

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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# Dust control fees stick

**NARROW VOTE:** Close 3-2 vote keeps new county fees for dust control apps in place

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – After a lengthy discussion and some heated testimony from Lee County rural residents, the Lee County Board of Supervisors has decided to stick with a new fee structure on dust control preparation.

A very close vote that was split 2-2 headed to chairman Garry Seyb, Jr. who paused briefly before casting the deciding vote to hold on to added fees for prepping gravel surfaces for chloride treatments to keep dust down.

Shawn Wright, a resident who said he felt the fees were a punishment to rural residents putting down dust control on county-owned roads, said he would no longer pay to have the treatments applied to county roads.

“I’m out,” he said after a motion made by Supervisor Matt Pflug to revert back to the original fee structure was defeated 3-2. Pflug and Ron Fedler voted for the measure, while Chuck Holmes, Tom Schulz, and Seyb all voted against the motion.

Pflug said the county would generate about \$20,000 annually with the added fees.

“We’re looking at \$20,000 savings, that was the figure thrown out there, so I think with that being said, I would support the discontinuing of those fees,” Pflug said.

County Engineer Ben Hull brought the idea to the board in January as part of budget relief discussions as requested by the board. The fees installed were \$50 up to the first 500 feet of surface

See DUST, page 3

## COMMENTARY

### EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



## Panthers’ 1984 team was almost state champs

The year was 1984. People were wondering if George Orwell’s predictions for the year would come true; in basketball socks were up to the knees and shorts were nowhere near them; and Mt. Pleasant’s boys’ high school basketball team went to the State Tournament for the first time since 1976. Mt. Pleasant residents look back on that era and remember where they were when they heard the news. In hushed voices they whispered, “Mt. Pleasant’s going to State.”

The year before, the team was beaten by Cedar Rapids Regis in the sub-state game. Mt. Pleasant’s team made the commitment then, “Next year we are going to State.”

They had the team, they had the coach, they had their three goals: (1) Go undefeated at home, (2) Win their conference, (3) Get to State. They accomplished all three.

Their coach was Jim Kelly, a graduate of Loras College in Dubuque, an Honorable Mention All-American in basketball, who had been drafted by the Cleveland Cavaliers. He didn’t make it as a pro, but as a high school basketball coach, he had the winning spirit and knew how to instill that winning attitude in others. He had coached this group of young athletes since Middle School, in both basketball and physical education, and knew them well, both their athletic abilities and personalities.

The team had been together since Middle School, some earlier than that, like grade school. Not only were they buddies, but they were completely unselfish when it came to supporting each other and working together as a team. The sub-state game against Knoxville in 1984 was

See SWARM, page 8



Courtesy photo

Fort Madison High School’s JoJo Vincent gets set for a lift during an Iowa Boys’ Championship basketball game last week in Des Moines. Vincent was named to the 2024 All-State Cheerleading squad for the Bloodhounds.

## All-State

### Vincent performs on All-State Cheerleading squad in DM

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison High School’s JoJo Vincent kicked off the week of spring break by performing with the 2024 Iowa All-State Cheerleading Squad! Thirty highly skilled athletes from across the state of Iowa were selected during tryouts held for

the squad this past October.

The newly assembled team met in Huxley, IA for a mere four practices in order to learn and perfect a routine jam packed with elite stunting, tumbling, cheering, and dancing. The squad performed its 3 1/2 minute routine at

Wells Fargo Arena during the half times of two boys’ championship basketball games on Friday, March 8th.

Congratulations to JoJo, the seventh FMHS Bloodhound Cheerleader to have claimed a coveted position on the Iowa All-State Cheerleading Squad.

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## WEATHER

TUE 19 Mar.....Sunny & breezy, 60° F/ 29° F  
WED 20 Mar.....Sunny & chilly, 44° F/ 25° F  
THU 21 Mar.....Partly sunny & chilly, 45° F/ 34° F

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### NORMA L. PUNDT

Norma Lee Pundt, 87, of River Hills Village, Keokuk, formerly of Fort Madison, Iowa, passed away at 11:15 p.m. Sunday, March 17, 2024, at River Hills Village in Keokuk, Iowa.



PUNDT

She was born on January 11, 1937, in Cantril, Iowa, the daughter of Fred and Nellie (Witt) Pundt.

