Amanda Huebner 319-470-9558

PEN CITY CI

It's Black & White and Read all over

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 | 6 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 66









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COUNTY, CITY AT ODDS

UNHAPPY TRAILS: PORT trail drainage issue prompts Lee County to file petition

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG **PCC EDITOR**

FORT MADISON - The Lee County Board of Supervisors put the City of Fort Madison on notice Monday that they are in violation of a 28E agreement governing the maintenance of a segment of the city's PORT trail near 302nd Avenue.

The two entities have had several conversations about the repercussions of water that is causing issues along the stretch of road due to the construction of the section of the PORT trail just south of Gethsemane Cemetery and east of 302nd



BRADEN

resolution to the water issues.

The city owns the PORT trail and had to obtain an agreement to construct the addition

At Monday's meeting of the Board of Supervisors, the board went into a closed session to discuss what Lee County Attorney Ross Braden called "imminent" litigation over the

See TRAIL, page 2



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Turnwater Bar and Grill and Fort Madison Marina are closing in on an official opening date. Work continues on the inside of the facility as General Manager Dan Krieger, Customer Experience Director Chad Ward, Executive Chef Andrew Shaffer, and Event Planner & Event Coordinator Jordan Nelson prepare for a grand opening possibly this month.

Iowa News

Senate moves traffic camera bill to Governor's desk

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG **PCC EDITOR**

DES MOINES - The Iowa Senate today passed House file 2681 that would regulate the use of automated speed cameras in the state.

The bill still needs the Governor's signature, but would require local

governments and communities to apply for a permit with the Iowa DOT to allow the cameras. No new camera permits will be issued until January of 2026 if the bill is signed into law, and those who installed cameras after Jan. 1 of this year will have to wait until 2026 for a permit.

Those who installed cameras prior

to Jan. 1 will be allowed to continue using the cameras while permits are issued, but they will have to submit an application that addresses the need for the cameras.

According to the legislation, the DOT may approve or deny the ap-

See **CAMERAS**, page 3

COUNTY NEWS

County board moves health coverage to state group

Iowa Governmental Health Care Plan gets county's health coverage business

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

LEE COUNTY – An arduous process for the Lee County Board of Supervisors has resulted in a local insurance provider being outbid by a state insurance trust to carry the county's health insurance coverage starting July 1.

The county voted 3-2 to accept a coverage proposal from Iowa Governmental

Health Care Plan over a plan from Assured Partners that accessed the Iowa State Association of Counties health program.

Supervisors Tom Schulz and Chuck Holmes voted



SEYB

for the ISAC plan, while Ron Fedler and Matt Pflug voted in favor of the governmental group plan leaving chairman Garry Seyb to break the tie.

In a small break from Robert's Rules of Order, Seyb reopened commentary prior to casting his vote in a move that showed the difficulty he was experiencing in voting for one program over the other. After about another 15 minutes of conversation with the board and other people in attendance, Seyb cast a vote for the IGHCP

"I'm not the subject matter expert. I wanted to make sure I had a reason," Seyb said after the meeting.

"I wanted it to be in some kind of tangible reason, not because who was voting one way or another. I personally do not have county insurance, so I was looking to employees for what they wanted. And that was 50/50, the board is 50/50."

See **INSURANCE**, page 6

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WEATHER

..... Showers and thunderstorms likely, 75° F/ 56° F Breezy with chance of showers, 67° F/ 47° FShowers likely, 60° F/ 41° F THU 18 Apr

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 04/14....6 20 30 37 44, Lucky Ball: 18 PICK 3 MIDDAY 04/14..... PICK 3 EVENING 04/14 PICK 4 MIDDAY 04/14..... PICK 4 EVENING 04/14

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

DENNIS D. DODSON

Dennis Dean Dodson, 67, of St. Paul, Iowa, passed away at 9:48 a.m., Thursday, April 11, 2024, at the Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House in West Burlington, Iowa.



He was born on February 27, 1957 in Fort Madison, Iowa, the son of Lloyd Dennis and Barbara Ann (Carpenter) Dodson. On April 23, 1993, he married Sharon Jean Blind in Independence, Missouri.

