

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Thursday, April 18, 2024 | 8 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 68



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Houghton twister was EF2

CITY BEAT UP, TOO: Irony abounds as severe weather alert pole falls on courts



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

A second storm that blew through Fort Madison at about 6 p.m. dropped a severe weather alert pole onto the pickleball courts in Fort Madison. Two courts are out of commission until damage can be assessed and repaired.

NWS classifies tornado as strong EF2 that traveled 26.6 miles

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – The National Weather Service has officially categorized the tornado that ran from western Lee County near Houghton north Lee, Henry and Des Moines counties to Yarmouth, a strong EF2.

According to Jason Dinwiddie, Lee County Emergency Management coordinator, most of the damage in the county was in the path of the twister which hit a couple businesses on the west edge of Houghton and a couple farmhouses.

"It coulda been a lot worse," he said. "A lot of homes escaped damage."

Despite the luck, the state has still issued an emergency declaration for the county, along with five other counties that suffered damage as a result of the storm.

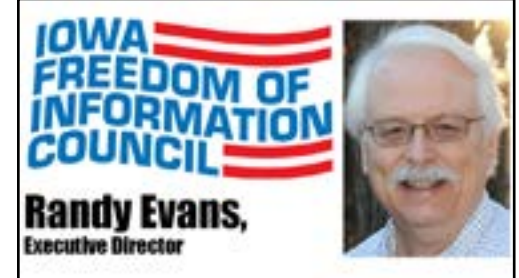
The grant application and instructions are available on the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management website at homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/assistance.

See **STORM**, page 8



A rain cell opens up under storm clouds looking west at 180th Street and X32 north of Fort Madison during Tuesday's thunderstorms that produced at least one confirmed tornado just west of Houghton.

OPINION



Governor is playing games with words

"Unsustainable" is a fascinating word, especially when it is used in government and politics. Merriam-Webster, the dictionary folks, tell us unsustainable means something cannot be continued or supported.

But in governmental affairs, that definition sometimes gets changed. Instead of something truly being incapable of continuing, the word often means the person using the term simply does not want that "something" to go forward.

Understanding this distinction can help us better parse the statements our politicians make. Here is a real-life example to illustrate this difference:

Back in December, Gov. Kim Reynolds ended Iowa's participation in a summer food program for low-income families with school-age children. The governor made the decision even though the bulk of the expense would be paid by the federal government.

About 240,000 Iowa children from needy families are affected by her decision. Their parents would have received \$40 per month during the summer for each child who qualifies for free or reduced-priced school lunches. The program's purpose was to help these needy families feed their children during the summer when classes are not in session and the kids are not eating at school.

In Iowa, the federal government offered \$29 million for food assistance this summer. State government would have been responsible for covering \$2 million in administrative costs.

But in deciding to withdraw Iowa

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WEATHER

THU 18 Apr..... Showers, 59° F/ 40° F ☁️
 FRI 19 Apr..... Mostly Sunny, 57° F/ 36° F ☀️
 SAT 20 Apr..... Mostly Sunny, 52° F/ 34° F ☀️

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Obituaries/Lee County News

Governor issues disaster order for Lee County

DES MOINES – On Wednesday, Gov. Kim Reynolds issued a disaster proclamation for Allamakee, Cass, Des Moines, Fayette, Henry, and Lee counties in response to severe weather that occurred on April 16. The governor’s proclamation activates the Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program and the Disaster Case Advocacy Program for those counties.

The Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program provides grants of up to \$5,000 for households with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Grants are available for home or car repairs, replacement of clothing or food, and temporary housing expenses. Original receipts are required for those seeking reimbursement for actual expenses related to storm recovery. The grant application and instructions are available on the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management website at homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/assistance. Potential applicants have 45 days from the date of the proclamation to submit a claim.

The Disaster Case Advocacy Program addresses serious needs related to disaster-related hardship, injury, or adverse conditions. Disaster case advocates work with clients to create a disaster recovery plan and provide guidance, advice, and referrals to obtain a service or resource. There are no income eligibility requirements for this program; it closes 180 days from the date of the governor’s proclamation. For information on the Disaster Case Advocacy Program, contact your local community action association or visit iowacommunityaction.org.



Up close damage at Agrequip Steel Products in Houghton can be seen at the facility, while across Hwy. 16, additional debris was strewn about in fields as a result of a confirmed tornado Tuesday at about 4:35 p.m.

OBITUARIES

MARTIN J. DOYLE

Martin John Doyle, 84, of New Boston, Iowa, passed away at 8:21 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Fort Madison, Iowa.



