

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 | 8 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 23



www.pencitycurrent.com

# IFC stays in spotlight

**PILOT PROGRAM:** Supervisors respond to questions about facility's assessment

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – As politicians continue to collide over the proposed sale of one the largest industrial facilities in the state, locals are examining the value of the facility's tax contributions to the county.

At Monday's Lee County Board of Supervisors meeting, local resident Ted Stein who lives close to the facility and is a former chemical engineer, asked supervisors if numbers reported under a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) program were correct.

Supervisor Ron Fedler said the numbers were correct in the progressive tax program and the program was necessary to

secure the facility from competing counties, including Scott County in Iowa.

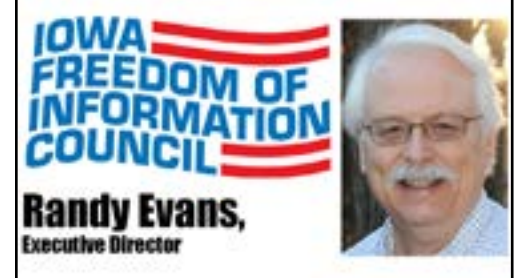
According to information obtained from an ISP spokesperson on Monday evening, there was also competition from Illinois counties.

A sale is currently pending for Koch Industries to acquire the facility from OCI Global for \$3.6 billion. The move has drawn the attention of Iowa State Auditor Rob Sand and a reaction from State Sen. Jeff Reichman (R-Montrose).

"I'm curious to see what the fertilizer plant is currently assessed at," Stein asked.

See IFCO, page 8

## COMMENTARY



## This is not what leadership looks like

These days, with political campaigns that seem to go on forever, Iowans may not recognize the significance of what occurred at polling places across the state on November 5, 1968.

Voters approved an amendment to the Iowa Constitution that day, ending the Legislature's practice of only meeting every other year. Biennial sessions had been a fact of civic life in Iowa since statehood 122 years earlier.

Advocates for the amendment made the case lawmakers needed to be in session each year to deal with the growing complexity of challenges and the pressing demands facing Iowa.

In recent years, however, leaders like Gov. Kim Reynolds and her allies in the Legislature often talk about government overreach and the need to rein in the size and scope of state and local governments.

Maybe they are correct. Maybe voters should be asked to undo the 55-year-old constitutional amendment and return the Legislature to meeting every other year. Maybe that would give lawmakers and the governor time to thoughtfully study these complex challenges and pressing demands — so they do not go into hurry-up law-making mode whenever they spot some perceived need for a new law.

You may disagree with the perception the process of making laws has gotten out of control in Iowa in recent years. But consider:

House Study Bill 587 would require every student and every teacher in every Iowa public school district to

See EVANS, page 8

GPAEA's Library Program Services Consultant, Anna Marlin, engages Kindergarten students at Van Buren County Elementary in a delightful paired fiction and non-fiction reading session. Afterward, the students excitedly checked out their own books. GPAEA proudly provides library and media services to several area districts that would not have library services without them

Photo Courtesy of GPAEA



## GPAEA

### AEA's Media Library Services supporting area schools

Submitted article

*Editor's Note: This is the next in a series of features looking at the impact of Great Prairie Area Education Association on local educational systems.)*

BURLINGTON - AEA Media Library Services is making waves in the local education scene by addressing the diverse needs of students, educators, and professionals. From the large film reels of the past to today's 24/7 access to

digital resources, AEA's recognize the unique requirements of its users, and is committed to offering a comprehensive collection of resources.

In an era where educational needs vary widely, AEA Media Library Services stands out for its dedication to inclusivity. The lending library is a treasure trove of educational materials, including PK-12 books, audio and ebooks, professional materials, journals, videos, and hands-on models.

What sets AEA apart is its user-friendly online catalog, allowing educators to reserve materials easily, with weekly deliveries to each school building.

"We understand that every student and educator has unique learning needs. That's why our collection caters to a diverse population, ensuring everyone can find materials that resonate with them," said Lindy Harmon, Media

See AEA, page 5

## INDEX

Business Directory.....	P.7
<b>BUSINESS NEWS.....</b>	<b>P.8</b>
<b>CLASSIFIEDS.....</b>	<b>Ps.6-7</b>
Complete Rental.....	P.3
Connection Bank.....	P.5
<b>EDUCATION NEWS.....</b>	<b>P.5</b>
Fort Colony Family Restaurant.....	P.4
Fort Madison Family YMCA.....	P.4
<b>FROM THE FRONT.....</b>	<b>Ps.5,8</b>
<b>IOWA NEWS.....</b>	<b>Ps.5,8</b>
LCK Roofing.....	P.4

Lee County Health Department Hospice.....	P.2
<b>LEE COUNTY NEWS.....</b>	<b>P.8</b>
<b>OBITUARIES.....</b>	<b>Ps.3-4</b>
• Arlene M. Cass, 86	
• Dorothy M. Hall, 78	
• Manuel Salazar, 77	
• Michael J. Sherrill, 63	
• Clarence D. Snyder, 65	
• Brian Walz, 60	
<b>OPINION.....</b>	<b>P.8</b>

Pen City Current.....	Ps.4,7
Pothitakis Dentistry.....	P.8
Public Notices.....	Ps.6-7
RonDavoo.....	P.5
Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center.....	P.3
<b>SPORTS.....</b>	<b>P.5</b>

## WEATHER

TUE 06 Feb..... Mostly sunny and cool, 51° F/ 35° F  
WED 07 Feb..... Mostly cloudy, breezy, and cool, 55° F/ 43° F  
THU 08 Feb..... Showers likely, breezy, 62° F/ 45° F

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### MANUAL SALAZAR

Manuel Salazar, 77, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Friday, January 12, 2024 at 12:25 PM

He was born on January 29, 1946 in Ft. Madison to Luis and Margaret Enriquez Salazar, Sr. In June of 1985 he married Dianna Eldridge in Covington, KY and she passed away on January 27, 2014. Manuel worked at Dial and retired after twenty years of service. He enjoyed playing horseshoes, listening to music and gambling. Most of all Manuel loved spending time with his family.

