

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Tuesday, March 5, 2024 | 8 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 41



www.pencitycurrent.com

County mulls dust fee

DUST CONTROL: New fee has residents asking why county charging for prep of roads being treated

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – The Lee County Board of Supervisors took on the cloudy issue of dust at Monday's regular meeting.

About 70 people were either in attendance or online for the regular meeting that was dominated by conversations from rural property owners concerned about new fees the county has tagged onto dust con-

See **COUNTY**, page 4



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

County Engineer Ben Hull (standing) addresses some issues presented by county residents regarding the county's new fee for prepping roads for dust control applications.

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



I-80 rest area showcases Maple Hill

Maple Hill, the home I grew up in, is featured in the I-80 Rest Area in Jasper County, Iowa! I couldn't believe it. I stopped at the rest area before I reached Newton. I was going to see my friend Phil. We grew up together, played football, baled hay, and both of us, at one time or another, lived at Maple Hill—me until I graduated from High School, Phil, later in life when he was in med school.

Maple Hill was owned by his grandfather, Ulrie. It was so named because it was a large, 13-room, two-and-a-half story farm house, with double decker porches, sitting at the top of a hill that was covered with maple trees, just west of Monroe.

Some of my fondest childhood memories take place at Maple Hill, and here I was looking at a picture of it on the walls of the Jasper County, I-80, Rest Area. Phil and I stacked hay in that barn.

Iowa is well known for its Interstate Rest Areas, and each of them has its own theme. On I-380, between Iowa City and Cedar Rapids, there is the rest area featuring Iowa's famous artist, Grant Wood. In Western Iowa, where there are a lot of wind turbines, there is the Wind Turbine Rest Area. Near Des Moines there is the rest area with the soil-erosion theme. Etc. If you're a tourist passing through, Iowa intends to not only provide you with rest and relief, but education as well.

To have Maple Hill featured as the theme for a rest area in the county of its origin, well, I'm flabbergasted. I knew Maple Hill was sorta well known, but not that well known.

A lot of people have called Maple Hill their home. In fact, one of the later owners of Maple Hill claimed it was haunted.

See **SWARM**, page 8

Landscapes, farmscapes on tap at FMAAAA

EXHIBITS: Exhibition will coincide with a pop-up exhibit from Henry Bechtal

BY LORI ILLNER-GREENE
FMAAAA Director

FORT MADISON - The Opening Reception for Landscapes and Farmscapes is Thursday, March 7 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the FMAAAA Art Center located at 825 Avenue G in Fort Madison.

The Main Gallery will feature watercolors developed "on the farm" at Cambre House and Farm by photographer and now watercolorist, Rebecca Williamson. She has developed her charming little pieces in a style reminiscent of a folk artist, which has proved popular with visitors to her farm and event facility.

This exhibition is set to coincide with a pop-up exhibition by local folk artist, Henry Bechtal. Both of these artists have developed work by capturing landscapes and farmscapes in a whimsical manner, just for the joy of it. While neither artist

See **ART**, page 5



Rockin' & rollin

Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld carries a bucket of rocks Saturday morning at River-view Park. Mohrfeld joined about 50 others hunting large rocks that were surfacing in the park and moved them to the river bank.

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WEATHER

TUE 05 Mar.....Partly sunny and cool, 55° F/ 34° F ☁
WED 06 Mar.....Partly sunny and cool, 56° F/ 37° F ☁
THU 07 Mar.....Cool with chance of rain, 57° F/ 43° F ☁

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 03/03.....3 18 20 42 45, Lucky Ball: 8
PICK 3 MIDDAY 03/03.....3 14
PICK 3 EVENING 03/03.....4 7 4
PICK 4 MIDDAY 03/03.....0 8 6 7
PICK 4 EVENING 03/03.....8 9 6 4

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

KENNETH H. DIX

Kenneth Henry Dix, 79, of Burlington, passed away on Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 7:58 AM at the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center Hospice House.



DIX

He was born on May 25, 1944 in Quincy, IL to Donald and Kathline Dede Dix. On February 19, 1966 he married Sharon Ann Beckert in Ft. Madison and she passed away on January 3, 2012. Kenny worked as a painter at Case for many years. He was an entrepreneur and started his career selling CB radios and then boats, modular homes, pools, cars and campers. Kenny owned and operated Actionland Camper Center with his wife until she passed away. He loved drag racing and collecting antique cars. He also enjoyed watching baseball and football, boating, hunting, shooting trap and listening to Elvis. Kenny was an animal lover, especially dogs his entire life. Most of all he loved spending time with his grandchildren.

