

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Friday, February 16, 2024 | 7 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 31



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Tough Day 2 in DM



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Senior Joe Hartman has one of several positive moves in his bout at 165 lbs. Friday against Pella's Logan Bruxvoort in consolation wrestling. Hartman would lose the match and be eliminated from the tournament Thursday. At right top, the Hounds' Ike Thacher tries to get an advantage on Ames' Danarii Michel, while in the middle, Fort Madison's Nolan Riddle looks at the scoreboard against top-seeded Grant Kress of Linn-Mar. Right bottom, Cory Arnett cinches up a quick pin over Andy Crowder of Carlisle.

Tough opponents: Riddle, Thacher draw No. 1 and No. 2 seeds in quarters

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DES MOINES – It was a rougher second day of wrestling for the Fort Madison Bloodhounds at the IHSAA State Wrestling meet in Des Moines.

After going 4-2 on Day 1 wrestling, the Hounds were just 1-4 on Thursday where two of the four Hounds were eliminated.

Junior Cory Arnett made easy work of 24th seed Andy Crow-

ford of Carlisle in his first match of the day in 2nd round consolation wrestling at 285 lbs.

After about 20 seconds of hand fighting, Arnett shoved Crowford to the circle for a restart and then grabbed him around the shoulders with an arm pinned back and twisted him to the mat for a pinfall 45 seconds into the bout to advance to third round wrestlebacks.

See **STATE**, page 3

COUNTY NEWS

County to hold public hearings on bonding for LCHD, EMS facilities

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR



HOLMES

LEE COUNTY – The Lee County Board of Supervisors has set public hearings to borrow money for construction of the new Lee County Health Department and the new Keokuk Ambulance bay.

The issue prompted a lengthy discussion Monday at the regular meeting of the board.

Both hearings are set for Feb. 26, the first on the Keokuk facility at 10:01 a.m., and the other immediately following at 10:15.

The first will be to borrow \$1,300,000 under what's called a reverse referendum that is authorized under Iowa code in urban renewal areas. The county authorized the ur-

ban renewal area for the Keokuk site, where the current ambulance garage is located in the 1500 block of Blondeau. Those funds can be borrowed unless a petition is filed by taxpayers. Petitioners must get signatures equal to 10% of the total votes cast in the county for the last general election for President or governor. In 2022, the total votes cast in Lee County for the governor's race was 11,465, which means a petition of 1,147 valid signa-

tures would be required to either have the county abandon the bonding, or put it up for a special election.

That bond would fall upon the county's debt service, which has a couple current bonds ready to expire, including the jail and the conservation building construction.

The second public hearing is for the Lee

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WEATHER

FRI 16 Feb.....Cold with chance of snow, 35° F/18° F
SAT 17 Feb.....Clear and breezy, 37° F/25° F
SUN 18 Feb.....Sunny and chilly, 46° F/28° F

IOWA LOTTERY

DOUBLE PLAY 02/14.....33 40 45 48 53, Powerball: 17
LOTTO AMERICA 02/14.....2 3 15 16 45, Star Ball: 10 All Star Bonus: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE 02/14.....4 7 39 42 46, Lucky Ball: 4
PICK 3 MIDDAY 02/14.....6 7 3
PICK 3 EVENING 02/14.....9 8 5
PICK 4 MIDDAY 02/14.....3 2 9 0
PICK 4 EVENING 02/14.....7 7 4 8
POWERBALL 02/14.....1 4 45 47 67, Powerball: 18 Power Play: 2

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

CHARLES E. BERTLSHOFFER, JR.

Charles Edward "Chuck" Bertlshofer, Jr., 82, of Fort Madison, Iowa, passed away at 3:55 a.m. Thursday, February 15, 2024, at his home in Fort Madison.

He was born on February 7, 1942, in Fort Madison, Iowa, the son of Charles, Sr. and Mary (Cormick) Bertlshofer. On April 14, 1962, he married Karen Sue Randell at Sharon Presbyterian Church in rural Farmington, Iowa.