Survivors include a daughter, Dawn Salazar of Ft. Madison; two sons, Tony Lumsden of Ft. Madison and Jim (Jenny) Schlicher of Ft. Madison; twelve grandchildren; fourteen great grandchildren; his companion, Susan Butler; one sister, Sallie (Ron) Doty of Kirkwood, IL and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; two sons, Corye and Micky Grape; a granddaughter, Kaitlyn; four brothers, Richie, Raymond, Luis and Gene and a sister, Irene Nelson.

Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The family will meet with friends from 2-4 PM on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. Burial will be held in the Spring at Sacred Heart Cemetery.

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



SALAZAR

### BRIAN WALZ

Brian Walz, 60, of Peoria, IL, passed away unexpectedly at his home on Monday, January 15, 2024. Brian was born in Des Moines, IA on February 10, 1963 to Walt and Lois Walz. He was raised in Donnellson, Iowa and became big brother to three siblings, Lori,

Brent, and Kristi. After graduating from Central Lee High School, Brian attended the Indian Hill Tool and Die program. He relocated to Peoria, where he embarked on a 30-year successful career with Caterpillar. In 2018, Brian retired from Caterpillar and became a consulting engineer for MMS. His leadership and guidance at MMS was highlighted by the strong support he garnered from both the leadership at the company and those he faithfully trained. No one who knew Brian would dispute his intelligence, intensity, work ethic, integrity, frugality, compassion, and dry wit. Though he was a self-admitted workaholic, Brian found time for

his primary passion beyond family—cars, cars, and cars. He was a proud owner of many Corvettes over the years, and even allowed his passion for Corvettes to supersede his choice in homes. He was also a devoted dog dad, and his beloved lab, Izzy, will certainly miss him. Brian stayed true to his Iowa roots and was a fierce Iowa Hawkeyes fan. More than everything, however, Brian was passionate about his love for his family, and he especially treasured being a grandpa. Brian is survived by his parents, Walt and Lois, residing in Donnellson; sister Lori, brother Brent (Deb), sister Kristi (Scott); daughter Caitlin Scott (Jackson) and grandson Grayson; son Eric and grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. He was loved by all and will be missed beyond words.

There will not be a memorial service as the family will have a private celebration of life at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that any donations be made to [FamilyCore.org](http://FamilyCore.org) (330 SW Washington St., Peoria, IL 61602; 309-676-2400).



WALZ

## OBITUARIES

### ARLENE M. CASS

Arlene May Cass, 86, of Montrose, Iowa, passed away at 11:15 a.m. Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at River Hills Village in Keokuk, Iowa.

She was born on May 27, 1937, in Clark County, Missouri, the daughter of Paul F. and Esther May (Stevenson) Jones. On September 3, 1954, she married Donald Laverne Cass. Together they had seven boys and later divorced.

Survivors include her five sons: Douglas (Robin) Cass of Montrose, Iowa, Don (Patty) Cass of Farmington, Iowa, Ron Cass of San Diego, California, Jim (Tammy) Cass of Middleburg, Florida, Joe Cass of Argyle, Iowa; two grandsons and five granddaughters. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two sons: Steven A. Cass and Dennis D. Cass and four brothers.

Arlene worked at Metro Mail and the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant. She enjoyed gardening, cooking, keeping up with her boys and her dog "Willy".

A visitation will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson.

A graveside service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at Grenglade Cemetery in Farmington, Iowa, with Pastor Chad Welch officiating. Burial will be at Grenglade Cemetery.

A memorial has been established in her memory for Grenglade Cemetery.

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



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## Obituaries

### OBITUARIES

## CLARENCE D. SNYDER

Clarence Dale Snyder, 65, of Burnside, Illinois, passed away Monday, January 8, 2024, as a result of an accident near his home in Burnside.

Dale was born March 5, 1958, in La Harpe, Illinois, the son of Glenn and Dorothy (Bartlett) Snyder. He attended Nauvoo-Colusa High School, graduating in 1976. Later in his life he participated in the organization of their class reunions, where he enjoyed seeing and visiting with his classmates.

In 1976, Dale was united in marriage to Molly (Foster), with whom he shares three children: Jaime, Jeremy, and Jennifer. They later divorced. Dale had a very special companion of 30 years until her death, Henrietta Johnson. He was loved and admired by her family.

Dale was a skilled craftsman, a man with pride and integrity, he worked as a sheet metal worker for Local Union 91 for many years until he left the trade to become a proud business owner and operator of Pilot Grove Welding; where he was currently serving as president and co-owner, operating the business until his death with partner, Travis Johnson.

