

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Monday, April 29, 2024 | 8 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 74



www.pencitycurrent.com

Keokuk man guilty in father's death

VOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER: Rockenbach sentencing set for June 17th

PCC Staff

On April 26, 2024, Craig Rockenbach, 43, of Keokuk was found guilty of Voluntary Manslaughter, a Class C Felony, in violation of Section 707.4 of the Iowa Criminal Code, by a jury of his peers. The charge carries a sentence of up to 10 years within the Iowa Department of Corrections. Sentencing will be held on June 17, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

Rockenbach was arrested and charged with Assault Causing Bodily Injury, a serious misdemeanor for a phys-

ical altercation that took place with his father Gary Rockenbach, 84, also of Keokuk, on January 22, 2024. Gary Rockenbach later succumbed to his injuries on February 1, 2024, at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City. Craig Rockenbach was then charged with Murder in the Second Degree.

The Keokuk Police Department was the responding agency and lead the investigation on the case. This matter was prosecuted by the Lee County Attorney's Office. Rockenbach is being held at the Lee County Jail.

OPINION



Idioms are not my friend, nor is tech stuff

I miss the days of typewriters. Not really. A few key strokes and a Word document is in someone else's hands or pasted into a page design software and you're off and running. But sometimes technology is the curse of my being. And I have a lot of curses.

This week we got tripped up by a new version of software we use to create your Pen City Current e-edition every morning. We didn't just get tripped up for one day, but for two.

We had to go back to an older version through uninstalls and installs and about three hours of help with the software company's tech gurus. Lee has to do that stuff, I don't have the patience, which is another of the curses.

It's really short sighted to be frustrated with technology because that's specifically what allows me to do what I do professionally from where ever I am.

The downside of it is that you are basically at the whim of the technical divide...that digital chasm we get sucked into with the energy of a black hole.

You can imagine me clinging to the side of cliff, screaming with my fingernails digging in to not get sucked in because I hate giving up control of something that works.

And what happened to "if it ain't broke don't fix it"?

That idiom is just about a thing of the past. We are constantly fixing stuff that isn't broken. On Tuesday my stuff worked. On Wednesday it

See **IDIOMS**, page 8

May 2024 Exhibit

Familiar Figures

Paintings by Janice Rockwell

Opening Reception:
Thursday, May 2 5-7pm

Lunch ala Art Friday, May 24 noon
FINALE Friday, May 24 7-9pm



Exhibit Viewing:
May 1 through May 30, 2024
Tue - Sat 10am - 5pm

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Fort Madison Area Arts Association 825 Ave G 319-372-3996 fortmadisonart.com

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Janice Rockwell's oil painting will be part of the May exhibit with an opening reception May 2.

ARTS ASSOCIATION

FMAAA to split up gallery for May exhibits for first time

BY LORI ILLNER-GREENE
FMAAA Director

FORT MADISON The FMAAA Art Center located at 825 Avenue G in Fort Madison generally has stuck to the formula of one main exhibit for the month in its Main Gallery Oil and then work by the member artists for sale in the Member Gallery.

By reconfiguring the Member Gallery

with some newly acquired portable display walls, the FMAAA will now be able to accommodate more frequent and shorter duration shows while the Main Gallery continues to host a range of artwork from within the region and beyond. The new walls, along with some additional display space added on other walls has not sacrificed the FMAAA's ability to showcase their artists. In fact, the new space should

increase the ability of local artists to share recently developed work and fresh concepts in mini exhibitions. The Art Center also will continue to range out to source artistic work for local consideration during the month-long exhibitions.

Paintings by Janice Rockwell of Macomb, IL, will be on display in the Main

See **FMAAA**, page 2

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WEATHER

MON 29 Apr..... Gradually clearing, 68° F/50° F ☁
TUE 30 Apr..... Sunny and warm, 78° F/57° F ☀
WED 31 Apr..... Mostly sunny with chance of showers, 78° F/64° F ☁

IOWA LOTTERY

DOUBLE PLAY 04/27..... 12 28 36 47 65, Powerball: 22
LOTTO AMERICA 04/27..... 9 13 16 39 48, Star Ball: 3 All Star Bonus: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE 04/27..... 16 22 26 31 34, Lucky Ball: 12
MEGA MILLIONS 04/26..... 15 23 53 57 61, Mega Ball: 9 Megaplier: 3
PICK 3 MIDDAY 04/25, 04/26, 04/27..... 524, 614, 500
PICK 3 EVENING 04/25, 04/26, 04/27..... 519, 313, 480
PICK 4 MIDDAY 04/25, 04/26, 04/27..... 4700, 5324, 3762
PICK 4 EVENING 04/25, 04/26, 04/27..... 6036, 1637, 0690
POWERBALL 04/27..... 9 30 53 55 62, Powerball: 23 Power Play: 3

