

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 | 8 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 46



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Residents may win "dust up"

DUST CONTROL FEE: Supervisors may reverse increased fee action

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Residents in rural Lee County appear to have won a "dust up" with county officials over increased dust control fees.

The Lee County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution increasing fees for prep work on gravel roads that are being privately treated for dust control measures.

But residents pushed back against the fee at last Monday's regular board meeting, and again at Monday's meeting, going so far as to say the county isn't doing what they say they are doing when it comes to prep work.

Tony Menke, a resident who compiled some studies on the effects of grading roads and the impact to road surfaces, read a statement to the county again Monday.

"As I wrote in a letter to the board already, I can, with 100% certainty, say that has never happened to the application area in front of my house. I have been doing the application in this location for 10 years and this service and material that is costing and causing this additional tax has never taken place," Menke said.

"So to be clear, the \$250 cost per 500 feet that had been stated in the last meeting is irrelevant because the service and

See COUNTY, page 8

LEE COUNTY NEWS

Board mulls LCHD/EMS funding plans

USDA needs clear picture of county contributions before allowing bidding

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Lee County officials took a closer look at the proposed Lee County Health Department/EMS facility now that an additional \$2.1 million in funding from a USDA Congressional appropriation was approved.

The county found out last week that a grant that was applied for through Congresswoman Mariannette Miller-Meeks' office in 2023 was awarded to the project.

The funds would be last-in funding after the county's contribution is used up. The county's contribution would come from ARPA funding and the North Lee County Community Foundation.

Then a \$600,000 Community Development Block Grant would kick in followed by the \$3,074,000 in USDA grant funds. Currently, those funds total \$5.2 million of a \$5.5 million proposed project.

"As a recap, the funding we currently have is \$1 million in ARPA funding, \$500,000 of North Lee County Community Foundation committed with possibly more coming. A CDBG of \$600,000, the USDA Emergency Rural Health Care grant of \$974,000, and the USDA Congressional funding of \$2.1 million," Seyb said.

"We were lucky enough to be awarded funding for the Lee County Health Department - without a reduction, I might add."

The Board of Supervisors on Monday discussed getting the project started in

See PROJECT, page 5



HOLMES



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Work continues to progress in the Fort Madison Community School District's elementary school and high school construction projects. Most of the exterior work has been completed on the main structures with a scheduled opening for fall of 2024.

IOWA NEWS

State still has more than 50,000 unemployed residents

DES MOINES – Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.0 percent in January, down from the 3.2 percent announced in December but unchanged from a revised December rate. The state's jobless rate was 2.9 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate remained at

3.7 percent in January.

The total number of unemployed Iowans decreased to 50,900 in January, down 1,100 from revised December data. The total number of working Iowans decreased by 1,200 to 1,653,800. The labor force participation rate decreased to 67.3 percent from

a revised December rate of 67.5 percent.

"January's report was mixed. On the positive side, it shows the total number of non-farm jobs remains 12,700 above last year's total, even after retail businesses pared

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WEATHER

TUE 12 Mar.....Cloudy and warm, 71° F/47° F
WED 13 Mar.....Partly sunny and warm, 71° F/52° F
THU 14 Mar.....Rainy, 69° F/41° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 03/10.....1 6 26 36 47, Lucky Ball: 4
PICK 3 MIDDAY 03/10.....2 2 0
PICK 3 EVENING 03/10.....2 2 3
PICK 4 MIDDAY 03/10.....2 9 6 6
PICK 4 EVENING 03/10.....7 8 2 1

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Obituaries/Iowa News

OBITUARIES

ALLEN D. CLINE

Allen Dean Cline, 62, of Keokuk, IA died Friday, March 8, 2024 at his home. He was born April 16, 1961 in Keosauqua, IA the son of Kenneth and Rosemary Kay Cline.



Allen graduated from Central Lee High School with the class of 1979. He was employed by Montrose Healthcare Center, Midwest Academy, Hickey Contracting, and BTR in Keokuk. While in high school he was a member of FFA where he showed horses.

CLINE Allen enjoyed collecting western memorabilia such as bits, spurs and bridles. He also collected western comic books. He enjoyed attending horse sales and was a good storyteller. Allen is survived by one uncle, Charles Cline of Bettendorf, IA, and two nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother and one sister. According to his wishes, there will be no services. Memorials may be made to the Keokuk Saddle Club. The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

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

LOUISE G. DINGMAN

Louise Gertrude Dingman, 100 years, of St. Paul, Iowa died Sunday, March 10, 2024 at her home. She was born December 18, 1923 in St. Paul, Iowa, a daughter of Theodore and Angela (Witte) Dingman.



She was a member of St. James the Less Catholic Church, St. Paul. She worked as a cashier at the Pilot Grove Saving Bank in Pilot Grove, Iowa. She enjoyed playing cards and quilting. Louise was a kind and gentle woman with an inviting warm personality. She loved meeting new people as well as spending time with her family and friends.