Dale cared about his neighbors and community, he was a sitting board member of the Pilot Grove and McKay Cemeteries for over 20 years. He had a huge heart and would help anyone, never asking of anything in return. Dale was never at rest, constantly working at Pilot Grove Welding, on the farm, cutting wood, or doing for others. Dale's face was the brightest when he was around children, he loved children and they love him, he was an integral part of many children's lives throughout the years.

Dale enjoyed farming from a young age; he would stop at every farm implement and auction lot to check out the equipment on his weekend outings, while on the way to the antique stores near and far; his passion was collecting toy tractors and historical memorabilia from local businesses and towns. He also enjoyed attending the annual Old Threshers where he was sure to find a treasure.

Dale was a devoted father, grandfather, friend, and mentor. Dale will leave a large gap in our lives; he will be sorely missed and will always hold a special place in our hearts.

Dale was preceded in death by his parents and longtime companion: Henrietta "Retta" Johnson.

Survivors include his three children: Jaime (Danny) Hogan of Niota, IL, Jeremy Snyder of Burnside, IL, Jennifer (Scott) Roberts, of Carthage, IL, as well as several grandchildren and a great granddaughter; Henrietta's children, Daniel (Ronda) Johnson of Burnside, IL, Eric (Brandi) Johnson of Carthage, IL, Julie (Brent) Lance of Wentzville, MO, Sherri (Tom) Main of Carthage, IL, as well as several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Also surviving are his siblings: Beverly (Steven) Brunk Danville, IA, Barbara (Edward) Burford Warsaw, IL, Betty (Rene) Medina Denmark, IA, Becky (Larry) Flowers West Burlington, IA, Chester (Joyce) Snyder Colusa, IL, Billie (the late David) Mosher Ft. Madison, IA, Bonnie (Gene) Willdrick rural Dallas City, Brenda Womack Ft. Madison, IA, Bea (Alan) Huls Wataga, IL, and Glenn (Terry) Snyder Jr. Buffalo, MN, and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m. Monday, January 15th, 2024 at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City, IL with Pastor Rick Goettsche officiating. Burial will follow at Pilot Grove Township Cemetery, near Burnside, with a light luncheon being held at the Burnside Gym directly following the burial services.

The family will receive friends from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m., Sunday, January 14th at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City, IL.

In lieu of flowers a memorial fund has been established for the Pilot Grove Township Cemetery. To leave a condolence for the family, please visit Dale's obituary at [banksandbeals.com](http://banksandbeals.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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### OBITUARIES

## DOROTHY M. HALL

Dorothy May "Dottie" Hall, 78, of Keokuk, IA, died Sunday, December 31, 2023 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL.

She was born on November 28, 1945 in Keokuk, IA, the daughter of Eugene and Dorothy (Montgomery) Boudreau. She attended Keokuk High School. On July 24, 1966, Dorothy was united in marriage to Ralph Hall, Jr in Keokuk. He preceded her in death on January 1, 2006.

Over the years Dottie had been employed in housekeeping at the Lee County Home, River Hills Village, Keokuk Area Hospital and the Super 8 Motel.

Dottie was an excellent bowler. She loved to bowl with her family and on leagues at both the Ten Pin and the Arrowhead. She had a green thumb and had many beautiful house plants that she cared for. She was a fan of WWE Wrestling, football, Iowa Hawkeye Women's basketball and her daily soap operas. She enjoyed traveling to South Carolina to spend time with her family and also enjoyed going on several cruises. Dottie's grandchildren were her pride and joy and she loved attending their activities. It was Dottie's mission in life to take care of everyone. She gave unselfishly to others and was loved by many.

She is survived by four daughters, Wilma "Sally" Grant (Tony) of Keokuk, Tina Adams (David) of Keokuk, Melissa Wilson (Jason) of Argyle, and Selissa Weber (Stacy) of Donnellson and two sons, Rick Hall (Tami) of Easley, SC, and Tom Hall of Keokuk, ten grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren with one more on the way. She is also survived by three sisters, Mary Wilhelm,

Connie St. Clair (Tom) and Patty Tichenor (Jerry) all of Keokuk, and three brothers, Calvin Boudreau of Keokuk, Don Boudreau (Sarah) of Alexandria, MO and Roger Edwards (Kathy) of Florida and many nieces and nephews.

Besides her husband, she was also preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Homer Boudreau.

A Memorial service will be held at 2 p.m., Thursday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with Calvin Stevens officiating. Burial will be in the Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk.

Visitation will be held after 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with the family meeting with friends from 5 - 7 p.m.

Memorials may be made to her family.

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

## MICHAEL J. SHERRILL

Michael Joseph "Mike" Sherrill, 63, of Keokuk, passed away on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City, Iowa.

Mike was born on October 11, 1960, in Keokuk, Iowa, the son of Lawrence Edward and Mary Jo (Henley) Sherrill. He was employed at Climax as a fork lift operator, and received his GED in 1999, which he was very proud of.

Mike enjoyed spending his free time with his family or in the great outdoors. He loved to golf, kayak, water ski and fish. He also enjoyed cooking, barbequing, watching NCIS with his mother and eating at the Purple Cow with his brother. Mike was handy, and spend a great deal of time using his skills to renovate his home. Mike was also a jokester and always kept people laughing.

