

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 | 7 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 205



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

## Talbot group presses county

**OPIOID FUNDS:** Owner asks for \$15,000 of remaining opioid settlement funds

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – The owner of the Talbot-Sober Living Residence in Keokuk pushed Lee County Supervisors for funding to help with her facility that treats men suffering from addiction.

Kathy Gabel, owner of the facility and Advance Home Health Care out of Montrose, asked the county's Board of Supervisors to support the facility with a \$15,000 contribution out of the county's opioid abatement fund.

The facility was set up to help men regain a footing with their employers and families and shirk the yokes of alcohol-



SCHULZ

ism and drug addiction.

"I developed the Talbot Hall and currently serve as a board member," Gabel said.

"Pain is what the patient says it is. As a medical professional, you have to address it."

She said narcotics for chronic pain have been the drugs of choice for physicians and the addictions that were created made patients search for other sources after prescriptions ran out.

Then, when the legal sources of pain management were exhausted, some patients would turn to the streets. She said

See FUNDS, page 7

## EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



## Multiple sclerosis, Meet God

When Ginnie's brother, John Harvey, of Jefferson City, Missouri was 31, he was driving home when he noticed there was an image on the left side of his vision. When he turned his head, the image moved. All of a sudden, at a stop light, he couldn't see. He nudged his pick-up to the curb, got out and sat on the rear bumper. A motorist stopped and asked if he was all right. John said, "No, I can't see."

He came to in an ambulance on the way to the hospital. The paramedics told him he'd had a seizure. A plethora of tests followed, revealing two brain masses that were thought to be tumors. The doctor told John, "This doesn't look good."

John's pastor was with him and asked John about his relationship with Jesus Christ. "Are you ready?" he asked John.

Without hesitation, John said, "I know who I belong to."

John was transferred to another hospital with expertise in cancer. However, after more tests, that included a spinal tap and brain biopsy, it was discovered that the masses were not cancer, but inflammation. There was also inflammation behind his left eye. Diagnosis: Multiple Sclerosis.

In the 14 days John spent in the hospital, his general doctor dropped in to see him in the early mornings. The doctor read scripture and prayed with John. John was also on his church prayer list so there were many people praying for him. One of them from his church was a young lady, Rebecca, who didn't know John, but prayed for him anyway. This was in October, 1994.

John's neurologist put him on a strong medication, BETASERON, and told him not to drive for six months. John had to give himself a shot every other day, which he managed. It was a time where John had to get used to the idea that he had an insidious disease, with the outcome

See HARVEY, page 6



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Christmas digital display in front of the Emmett home is up again for the second year. This year Matt Emmett has added singing Minions. Those wishing to stop and observe the display can do so on the north side of Avenue E in the 800 block. Synchronized music can be found on FM 87.9.

## LOCAL NEWS

### 2x4s for Hope takes over county's FM apartments

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The local chapter of 2x4s For Hope has expanded its property management portfolio from tiny homes to regular-sized apartments.

The Iowa 2x4s for Hope Fort Madison Chapter is now the owner of 11

apartments the county used to own and use for low-income housing.

Lester Kistner is director of the local 2x4s for Hope Chapter and said the acquisition, which was made by a possible through a donation of the property to the 501c3 organization, will help expand what can be done for veteran housing in Lee County.

Kistner was on hand at Monday's regular Lee County Board of Supervisors meeting and was pleased with the unanimous decision to donate the properties to the organization.

"We're going to go in and refurbish them and take veterans in the county

See DONATION, page 6

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## WEATHER

TUE 05 Dec.....Mostly cloudy & chilly, 41° F/ 25° F  
 WED 06 Dec.....Mostly sunny & chilly, 42° F/ 34° F  
 THU 07 Dec.....Sunny, breezy, & cool, 57° F/ 43° F

## IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 12/03.....1115 28 36 40, Lucky Ball: 11  
 PICK 3 MIDDAY 12/03.....2 3 3  
 PICK 3 EVENING 12/03.....9 4 1  
 PICK 4 MIDDAY 12/03.....7 5 6 0  
 PICK 4 EVENING 12/03.....0 5 2 4

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### PAUL W. MOELLER

Paul William Moeller, 74, of Salem, Iowa, passed away at 8:00 a.m. Thursday, November 30, 2023, at his home in Salem.