BERTLSHOFFER

He is survived by his loving wife of sixty-one years: Karen; one son: Michael Charles (Angi) Bertlshofer of Galesburg, Illinois; one daughter: Tracy Lynn (Mike) Morrison of North Liberty, Iowa; grandchildren: Tyler Morrison, Haley (Tyler) Africa, Stephen Bertlshofer, Michael Bertlshofer, Kylee Bertlshofer, Bryan Bertlshofer; sisters: Carol (David) Faeth of Eldridge, Iowa, Judy (Ron) Hunsaker of Burlington, Iowa; brother: Edward Bertlshofer of Fort Madison, Iowa; brothers-in-law: Larry Reid of Burlington, Iowa and Aaron Burghoffer of Fort Madison, Iowa. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters: Joan Reid and Debbie Burghoffer.

Chuck was a graduate of Donnellson High School, where he lettered in track, baseball and basketball for four years. He served in the United States Army Reserves for six years. He worked at Gleason Corporation for forty-four years, the last twenty-seven of which he was plant manager. Chuck was a member of the Sharon Presbyterian Church. He served on the Central Lee School Board for six years and was on the Fort Madison Community Hospital Board of Directors for twenty years. He coached little league baseball and YMCA girls grade school basketball. He enjoyed gardening, flowers, fishing and he was an avid Chicago Cubs fan. Family was of utmost importance to him. Chuck's favorite motto was "Always give more than you take."



A visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Monday, February 19, 2024, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson. A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, February 19, 2024, at Schmitz Funeral Home with Pastor Katrina Bergman officiating. Burial will be at Clay Grove Cemetery in rural West Point, Iowa. A memorial has been established for the Donnellson Fire & Rescue.

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

OBITUARIES

JUDITH K. SAMMONS

Judith K "Judy" Sammons, 81 years, of Wayland, Missouri and formerly of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 10:45 am February 9, 2024 at Lewiston, Missouri. She was born in Burlington, Iowa on October 16, 1942, a daughter of Francis Edwin and Shirley (Wilson) Swanson. She first married Gerald "Jerry" Ahlen, they had



SAMMONS

three children: Brenda, Craig, and Richard. They later divorced. She married John Medland, they had one daughter, Michelle. They later divorced. She married Michael G Sammons on August 1, 1988. They were married for 35 years. He survives.

Judy graduated from Fort Madison High School. She worked at Sheaffer Pen Company for 14 years, and at Walmart for 23 years, retiring in 2013. She and Mike enjoyed cooking and visiting with friends and family.

She is survived by her husband, Mike Sammons of Wayland, Missouri; three children: Brenda (John) Coleman of Neosho, Missouri; Craig (Bobby) Ahlen and Michelle (Nick) Kruse, all of Fort Madison; one sister, Sharon (Don) Epperson of Fort Madison; 10 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, and one great great granddaughter. She was preceded in death by her parents and her son and daughter-in-law, Richard and Crystal Ahlen.

Private family burial will be at Grant Cemetery, Rome, Iowa. A memorial has been established, contributions may be mailed to Barr Memorial Chapel, 1919 Ave F, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve Judy's family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.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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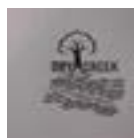
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www.DrMarkDDS.com

From the Front

Riddle, Thacher need a win to guarantee spot on podium

STATE - Continued from Page 1

But his last match of the day didn't go as planned against Zach Conlon of Dubuque Hempstead. Conlon came into the tournament seeded 15th to Arnett's 10th seeding.

The two engaged in the typical pushing and shoving, and hand-fighting to start the match, but Conlon would record a takedown with 30 seconds left in the first period. Conlon would take the down start and record a quick escape. The two measured each other up again for another minute before Arnett tried a toss on Conlon that backfired with Conlon landing on top for another 2-point takedown. He would work that into a near fall at the left side of the mat, but the horn saved Arnett from a potential pin, saddling him with a 7-0 deficit which would hold up through the third period.