Mike is survived by his mother Mary Jo Sherrill of Keokuk; eight siblings: Linda Nihiser of Tower Hill, Illinois, Judith (Lloyd) Lash of Clinton, Illinois, Betty Sherrill of Keokuk, Terri (Pete) Shaffer of Washington, Iowa, Larry Sherrill of Keokuk, Doug (Susie) Sherrill of Keokuk, Diana Richardson of Keokuk and Steve Cramer of Hamilton; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mike is preceded in death by his father Lawrence, his infant brother Larry Eugene and his grandparents.

A celebration of Mike's life will be held from 12 pm (Noon) to 3 pm on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk. A graveside service will be held at 3:30 pm on Wednesday at Sand Cemetery in St. Francisville, Missouri. A procession to the cemetery will leave the funeral home directly following the celebration of life.

Memorials may be directed to the family in care of Mary Jo Sherrill.

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

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

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## Sports/From the Front

### AEA embracing power of technology

**AEA** - Continued from Page 1

Integration Specialist at Great Prairie AEA.

Moreover, AEA Media Library Services embraces the power of technology to support educators and students alike. The extensive range of vetted educationally appropriate digital resources is accessible from school and home 24/7, providing a dynamic platform to meet curriculum content standards, boost student achievement, aid professional development, and enhance information literacy.

PK-12 educators and students find AEA's instructional materials and library books indispensable resources. The online catalog makes it easy for educators to search for specific resources or engage with library staff members for personalized assistance, taking into account the target audience, reading levels, interests, or grade levels required.

But it doesn't stop there – AEA's commitment to education extends to a robust print collection, catering to various learning needs:

- Early readers
- Second language learners
- Struggling readers
- On-target readers
- High-interest, low vocabulary readers
- Fiction and non-fiction enthusiasts
- Professional development literature and research seekers
- Neurodivergent readers

AEA Media Staff plays a pivotal role in enhancing the educational landscape by offering a range of valuable services. They provide comprehensive professional development sessions for staff and students, showcasing and demonstrating digital resources, including databases, to foster technological literacy. Focusing on information and media literacy, the staff delivers engaging lessons that empower students with crucial skills for navigating the digital age. Their support extends to assisting with instruction, locating materials, and collaborating with teachers to enhance the learning experience. AEA Media Staff is at the forefront of delivering instructions and supporting the teaching of research skills and projects, ensuring students are well-equipped for academic success. Furthermore, they play a crucial role in compliance with legislation, managing the library's collection, and handling the ordering and processing of materials in a school library, creating a vibrant and resourceful environment for educators and students alike.

Whether you're a teacher looking for resources to support diverse learners or a student seeking engaging materials, AEA Media Library Services is a beacon of educational support, fostering an environment where learning knows no bounds.

For more information about AEA Media Library Services and its extensive resources, visit [gpaea.org](http://gpaea.org).

### Lady Crusaders get post-season primer

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP  
PCC SPORT

FORT MADISON - It wasn't a postseason game, but Holy Trinity girls basketball coach Tony Johnson wanted Monday's game to have a postseason feel. And it did.

The Crusaders' 48-35 win over Mediapolis at Shottenkirk Gym was a rescheduled game from one of the numerous postponements during the snow and cold of early January, but Johnson was hoping to use it to get ready for the Class 1A regional tournament, which begins Thursday when Holy Trinity plays host to New London.

"This was the best way to prepare for regionals," Johnson said. "You're going to see the pressing, you're going to see the tough defense. Mentally, this was a good game to prepare."

The Crusaders finished the regular season with an 18-2 overall record, and shared the SEI Superconference South Division with Danville, finishing with a 12-2 mark.

"This is a great start to the week of regionals," said senior Mary Kate Bendlage, who led Holy Trinity with 16 points, "and I think Tony couldn't be more proud of the players."

Holy Trinity held Mediapolis (15-4, 10-3) to half of its season average in scoring. It was the second-lowest scoring game for the Bullettes this season.

"Our defense has really been limiting the points," Bendlage said. "This team averages 60, 70 points per game. That really shows we really slowed them down, got them out of our groove."

"We wanted to keep it in a 40s game, and that's what we did," Johnson said.

There has been a consistent message for the Crusaders since last Monday's 56-49 loss at Danville, and the Crusaders have been listening.

"Ever since Danville, we've beat it into their heads, 'Why go at any other speed than ours?'" Johnson said. "Whether it's against the press, whether we're pressing, whether we're in the half-court, we want to play a certain style. We want to score 50, 55, and hold people to 30. That's our goal. You're going to be successful doing it."

The two teams were tied at 22 at halftime, then Holy Trinity outscored Mediapolis 17-7 in the third quarter, then held the Bullettes to just six fourth-quarter points.

"I think this really showed that if we take control, run our pace, run our offense, and just pound the defense we've been worzking on, we'll be fine," Bendlage said.

Natalie Randolph added 15 points for the Crusaders. Teagan Snaadt had seven points.

Grace Holsteen led Mediapolis with 19 points.

Now, it's the postseason.

"We don't want to go out yet," Bendlage said. "We have a long road ahead of us. We're planning on a long road ahead of us. And I think keying in on the little things in practice will take us on the next step we want to take."



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Holy Trinity Catholic's Anna Bendlage dribbles through the lane past the Mediapolis defense in Monday's win over the Bulldogs.



HTC sophomore Presley Myers gets a block on a Mediapolis shooter Monday night at Holy Trinity in the Crusaders' 48-35 win.

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# Classifieds/Public Notices

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICE LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES November 20, 2023

The Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa, met on Monday, November 20, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at the County Administration Building, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison, Iowa.

