

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Thursday, February 8, 2024 | 8 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 25



www.pencitycurrent.com

Board mulls athletic facility upgrades

\$350K: District has about \$350,000 to spend... or save for future use

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A discussion around the use of tax dollars on athletic facilities in the next year could result in a refurbished gym floor and some enhancements to high school locker rooms and tennis courts.

The Fort Madison Community School District held a workshop Wednesday to hear additional ideas from Nic Chiri, the district's Director of Maintenance and Jeff Lamb, the high school activities director.

Chiri said he had about \$350,000 in the district's Physical Plant and Equipment Levy fund and brought the board

additional information regarding his capital projects improvement plan in November.

Chiri said he first started looking at the district's tennis courts and said options ranged from \$360,000 to \$215,000. The budget numbers include new fencing and completely deconstructing the six current courts. The difference in price is the number of new courts that would be built from all six to just one and then replacing the green space.

Chiri said he could take down an end of fence, replace the courts, and then put the fence back up unless the bids were favorable, but he said replacing the fencing is about

See BOARD, page 8

AREA NEWS

Keokuk man may now face murder charge in father's death

Jan. 22 assault over food may have lead to injuries that killed Keokuk man

KEOKUK - A Keokuk man may have died due to injuries suffered at the hands of his son in January.

Keokuk Police Chief Zeth Baum said Gary L. Rockenbach died February 1st after a stay at an area medical facility following the incident on January 22nd and an autopsy has been ordered.

According to Keokuk arrest records, at approximately 7:23 p.m., on Jan. 22, Keokuk Police Officers were dispatched to 416 Burke Street in reference to a disturbance.

Through an investigation, officers discovered that Gary L. Rockenbach, 84, received injuries during a physical altercation with his son, Craig L. Rockenbach, 43. The assault took place after a disagreement over food.

The Lee County Ambulance Service was requested by officers at 7:28 p.m. and arrived on scene at 7:31 p.m. Gary Rockenbach was transported to a medical facility to receive treatment for his injuries.

Craig Rockenbach was arrested at 7:34 p.m. for Assault Causing Bodily injury, a serious misdemeanor. He was transported to the Lee County Jail.

On January 29th, 2024, our department received additional information in regards to internal injuries suffered by Gary Rockenbach during the January 22nd incident. This information was forwarded to the Lee County Attorney's Office, and the original charge was amended to Willful Injury Causing Serious Injury, a class C felony.

On February 1st, 2024, our department was notified of Gary Rockenbach's death in a medical facility. This matter is an ongoing investigation, and an autopsy has been requested to determine the cause of death.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

FMCS Business manager Sandy Elmore talks to the Fort Madison School Board during a budget update Wednesday night in Fort Madison. The district's budget is due by April 18.

IOWA NEWS

High School Voter Registration Day set for Tuesday, Feb. 13

DES MOINES – Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate Monday announced the date for the 2024 Statewide High School Voter Registration Day, February 13. On this day, Iowa high school students are encouraged to take steps to register to vote, make a plan to vote when they are eligible, and learn more about Iowa's voting process.

"Of course, voting is one of the best ways to make your voice heard, and registering to vote is the first step in that process," said Secretary Pate. "We find that often, when young people are educated about the election process, they are more comfortable in participating in Iowa's elections when they are eligible."

There are currently more than 4,500+ 17-year-olds already registered to vote in Iowa. This number is significantly higher than 3,400+ 17-year-olds registered to vote in September 2023 in the weeks leading up to 2023 National Voter Registration Day.

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WEATHER

THU 08 Feb.....Windy with chance of rain, 62° F/ 40° F
 FRI 09 Feb.....Mostly sunny and cool, 58° F/ 33° F
 SAT 10 Feb.....Sunny and chilly, 43° F/ 27° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 02/06.....16 32 34 36 47, Lucky Ball: 3
 MEGA MILLIONS 02/06.....2 10 31 44 57, Mega Ball: 10 Megaplier: 4
 PICK 3 MIDDAY 02/06.....2 6 1
 PICK 3 EVENING 02/06.....8 7 3
 PICK 4 MIDDAY 02/06.....6 3 1 0
 PICK 4 EVENING 02/06.....9 2 4 8

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM D. RODGERS, JR.

William David Rodgers, Jr., 94, of Burlington, IA, died Saturday, February 3, 2024 at his home in Burlington.

He was born January 7, 1930 in Berkley, CA the son of William David and Sadie Noble Rodgers. He proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Korean War.



RODGERS

On November 26, 1955 he was united in marriage to Shirley Green in Sebastopol, CA. She preceded him in death on January 17, 1996.

William was employed with Wood Brothers in Gallatin, MO for fourteen years until his retirement.

He loved the outdoors and spent as much time as he could fishing and camping. He enjoyed tinkering around the house and garage making repairs and starting new projects. Most of all he loved being with his family.

He is survived by three daughters, Desiree Rodgers of Burlington, Terrea Puterbaugh (David) of Fairbanks, AK, and Alice Petker of Burlington, two sons, Michael Rodgers of Ft. Madison, and Clifford Rodgers of Hamilton, IL. He is also survived by ten grandchildren, fourteen great grandchildren and fifteen great-great grandchildren with one on the way and one niece.