Arnett finished his junior season with a 26-12 record and his first ever trip to Wells-Fargo.

Joe Hartman left everything he had on the mat in his consolation loss to Pella's Logan Bruxvoort. Hartman had several opportunities to wrench the Dutch to the mat but Bruxvoort was always able to muscle out of Hartman's grasp. The Fort Madison senior battled through the match without giving up the pin, but fell 12-2 to end his Bloodhound career with a 29-20 season.

Nolan Riddle, wrestling at 157, got through his first two matches on Wednesday only to be rewarded with

a bout against Linn-Mar's Grant Kress, the No. 2 ranked wrestler in 3A at 157 and the top-seed coming into the tournament. Riddle held his own with Kress appearing to wear down the senior. Kress was able to grab Riddle's leg about 40 seconds into the bout and was able to twist his way to a takedown, but Riddle got an escape after 30 seconds of rolling and twisting out of Kress' grasp. Kress would score a reversal halfway through the second period, after Riddle had him compromised several times in the tussle off the second period whistle. But no points were awarded because the Hound started the period in the top spot. There was little action in the third period as both wrestlers took a passive approach to the final period.

Ike Thacher (190) got a bye in the first round of wrestling Wednesday, then won his second round match, and then found himself up against 2nd-seed Danarii Michel. The two battled to a 0-0 tie after the first period. Michel started the second down and was able to escape in eight seconds for a 1-point lead. Thacher was cautioned for stalling on two different occasions in the second period and then Michel was awarded a 1-point penalty when Thacher dodged a shot at the circle and went out of bounds, prompting the penalty point. The match would end with Thacher getting a penalty point after Michel shoved him



Fort Madison's Joe Hartman again tries to get Pella's Logan Bruxvoort compromised in an upper body lock, but the the Dutch would manage to escape several of Hartman's pin attempts.

for a second time after the whistle. Michel also gave

Thacher a shove at the head after the second period horn

had sounded.

Both Riddle and Thacher

moved to consolation wrestling starting tomorrow. The best they can do now is third place, but a win tomorrow afternoon in their first match will put them on the podium with at least an 8th place finish.

Thacher will take on Wyatt Young of Cedar Rapids Washington (11th seed, 29-8) with the winner advancing and securing a minimum 8th-place finish and the losing wrestler being eliminated. Riddle will take on Dominic Tigner of Norwalk (12th-seed, 33-10) with the winner advancing and the loser being eliminated.

Wrestling Friday again is in the afternoon session. All place wrestling will take place Saturday with consolation finals in the morning session and finals in the evening after the Grand March.



*Pen City Current will not publish
Tuesday & Wednesday, February 20 & 21
as our family remembers Kelsey Ray*

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PEN CITY CURRENT
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From the Front/Classifieds

LCHD bond could be paid off by grants, ARPA funds

HEARINGS - Continued from Page 1

County Health Department facility and would authorize bonding of up to \$6 million for construction of the new facility on property donated by the Glen Meller family where the old Iowan Hotel was located in the 5000 block of Avenue O in Fort Madison.

This bond would be for a construction loan to secure funding to go out for bids on the structure. This money would be supplemented with ARPA funds of about \$1,000,000; funding from the Lee County Community Foundation of at least \$500,000, a state Community Development Block Grant of \$600,000, a USDA Rural Emergency Health Care grant of \$974,000, and a potential congressional appropriation through the USDA for an additional \$2 million. Without the appropriation, the county has secured just over \$3 million for the project that was designed at a cost of \$5.5 million. Supervisors believe that cost will be more like \$6 million with estimated increases in costs since the project was designed in 2023.

The county has been told by Congresswoman Mariannette Miller-Meeks office that there could be action on the appropriation by March 1. The project made it through to the House bill that was to go before Congress, but it suffered such deep cuts through negotiations in committee that Miller-Meeks herself voted against the appropriation that was part of the larger Ag Bill.