DOYLE

He was born on February 26, 1940, in Fort Madison, Iowa, the son of John Francis and Catherine Margaret (Peitzmeier) Doyle. On September 8, 1962, he married Donna Kay Wilhelm at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Fort Madison, Iowa. She preceded him in death on March 8, 2010.

He is survived by three daughters: Patricia (Scott) Weirather of Keokuk, Iowa, Diana (Carl) Frank of Conifer, Colorado, Dana Tripp of Niota, Illinois; two sons: Daniel (Lori) Doyle of Wyaconda, Missouri, Patrick (Jeanne) Doyle of Donnellson, Iowa; eight grandchildren: Nathan and Brian (Kelsey Weigand) Weirather, Marissa Phillips, Caleb Doyle, Zachary (Chance Morgan) and Evan Doyle, Dharma and Hoyt Tripp; three step-grandchildren: Cori, Colbi (Katie) and Quinton Seth; several great grandchildren; two brothers: Francis (Kate) Doyle of Creston, Iowa, Michael (Twila) Doyle of Argyle, Iowa; two sisters: Mary Pezley of Argyle, Iowa, Carolyn Hocker of Argyle, Iowa; sister-in-law: Judy Doyle. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife: Donna; brother: Marvin; brothers-in-law: Laverne Pezley, Bill Hocker; niece: JoAnn Kettering and nephew: Jake Pezley.

Martin was a 1960 graduate of Argyle High School. He worked as a carpenter for Doyle Hoyer Construction then started Martin Doyle Construction from which he retired. Martin was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Montrose. He served in the United States National Guard from 1951 to 1953 then served in the Reserves for several years to follow. Most of all, he enjoyed spending time with his family.

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

A visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Friday, April 19, 2024, at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Montrose.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, April 19, 2024, at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Montrose with Father Gary Beckman as celebrant.

Burial will be at Argyle Memorials Gardens in rural Argyle, Iowa.

Memorials have been established in his memory for Argyle Memorial Gardens or St. Joseph’s Catholic Church.

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

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PEN CITY CURRENT

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From the Front

Governor's words don't pass the sniff test with summer meal programs

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

from the program, the governor explained her rationale: "Federal Covid-era cash benefit programs are not sustainable and don't provide long-term solutions for the issues impacting children and families." She also said the program "does nothing to promote nutrition at a time when childhood obesity has become an epidemic."

Last week, the governor unveiled details of a new state grant program to feed needy Iowa kids during the summer months. A total of \$900,000 in competitive grants is being offered to communities to expand the reach of two existing summer meal programs providing meals each week day through schools, churches, libraries and community organizations.

It is obvious the \$900,000 in state grants will not feed as many children as the \$29 million in federal summertime assistance would. The money for the grants is coming from the federal government, too.

State Representative Chuck Isenhardt, a Dubuque Democrat, said the state meal programs Reynolds is expanding spent about \$5.8 million last year and fed about 20,000 kids. The Reynolds grants will provide meals for an additional 1,800 kids, he estimated.

State Senator Sarah Trone Garriott, a West Des Moines Democrat, said in a statement last week, "The competitive grant program amounts to crumbs for Iowa kids. Gov. Reynolds could have accepted \$29 million in federal food assistance that would've reached 240,000 children in every corner of the state. The \$900,000 state program she announced ... is tiny by comparison and forces Iowa communities to compete for a sliver of that much-smaller pie. It's not enough to meet the real needs facing our state."

The meal sites have inherent problems the summer food benefit cards do not. Families must bring their children to and from the meal sites every day in the summer, which is difficult for most working parents. And Isenhardt reminded lawmakers 12 counties did not have a meal site last summer, and 21 other counties had only one summer meal site

The summer food program — which operates much like SNAP, the program formerly known as food stamps — was established during the Covid pandemic, when many families' incomes fell because parents had their work hours reduced or they were laid off or lost their jobs. Now, although the pandemic is not the economic impediment it once was, the earnings of many families are not keeping up with inflation.

That is why the federal government is making the summer food program permanent, although it gave the states the option of dropping out. Iowa joined 12 other states in leaving the program. Nebraska first said it would drop out, too, but Gov. Jim Pille, a Republican, ultimately gave in to public pressure and said

Nebraska will remain in the federal program.

Back to Gov. Reynolds' concerns about the federal summer food benefits being unsustainable:

The \$2.2 million in administrative expenses Iowa state government would have to cover to participate in the federal food program is less than it will cost Reynolds to deploy Iowa State Patrol troopers and Iowa National Guard soldiers to the Texas border with Mexico this spring.