She is survived by her nephews: Harlan (Lori) Pundt of Donnellson, Iowa, Kevin Herzog of Kettering, Ohio; nieces: Denise (Aaron) Nichols of Donnellson, Iowa, Kim Beckett of Dayton, Ohio; brother-in-law: John Herzog; sister-in-law: Carolyn Pundt and several great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers: Forrest and Harold Pundt; sister: Donna Herzog and nephew: Myron Pundt.

Norma was a 1956 graduate of Cantril High School. She worked as a waitress for Wilkens Drug Store and a clerk at Ron's Supermarket and Dollar General in Fort Madison. She was a member of First United Methodist Church in Fort Madison. Norma enjoyed playing Bingo, jigsaw puzzles and collecting salt and pepper shakers. Most of all, she loved her Hersheys candy bars and spending time with her family.

A visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Friday, March 22, 2024, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson.

A graveside service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, March 22, 2024, at Maple Grove Cemetery in Cantril, Iowa with Carolyn Pundt officiating.

Burial will be at Maple Grove Cemetery in Cantril.

Memorials have been established in memory for Lee County Hospice or River Hills Village.

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

## OBITUARIES

### RALPH G. AKERS

Ralph Gregory Akers, 76, of Keokuk, Iowa passed away Sunday, March 10th at Montrose Health Center after a brief illness.

He was born on November 20th, 1947 in Keokuk, Iowa, the only son of Ralph H. and Dorothy E. Vogel Akers. He married Betty Jo Asbury in 1970. They later divorced.



AKERS

He attended Keokuk Senior High School. He later worked for the City of Keokuk Water Department for over 30 years until his retirement.

Survivors include one daughter, Stasia (Jonathan) Beekhuizen of Hamilton, one grandson, Riley Beekhuizen of Chicago, Illinois, and one granddaughter, Hannah Beekhuizen of Chicago, Illinois.

He is preceded in death by his parents.

Per his request, cremation rights have been accorded and burial will take place at a later date in the Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk, IA.

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](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

### GARY J. MIHALEK

Gary J. Mihalek, 79, of Fort Madison, IA and formerly of Moquah, WI, passed away on Monday, March 18, 2024 at Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House in West Burlington, IA. Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and no services are planned. Online condolences to the Mihalek family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://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.

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# Obituaries/From the Front

## OBITUARIES

### MARK STUECKER

Mark Stuecker passed away at the Iowa Veterans Home on Saturday, March 16th at the age of 78. We are confident that even as he took his last and final breath, he was fiercely questioning whether his repeated attempts at teaching his daughters how to change a water filter had been sufficient. Not even Lewy body dementia and Parkinson's disease could rob Mark of his quest to impart important life lessons onto his family.



STUECKER

Born to humble beginnings on February 21, 1946 to Robert and Esther Stuecker on a farm in St. Paul, Iowa, Mark once only got a single pair of socks for Christmas. He would marry his wife Pam Schoenewe on June 10, 1978, start a business, and buy a small house in town.

Together, Mark and Pam would raise three daughters, Jill (Kwasi), Heather, and Laura (Damario). We will describe them as "spirited" just to keep things simple. They would become first generation college students and enjoy arguing about who among them was their parents' favorite (Jill, obviously). More importantly perhaps, is that Jill, Heather, and Laura had no interest in learning about water filters.

Those who knew Mark best affectionately referred to him as a "service-call man". He was almost always working on a lawnmower or a refrigerator in his shop. He loved the Teton mountains, his motorcycle, popcorn with covert and excessive amounts of butter strategically hidden from his wife at the bottom of the bowl, and teaching his daughters about literally anything. The latter included topics such as how to safely use a kitchen knife and properly driving on a two-lane highway when going up-hill (even when previously named daughters were well into their 30s and 40s). Mark was passionate about low cost cell phone plans, timely oil changes, reverse osmosis, vitamins, getting enough fiber in one's diet, and shoe purchases that were practical.

Mark was an original girl dad, way before it became trendy (and he most certainly didn't approve of anything trendy). Even though he balked at fashion over function (like REALLY balked), he drove beat-up cars so that his girls could drive cute ones. That was the kind of husband and dad that he was.