If that appropriation is funded at even 90%, the county would see about \$1.8 million additional taking it to \$4.8 million. Supervisor Chuck Holmes has indicated that the community foundation could be larger, but people are waiting to see money in the bank before they commit to additional funding through the foundation.

“That’s a minimum. I think we should be optimistic about it being considerably more than that. I’ve spoken to Roger (Ricketts, the director of the foundation) a few days ago and he doesn’t want to make any promises until the money is in the bank,” Holmes said Monday.

“He’s talked to several donors who are willing to make what he calls substantial commitments to this project but they want to see it on the ground.”

All of the funds except the county’s remaining ARPA funding and the Community Foundation funds are reimbursable funds. In other words, they are last-in funding and are paid when pay applications are submitted by the general contractor. The CDBG is paid at 11% reimbursement on invoices until the grant is used up. The USDA funding, both the REHC grant and the appropriation, would also be last in funding and reimbursed after the project is complete.

That dynamic is what is prompting the county to secure a construction loan so USDA can begin moving forward with authorizing the project to move ahead.

“We’re to a point where we’re paralyzed. At the point we move and actually get in the ground and start going and they start seeing movement out there, then you’re going to see more people commit to some donations,” said Chairman Garry Seyb.

He said the county has already spent about \$370,000 on the project at that location in drawings and fees.

“At this point, it’s a foregone conclusion in my mind. In my mind, it’s going there and that’s what we’re budgeting for.”

Supervisor Matt Pflug asked at what point does the county move on from the \$2.1 million appropriation that was authorized but never passed by Congress.

“That’s why we’re moving ahead with the bonding authorization,” board member Tom Schulz said. “The worst-case scenario is that we may have to cover that \$2.1 million.”

Pflug again brought up the facilities in Keokuk that he thought were move-in ready, and were offered for sale to the county. He said the buildings were sold to the Keokuk Community School District for \$230,000. He said Blessing said the county should make an offer of \$400,000 to \$500,000. He said the KAME building next to it also sold for \$231,000.

“That’s two buildings for less than a half a million dollars. The taxpayers want us to be fiscally responsible. I felt really bad we missed that boat. We probably could have cashed

that project. Was it ideal as a location for the Health Department...it would have worked.”

Seyb responded by saying that he got a call from someone in West Point talking about the Ivor Fowler building and he said both locations didn’t address the Fort Madison ambulance needs.

“Additionally, we received a piece of property valued at about \$700,000. So we got that donation of ground contingent upon us putting a health department there and putting their name on it,” Seyb said.

“It’s right next to the hospital and we’ve got the other issue of the ambulance in Fort Madison. 1/3 of our calls come from Fort Madison, 1/3 out of Keokuk and 1/3 out of the county in general. We couldn’t have put the ambulance in either of those two locations.”

He said if the county doesn’t move and get bids in front of contractors then the county is looking at another year for bidding and construction and much of the funding has to be spent by the end of 2026.

Schulz said not building the facility on the former Meller property could violate the county’s agreement with the family and then the county would have to go out and look for another place or piece of property to buy, and that would jeopardize a lot of the funding that’s already in place because plans have already been submitted for that funding assistance.

Pflug said the petition is a real possibility.

“It takes quite a few signatures for that to happen, but with everything that’s going on with people getting their tax bills, we could see that happen and that’s a concern I have,” Pflug said.

“If that does happen, and I hope it doesn’t, because it’s a bad move for the taxpayer financially, what’s your next step?” Holmes asked if the county could keep the bonded amount closer to \$5 million since the county already has \$1.5 million of the funds. Seyb said if the bids come in higher, then the county would have to start over to get additional funds to finish the project, which would result in additional costs for bonding.

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
DECEMBER 11, 2023**

The Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa, met on Monday, December 11, 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 Holmes, seconded by Pflug, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

There was no Public Input.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Fedler, to approve Resolution #2023-120. Roll call: Pflug-aye, Fedler-aye, Schulz-aye, Holmes-aye and Seyb-aye.