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Scene Around Town/From the Front

FMAAA's People's Choice Award will be handed out May 11

FMAAA - Continued from Page 1

Gallery during May. Rockwell's exhibition entitled Familiar Figures opens on Thursday, May 2nd with an Opening Reception from 5pm to 7pm. This exhibit is a series of oil paintings in vivid color based upon old family photos juxtaposed against more recently taken shots.

They are thoughtfully composed records of teachable moments, memorable firsts, and some of the many milestones' families enjoy together. These timeless images could be anyone's family and the resulting paintings are easily relatable. This exhibition will be on display beginning May 2 and continuing through May 30 during regular viewing hours Tuesday through Saturday from 10am to 5pm. The FMAAA Art Center is grateful to Connection Bank for their generous support and sponsorship of this month's exhibition.

Rockwell's early interest in art as a child had led her to become an art teacher. She received her degree from Western Illinois University. Rockwell's career began as an educator and later included school counselor. While raising a family at the same time, painting she so loved was relegated to moments of leisure.

During that period, Rockwell primarily used watercolors as a medium and landscape as subject. She developed an accomplished control and an ability to express her imagery through dynamic washes and intensely colored imagery. After she retired, Rockwell took additional figure drawing and painting courses at WIU.

Of her current art practice Rockwell states, "Though I now work in both watercolor and oil I am drawn to the rich surfaces oil paint produces and love the experimental element of collage I often use with both."

Rockwell further muses about this exhibition, "The paintings in this exhibit are created from black and white family photos taken from my childhood as well as from more current photos of grandchildren. Though

the subjects inspire me it is the relationships, the use of colors and textures, that excite me. As I apply paint with palette knives, textures are revealed that seem to create themselves." Janice Rockwell works out of her rural Macomb home studio Earth, Air & Water.

She will be on hand for Lunch ala Art and a gallery talk about her artwork on Friday, May 24 at noon where she will describe her process and artistic ideas in more detail. Later that evening Kent Strabala will be playing during FINALE, a free performance evening, as the FMAAA closes out the main exhibit for the month.

The other two exhibitions this month will be in FMAAA Art Center's new Pop-up Gallery created with the portable display walls. The recent Winter and Spring Plein Air exhibition will be on display from April 26 until May 11 with work for sale from the thirteen artist that participated in this recent plein air event.

The competition was excellent with artists placing as follows: First Place went to Jessica Kirby, Second to Rebecca Vorkapich, Third Kristin Doney, Honorable Mention to Gin Lammert, with overall Best of Show awarded to Deb Baughman.

The public is encouraged to select their favorite with a People's Choice award being awarded to the winner on May 11. The work is produced from visuals within a 30mile radius of Fort Madison leaving it open to the artist to choose landscape, riverscape, architecture, flora or fauna.

There is a wide variety of imagery from landscape to streetscape in an array of mediums. On Wednesday, May 15 a photography exhibition by Beth Steeples, a member and regular volunteer at the Art Center, opens featuring local imagery to fantastic moments found in faraway places.

Steeple's work will be on display until May 29th. If you are an artist yourself looking for gallery space for an exhibition, please contact the FMAAA Art Center to discuss your options.



April 16, 2024 students along with parents and the staff from YMCA Test Kitchen volunteered in the Eagles' kitchen and dining room for a Taco and Enchilada supper night fundraiser. After a very successful evening, the Fraternal Order of the Eagles were able to donate \$1,000.00 to their great program.

Contact Tracy
to Schedule Your
COMPLIMENTARY
REVIEW

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It's Black & White and Read all over

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Obituaries/Lee County News

OBITUARIES

ROSEANN R. ESTRADA

Roseann Rae Estrada, 46, of Keokuk, IA, passed away at 6:14 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City. She was born on September 23, 1977 in Keokuk, IA to Raymond R. & Cynthia Guzman Estrada, Sr. She loved helping others and worked in healthcare for many years and also worked at the P.A.W. Animal Shelter in Fort Madison. She loved all animals and enjoyed going to Indian Lake Park in Farmington, IA.