Present: Garry Seyb, Ron Fedler, Chuck Holmes and Matt Pflug. Present electronically was Tom Schulz.

All votes are unanimous unless indicated otherwise.

The Board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Pflug, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Public Input: Andrew Johnson of West Point discussed county zoning.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Pflug, to approve Resolution #2023-102. Roll call: Holmes-Aye, Pflug-Aye, Fedler-Aye, Schulz-Aye and Seyb-Aye.

### RESOLUTION No. 2023-102

RESOLUTION SETTING PUBLIC HEARING AND POSSIBLE DONATION OF CERTAIN REAL ESTATE

WHEREAS, Lee County holds Title on the property legally described below as follows:

The East half of lot 350 and the West half of lot 351, in the City of Fort Madison, Lee County, Iowa. Also, the East half of Lot 351 in the City of Fort Madison, Lee County, Iowa (313 Avenue G)

Lot 353, Excepting the North 48.63' thereof; Lot 354A, excepting the North 48.63' thereof; and Lot 354, all in the original City of Fort Madison, Lee County, Iowa. Said real estate is also known as: the South 58.44' of Lot 354, the South 23.87' of Lot 354A and the North 14.06' of Lot 354 in the original City of Fort Madison, Lee County, Iowa and the South 58.44' of Lot 353 and South 38' of North 86.63' of Lot 353, in the original City of Fort Madison, Lee County, Iowa (615-617 3rd St.)

Lot Three Hundred Forty-Eight (348), except the Westerly 7.09 feet thereof, all in the original

City of Fort Madison, Lee County, Iowa (325 Avenue G)

All of Lot 347, except the Westerly 29.15 feet thereof, and also the Westerly 7.09 feet of Lot 348, being a strip of land 28 feet wide, all in the original City of Fort Madison, Lee County, Iowa (327 Avenue G)

Lot Three Hundred Forty-Six (346) and the Westerly 1.15 feet of Lot Three Hundred Fort-Seven (347) in the original City of Fort Madison, Lee County, Iowa (331 Avenue G)

The Easterly 28.00 feet of the Westerly 29.15 feet of Lot 347 in the City of Fort Madison, Lee County, Iowa (329 Avenue G)

WHEREAS, Lee County no longer has a beneficial use for said property and desires to divest itself of the property; and

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 331.361 provides a county may dispose of an interest in real property by gift provided the property is to be used for a public purpose as determined by the board and in accordance with other state law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Auditor is instructed to publish notice of public hearing to be held the 4th day of December, 2023, at 10:01 o'clock a.m. at the County Administration Building, 933 Avenue H Fort Madison, Iowa, on the issue of whether the following resolution shall be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Lee County Board of Supervisors will issue Quit Claim Deeds on the following property :

The East half of lot 350 and the West half of lot 351, in the City of Fort Madison, Lee County, Iowa. Also, the East half of Lot 351 in the City of Fort Madison, Lee County, Iowa (313 Avenue G)

Lot 353, Excepting the North 48.63' thereof; Lot 354A, excepting the North 48.63' thereof; and Lot 354, all in the original City of Fort Madison,

Lee County, Iowa. Said real estate is also known as: the South 58.44' of Lot 354, the South 23.87' of Lot 354A and the North 14.06' of Lot 354 in the original City of Fort Madison, Lee County, Iowa and the South 58.44' of Lot 353 and South 38' of North 86.63' of Lot 353, in the original City of Fort

Madison, Lee County, Iowa (615-617 3rd St.) Lot Three Hundred Forty-Eight (348), except the Westerly 7.09 feet thereof, all in the original City of Fort Madison, Lee County, Iowa (325 Avenue G)

All of Lot 347, except the Westerly 29.15 feet thereof, and also the Westerly 7.09 feet of Lot 348, being a strip of land 28 feet wide, all in the original City of Fort Madison, Lee County, Iowa (327 Avenue G)

Lot Three Hundred Forty-Six (346) and the Westerly 1.15 feet of Lot Three Hundred Fort-Seven (347) in the original City of Fort Madison, Lee County, Iowa (331 Avenue G)

The Easterly 28.00 feet of the Westerly 29.15 feet of Lot 347 in the City of Fort Madison, Lee County, Iowa (329 Avenue G)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lee County Board of Supervisors will donate the aforementioned property by quit claim deed to the Fort Madison 2 x 4's for Hope, a non-for-profit organization which serves a public purpose in Lee County. The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is authorized to sign the Quit Claim deeds on behalf of the Lee County Board of Supervisors to effectuate the transfer of said property.

Dated and signed this the 20th day of November, 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Fedler, to approve Resolution #2023-103.

Roll call: Holmes-Aye, Pflug-Aye, Fedler-Aye, Schulz-Aye and Seyb-Aye.

### RESOLUTION No. 2023-103

Resolution for Repayment of Interfund Loan

WHEREAS, an inter-fund loan of \$200,000 was made from the General Basic Fund to the EMS Levy Fund,

WHEREAS, said Interfund Loan is in accordance with Section 331.477, Item 2, Code of

Iowa, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa, as follows:

Section 1. The sum of \$100,000 is ordered to be repaid from the EMS Levy Fund to the General Basic Fund.

Section 2. The remaining amount will be repaid before the end of the fiscal year.

Section 3. The Auditor is directed to correct her books when said operating transfers are made for this repayment accordingly and to notify the Treasurer of the amounts of said transfers.