**Resolution
NO. 2023-120**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LEE COUNTY TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THE GREAT RIVER HOUSING TRUST FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

WHEREAS, that said Lee County is a duly recognized governing body acting under the laws of the State of Iowa; and,

WHEREAS, that said Lee County in assisting this regional development activity will sustain a viable housing program for the entire region and,

WHEREAS, Lee County is a member of the Great River Housing Trust Fund, a regional housing non-profit corporation that assists low and moderate income households in the region,

WHEREAS, Lee County residents and businesses have benefitted economically through sustained taxes and supply purchasing through the Great River Housing Trust Fund’s Programs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS THAT;

Lee County will contribute \$12,500 cash match to the Great River Housing Trust Fund in Fiscal Year 2025 thus benefiting low to moderate income households in the county and the region.

PASSED and APPROVED this 11th day of December 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 award a contract for Project# L04-L-6—73-56, Construction of a Reinforced Concrete Box Culvert on 160th Ave, to Iowa Bridge & Culvert, L.C., in the amount of \$233,418.20, and authorize the County Engineer

to execute the contract. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Holmes, to award a contract for Project# FM-C056(110)—55-56; HMA Resurfacing on X38, to Norris Asphalt Paving Company, L.C., in the amount of \$591,815.75, and authorize the County Engineer to execute the contract. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Pflug, to award a contract for Project# STP-S-C056 (114)—5E-56, HMA Resurfacing on J40, to Norris Asphalt Paving Company, L.C., in the amount of \$2,295,600.16, and authorize the County Engineer to execute the contract. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Fedler, to award a contract for Project# FM-C056(115)—55-56, PCC Resurfacing on 180th Ave, to Jones Contracting Corporation, in the amount of \$1,419,777.00, and authorize the County Engineer to execute the contract. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Holmes, to approve an updated Exhibit “A” to the Alliant Solar Haul Road Agreement. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, to appoint James Shoup to the Conservation Board. Holmes withdrew his motion. Moved by Pflug, seconded by Fedler, to appoint Jared Reed to a five year term on the Conservation Board. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Pflug, to approve Resolution #2023-113 through 115, & #2023-121 through 128. Roll call: Fedler-Aye, Pflug-Aye, Schulz-Aye, Holmes-aye and Seyb-Aye.

**RESOLUTION
NO. 2023-113**

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: Michael C. and Katrina D. Chapman, 1814 West Point Road, 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 11th day of December, 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.

Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-114

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: L & W Land Development, LLC (Unit A) 2278 Windmill Way, West Point, IA

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 11th day of December, 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. 2023-115

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: L & W Land Development, LLC (Unit B) 2278 Windmill Way, 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 11th day of

December, 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. 2023-121

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: Kevin and Laurie Riddle, 1105 Denmark 7th Street, Denmark, IA 52624

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 11th day of December, 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. 2023-122

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: Brandon and Bridget Swailes, 1133 255th Avenue, 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 11th day of December, 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. 2023-123

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: Ted and Melinda Goldie, 3000 Timberlane Drive, Fort Madison, IA 52627

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 11th day of December, 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. 2023-124

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: William E. Stewart, Jr., 2779 240th Street, Fort Madison, IA 52627

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 11th day of December, 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. 2023-125

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: MBMRE, LLC, 2895 Bittersweet Drive, Fort Madison, IA 52627

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the Coun-

ty Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 11th day of December, 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. 2023-126

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: Ted W. Stein, Trustee, 3228 180th Street, Fort Madison, IA 52627

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 11th day of December, 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. 2023-127

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: Matthew and Ashley Ames, 2379 270th Street, Montrose, IA 52639

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 11th day of December, 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. 2023-128

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

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

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: Gerald M. and Helen L. Arnold, 2168 Old Denmark Road, Fort Madison, IA 52627

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 11th day of December, 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 the Consent Agenda that included the December 4, 2023 Board minutes, the claims for payment and a Class C Retail Alcohol License for Harvestville Farm, Donnellson, for the period February 10, 2024 through February 9, 2025. Motion carried.