DINGMAN She is survived by her nieces and nephews: Joan (Larry) Steffensmeier, Joseph T. Bentler (Bonnie Menke), Mary Ellen (Steve) Wagenecht, and Mark (Cathy) Bentler; great nieces and nephews, great great nieces and nephews and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers: Mark Dingman, Bishop Maurice Dingman, and Adrian Dingman; two sisters, Catherine Bentler and Sister Mary Dingman; one nephew, Steve Dingman; three nieces: Elizabeth Ann Bentler in infancy, Linda Butler and Connie Sickels; one great nephew, Doug Dingman and two great nephews in infancy. Family will greet friends from 10:00 am to 11:00 am Monday morning at the St. James the Less Catholic Church, St. Paul, with Mass of Christian Burial to follow at 11:00 am Monday, March 18, 2024 with Reverend Dan Dorau as Celebrant. Burial will be at St. James' Cemetery, St. Paul. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established for the St. James Cemetery, contributions may be left at Barr Memorial Chapel or at the church during the service. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve Louise's family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorial-chapel.com.

Bird wants Meta to address account takeovers

DES MOINES—Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird today joined a bipartisan coalition of 41 States in a letter to Meta Platforms, Inc., urging immediate action to address the rise in user account takeovers and lockouts on the company's platforms, such as Facebook and Instagram. The Iowa Attorney General's Office has seen a drastic increase in account-takeover complaints this year.

Account takeovers happen when scammers gain unauthorized access to a user's account, often by hacking the account's password. Once in control, criminals can steal personal information, read private messages, scam contacts, post graphic content, and commit financial fraud. Many Iowans rely on Facebook to run their small businesses or conduct transactions through Facebook Marketplace. Hackers can exploit stolen accounts to make unauthorized charges, sometimes amounting to thousands of dollars, on stored credit cards.

The coalition urges Meta to:

- Increase security measures to prevent account takeovers
- Improve user support to help users regain access to compromised accounts
- Work with law enforcement to investigate and prosecute scammers for account takeover

"Social media should be a safe place for Iowans to share their memories, build businesses, and connect with loved ones," said Attorney General Bird. "But instead, we have to be on the lookout for hackers who seek to wreak havoc on our personal lives and finances. Make no mistake, scammers are out to lie, cheat, and steal. They invade our private messages and impersonate Iowans to cause destruction. My office is demanding that Facebook and Instagram increase their security measures, improve user support, and work with law enforcement to stop the scammers."

the Y TEST KITCHEN

Cottontail Dash

Fun Run/Walk

Riverview Park | Fort Madison, IA
Saturday, March 30th, 2024
7:30am Check-In 8:00am Start
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All proceeds will go to YMCA Test Kitchen Music and Cooking programs!
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March Madness

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- SHARE A POST = 2 TICKETS
- COMMENT ON A POST = 2 TICKETS
- BOTH COMMENT & SHARE A POST = 5 TICKETS
- REFERRAL ACCEPTS = 20 TICKETS

1ST PRIZE = LEXINGTON PIT BOSS GRILL SET

2ND PRIZE = \$100 MEAT BUNDLE

3RD PRIZE = DR. GETWELLS \$50 GIFT CARD

* DOES NOT APPLY TO FEDERAL BENEFICIARIES

Obituaries

OBITUARIES

LARRY R. SEWELL

Larry Ray Sewell, 76, of Hamilton, passed away peacefully on Friday, March 8, 2024, at Memorial Hospital in Carthage, Illinois, surrounded by his family.



SEWELL

Larry was born on May 15, 1947, in rural St. James, Missouri, to Clarence Raymond Sewell and Eva Copeland Sewell. He attended Louisa-Muscatine High School and graduated with the Class of 1966.

Larry enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1967 and proudly served his country as an aircraft mechanic during the Vietnam War. He was honorably discharged in 1974. On October 15, 1977, he was united in marriage to Susan Diane Reneau at her parents' home in rural Hamilton. She preceded him in death on April 15, 2021.

Larry was employed by Roquette America for over thirty years and was a member of New Testament Christian Church in Keokuk, Iowa. He was a member of the Hancock County Vietnam Veterans and was so proud to take the Honor Flight with his cousins, Jim and Don Sewell. Larry was always the calm voice of reason and the solid rock of the family. He will be forever remembered for his unwavering love.



Larry will be greatly missed by his children: Justin (Andrea) Sewell and Tara (Sewell) Baker of Hamilton, and William Sewell and Julie Camp of Louisiana, his son-in-law Sam Darnell of Quincy; his grandchildren: Morgan Lewis and Ryan Darnell of Quincy, Brenden and Walker Sewell of Hamilton, Brenna and Logan Baker of Hamilton, and Abbygail and Joshua Normand of Louisiana; his first great-grandchild due in late June; his siblings: Dorothy (Don) Orr of Columbus Junction, Iowa, Linda Greenhill of Bettendorf, Iowa, Ron Sewell of Oskaloosa, Iowa, Gary (Linda) Sewell of Dubuque, Iowa, Janice Sewell of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Mark (Elisa) Sewell of Buffalo Grove, Illinois; as well as countless brothers and sisters-in-law, aunts, cousins and friends.

Larry is preceded in death by his wife Susan of forty-three years, his daughter Shay Sewell Darnell, his parents Ray and Eva Sewell, his father-in-law and mother-in-law Robert and Glenda Reneau, his brother-in-law Bob Greenhill and his sister-in-law Barbara Reneau.