Dated at Fort Madison, Iowa on the 20th day of November, 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Pflug, to approve Resolution #2023-101 & #2023-104. Roll call: Fedler-Aye, Pflug-Aye, Holmes-Aye, Schulz-Aye and Seyb-Aye.

### RESOLUTION No. 2023-101

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lee County has by Ordinance Number VI-11 adopted a plan for a County-wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District in Lee County, Iowa; and,

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 404.4 provides for prior approval of eligibility for a tax exemption by the governing body of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: Nancy Foecke 1920 180th Street Donnellson IA 52625

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 20th day of November, 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry

Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

### RESOLUTION NO. 2023-104

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lee County has by Ordinance Number VI-11 adopted a plan for a County-wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District in Lee County, Iowa; and,

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 404.4 provides for prior approval of eligibility for a tax exemption by the governing body of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: Tim Overton 1557 170th Ave Donnellson, IA 52625

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 20th day of November, 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Holmes, to approve Homestead, Military, and Disabled Vet Tax Credit Tax Applications for Assessment Year 2023. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Fedler, to table approval of the County Emergency Paid Sick Leave. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Fedler, to approve the Consent Agenda that included the November 14, 2023 Board minutes, the claims for payment and a Class B Retail Alcohol License for Green Frog Distillery, Keokuk, for the period October 20, 2023 through October 19, 2024 and Hinterland Dairy, Donnellson for the period November 20, 2023 through

November 19, 2024. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Seyb, to approve a full-time new hire for IT, Clifford Munford, Information Technician, \$55,000 annual salary effective 11/20/23. Motion carried.

Received and filed the Sheriff's Monthly Report for the month of October 2023, Treasurers Report of Fees Collected for the month of October 2023, Auditor's Report of Fees Collected for the month of October 2023, and the Recorder's Report of Fees Collected for the months of September and October, 2023.

The Board canvassed the November 7, 2023 second-tier City/School Election.

For Fort Madison School Director At-Large-4 year term

Amy Thacher..... 1060  
Keith Hehr ..... 967  
Kelly Nelton ..... 968  
Joshua Wykert..... 991  
Write-ins ..... 43

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Fedler, to approve the canvass as presented. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Pflug reported on a safety committee meeting walk through at the North Lee County Administration Building and a Board of Health Meeting. Holmes reported on a Health Department meeting. Schulz reported on a Landfill Meeting. Seyb reported on a KEDC Meeting and a children's collaborating meeting.

At 10:46 a.m. it was moved by Pflug, seconded by Fedler, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 27, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Administration Building in Fort Madison.

Garry Seyb, Chairman Attest: Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor

### Claims paid November 20, 2023

Access Enrgy, svcs ..... 971.25  
Access Systms, svcs ..... 415.74  
Acuren Inspctn, svcs ..... 178.00  
Airgas USA, splys ..... 468.89  
All Amer Snntn, svcs ..... 400.00  
Alliant Enrgy, svcs ..... 1214.04  
Altorfer, parts ..... 1167.64