Besides his wife he was also preceded in death by his parents, one son William David Rodgers III, one sister, Florence Rodgers and one brother Robert Rodgers. A private graveside service will be held at a later date.

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

Online condolences may be sent to the family at 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.

OBITUARIES

RANDY J. STOTT

Randy Joe Stott, 68 of Keokuk, IA passed away Monday, February 5, 2024 at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Ft. Madison, IA.

He was born June 3, 1955 in Kirksville, MO the son of Donald and Wilma Dice Stott. Randy graduated from Scotland County High School with the class of 1973 and from Southeastern Community College in 2007 with Phi Theta Kappa honors.



STOTT

On September 16, 1978 Randy was united in marriage to Tina LeMaster in Keokuk. She survives.

Other survivors include one daughter, Randi Michelle Waterman (Brian Hoekstra) of Burlington, IA, one son, Jake Stott (Ashley) of California and two grandchildren, Andrew and Brody Waterman as well as one more on the way. He is also survived by two sisters, Cretia Hesse (Rick) of Kahoka, MO and Patti Runge (John) of Keokuk and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Randy had been employed by Trellex Rubber in Keokuk and later at Knapheide in Quincy, IL. He also worked in construction.

He was a member of Crossview Fellowship.

Randy and Tina enjoyed traveling together. He also enjoyed woodworking and watching animal videos. He was an avid Iowa Hawkeye fan. Randy was generous with his time and talents and volunteered as a Meals on Wheels delivery driver.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m., Friday, at Crossview Fellowship in Keokuk with Pastor Kevin Hardcastle officiating. Burial will be in the Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Thursday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, with family meeting with friends from 5-7 p.m.

Memorials may be made to Keokuk Head Start or to Milestones (Meals on Wheels).

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com

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

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

JANIS VITTETOE

Janis Vittetoe, age 60, of Washington, passed away on February 6, 2024 at home surrounded by family, after a long journey with ovarian cancer.

A dear friend to many, Janis showed us what it means to live life with purpose, strength, grace, and, most of all, faith.



VITTETOE

Janis was born July 3, 1963 in West Point, Iowa to parents Dorothy and Joe Millmeyer. There she spent her younger years running around outside with her siblings and friends, coming in for lunch with the noon whistle, and playing endless games until the streetlights came on. Janis graduated from Marquette High School and attended the University of Iowa, where she met the love of her life, Denny Vittetoe. They were married in 1984 and later blessed with three children. Her four grandchildren were all bright shining stars in her life, and she loved each of them fiercely.

Janis lived life to the fullest, spending many weekends at motocross races, camping in her RV with her grandkids, family, pets, and friends, tending to her many garden beds, enjoying long lunches with her girlfriends, baking the best apple pies, exploring the Smoky Mountains by hiking to waterfalls and cruising the winding roads on the back of their Goldwing motorcycle, traveling to foreign countries, snuggling with her dog River, kayaking with manatees, and exploring Florida's nature coast-- her home away from Iowa. With every adventure, she made lasting friendships. Janis was a lifelong learner. Throughout her adult years, she was active in their hog operation and the Washington County Pork Producers. Additionally, she was a talented crafter, EMT, director of faith formation at St. James Catholic Church, Master Gardener, and spiritual director. These last two roles especially brought her joy, as she was able to nurture and care for others. She had a green thumb, tending to her beautiful garden beds, and a big heart, tending to many souls, offering them love and support. Janis' deep faith carried her through her final days.

Janis was preceded in death by her parents, brother Michael, numerous aunts and uncles, and cousin John Bush. Janis is survived by her husband Denny; children Bethany (Ike) Glinmann, Michael (Kelsey) Vittetoe, and Anne Vittetoe (fiance Austin Foster), all of Washington, Iowa; grandchildren Abigail (15), Wyatt (9), Emmalyn (6), and Hadley (5); siblings Debbie Millmeyer, Linda (Dusty) Cole, Marcia (John) McKinley, and Dan (Becky) Millmeyer; loving parents-in-law Leo and Rosemary Vittetoe; sisters-in-law Carol (Jeff) Hibler, Leann (Jerry) Rediger, and Linda (Greg) Eisenbarth; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. She will remain an inspiration to the countless friends and acquaintances whose lives she touched.

Mass of the Resurrection will be held 10:30 a.m. Friday, February 9, 2024, at St. James Catholic Church in Washington, IA with Fr. Bill Roush officiating. Calling hours will begin 3:00 p.m. Thursday, February 8, 2024, at St. James Catholic Church where the family will be present to receive friends from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Prayer services will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday. Interment will be held at a later date. Memorials have been established for St. James Catholic School or Hospice of Washington County. Online condolences may be sent for Janis's family at www.jonesfh.com.

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OBITUARIES

RACHEL H. PALMER

Rachel Helen Palmer, 92, of Farmington, Iowa, went to be with her Lord and Savior at 9:45 a.m. Sunday, January 7, 2024, at her home in Farmington. Rachel had been suffering with dementia for a number of years and was unable to attend church so on this Sunday, it was surprisingly special for her to finally be in church with her departed loved ones and her redeemer, Jesus Christ.



PALMER

She was born on February 16, 1931, in Charlotte, Iowa, the daughter of Edward John and Ellen Sophia (Schelin) Vance. Rachel grew up on a farm near DeWitt until 1947, when her parents bought a farm in Farmington, Iowa, where she finished her high school years and graduated as valedictorian of her class.