Visitation will be held from 10 am to 12 pm (Noon) on Friday, March 15, 2024, at Printy Funeral Home in Hamilton. A private graveside service will be held after at Riverside Cemetery in Rural Hamilton.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Hancock County Vietnam Veterans or the Great River Honor Flight.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.printyfuneralhome.com. Printy Funeral Home of Hamilton is in charge of arrangements.

OBITUARIES

BARBARA TULL

Barbara "Barb" Tull, 75, of Donnellson, Iowa passed away at 8:00 p.m. Sunday, March 10, 2024, at her home in Donnellson surrounded by her family and loving pets who haven't left her side for the last few months.



TULL

She was born on January 16, 1949, the daughter of Leonard and Dehlia (Ball) Krebill. On May 5, 1968, she married Raymond Tull in Donnellson, Iowa and they were married for fifty-five years.

Survivors include her husband: Raymond; her son: David (Tricia) Tull and her daughter: Julie (Jason) Humes; three grandchildren: Tyler (Rachel) Hoskins, Jonathon Humes and Kaidin Humes; sister Deanna (Richard) Reu; brother and sister-in-law: Kenny and Carol Tull. Also surviving are several nieces, nephews and cousins; her pets: Lilly, Minnie and Melvin.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers and sisters-in-law: Bill and Lela Tull, Dick and Darlene Tull; niece: Cathy Anderson and several very close friends.

Barb was a 1967 graduate of Central High School. She started working at Lee County Bank and Trust three days after graduating from high school and was employed there for forty-one and a half years until her retirement in 2008. She was a member of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, where she taught Sunday School for many years and was also involved with the women's fellowship group.

She enjoyed camping, especially trips to the Iowa State Fair, Branson and Duluth. Crocheting, she made and donated at least eighty hats for Iowa CLICK for Babies at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids raising awareness for shaken babies. Visiting with the retirees' group from the bank. In the Fall she enjoyed picking up corn from the family farm to feed the squirrels and birds. She also enjoyed attending her grandchildren's events.

Per her wishes her body has been entrusted to the crematory of Schmitz Funeral Home for cremation.

A visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Saturday, March 23, 2024, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, March 23, 2024, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson with Pastor Tony Keefe officiating. Following the service, a luncheon will be held at the Lee County Fairgrounds Learning Center.

Burial will be held at a later date at Evangelical Cemetery, Donnellson. A memorial will be established in her memory.

Barb's family would like to Thank the Lee County Hospice nurses and staff. The services they provided were invaluable and much needed during this difficult time. THANK YOU!

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

Got a news tip?
Call Chuck (319)371.1670

the YOUTH SPRING SOCCER

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COMMENTARY

Parties aside, irresponsible talk is still irresponsible

Like many people who call this state home, I have long taken an interest in the careers and achievements of people who have gotten their start in Iowa.

As a kid, I was fascinated to walk through that two-room cottage in West Branch, knowing a president of the United States, Herbert Hoover, was born there.

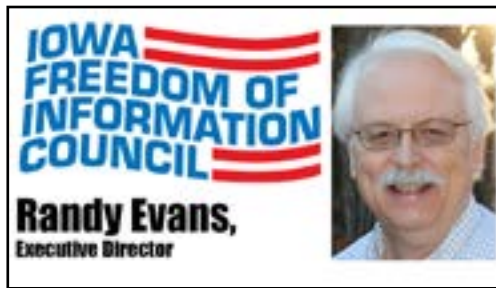
Having grown up at the start of the Space Age, I have marveled at the achievements of Peggy Whitson, whose record-breaking space career was “launched” in Beaconsfield and the public schools of Mount Ayr.

And more recently, I have been amazed by the talents of Caitlin Clark, the University of Iowa basketball wizard who has drawn attention from fans around the globe.

All of this may help explain why I have paid more than passing attention to Democrat Katie Porter, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from California — and why I was greatly disappointed by her outlandish, baseless comments after she lost the recent California primary election for an open U.S. Senate seat.

Porter's roots run back to the soil of southern Iowa, a few counties west of where I came from. Now 50, she grew up on a farm outside of Creston during the farm crisis of the 1980s. Her father, Dan, was a farmer and banker. Her mother, Liz, is the Porter of “Fons & Porter's Love of Quilting” magazine and public television fame.

Katie Porter received her bachelor's degree from Yale University and her law degree from Harvard University.



Before being elected to Congress in 2018, she interned for U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley and later taught law, including several years at the University of Iowa before she moved on to the University of California, Irvine law school.

In Congress, the mother of three quickly developed a reputation as a member whose focus was on consumers and middle-class Americans, not the well-healed interests of corporations and their executives. Using a whiteboard and marker to make her points or highlight evidence, she proved to be an aggressive, effective interrogator of government officials and corporate executives when they were called to testify at congressional hearings.

Along the way, she also wrote a best-selling book called, “I Swear: Politics Is Messier than My Minivan.” (That van bears the license plate OVR-SITE.)

Porter has many fans. Actress Whoopi Goldberg wrote on the dust jacket of the book, “When Representative Katie Porter speaks, I know she knows what she's talking about and gives it to you straight up.”