He was born on December 14, 1948, in Fort Madison, Iowa, the son of Albert J. and Mary (Scharpman) Moeller.



MOELLER

On September 14, 1968, he married Jeanne Lynne Shumaker at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Houghton. She preceded him in death on July 25, 1988.

He is survived by his children: Michael (Tiffany) Moeller, Monte (Kimberly) Moeller; special friend: Sharon Walden; grandchildren: Lynne Moeller, Brayden Moeller, Kayla (Taylor) Jones, Tyler Hook, Carissa Seate, Gracelynn Moeller; great grandchildren: Isabell Seate, Maverick Seate, Felicity Jones; brother: Greg (Lana) Moeller; sisters: Vera (Lonnie) Glasscock, and Eileen (Robert) Barnett. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews; special daughters: Angela Ross, Holly (Gary) Turner; special grandchildren: Chloe Ross, Dylan Turner, Sophie Turner and Cash Turner.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife: Jeanne; brothers: Dennis, Victor, Kevin, Larry, Darrell and Marvin Moeller and sister: Marilyn Boecker.

Paul attended St. John's Catholic School. He served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War. He worked as a Service Technician and Shop Foreman for Hassenfritz, Inc., Tom Hassenfritz Equipment and Kruse Implement. Paul was a member of St. John's Catholic Church, the Salem American Legion Simkin-Pidgeon Post #49 and the Houghton Knights of Columbus. He enjoyed spending time with his family, working on the farm, watching game shows and working on equipment. He was an avid St. Louis Cardinals, Green Bay Packers, Kansas City Chiefs and Iowa Hawkeyes fan.

A visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, December 16, 2023, at St. John's Catholic Church in Houghton.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, December 16, 2023, at St. John's Catholic Church in Houghton with Father Dan Dorau as celebrant.

Burial will be at Salem East Cemetery, Salem, Iowa, with full military rites presented by the Salem American Legion Simkin - Pidgeon Post #94.

A memorial has been established in his memory for his grandkids college fund. He has always encouraged them to complete their higher education.

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

### PHYLLIS M. EMDIA

Phyllis M. Emdia, 90, of Ft. Madison passed away on Friday, December 1, 2023.

She was born on July 23, 1933 in Ft. Madison to Earl and Louise Allen Hayes.



EMDIA

On February 18, 1950 she married Donald "Corky" Emdia in Fairfield and he passed away on December 15, 2006. Phyllis was a member of Harmony Bible Church. She was a past member of the FMCH Auxiliary and Community Bible Study where she was a core leader for over twenty years. She enjoyed baking and reading. Most of all Phyllis loved her family and serving Jesus.

Survivors include two daughters, Karen Gurney and Nancy (Dick) Klemensen; one son, Donald (Cyndi) Emdia; two grandchildren, Jessica (Chase) Greiner and Alex Emdia; two brothers, Steve Hayes and Gene Hayes. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, a daughter, Sherry Emdia and two brothers, Wig and Melvin Hayes.

A private family service will be held at King-Lynk Funeral Home followed by burial at Oakland Cemetery.

Online condolences may be left at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

## OBITUARIES

### WALTER TWEEDY

Walter Tweedy, 68, of Montrose, IA, died Thursday, November 30, 2023 at his home.

He was born October 27, 1955 in Keokuk, IA the son of David and Elsie Senf Tweedy. Walter graduated from Central Lee High School in Donnellson, IA with the class of 1974.

On June 7, 2003, Walter was united in marriage to Peggy Haage in Montrose, IA. She survives.

Other survivors include five children and step-children, Mike Tweedy of Donnellson, IA, Angie Tweedy (Cory Meier) of Jeffersonville, VT, Dee Huston of Keokuk, Rick Huston of Keokuk and Joni Kite of Keokuk, twelve grandchildren and step-grandchildren and seventeen step- great-grandchildren. He is also survived by two brothers, Rodney Tweedy (Jennie) of Montrose, IA and Steve Tweedy (Kathy) of Revere, MO, two sisters, Mary Bell (Gene) of Laclede, ID and Sherry Wells (Dave) of Alexandria, MO and one brother-in-law, Ed Haage of Keokuk.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, Dan Tweedy, one step-son, Danny Huston and one step-grandchild, CaLove Sackman.