He is survived by his wife: Sharon; children: Frank, Tim, LeAnn, Darrel, Jody and Denny, Jr.; thirteen grandchildren; many, many great grandchildren; mother: Barbara Sharp; father: Lloyd Dennis Dodson; brothers: Phillip Dodson, J.R. Alllison; sisters: Tammy Young, Sonya Dodson; BEST FRIENDS EVER: Larry and Robin

Bennett. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his grandparents and son: Phillip Dodson.

Dennis served in the United States Navy. He was a member of the America Legion and worked as an electrician



A visitation will be held from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, April 20, 2024, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point, where the family will receive friends from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

A memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, April 21, 2024, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point.

A memorial has been established in his memory.

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

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OBITUARIES

STEVEN A. DEKAT

Steven A. Dekat, 79 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died Saturday, April 13, 2024 at his home. He was born September 12, 1944 in Kansas, a son of Arthur and Celia Dekat. On July 21, 1974 he married Stephanie Otte.



Steven was a tool and die maker, and worked for Fruehauf until they closed. He was a gunsmith, and owned and operated a shop in Fort Madison for years. He was of the Catholic faith. He enjoyed the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing. He was a member of the Tri-State Gun Club, Montrose, Iowa. He loved his dogs, Brandy and Pebbles.

DEKAT He is survived by his wife, Stephanie Dekat of Fort Madison, Iowa; one daughter, Kerry (Richard) Bolander of Burlington, Iowa; other extended family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents,

extended family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, one son Kevin Karhoff, two brothers, Bob and Kenny, and a sister-in-law Sandy Courtney.

No formal services are being held at this time. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to PAWS. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Dekat family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

28E says city may be responsible for trail drainage issues

TRAIL - Continued from Page 1

Out of the closed session, Supervisor Chairman Garry Seyb said the board was instructing Braden to serve notice of intent and demand pertaining to three sections of 28E that was filed with the Secretary of State's office in March of 2020.

Those three sections pertain to the city's responsibilities for maintenance of the trail and the county's right of way. Specifically, section J of the agreement says in the case of any damage or alteration of county drainage structures or reduction in the effectiveness of county drainage structures due to design, construction, or maintenance of the trail, the city shall, at its own cost, extend and/or modify existing county drainage structures as needed to ensure that adequate surface drainage from county roads, highways, and adjacent properties is maintained.

However, city officials claim that the flooding taking place on county roads, in the cemetery, and on the trail itself, are the result of the county's infrastructure and not the construction of the trail.

The two sides have reached a stopping point in conversations about remediating the water issues and the county has taken the first legal step.

Braden said the notice of intent will give the city time to respond to the county's allegations under the terms of the 28E and, if a resolution can be found, a lawsuit may not be necessary. The notice of intent is a petition filed with North Lee County District Court.

"This is just serving them with notice and typically it's a first step to filing a lawsuit. They get two weeks to respond to this board. It's no secret. It has to do with the drainage, or lack thereof, of that area," Braden said.

Water is pooling in the cemetery during heavy precipitation and on the roads and snow removal efforts can also cause water drainage concerns.

Fort Madison City Manager Laura Liegois, who was in attendance at the meeting, but not in the closed session, said she thought the move was premature.

"The City of Fort Madison has had numerous communications with the county engineer's office for this project. There have been conversations not finished, not because of the city staff. It's too bad that it's come to this level of conversations for the project," she said.

"I have had two conversations regarding the project since I came to Fort Madison in January on the issue. It would be great for the city and county to have a good working relationship. It's not been the most welcoming at this point to lead us to this level of discussion."

Liegois said the city will have to engage another attorney for the issue because the city's attorney Lynch Dallas is also under contract with the county so there would likely be a conflict of interest.

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For the Record/From the Front

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

04/11/24 - 10:35 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit & run in the 2000 block of Avenue B.

04/11/24 – 3:11 p.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Jason Alexander Peck, 44, of Fort Madison, at 27th Street and Avenue J, on charges of 1st offense possession of marijuana, possession of a controlled substance -1,2,3rd, and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

04/11/24 – 8:03 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2800 block of Avenue O.