In addition to his wife and daughters Mark is survived by 6 grandkids: Hazel, Maxwell, Braxton, Duke, Ace, and Steel. Before his illness set in Mark could be found taking them on motorcycle rides, teaching them how to fix something random in his shop with tools their mothers didn't want them to have, showing them how to pick tomatoes from the garden, or riding on rollercoasters at Adventureland. Mark is additionally survived by three brothers and three sister-in-laws: Bob (Martha) Stuecker, Leroy (Viola) Stuecker, Larry Stuecker and Adele Stuecker. His brother, Donny Stuecker, sister-in-law Marge Stuecker and sister and brother-in-law Betty (Jim) Sanders preceded him in death. His siblings were his very best friends.

Mark eventually became a public servant, like all three of his daughters are today. He loved working at the Department of Corrections in Mt. Pleasant. Mark was also a veteran, serving as a Sargent in the U.S. Air Force. Our family is incredibly grateful for the love, support, and care he received at the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown in his final year of life. We are also thankful to his care team at Unity Point Hospice. All of you are rockstars.

Losing a loved one to dementia makes for several rounds of a very long and very hard goodbye. To our dearest dad: we will always find comfort in knowing that whenever we order an expensive coffee, chose the wrong cell phone plan, or buy the pretty pink heels with sparkles instead of a sturdy pair of black flats, you will be watching us from up above, shaking your head in total and utter disbelief and smiling just a little.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 a.m., Wednesday, at All Saints Catholic Church in Keokuk with Reverend David Brownfield, Ph.D. officiating. Burial with military rites will be in the Keokuk National Cemetery.

Visitation will be held prior to the service, from 10-11 a.m., Wednesday, at the church with family meeting with friends at that time.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Iowa Veterans Home, 1301 Summit St., Marshalltown, IA 50158.

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



## Road prep fees stay in place

**DUST** - Continued from Page 1

preparation, for lengths of 501 feet to 1,000 feet is \$100, and then \$50 incrementally for each 500 feet thereafter.

Seyb said to undo that at this point would require some untangling within several county departments and one private business doing the applications.

"Bills have already gone out. Some have been paid, some haven't. There have been a number of people come in and discuss their thoughts on dust control, primarily from one road," Seyb said.

"I'm not discounting what they had to say, I've heard what they've had to say," Seyb said.

He said the auditor's office, the treasurer's office, secondary roads would all be involved in resolving the fee issue if it would have been rescinded.

Seyb said the board put the new fees into effect on Jan. 15 and in mid-March residents are asking the county to unwind what was initially a unanimous decision to put the fees in place.

"When I sit back and look at the expense we're charging, I want to ask myself if it's unreasonable. And if it's unreasonable now, why wasn't it unreasonable back in January?" Seyb said.

Holmes said he received a letter from Darin Ranck, who works for Iowa Department of Transportation's Materials Division.

Holmes read a statement from Ranck that indicated adding salt, or calcium chloride, accelerates the breakdown requiring additional maintenance which increases costs to secondary roads.

"Bottom line - charging the dust control fees is necessary to defray the additional maintenance costs and this burden should not be placed on all of Lee County residents," Holmes read.

Fedler said he got the

same message, but said all of Lee County residents don't pay because those costs come from a rural basic fund which is funded by residents who don't live within city limits.

"With all those people that came in here with all kinds of different reports, I would like to see us return to the policy we had before we approved a policy to charge more for dust control," Fedler said.

Pflug said the safety aspect is a supervisor responsibility, as well. And keeping dust down should be a priority.

Schulz read a prepared statement that addressed some residents' claims that maintenance work that was the foundation for the increased fees was not being done.

"At last week's meeting, representations were made by citizens that the work described by field employees was not in fact taking place at all," Schulz said.

"Discussions and messages from field employees indicate that this is by no means the case."

Schulz said at the same meeting, the county engineer was accused of fraud, which he said could be a litigious action.

"It would appear to me that statements like this made in an open meeting against that individual could be subject to extensive litigation."

Several individuals at last Monday's meeting agreed that they had not seen the preparation of roads prior to dust control measures taking place at the expense of the landowner. Some of those landowners also asked the county to not maintain the roads to the degree they currently are because that is part of the reason why the applications aren't as effective as they could be, causing greater degradation of the surfaces.