Survivors include four daughters, Michelle (Kathy Erickson) Dix of Urbandale, Kim (Devin) Schadt of LeClaire, Danielle Munson of Jupiter, FL and Nichole Dix of Burlington; two sons, Shawn Dix of Burlington and Brian (Martin Ruiz) Dix of Los Angeles; thirteen grandchildren and three great grandchildren and one on the way. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife and a half brother, James "Cookie" Burner.

The funeral mass will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 12 PM at Sacred Heart Church with Reverend Gary Beckman officiating, burial will follow in Gethsemane Cemetery. A rosary will be recited at 10:30 AM and the family will meet with friends from 11 AM until the time of the service at the church.

A memorial has been established for SEIRMC Hospice House and online condolences may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM F. KNOWLES

William Franklin "Frank" Knowles, 93, of Farmington, Iowa, passed away at 8:25 a.m. Friday, March 1, 2024, at the Keosauqua Health Care Center.



KNOWLES

He was born on January 29, 1931, in DeKalb, Illinois, the son of William Clyde and Anna Margaret (Goodridge) Knowles. On August 30, 1963, he married Carol E. Van Horn in Littleton, Illinois. She preceded him in death on December 11, 2016.

He is survived by four children: Mark Franklin Knowles of Tennessee, Joyce LeeAnn Rummell of Oregon, Dawn Elin Long of Montana and William Glenn Knowles of Fort Madison; nine grandchildren; six great grandchildren; several great - great grandchildren and two brothers; Henry Knowles, Marion Knowles.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; son: Kreig; one sister and one brother.

William served in the United States Army during the Korean War. He was a member of Bonaparte Baptist Church and the Farmington American Legion. He enjoyed woodworking, fixing things, riding around on his gator and spending time with his grandchildren.

His body has been entrusted to the crematory of Schmitz Funeral Home for cremation.

Per his wishes, no services are being held.

A memorial has been established in his memory and can be mailed to the family at: Schmitz Funeral Home, P.O. Box 56, Donnellson, Iowa 52625.

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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PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Member **LION Publishers**
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Pen City Current, www.PenCityCurrent.com, and Pen e-Saver are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Monday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

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

Obituaries

OBITUARIES

TRACY D. BURRIS

Tracy Douglas Burris, 60, of Keokuk, passed away on Wednesday, February 28, 2024.

Tracy was born on May 27, 1963, in Keokuk, Iowa, the son of Thomas Stanley "Stan" Burris and Diana (Long) Woods. He graduated from Keokuk High School in 1981, and was united in marriage to Cecelia Huston at Rand Park in Keokuk in 1986. She preceded him in death in 2020.

Tracy was employed at the Daily Democrat newspaper in Fort Madison for twenty years as a press operator. He enjoyed spending his free time building model cars, attending Burlington Bees games with friends and family, but his favorite activity was spending time with his grandchildren.

Tracy is survived by two sons: Zachary (Lindsay) Burris and Elijah Burris, both of Keokuk; his mother Diana Woods of Keokuk; three grandchildren: Isaac Burris, Gabriel Burris and Charlie Arrowood; and his brother Rome Burris of Texas.

Tracy is preceded in death by his father and his wife Cecelia.

No services will be held at this time.

Memorials may be directed to Keokuk Public Schools.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com.

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



BURRIS

OBITUARIES

MARCELLA RIPPENKROEGER

Marcella "Sally" Rippenkroeger, 94, of Ft. Madison, IA, passed away on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 6:15 PM at Birkwood Village Assisted Living in Ft. Madison.



WAGNER

She was born on February 22, 1930 in rural Franklin to Fred and Mary Lake Kramer. On November 5, 1949 she married Erwin Rippenkroeger in West Point and he passed away on November 8, 2021. Sally worked at Sheaffer Pen Co. and retired after many years of service in 1990. She was a member of Sacred Heart Church, the Altar & Rosary Society and the West Point American Legion Auxiliary. Sally and Erwin loved to travel and go camping. They also enjoyed their time doing yardwork, especially mowing out at their daughter's pond. She also loved doing family genealogy work.

Survivors include one son, Steve (Jane Erhardt) Rippenkroeger of West Burlington; one daughter, Jeanne Brower of Reno, NV; five grandchildren, Nicole (Ben) Gross, Kate Brower, Julie Brower, Sonia Rippenkroeger and Joseph (Katie Ptaszek) Rippenkroeger; three great grandchildren, Benjamin, Rosemarie and Annette Gross. She was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers and five sisters.

Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A memorial mass will be held on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 11 AM at Sacred Heart Church. The family will meet with friends from 10 AM until the time of the service at the church. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, West Point with a lunch to follow at the American Legion in West Point.