04/11/24 - 10:58 p.m. -Fort Madison police arrested Natasha Ann Seager, 38, of Fort Madison, in the 3900 block of Bluff Road, on a charge of 1st offense OWI. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

04/12/24 – 10:18 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 4800 block of Avenue O.

04/12/24 - 10:36 a.m. Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit & run in the 2600 block of Avenue L.

04/12/24 - 1:13 p.m. -Fort Madison police arrested Jeffrey Lee Rains, 47, of Fort Madison, in the 2700 block of Avenue K, on a warrant for failure to appear - no pet license tags & rabies vaccination. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

04/12/24 – 1:35 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 4500 block of Avenue O.

04/12/24 - 10:26 p.m. -Fort Madison police arrested Jessica Fletchall, 19, of Fort Madison, in the 500 block of 8th Street, on two charges of possession of a controlled substance – 1,2,3rd. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

04/12/24 - 10:26 p.m. -Fort Madison police arrested Taylor Russell Young, 29, of Fort Madison, at 8th Street and Avenue E, on two charges of possession of a controlled substance - 3rd, and a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to Lee County

04/13/24 – 11:25 a.m. Fort Madison police responded to a report of larcenv/theft in the 2300 block of Avenue E.

04/14/24 - 9:30 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit & run in the 500 block of Avenue E.

04/14/24 - 11:10 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2800 block of Avenue O.

04/14/24 - 11:50 a.m. Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of Avenue G.

04/14/24 - 6:37 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 800 block of Avenue G.

04/15/24 - 12:11 a.m. -Fort Madison police arrested Andrew Garnett Davis, 35, of Fort Madison, in the 3900 block of Bluff Road, on a charge of 1st offense domestic abuse assault. He was taken to Lee County

04/15/24 - 5:43 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident at 40th Street and Avenue O.

Keokuk Police Report

04/11/24 - 9:46 a.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1400 block of Main Street.

04/11/24 - 2:35 p.m. - Keokuk police arrested Donald Rae Oliver, 48, of Keokuk, in the 1600 block of Johnson Street, on a charge of violation of a domestic no-contact order. He was held in jail.

04/11/24 - 3:23 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a hit & run in the 100 block of North 7th Street.

04/12/24 - 12:22 a.m. -Keokuk police arrested Kimberly Ann Washburne, 45, of Keokuk, in the 300 block of Main Street, on a warrant to hold for another agency. She was taken to Lee County

04/12/24 - 2:00 a.m. - Keokuk police arrested Owen L. Rockenbach, 23, of Tennessee, in the 700 block of Main Street, on a charge of 1st offense OWI, 1st offense possession of marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

04/12/24 - 3:20 p.m. Keokuk police arrested Juston Christopher Hauck, 43, of Fort Madison, in the 1200 block of Main Street, on a hold warrant for anoth-

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er agency and a charge of driving under suspension. He was taken to Lee County

04/13/24 - 6:37 a.m. - Keokuk police arrested Kaitlyn Nicole Mitchell, 27, of Keokuk, at Armory and Plank Roads, on a charge of 1st offense OWI. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

04/13/24 - 9:30 a.m. -Keokuk police cited and released Thurman Purdiman III, 33, of Burlington, in the 800 block of Exchange Street, on a charge of 1st offense trespassing.

04/13/24 - 9:30 a.m. -Keokuk police cited and released Wendy Roseann Huston, 42, of Keokuk, in the 800 block of Exchange Street, on a charge of 1st offense trespassing.