On December 10, 1950, she married Raymond Guy Palmer, Jr. at the First Baptist Church of Farmington, Iowa. He preceded her in death on October 25, 2008.

Together, Ray and Rachel bought a farm where she lived until her passing. She raised chickens and milked eight cows until her son began school. She then started working outside the home for Sheaffer Pen Corporation, Ortho Fertilizer Plant and Eagle Summit Childcare along with other jobs. Rachel enjoyed working in her flower beds and gardens. She also loved her cats, dogs, horses and cattle. Rachel loved her family dearly and was always a dedicated helper in times of need, even when her nephews asked for her trademark apple pies. Rachel was a member of the First Baptist Church of Wayland, in Wayland, Missouri and she sang in the family's Blue Grass Gospel group.

She is survived by her son: Gary (Judy) Palmer of Farmington, Iowa and several nieces, nephews, great and great great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband: Ray; two brothers: Edward and Robert Vance; sister: Ellen Boyer; brother-in-law: Phil Alarie; sister-in-law: LaVerna and several nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington.

Memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington with Pastor Dan Deatrack officiating.

Burial will be at Greenglade Cemetery in Farmington.

A memorial has been established in her memory.

Schmitz Funeral Home of Farmington is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.



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Sports/Education News

HTC JUNIOR SETS NEW SCHOOL SCORING MARK

Hellige goes for 45 in Tuesday win

PCC Staff

RIVERSIDE – Someone didn't tell the Highland boys basketball team about Luke Hellige.

The junior Holy Trinity Crusader put up a school record 45 points in Tuesday night's 107-46 win over the Huskies (2-18) in a SEI Superconference cross division matchup.

Hellige's 45 points surpasses the 40 that were put up by Connor Conrad back in 2017. Hellige also surpassed 1,000 points on the season and is now in the top 20 in the state scoring in all classes. Hidden in those lofty stats is the fact that junior Adam Sobczak still is tops in the state in all classes with 161 assists on the season.

The Huskies opened the game well and trailed by just six with a minute left in the first quarter, but then HTC put together one of their best quarters of the season putting up 41 points in the second with senior Conner



HELLIGE

Gehling putting up 17. He had 23 points in the first half and finished with 29.

Holy Trinity would continue the barrage in the second half with Hellige hitting five 3-balls enroute to 24 second half points as the Crusaders ran away.

Holy Trinity finishes the regular season 10-4 in SEISC South play, good enough for third behind undefeated West Burlington 13-0, and 16-5 overall. Notre Dame was second in the division at 10-3 with a 14-5 overall mark.

The Crusaders are off until Monday when they open Substate 5, District 10 play. They will host either Tri-County or Seymour who have a play-in game Friday. HTC is seeded No. 1 in District 10 and with each win they will host the following game. Second round action is Thursday Feb. 15 with the district final set for Tuesday, Feb. 20.

Central Lee releases honor 2nd Q honor rolls

DONNELSON - The following is the 2nd quarter honor roll for Central Lee Middle School. Pen City Current and our family of advertisers congratulates the following students on their hard work and academic achievements.

Principal Scholar
8th Grade – Anderson, Macy Mae, Buch, Rachel Marie, Haigh, Chloe Nicole, McDowell, Arabella Beulah, Newton, Caedon Lane

7th Grade – Cook, Brylee Nicole, Moeller, Kaylee Ann, Morrison, Kaitlyn Madison, Weirather, Grant Shane

6th Grade – Derr, Lincoln Lee, Edens, Isaac Michael, Fransk, McKenna Jean, Grafton, Aralind Emelia, Jacobs, Lily Ann, Jones, Charley Jeane, Jones, Zoey Jean, Longanecker, Mason Lee, Newton, Drake Alan, Rudd, Brooklyn Addyson, Sanders, Kanon Cole, Weinberg, Ariyn Harper

A Honor Roll
8th Grade – Adkins, Evelyn Maree, Alvis, Riley Claire, Ashmore, Micah Robert, Bowen, Jackson

Matthew, Breashears, Jade Arleane, Bunnell, Aubree Jo, Burgess, Owen Dean, Canida, Adason Marie, Day, Olivia Joanne, Derr, Ava Rae, Gates, Olivia Rachel, Grafton, Gracyn Rose, Hassman, Madison Jo, Hawk, Jaliann Alisa, Hocker, Brinley Marie, Hohl, Addison Makayla, Jenkins, Jax Perry, Juarez, Hope Lynn, Kirchner, Colton Jack, Kitzman, Kaylee Marie, Maynes, Afton, Robbins, Henry Roy, Robins, Tristan David, Rohdy, Hadleigh Malia, Wagner, Eliza Nicole, Westfall, Keagan Rylee, Young, Sara Evonne

7th Grade – Benner, Marcie Rylan Burden, Rayleigh Dawn Burdette, Jayden Lee Calkins, Cooper Allen Crank, Liam Edward Daly, McKenzie Grace Dill, Adalyn Mae Flikkema, Alexxa Lynn Frueh, Madison Lauren Haigh, Colten Michael Helenthal, Kylie Ann Hewett, Elliot June Kuznetsov, Artem Andreevich Larson, Ruby June Lozano, Malia Michele Manwill, Berlyn Kapri Mueller, Jaxson James Mullins, Maggie Mae Riley, Alayna Mae Ruffcorn,