# Classifieds/Public Notices

## PUBLIC NOTICES

JAndrsnCx, sv..... 77.00	M Holland, sv..... 203.00	K Robbins, sv..... 198.50	J Shipman, sv..... 75.00	Trinity Musc Hlth, sv..... 16058.57
Jn Anderson, sv... 196.50	D Holtkamp, sv... 181.00	M Robbins, sv..... 186.00	SIEDA, cntrb..... 2456.94	..... 22363.61
J Anderson, sv... 201.75	HyVee, splys..... 820.38	S Rohloff, sv..... 173.50	R Sirois, sv..... 73.50	US Cell, sv..... 1456.26
S Andrews, sv..... 81.00	ICONNECTYOU, sv..... 160.00	T Rudd, sv..... 207.50	M Slater, sv..... 112.50	UMIMRA, sv..... 850.00
S Arnold, sv..... 102.50	IA Prison Ind, splys..... 7246.50	J Sams, sv..... 128.00	G Smith, sv..... 105.00	VB Co Hosp, sv..... 11555.75
RAschbrenner, sv..... 99.50	IA St Pen, meals..... 21442.50	J Saunders, exps.. 299.50	Solutions, sv..... 621.46	Verizon, sv..... 349.25
LAschbrenner, sv..... 186.25	IA St Sheriff, reg ... 475.00	A Schiller, exps ... 326.50	SEIRMC, sv..... 255.00	Vertical Comm, sv..... 1292.00
AssuredPrtnrs, sv..... 3582.00	ISAC, reg..... 225.00	C Schulte, sv..... 160.00	L Spurgin, sv..... 152.00	T Washburn, sv... 147.88
K Auge, sv..... 363.00	Jays Auto, sv..... 85.75	J Schulz, sv..... 72.75	Stffnsmr Bro, sv.. 230.12	Wshngtn Co Hlth, sv.....
JBaier, sv..... 944.90	M Jessen, sv..... 45.00	Sec/St, splys..... 30.00	Suprm Radio, eqp..... 768.18	
C Baker, sv..... 190.50	Jet Gas, fuel .... 12041.59	K Shaw, sv..... 23.00		
S Barrett, sv..... 227.00	G Johnson, sv..... 222.50			
C Bell, sv..... 50.00	H Johnson, sv..... 205.00			
D Benner, sv..... 182.00	SJohnson, sv..... 214.00			
A Bohnenkamp, sv..... 99.25	T Johnson, rent.... 300.00			
K Bohnenkamp, sv..... 193.25	JW Medical, eqp..... 3096.00			
N Booten, sv..... 120.50	LKkempker, sv... 195.00			
Bnd Tree Med, splys..... 2476.55	Riverfront Brdctg, publ..... 250.00			
R Braden, exps..... 80.00	A Kettle, sv..... 77.50			
R Bradley, sv..... 130.00	D King, sv..... 201.00			
DBrmhillMcWillms, sv..... 156.00	G Knisley, exps..... 122.95			
Brightree Hm, sv..... 3621.82	C Knox, sv..... 96.75			
L Brown, sv..... 85.00	Khlmrgrn Hlg, sv..... 1862.50			
T Buckley, sv..... 209.75	L Kunz, sv..... 187.70			
SBrgrssCnda, sv... 181.00	P Lamb, sv..... 184.50			
CH McGuinness, sv..... 95.92	E Lambert, exps ... 355.00			
K Cannon, sv..... 154.00	Law Enfrce Trgt, eqp..... 491.08			
CenturyLink, sv..... 95.36	LeeCo Hlth, sv.. 9017.33			
B Chapman, sv... 197.50	LeeCo Sheriff, sv..... 988.17			
Comm Action, sv..... 886.83	LeeCo Treas, fees..... 312981.20			
Elctrcl Engrg, sv... 900.00	LeeCo Treas, costs..... 4342.80			
CJ Cooper, sv..... 45.00	M Lees, sv..... 169.50			
J Cooper, sv..... 181.50	C Lindeman, sv... 217.40			
Cullen Pest, sv..... 68.00	Madison Apts, sv..... 300.00			
Culligan, water..... 80.69	Mail Svcs, sv..... 1863.94			
C3 Edu/Rsrch, sv..... 2052.68	McFarlands, splys..... 106.98			
Democrat, publ... 1333.60	McKesson Med, sv..... 81.12			
Dly Gate City, publ.. 42.78	Mediacom, sv..... 245.56			
Daniels Jntrl, sv..... 4328.41	D Menke, sv..... 101.00			
DM Co Sheriff, sv... 35.74	L Menke, sv..... 178.50			
J Devocht, sv..... 125.00	P Menke, sv..... 48.50			
P Devocht, sv..... 135.00	J Metcalf, sv..... 191.50			
Dmnd Drugs, rx .... 836.61	M Meyer, sv..... 202.50			
T Dinger, sv..... 156.50	R Michaelsen, sv.. 82.00			
RK Dixon, sv..... 44.90	MidAmer Enrgy, gas..... 639.55			
Dnnlsln Tire, sv... 794.00	MW Grp Brnfts, costs..... 1214.40			
R Downey, sv..... 157.50	N Miller, sv..... 155.50			
Drake Hdwr, sv..... 2388.83	S Mills-Echols, sv..... 210.45			
EMSLRC, edu..... 109.00	WMonroe, sv..... 669.81			
J Enger, sv..... 186.00	A Mott, sv..... 206.90			
Farm/Home, splys..... 301.49	J Mott, sv..... 209.00			
D Fowler, sv..... 233.50	L Newberry, sv..... 42.50			
H Fowler, sv..... 226.25	JJ Nichting, parts.. 167.44			
FrenchRnkr, sv... 1055.00	O'Reilly Auto, parts..... 417.89			
Garner FdMrt, fuel..... 958.96	OMG Midwest, sv..... 202.54			
J Garza, sv..... 11.00	Onmedia, adv ..... 600.00			
B Gaylord, sv..... 76.00	Optum Rx, splys.. 1139.58			
T Gaylord, sv..... 79.00	B Peevler, sv..... 215.25			
G Glasscock, sv... 112.50	L Peterson, sv..... 27.50			
M Gnann, sv..... 167.50	S Peterson, sv..... 217.25			
B Gray, sv..... 198.00	M Pflug, sv..... 75.00			
GRRWA, sv..... 13382.00	C Pietscher, sv.... 161.00			
M Gunn, sv..... 169.50	Prairie Farms, splys..... 763.60			
Hall Excvtng, sv.. 350.00	C Pundt, sv..... 189.00			
Hnck Co Hlth, sv..... 367.50	Qdnt Finance, pstg..... 4000.00			
S Happs, sv..... 179.00	Red Lion Rnwbl, sv..... 1653.38			
A Hayes, sv..... 158.50	D Rempe, sv..... 180.50			
K Hayner, sv..... 198.00	C Renstrom, sv... 162.00			
Heritage Med, splys..... 165.00	H Ritter, sv..... 107.00			
hibu Inc, publ..... 143.00	River Hills, sv.... 7561.25			
B Hill, sv..... 158.50				
Hntrind Dairy, splys..... 117.00				
M Hobbs, sv..... 205.00				

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## From the Front

# Leadership is a long, hard process

**EVANS** - Continued from Page 1

stand and sing the national anthem every school day. Never mind the U.S. Supreme Court decided in 1943 that government schools cannot compel students and staff to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance or sing the national anthem.

You do not make Iowa kids more patriotic by demanding they sing the national anthem. This proposal is what we would expect from the dictators in North Korea or Russia. This is not something that should be coming from a state in the Land of the Free.

If this were the only example of a misguided proposal coming before the Legislature, Iowans would be forgiving. But it is not.