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## Sports

**CRUSADER COACH CALLS IT QUILTS:** Nine-year span capped by 2014 run to regional semifinals

# HTC's Johnson steps aside as girls' head coach

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Holy Trinity Catholic head girls' basketball coach Tony Johnson has submitted his resignation effective immediately.

Johnson, who took the Lady Crusaders to the Class 1A Regional semifinals this year and suffered a 60-44 loss to Montezuma, said after the game that it could be his last.



JOHNSON

That became a reality over the weekend, as Johnson turned in his letter of resignation to HTC AD John Goetz.

Goetz said the resignation will go in front of the HTC board on Monday. Goetz said he doesn't know if any of the assistants, Kristen Shaffer and Shawn Hopper, have any interest in the position.

"We'll open it up to people out there and see if anybody's interested. I don't know if any of his assistants are interested in that," Goetz said.

"I've been very blessed to have excellent coaches over my years here. I haven't had to fill very many openings in my 18 years."

Johnson put up a 133-96 mark as the head coach. He also spent a couple years as the junior varsity coach and did a stint as Fort Madison's junior high coach.

Johnson said he had an inkling that this year would be his last. His professional career in welding and manufacturing is becoming more and more demanding, a dynamic that is pulling at his commitment to the Crusaders.

"I talked with John Goetz about this at the start of the year. I never said anything to the kids because I didn't want them thinking about that, but I did tell him that I

thought it might be last year," Johnson said.

"It's just a lot of work. I don't want to short the kids and that's what's happening now. I feel like I'm slighting them. I don't get to take care of them and, with softball and volleyball, it's hard to get them in. I just don't have the time anymore."

Johnson said leaving with such good talent left on the squad was one of the toughest decisions he's ever had to make.

"I was pretty sure this was my last year, but then when it's over and you have a couple days, then I wasn't done and some parents asked me to stay. But we had a great year."

The Crusaders tied Danville this year for the SEI Superconference South title at 12-2. They went 20-3 on the year, Johnson's best mark in his nine-year tenure.

He said much of that talent will be returning and the Crusaders should contend for the conference title again next year.

"I told one of the moms it was one of the toughest decisions I have had to make. Four of the seven rotation are coming back. We're losing (Mary Kate Bendlage) MK and Natalie (Randolph), but we've got Presley (Myers), Adalyn (Kruse), Teagan, and Anna (Bendlage) four quality kids coming back and this wasn't easy for me," he said.

"With some summer work, we could get back to our seven- or eight-deep bench."

Johnson said he thinks the conference will be similar in quality to last year and the Crusaders will be well-positioned for whomever comes in. But he said he wasn't sure any of the current staff will be interested in the spot.

"I just have no clue."

He stopped short of saying he wouldn't like to return to the sidelines again.

"You never say never. My wife might murder me, but right now my attention is in other places," Johnson said. "I love coaching and working with the kids, but the biggest thing is it's hard for me to get up as early as I do and then work with the kids, get home late, and get up five hours later."

He said he's also looking forward to taking some family time during the holidays, which hasn't been much of an option while coaching basketball. But he said he'll miss it in the winter, too.

"I'll miss it a lot, especially when November rolls around."

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Minit Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans

Tuesday, March 19

Meatloaf, Loaded Potato, Corn

Wednesday, March 20

Burnt End Sandwich, Cheese Potatoes

Thursday, March 21

Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, March 22

Tuna & Noodles, Blueberry Fluff



# For the Record

## For the Record

**Fort Madison Police Report**  
 03/14/24 - 10:12 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 6000 block of Avenue O.  
 03/14/24 - 3:24 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1900 block of Avenue N.  
 03/14/24 - 4:11 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 6000 block of Avenue O.  
 03/14/24 - 6:02 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit & run in the 1800 block of Avenue E.  
 03/14/24 - 6:10 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited and released Vanessa Latonya Nash, 43, of Fort Madison, in the 2300 block of Avenue G, on a charge of assault with bodily injury.  
 03/15/24 - 3:05 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Billy Ben Carter, 49, of Fort Madison, in the 1600 block of Avenue I, on a charge of domestic assault impeding air/blood flow. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 03/15/24 - 3:51 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a

report of larceny/theft in the 3700 block of Avenue L.  
 03/15/24 - 4:55 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Michael A. Kuzmanich, 43, of Illinois, at 48th Street and Bluff Road, on charges of enticing under 16 year old - sex abuse and solicit commercial sexual activities. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 03/15/24 - 6:41 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Alyssa Roseann Brookhiser, 34, of Fort Madison, in the 3700 block of Avenue L, on a warrant for failure to appear - possession of a controlled substance. She was transferred to another facility.  
 03/16/24 - 12:20 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2600 block of Avenue I.  
 03/17/24 - Fort Madison police had no activity to report.  
 03/18/24 - 8:11 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident at Cindy and Oak Drives.