Walter had been employed by Hickey Construction in Keokuk as a head mechanic for over thirty years. He was a co-founder of Green Frog Distillery in Montrose, IA.

Walter was a mechanic extraordinaire. He could fabricate things out of nothing and turn them into amazing projects. Walter built and repaired all types of trucks. He enjoyed mushroom hunting and loved spending time with his four legged companion, Bear.

A Celebration of Life of will be held at a later date.

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

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

### 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

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### JOHNNIE KEPPEL

Johnnie Keppel, 79, of Keokuk, IA, passed away Sunday, December 3, 2023 at Scotland County Hospital in Memphis, MO.

He was born February 16, 1944 in Keokuk, IA the son of Albert Keppel II and Charlotte Kayser Hays.



KEPPEL

He graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 1963.

Johnnie was a veteran of the United States Army. He was drafted in 1968 at the age of 24. He was there for four months, while leading his platoon he stepped on a land mine. He was injured from shoulder to feet and spent the next six months at Walter Reed Hospital. He then spent his last nine months at Fort Leonard Wood and returned home in May 27, 1970. Johnnie received a Purple Heart for his bravery and sacrifice and unwavering dedication to our country.



On May 23, 1980 Johnnie was united in marriage to Teresa Laffoon in Wayland, MO. She survives.

Other survivors include two daughters, Amanda Mastin (Wade) of Boone, IA and Chastity Kearns (Chris) of Montrose, IA, one son, Gary Keppel (Heather) of Louisiana, seven grandchildren: Krystal Keppel, Andrea Lutes, Valerie Keppel, Alexandria Mastin, Madison Kearns, Logan Kearns and Maya Kearns. Two step-grandchildren, Mitchell Mastin and Mason Mastin, and nine great-grandchildren. He is also survived by one brother, Albert Keppel III (Kathleen) of Keokuk.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his step-dad, Roy Hays and one daughter in infancy, Rachele.

Johnnie had been employed by Fruehauf from 1968 until the company's closure in 2001.

Johnnie was a talented woodworker and made all types of furniture and wood projects. He enjoyed listening to music and was an excellent dancer. Johnnie was a classic car enthusiast and had a '68 Chevy Camaro convertible that he was very proud of. He loved to enter it in car shows and drive it in parades.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m., Friday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Pastor Dave Barrett officiating. Burial with military rites will be held in the Keokuk National Cemetery.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Thursday, at the funeral home with family meeting with friends from 5-7 p.m.

Memorials may be made to Toys for Tots or Wreaths Across America.

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

## OBITUARIES

### YVONNE H. HAWKINS

Yvonne H. Hawkins, 83, of Ft. Madison, passed away on Friday, December 1, 2023 at 4:28 PM at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.



HAWKINS

She was born on November 12, 1940 in Alexandria, MO to Edward and Nina Newman Jeffery. After Yvonne's father passed away, her mom married Arnold Mitchell and together they raised her and her sister, Gwen. On August 24, 1958 she married Forrest Hawkins in New Boston, IA and he passed away on

December 9, 2009. Yvonne worked at Sheaffer Pen and DuPont. She enjoyed sewing, quilting, scrapbooking and crafts.

Survivors include two sons, Jeff (Leslie) Hawkins and Mark (Brenda) Hawkins both of Montrose; five grandchildren, Trevor (Melissa) Hawkins, Dylan Hawkins, Caylie Hawkins, Samantha (Tyler) Watts and Cheyene Hawkins and four great grandchildren, Sophia Hawkins, Bailey Hageman, Carrley Hageman and Presley Hageman. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and a sister, Gwen.

Friends may call after 3 PM on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory where the family will meet with friends from 4-6 PM. The funeral service will be held on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 10:30 AM at King-Lynk Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Soldiers' Circle, Oakland Cemetery.