Another bill, Senate Study Bill 3092, would allow school districts to hire or recruit volunteer “chaplains” to help children with their mental health needs. The legislation does not require these people to have certain training or certification, or any training, for that matter.

One of the bill’s sponsors, Rep. Helena Hayes, a Republican from New Sharon, said the chaplains would provide kids with “spiritual guidance” — although it seems that should be left to churches, not to our public schools.

Senate Study Bill 3103 would prohibit the Iowa Department of Natural Resources from accepting and investigating anonymous complaints about potential violations of regulations governing animal feeding operations, waterway pollution and illegal waste disposal.

A year ago, in contrast, the Legislature changed Iowa law and made all citizen complaints confidential about the books people want to remove from public school libraries and classrooms — leaving Iowans to figure out why anonymous complaints of one variety are good, but anonymous complaints of another are bad.

The concern should not be aimed just at the topics consuming the time of Iowa’s lawmakers. The concern should be that complex, thorny problems are getting precious little discussion and study from the Legislature.

Iowans who are D’s and R’s have been scrambling to convey to their senators and representatives, and to the governor, their anxiety over the significant changes Reynolds wants to make in the operation of Iowa’s nine Area Education Agencies.

The AEAs provide a wide array of specialized services most school districts cannot afford on their own — services provided by AEA psychologists, social workers, speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists

and behavior specialists.

Instead of convening a public study of ways to strengthen these services and make AEAs more efficient, Reynolds, instead, turned to an out-of-state consultant to work outside of public view. And instead of making the report public when she announced her AEA plans, Reynolds slow-walked Iowans’ requests for copies of the report.

The governor refused to accept federal food assistance that would have provided an extra \$40 per month per child for low-income families’ food purchases this summer while school is out. Non-profit food pantries have been scrambling to keep up with higher-than-expected demand from low-income families. But the Legislature has not spent any time discussing ways to make a more ample food supply available for our poor friends and neighbors.

The governor said the federal summertime food aid was not sustainable long-term. But an existing state program has serious long-term sustainability questions, and those are not being discussed in the Legislature. The program provides families with \$7,600 annual vouchers for each of their children to attend private schools.

In its first year, the vouchers cost the state \$127 million. That is \$20 million more than originally expected.

More Iowans will become eligible for the vouchers in the next few years, and the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency projects the cost to the state treasury will climb to \$345 million per year by 2027.

But the Legislature has not spent time talking about how that cost can be sustained.

Nor has the Legislature spent any time talking about strategies for dealing with troubling findings from a University of Iowa cancer study last year. Fifty years of data show Iowa has the second-highest cancer incidence rate among the 50 states and is the only state whose rate is rising.

Republican leaders at the Statehouse would be wise to think about the observations on leadership Gen. Dwight Eisenhower once offered. The supreme allied commander during World War II and two-term president in the 1950s knew something about leadership.

“You do not lead by hitting people over the head,” Eisenhower observed. “Any damn fool can do that, but it’s usually called ‘assault,’ not ‘leadership.’ I’ll tell you what leadership is. It’s persuasion and conciliation, education and patience. It’s long, slow, tough work.”

Randy Evans can be reached at [DMRevs2810@gmail.com](mailto:DMRevs2810@gmail.com).

# IFCo paid \$2.5M in 2023

**IFCO** - Continued from Page 1

Budget Director Cindy Renstrom said it was her understanding that the facility isn’t assessed in its entirety but only portions allowable under Iowa tax laws. She said the facility is assessed currently at about \$58 million.

Stein said that sounds like it’s only being assessed at 10% because a facility that size, compared to his past experiences with energy producing facilities, would be valued at closer to half a billion.

Fedler said he’s spoken with former Supervisor Larry Kruse who was a supervisor when the deal was struck to build in Lee County.

“The entire facility is not taxable, only certain parts,” Fedler said. “That progressive PILOT payment program was one of the big reasons they came here. Otherwise, we would have lost it to (Scott) County.”

Fedler said OCI also tried to negotiate a way out of paying the natural gas consumption tax which he said is close to \$3 million a year.

“They tried to negotiate not having to pay a consumption tax on the natural gas. That didn’t happen and that’s huge.”

According to the number received from Iowa Fertilizer Monday, the company placed “replacement” taxes to Lee County of approximately \$2.5 million in 2023. That includes the annual PILOT payment and the natural gas consumption tax.

Renstrom said those monies are not just Lee County’s but also get distributed to other local agencies that are represented in a regular property tax bill including such entities as public school districts, ag extensions, Southeastern Community College, and others.

“Because Iowa Fertilizer Company uses natural gas, we are subject to the replacement tax, as well. In 2023, we paid replacement taxes to Lee County of approximately \$2.5 million, including \$540,000 in 2023 under the PILOT Agreement,” the spokesperson said.

IFCo also contributed \$250,000 to the Lee County Economic Development Group and Career Advantage Center, and \$11,500 to the three county public school districts’ school lunch deficits.

The IFCo spokesman said the PILOT rules are not specific to Iowa Fertilizer. They are general laws in Iowa that apply to the state’s energy companies.

OCI invested more than \$2.5 billion to construct the first world scale fertilizer plant built in the United States in more than 30 years – making it one of the largest, if not the largest, private construction project in Iowa’s history.

At the peak of construction, OCI employed more than 3,500 workers. Originally, the company projected to employ approximately 1,600 workers during the construction phase. OCI currently employs more than 260 people at the facility, while originally committing to 165.

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