**Keokuk Police Report**  
 03/14/24 - 4:02 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of

larceny/theft in the 300 block of North Park Drive.  
 03/15/24 - 1:07 a.m. - Keokuk police cited and released Cody Dale Kussman, 36, of Keokuk, in the 400 block of North 6th Street, on a charge of interference with official acts.  
 03/15/24 - 11:53 a.m. - Keokuk police cited and released Thomas William Cale, 33, of Keokuk, in the 3800 block of Main Street, on a charge of violation of a domestic no-contact order.  
 03/15/24 - 4:03 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a property damage accident at North 17th and Morgan Streets.  
 03/15/24 - 5:58 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 500 block of Blondeau Street.  
 03/16/24 - 11:57 a.m. - Keokuk police arrested Lucky Shania Ackley-King, 27, of Keokuk, in the 300 block of North Park Drive, on a charge of 1st offense trespassing. She was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 03/16/24 - 12:05 p.m. - Keokuk police arrested Lucky Shania Ackley-King, 27, of Keokuk, in the 2000 block of Main Street, on

a charge of 3rd degree theft between \$750 and \$1500. She was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 03/16/24 - 7:39 p.m. - Keokuk police arrested Equilius Marquis Lee, 20, of Keokuk, in the 1000 block of Main Street, on a charge of driving while barred. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 03/17/24 - 12:28 a.m. - Keokuk police arrested Cody Dale Kussman, 36, of Keokuk, at North 6th and High Streets, on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 03/17/24 - 4:06 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a property damage accident at North 15th and Concert Streets.  
 03/17/24 - 4:07 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a two-vehicle accident in the 100 block of North 15th Street. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Stacy Lynn Elston, 51, of Keokuk, was stopped at a stop sign facing north in the 100 block of North 15th Street when a vehicle driven by Tristan James Rea, 18, of Illinois, rear-ended Elston's vehicle. No injuries were reported. Elston's vehicle sustained minor

damages, but was driven from the scene. Rea's vehicle did not sustain damages. Rea was cited for failure to stop in assured clear distance.  
 03/18/24 - 12:25 a.m. - Keokuk police arrested Drew Preston Billings, 29, of Keokuk, in the 200 block of Washington Street, on warrants for 2nd offense - sex offender registry and failure to appear/contempt of court. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
**Lee County Sheriff Report**  
 03/15/24 - 6:28 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Amber Elizabeth Wolff, 30, of Hamilton, at the South Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for failure to appear/contempt of court. She was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 03/15/24 - 11:26 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Devan Alexandra Batley, 29, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's department, on a judgment entry/mitimus warrant. She was taken to Lee County Jail and later released after weekend service.  
 03/15/24 - 12:03 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested

Kenneth Linn Alvis, 54, of Keosauqua, at the North Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for driving under suspension. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later released after paying a fine.  
 03/16/24 - 7:06 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Elijah James Spears, 22, of Donnellson, at the sheriff's office, on warrants for voluntary absence from custody and judgment entry/mitimus. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later released after time served.  
**Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report**  
 03/15/24 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to six medical calls and one lift assist.  
 03/16/24 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to one medical call on one car fire.  
 03/17/24 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to four medical calls and two fire alarms.  
*Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*





## Classifieds/Public Notices

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### PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
Minutes for the  
Lee County  
Conservation Board  
Meeting  
January 29, 2024**

Board met virtually via Teams  
Lee County Conservation Center  
2652 Hwy 61  
Montrose, IA 52639  
Called to order at 12:00 p.m.

Roll call: Alton\_X\_Moore\_\_ Patrick\_X\_Benjamin\_X\_Reed\_X\_Staff Present: Huebner, Sestito

Supervisor: Holmes  
1. Approval of Agenda Motion by Alton to approve the agenda  
2nd: Reed  
Motion Carried  
2. Discuss and Take Action on US Army Corp of Engineers CAP Sec-

tion 204 Study on Island Project

Huebner stated that this was the Army Corp's next step in the process – informing the Board of the recommended alternative plan for the project and receiving a letter of support from the Board in favor of the alternative. There is no cost associated with this portion of the plan. The Board will not use county funds for this project, but instead, is seeking partners for the project.