A memorial has been established in her memory and online condolences may be left at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

## OBITUARIES

### AURORA I. WAIDER

Aurora Ilene Waider, 73, of Ft. Madison, passed away on December 4, 2023 at 9:54 AM at Birkwood Village in Ft. Madison.

She was born on June 8, 1950 in Ft. Madison to Richard and Aurora Piloto Waider. Ilene operated Ilene's Restaurant in Montrose for many years and then operated Sorrento's Pizza for five years. She was a member of the Eagles and the Moose and enjoyed reading, bowling and bingo.



WAIDER

Survivors include one daughter, Angela (Johnny) Lankford of Martinsville, IN; three grandchildren, KeeLee Goins, Chase Langford and David Greenwald; three great grandchildren, Hudson, Ripley and Lyla; two brothers, Mark Waider of Arvada, CO and Duane Waider of Los Angeles, CA; two sisters, Barb Meierotto of Montrose and Charlotte Martin of Ft. Madison; nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a son, Richard Greenwald and a grandson.

The family will meet with friends from 12:30-1:30 on Thursday, December 7, 2023 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A graveside service will follow at the Montrose Cemetery.

Online condolences may be left at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

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## Sports/Classifieds

# Lady Crusaders set pace early in win over Falcons

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

WEST BURLINGTON – The Holy Trinity girls' basketball team stayed perfect on the year with a 63-26 drubbing of SEI Superconference rival West Burlington Friday night at the Falcons' gym.

Senior Mary Kate Bendlage scored 20 points to lead HTC, but Teagan Snaadt was right behind with 18 and Presley Myers got into double figures as well with 11.

The Lady Crusaders sent a message early that the rebuilding Falcons were outgunned with Bendlage getting 10 of her points in the first five minutes. Snaadt opened the scoring with a 3-ball from the left wing and then Bendlage ripped six straight before West Burlington's Isabella Callison scored inside for the Falcon's first bucket.

Snaadt capped the first quarter with a steal at mid-court and layup for a 21-2 lead.

The onslaught continued in the second quarter before HTC Head Coach Tony Johnson began experimenting with his bench as the Crusaders took a 32-5 lead with just over three minutes left in the half.

Senior Natalie Randolph, who's still working her way back into the offense after sitting her junior year out with a knee injury, chipped in with five points, including a 3-pointer off a Bendlage steal for the 32-5 lead.

West Burlington got things turned around in the third quarter putting up 13 points keeping pace with the Crusaders' 15. But the Falcons managed just four points in the final period as Johnson emptied the bench



SNAADT

a couple times getting everyone into the game.

"That's huge because we have to develop a bench," Johnson said.

"Reagan's (Holvoet) out with a concussion, which is horrible. That's a senior who's played, but Adalyn (Kruse) has taken her role, but I need to find a

couple more guards to give Natalie, Teagan, and Anna a break. We need to get some kind of rotation even if it's for two or three minutes. If someone steps up, I'll put them out there."

Freshman Elizabeth Griffin was one who came in early in the rout. She also finished up the scoring with a bucket in the final minute.

Snaadt said the Crusaders are working with a shallow bench, but the top five or six are in good enough shape to keep up with the pace of the game.

"I love the pace of play. Moving up and down the court is a big thing for us and we've been working on that this year," the senior said.

"When you speed up the game we're all athletes that have played since sixth grade so we don't get out of whack a lot."

But Johnson said he was not unhappy with any part of the Crusaders' performance Friday night.

"Nothing disappointed me tonight at all," he said. "We tried some stuff tonight. We played really well Monday, but we didn't play like we thought we should have Tuesday. We cleaned up a bunch of stuff that last two days.

"It all starts with defense. At times we played decent

at Danville, but we got lost a lot trying two or three different defenses. They wanted to make up for not playing well there tonight."

HTC is 3-0 overall and 2-0 in SEI Superconference play. They had to stay in the game the full four quarters in a 48-42 win over Danville Tuesday.

Johnson said he's also seeing progress from sophomore Myers who had three blocks in Friday's game.