It is because of Porter's reputation as a no-nonsense speaker that I was especially disappointed by her com-

ments following her loss to another California Democrat, Adam Schiff, in the March 5 primary election.

Porter spouted off following her loss, sounding too much like a former president. She said billionaires had “rigged” the election in Schiff's favor through what she called “dishonest means” — a reference to ads critical of her that were paid for by interest groups favoring Schiff.

Porter could have thanked voters who supported her. She could have expressed her appreciation to voters in her House district had chosen her to represent them for the past six years. She could have congratulated Schiff and wished him well in the November election, when he faces Republican Steve Garvey, a former Major League Baseball player.

She could have accepted her defeat with grace and gone home to rest and reflect on what she wants to do in the next chapter of her life, the way farmers in Iowa reflect on low crop prices or lousy weather.

You can dislike the campaign finance laws, as Porter does. You can believe political groups have outsized voices because of their ability to spend staggering amounts of so-called “dark money,” as Porter does. And you can believe you would have been a better senator than Schiff, as Porter surely does.

But using words like “rigged” and “dishonest” is wrong in so many ways, as anyone who has been listening for the past four years understands. A Harvard-educated lawyer with southern Iowa common sense should understand that. Porter should real-

ize her rash comments made without evidence only help to further undermine public confidence in our election system. The comments have seriously eroded her reputation as an important voice in American politics and have added to the unhealthy rhetoric that saturates our nation.

Her angry words are all too reminiscent of the comments by people like Donald Trump, Arizona's Kari Lake (an Eldridge, Iowa, native, by the way), My Pillow founder Mike Lindell and other Republicans who continue to make fact-free claims Trump defeated Joe Biden in 2020.

Steve Schale, a longtime Democratic strategist in Florida, told PolitiFact, a political news and fact-checking website, “There is nothing more important to our democracy than people acknowledging they lose elections.”

Michael Thorning of the Bipartisan Policy Center, a nonprofit organization, wrote on the social media site formerly known as Twitter that Porter's comments were “completely irresponsible and unserious.”

Too often, we Americans are quick to point out the flaws and mistakes by politicians we oppose but are too blind to similar flaws and mistakes by politicians we support. Katie Porter's embarrassing display after this month's election should not be defended by her fellow Democrats any more than Trump's post-election nonsense should be defended by his fellow Republicans.

Irresponsible is still irresponsible, regardless of the party affiliation of the person making such wild accusations.

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From the Front/Classifieds

County still has funds to identify in LCHD project

PROJECT - Continued from Page 1

the wake of a petition that still exists, executed by the Lee County Farm Bureau, to make the county put borrowing for the project in front of voters.

Bidding can't begin on the project until the county can show the USDA it has its contribution, which with the Miller-Meeks' appropriation is at \$1.3 million. Once the funding program is approved by the USDA, then the project can go out for bids.



SCHULZ

"We're estimating \$6 million because we engineered this a year and half ago at \$5.5 million. We need to secure the full \$6 million before we go out to bid on the project. But, until we have all that funding secure, we can't go out to bid without putting the USDA funding at risk. I want to make that clear," Seyb said.



PFLUG

"We have to be up and up and fully transparent, and that's where we're at."

Seyb said he's reached out to the Farm Bureau at five times in texts and phone in the last three days with the new information to make their board aware of what's transpired.

Supervisor Chuck Holmes said the community foundation can't make a guarantee in writing for the project because it turns the donations into pledges which becomes problematic with the IRS and how contributions are handled with regard to taxes.

Seyb said the devil's in the details. He said they didn't want to put the Community Foundation in that predicament. However, foundation funds would still be available once the project gets underway.

He said the county's bond counsel believes the county would still be able to bond for the \$975,000 it has authority for under new property tax laws. Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise said there is still a petition out there that says any bonding has to go to voters.

Supervisor Tom Schulz and Seyb said they believe that additional funding that came in creates a material change in the funding situation which would allow the county to bond for those funds.

"My understanding with bond counsel is, the petitioner could make an argument about the bond because their petition indicated any amount up to \$6 million, but it would be up to them to file that complaint," he said hinting that the Farm Bureau may not challenge a smaller bond to finish out the project now that the county has officially been awarded the additional \$2.1 million appropriation.

"I'm still talking with them to see where they are at with this now. Right now, we have to come up with an extra half million. That's one aspect, and that gets messy."

Seyb said the county needs to move forward with the project because it is ultimately in the best interest of the county and its health care provider services.

"There's no way we can get a health department

building and ambulance (building) for less than \$800,000 in this county," Seyb said. "We're spending \$90,000 a year just on rent."

Schulz said the bond payment to make up the rest of the project would cost less than what the county would pay on the bond.

But Seyb said the county needed to be cognizant of the fact that more than 1,200 people signed the petition with the idea that the county was going to borrow \$6 million. Pflug said there is still a sentiment that the county is spending too much.

"People are so angry right now, even a bond for \$10,000 they'll vote no, that's my opinion," Pflug said.

Schulz said the county health department cannot continue to function in the current facility.

"It's just not an option." Seyb said the county could potentially commit an additional \$500,000 out of the general fund to the project which gets it past the \$1.2 million contribution requirement in the event the county could get the Community Foundation to forward the \$500,000 it has already committed to the project.