ESTRADA

Roseann is survived by: 5-children: Leah Larson of Des Moines, IA, Koryn Barnes of Macomb, IL, Avery Hanson of Farmington, IA, Lakyn Larson of Keokuk, IA & Jordan Braggs of Keokuk, IA; 1-granddaughter: Macie; her mother & step-father: Cynthia (Mark) Pflug of Keokuk, IA; her father: Ray Estrada, Sr. of Marion, IA; 2-sisters: Angie (Mike) Bunn of Keokuk, IA & Markie (Scott) Wrieden of Alexandria, MO. She was preceded in death by her grandparents and 1-brother, Ray Estrada, Jr.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A memorial service will immediately follow at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor Jeff Metcalf officiating. A memorial has been established for her children's education. Online condolences to Roseann's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

OBITUARIES

FERN K. MARTIN

Fern K. Martin, 96, of Keokuk, IA passed away Monday, April 22, 2024 at River Hills Village in Keokuk.

She was born October 7, 1927 in Edina, MO to Dave and Jennet (Hunter) Ausmus.

On October 26, 1946 Fern was united in marriage to Oral Glen "Bud" Martin in Kahoka, MO. He preceded her in death on December 23, 1991.



MARTIN

Fern was a loving mother, grandmother, and a caring, helpful friend to those that knew her.

She is survived by her daughter, Judy Wright (Jack) of Keokuk, two sons Buddy Martin (Bonnie) of Kahoka, MO and Chuck Martin (Debbie) of Montrose, IA, eight grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren.

Fern was preceded in death by her husband, Oral Glen "Bud" Martin, her parents, five brothers and two sisters.

A private family graveside will be held at Frazee Cemetery.

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.

LEE COUNTY NEWS

County officials set annual tax sale for June 17th in FM

PCC Staff

LEE COUNTY - Lee County officials have announced the annual tax sale will be held in June per a release issued on Thursday.

Notice is hereby given that the Lee County Annual Tax Sale will be held by the Lee County Treasurer on Monday June 17, 2024 in the Supervisor's Board Room at 933 Ave H, Fort Madison, Iowa, beginning at 9 a.m. All bids must be placed online. Registered bidders can access the auction site by going to www.iowataxauction.com. I will, as required by law, offer to the public at tax sale the following described real estate, mobile homes, and special assessments, which at the time of the sale remain delinquent and unpaid.

Bidder information may be obtained by contacting the Lee County Treasurer's Office at the address or phone number listed below. Interested bidders are required to complete and submit the necessary bidder information by 11:59 p.m., Thursday, June 13, 2024 (online).

An adjourned tax sale will be held any business day following the annual tax sale in which there are bidders present and parcels are still available for sale.

Any taxpayer affected may avoid tax sale proceedings by making payment of the amount shown to the Lee County Treasurer by 4:30 p.m., Friday, June 14, 2024. Property taxes may also be paid on-line at www.iowatreasurers.org by 4:30 p.m. Friday June 14, 2024 to avoid the tax sale.

Public Bidder parcels are parcels that have been previously advertised without sale. If no bid is received on public bidder parcels, Lee County shall obtain a tax sale certificate for the property.

Public Nuisance parcels will be offered for sale in the Board Room at 933 Ave H, Fort Madison, IA at 9:00 a.m. on June 17, 2024 to pre-approved bidders only.

When a parcel is purchased at tax sale and is not redeemed within the period provided in Chapter 447 of the Code of Iowa, the right to redeem expires and a deed may be issued.

If you have any questions, or wish to obtain bidder information, please contact the Lee County Treasurer's Office, 933 Ave H, PO Box 346, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627. Phone (319) 372-3405.

SPRING IS IN THE AIR... LITERALLY!

Protect your lungs this Spring with these tips:

- Try doing yard or garden work in the early morning or evening when the pollen count is at its lowest.
- Wear a mask when doing yard work to keep from breathing in dust or air particles.
- Change clothes and shower to wash away pollutants and pollen after working outdoors.
- Be sure to talk to your healthcare provider if you have trouble controlling your allergy or asthma symptoms.