"People forget she's just a sophomore. Everyone sees her and says oh my gosh she's 25 and been playing forever, but she's a 15-year old sophomore."

Kruse has been a nice break for Myers inside playing solid defense and is starting to work her way into the offense. She also gives the Crusaders another quick foot in transition.

Johnson said he wants the Crusaders to dictate pace in every game.

"As much as possible we want to dictate everything. After the first quarter, we geared it down and saved their legs, but I want to go up and down."

Snaadt admits the pace of the first three games has been tiring, but she's ready for the challenge.

"I definitely get tired, but I just try to push myself through and stay as conditioned as I can," she said.

"We always look for each other and we judge the flow of the game. If we're feeling we can hit a shot we'll shoot it, but if there's an opportunity to go inside we'll do that. It's kind of like everyone has a part every game and sometimes that's different - maybe lock down defense instead of 25 points per game, or maybe it's scoring 25 points per game."

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## Classifieds/Public Notices

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

### PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
AGENDA  
KEOKUK CITY  
COUNCIL MEETING  
December 7, 2023  
501 Main Street  
5:30 P.M.**

1. Call to Order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance:
3. Roll Call.
4. Mayor's Correspondence:
  - Minutes of Infrastructure/Sanitation/Waste Treatment Committee of November 15, 2023;
  - Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting & Council Workshop of November 16, 2023;
  - Resolution approving a Liquor License for West K Mart, 707 Palean Street, Class B Retail Alcohol License – effective December 8, 2023;
  - Resolution approving a Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption for the following:
    - Alex Derr, 1956 Hilton Rd., single family dwelling;
    - John & Janet Boyle, 434 Belknap Place, single family dwelling;
    - Sheila Sapp, 808 Johnson St. Rd., garage;
    - Motion to pay bills and transfers listed in Register No.'s 5376-5378;
7. (a) Now is the time & place for a public hearing on amendment to the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 annual budget. A public hearing notice was published in the Daily Gate City on November 21, 2023.
- (b) Consider resolution amending budget for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024.
8. Consider resolution approving Aquatic Center management agreement with Hoerner YMCA.
9. Consider resolution of support and financial commitment for the Main Street Program in Keokuk, Iowa.
10. Consider resolution setting snow emergency routes.
11. Consider resolution acknowledging the canvas of votes for the 2023 municipal election held November 7, 2023.
12. Consider resolution approving a lease agreement with Roquette America at the SIDC.
13. Consider resolution for professional services Amendment No. 1 South 18th Street reconstruction project.
14. Motion to approve Union Depot change

- order #3.
15. Motion to approve Union Depot change order #4.
  16. Motion to approve amendment 1 final payment to be divided into four equal payments.
  17. Boards & Commissions:
  18. Council Liaison Reports:
  19. Staff Reports:
  20. New Business:
  21. Adjourn Meeting.

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
MEETING NOTICE  
Lee County  
Conservation Board  
Agenda  
November 6, 2023  
Lee County  
Conservation Center  
2652 Hwy 61, Montrose,  
IA 52639  
4:00 p.m.**

- Microsoft Teams meeting  
Join on your computer, mobile app or room device  
[Click here to join the meeting](#)  
Meeting ID: 232 413 706 11 Passcode: gSQT4  
Call to Order  
1. Approval of Agenda  
2. Approval of Minutes from October 10th & 19th 2023  
3. Public Input  
This is the time of the meeting that a citizen may address the Board on any matters pertaining to the Lee County Conservation Board. The Board cannot take formal action at the meeting on matters not included on the regular agenda but may ask the staff to research the matter or have the matter placed on a subsequent agenda.  
4. Approval of Bills  
5. Approval of Financial Report  
6. Discuss and Take Possible Action on Approving Truck for 24/25 Fiscal Year  
7. Discuss and Take Possible Action on Tractor Repair  
8. Discuss and Action on Resolution IDNR Fish Habitat Program Application  
9. Discuss and Take Action on Concrete Campsites  
10. Take Possible Action on Step Increase for Environmental Educator II  
11. Foundation Update  
12. Staff and Director Reports  
13. Board Member Comments  
14. Adjournment

Workshop may follow:  
Hearing and vision assistance available upon request. Citizens are welcome to all LCCB meetings.  
Next regular meeting – November 6, 2023 at 4pm

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
TENTATIVE AGENDA  
FORT MADISON  
CITY COUNCIL  
Date: Tuesday,  
December 5, 2023  
Time: 5:30 P.M.  
Place: City Council  
Chambers, City Hall**

INVOCATION  
ROLL CALL  
VISITORS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS:  
At this time persons may address Council on any matters not on the Council agenda. After identifying yourself by name and address, please briefly state your issue.