Moved by Schulz, seconded by Holmes, to approve a new hire for the Treasurer's Office, Andrea Benner, Records Clerk, \$17.62/hr., effective 12/11/23; a step increase for Jill Lionberger, Records Clerk, from \$17.62/hr. to \$18.09/hr., effective 12/6/23 and a step increase for Tabatha Cleveland, Legal Secretary, from \$20.67/hr. to \$21.27/hr., effective 12/6/23. Motion carried.

Received and filed the Auditor's Report of Fees Collected for the month of November 2023, the Treasurer's Report of Fees Collected for the month of November 2023 and the Sheriff's Monthly Report for the month of

November 2023.

Committee Reports: Schulz reported on an Economic Development event where they paid tribute to Phil Hecht. Holmes reported on a Pioneer Cemetery Commission meeting. Fedler reported on the Compensation Board meeting. Pflug reported on a Board of Health meeting and also attended the Compensation Board meeting. Seyb reported on a celebration of 50 years for the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission.

At 11:00 a.m. it was moved by Holmes, seconded by Fedler, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 18, 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 11, 2023**

Access Systems, svcs

151.52
Advd Crrctnl Hlthc, svcs
13583.25
Airgas USA, splys
619.18
All Amer Sanitation, svcs
240.00
Alliant Energy, svcs
5928.80
Armstrong Tractor, equip
3000.69
Artistic Clnrs, unif.... 60.00
AssuredPartners, svcs
3618.00
K Auge, svcs..... 429.00
J Baier, svcs 1591.50
Benco Dntl, svcs..... 887.99
Bound Tree Med, equip
3644.36
Calhoun-Burns, svcs
6170.70
Comtran Assoc, svcs
950.00
D Coover, svcs 506.89
Crisis Systms, edu
170.00
Cullen Pest, svcs..... 130.00
Culligan, water..... 31.49
S Dickens, exps..... 37.89
RK Dixon Co, equip
32.33
Douds Stone, mtrl
10054.63
Farm/Home, splys .. 19.99
FM Chmbr, edu..... 600.00
FM Water, svcs.....120.11
A Friday, edu..... 197.00

NGrannaman, svcs
1458.47
GRRWA, svcs..... 30.00
H & L Truck Sales, equip
567278.00
Hawk Equip Co, equip
57580.00
Health Sol, svcs.... 1351.20
Hellige Lawn, svcs
3392.50
Heritage Prtnr, Rx
150.00
Huffman Wlding, svcs
1128.96
Ideal Rdy Mix, mtrl
2230.82
Jays Auto, svcs.... 1815.44
Jet Gas, fuel 23312.43
J Johnson, exps..... 34.00
S Kirchner, exps ... 171.19
L.N. Curtis/sons, unif
398.18
LeeCo Auditor, Ctrl Pur
4033.10
LeeCo Phsnts Frvr, cntrb
2244.00
LeeCo Treas, fndg
412634.08
LeeCo Treas, costs
5475.44
McFarlands, splys.. 111.94
MidAmer Enrgy, gas
981.42
NAPA Auto, parts.. 173.85
JJ Nichting Co, parts
235.54
O'Reilly Auto, parts

199.09
OMG Midwest, svcs
10861.23
Optum rx, splys... 1337.06
Panoramic Sftwr, sftwr
1140.00
PCC Ambulance, svcs
200.00
M Pflug, exps..... 75.00
Postmaster, svcs 152.00
Prairie Farms, splys
232.40
RSM US LLP, svcs ... 50.10
M Smith, rfrnd 1141.03
SEIA Reg Econ Dvlp,
brdbnd 1245987.10
K Spear, exps 49.50
J Stonerook, exps
167.00
Truck Repair, parts
1852.61
Vertical Comm, svcs
775.18
L Wallingford, svcs
479.36
West Grp, splys 963.00
West Pt Utility, svcs
640.55
Wex Bank, Fuels
7195.48
Windstream, svcs
1018.76
Xiphos Tech, svcs
120035.00

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Sports

HTC boys advance to district title for 1st time in 13 years

FORT MADISON – It's been 13 years since the Holy Trinity boys' basketball team has been to a district championship. That mark was reset Thursday night as the Crusaders overcame a sluggish first half to knock off Moravia 55-29 in the Class 1A District 10 semifinals.