Online condolences may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

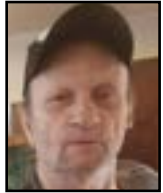
Pen City Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting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

WILLIAM E. CHANEY

William E. Chaney, 70, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 11:33 a.m. on Friday, March 1, 2024 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL. He was born on April 12, 1953 in Fort Madison, IA to William J. & Nancy A. Whitcomb Chaney. He worked at J.I. Case for 30+ years and enjoyed disc golf, hunting, fishing, hunting mushrooms and going to the casino.

Bill is survived by: 3-sisters: Karen (Dick) Pieper of Fort Madison, IA, Kathy (Russ Wallace) Hood of Gulfport, MS & Doris (John Thomas) Chaney of Gulf Breeze, FL and several nieces & nephews. He was preceded in death by: his grandparents, parents and 1-brother, Steve Chaney.

A visitation will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The funeral service will immediately follow at 10:30 a.m. with Rev. Jim Luder officiating. Burial will be at Gethsemane Cemetery. A memorial has been established in Bill's memory. Online condolences to the Chaney family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.



CHANEY

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From the Front

Supervisors pledge to review new dust control fees

COUNTY - Continued from Page 1

trol measures on rural roads.

On Jan. 15, supervisors passed a resolution charging \$50 per application of calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, or tree sap, up to 500 feet. Applications from 501 to 1,000 feet have a fee of \$100 per application with additional lengths calculated at a rate of \$50 per 500 feet. Soy applications would be charged at \$750 per application up to 500 feet and \$1,500 for 501 to 1,000 feet. Additional rates are \$750 per 500 feet.

Upon receiving applications from residents for treatments at the property owners' expense, the county blades the areas prior to the application of the dust control measure and puts down fresh rock. The county then makes an effort to not blade the treated road prior to Oct. 15.

Keith Menke, who lives on Otte Road near West Point, said the county shouldn't be charging a fee on top of the residents' costs.

"By treating the road, we're reducing the crop dust for vehicles that drive past our house. But in addition, this treatment increases the quality of the road base, making a much stronger road and reducing the cost of gravel and road maintenance," Menke told the board.

He said he was told applying dust control increases the cost to maintain the road for the county.

"I would like to know how that was figured. All indications I have, through research at colleges and a chemical business, show a major cost reduction with the treatment for dust control."

He added that some residents think they should be subsidized by the county for the work.

Supervisor Ron Fedler said he spoke with Menke earlier this week about the fees. Fedler said the county used to put tree sap from the paper mill on the

roads, but when it closed, that was no longer available.

Fedler said after listening to Menke's concerns, he would like the county to reconsider the action to implement the fees.

"I've reconsidered my decision on the resolution and would like to have that vote reconsidered," Fedler said.

Hull said he was asked by the board of supervisors to look at costs the county was incurring by subsidizing private improvements. Other fee structure changes included utility permits and private entryway permits. Board Chairman Garry Seyb said he told department heads to look carefully at their budgets with a state-mandated general fund levy cap of \$3.50/\$1,000 of assessed valuation to be in place in 2029. The county is currently at \$5.85 for the general fund.

"That's what we did," Hull said. "We absolutely experience more costs with dust control. Salt degrades limestone. Salt is bad for concrete and limestone. It just is - especially in this corner of the state where we don't have the highest quality of limestone."

Hull said he figured the fees extremely conservatively at a half-hour for a grader, half-hour of operator time, a half load of rock, and a half-hour with a dump truck.

Seyb said the county recognizes there is value in treating the roads for the property owner and for safety with dust flying around, and the county is still losing money prepping the roads for the treatments.

"But for us to maintain the general levy and, in essence, cut that \$2.35 over the next four years, we have to look at places to cut," Seyb said.

Tony Menke, who lives on Maple Lane near Fort Madison, said he researched the issue and pulled a study done at Iowa State University. He said applying dust control with salt treatment improves roads in several ways. Menke also provided several studies via email to supervisors following the meeting.

He said the calcium chloride will form a hard pack road and a surface that water will run off of. But he said they always have water on them because they are constantly maintaining the roads.

"That is why you get longer life and less maintenance out of them. It's in so many studies and is in black and white," Menke said. "This is just research that took a half hour for me to dig into."

Supervisor Chuck Holmes asked who paid for the study, saying that could make a difference in how the report reads.

Menke asked the county to do a study on the roads to see if the county could eliminate a piece of equipment by reducing the amount of times they maintain roads that are being treated.

Seyb said the county is still subsidizing the applications to a degree because they see a value, but the board will have to make hard choices over the next four years. He said he would have a conversation with Hull about the fee but couldn't guarantee any change would take place this year.