PLEASE NOTE: This is not an opportunity to discuss issues with Council or to get information. In accordance with Open Meetings law, Council may not deliberate upon, nor take action on any complaint or suggestion or respond to any allegations which are not part of the published agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA  
1. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to approve the consent agenda:

- Minutes of November 21, 2023;
- Liquor License Renewal: Garner Foods, 2236 Avenue L, effective December 15, 2023 – Class B Retail;
- Liquor License Renewal: River Rocks Bar & Grill, 709 Avenue H, effective January 28,

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- 2024 – Class C Retail;
- Claims dated November 30, 2023, November Manuals and November Library Claims; and
  - Payroll of December 1, 2023.
- COMMUNITY RE-PORTS: Justin Pieper, Assured Partners  
ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS  
2. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to adopt a resolution accepting the submitted plat of survey and waiving subdivision requirements (Title 11 - Subdivision Regulations) for property owned by Craig and Margaret Abolt on Chalk Ridge Road. (SEE COUNCIL REPORT NO. 2023-42)  
3. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to adopt a resolution approving the following

- applications for a Three-Year Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption:  
A. Justin & Melissa Pieper, 2 Blackhawk Heights (Addition)  
B. Dalton Ray Mabeus, 3023 Avenue K (New construction)  
4. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to adopt a resolution approving the Mayor's signature on a Grant Agreement with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) for the PORT Phase IV Trail Project. (SEE COUNCIL REPORT NO. 2023-43)  
5. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to adopt a resolution approving the Mayor's signature on an Engineering Services Agreement between

- McClure Engineering and the City of Fort Madison for PIP-2023-03 Rehabilitate and Remark Airfield Pavements at the Fort Madison Municipal Airport.  
6. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to adopt a resolution appointing (blank) as City Manager and authorizing the Mayor and Clerk's signatures on an Employment Agreement.  
OTHER  
UPDATES  
DEPARTMENT REPORTS  
COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS/MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS  
ADJOURNMENT - The next City Council meeting will be at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, December 19, 2023.

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## Education News/From the Front

# Relatives MS put in hands of God

**HARVEY** - Continued from Page 1

unknown. But his faith was growing. He had to trust that God would take care of him.

There was another episode with a seizure when John was pheasant hunting with a friend. When he went to Promise Keepers at Mile High Stadium in Denver with his father, he was delighted to realize his general doctor, the one who had prayed with him in the hospital, was sitting four rows back. It was a comforting to know that so many people were behind him.

Then John went to a Singles Adult Retreat at Windermere Baptist Conference Center, Lake of the Ozarks and listened to a pastor preach a sermon on facing fears. "How appropriate," John thought. Later that night, he took a flashlight and walked off into the woods to have a talk with God. "God, I don't know where this disease is going, or how it's going to end, so I give it to You. You take care of it, I can't. Whatever is your will. Thy will be done." A peace came over John that he hadn't felt in years. Everything was going to be all right, no matter the outcome.

Some friends of John's from church invited him for dinner where he would meet a young lady named Rebecca. She had

prayed for him when she didn't even know who he was. They hit it off. Rebecca and John are now married and have two children.

John was sick of giving himself shots. He felt like a pincushion. He met with his neurologist and told him that he didn't think he had MS anymore. The neurologist seemed surprised. "Your recovery is amazing, John, considering that when white males get MS, they have worse symptoms and suffer more than others. You're in the worst demographic, but you're doing great. I've never seen a case like this."

John smiled. "It's God, Doc. I put it in God's hands, and He's taking care of me."