Brody Thomas Rule, Hayden Ray Ann Sciumbato, Ahnna Ramone Stark, Kaylee Ann Starks, Madison Lee Ann Sullivan, Ashton Michael Sullivan, Ethan Allen Timpe, Annamae Elaine Van Ausdall, Gramm Matthew Weber, Kellen Dean Welch, Hayden Lee Welch, Madison Jade

6th Grade – Adkins, Adella JoAnn, Breashears, Jinta Vivian, Calfee, Kolt Allen Joe, Cantonwine, Greyson James, Cavasos, Chad Michael, Crozier, Carter Lee, Daly, Addalie Elise, Edens, Riley Levi, Eicher, Lydia Mae, Eid, Jake William, Ekle, Allana Ruth, Frueh, Evan Austin, Gregory, Corbin Keith, Grossman, Malerie Lynn, Kieler, Madelyn R, Kite, Kyler James, Koller, Madison Kathryn, Larkin, Cian Trace, McCarty, Emry June, Milligan, Laina Kay, Moore, Laney Nicole, Noble, Khloe Marie, Robbins, Emiline May, Rudd, Hallie Josephine, Smith, Kayleigh Michelle, Sutter, Aiden Charles, Umthun, Olivia Grace, Marie, Workman, Wyatt Orin

B Honor Roll
8th Grade – Aguirre, Colton Christopher, Anderson, Aaden Douglas, Azinger, Leah Rose, Brotherton, Gracie Lynn, Capps, Lauren Elizabeth Payge, Chappell, Hallee Kathryn, Hopp, Avery Jalynn, Johnson, Coby Allen, Kruse, Luke Isaiah, Martindale, Isabella Mae, McCormick, Jordyn Lee, Mortimer, Jessy Michael, Perkins, Aubree Lee, Seyb, Johnathan Paul, Westermeyer, Emily Sue

7th Grade – Ball, Adriana Leigh, Boyer, Scarlett Shea, Day, Charli Grace, DeBrackeleire, Krystal Angel, Ekle, Richard Asher, Fraise, Alissa Mary, Gerdes, Jaren Stanley, Holbert, Dominic Anthony, Johnson, Levi Michael, Johnson, Noah Ryan, Padgett, Jackie Lynn, Schmidt, Grace Ann, Tweedy, Eliot Scott

6th Grade – Azbill, Riley Ann, Broadwell, Carly Jo, Cain, Lucas Andrew, Deck, Allana Rose, DiSanto, Ciana Olivia, Ferris, Abigail Elizabeth, Hirschler, Jarrett Joshua, Jones, Owen William, Lane, Bethany Michelle, Lawson-Welborn, Bryson Raen, Lindner, Ross Michael, Markell, Tate Lee, Mayer, Evan Allen, Ough, Oliver Reese, Pollmeier, Kathryn Lucille, Wagner, Keller Anthony

Central Lee girls get rough peek at post season

PCC Staff

DONNELSON – The Central Lee girls got a sneak peak Tuesday night at what they will be facing when the post-season gets underway Saturday.

The Lady Hawks suffered an 80-42 setback Tuesday night at home to Mediapolis (16-4) with the Bulldog's Grace Holsteen leading all scorers with 19 on the night, all in the first half.

Central Lee got behind early suffering through an early shooting drought. The Hawks didn't get their first basket until three minutes left in the first period and trailing 6-0.

Mediapolis would then put up 36 points in the second half as they raced to 50-19 halftime lead with Holsteen scoring 14. Some defensive adjustments in the second half held Holsteen scoreless, but the 31-point halftime deficit proved too much to overcome.

Central Lee hit another scoring slump to start the third period converting just a 3-point play on hoop and foul on Kenna Sandoval.

The Hawks would score 20 in the final period as the Bulldogs started substituting. Lizzy Mason scored eight in the final period on the way to 14 points to lead Central Lee. Sandoval had 11 on the night.

Central Lee (6-15) will travel to Mediapolis on Saturday for a 7 p.m. Class 3A, Region 1 post-season opener.

Bill would address rural housing shorts

DES MOINES — U.S. Representatives Zach Nunn (IA-03) and Wiley Nickel (NC-13) today introduced bipartisan legislation to improve access to housing in rural communities. The Promote Affordable Rural Housing Act will improve the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Section 524 loan program by extending the term for rural housing site loans and expanding the use of these loans.

“Our country is suffering from an affordable housing crisis, especially in rural areas,” said Rep. Nunn. “This is a growing challenge that must be addressed now to prevent it from getting any worse. Modernizing the USDA rural housing development loans will help incentivize new construction and bolster affordable housing options in rural Iowa.”

Across the country, there is a shortage of 7.3 million affordable and available rental homes for low-income renters. In rural Iowa, 10.6 percent of the population lives in poverty, and the average household income is more than \$10,000 less than the national average. Nearly 40 percent of renters in Iowa spend nearly one third of their income on housing.

The USDA Section 524 loan program provides loans that can be used to purchase and develop housing sites for low-income and moderate-income families.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
November 27, 2023**

The Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa, met on Monday, November 27, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at the County Administration Building, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison, Iowa.

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

All votes are unanimous unless indicated otherwise.