Kim Warshaw, with the US Army Corp, thanked the Board for opportunity to talk to them and stated their excitement for the unique ecological restoration project.

Motion by Benjamin to approve a letter of support for the US Army Corp of Engineers CAP Section 204 Island Project alternative plan to continue to the next step of a feasibility study

2nd: Reed  
Motion Carried  
3. Adjournment  
Motion by Alton to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

2nd: Reed  
Motion Carried  
Jim Patrick, LCCB  
President  
Caroline Veihl, LCCB  
Secretary

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
LEE COUNTY BOARD  
OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 8, 2024**

The Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa, met on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at the County Administration Building, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison, Iowa.

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

All votes are unanimous unless indicated otherwise.

The Board opened the meeting by reciting the

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

There was no Public Input.

Dennis Fraise and Emily Benjamin gave an update on the Lee County Economic Development Group.

Moved by Fedler to move forward with the bid process for building a new Health/EMS Building. Fedler withdrew his motion. Moved by Fedler to table moving forward with the bid process, until the County receives the Release of Funds Letter from the USDA, seconded by Pflug. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Schulz, to approve a 28E Agreement between the County and RUSS for payroll services. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Schulz, to approve the second reading and to waive the third reading of the Care of Animals by Breeders Ordinance. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Schulz, to table the second reading of the Loose Livestock Ordinance. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION # 2024-25**

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: Ronald and Maria Skinner 11653 Cochran Road Grand Ledge MI 48837

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 8th day of January, 2024.

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

Committee Reports: Holmes reported on a Pioneer Cemetery Commission meeting. Schulz reported on a Fort Madison Economic Development Board meeting.

At 11:15 a.m. it was moved by Schulz, seconded by Fedler, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. There will be a Budget Workshop on Tuesday, January 9, 2024. The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, January 15, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the Administration Building in Fort Madison.

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

**Claims paid  
January 8, 2024**

Nxt Deg Comm, svcs ..... 105.00  
ABC Fire Extnng, maint ..... 326.35  
Access Systems, equip ..... 653.08  
Avdvd Crrctnl Hlth, svcs ..... 13583.25  
Airgas USA, splys ..... 300.85

Alliant Energy, svcs ..... 1955.54  
Anderson Massage, svcs ..... 1595.00  
B&B Propane, fuel ..... 332.03  
Brandon Bonar, svcs ..... 200.00  
Bound Tree Med, splys ..... 4389.71  
CenturyLink, svcs ..... 8.01  
City/Donnellson, water ..... 125.68  
CNA Surety, svcs ..... 100.00  
Comm Action, svcs ..... 886.83  
D Coovert, svcs ..... 200.00  
Cullen Pest Cntrl, svcs ..... 140.00  
Democrat Co, publ ..... 119.21  
DM Co Health Dpt, svcs ..... 6413.20  
Donnellson Tire, svcs ..... 281.00  
Electronic Engrg, svcs ..... 380.00  
EMSLRC, edu ..... 275.00  
Floyds EZ Way, svcs ..... 75.00  
FM Water, svcs ..... 89.91  
V Gallaher, edu ..... 100.00  
N Granaman, svcs ..... 1445.65  
Great Prairie AEA, svcs ..... 160.00  
GreatAmer Financial, equip ..... 176.70  
Healthcarefirst, svcs ..... 1249.98  
Heartland Busin, equ ..... 11894.63  
R Heidbreder, exps ..... 25.00  
Heritage Med Equip, splys ..... 699.00  
Home Therapy Sol, svcs ..... 1539.50  
Huffman Welding, equip ..... 38.64  
HyVee, splys ..... 2352.00  
ICS Jail Supplies, splys ..... 539.34  
Ideal Ready Mix, mat'l ..... 366.00  
IA Dept Publ Sfty, splys ..... 4116.00  
IA Law Enfnt Acdmy, ed ..... 375.00  
IA Prison Ind, splys ..... 310.20  
ISAC, reg ..... 630.00  
Jet Gas, fuel ..... 12985.72  
J Deere Financial, equip ..... 1023.20  
P Kaltefleiter, svcs ..... 27.60  
Kempkers, splys ..... 182.19  
Keokuk Water, svcs ..... 95.42  
KL Welding, svcs ..... 475.00