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The recommended age for colorectal cancer screening has been lowered from 50 to 45.

Colorectal cancer cases are on the rise among young and middle-aged people. Colorectal cancer is a growth of cells that begins in a part of the large intestine called the colon. The colon is the first and longest part of the large intestine. There are often no symptoms of colorectal cancer.

Colorectal cancer is one of the only cancer screening tests that can prevent cancer by finding precancerous polyps in the colon or rectum and removing them before they become cancer or find cancer early when it may be easier to treat.

There are several screening options available. So, if you are **over the age of 45**, or at high risk for colorectal cancer, talk to your doctor about getting screened and which screening option is best for you.

Right place. Right care. Right here.

www.greatriverhealth.org/prevention/colorectal-cancer/

Lunch Specials

March 4 - 8
11am - 1pm

MONDAY, MARCH 4
SLOPPY JOES, BAKED BEANS

Tuesday, March 5
Chicken Fajitas, Spanish Rice

Wednesday, March 6
Beef Stroganoff, Green Beans

Thursday, March 7
Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, March 8
Fish & Shrimp Dinners

Sports/Classifieds

Exhibit highlights a full list of early spring FMAAA events

ART - Continued from Page 1

is classically trained, they have provided series of work that are approachable and encapsulate little stories of their own design and imagination.

Lunch ala Art and FINALE return to the FMAAA Art Center this month with a luncheon and gallery talk by Williamson set for Friday, March 22 and FINALE, a free performance evening, with new material by Brad Kurz beginning at 7pm. Landscapes and Farmscapes will be on exhibit Tuesday – Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Friday, March 29, 2024. The FMAAA Art Center March Art exhibition is made possible by the sponsorship of Huffman's Welding, and Huffman's Farm and Home

Two events coordinated by the FMAAA Art Center that will be happening out in the community during March are Brews and Brushes scheduled for Saturday, March 16 beginning at 4 p.m. And the Winter and Spring Plein Aire event for plein aire artists that begins on Friday, March 22. Participants register for both of these events online at fortmadisonart.com or in person. Brews and Brushes is a fun paint by number where you need no previous experience or particular skill, paired up with a family friendly pub crawl of sorts in an easily walkable area of the historic district in Fort Madison. The iconic train and depot image that will be painted by everyone that evening is by Jim Knapp, who did the original in pen and ink along with watercolor washes. Jim Knapp, in his 90's now, continues to volunteer at the Art Center each week and his prints and original art remain popular with visitors and locals alike who remember his many years as a coach and teacher in Fort Madison. Brews and Brushes is an entertaining evening out with friends and family, or new friends made along with way. Everyone gets to enjoy the general camaraderie that develops as everyone creates their own individual painting.

Bendlage named 3rd team All-State by IGCH

FORT MADISON - Holy Trinity senior Mary Kate Bendlage was a Class 1A third-team All-State selection by the Iowa Girls Coaches Association.



BENDLAGE

Bendlage, who became the program's all-time leading scorer this season, averaged 20.9 points, which ranked 15th overall in Iowa and third among players in Class 1A after last week's state tournament. Bendlage also averaged 8.5 rebounds, 2.2 assists and three steals per game.

Bendlage, the SEI Superconference South Division's Player of the Year, was an earlier All-Southeast District selection by the IGCA, and was a member of the organization's all-academic team along with teammate Natalie Randolph.

The Class 1A All-State first team consisted of Macy Boge, Molly Boge and Kamryn Kurt of North Linn, Abbie Capesius of Bishop Garrigan, Rowan Jacobi of Springville, Kiera Jungers and McKenna Sievers of Newell-Fonda and Avah Underwood of Council Bluffs St. Albert. Keokuk's Kendra Boatman was a third-team selection in Class 4A.

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PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Keokuk Community School District
Board Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2024

- A. Call to order by Presiding Officer - Roll Call or Determination of Quorum
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Consent Agenda - Approved
 - 1. Agenda
 - 2. Bills and Claims-Supporting Docs/Links attached to this item
 - 3. PersonnelSupporting Docs/Links attached to this item
 - 4. Agreements/Partnerships
 - a. Fort Madison Sports Complex, Inc. Agreement-Supporting Docs/Links attached to this item - Discussed
 - D. Items for Action
 - 1. Quotes
 - a. Plasma Cutter for Welding ProgramSupporting Docs/Links attached to this item - Answered questions from the teacher. - Approved
 - 2. Request for Turf from Elks Lodge #106 - Approved
 - E. Items for Information
 - 1. Donation from Roquette - Paying for hotel rooms for students at the State Science Fair.
 - 2. Career Expo at KHS - Discussed event.
 - 3. Review of Policy 505.08 - Parent and Family Engagement District-Wide PolicySupporting Docs/Links attached