"Well, I'm going to change your medication to something lighter. No more shots. The doctor winked at him, "But you keep doing what you're doing."

John, now 60, doesn't feel like he has MS anymore, but he takes his medication. He would be willing to relive what he went through because there was so much good that came from it. John gives full credit and glory to God for healing him. That is why he is on earth, to glorify God.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at [curtswarm@yahoo.com](mailto:curtswarm@yahoo.com), or visit his website at [www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com](http://www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com).

# Alliant Energy seeks scholarship applications

MADISON – Alliant Energy seeks applications for its 2024 Innovation Scholarships. Across Iowa and Wisconsin, up to 25 students will receive \$1,000 scholarships to further their academic goals.

"I was extremely honored to be a recipient of this award to continue my dedication to academic excellence in college," said Abigail Bence, 2023 Innovation Scholarship recipient and Central College (Pella, IA) student. "I can further my education and give back to my community once I begin my career in physical therapy. I am thankful to Alliant Energy for your confidence and willingness to help me achieve my goals."

Applicants will write an essay that identifies a problem in their community and presents their own innovative solution using science, technology, engineering and/or math.

Scholarship recipients will be selected based on essay content, participation in leadership roles, volunteer work, community service, activities and grade-point average.

Applicants must be enrolled in their first full-time program at an undergraduate school. They also must be less than 25 years old and either a dependent of a current Alliant Energy customer or a customer themselves.

# Move will help veteran's housing

**DONATION** - Continued from Page 1

now on fixed incomes and paying high rent and struggling, we'll take what their income is and base their rent on that," Kistner said. "This will give us some passive income to continue us helping do what we do on the tiny home end."

Kistner said half the rent income would go to Tiny Homes programs and the other half will go to helping maintain the apartment buildings. There are three current residents in the apartments and Kistner said as long as they abide by new ownership rules, they would be allowed to stay, but the other units available will go to veterans in the area.

He said it will take about \$75,000 to renovate the bathrooms in the units and make them all ADA compliant.

"None of them are gut jobs, thankfully. The biggest thing we have to do is renovate all the bathrooms. All of them have tub showers and they are not ADA compliant," Kistner said.

The three buildings are all on the same block just north of the former Sheaffer Pen building.

He said one of the apartments will be held for transitional housing. That unit would be available for veteran services to access for temporary housing of a veteran.

The group is working with other local advocacy groups, including the Salvation Army and service organizations to collaborate on veteran housing support.


"That's the key. I'm working try to get a coalition with all these service organizations in southeast Iowa. If we can all partner together, we can do so much more for veterans than we can do apart," he said.

"We see this as an opportunity to expand what we're going to be able to do and help more veterans. This is really cool."


Kistner said the county has other properties and he wants to see how this works as an organization and, if this works well, they could be looking at those properties, as well.

He said this is the first 2x4s for Hope chapter to take on additional property ownership as a revenue stream.

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## Sports/From the Front

# Central Lee boys put up blowouts

DONNELLSON - The Central Lee boys basketball team won its second game in a row and is seeing balanced scoring and production from its offense.

The Hawks rolled West Prairie 68-26 as part of the Central Lee Shoot-out Saturday in Donnellson. The win was stacked on top of the Hawks 71-42 win over New London Friday night in the SEI Superconference South division opener at Central Lee High School.

Saturday Will Hayes and Brayden Wyrick combined for 37 points as the Hawks took control from about the 5 minute mark of the first period and never looked back. The Hawks opened a 10-point first quarter lead and stretched that to a 20-point lead at the half 31-11. Hayes accounted for 14 first half points, and then Wyrick got hot when West Prairie turned their attention to stopping Hayes, which makes a nice dual option for the Hawks.

Chase Johnson had eight points in the win and Owen Swan, who led all scorers Friday night against the Tiger with 21 points, was held to seven on Saturday. Wyrick had 15 in the win over New London and Hayes had 13. Eight Hawks scored Saturday night and 10 scored in the win over New London.

"Our guys played well tonight. We wanted to focus on what we do and really try to execute things offensively," said Head Coach Kritter Hayes following Saturday's win.

