Telephone Company, DBA MTC Technologies is proud to announce that it has been awarded \$17,280,882.33 in the latest round of the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant, marking a significant step toward enhancing internet accessibility for the residents of Des Moines and Lee County. This achievement comes as part of the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) #008 grant, a vital opportunity that emphasizes the state's commitment to bridging the digital divide.

The total grant money allocated for the state of Iowa for this round of funding amounts to an impressive \$148,960,000, signaling a strong statewide effort to ensure that all communities, regardless of their location, have access to reliable and high-speed internet services.

The allocated funds will be utilized for the development of a comprehensive broadband network, covering an expansive area of 158 square miles. The region encompasses rural areas in both Des Moines and Lee Counties surrounding the communities of Augusta, Denmark, Fort Madison, Sawyer, West Point and Wever. The project's scope encompasses a diverse set of communities, and its successful implementation will have a far-reaching

impact on the socio-economic landscape, opening new opportunities for education, business, and social connectivity.

"We are thrilled to have been selected for this significant grant, which will enable us to bring reliable, high-speed internet access to previously underserved areas," said Marc Carlson, General Manager & CEO at MTC Technologies. "This initiative represents a pivotal moment in our commitment to fostering digital equity and ensuring that all residents have the resources they need to thrive in today's digital age."

Construction is scheduled to commence in 2024, with a targeted completion date of 2027. Throughout the implementation phase, MTC Technologies is dedicated to maintaining transparency and fostering open communication with the local communities, keeping residents informed about the progress and expected benefits of this transformative broadband project.

MTC Technologies extends its gratitude to the Iowa Department of Management and the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant program for recognizing the significance of this initiative and its potential to empower rural communities through enhanced connectivity.

## Cryotech gets ISO45001 designation for safety efforts

FORT MADISON - Cryotech Deicing Technology is proud to announce it has achieved certification to the ISO 45001:2018 Occupational Health and Safety standard, demonstrating its commitment to ensuring a safe and healthy work environment, sustainable work, and equal practices. This is the third ISO standard certification for Cryotech.

ISO standards define the structure of a company's management systems. Companies seeking certification must distinguish how their systems meet the standards' rigorous requirements. Once certified and to maintain certification, the systems are reviewed annually by a third party registrar to confirm that processes are being followed as documented.

The ISO 45001 Occupational Health and Safety standard offers the following benefits for Cryotech and its customers:

- Improved employee morale and retention – providing a healthy and safe environment is a minimum organizational requirement. ISO 45001 certification demonstrates Cryotech's commitment to taking responsible actions and building authentic relationships.
- Reduced accidents and injuries – ISO 45001 requires organizations to investigate accidents and near-misses, helping to prevent future incidents from occurring.
- Improved regulatory compliance – ISO 45001 extends a framework for developing and implementing policies, procedures, and measurable objectives, to improve health and safety performance.
- Improved customer satisfaction – ISO 45001 signals to customers that Cryotech is responsible and accountable.

Additionally, Cryotech holds ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015 certifications. ISO 9001 is the world's most widely recognized quality management standard and has been adopted by more than one million businesses. It outlines ways to achieve, as well as benchmark, consistent performance and service. ISO 14001 is the international standard that helps organizations reduce their environmental impact and put sustainability at the heart of the business. An effective environmental management system, as outlined by ISO 14001, can help an organization improve performance, reduce cost, and cut waste without compromising the product or service.

Cryotech Deicing Technology is a division of General Atomics International Services Corporation, a San Diego based company specializing in defense and diversified technologies.