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

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

There was no Public Input.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Holmes, to approve Resolution #2023-107. Roll call: Pflug-Aye, Holmes-Aye, Fedler-Aye, Schulz-Aye and Seyb-Aye.

RESOLUTION #2023-107

Assessed/Taxable Values of Utility Companies for 2023

(Payable in 2024-2025 Fiscal Year)

Be it Resolved, that pursuant to §433.9, Code of Iowa, there be ordered entered in the minute book the length of lines and the assessed value of the property of each of the following utility companies situated in each city, township, or lesser taxing district in its county as fixed by the Director of Revenue and certified to the County Auditor.

Gas and Electric utility assessed and taxable values are determined on a company-by-company basis. The taxes on said utility property when collected by the County Treasurer shall be disposed of as taxes on real

estate. A detailed report showing the value for each company by taxing district is on file in the County Auditor's Office.

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 Schulz, to approve Resolution #2023-105 & #2023-106. Roll call: Fedler-Aye, Schulz-Aye, Holmes-Aye, Pflug-Aye and Seyb-Aye.

**RESOLUTION
No. 2023-105**

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: Dalton Thompson 2119 150th Street West Point IA 52656

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 27th 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. 2023-106**

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: Shianne Moeller 2174 162nd Street West Point IA 52656

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 27th 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 Holmes, seconded by Pflug, to approve discontinuing the County Pandemic Policy, effective January 1, 2024. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Pflug, to approve the Consent Agenda that included the November 20, 2023 Board minutes and the claims for payment. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug,

seconded by Seyb, to approve hiring two part-time Paramedics, Sydney Nelson and Kaylyn Derby, \$22.96/hr., effective 11/27/23. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Holmes reported on a Workforce Development Board meeting.

At 10:15 a.m. it was moved by Pflug, seconded by Holmes, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 4, 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 27, 2023**

Access Enrgy, svcs	546.85
Alliant Enrgy, svcs	441.47
Aspelmr/Fisch, svcs	663.30
AutoZone, parts	239.98
Blessing Health, svcs	600.00
Bound Tree Med, spl	2913.85
Commerce Bank	
1Password, svcs	19.95
Access Energy, svcs	793.70
Access Systems, equip	56.66
Adobe, sftwr	380.95

AegeanLLC, edu	200.00
Aldi, splys	25.72
Alliant, svcs	1,235.14
Amazon.com, splys	5,725.31
Applebeees, meal	31.47
Arrowhead Scientific, splys	131.61
Axon, splys	288.00
Best Western, Idg	1,266.80
BP, fuel	49.00
Bricks Kitchen, meal	35.05
Canva, splys	140.99
Casey's, fuel	185.30
Cash Advance, fee	15.00
Centurylink, svcs	2,538.37
Cheddar's, meal	19.06
Chick-fil-A, meal	55.80
Chipotle, meal	33.89
Clark, fuel	20.00
Coldstone, meal	14.82
Comfort Inn, Idg	1,063.82
Connection Bank, cash	400.00
Coral Reel, splys	32.37
Crescent Parts, parts	527.03
Culvers, meals	34.33
Discount Cell, equip	7,180.00
Dish, svcs	84.51
Dodd Printing, splys	671.90
Dollar General, splys	65.00
Donnellson Lumber, splys	18.97
Elite K9, splys	535.20
Embassy Suites, Idg	

EMC, ins	120,052.13
Family Discount Furn, splys	1,929.96
Five Guys, meal	42.02
Farm & Home, splys	338.25
Galls, unif	2,546.15
Gilibertos, meal	18.21
Gov Connect IA, tax	250.90
Hancock Journal, publ	295.25
Hobby Lobby, splys	9.96
Holiday Inn, Idg	1,477.28
Holiday Stations, fuel	153.94
Huffman's, splys	2,088.61
Hulu, svcs	16.04
HyVee, fuel	49.04
IA Dept Pub Safety, svcs	30.00
IA EMS Assoc, reg	2,250.00
IA Envrntal Hlth, rntl	240.00
IA Parks & Rec, edu	720.00
IA Sec of State, ntry	60.00
Int. Svcs Fee, fees	0.20
ISAC, fees	205.00
Java River, meal	19.81
Jethro's, meal	49.09
Jim Baier, svcs	167.51
Jimmy John's, meals	15.13
Josh's Frogs, splys	91.79
Kempker's, splys	477.09
Kum & Go, fuel	59.71
Kwik Trip, fuel	119.50
Lowes, splys	75.98

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PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