He said the county currently has about \$4.6 million in general fund after committing to \$1 million for the Keokuk EMS facility. He said that number will swell with March tax payments, but then will shrink until September when the second tax payments come in.

The discussion was tabled until next Monday when the county's budget numbers will be closer to being finalized.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

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.

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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.

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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.

PUBLIC NOTICE
CENTRAL LEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
DONNELLSON, IOWA 52625
DISTRICT OFFICE TENTATIVE AGENDA
MARCH 12, 2024
REGULAR MEETING - 7:00 A.M.

1. Roll Call
2. Approve agenda
3. Receive Visitors:
 - a) Social Studies Presentation
4. Superintendent's Report:
 - a) Finance Update
 - b) Legislative Update
 - c) Strategic Plan Update
 - d) HOF Event - April 6, 2024 @ 10 a.m.
 - e) Facility Improvement Progress
 - f) April Board Meeting - April 9, 2024 @ 7 a.m.
 - g) Vacancies
5. Consent Agenda: Motion (Exhibit I)
 - a) Approve minutes
 - b) Financial Reports: General and Schoolhouse funds, Clearing account, Hot Lunch account
 - c) Approve prepaid bills
 - d) Approve monthly bills
 - e) Overnight Trip Requests:
 - 1) Drake Relays, Des Moines, Iowa - 4/17/2024 - 4/20/2024;
 - 2) Boys' & Girls' State Track Meet, Des Moines, Iowa - 5/16/2024 - 5/18/2024;
 - 3) Boys' State Golf Meet, TBA - 5/23/2024 - 5/24/2024;
 - 4) Girls' State Golf Meet, Marshalltown, Iowa - 5/28/2024 - 5/29/2024;
 - 5) Boys' State Soccer Tournament, Des Moines, Iowa - 5/28/2024 - 6/1/2024;
 - 6) Girls' State Soccer Tournament, Des Moines, Iowa - 6/4/2024 - 6/7/2024;
 - 7) Girls' State Softball Tournament, Ft. Dodge, Iowa - 7/15/2024 - 7/19/2024;
 - 8) Boys' State Baseball Tournament, Des Moines, Iowa - 7/15/2024 - 7/19/2024;
 - 9) FCCLA State Leadership Conference, Cedar Rapids, Iowa - 3/17/2024 - 3/19/2024.
- NEW BUSINESS:
 1. Second Reading of Board Policy No. 411.2 Classified - Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection (Motion) (Exhibit II)
 2. First Reading Board Policy 300 Series (Motion)
 3. First Reading of Board Policy No. 905.1 Community Use of District Facilities & Equipment (Motion) (Exhibit III)
 4. First Reading of Board Policy No. 505.8 Parent and Family Engagement (Motion)

- (Exhibit IV)
5. Approve/Reject Construction Bids for High School Science Classroom Renovation (Motion) (Exhibit V)
6. Approve/Reject Construction Bids for District Office Construction (Motion) (Exhibit VI)
7. AEA School Food Service Purchasing Agreement 2024-2025 (Motion) (Exhibit VII)
8. Set First Hearing Date for FY25 Budget (Motion) (Roll Call Vote) Recommend April 2, 2024 at 7:00 a.m.
9. Set Budget Adoption Hearing Date for FY25 Budget (Motion) (Roll Call Vote) Recommend April 9, 2024 at 7:00 a.m.
10. Approve 28E Shared Agreements: (Motion) (Exhibit VIII)
 - a) Middle School & High School Girls' Wrestling - Ft. Madison
 - b) Middle School & High School Boys' Wrestling - Ft. Madison
 - c) High School Girls' Bowling - Keokuk
 - d) High School Boys' Bowling - Keokuk
11. Set School Fees for 2024-2025 as follows: (Motion)
 - Book Rent: Elementary - \$60.00, Middle School - \$65.00, HS - \$70.00
 - High School Band: \$20.00
 - Senior Graduation Fee: \$10.00
 - Middle School Band: \$15.00
 - Preschool: \$50.00
12. Resignations: (Motion)
 - a) Gracie Glasscock - Football & Basketball Cheerleading Sponsor
 - b) Haley Bryant - Instructor (Effective End of FY 2023-24)
 - c) Kristopher Hayes - Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach
 - d) Audrey Roscum - Foodservice (Effective 3/8/2024)
13. Volunteer Coach Approvals: (Motion)
 - a) Ron Walker - High School Baseball
 - b) Ethan Rulon - Middle School Soccer
14. Contract Approvals: (Motion)
 - a) Sarah Kruse - Middle School Girls' Track Coach
 - b) Amy Fogarty - Assistant Boys' Track Coach
 - c) Kelsey McGee - Special Needs Associate (Effective 3/1/2024)
 - d) Amy Cook - Instructor (Effective FY 2024-2025)
 - e) Jordan Burdette - Instructor (Effective FY 2024-2025)
 - f) Alli Hasek - Instructor (Effective FY 2024-2025)
 - g) Carissa Marx - Instructor (Effective FY 2024-2025)
15. Board Reports

16. Adjourn (Motion)

PUBLIC NOTICE
GREEN BAY LEVEE & DRAINAGE DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 28, 2023
7:00 P.M.
HEARTLAND CO-OP,
WEVER

The Green Bay Levee & Drainage District met at the regular meeting on Thursday, December 28, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Heartland Co-op, Wever. Present were trustees Rick Kuntz, Brandon Bonar and Mike Walker and clerk, Kimberly Spear. Also present were other members of the community.