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# Classifieds/Public Notices

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Lee County, Iowa**  
**Board of Supervisors**  
**Agenda**  
**DATE: Tuesday,**  
**November 14, 2023**  
**MEETING**  
**CONVENING TIME:**  
**10:00 A.M. (CDT)**  
**LOCATION:**  
**933 Avenue H**  
**Fort Madison, IA**

**---AGENDA---**

Lee County Board of Supervisors  
 Nov 14, 2023, 10:00-11:30 AM (America/Chicago)  
 Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.  
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**install**  
 If you would like to pose a question to the Board, please use the Chat feature and wait for the Chairman to address you. If you are participating by phone, please wait until everyone is done speaking before addressing the Board. Please keep your microphone muted to cut down on background noise. If you are participating by phone, press #6, this will mute your phone.  
 Pledge of Allegiance  
 Approve Agenda  
 Public Input  
 Consider Approval of Plans & Notice to Bidders for FY 24 Countywide Pavement Markings Consent Agenda  
 • Monday, November 6, 2023 Board Minutes  
 • Claims for Payment  
 • Class B Retail Alcohol License for Gamer Food Mart  
 Personnel Actions:  
 A. Reclassification - Sheriffs Office  
 B. Step Increase - Con-

servation  
 C. Merit Increase - Secondary Roads  
 D. New Hire (replacement) - EMS  
 Canvass the City/School Election  
 Commission or Committee Reports  
 Adjourn

Possible Workshop to Follow  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**CITIZENS WELCOME**

Vision and hearing assistance available upon request

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[www.leecounty.org](http://www.leecounty.org)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**PROCEEDINGS**  
**FORT MADISON**  
**CITY COUNCIL**  
**11/6/2023**

At 5:30 P.M., Council met in regular session on Monday, November

6, 2023. Mayor Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Gray, Roller, Rink and Bowker present. Council Members Amanus, Andrews and Yager were absent.

On motion, Council approved the Consent Agenda: Minutes of -17/2023; Liquor License Renewals: Fort Madison Tobacco & Liquor Outlet Plus and Aldi, Inc.; The Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023; Claims dated 11/2/203, October Manuals and October Library Claims; and Payroll of 10/20/2023 and 11/3/2023. Ryan Wilson of the Fort Madison YMCA gave an update on pool operations in 2023. Hinson Consulting gave an update on the City Manager Search.

The public hearing concerning the sale of 1730 Avenue H has been rescheduled for 12/19/2023. On motion, Council approved the second reading of an ordinance

replacing Title 3, Chapter 7, with a new Dangerous Buildings Chapter and adding Title 3, Chapter 10, International Property Maintenance Code. On motion, Council approved Ordinance No. D-107, rezoning property north of 2205 – 48th Street from R-1, One Family Dwelling District, to I-2, General Industrial District.

On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-74, approving reasonable competitive bidding procedures for disposition of certain property located within the Business US Highway 61 Corridor Urban Renewal Area; directing publication of related notices; and declaring the intent of the City to accept the offer submitted by Kapo Realty, Ltd., in the event that no qualified competing proposals are submitted. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-75, approving the Mayor's signature on Change Order #4 for PIP 2020-

07, Reconstruction of Old Hwy. 61 – 10th to 18th Streets, decreasing the amount of the contract by \$492,721.76. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-76, approving the Mayor's signature on an Easement with Interstate Power and Light (Alliant Energy). On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-77, approving the Mayor's signature on Change Order #1 for the Marina Asphalt Project increasing the amount of the contract by \$227, 712.48. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-78, accepting PIP 2022-02, Marina Improvements – Floating Docks as complete. On motion Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-79, approving the following applications for a Three-Year Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption for Justin Munford, 3726 Avenue L and Alfonso Arevalo, 1323 Avenue G. On motion, Council accepted the Civil Service

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY



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# Classifieds/Public Notices

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Commission's Sergeant Promotional List.

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 P.M.

EXPENDITURES	
General	\$93,586.97
Special Rev.	238,949.14
Road Use	33,553.96
Debt	123,950.99
Capital	168,806.30
Water	38,026.58
Sewer	12,880.49
Sld Waste, IWC	2,865.99
SW Utility	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$712,620.42</b>

REVENUES	
General	\$138,244.90
Special Rev.	343,990.03
Road Use	115,502.04
Debt	1,559.30
Capital	10,112.24
Water	352,407.33
Sewer	334,648.66
Sld Wst & IWC	94,414.89
Sewer	19,561.58
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,410,440.97</b>