04/13/24 - 9:30 a.m. -Keokuk police cited and released Marissa Marie Lamma, 27, of Keokuk, in the 800 block of Exchange Street, on a charge of 1st offense tres-

04/14/24 - 3:17 p.m. - Keokuk police arrested Nicholas Wane Cochenour, 27, of Keokuk, in the 800 block of Orleans Avenue, on a charge of 1st offense domestic abuse assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Lee County **Sheriff Report**

04/11/24 - 8:13 a.m. -Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Keith Wayman Ingram, Jr., 39, of Fort Madison, in the 2300 block of 257th Street, Montrose, on 2 warrants for 2nd offense domestic abuse assault, and warrants for 1st degree harassment, violation of a domestic no-contact order, obstruction of an emergency communication, and domestic assault choking/bodily injury. He was taken to Lee

04/11/24 - 6:30 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Holleigh Lorena Rogers, 24, of Illinois, in the 1200 block of South 7th Street, Keokuk, on a warrant for sex abuse - 2nd victim under 12 years of age. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

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

County generated \$123K in fines from cameras in March

CAMERAS - Continued from Page 1

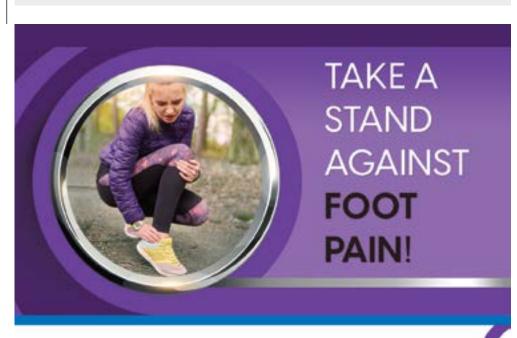
plication for a permit based on the department's determination that a system is appropriate and necessary and the least restrictive means to address the critical traffic safety issues at a location. The department shall only issue one permit for a local authority, which shall set forth all locations at which a local authority is authorized to use a system.

Lee County installed their cameras in the Hwy 27 corridor between the county's southern border with Missouri and the Hwy 103 intersection. The county received more than \$123,000 in fines in March, according to county revenue reports

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said the county will continue to follow the laws of the state and will continue to work towards a safer Lee County.

The legislation has set the minimum speed infraction at 10 mph over the posted speed limit and requires the governmental agencies to dump images of license plates 30 days after the citation unless they are involved in an ongoing investiga-

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Charles Vandenberg, Editor

(319).371.1670 Charles.V@PenCityCurrent.com



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Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager

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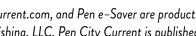
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Sports

Wade shoots 81 to lead Hounds in Lee County tourney

HAWKS WIN: Central Lee boys take team title with a 344; Hounds second followed by Keokuk, HTC

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Brady Wade shot an impressive 81 on Friday to take medalist honors at the Lee County Tournament played at Fort Madison's Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course.

Wade birdied the par 4 No. 6 hole to help him shoot a 3-over 39 on the front nine. He shot a six over 42 on the back nine including a double bogey 6 on No. 12.

Central Lee's Mylan Lowenberg shot the best nine of the day with a 2-over 38 on the back including a birdie on the par 3 No. 17, but his 45 on the front nine put him 6 behind the Hounds' Wade on the back. Lowenberg would end the day runner-up medalist.

Central Lee won the event with a 344 over 18 with the top four golfers figuring into the scoring.

The Hawks' Caleb Larson carded an 86, and Bo Herdrich shot an 88 while Carson Morrison came around with an 87 to round out Central Lee scoring leaving them with a 344 team score. Carter Jones scored 91 and Cale Clark shot a 94 for the Hawks.

Holy Trinity Catholic shot a combined 426 for fourth place behind Keokuk's 401. Luke Hellige shot a 97 to lead HTC.

Fort Madison's Cade Denning (91), Cole Quittem (93), and Oliver Santiago (98) tallied a 363 combined team score including Wade's 81, to give the Bloodhounds second place.

Colton Boyer carded a 100 and Rowan Benda shot a 115 for Fort Madison.

Keokuk was led by Chase Eckland's 90 and Jayden Thomas' 97.

Got a news tip? Call Chuck (319)371.1670





Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PC0

Fort Madison senior Jed Brewster signed his letter of intent to cheer for the University of Iowa recently at Fort Madison High School.

FMHS's Brewster to cheer for Hawkeyes

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Excitement revolving around the University of Iowa continues, as the institution has formally announced its selections for the 2024-2025 Cheerleading Squad. We are ecstatic to announce that one of their invitations to join the team was extended

to a Fort Madison Bloodhound.