All votes are unanimous unless otherwise indicated. Spear read the minutes from the regular meeting held on November 30, 2023. Moved by Kuntz, seconded by Bonar, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Pat Kaltefleiter gave the Pump Master report. The river stage was 7.86. Moved by Bonar, seconded by Kuntz, to accept the Pump Master Report as presented. Motion carried. Kuntz led a discussion regarding insurance. Everything has been taken care of at the pumpstation. Moved by Kuntz, seconded by Bonar to not insure the electric pump at this time.

Trustee have viewed the Des Moines county property and are waiting a response from the district attorney.

The levee inspection is complete while the pumphouse will be inspected December 4.

The upcoming district election will be held January 20, 2024 for District 3 from 1 to 4 at the Wever fire station.

Moved by Kuntz, seconded by Bonar to extend the contracts with the current mowers. Motion carried.

Moved by Kuntz, seconded by Bonar to set the tax rate for 2024 at 10.5%. Motion carried.

Kuntz led a discussion on investing district funds. 2 CD's were opened for the district.

Moved by Kuntz, seconded by Bonar to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried. Current balances are \$940,644.98 in the Operating Fund.

At 7:43 p.m. Kuntz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bonar. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting of the Drainage

District will be Thursday, January 25, 2024.
Respectfully submitted by Kimberly Spear, Lee County Auditor's Office.

PUBLIC NOTICE
PROCEEDINGS
FORT MADISON
CITY COUNCIL
3/5/2024

At 5:30 P.M., Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. Mayor Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Amandus, Thele, Roller, Gray, Andrews and Yager present. Council Member Rink was absent.

On motion, Council approved the Consent Agenda: Minutes of 2/20/2024; Setting public hearing for 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, 3/19/2024, concerning the franchise fee for MidAmerican; Claims dated 2/28/2024, February Manual Claims; and Payroll of 2/23/2024.

On motion, Council approved the second reading to amend Ordinance D-55, Title 9, Chapter 15: Operation of Golf Carts, ATVs and UTVs. On motion, Council approved the first reading to amend Ordinance D-47, Title 2, Chapter 4: Civil Service Commission. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2024-19, approving the waiver of building permit fees for Southeast Iowa Housing, Inc. (managed by SEIRPC) for 1515 35th Street. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2024-20, approving the Mayor's signature on a loan agreement with Great River Housing, Inc. for a 10-year loan of \$100,000 at 1% interest to match a Community Catalyst Grant to repair and stabilize the James Block Building located at 732 Avenue G. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2024-21, ordering construction and setting public hearing for PIP 2023-02, Connecting Fort Madison Phase IV Trail along 48th Street from Avenue L to River Valley Road.

On motion, Council approved the Airport Capital Improvement Plan for the Fort Madison Municipal Airport. On Motion Council appointed Amy Conlee to serve on the Southeast Iowa Regional Riverboat Commission, term expiring December 31, 2026. Discussions were held regarding plans to consolidate the Public Works Facilities. Andrews provided an update on the Historic Preservation Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 P.M.



Classifieds/Public Notices

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PUBLIC NOTICES

/s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld,
Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Justina M.
Cullen, City Clerk

EXPENDITURES

General	\$55,604.05
Special Rev.	186,281.36
Road Use	46,151.95
Debt	0.00
Capital	11,266.00
Water	102,648.20
Sewer	42,335.21
Sld Waste, IWC	3,141.56
SW Utility	1,770.65
Total	\$449,198.98

REVENUES

General	\$40,290.06
Special Rev.	637,925.74
Road Use	106,192.97
Debt	1,586.51
Capital	9,658.11
Water	219,161.87
Sewer	258,273.65
Sld Wst & IWC	83,258.44
Sewer	17,438.34
Total	\$1,373,785.69

Claims - 3/5/2024

ABC FIRE EXTINGUISHER, FIRE EXT ANNUAL INSPECTION.....	119.00
ACCESS LEASING SYSTEM, PRINTER LEASE	826.43
ACUREN INSPECTION INC., VISUAL/MAGNETIC INSPECTION ...	338.00
AHLERS & COONEY, PC, PROF FEE.....	83.00
AIR COMPRESSOR SERVICES, 5 GAL TUB LUBRICANT	552.52
ALEXIS FIRE EQUIPMENT CO, REBUILD WATEROUS TANK/DRAIN	5,261.06
ALLIANT ENERGY, ELECTRIC.....	37,922.81
ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES, SHOP SUPPLIES/UNIFORM....	90.86
BARCO MUNICIPAL PRODUCTS, SIGN MATERIAL/POSTS	3,232.61
BURLINGTON MUNI WATER, BACTERIA SAMPLE	170.00
CLIFFORD STEWART, TRAINING	18.00
COMPASS MINERALS, TREATED SALT	9,279.25
CULLEN PEST CONTROL, QUARTERLY PEST CONTROL..	125.00
DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP, PLOW BLADES	4,447.37
DARKSIDE TINT & GRAPHIX, TINT ON 2 DOORS	100.00
DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY, NOTE PADS	45.24