### CLAIMS - 11/6/2023

ACCESS LEASING SYSTEM, PRINTER LEASE ..... 774.99  
 ACCESS SYSTEMS, COMPUTER/IT AGREEMENT ..... 5,531.62  
 AHLERS & COONEY, PC, PROF FEE..... 330.00  
 ALEXIS FIRE EQUIPMENT CO, REPAIR TRUCK ..... 488.41  
 ALLIANT ENERGY, ELECTRIC ..... 42,206.29  
 ALTORFER INC., REPAIR EQUIPMENT ..... 317.72  
 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, BATTERIES ..... 643.69  
 AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOC, 2024 MEMBERSHIP ..... 275.00  
 AMSOIL, INC, DIESEL OIL..... 312.11  
 ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES, UNIFORM ..... 655.52  
 AUDITOR OF STATE, FILING FEE ..... 850.00  
 BARCO MUNICIPAL PRODUCTS, GREEN PAINT ..... 419.40  
 BATES SANITATION & ASPHALT, ASPHALT (7TH ST F/G)... 12,000.00  
 BITUMINOUS MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, HOT PATCH..... 1,867.13  
 BJ 'S PERFORMANCE, REPLACE TIRE..... 45.00  
 BURLINGTON MUNI WATER, BACTERIA SAMPLE ..... 170.00  
 CALHOUN-BURNS AND ASSOC, PROF FEE ..... 3,024.60  
 CAYLER CONSULTING, LLC, TRAINING MATERIAL ..... 300.00  
 CHAD HANNUM, TRAINING SUPPLIES..... 67.02  
 CITY OF FORT MADISON, LEACHATE DISCHARGE ..... 4,306.77  
 CODY POTTHAST, TRAINING ..... 1,485.00  
 CPEC FUEL, SYSTEM @ MARINA..... 475.00  
 CUMMINS SALES & SERVICE, YEARLY MAINTENANCE ..... 1,351.32  
 CUSTOM BRICK - STONE CO., ROOF PROJECT - DOWN PYMT..... 39,530.00  
 DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP, SEWER SUP-

/s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor  
 ATTEST: /s/ Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk

PAYROLL 10/20/2023	
General	\$ 203,723.46
Old Fort	544.32
Emp Benefits	7,529.21
Road Use	23,143.35
Water	35,546.76
Sewer	32,113.27
Solid Waste	16,311.17
Airport	312.77
Storm Water	3,147.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$322,371.43</b>

PAYROLL 11/03/2023	
General	\$ 205,578.13
Old Fort	461.84
Road Use	23,172.25
Water	36,560.78
Sewer	31,704.49
Solid Waste	16,996.93
Airport	486.54
Storm Water	3,066.74
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$318,027.70</b>

PLIES ..... 5,392.15  
 DAVE VRADENBURG, NUISANCE REPAIR ..... 205.00  
 DAVE'S MARINE, FILTER/OIL..... 84.79  
 DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY, #10 WINDOW ENVELOPES..... 413.00  
 DONELSON CORPORATION, FILTER CARTRIDGES..... 3,893.69  
 DOUDS STONE, LLC, MODIFIED BASE ..... 1,769.28  
 DUNKIN GARAGE & TOWING, OIL CHANGE ..... 50.00  
 EUROFINS ENVIRONMENT TESTING, WEEKLY SAMPLE ..... 1,046.56  
 FARM & HOME SUPPLY, WATER/LIGHT BULBS ..... 254.80  
 FOREMOST PROMOTIONS, FIREFIGHTER HATS ..... 983.16  
 FORT MADISON WATER DEPT ,WATER @ AIRPORT..... 15.15  
 GALL'S, AN ARAMARK COMPANY, RACK ..... 260.82  
 GRAINGER, REPAIR WORK ..... 1,116.21  
 GREAT WESTERN SUPPLY CO, PAPER PRODUCTS..... 253.31  
 GREENWOOD CLEANING SYSTEM, CLEANING SUPPLIES..... 112.58  
 GREGORY WAROSH, DOG HOUSE..... 224.69  
 HELLIGE LAWN CARE, HEADSTONE TRIMMING ..... 4,185.00  
 HENDERSON PRODUCTS, INC, METER RENTAL..... 1,669.26  
 HILL PRINTING, PARKING TICKETS .... 1,750.98  
 HINSON CONSULTING, LLC, CITY MANAGER SEARCH..... 7,270.95  
 HOLT SUPPLY COMPANY, BALL VALVES ..... 332.72  
 HOWARD R GREEN COMPANY, PROF FEE - AVE H 10-18..... 11,458.12  
 HUFFMAN WELDING & MACHINE, REPAIR WORK ..... 2,560.48  
 HUMBURD AUTO SERVICE, REPAIR TIRE ..... 22.50  
 IA DEPT. OF PUBLIC DEFENSE, TRAINING ..... 201.00  
 IA LAW ENFORCE-