McDonald's, meal....	13.81	
Mc Farland's, splys 1,256.41	
Mediacom, svcs....	4,300.00	
Menards, splys.....	504.36	
Murphy, fuel.....	49.01	
Nassco, splys.....	183.72	
Netflix, svcs.....	21.39	
Ninja One, tools	..... 8,276.88
Northern Lights Pizza,	meal.....	38.03
Office Depot, splys	..... 653.30
Pagliailis, meals.....	21.56	
Perkins, meal.....	75.26	
Phillips 66, fuel.....	38.31	
Pilot, fuel.....	9.54	
Quill, splys.....	547.55	
Radisson Hotel, ldg	..... 153.20
Rathbun Water, water	..... 246.00
Ray Allen Manuf, equip	..... 319.35
Shottenkirk, svcs....	273.49	
SHRM, mbrsp.....	244.00	
Sirchie, splys.....	96.91	
Speedway, fuel.....	54.50	
Staples, splys.....	22.49	
Stoney Creek Inn, ldg	..... 448.00
Subway, meal.....	40.72	
Sushi & Hibachi, meal	..... 36.57
Sys Kool, parts.....	68.00	
Taco Johns, meals..	24.79	
Tacoz Calif, meal....	18.89	
Tasty Tacos, meal....	19.58	
Teleflex, splys....	1,345.50	
Texas Roadhouse, meal	..... 107.40
The Big Steer, meals	..... 78.62
Tmobile, svcs.....	108.28	
US Cell, svcs.....	1,257.96	
USCC IVR, svcs.....	97.43	
USPS, pstg.....	136.91	
Verizon, svcs.....	1,233.51	
Vistaprint, splys....	200.00	
Wal Mart, books....	784.89	
West Point Lumber, splys	..... 14.58
Winners Circle, svcs	..... 78.86
Win Supply, parts..	380.49	
Xpert Auto, svcs.....	100.00	
DM Co Auditor, svcs	..... 150.00
Fastenal Co, equip	..... 135.50
Floyds EZ Way, svcs	..... 70.00
FM Water, svcs.....	333.41	
GrtAmer Financial, equip	..... 212.93
Hall Excvtnng, svcs....	30.00	
S Hansen, svcs.....	175.00	
Hartricks Lmbr, parts	..... 5.48
Henderson Prod, splys	..... 643.05
IA GEMT Pymnt, svcs	..... 4650.84
IA Office St Med, svcs	..... 2060.27
Johnson Co ME, svcs	..... 1180.85
Keokuk Water, svcs..	87.15	
King-Lynk Fnrl, svcs	..... 2180.00
Lee Co Sheriff, svcs	..... 125.48
D Mehl, svcs.....	500.00	
Menards, splys.....	265.03	

MidAmer Enrgy, gas	..... 302.46
OMG Midwest, svcs	..... 292709.43
M Pflug, exps.....	75.00
Pilot Grove Bnk, splys	..... 43148.00
H Porter, rent.....	370.00
B Roberts, svcs.....	337.00
SIACC, svcs.....	729.30
SIADSA, svcs.....	3145.12
SE IA Reg Med, svcs	..... 25.00
Sue's Quilts, unif....	20.00
Treas St IA Office, svcs	..... 15437.00
Vigen Mmrl Home, svcs	..... 2660.00
Walker Alignment, svcs	..... 250.00
M Wooster, svcs...	2200.00
Zions Bank, bonds	..... 5707.27

**PUBLIC NOTICE
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
December 4, 2023**

The Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa, met on Monday, December 4, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at the County Administration Building, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison, Iowa.

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

At 10:01 a.m. Fedler opened a Public Hearing concerning the donation of the County owned apartments to Iowa 2 x 4's for Hope. There were no comments received prior to the hearing and no comments from those in attendance at the hearing. At 10:02 a.m. a motion was made by Pflug and seconded by Holmes, to close the Public Hearing. Motion carried.
Moved by Holmes, seconded by Schulz, to approve Resolution #2023-110. Roll call: Holmes-aye, Schulz-aye, Pflug-aye and Fedler-aye.

Resolution #2023-110

RESOLUTION APPROVING 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; and
WHEREAS, pursuant to Iowa Code Section 331.361, a public hearing was 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,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lee County Board of Super-

visors 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 4th day of December, 2023.
Lee County Board of Supervisors /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.
Public Input: Kathy Gabel and Devon Dade from the Talbot Sober Living Residence in Keokuk, asked the Board for \$15,000 from the Opioid Settlement Funds. They were advised that there is an application process they will have to follow.
Moved by Holmes, seconded by Pflug, to approve the final payment from ARPA Funds of \$1,245,987.10 to the Southeast Iowa Regional Economic and Port Authority for Broadband Expansion in Lee County. Motion carried.
Moved by Pflug, seconded by Holmes, to reappoint Judy Bartachek and Paula Spiekermeier to the Board of Health. Motion carried.
Moved by Pflug, seconded by Schulz, to approve a Renewal Agreement with Advanced Correctional Healthcare, beginning July 1, 2024, at an annual cost of \$169,160.36. Motion carried.
Moved by Pflug, seconded by Schulz, to approve a Fee Proposal with Midwest Group Benefits, beginning January 1, 2024, at a cost of \$4.25 per month per participating employee, for administering Flexible Spending Accounts. Motion carried.
Moved by Holmes, seconded by Pflug, to approve plans by Poeping, Stone and Bach, for the Keokuk EMS Building. Motion carried.
Moved by Pflug, seconded by Schulz, to approve Resolution #2023-111. Roll call: Pflug-aye, Schulz-aye, Holmes-aye and Fedler-aye.