PAYROLL

2/23/2024	
General	\$ 211,019.20
Vol Emp Benefits	8,560.20
Road Use	26,080.27
Water	38,538.01
Sewer	31,578.45
Solid Waste	16,632.81
Airport	486.54
Storm Water	3,147.66
Total	\$336,043.14

DOUDS STONE, LLC, ROADSTONE	1,969.28
DUNKIN GARAGE & TOWING, REPLACE ROTORS	366.64
ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING, REPAIRED VEHICLE SIREN	52.50
FARM & HOME SUPPLY, SUPPLIES	318.84
FLOYD'S EZ WAY, JANUARY GARBAGE PICKUP	503.50
FORT MADISON WATER DEPT, WATER @ AIRPORT.....	22.53
FRANK MILLARD & CO. INC, REPLACE THERMOSTAT	3,815.77
GALL'S, AN ARAMARK COMPANY, UNIFORM ACCESSORY	164.89
GARRETT HANNUM, TRAINING	19.20
HACH COMPANY, TESTING SUPPLIES	16,841.91
HAWKEYE TRUCK EQUIPMENT, CUTTING EDGE INSERTS	1,790.41
HOENIG LAWN SERVICE INC, TREE REMOVAL	575.00
HOENIG TREE SERVICE INC, TREE REMOVAL	875.00
HOWARD R GREEN COMPANY, PROF FEE	8,723.50
HUFFMAN WELDING & MACHINE, ACTYLENE	17.02
IA ASSN. PROF.FIRE CHIEF, MEMBERSHIP	100.00
IA DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, 1ST QTR TERMINAL FEES	708.00

IDEXX DISTRIBUTION, INC., TESTING SUPPLIES	1,638.40
INTOXIMETERS, DRY-GAS	125.00
IOWA DEPT OF NATURAL RES., ANNUAL PORT PERMIT	175.00
IOWA PRISON INDUSTRIES, STREET SIGNS	635.58
JIM BAIER INC., VEHICLE REPAIR	1,791.51
JOSEPH DODSON, TRAINING	22.75
KEMPKERS TRUE VALUE, POSTAGE/PARTS/PAINT	1,655.67
KIMBALL MIDWEST, VALVE/BITS/WELD HOSE	279.62
KIRKWOOD COMM. COLLEGE, TRAINING	560.00
KLINGNER & ASSOCIATES, P.C, PROF FEE	2,459.50
KYLE KNEPP, SAFETY BOOTS	316.70
LEE COUNTY RECORDER, RECORDING FEES FOR PROPERTIES	221.00
LEE COUNTY TREASURER, TRANSFER PROPERTIES	130.00
LEMIA PAIGE WILSON, SHELTER REFUND	536.75
LIBERTY UTILITY IOWA, HEAT	242.11
LYNCH DALLAS, P.C., PROF FEE.....	2,367.94
MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT, STREET SWEEPER BROOM.....	774.39
MCCLURE ENGINEERING CO., PROF FEE	41,600.49
MCFARLAND, TOWELS/CAN LINERS	103.47
MENARD, LED LIGHTING/MISC SUPPLIES	390.75
MICROBAC LABORATORIES LLC, SLUDGE SAMPLE	1,240.75
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY, HEAT	5,990.75
MIGUEL LANDEROS, NUISANCE	5,258.66
MOHRFELD ELECTRIC, INSTALL POWER SUPPLY	157.50
MOTOR PARTS & EQUIPMENT CO, SHEL-LAC COMPOUND	130.13

MUNICIPAL SUPPLY INC., METER PARTS	2,110.96
MWCNC, EXPANDABLE POLE	250.00
POSTMASTER, FM POSTAGE	1,934.39
QUILL LLC, INK/LABELS	163.95
RAINBO OIL COMPANY, HEAT TRANSFER FLUID	1,268.75
S.H. ENTERPRISES LTD., HAULING SLUDGE	6,237.90
SELECTIVE INS. CO OF SOUT, FLOOD INS @ 804 10TH ST	876.00
SMARTCOVER SYSTEMS, INC., YEARLY PROTECTION... ..	4,044.00
SOUTHEAST IA REGIONAL MED, MEDICAL EXPENSE.....	765.30
THE SHREDDER, ON-SITE SHREDDING	126.00
TRUCK REPAIR INC., REPLACE TIRES	2,506.46
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, ANNUAL SOFTWARE FEE	38,443.05
VEENSTRA & KIMM,	

INC, PROF FEE	3,289.50
WATER SOLUTIONS UNLIMITED, CHEMICALS	24,730.57
WEST CENTRAL FS, INC, FUEL	370.80
TOTAL	255,997.19
GENERAL	44,530.31
SPECIAL REVENUES	241.19
ROAD USE.....	25,168.85
CAPITAL PROJECTS	11,266.00
WATER.....	88,328.99
WASTEWATER	38,255.29
SOLID WASTE ..	2,204.88
AIRPORT.....	44,231.03
STORM WATER	1,770.65
TOTAL	255,997.19
MANUALS - FEB 2024	
ALLIANT ENERGY, ELECTRIC.....	11,329.55
AT&T MOBILITY, PHONES/HOT SPOTS	1,789.72
CENTURY LINK, PHONE	186.59
CHASE CARD SERVICE, CREDIT CARD FEES	