MENT ACADEMY, FIELD TRAINING ..... 380.00  
 ICAP, INSURANCE ..... 161.00  
 IDEAL READY MIX COMPANY, MASTERSEAL ..... 914.20  
 IOWA MUNICIPAL WORKERS, WORKMAN'S COMP #5 ..... 9,232.00  
 IOWA ONE CALL, LOCATES ..... 116.30  
 IOWA STATE PENITENTIARY, PRISON TOURS ..... 4,980.00  
 JEREMY ANDERSON, TESTING/TRAINING ..... 32.29  
 JONES CONTRACTING CORP, PAY EST #15 ..... 44,495.24  
 JOSEPH WALLACE, CAMPING REFUND ..... 200.00  
 KEMPKERS TRUE VALUE, PARTS/RENTAL/ POSTAGE ..... 2,138.13  
 KEOKUK CONTRACTORS, GENERATOR RENTAL..... 715.67  
 LEE COUNTY RECORDER, RECORDING FEE ..... 24.00  
 LEXIPOL LLC, POLICY MANUAL/TRAINING ..... 8,187.85  
 LYNCH DALLAS, P.C., PROF FEE..... 4,808.00  
 MARICORP US PAY EST #6 - DOCKS PHASE ..... 53,900.16  
 MCMASTER CARR SUPPLY CO, HOIST/SHACKLE/SLING ..... 1,533.94  
 MENARD - WEST BURLINGTON, WINCH/LOCK/ SUPPLIES ..... 667.22  
 MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY SERVICE, HAZMAT MATERIALS ..... 882.38  
 MICHAEL BALL, PILOT SERVICES ..... 800.00  
 MICROBAC LABORATORIES LLC, DAILY SAMPLING..... 342.00  
 MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY, HEAT ..... 312.41  
 MIDWEST RADAR & EQUIPMENT, RADAR EQUIPMENT ..... 280.00  
 MIGUEL LANDEROS, NUISANCE ..... 231.96  
 MIKE MERCER, AVE H 10-18 PROJECT (SIGN) ..... 1,864.48  
 MISSISSIPPI VALLEY EMBR, UNIFORMS ..... 1,285.00  
 MOHRFELD ELECTRIC, REPAIR CONTROL PANEL ..... 1,440.52  
 MOTOR PARTS & EQUIPMENT CO, V-BELT ..... 27.24  
 MOWEN CLEANING SERVICE LLC, JANITORIAL SERVICE... 1,311.50  
 MUNICIPAL SUPPLY INC., VALVE BOX ..... 4,566.68  
 MWCNC, GRATES - 13TH/AVE G ..... 375.00  
 NORRIS ASPHALT PAVING, SURFACING ..... 2,080.41  
 NORTH LEE CO HISTORICAL SOC, DONATED WORK HOURS ..... 1,798.50