And the \$29 million price tag for the summer food benefits program is significantly less than the \$128 million Iowa state government is paying this year for tuition vouchers for students attending private K-12 schools. Two years from now, when the voucher program is fully implemented, the vouchers will cost the state treasury an estimated \$345 million per year.

So, unsustainable really comes down to whether a government official supports or opposes that which supposedly cannot be sustained.

Randy Evans can be reached at DMRevans2810@gmail.com.

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Sports

Lady Hawks wipe out Arrows in just over one half of soccer

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WAPELLO – The Central Lee girls scored almost at will in their 10-0 win over Wapello Monday night in SEI Superconference girls soccer action.

Ellie Lake converted all four of her shots on goal to lead the Hawks. Aubrey Boyd had six shots on goal and converted three.

Lake would score the Hawks' first four goals in the first half, the first coming just 3:46 into the match.

Boyd would then score off a handball in the box on a penalty kick at 19:27. Boyd would score again just two minutes later with an assist from Adi Robinson as Central Lee had little trouble moving through the Arrows' defense. Robinson would then score her first goal of the season on a breakaway with 11:07 left in the half. Head Coach Antonio Estrada moved Robinson out from the goal in favor of Riley Gregory, to get Robinson some action as a forward and Robinson responded with a goal, two shots on goal, and a couple assists.

Boyd got her third goal before the end of the half on an assist from Josie Newton for a 8-0 lead.

Estrada moved things around the second half to expose the Hawks to different combinations, allowing some regular defensive players to get in the offense.

Newton responded with a shot on goal, one goal on a Robinson pass, and had two assists of her own.

The Hawks would get the two goals for the 10-0 rule in the second half to end the game just 4 minutes into the second half on a Robinson goal.

"The girls played really well tonight. They played with a little more confidence tonight and it was a big confidence builder for us I think," Estrada said. "Ellie Lake played really well tonight. She placed the ball in the corners instead of kicking at the keeper. Really proud of how she adjusted from the last game."

Estrada said he was also happy with the play of Boyd, who attacked the whole game, as well as Robinson and Buford who did nice things outside their normal roles.

"I just wanted the girls to have a little fun," he said.

Hound boys win penalty kick session over Washington

PCC Staff

WASHINGTON - The Fort Madison boys' soccer team found a way to stay perfect in Southeast Conference play despite having to go through two overtime sessions and penalty kicks to get it done.

The Bloodhounds led 3-1 after the first period, but surrendered two goals on three minutes into the second half, and the other at the 25-minute mark to tie things up at 3.

Fort Madison didn't get a goal in the second half and didn't score in either of the two 10-minute overtime sessions, forcing a penalty kick tiebreaker.

Fort Madison would score on all five of their penalty kicks with Leif Boeding, Henry Graham, Jacob Shottenkirk, Jackson Haessig, and Jan de Gracia Hernandez all scoring in the penalty session.

Hound goalkeeper Oliver Santiago got the one save he needed during the session to help secure the 4-3 win for the Hounds.

Washington opened the scoring with a goal six minutes in, but then Fort Madison took control of the pitch with Haessig scoring a minute and a half later, followed by a Henry Graham penalty kick for a score with 15 minutes gone in the match.

Mario Gomez would then score on a pass from Boeding to take the 3-1 lead at the 17-minute mark.

Santiago had 12 saves on the night including the penalty kick save for the game winner.

Graham's goal was his 11th on the year, which places him in the top 16 in the state in goals scored. His 54 shots are 4th best in the state. Boeding's five assists on the season is in the top 40 across the state.

Fort Madison is 5-2 on the year and 2-0 in the Southeast Conference. The Hounds' two losses have come at the feet of Williamsburg and Davenport North. Their next three games are all at home starting Thursday against Mt. Pleasant at Baxter Sports Complex. They host Keokuk on Monday and then Fairfield on Thursday.

Landon "Cranks" out hat trick

PCC Staff

WAPELLO – Landon Crank had a hat trick from his forward position as Central Lee rolled off a 10-0 shutout at Wapello Monday night.

Crank scored the first three goals on assists from Dante Merschman and Ayden Kent on the first, and Landon Lowenberg on the next two to give the Hawks a quick 3-0 lead with less than 10 minutes gone in the first half.

The Indians then shouldered up Crank, and Reece Hayes and Merschman got in on the scoring with three more goals in the first half for a 6-0 lead.

Zach Estrada, Brayden McCarty, and a

Wapello own-goal set up a 9-0 lead with 18 minutes left in the match.

McCarty would get the game-ending 10th goal for a 10-0 lead on a through ball from Crank to give Central Lee the win.