Fort Madison senior Jed Brewster, has signed his letter of intent to cheer for the Hawkeyes next year. Brewster is planning to major in engineering and will have the opportunity to cheer on a rotating schedule for Hawkeye football, volleyball, basketball, wrestling and gymnastics.

Lady Hawks get first win of season at West Branch

BY PCC STAFF

WEST BRANCH – Two red cards and three second half goals were just what the Lady Hawks needed to get their first win of the year.

A physical contest ended with West Branch playing with only nine players after two red cards were assessed against the Bears for overly physical play including a trip outside the box and a keeper coming out and taking down Ellie Lake in the second half.

Lake would get the first score of the game with 22:05 left in the first half. West Branch would tie things up six minutes later. At the 12:34 mark, the Bears would get a red card for a trip but the Hawks wouldn't cover the free kick and the half would end tied at 1 all.

Central Lee scored first in the second half as well taking a 2-1 lead on a shot from Aubrey Boyd who had 12 shots in the game, five on goal.

At the 23:08 mark, the Bears would tie up the match from a deep shot that went over Central Lee goalie Adi Robinson's hands. With just under 14 minutes left in the match, West Branch would get another red card with the goalie being ejected for coming out of the box and colliding with Lake. Again, the Hawks missed an opportunity to score on a free kick.

Now playing with just nine players, the Hawks pushed the pace and were able to get the ball down to Lake on a through ball from Shanna Buford. Lake would find the net for what proved to be the winning goal, putting the Hawks up 3-2.

Boyd would score again with 1:36 left against West Branch's backup goalie to set the final score.

"I thought the girls played good as a team but we have things to work on. Not everyone is comfortable with the ball at their feet yet," said head coach Antonio Estrada.







Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE Fort Madison Community School District Public Hearing 04/03/2024 - 06:00 PM Central Office, Board Room,

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Applications can be found online at www.fortmadi-son-ia.com.



1930 Avenue M, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627 MEETING MINUTES

Voting Members Amy
Thacher, Director
Josh Wykert, Board
President Brad Menke,
Director Mio Santiago,
Vice President Paul
Wilkerson, Director
Keith Hehr, Director
Kelly Nelton, Director
Non-Voting Members
Dr. Erin Slater, Superintendent Sandy

Elmore, Director of Business Services I. Call meeting to order

and determination of a quorum The Public Hearing was called to order by President Wykert at 6:01 p.m. President Wykert explained the procedures

for the Public Hearing.

II. Consider approval
of agenda Motion made
by: Mio Santiago

Motion seconded by: Keith Hehr Voting: Unanimously Approved

III. Proposed Property Tax Levy Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 -June 30, 2025 IV. Re-

ceive oral comments
The Board received oral
comments. V.

Receive written comments There were none. VI. Adjourn The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m. Motion made by:

Paul Wilkerson Motion seconded by: Amy

Thacher Fort Madison CSD Public Hearing 04/03/2024 - 06:00 PM Central Office.

Board Room 1930 Avenue M Fort Madison, lowa 526271 Voting:

Unanimously

Approved
Fort Madison CSD
Work Session

04/03/2024 - 06:05 PM Central Office,

Board Room 1930 Avenue M Fort Madison, Iowa 52627 MEETING MINUTES Voting Members Amy

Thacher, Director
Josh Wykert, Board
President Brad Menke,
Director Mio Santiago,
Vice President Paul

Wilkerson, Director Keith Hehr, Director Kelly Nelton, Director Non-Voting Members

Dr. Erin Slater, Superintendent 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

6:09 p.m. II.

Consider approval of agenda Motion made

by: Mio Santiago Motion For seconded by: Amy
Thacher Voting: Unani-Yemously Approved III.

mously Approved III.
Discussion - Certified
Budget FY2024-2025
The Board participates

The Board participated in a discussion session regarding the Certified Budget for

FY2024-2025. IV. Announcements i. Public Hearing - Proposed

Fort Madison School Budget Summary Fiscal Year 2024-2025:

April 17, 2024, 6:00 p.m. - Central Office Board Room ii. Regular Board Meeting:

April 17, 2024, 6:05 p.m. - Central Office Board Room V. Adjourn The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Motion made by:

Brad Menke Motion seconded by: Mio Santiago Fort Madison CSD Work Session 04/03/2024 - 06:05 PM Central Office, Board Room 1930 Ave-

Central Office,
Board Room 1930 Avenue M Fort Madison,
Iowa 526271 Voting:
Unanimously Approved

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From the Front

Health insurance changes will hit county'self-funding formula

INSURANCE- Continued from Page 1

County employees were surveyed over the past week as to which program they would prefer. Out of the 199 employees who are on county insurance 51 voted for the IGHCP program and 50 voted for the ISAC proposal.