NORTHERN SAFETY CO. INC., RESPIRATOR/ APRONS ..... 808.47  
 O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE, INC., CLEANER/SENSORS ..... 1,313.52  
 OUTSIDE IN AVIATION, LLC, FLIGHT FOR FUSES..... 901.00  
 PEN CITY CURRENT, JOB POSTING ..... 119.98  
 PERMAR SECURITY SERVICES, ALARM SYSTEM ..... 252.06  
 POSTMASTER, FORT MADISON, POSTAGE ..... 1,968.90  
 QUILL LLC, OFFICE SUPPLIES ..... 76.68  
 R&J QUALITY DECALING INC., LOGO... 186.60  
 RAIDEN'S AUTO SALVAGE, TRAINING ..... 450.00  
 SE IA REGIONAL PLANNING COMM, SEIBUS (JUL-SEP 2023) ..... 2,125.00  
 SINCLAIR TRACTOR, BLADE WITH PARTS ..... 402.50  
 SOLUMLANG DESIGN, - FINAL PAYMENT ..... 6,000.00  
 SOUTHEAST IA REGIONAL MEDICAL, PRE-EMPLOYMENT SCREEN..... 235.00  
 SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, TRAINING ..... 790.00  
 STATE HYGIENIC LABORATORY, SAMPLE TESTING ..... 21.00  
 STIVERS FORD, VEHICLE..... 44,488.00  
 TIM'S REPAIR SHOP, CHAINS ..... 79.50  
 TRUCK REPAIR INC., REPAIR WORK .... 755.40  
 TRUELINE FIRE & SAFETY, CLOTHING ALLOW ..... 701.88  
 ULINE, CHAIRS ... 768.76  
 UPS, POSTAGE ..... 11.81  
 VEENSTRA & KIMM, INC ,PROF FEE..... 110.00  
 W.R. FAETH, WHOLESALE HALLOWEEN CANDY ..... 813.42  
 WATER SOLUTIONS UNLIMITED, CHEMICALS ..... 23,834.48  
 WEST CENTRAL FS, INC ,FUEL ..... 378.00  
 WESTON WILSON, TRAINING ..... 28.09

402,656.92  
 GENERAL ..... 54,460.55  
 SPECIAL REVENUES ..... 48,782.13  
 ROAD USE..... 17,703.33  
 CAPITAL PROECTS ..... 123,950.99  
 WATER..... 128,248.30  
 WASTEWATER ..... 20,396.53  
 SOLID WASTE .. 7,473.08  
 AIRPORT..... 640.60  
 STORM WATER UTILITY ..... 1,001.41  
 TOTAL ..... 402,656.92

### MANUAL CLAIMS OCT 2023

ALLIANT ENERGY, ELECTRIC..... 11,446.62  
 ANSER IOWA, ANSWERING SERVICE ..... 220.00  
 ASCENT - AIRPORT FUEL, AIRPORT FUEL ..... 3,118.06  
 CENTURY LINK, PHONE ..... 186.57  
 CHASE CARD SERVICE, POLICE VEICLES ..... 4,158.43  
 DON FRANKLIN AUTO, 2 DURGANO POLICE VEH & DELIVER..... 81,116.00  
 HY-VEE ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE, CLEANING SUPPLIES ..... 44.02  
 IOWA DEPT. OF REVENUE, TAXES FOR SEPT 2023..... 17,153.04  
 MIDWEST GROUP BENEFITS, FLEX SPENDING/SELF INS ..... 31,538.63  
 POSTMASTER, FORT MADISON, POSTAGE ..... 482.06  
 SQUARE APP, SQUARE FEES ..... 24.82  
 WELLMARK BC/BS, HEALTH INS PREMIUMS - NOV 2023.... 102,786.25  
 WEX BANK, FUEL USAGE ..... 17,702.89  
 YMCA, FORT MADISON, FINAL PAYMENT ..... 19,133.49  
 TOTAL ..... 289,110.88  
 GENERAL ..... 34,394.20  
 SPECIAL REVENUES ..... 170,217.42  
 ROAD USE..... 15,850.63  
 CAPITAL PROJECTS ..... 40,558.00  
 WATER..... 17,630.05  
 WASTEWATER ..... 5,407.41