Crank finished with three goals, Merschman and McCarty had two each. Lowenberg had three assists to lead Central. The Hawks' defense prevented any shots on goal giving keeper Hunter Gregory an easy evening in the net.

The Hawks move to 1-2 after two tough losses to SEI Superconference front runners Hillcrest Academy and Danville. They host Columbus (0-6) on Thursday at 7 p.m.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 12, 2024**

The Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa, met on Monday, February 12, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at the County Administration Building, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison, Iowa.

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

All votes are unanimous unless indicated otherwise.

The Board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

There was no Public Input.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Fedler, to appoint Matt Doty to the Veteran Affairs Commission, to fill a term that will expire June 30, 2025. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Holmes, to

approve modification to the language in the contract with Carl A. Nelson & Co. for the Health/EMS Building. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Schulz, to approve an attachment to the AIA Document with Carl A. Nelson & Co. for the Health/EMS Building. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Schulz, to approve Resolution #2024-60. Roll call: Holmes-aye, Schulz-aye, Fedler-aye, Pflug-aye, Seyb-aye.

RESOLUTION #2024-60

Resolution to fix a date for public hearing on proposal to enter into General Obligation Urban Renewal EMS Improvement Loan Agreement and to borrow money thereunder

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors (the "Board") of Lee County, Iowa (the "County"), has established the Lee County Urban Renewal Area #2 (the "Urban Renewal Area"); and

WHEREAS, the Board proposes to enter into

a General Obligation Urban Renewal EMS Improvement Loan Agreement (the "Loan Agreement") and to issue general obligation bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$1,300,000 pursuant to the provisions of Subsection 331.441(2)(b)(14), Section 331.402, Section 331.442, and Chapter 403 of the Code of Iowa, for the purpose of carrying out the Keokuk Emergency Medical Services Building Project (the "EMS Project"), a project in the Lee County Urban Renewal Area #2 authorized by action of the Board on August 21, 2023 consisting of the construction, furnishing and equipping of a new emergency medical services building, including an ambulance bay and living quarters, in the City of Keokuk, Iowa, and in lieu of calling an election thereon, the County desires to institute proceedings to enter into the Loan Agreement by causing a notice of such proposal to be published, including notice of the right to petition for an election, under

the provisions of Section 331.442(5) of the Code of Iowa; and it is now necessary to fix a date of meeting of the Board of Supervisors at which it is proposed to take action to enter into the Loan Agreement and to give notice thereof as required by such law;

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa, as follows:

Section 1. This Board will meet on February 26, 2024, at the County Administration Building, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison, Iowa, at 10:01 o'clock a.m., at which time and place a hearing will be held and proceedings will be instituted and action taken to enter into the Loan Agreement.

Section 2. The County Auditor is hereby directed to give notice of the proposed action on the Loan Agreement and setting forth the amount and purpose thereof, the time and place where said meeting will be held by publication at least once and not less than 10 and

not more than 20 days before the date selected for the meeting, in a legal newspaper which has a general circulation in the County. The notice shall be in substantially the following form:

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION TO INSTITUTE PROCEEDINGS TO ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT AND TO BORROW MONEY THEREUNDER IN A PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,300,000 (GENERAL OBLIGATION)

The Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa, will meet on February 26, 2024, at the County Administration Building, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison, Iowa, at 10:01 o'clock a.m., for the purpose of instituting proceedings and taking action on a proposal to enter into a loan agreement (the "Loan Agreement") and to borrow money thereunder in a principal amount not to exceed \$1,300,000 for the purpose of paying the costs, to that extent, of carrying out the Keokuk

Emergency Medical Services Building Project, a project in the Lee County Urban Renewal Area #2, authorized by action of the Board of Supervisors on August 21, 2023 consisting of the construction, furnishing and equipping of a new emergency medical services building, including an ambulance bay and living quarters, in the City of Keokuk, Iowa.

The Loan Agreement is proposed to be entered into, and bonds will be issued thereunder, pursuant to authority contained in Section 331.402 and Section 331.441(2)(b)(14) of the Code of Iowa. The Loan Agreement and the bonds will constitute general obligations of the County.

At that time and place, oral or written objections may be filed or made to the proposal to enter into the Loan Agreement. After receiving objections, the County may determine to enter into the Loan Agreement, in which case, the decision will be final unless appealed to the District Court within fifteen (15) days thereafter.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

At any time before the date fixed for taking action to enter into the Loan Agreement, a petition may be filed with the County Auditor asking that the question of entering into the Loan Agreement be submitted to the registered voters of the County, pursuant to the provisions of Section 331.441(2)(b)(14) of the Code of Iowa.