Lung Cancer LOW DOSE CT SCAN (AGE 50 TO 77)

Great River HEALTH Right place. Right care. Right here. www.greatriverhealth.org/prevention/lung-cancer/

SONNY'S Super Market Lunch Specials April 29 - May 3 11am - 1pm

Monday, April 29 Spaghetti, Cottage Cheese, Breadstick
Tuesday, April 30 Meatloaf, Loaded Potatoes, Beans
Wednesday, May 1 Chicken & Noodles, Mashed Potatoes, Corn
THURSDAY, MAY 2 FRIED CHICKEN DINNERS
Friday, May 3 Grilling on the Sidewalk

Sports

Hounds get win over Keokuk in boys tennis

PCC Staff

KEOKUK – Fort Madison’s boys got a win on the tennis courts Thursday night taking seven match wins from Keokuk in Southeast Conference action.

Aidan Benda, again playing at No. 1 singles, won 6-0, 3-6 (10-4 TB) over sophomore Tyce Hoppe to get things going for the Hounds. Benda is 2-6 on the year and 2-5 in set play through Thursday. He’s 55-83 in total games this year.

Senior Javean Davis got his second match win in a row with a win over Luke Thompson 6-1, 6-4. Davis, playing at No. 2 singles for the season, is 3-5 in matches while going 8-9 in total sets and is just one game off being .500 for the year at 73-74.

James Janic lost at No. 3 singles to Keokuk’s Jaxton McNally 6-4, 6-4. The Chief’s Zach Atterberg knocked off Peyton Howard in a tight No. 4 singles match 6-3, 1-6, (10-6 TB) for Keokuk’s only two wins.

At No. 5, Rowan Benda took a 6-1, 6-1 win over Raden Meier and Jack Amandus beat Kole Kepel 6-1, 6-2 to wrap up singles action with the Bloodhounds leading 4-2.

The Hounds would then sweep doubles action with Benda/Davis knocking off Hoppe/Thompson 8-2, Howard and Rowan Benda won at No. 2 doubles over McNally and Atterberg 9-8 (7-5 TB) and Janic/Isaac Mason downed Meier/Kepel 9-7 to set the final at 7-2.

The Hounds lost to Burlington 8-1 on Tuesday and fell 9-0 to Mt. Pleasant on Monday in windy conditions in Mt. Pleasant.

On Tuesday, Davis got the only win at No. 2 singles over the Grayhounds’ Patrick Morgan 6-2, 6-1.

Head Coach Dean Hogan said Davis played probably his best match of the year in the win.

“This was a highly skilled, talented battle and Javean did a great job keeping in the point,” he said.

The boys travel to Macomb on Monday for a 4 p.m. contest. Then the Southeast Conference tournament is set for Thursday, May 2 at Burlington’s Dankwardt Park.

FM anglers set open bass tourney this summer

PCC Staff

LEE COUNTY - The Lake Cooper Angling Association has announced the 2024 Open Team Bass Tournament Shootout.

These tournaments are all scheduled to be at area locations that are an easy drive and have good facilities. Each tourney will be held on Saturdays 6am – 2pm:

- #1 May 11, Lake Geode
- #2 July 13, Pool 19 – Ft. Madison
- #3 August 10, Lake Sugema

Entry fee \$80.00 – 80% payout, \$10.00 Big Bass Pot 100% payout, Payout of 1 place for every 5 boats.

For more information regarding these events please contact Tournament Directors – Scott Seager at 319-

795-4026, scseager@yahoo.com or Mark Culbertson at 319-470-5010, mactrapper53@hotmail.com

The LCAA invites interested anglers to join a club of anglers that have learned the sport of fishing through a nonprofit conservation minded organization that has been around for over 38 years!

No boat is needed as our club tourneys pairs a boater for each nonboater through a draw system held usually the week before the tourney. Generally, the club schedules 12 tournaments each year. Meetings and draws are held at the Ft. Madison Elks Club. Club business is conducted on the third Thursday of each month at 7pm. For more information on joining the LCAA contact: Jim Noll, President – 319-470-4864; jimnoll@mchsi.com.

Wolfe scores 5, Randolph twice as Lady Hounds win

FAIRFIELD — Fort Madison’s girls soccer team is facing back-to-back three-game weeks, and the Bloodhounds have given themselves as little work as possible.

Fort Madison won 10-0 over Fairfield on Thursday night, the second game of the week the Bloodhounds have won by the 10-goal rule.

Fort Madison won 12-0 over Keokuk on Monday in a game stopped at halftime. This one ended at the 32:34 mark of the second half on Molly Schulte’s first varsity goal.