"We have a lot of weapons and our ball movement is key to opening up things for our big guys inside. We are really playing solid defense right now and learning to communicate and help each other out defensively."

Hayes said that will help the Hawks with transition and allow Swan, Aden Ross, Kegan Damico and Dante Merschman to open things up from the guard spots.

"Our coaching staff did a great job tonight making adjustments at halftime to extend our lead early in the second half. Our players responded and our players that came off the bench did fantastic being ready to finish this game off in a positive manner. We will keep working to improve on the things we can control moving forward."

The Hawks move to 2-1 on the year and 1-1 in the SEI Superconference. They travel to Burlington Notre Dame on Tuesday night.

In the junior varsity game, Carson Morrison scored 15 to lead Central Lee past New London 51-13. Gage Van Ausdall and Brody Moeller each contributed eight in the win.

# Gabel wants opioid funds for facility

**FUNDS** - Continued from Page 1

physicians then became hog-tied to either continue to prescribe or develop a whole new business of pain control.

"Thank goodness the proliferation was exposed and the perpetrators are being held accountable," she said.

Gabel said the county has already spent \$230,000 of the \$245,000 its abatement settlement to subsidize the county's ambulance service. She said that represents 93% of the settlement money received to date and it represents about 23% of the total money anticipated by current settlements.

Opioid settlement guidelines indicate that 75% of a local government's settlement funds must be spent on core strategies outlined in a memorandum of understanding, while 25% can be spent on other efforts to manage addiction in respective counties.

"As a business owner and administrator, I would have a difficult time putting (the ambulance) under the 85% rule," Gabel said. "But would agree they were within the 15% rule, but outside their box. They are over the 15%."

Gabel said she had read that the ratios were 85% and 15%, but Supervisor Tom Schulz corrected her on those numbers, saying they were 75% and 25%.

The county has about \$15,000 left in the opioid settlement fund and Gabel asked to have that money allocated to her facility to help offset costs of supporting those residing there.

"I looked at that and thought that would go a long way in building our services," Gabel said. "As time goes by and you get more settlement money, we may come back for more."

Schulz, who sits on a committee established by the board to make recommendations on how to spend the funds, said the committee is moving forward with a countywide needs assessment.

"We did hold a meeting and we want to come up with a good, long-term plan before we started putting money out there," Schulz said.

Lee County Health Department administrator Michele Ross is working to put together a coalition to help create the needs assessment and Schulz suggested Gabel join that group to add valuable insight from the Talbot center.

Gabel said none of the supervisors other than Matt Pflug has been out to the Talbot center to see what

is happening there, so they don't know what's being provided.

Davon Dade, the director of the center, said the Talbot center is really the only center in the area providing the service.

"We get a large number of people coming from Fort Madison and Burlington. When we knew this was coming, no one was contacted. That's why we keep coming in and pressing the topic," he said.

Gabel and Dade both have previously spoken to supervisors about the opioid money.

Gabel said funds started coming into the county in 2022 and the county should have formed a committee at that point.

"Maybe. But I would say the ultimate responsibility for expenditure is with supervisors and the committee would be advisory. The county was going through a significant emergency at that time with regard to EMS and what was going on in Keokuk. There was consultation at numerous levels at the state and county level," Schulz said.

Gabel said it's important that people know the funds aren't just to save an ambulance service, but to help remediate the opioid pandemic.

Ross said she is working on putting together a committee to look at where the gaps are in the county and then coming up with a plan and a possible application process to address those.

"That's where we are now, putting together some data and assessing the strengths and assets we have and where our gaps are," Ross said.

With current settlements already inked by the county through the class action in Iowa, the county stands to receive about \$1.1 million through 2036. However, there are still settlements working their way through the courts that could possibly generate additional and substantial funds for the county.

The most current settlement would be through Teva/Allergan, Walmart, Walgreens, and CVS. Counties in Iowa have signed off on initial national settlement terms with those organizations.

A National Opioid Abatement Trust has been established to handle the funds and make sure local governments are in compliance with a memorandum of understanding as part of the settlements.



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**ad COUNCIL**