By order of the Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa. Denise Fraise County Auditor.

Section 3. Pursuant to Section 1.150-2 of the Income Tax Regulations (the "Regulations") of the Internal Revenue Service, the County declares (a) that it intends to undertake the Keokuk Emergency Medical Services Building Project which are reasonably estimated to cost approximately

HELP WANTED

LEE COUNTY SECONDARY ROADS ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKER II

Lee County is taking applications for a Road Maintenance Worker III to work at the Ambrosia Shop. Duties will include the operation of light and heavy equipment and trucks to perform road maintenance and construction projects, occasionally plowing snow, and the performance of manual labor as required. Requires a high school graduate or G.E.D. equivalent and must possess a valid Class A commercial driver's license with air brake endorsements. The starting wage range is \$22.57 to \$27.55.

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

For a job description and to apply, download an application from our county website, www.leecounty.org or you can pick an application up at the Engineer's office and return your completed application along with a resume to Lee County Engineer, P.O. Box 158, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627, or email it to engi-neer@leecounty.org. Applications will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 29, 2024.

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



\$1,300,000, (b) that other than (i) expenditures to be paid or reimbursed from sources other than the issuance of bonds, notes or other obligations (the "Bonds"), or (ii) expenditures made no earlier than 60 days prior to the date of this Resolution or a previous intent resolution of the County, or (iii) expenditures amounting to the lesser of \$100,000 or 5% of the proceeds of the Bonds, or (iv) expenditures constituting preliminary expenditures as defined in Section 1.150-2(f)(2) of the Regulations, no expenditures for the Projects have heretofore been made by the County and no expenditures will be made by the County until

after the date of this Resolution or a prior intent resolution of the County, and (c) that the County reasonably expects to reimburse the expenditures made for costs of the County out of the proceeds of the Bonds. This declaration is a declaration of official intent adopted pursuant to Section 1.150-2 of the Regulations.

Section 4. All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 5. This resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately after its adoption and approval, as provided by law

Passed and approved February 12, 2024. /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairperson, Board of Supervisors.

HELP WANTED

Parks & Cemeteries Part-Time Laborer

Under direct supervision, performs manual work in grounds and building maintenance of public parks, cemeteries, and their facilities.

DESIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education and Experience:
 • Some experience in building and grounds maintenance;
 • Must have a valid Iowa driver's license;
 • Skill in operating some of the listed tools and equipment: hand, tractor & power mowers, carpentry, and plumbing tools, etc.

Apply at City Hall, 811 Avenue E,

Fort Madison, IA 52627 or email applications to knafziger@fortmadison-ia.com

Applications can be found online at www.fortmadison-ia.com.



Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, County Auditor. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Schulz, to approve Resolution #2024-61. Roll call: Holmes-aye, Seyb-aye, Fedler-aye, Pflug-aye and Seyb-aye.

RESOLUTION #2024-61

Resolution to fix a date for public hearing on proposal to enter into General Obligation Urban Renewal Health Building Improvement Loan Agreement and to borrow money thereunder

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors (the "Board") of Lee County, Iowa (the "County"), has established the Lee County Urban Renewal Area #1 (the "Urban Renewal Area"); and

WHEREAS, the Board proposes to enter into a General Obligation Urban Renewal Health Building Improvement Loan Agreement (the "Loan Agreement") and to issue general obligation bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$6,000,000 pursuant to the provisions of Subsection 331.441(2)(b)(14), Section 331.402, Section 331.442, and Chapter 403 of the Code of Iowa, for the purpose of carrying out the Lee County Health Department Project, a project in the Lee County Urban Renewal Area #1 authorized by action of the Board on May 22, 2023 consisting of the construction, furnishing and equipping of a new facility for use as the headquarters of the Lee County Health Department, and in lieu of calling an election thereon, the County desires to institute proceedings to enter into the Loan Agreement by causing a notice of such proposal to be published, including notice of the right to petition for an election, under the provisions of Section 331.442(5) of the Code of Iowa; and it is now necessary to fix a date of meeting of the Board of Supervisors at which it is proposed to take action to enter into the Loan Agreement and to give notice thereof as required by such law;

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa, as follows:
 Section 1. This Board will meet on February 26, 2024, at the County Administration Building, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison, Iowa, at 10:15 o'clock a.m., at which time and place a hearing will be held and proceedings will be instituted and action

taken to enter into the Loan Agreement.