- to this item - Approved
- F. Adjournment
- G. Work Session
 - 1. Discussion Items
 - a. FY2025 Budget Hearing Notice #1Supporting Docs/Links attached to this item - There is a new budget process, which includes two public hearings. The next public hearing will have more detail with a presentation on the budget (Levy) on March 25.
 - b. Health Insurance Renewal FY2025 - We were in an insurance group that wasn't meeting the needs of the district, the school district joined the current group because it included Quincy doctors. The current proposal with the state would give some dollars towards enrollment. There are still some unknowns based on the potential state required wage increases. The district is still discussing plan options waiting on the salary schedules from the state. Possible 2.5-3% salary increase based on the state. More info: <https://governor.iowa.gov/vision-iowa-0/elevating-education-every-student>
 - c. Change March 18 Board Meeting to March 25 - Moving the meeting to match the hearing date. Approved.
- A Board Member asked for an update on the predetermined goals set by the board, with mile-

- stone updates at a future meeting.
- H. Adjournment

PUBLIC NOTICE
THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR LEE COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF TWILA D. PARKE, Deceased
CASE NO. ESPR012793
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of TWILA D. PARKE, Deceased, who died on or about January 23, 2024:
You are hereby notified that on March 4, 2024, the undersigned was appointed administrator of the estate.
Notice is hereby given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of the mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or

paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.
Dated on March 4, 2024.
Ted H. Engel, ICIS#: AT0002267
Attorney for the Administrator
Engel & Maharry, PLC
713 Davis Ave.
Corning, IA 50841
LEVI PARKE, Administrator of the Estate
2705 Camelot Drive
Urbandale, IA 50322
Date of second publication Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF WEST BURLINGTON
Regular City Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 - 6:00 PM
West Burlington City Hall
122 Broadway Street

TENTATIVE AGENDA

- CALL TO ORDER
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- ROLL CALL
- PERFECTING & APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- CONSENT AGENDA
- All items on the Consent Agenda are Action items that will be considered by a single vote. Council members may request that an item be pulled for discussion and held for a separate vote. Items on the Consent

- Agenda may include claims over the City Administrator's authorized spending limit, payments related to previously approved contracts, and non-controversial or routine expenses as defined by the City's Purchasing Policy.
- 1. Minutes from the Regular City Council meeting on February 21, 2024
- 2. Approve payment to Four Season Excavation, Inc. - \$ 5,400
- 3. Approve payment to Francis Services for repairs made on a watermain break in the Beaverdale Subdivision - \$7,840.84
- 4. Clerk's Monthly Fi-

VROOM. VROOM. Get Pre-Approved in Seconds.

**maybe even faster than this car gets to 60, just sayin'!*



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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

Financial Report for January 2024

5. Payment of Claims as listed on the Expense Approval Report - \$107,833.36

HELP WANTED

Come join our team! Now hiring

BUILDING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE TECH

Lee County Facilities Department is seeking a qualified applicant for the position of Building and Grounds Maintenance Tech. Applicants must have good mechanical skills and be willing to perform labor indoors and outdoors in all weather elements. Basic understanding and work experience in mechanical and electrical systems, HVAC, plumbing, painting, grounds keeping (including mowing and snow/ice removal), power equipment operation and maintenance, and best safety and construction practices.

Must be capable of performing duties inside the Lee County Correctional Facility Complex, working with and around inmates. Must hold a valid driver's license and be insurable on the County's insurance.

Starting salary will be \$21.74/ hour. Excellent benefit package including health, dental, vision, and life insurance and IPERS retirement.

Please call Lee County Deputy Auditor Sherri Yasenchok at 319-372-3705 with any questions or for more information. Application and full position description may be found online at www.leecounty.org Please submit cover letter, resume, and completed County application to:

Lee County Auditor's Office
Attn: Sherri Yasenchok
933 Avenue H, PO Box 190
Fort Madison IA 52627
Or email to syasenchok@leecounty.org

Applications will be accepted through Monday, March 11, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. Complete background check and post-offer physical required.

Lee County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the County will provide reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities and encourages both prospective and current employees to discuss accommodations with the employer.

COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS

- ADMINISTRATOR:
 - PUBLIC WORKS:
 - POLICE DEPARTMENT:
 - FIRE/BUILDING DEPARTMENT:
 - CLERK/FINANCE/IT:
 - OTHER STAFF REPORTS:
 - COUNCIL REPORTS:
 - COMMUNITY REPORTS:
- CITIZEN INQUIRIES
OLD BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss TIF Agreement
2. Consider Letter of Support to apply for Community Project Funding for the proposed 24" Force Main Project

3. Consider the purchase of a generator for the Fire Department

CITIZEN INQUIRIES
CLOSED SESSION
1. Council will hold a Closed Session in accordance with Iowa Code Section 21.5.1(j) to discuss the purchase of particular real estate only where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property.
ADJOURN

PUBLIC NOTICE Fort Madison Community School District Regular Board Meeting

HELP WANTED



**BURLINGTON
FIRE DEPARTMENT
NOW ACCEPTING
APPLICATIONS
Deadline- March 29, 2024**

- Why should I apply?**
- No experience required
 - Starting pay range \$50,767 - \$65,587
 - \$10,000 Paramedic sign-on bonus
 - Lateral transfers for experienced firefighters
 - \$4,550 annual Paramedic cert pay
 - Pension with retirement at age 55
 - 24-hour shifts (48 hours off between shifts)
 - 15 days (7 weeks) paid time off
 - Newer apparatus and equipment
 - Coming soon - New Fire Station #3

- Application Process**
- Applications open January 1, 2024
 - Applications close March 29, 2024
 - Written exam April 4-5, 2024 (online)
 - Interviews April 11-12, 2024
 - High School Diploma or GED
 - Driver's License

Scan the QR code, click here, or go to <https://www.burlingtoniowa.org/2634/Recruitment> to apply online.



LEE COUNTY SECONDARY ROADS ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKER II

Lee County is taking applications for a South Road Maintenance Worker II. Duties will include the operation of light and heavy equipment and trucks used to perform road maintenance and construction projects, occasionally plowing snow, and the performance of manual labor as required. Requires a high school graduate or G.E.D. equivalent and must possess a valid Class A commercial driver's license with air brake and tanker endorsements. The starting wage range is \$23.47 to \$28.65.

Lee County provides equal opportunity in employment to all persons regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion, or disability.

For a job description and to apply, download an application from our county website, www.leecounty.org/employment.aspx, or you can pick an application up at the Engineer's office and return your completed application along with a resume to Lee County Engineer, P.O. Box 158, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627, or email it to engineer@leecounty.org Applications will be accepted until 4 p.m. on Friday, March 8, 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact Lee County Engineer Office at (319) 372-2541 or email them at engineer@leecounty.org.



02/21/2024 - 06:00 PM Central Office, Board Room 1930 Avenue M Fort Madison, Iowa 52627 MEETING MINUTES

Public Comments are welcome. They are limited to 3 minutes. Any member of the public who wishes to participate in public comments must be physically present at the meeting and follow the appropriate sign in procedures. Finance: Santiago/Nelton Attendees Amy Thacher, Director Josh Wykert, Board President Kelly Nelton, Director Brad Menke, Director Keith Hehr, Director Mio Santiago, Vice President Paul Wilkerson, Director Non-Voting Members Dr. Erin Slater, Superintendent Kim Harmon, Dir. of Curriculum, Sp. Ed & Student Services Sandy Elmore, Director of Business Services I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum The meeting was called to order by President Wykert at 6:01 p.m. II. Recognition of guests President Wykert welcomed members of the audience in attendance and explained the procedures for the meeting. III. Reading of Foundation documents The Board read and reviewed the Foundation documents consisting of the Vision, Mission and Belief statements and the Goals for the Fort Madison Community School District. IV. Monthly communications A. Student Representative Report - The was none. B. PK-6; 7-12 Renovation and Construction Update The Board received an update on the progress of the Middle School PK-6 and High School 7-12 Renovation and Construction Project. C. District Successes! The FMCS Middle School was featured recently at the "Day on the Hill" for their restorative practices. D. Superintendent Goal Report Superintendent Slater reviewed the Indicators of Progress and action steps to-