2023 - 111

RESOLUTION CORRECTING INTERFUND TRANSFER FROM AMERICAN RESCUE FUND TO GENERAL BASIC FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023
WHEREAS, a Resolution was passed on the 5th day of June, 2023 authorizing an interfund transfer from the American Rescue Fund to the General Basic Fund;
WHEREAS, the total amount to be transferred for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 was \$2,500,000 of which \$2,000,000 for additional costs incurred and \$500,000 for the Keokuk Ambulance Building Project;
AND WHEREAS, it is determined that the entire \$2,500,000 is needed to keep the General Fund at a sustainable level;
NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved, by the Lee County Board of Supervisors, to correct Resolution #2023-71 and remove the allocation for the Keokuk Ambulance Building.
Dated at Fort Madison, Iowa on the 5th day of December 2023.
LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Lee County Board of Supervisors /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 Holmes, seconded by Pflug, to approve corrections to the County Personnel Policy that include increasing longevity amounts to match what is in the Administrative Union Contract and changing vacation accrual and usage to also match the Contract. Motion carried.
Moved by Pflug, seconded by Holmes, to approve Resolution #2023-108, #2023-109 & #2023-112. Roll call: Pflug-Aye, Holmes-Aye, Schulz-Aye, and Fedler-Aye.

**RESOLUTION
No. 2023-108**

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: Russell Steffensmeier 1748 150th Avenue 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 4th day of December, 2023.
Lee County Board of Supervisors /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.

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: Hannah Schau 1363 Primrose Road 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 4th day of December, 2023.
Lee County Board of Supervisors /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. 2023-109**

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: Russell Steffensmeier 1748 150th Avenue 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 4th day of December, 2023.
Lee County Board of Supervisors /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.

Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-112

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: Howard Holtkamp 1274 Hwy 218 West Point IA 52656

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 4th day of December, 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /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 Holmes, seconded by Pflug, to approve the Consent Agenda that included the November 27, 2023 Board minutes and the claims for payment. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Holmes, to approve a step increase for Joshua Patton, Mechanic, from \$28.10/hr. to \$29.21/hr., effective 12/27/23 and a new hire for EMS, Robert Griesman, Paramedic, \$22.96/hr., effective 12/18/23. Motion carried.

Received and filed the

Commission of Veteran Affairs Minute of Meeting from October 25, 2023.

Committee Reports: Schulz reported on an Opioid Settlement Funds Advisory Board meeting and a Fifth District Annual Meeting. Holmes reported on a Children First Board meeting.

At 10:55 a.m. it was moved by Pflug, seconded by Holmes, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 11, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Administration Building in Fort Madison.

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

Claims paid December 4, 2023

AirMedCare, svs 3210.00
Alliant Energy, svs 2239.30
Amazon, splys 49.43

Ascensus, svs..... 2400.00
Bates Sntatn, svs.. 570.00
B Bonar, exps 200.00
Bnd Tree Med, splys 709.99
Building Mat'l, splys 44.34
CenturyLink, svs 90.95
City/Donnellson, svs 127.36
Comm Action, svs 886.83
H Curtis, svs 259.00
Democrat Co, publ.... 4.58
RK Dixon Co, equip 77.76
Donnellson Tire, svs 98.00
Drake Hdwr, equip 555.20
Est Cntrl Dist Assors, edu 300.00
R Fedler, exps 65.00
Floyds EZ Way, svs 135.00
FM Water, svs..... 4252.52
D Fraise, exps 40.00
Garratt-Callahan, splys 750.00
N Granaman, svs 1549.21
Grt Prairie AEA, svs 90.00

H & H Lawn, svs ... 420.00
Hall Excvtng, svs .. 290.00
Hartricks Lmbr, parts 1.99
Heritage Med, splys 482.00
Hill Prtg, svs..... 279.97
Huffman Wldng, equip 589.98
Ideal Rdy Mix, mat'l 670.07
Interstate Battery, splys 34.80
IA DOT, splys 29.78
S Jeffries, exps 329.00
P Kaltefleiter, exps.. 55.20
P Karczmarczyk, exps 8.00
Karl Emerg Veh, equip 3942.82
Kelttek, equip..... 728.49
Kempkers, splys 29.97
Keo Med Equip, splys 112.00
Keokuk Water, svs 597.52
Klingner Assoc, svs 17954.85
G Knisley, exps..... 263.00
P Knustrom, exps 381.50
R Kuntz, svs 200.00
LeeCo Auditor, Ctrl Pur

..... 91.77
LeeCo HAZMAT, cntrb 10000.00
LeeCo Hlth, svs .. 5607.06
LeeCo Rec, prmts... 18.50
LeeCo Treas, fees 412634.08
LeeCo Treas, costs 30175.61
Liberty Utility, gas ... 38.64
C Liles, svs 310.00
R Lovett, exps..... 500.00
MidAmer Enrgy, gas 34.57
Montrose Rvfrnt, rent 125.00
L Mullins, exps..... 352.50
C Oldfield, unif 143.96
OMG Midwest, svs 1326.82
Optum Rx, splys 1007.07
Parts Auth, parts... 240.00
PCC Ambul, svs 10160.90
Pen City Current, publ 712.49
M Pflug, exps..... 40.00
Pitney Bowes, pstg

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For the Record/From the Front

Board may sit on \$350K until next year

BOARD - Continued from Page 1

\$50,000.

However, the board moved the conversation away from the tennis courts due to the reduced number of students the improvements would impact.

Chiri said he and Lamb also met with Carl A. Nelson and walked the campus with construction officials and looked at other ways the funding could be spent.

"We met with them and walked around the campus and looked at different things we could impact. The weight room with the \$350,000 would add a 40 foot by 48 foot section which really wouldn't give us what we need," Lamb said.