Section 2. The County Auditor is hereby directed to give notice of the proposed action on the Loan Agreement and setting forth the amount and purpose thereof, the time and place where said meeting will be held by publication at least once and not less than 10 and not more than 20 days before the date selected for the meeting, in a legal newspaper which has a general circulation in the County. The notice shall be in substantially the following form:

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION TO INSTITUTE PROCEEDINGS TO ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT AND TO BORROW MONEY THEREUNDER IN A PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$6,000,000

(GENERAL OBLIGATION)

The Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa, will meet on February 26, 2024, at the County Administration Building, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison, Iowa, at 10:15 o'clock a.m., for the purpose of instituting proceedings and taking action on a proposal to enter into a loan agreement (the "Loan Agreement") and to borrow money thereunder in a principal amount not to exceed \$6,000,000 for the purpose of paying the costs, to that extent, of carrying out the Lee County Health Department Project, a project in the Lee County Urban Renewal Area #1 authorized by action of the Board of Supervisors on May 22, 2023 consisting of the construction, furnishing and equipping of a new facility for use as the headquarters of the Lee County Health Department.

The Loan Agreement is proposed to be entered into, and bonds will be issued thereunder, pursuant to authority contained in Section 331.402 and Section 331.441(2)(b)(14) of the Code of Iowa. The Loan Agreement and the bonds will constitute general obligations of the County.

At that time and place, oral or written objections may be filed or made to the proposal to enter into the Loan Agreement. After receiving objections, the County may determine to enter into the Loan Agreement, in which case, the decision will be final unless appealed to the District Court within fifteen (15) days thereafter.

At any time before the date fixed for tak-

ing action to enter into the Loan Agreement, a petition may be filed with the County Auditor asking that the question of entering into the Loan Agreement be submitted to the registered voters of the County, pursuant to the provisions of Section 331.441(2)(b)(14) of the Code of Iowa.

By order of the Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa. Denise Fraise, County Auditor.

Section 3. Pursuant to Section 1.150-2 of the Income Tax Regulations (the "Regulations") of the Internal Revenue Service, the County declares (a) that it intends to undertake the Lee County Health Department Project which are reasonably estimated to cost approximately 6,000,000, (b) that other than (i)

expenditures to be paid or reimbursed from sources other than the issuance of bonds, notes or other obligations (the "Bonds"), or (ii) expenditures made no earlier than 60 days prior to the date of this Resolution or a previous intent resolution of the County, or (iii) expenditures amounting to the lesser of \$100,000 or 5% of the proceeds of the Bonds, or (iv) expenditures constituting preliminary expenditures as defined in Section 1.150-2(f)(2) of the Regulations, no expenditures for the Projects have heretofore been made by the County and no expenditures will be made by the County until after the date of this Resolution or a prior intent resolution of the County, and (c) that the County reasonably expects to reimburse the expenditures made for costs of the County out of the proceeds of the Bonds. This declaration is a declaration of official intent adopted pursuant to Section 1.150-2 of the Regulations.

Section 4. All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 5. This resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately after its adoption and approval, as provided by law

Passed and approved February 12, 2024. /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairperson, Board of Supervisors. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, County Auditor. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Seyb, to approve Resolution #2024-62. Roll call: Holmes-aye, Seyb-aye, Schulz-aye, Fedler-aye and Pflug-aye.

Resolution #2024-62

A RESOLUTION OF THE LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ASKING IOWA STATE LEGISLATORS TO ABOLISH 1848 LAW REQUIRING TWO COURT SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, Lee County, Iowa is required by a law passed in 1848 to hold district court in both Fort Madison and Keokuk; and

WHEREAS, with the passage of House File 718, Lee County is looking for ways to decrease expenditures; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that eliminating the expenses connected to operating two courthouses would help to lower the tax levy that the County imposes on its citizens.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Lee County Board of Supervisors is asking the Iowa State Legislators to abolish this law and to allow them to exercise their Home Rule Authority.

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

Moved by Schulz, seconded by Pflug, to approve the first reading of the amended Automated Traffic Enforcement Ordinance. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Fedler, to approve a new section in the Personnel Policy regarding salary deductions for exempt employees if they are out of leave time. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Schulz, to approve the Consent Agenda that included the February 5, 2024 Board minutes, the claims for payment and seven Tax Abatement Resolutions. Roll call: Fedler-aye, Schulz-aye, Holmes-aye, Pflug-aye and Seyb-aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 2024-53

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

Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: Michael and Mary Hellige 306 34th Street Fort Madison IA 52627

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 12th day of February, 2024.

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

RESOLUTION # 2024-54

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: Jamie Hawk 2559 245th Avenue Montrose IA 52639

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 12th day of February, 2024.

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

RESOLUTION # 2024-55

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: Terrie Lynn Baker 3635 Iowa Road Keokuk IA 52632

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 12th day of February, 2024.