wards identified goals. E. District Presentation - Legislative Update The Board received a legislative update. V. Approve the agenda Motion made by: Keith Hehr Motion seconded by: Paul Wilkerson Voting: Unanimously Approved VI. Consent Agenda Motion made by: Paul Wilkerson Motion seconded by: Kelly Nelton Voting: Unanimously Approved A. Minutes 1. Regular Board Meeting - January 24, 2024 2. Board Work Session - February 7, 2024 B. Financial Reports 1. January Balance Sheet 2. January Revenue Summary Report 3. January Expenditure Report 4. January Student Activity Report C. Accounts payable 1. January General Account Board Bills for Approval 2. February General Account Board Bills for Approval 3. January Student Activity Account Board Bills for Approval 2 4. January Nutrition Account Board Bills for Approval 5. January American Express Board Bills for Approval D. Consider personnel resignations 1. Shawnea Mortimer - Associate, HS 2. Brandy Anderson - Associate, LE 3. Nicole Farrell - Associate, MS 4. Kyr Arnold - Food Service, MS 5. Kristin Arnold - Nurse, HS 6. Alyssa Kensett - Associate, MS 7. Kay Peterson - Teacher, HS 8. Elizabeth Weisinger - Teacher, HS 9. Kim Harmon - Director of Curriculum & Student Services, CO E. Consider employment of personnel 1. Susan Schmitz - Transportation, CO 2. Philip Johnson - Transportation, CO 3. Holly Muldoon - Secretary, HS 4. Shelby Dolder - Secretary, CO 5. Jerry Reynolds-Brewer - Food Service, MS 6. Beth Hasper - Food Service, MS 7. Maria Michl - Associate, RE 8. Hanna Yuchenko - Associate, RE 9. Rita Blakeman - Associate, CO 10. Abigail Wright - Associate, LE 11. Logan Doty - Assistant Principal of PK-6

12. Christina Schelich - Director of Curriculum & Student Services, CO F. Consider contract modifications 1. Katie Hunold - Nurse, MS 2. Chris Meinert - Teacher, MS 3. Adonica Brunenn - Teacher, HS G. Consider leave of absence H. Consider open enrollment requests I. Other reports 1. 23-24 Donations 2. 23-24 Fundraisers 3. MS/HS Renovations and Additions Project Summary VII. Action Items A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services 1. Approve Contract for Relay Medicaid Billings for 2024-25 Motion made by: Mio Santiago Motion seconded by: Paul Wilkerson Voting: Unanimously Approved B. Superintendent 1. Chronological Policies for Review Motion made by: Brad Menke Motion seconded by: Amy Thacher Voting: Unanimously Approved 1. Policy 711.12: Travel Expenses - Reimbursements 2. Policy 711.13: District/Transportation Credit Cards 3. Regulation 711.13-R(1): District/Transportation Credit Cards - Transportation Credit Cards Usage 4. Policy 711.14: Special Use of Vehicles - Students 4 5. Policy 800.00: Objectives of Buildings & Sites 6. Policy 801.01: Buildings & Sites Long Range Planning 7. Policy 801.02: Buildings & Sites Surveys 8. Policy 801.03: Educational Specifications for Buildings & Sites 9. Policy 801.04: Site Acquisition 10. Policy 801.05: Bids and Awards for Construction Contracts - DELETE 11. Policy 802.01: Maintenance Schedule 12. Regulation 802.01-R(1):L Maintenance Schedule - Custodial Operations - DELETE 2. Annual Policies for Review 1. Policy 501.03: Compulsory Attendance Motion made by: Brad Menke Motion seconded by: Amy Thacher Voting: Unanimously Approved 2. Policy 505.08: Parent and Family Engagement District-Wide Policy

Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

(Formerly Parental Involvement) Motion made by: Brad Menke Motion seconded by: Amy Thacher Voting: Unanimously Approved
 3. Consider Approval of Girls Tennis Sharing Agreement with Central Lee for 2023-2024 Season Motion made by: Mio Santiago Motion seconded by: Brad Menke Voting: Unanimously Approved
 4. Consider approval of High School EF Study Abroad WWII Trip - Spring Break 2026 Motion made by: Mio Santiago

Motion seconded by: Brad Menke Voting: Unanimously Approved
 5. Consider approval of the 2024-2025 School Year Calendar Motion made by: Mio Santiago Motion seconded by: Amy Thacher Voting: Unanimously Approved
 6. Consider approval of Revised 2023-2024 FMCSA Calendar Motion made by: Brad Menke Motion seconded by: Keith Hehr Voting: Unanimously Approved
 7. Consider approval of board resolution for AEA

legislative bill Motion made by: Mio Santiago Motion seconded by: Amy Thacher Voting: Unanimously Approved
 C. Board Secretary/Director of Finance 1. Set Public Hearing Dates for Certified Budget for April 3, 2024 and April 17, 2024 Motion made by: Brad Menke Motion seconded by: Amy Thacher Voting: Unanimously Approved
 2. Consider approval of Budget Guarantee Resolution - RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of FORT MADISON

community school district, will levy property taxes for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the regular program budget adjustment as allowed under section 257.14, Code of Iowa. Motion made by: Brad Menke Motion seconded by: Amy Thacher Voting: Unanimously Approved
 VIII. Discussion Items A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services B. Superintendent 1. Chronological Policies for Discussion Board policies were reviewed. 1. Policy 713:

Reasonable Technology Use & Social Networking - NEW 2. Policy 401.13: Staff Technology Use/Social Media - DELETE C. Board Secretary/Business Manager 1. Certified Budget FY2024-2025 Discussion The Board participated in a discussion session regarding the Certified Budget for FY2024-2025. 6 D. Board Member Attendance The Board Member Attendance report was accepted as presented. E. Staff Attendance The Staff Attendance Report

was accepted as presented. IX. Comments from the audience There were none. X. Announcements A. Board Work Session: March 06, 2024, 6:00 p.m. - Central Office Board Room B. Spring Break: March 11-15, 2024 C. Regular Board Meeting: March 20, 2024, 6:00 p.m. - Central Office Board Room XI. Adjourn The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

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

Illinois News/From the Front

Author's childhood home memorialized by Iowa DOT

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

The house was even featured one Halloween Night on national television because of its reputation for being haunted. Did Phil or I realize it was haunted when we lived there? Nope.

So I met up with Phil and we lunched. It was our intention to drive around and look at the farms where we grew up and reminisce about old times. We would drive by the farm where he grew up, and we would attempt to find Maple Hill. About 10 years ago Maple Hill was moved to a new location. (CNN covered the move. Would the ghosts go with it?) It was the owner's intention to restore Maple Hill to its original state-ly, pre-Civil War, Southern Mansion-style elegance. However, the owner ran out of money, we heard, and the restoration was never completed. In fact, the house had been vandalized, the copper stripped from it, and was in rather bad condition. I wasn't even sure if I

could find Maple Hill. I had a rough idea of where it was, having seen where it was moved 10 years ago, but my memory was sketchy. So we drove around on back country roads west of Monroe, and talked about old times. Here was our drinking spot. Here was a favorite parking place. Here's where I wrecked Dad's truck.

I took a chance with a gravel road where I thought Maple Hill might be. We drove and drove, up hill, down hill, around a bend. No Maple Hill. It's big enough we should be able to see it if we were close. Nothing. All of a sudden, there it was! Maple Hill still stands, stately, and looking worse for wear, but she is there, waiting for some much needed TLC. Any house that is featured in an Iowa Interstate Rest Area needs to be looked after and cared for. The home where I grew up is memorialized for posterity. I'm shocked, pleased and humbled.

Gazing at Maple Hill again, Phil and I took a step back. We didn't wish to change anything, but to feel

some of the old feelings twice. Maple Hill, you were good to us. Now you belong to everyone.

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

45th Strawberry Strut June 1

CARTHAGE - Sign-up is now open for the 45th running of the Strawberry Strut in Carthage on Saturday, June 1.

The Strawberry Strut includes the classic five-mile run along the Carthage Lake. Other events in this year's Strut are a 5K run, a 5K walk and a one mile fun run/walk.

To sign up, go to run-signup.com/Race/IL/Carthage/StrawberryStrut.

The fee for the five-mile run, the 5K run and 5K walk is \$30 in advance, increasing to \$35 on race day. The fee for the one-mile run/walk is \$10, or \$15 on race day.

All 5-mile and 5k participants who are registered by May 16 will receive a performance quality T-Shirt. Those who register after May 16 will not receive a T-Shirt. One mile participants have the option to purchase a shirt for \$15 during the registration process by May 16.

The two 5K events in the Strut were added in 2022.

"Everyone wanted to keep the traditional five-mile run. However, our committee felt the 5K distance would be more comfortable for some runners and walkers, and would encourage more people to take part," said Kris Pilkington, chairman of the Strawberry Strut steering committee.

Race event start times are staggered. Participants will start on the following schedule:

- 5-mile run - 8:15 a.m.
- 5K walk - 8:30 a.m.
- 5K run - 8:40 a.m.
- 1-mile fun run/ walk - 8:45 a.m.

Race day registration is available at 7 a.m. and will end at 7:45 a.m.

Those who have pre-registered can pick up race packets on Friday, May 31, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Hancock County Courthouse in Carthage, or after 7 a.m. the morning of the race. All race packets must be picked up by 7:45 a.m.

Awards will be presented when runs are finished, at around 10 a.m. These include several memorial awards, and awards for numerous age groups.

Those interested in being a sponsor for the Strawberry Strut can contact Pilkington at hct02@hancockcounty-il.gov or treasurer Andy Bastert at abastert@bankfortress.com.

DIAGNOSED WITH NEUROPATHY?

GABAPENTIN OR LYRICA NOT WORKING? TOLD NOTHING COULD BE DONE?



- PAINFUL HANDS/FEET?
- NUMBNESS & TINGLING
- COLD OR BURNING FEET?
- LOSS OF SENSATION?
- BALANCE PROBLEMS?

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