SOLID WASTE .. 1,864.58  
 AIRPORT..... 3,188.59  
 TOTAL ..... 289,110.88

### LIBRARY 2023

ACCESS SYSTEMS, INK/TONER CARTRIDGE ..... 269.53  
 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, MONITOR ..... 1,789.03  
 BAKER & TAYLOR, SHELF MATERIAL ..... 2,354.25  
 CENGAGE LEARNING INC./GALE, SHELF MATERIAL ..... 24.69  
 DEMCO, UTILITY GLASS ..... 188.80  
 DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY, SHEET PROTECTORS..... 15.33  
 EXCEL IT SERVICES, TROUBLESHOOT ALARM ..... 146.88  
 FLAG STORE USA, US FLAGS..... 52.00  
 KANOPY, INC., PLAY CREDITS..... 54.00  
 MEDIACOM BUSINESS, PHONE..... 415.75  
 MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY, HEAT.... 11.61  
 MOHRFELD ELECTRIC, INSTALL SECURITY CAMERA ..... 6,153.87  
 MOWEN CLEANING SERVICE LLC, JANITORIAL SERVICE ..... 905.10  
 PETTY CASH - SARAH CLENDIN, PROGRAM SUPPLIES ..... 78.60  
 QUILL LLC, SHEET PROTECTORS ..... 113.00  
 RMC IMAGING, INC, READER PRINTER ..... 7,375.00  
 ROWMAN & LITTLEFIELD PUBLICATION, CALENDAR OF EVENTS ..... 110.18  
 ZOOBEAN, INC., MEMBERSHIP ..... 795.00  
 TOTAL ..... 20,852.62  
 GENERAL ..... 4,732.22  
 SPECIAL REVENUES 16,120.40  
 TOTAL 20,852.62

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## From the Front

# “The Courts” opens with wide array of possibilities

**FACILITY** - Continued from Page 1

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# Direct chat better than automation

**BATTERY** - Continued from Page 1

aren’t “really” in Troy and it was about an hour to two hours before they could get there.

I called the next one on the line. A man answered and I told him the situation that I was trying to get back to Iowa and he said he would try to get someone over in half an hour. The guy showed up in 20 minutes, plugged the jump box in, told me to get in and turn it over. Vroooooom.

The point here is that it was negotiating the human process. HUMANS. Not AI, not automation. A phone call and a man answered. I explained to the man what my situation was, he sent someone right over and problems solved. I’m furious with the insurance company. I’m furious with the dealership I bought the vehicle from that told me not two months ago there was nothing wrong with my battery.

I’m furious with every single Missourian or tourist that saw my hood propped up with me craning my head in the engine and didn’t stop to ask if they could help. Not one person. It would take both hands and my feet to count the number of people that looked straight at me or my truck with quizzical looks. But none came over to see if they could help.

Maybe it’s Missouri, or maybe they were all driving through enroute to Texas. But people need to get back to being inherently good. I told my children for close to 30 years that people are genuinely good. Sure, there are the bad people out there. It’s a society. But inherently we should be good, and ask if we can help. Sometimes it might take 30 minutes out of your day, and some days it could take five minutes or less. What happened to us?

Why are we so disengaged with each other? Is it fear? Mistrust? Hatred? Apathy?

I mean, I could see if it was on the side of the road in the dark, not pulling over to help. But a vehicle and its owner in broad daylight in a convenience store parking lot? Not ONE person

offering to assist?

I got it taken care of and we were safe and on our way, but it shook me a bit that people are getting this disengaged with each other. I’ve stopped to help at car accidents with serious injuries, stopped to help dig people out of the snow, or push a car through an intersection, helped with first aid when a customer or a friend is in trauma.

Not that you’re a hero for stopping and helping, it should just be the norm and not the exception. We are a good people, but we need to show we are a good people - genuine, considerate, concerned, and compassionate.

Don’t get me started on the automation, that’s a progression of the market-based system and profit-margin insulation. Corporate America continues to bail on its global customers and we need to be vocal about that transition. Those that are successful are top-notch customer service freaks, e.g. Disney, Hilton, etc.

To wrap it up, I went to O’Reilly’s in Troy and got a new battery. The gentleman behind the counter appreciated my humor when I said if it costs more than \$500 I’m coming over the counter. His co-worker immediately slid him a busted off screw driver as a shiv for defense. We all laughed. He came out and installed the battery. I gave him \$20 for the effort. I had no tools in my truck.

My morning in Troy ended up on a great note and I smiled most of the way home.

That was probably due to the chicken strips I got at the BP Amoco in Hannibal across from the Days Inn on the south side of town. They have the best chicken strips I’ve ever had and some kick-butt huge cajun fried catfish filets that you just pick up and eat with your fingers – 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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