R Kuntz, svcs ..... 200.00  
Lee Co Auditor, Ctrl Purch ..... 114.88  
Lee Co Health, svcs ..... 58.00  
Lee Co Treas, costs ..... 14929.68  
Liberty Mutual Ins, ins ..... 116.00  
Liberty Utility IA, svcs ..... 156.70  
Lynch Dallas, svcs ..... 57.00  
Martin Equip, equip ..... 2317.71  
McFarland/Swan, splys ..... 1567.81  
McKesson Med Surg, splys ..... 321.47  
Merit Auctions, costs ..... 1000.00  
Mesa Labs, svcs ..... 238.01  
Metal Culverts, mat'l ..... 7283.00  
MidAmer Energy, gas ..... 128.97  
R Millmier, exps ..... 161.00  
Mohrfeld Elect, svcs ..... 190.98  
NALBOH, dues ..... 250.00  
OMG Midwest, svcs ..... 650039.99  
Pen City Current, svcs ..... 59.99  
MPflug, exps ..... 79.00  
Prairie Farms, splys ..... 498.00  
RicohUSA, splys ..... 324.28  
RSM US LLP, svcs ..... 492.41  
Solutions, svcs ..... 4617.75  
SE IA Reg Med, svcs ..... 221.00  
SpectraCorp, splys ..... 29.00  
PSpiekermeier, exps ..... 19.00  
T-Mobile, svcs ..... 706.13  
Verizon Wireless, svcs ..... 40.01  
Vertical Comm, svcs ..... 16.00  
WahlTek Inc, svcs ..... 5400.00  
Wapsi Valley Archlgy, svcs ..... 11356.88  
Wshngtn Co Pub Hlth, svcs ..... 9879.52  
Wex Bank, Fuels ..... 6429.50  
Windstream, svcs ..... 314.95

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by March 22, 2024.

Applications can be found online at [www.fortmadison-ia.com](http://www.fortmadison-ia.com).



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**Classifieds/Public Notices**

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## Local News/Lee County News

# Farm Bureau celebrates Iowa Ag Week

DONNELSON - As Iowa Ag Week, March 17-23, is recognized across the state, the Lee County Farm Bureau thanks the community for their support of local agriculture.

"We are very proud of our longtime history of being rooted in this county - not just through farmland but the people," says Brent Koller, a local farmer and county Farm Bureau president. "Because people have been there for us through hard times, we do our best to pay that forward by showing up when and where we're needed."

In the last five years, the Lee County Farm Bureau's Cram the Cab promotion in partnership with Ft. Madison Fareway and Keokuk Hy-Vee have also donated almost 2,000 pounds of food and \$1,500 to the Ft. Madison Food Pantry and Keokuk Salvation Army. They have also given almost \$13,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors pursuing an ag-related degree.

"We look forward to meeting those needs for years to come and also want our neighbors to know how important it is for us to give back by doing the right thing for our community's natural resources and the livestock

in our care," said Koller.

Iowa farmers lead the nation in several water quality practices, including conservation tillage and pollinator habitat. Research from the Iowa Best Management Practices Mapping Project also shows since the 80s, grassed terraces have increased by 61% and water and sediment control basins have increased 204%.

When it comes to raising livestock, Iowa farmers collaborate with feed nutritionists, veterinarians, and animal welfare experts to promote animal health and comfort. Advances in technology have also aided farmers in tracking the health of each animal on the farm to provide individualized care.

"Service takes many forms, and as farmers, we want to be able to meet the needs of our community in a multitude of ways—because they've been there for us, too, in hard times, and that support means more than you know," he said.

For more information on the Lee County Farm Bureau's initiatives and how to get involved, please contact Lee County Farm Bureau at 319-835-5126 or [lee.county@ifbf.org](mailto:lee.county@ifbf.org).