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

RESOLUTION # 2024-56

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lee County has by Ordinance Number VI-11 adopted a plan for a County-wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District in Lee County, Iowa; and,

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 404.4 provides for prior approval of eligibility for a tax exemption by the governing body of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: Matthew and Shawna Hamilton 2645 320th Street Montrose IA 52639

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 12th day of February, 2024.

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

RESOLUTION # 2024-57

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: Joshua Zinnert 2096 290th Avenue Fort Madison IA 52627

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 12th day of February, 2024.

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

RESOLUTION # 2024-58

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: Darin and Jill Cordray 3018 212th Street Fort Madison IA 52627

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 12th day of February, 2024.

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

RESOLUTION # 2024-59

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: James and Denise Kelly 2182 White Plains Road Montrose IA 52639

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 12th day of February, 2024.

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

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Schulz, to approve a step increase for Jamie Fullenkamp, Records Clerk, from \$18.09/hr. to \$18.63/hr., effective 2/6/24, a step increase for Amy Hamelton, Records Clerk, from \$17.62/hr. to \$18.09/hr., effective 2/28/24, a step increase for Amber Daugherty, Correctional Officer, from \$23.42/hr. to \$25.13/hr., effective 2/14/24 and a transfer from part-time to full-time for Kaylyn Derby, Paramedic, \$22.96/hr., effective 2/28/24. Motion carried.

Received and filed the Treasurer's Report of Fees Collected for the month of January 2024, the Auditor's Report of Fees Collected for the month of January 2024 and the Sheriff's Monthly Report for the month of January 2024.

Committee Reports: Holmes reported on a Pioneer Cemetery Commission meeting and a meeting of the Bonding Committee. Schulz reported on the State Supervisor meeting and Southeast Iowa Days, both in Des Moines.

At 11:10 a.m. the Board went in to a closed session according to Iowa Code 21.5(i) To evaluate the professional

competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered, when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session. Participating in the closed session were the Board of Supervisors, Auditor Denise Fraise, County Engineer Ben Hull and Road Supervisor Ted Menke. At 11:20 a.m. it was moved by Pflug and seconded by Fedler to end the closed session. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Pflug, to approve a promotion for Jon Kemper, from Road Maintenance Class II \$28.65/hr. to Road Maintenance Class I \$29.21/hr., effective 2/12/24. Motion carried.

At 11:22 a.m. it was moved by Fedler, seconded by Pflug, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the Administration Building in Fort Madison.

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

**Claims paid
February 12, 2024**

Advd Crrctnl Hlth, svcs 13480.81
Airgas USA, svcs..... 313.32
All Amer Snttn, rntl 240.00
Alliant Enrgy, svcs 3620.03
Altorfer, parts 6947.48
B&B Propane, fuel 879.61
Ball Volvo, splys..... 74.95
Bnd Tree Med, splys 2357.54
Sam Boyer, unif 130.00
CJ Cooper/Assc, svcs 100.00
Cullen Pest, svcs.... 326.00
Culligan, water..... 8.00
D.I.A.L., prmts..... 175.00
Darkside Tint, splys 180.00
DM Co Auditor, svcs 650.00
Donnellson Tire, svcs 192.00
Douds Stone, mtrl 3058.95
EMSLRC, edu..... 8.50
Fastenal Co, equip 736.17
FM Hsing Auth, rent 825.00
Z Fuller, exps..... 85.59
N Granaman, svcs 1451.57
GRRWA, svcs..... 13646.84
N Haskins, exps.... 516.07
Health Sol, svcs.... 3380.42
Hrtland Bus Sys, svcs 124918.74
Hellige Lawn, svcs 2305.00
M Hellige, svcs 2866.20
Home Thrpy Sol, svcs