HTC will travel now to Ottumwa's Evans Middle School Tuesday night against North Mahaska (18-6). The game was originally slated for Oskaloosa, but will now be played in Ottumwa beginning at 7 p.m.

The game was fast-paced in the first half with just two total fouls called, one on each team, and lasted a mere 21 minutes with the Crusaders holding a 1-point lead at 19-18.

The second half was a whole different story as Holy Trinity went on an 8-1 run to open the 3rd period highlighted by a couple 3-balls from sophomore Layne Rung.

The Crusaders started the second with some light zone pressure just to throw a different look at the Mohawks and then got some really good inside-out work going on offense.

Moravia, which had its only lead at 2-0, tied things up to start the third period on a freethrow by sophomore Declan DeJong. After that the Crusaders slammed the door, going on a run that extended to 19-4 when Luke Hellige, who led all scorers with 20 points, hit a 3-pointer from the left baseline.

Rung hit his third 3-pointer of the night in the run and senior Conner Gehling took a two-step around the Mohawk defense on the baseline and slammed a two-handed dunk to bring the Crusader faithful to their feet. Gehling would score again inside to give the Crusaders a healthy 40-23 lead heading into the final period.

Rung sent a quick message with back-to-back threes enroute to his 15 second-half points to push HTC's lead to 21 at 46-25.

Head Coach John Hellige said Rung missed a couple shots in the first half, but he told him to keep shooting.

"The first half he missed a few and sometimes being a sophomore it's like 'should I be shooting or should I not be shooting,' and we just told him at halftime if we're going to pull away from this you gotta shoot otherwise they'll just suffocate the other guys," Hellige said.

"And once he hit that first one, he got all the confidence in the world."

Hellige said the Mohawks played really good defense in the first half and proved they are a solid Blue Grass conference team.

Hellige drew double teams most of the game and Moravia used a smaller guard to front up the junior while bigger defenders waited behind him.

"Luke's an interesting matchup. If you put a big guy on him, he's gonna drive around you. If you put a little guy on him, he'll take advantage of that," John Hellige said. "A guy his size he does a little bit of everything, but they did a good job of smothering him and then bringing some help inside, but he had a good game."

Adam Sobczak and Gehling each had eight points in the win. Sobczak still leads the state in assists and had a nice alley-oop to Hellige at the basket from an inbound toward the end of the game.

"My role is just getting people open and finding my teammates. They hit the shots and reward me with the assist," he said.

He said he wasn't concerned about coming back after the tight first half, nor playing the next game on the road for the first time in the postseason.

"We're good on the road, we're good at home. We just play. I wasn't concerned tonight, I knew we would pull it off. We weren't running the court, and our offense wasn't going. We weren't running sets, and then in the second half, we did that almost to perfection."

John Hellige said he isn't concerned about taking the kids on the road to Ottumwa Tuesday.

"I told them in the locker room - we played 32 games in the offseason and 24 now, so we've played 56 games and we've played everywhere from St. Ambrose to Monroe City, Mo. And we've played great everywhere we went. So I'm not worried about it."

Rung said the team is playing with confidence and anyone can put up points at any given time.

"We were confident we could beat this team. (Coach) gave a real good speech at halftime and we had a large crowd and we just wanted to come out and get the win," Rung said.

"This feels great. My brother and Conner are seniors so we want to get the next win and keep moving on."



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Holy Trinity senior Conner Gehling (33) slams a ball home in the third quarter of the Crusaders' 55-29 win over Moravia in Class 1A District 10 semifinal action Thursday in Fort Madison.

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