# Fort Madison offering vouchers for spring clean-up

PCC Staff

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Public Works Department announces residents who pay for City of Fort Madison trash pickup will be issued two (2) vouchers allowing them the opportunity to haul two loads of trash (pickup size loads) to Great River Regional Waste Authority, 2092 303rd Avenue, Fort Madison at "no charge" from Monday, April 15th through Saturday, April 27th, 2024. Residents can pick up their vouchers at City Hall between the hours of 8:00am - 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, beginning Monday, April 1st. The last day to pick up vouchers is Friday, April 26th.

Items not accepted during trash voucher program

include: televisions, appliances, electronic devices, computers, printers, tires, construction and demolition materials (bricks, concrete, asphalt shingles, lumber, siding, drywall), liquids (waste oil, paint - paint cans will ONLY be accepted if the lid is off and the contents are either dried or absorbed by sawdust, cat litter, etc.), hazardous materials (explosive materials, volatiles and flammables, poisons), any substance which may present a hazard to collection personnel and materials that are normally taken under the City Yard Waste Program.

Voucher MUST be submitted to clerk upon entry to landfill. Loads must be tarped. City clean up and landfill rules apply. For more information regarding accepted materials, please call the landfill at 319-372-6140. For any other questions call 372-7700.

# Producers donate more than two tons of ground pork to food banks

CLIVE - The Iowa Pork Producers Association (IPPA) will donate 4,200 pounds of ground pork to the Food Bank of Iowa in Des Moines on Tuesday, in conjunction with the Sack Hunger partnership with the football team at Iowa State University in Ames.

IPPA, Farm Credit Services of America, and the Iowa Egg Council teamed up with Iowa State Cyclones football during the 2023 season. Each time the Cyclones defense tackled, or sacked, an opponent's quarterback behind the line of scrimmage, the respective agricultural groups committed donations of 200 pounds of pork, \$1,000, and 200 dozen eggs.

The Cyclones' 21 sacks led to a total of 4,200 pounds of pork, \$21,000, and 4,200 dozen eggs.

IPPA President Matt Gent, a pig farmer from Wellman, will help present the pork donation, along with Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig.

# 1984 was a year to remember for Panthers

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

held in Ottumwa. When they stepped off the bus and walked through the doors to head to the locker room on the other side of the gym, the bleachers on Mt. Pleasant's side were filled with hometown well wishers on both decks. Walking in front of that cheering crowd was so motivating, the team felt as if they had already won the game. To say that Mt. Pleasant supported their teams wholeheartedly is an understatement.

And then the magic happened. With eight seconds left in the first half, a red-hot Mt. Pleasant guard, who had also been the football team's quarterback, took the ball and let loose with a football style throw from beyond the mid-court line to score a rim rattling three pointer! The crowd erupted in an explosion of wild cheering that did not settle down for the duration of halftime. The team, in the locker room, hearing the crowd, could not contain themselves. They were convinced they had the game won already. Coach Kelly could barely settle the team down enough to discuss strategy for the second half.

Knoxville did come back in the second half to tie the game, but there was no way Mt. Pleasant was going to let the game slip away. They won, 54 - 47, and were on their way to the STATE TOURNAMENT!

But wait. In achieving the team's third goal of making it to the State Tournament, they neglected to set a fourth goal of WINNING STATE! They faced a stiff opponent in Iowa Falls with a big tall center who ate Mt. Pleasant alive. Three of Mt. Pleasant's starters fouled out trying to defend him. Iowa Falls' leading scorer in the state knocked down 53 points against Mt. Pleasant to notch the victory, 74 - 63.

The Mt. Pleasant team made the best of it. The game was on Tuesday. In those days, win or lose, the teams could stay in Des Moines the whole week. The team dressed up in their uniforms and played nerf hoop in their rooms, and video games in the hotel arcade. They walked together as a team to Veteran's Auditorium, AKA "The Barn," to watch the other State Tournament games. On Saturday night they walked proudly to center court and received their state trophy.

This year is the 40th anniversary of that near State Championship team. On Saturday, March 16, they all met at the Mt. Pleasant Country Club to talk about old times, have dinner, and relive that almost moment. One thing they wanted to do was recreate their team picture from 1984. Hair is a little thinner, and waistlines are...well, we won't talk about that. Coach Kelly was also there, along with long-time assistant coach, Kent Bennett. They are still a close knit group, 40 years later, win or lose.

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

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## Cottontail Dash

### Fun Run/Walk

Riverview Park | Fort Madison, IA  
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