..... 2484.00
Hospice Fndtn, ed mtl 850.00
HHuebner, exps..... 40.00
Humburd Auto, svcs 27.50
C Hutson Jr, rfnds 100.00
IA Office/ St ME, svcs 8601.81
Jet Gas, fuel 4749.87
Janie Johnson, exps 31.00
KJorgenson, rfnds 110.60
Rvrfrnt Brdctg, publ 250.00
Keo Water, svcs 112.23
City/Keokuk, svcs 2025.00
Lee Co Auditor, trfs 2147.97
Lee Co Sheriff, svcs 85.00
LeeCo Treas, costs 13017.06
McFarlands, splys... 81.47
McKesson Med, splys 22.02
MED Alliance, rx 113.17
Mediacom, svcs..... 245.33
MidAmer Enrgy, gas 2429.43
Mlyniec Lois, rfnds 290.00
NAPA Auto, parts.. 558.34
Nelson Fam Rx, rx.... 7.48
JJ Nchting Co, parts 22.18
OMG Midwest, svcs 17633.40
Onmedia, adv 600.00
M Park, exps..... 112.50
PCC Ambul, svcs 14652.78
Quincy Mack, equip 1975.47
B Roberts, svcs 1286.00
L Roxberg, rent..... 300.00
Sec/St, splys..... 30.00
G Seyb, exps 61.00
SIADSA, svcs 6650.00
M Stringer, rfnds 3813.00
H Towery, rfnds..... 6.00
US Cell, svcs 848.29
Vertical Comm, svcs 79.85
Wshngtn Co Treas, edu 29.78
West Pt Utility, svcs 381.93
M Wooster, svcs... 2800.00
S Wright, rfnds..... 6.96
Xiphos Tech, svcs 19425.00
Zion Cemtry, svcs..... 72.50

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For the Record/From the Front

Agrequip suffers heavy damage



A severe weather alarm pole fell during a late evening storm that hit Fort Madison Tuesday. The pole damaged fencing on the new city pickleball courts and possible one or two of the courts.

STORM - Continued from Page 1

"I was talking with them early this morning and sending information to them via email to make sure we were included in any assistance programs available for residents."

Dinwiddie said the NWS is still compiling data from the storm.

Marvin Bricker, owner of Agrequip Steel Products in Houghton, said his facility suffered extensive damage but no one was hurt.

"We had three or four people in here when it came through and they ran to the bathrooms. No one was injured and that's the important thing," he said.

He said insurance adjusters haven't been to the site yet, so he didn't know what the cost of the damage would be.

"Yeah, I don't know that, but the good thing is we can do a lot of the work ourselves so that will help with some things."

The facility lost the northeast facing of one of the manufacturing buildings and has debris from grain bins strewn about the property. To the north across Hwy 16, debris is scattered in what is a clear path of the direction of the twister.

New London, Yarmouth, and Mediapolis also suffered heavy damage as the twister moved its way in a northeasterly direction across the rural areas of Lee, Des Moines, and Henry counties, and further north.

Bricker, who's been with Agrequip for more than 40 years, said it's the worst storm to hit that area since a heavy snowstorm collapsed a roof on one of the buildings.

Mark Boussetot, Fort Madison Public Works director, said one of the emergency storm siren poles blew over in Victory Park and landed on the pickle ball courts damaging some fencing and possibly a court.

"We cleaned them up and cautioned off two courts we're trying to keep people off of," Boussetot said. "We won't do anything else until the insurance adjuster comes down to look at the damage. Then we'll look ahead to clean up and restoration. As long as everyone stays out of those two courts, we'll leave the rest open. There's still four they can play on."

Boussetot said the campground in Rodeo Park had a couple trees down but no major damage.

"We did lose a ball park light at the Rodeo ball fields."

There was a power outage in the city that knocked out traffic controls at the 18th and 20th intersections on 61, but power was restored relative quickly to the area.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

04/16/24 - 1:20 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Brett Lee Traman, 35, of Fort Madison, in the 700 block of Avenue F, on an undisclosed warrant. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

04/16/24 - 3:30 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Amanda Jo Thompson, 38, of Fort Madison, in the 800 block of Avenue E, on a charge of city: theft.

Keokuk Police Report

04/16/24 - 9:32 a.m. - Keokuk police arrested Cole Michael Geltz, 27, of Keokuk, in the 1900 block of Franklin Street, on a warrant for 2nd degree theft greater than \$1500 less than \$10000 and a warrant for 3rd degree burglary. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

04/16/24 - 9:48 a.m. - Keokuk police arrested Cole Michael Geltz, 27, of Keokuk, in the 300 block of North Park Drive, on a warrant for 4th degree theft greater than \$300 less than \$750. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

04/16/24 - 2:28 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of vandalism in the 500 block of Water Street.

04/16/24 - 5:27 p.m. - Keokuk po-

lice responded to a report of a burglary in the 1600 block of Main Street.

04/16/24 - 7:24 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 200 block of North 10th Street.

Lee County Sheriff Report

04/17/24 - 6:46 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Kenneth Laverne Soper, Jr., 44, of Keokuk, at the South Lee County Courthouse, on a judgment entry/mittimus warrant. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

04/14/24 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to one vehicle accident, four medical calls, one propane tank leak.

04/15/24 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls.

04/16/24 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls, two lift assists, one tire issues, one nuisance fire, and five power line issues due to the storm.

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

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