HY-VEE ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE, PAPER PRODUCTS/DETERGENT.....	132.18
IOWA DEPT. OF REVENUE, WET & SALES TAX	13,443.97
MASTERCARD, LIGHTS FOR PORT TRAIL	13,396.19
MIDWEST GROUP BENEFITS, FLEX SPENDING/SELF INS CLAIMS	16,346.88
WELLMARK BC/BS, HEALTH INS PREMIUMS	115,524.26
WEX BANK, JAN 2024 FUEL USAGE ...	17,511.40
TOTAL	93,201.79
GENERAL	11,073.74
SPECIAL REVENUES	141693.65
ROAD USE.....	20,983.10
WATER.....	14319.21
WASTEWATER	4,079.92
SOLID WASTE	936.68
AIRPORT.....	115.49
TOTAL	193,201.79

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From the Front

Residents want less road grading

COUNTY - Continued from Page 1

materials have never happened.”

Supervisors Tom Schulz and chairman Garry Seyb took exception to the comments. Seyb said there is additional rock being put down according to County Engineer Ben Hull.

“What I’m saying is those sections of roads require more gravel and we put more gravel on those sections of roads,” Seyb said.

“But you don’t,” Menke said.

Menke said per Hull’s numbers, presented at the last meeting, the county could save, in theory, \$100,000 per year.

Supervisors Ron Fedler and Matt Pflug said they would like to see the county reconsider the new fee structure.

“You guys are paying for this out of your own pocket, you (shouldn’t) have to pay more to the county,” Fedler said. “I really have all kinds of people telling me and, from last Monday to Friday, I was just getting swamped with calls telling me we had misinformation.”

Fedler said those people indicated the county hadn’t been out there before, during or after the dust control application.

Several residents in attendance, including Carl Stueker-juergen, asked the county to not maintain the roads as often as they are and to let the dust control measures go to work.

“The dust control issue has been much worse the last couple years,” he said. “Last year they graded our road at least 15 times. I don’t know if there is any oversight on these graders – where they’re going and who’s telling them to grade it over and over and over.”

Keith Menke of rural West Point said that could be a money-saving mechanism for the county.

“If you can save this much money, wouldn’t that be something that you would jump on?” Menke asked. “We did a lot of the work for you. You could bring it up that,

‘Hey, here’s where we can save money’, instead of asking us to pay more money. That’s a hell of a lot more than \$20,000.”

The \$20,000 is the amount Hull said the new fees would generate per year on average based on current application trends.

Jim Betherum, a former 15-year employee of the county, said he agreed that nothing is being done by the county prior to the dust control measures.

“I haven’t seen it either. The blading before, yeah, but there was a section on Otte Road near West Point that wasn’t bladed and it was sprayed. Prep wasn’t done, no rock and blading wasn’t completed, so that didn’t help anything,” Bethurem said.

“There are curves you can’t see around and, with the dust clouds, there have been numerous times people come out on the wrong side because they can’t see either.”

Bethurem said residents are paying to put the treatment down and almost every section is in front of a residence.

“They maintain the ditch to the shoulder, mowing and treating, and we’re helping the county out. It’s a give and take thing.”

Al Nelson said people in south Lee County are also unhappy with the conditions of the road.

Supervisor Chuck Holmes thanked the group for taking the time to provide information to the county to help make a better decision.

During a workshop that followed the regular meeting, Supervisor Matt Pflug said with all the new information and discontent of the residents, he would be in favor or resetting the fees to the previous structure.

Residents were paying \$50 as part of the dust control application that went to the county for each application.

At the end of the workshop, Seyb asked deputy auditor Sherri Yasenoch to add to the agenda for next Monday action to reset the fees to the previous structure in place prior to the change.

State still has 56,000 available jobs to fill

JOBLESS - Continued from Page 1


2,000 jobs following the holidays,” said Beth Townsend, Executive Director of Iowa Workforce Development. “We also saw 2,300 people leave the workforce voluntarily in January. Given we have over 58,000 job openings currently in Iowa, it is important we retain the Iowans in the workforce and recruit those who have dropped out. We help Iowans find great career opportunities every day, and we encourage those who have been out of the workforce for a period of time to get in touch. We can help you find your next great career.”

The last five years of monthly labor force data (2019-2023) recently were revised as required by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. This “benchmarking” is the periodic process of re-estimating statistics as more complete data becomes available, such as updated data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Prior-year estimates for the Current Employment Statistics (CES) and Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) programs – key statistical measures of employment – are benchmarked annually. Revised data are incorporated in January employment statistics when they are released each March.

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment


Iowa’s establishments shed 2,000 jobs to begin 2024, lowering total nonfarm employment to 1,596,800 jobs. This monthly decline was due to private service industries removing jobs in wholesale and retail trade along with professional and business services. These losses overshadowed small gains in goods production. Whereas private industries lost positions in January, government (a sector that includes workers at hospitals and schools as well as federal, state, and local government agencies) increased adding 300 jobs, mostly at state universities.

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