The ISAC proposal was brought to the county by Justin Pieper of Assured Partners, formerly Group Benefit Partners, who has been managing the county's health care program for the past decade.



Pieper got testimonials from many employees in attendance who said Group Benefit Partners, and Pieper specifically, had been very accessible and helpful with the health care of county employees.

SCHULZ Supervisor Tom Schulz instigated the investigation of other health insurance

options with bigger risk pools after the county was facing a 17% increase in premiums starting July 1.

Schulz actually brought the IGHCP program to the board and had representatives in to talk to the board. After that presentation, Assured Partners was given another chance to address the issue and came back with the ISAC plan.

That plan hadn't been presented to the board in prior years, a subject that Supervisor Matt Pflug addressed with Pieper, asking why it wasn't until IGHCP reps brought their plan to the county, that the other pro-







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gram was brought forth.

Pieper said the county didn't invite him to discuss options around larger risk pools.

Schulz said the county has made a bad decision and one that could cost 100s of 1,000s of dollars.

"Our employees are definitely going to pay more now for health care not health insurance," he said. "Under the ISAC plan with the contributions we were making toward copays, deductibles, and out of pocket we basically had the same costs. Now they're going to have to satisfy 100% of their copays, deductibles, and out of pocket. The way we were funding it, that would not have been the case."

Schulz said he spent the weekend reviewing and analyzing the county's claims history and he said there may have been three or four instances where someone wouldn't have done as well under the ISAC proposal.

"Maybe, and I'll go with maybe here, that would be heavy users who didn't hit out of pocket. Other than that, it was universally favorable to the employee even if we had cut our county contribution in half."

The county employees' premiums, deductibles, and out-of-pocket won't change under the new plan in the coming year, but the county's portion of self-insurance could take a hit under the new program.

Seyb said it took him some time to come to a good decision in his mind. He said he tries to peel away the politics from decisions that impact so many.

"I didn't want this to be a political vote. I have to be able to do what I believe is the right thing, regardless of political factors. In my head, what is my gut telling me. That's where I went," Seyb said.

"It took me some time to get there because I'm hearing the commentary back and forth between the board members. Tom Schulz is a smart guy when it comes to the numbers. I get that and it weighs heavily on me.

"But 20% coinsurance vs a copay that's predictable.

And specialists may be considerably more than that (with co-insurance). We were going to put some county money against the coinsurance program to offset costs, but in the future, if we get into trouble we could have to pull back on that and that goes against the employee."

Seyb said with all things being equal he said ISAC couldn't guarantee a larger premium hit after a bad claims year, while the IGHCP program spreads out bad years in one market or another over the whole pool and everyone sees the same increases. A dynamic that could work in the county's favor as that pool continues to grow in terms of membership.

He said had the county seen the ISAC program earlier they may not have even reached out to the IGHCP representative

"The governmental insurance we went with - their rate is across the board. Everybody shares. You don't get the fluctuation you would get with the other plan," he said

Supervisor Chuck Holmes said there is a rule that inhibits the county's ability to jump back to a previous insurance program after one year and the county could be on the hook for substantial costs as they migrate back to a different program if they don't like the one they are choosing now.

Schulz said while it's accurate the county could see larger increases with the ISAC plan, history doesn't show that to be the case.

"We could get a larger increase with ISAC but that's a moving target. From what I've seen historically, we're looking at a 6% increase over next two years with IGH-CP, and at 9% at year three historically," Schulz said.

"At some point in my very short-elected tenure I hope I'm wrong about this, because I think we did a very bad thing for our employees and the people of Lee County today."

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