"We talked about adding restrooms to the hitting facility, which doesn't impact as much and then we got into seeing the new (7-8) gym done, the locker rooms, and some literally things around that could give us a facelift with smaller amounts of money."

Lamb said one of the ideas was to redo the main gym floor, sand it down and repaint it which would cost about \$30,000. The locker rooms could be improved incrementally with the district's budget. He said both the boys' and girls' locker rooms were in need of updates. He said completely redoing the showering areas with the plumbing would probably stretch the budget too far.

Lamb also said purchasing new wrestling mats at about \$11,000 each would be something that could be looked at. He also suggested the throwing area at the high school track could be leveled out for about \$2,000.

"There's a lot we could do with that money," Chiri said. "Not saying we couldn't do the tennis courts, but they are on the list."

Board member Mio Santiago said he would like to see a greater vision of the high school athletic facilities and possibly hold onto the money until next year when that vision can be put together.

Lamb said seeing what is being done in the new gym, the biggest impact with the most benefit to everyone would be redoing the gym floor and making the whole main gym look new.

"You've got volleyball, you've got basketball, you've got wrestling, and you've got all those different sports currently using that. I would then like to see how much additional stuff we could do outside of that, but the locker rooms and the gym floor would be two large investments that would pay back well," he said.

He said the gym was built in 1970 and the floor could be resurfaced a couple more times before it would need to be completely replaced.

Board member Brad Menke asked if Carl A. Nelson had indicated any intention to release some contin-

gency funds on the current construction project, but District Business Manager Sandy Elmore said the company isn't yet willing to release any of those funds with the project still ongoing.

"Not that we didn't ask, but he just didn't want to commit to that. He felt they were not far enough along, especially with more summer work coming up," Elmore said.

Board Chairman Josh Wykert asked Lamb if the tennis courts are still playable this year and potentially next.

"In my opinion? Yes," Lamb said. "The tennis courts are level, they do have cracks, but there's no change in the surface from one area to the next."

Lamb said the courts are average compared to other Southeast Conference facilities. Chiri said there could be additional patching done by district staff.

The board told Chiri to move forward in the best way he sees fit. Menke said if the gym floor and the other things could be done this summer, he would be for that, and then do the patching of the tennis courts.

Wykert said kicking the can down the road a year may not be a bad idea either.

"I hate taking a kid to the store with a \$5 bill, because he's gonna find something for \$5," Wykert said.

"We know we have this \$350K or whatever it is. We don't need to spend just to spend it. We could roll it to next year. It's still in the same fund for bricks and mortar. I hate sinking it into tennis courts because that affects so few students. I hate spending money just because we got it."

Lamb said the weight room and the gym floor and the locker rooms are things that absolutely need fixes.

"The tennis courts are right up there and need to be looked at."

Chiri said the committee has talked about finding more money for things like a new training facility, fixing the baseball field, and turf on the football field.

"Those are giant things. I do have turf for the football field in 10 years."

Fort Madison High School co-principal Patrick Lamb told Chiri turfing the football field has been on the 10-year plan for the past seven years.

Chiri said he will move forward with the fund based on the direction of the conversation at hand. Wykert said he would be thumbs down on spending any money this year and getting a more comprehensive look at what needs done with the athletic facility.

"I don't see a champion project right now."

In other action, the board

- heard a basic budget presentation from Elmore with some initial numbers including a projected \$16.2 million budget framed around a 2.5% allowable growth that's projected to be submitted by Governor Kim Reynolds.

Pate encourages high schools to host drives

VOTERS - Continued from Page 1

Iowa law allows 17-year-olds to register to vote and participate in Primary Elections if they turn 18 prior to or on the day of the General Election.

With this statewide day of action, Secretary Pate is encouraging high schools in all 99 counties to host a voter registration drive and educate students on the voter registration and participation process. Iowa law requires high schools to conduct two voter registration drives every school year.

"Exercising your right to vote is a powerful way to help shape the world we share," said Iowa Department of Education Director McKenzie Snow. "High School Voter Registration Day is an outstanding opportunity to learn more about the electoral process while taking the first step to fulfill your critical responsibility as engaged citizens."

Currently 2.2 million Iowans are registered to vote. Iowa has some of the best voter registration and participation rates in the nation and is ranked in the top three nationally for election administration.

To check your voter registration status, register to vote or update your information, visit VoterReady.Iowa.gov.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

02/06/24 - 1:14 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Jason Edward Ramlow, 48, of Fort Madison, at the North Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for failure to appear - probation violation drugs. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

02/06/24 - 2:54 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Carri Lou Carson, 46, of Fort Madison, in the 2800 block of Avenue J, on a warrant for voluntary absence from custody. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

Keokuk Police Report

02/06/24 - 1:28 p.m. - Keokuk Police arrested Casey Jo Clairborne, 41, of Keokuk, in the 900 block of Palean Street, on an active warrant. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

02/06/24 - 5:01 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 200 block

of 6th Street.

02/06/24 - 10:02 p.m. - Keokuk Police arrested Austin Scott Mander, 28, of Council Bluffs, in the 1300 block of Main Street on a charge of OWI. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff Report

02/06/24 - Lee County Sheriff's deputies had no activity to report.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

02/04/24 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls.

02/05/24 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls.

02/06/24 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls.

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

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