“Similarly to our game on Monday against Keokuk, I was able to rotate a lot of girls in,” Fort Madison coach Carrie Burken said. “It was good to be able to give the starters rest in preparation for games tomorrow and

Monday (against Southeast Conference leader Burlington).”

Hadley Wolfe had five goals for the Bloodhounds. Natalie Randolph scored twice and Reilynn Turnbull and Kara Lake each had a goal.

Turnbull had three assists and Randolph had two. Halle Menke, Macey McLees and Ellie Hellman each had an assist.

“It was fun to be able to watch so many players rotate in and get involved in our offense,” Burken said.

The Bloodhounds still have not allowed a goal in regulation time this season — the only goals against them came in penalty kicks in an overtime loss to Burlington.

Goalkeeper Taylor Johnson had one save.

Bloodhound boys drop two at Pella Invitational

PELLA, ADM: Hounds continue struggles against Dutch; just miss against No. 4 ADM

PCC STAFF

PELLA – The Fort Madison Bloodhounds went up on Hwy. 163 Saturday to take on Pella and Class 3A No. 4. ADM in a round robin tournament.

The Hounds showed up and battled two of the better soccer teams in the state, falling to Pella 2-0 and then losing to ADM 1-0.

The Hounds held both teams to 0-0 halftime scores, but the Dutch would score one of its goals at the 18-minute mark of the 2nd period and then again at the 22 minute mark, and then held the shutout.

Oliver Santiago had five saves in the Pella match.

ADM’s goal came in the 23-minute mark of the second half for the only goal of that game. Keeper Conner Gehling had seven saves in the match.

The Hounds fall to 6-5 overall and 5-1 in the conference and travel to Burlington for another Southeast Conference match Monday. Two of Fort Madison’s losses have come against top five teams in the state in Williamsburg and ADM.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 26, 2024**

The Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa, met on Monday, February

**HELP
WANTED**

**LEE COUNTY
SECONDARY ROADS
ROAD
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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 engineer@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 engineer@leecounty.org.



26, 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 Pflug, seconded by Holmes, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

At 10:01 a.m. Seyb opened a Public Hearing on a proposal to enter into a General Obligation Urban Renewal Loan agreement and borrow money in the principal amount not to exceed \$1,300,000 for the Keokuk Ambulance Building. Comments were received from Brent Koller. Koller is President of the Lee County Farm Bureau Board. Two petitions were submitted with signatures asking that the question of submitting bonds be submitted to the registered voters of the County at an election. Koller said he has a wish list for the County. "I wish we had a blank check to fund all of the county needs. I wish we knew if the ag appropriations money would pass giving us another \$2 million. I wish we knew what would happen at the state level with speed cameras. I wish we could say we knew the future of the health department. I wish every person in the county had seen the floor plans and designs of the buildings months ago, much like how a normal bond process is done by counties and school districts. I wish we weren't coming off of a year we publicly told tax payers that the county is broke and we had to use the ARPA money to make it through the rest of the year. I wish we wouldn't have any other needs for ARPA money. I wish we knew if we have

to continue to subsidize the ambulance service by nearly 3 million dollars per year. I wish we didn't have the 2nd highest general basic levy and highest overall levy rate in the state of Iowa. I wish the people of Lee County had at least a month or two, to know what the impacts of any bond would be. But, those are all wishes. We have to deal in facts. The Lee County Farm Bureau started the petition, the people of Lee County are the ones who signed it and are asking for the ability to vote. That is what this petition does. No more, no less. We should not have multi-million dollar bonds without the full consent in a vote. That is what this petition does. We are not against the health department, and we are not against the EMS. However, we cannot continue the way business is being done. Last year we went from a county wide levy of 7.98 to this year's rates of 11.21. If we are able to cut our tax rates by \$.58

per year with a total \$2.32 we will still be the 4th highest taxed county in Iowa! Assuming no other counties drop their rates. Regardless what the final dollar is, which is still an unknown factor, taking on millions of dollars of debt is and will be the peoples decision." Valerie Natoli commended Farm Bureau for initiating the petition. She stated that the Supervisors need to learn to live within their budget. She asked what the State would be doing with Health Departments in the future.

At 10:20 a.m. a motion was made by Fedler and seconded by Holmes to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

Moved by Schulz, seconded by Pflug, to approve Resolution #2024-64. Roll call: Schulz-aye, Pflug-aye, Fedler-nay, Holmes-nay and Seyb-aye.

RESOLUTION #2024-64

Resolution taking additional action on proposal

to enter into a General Obligation Urban Renewal EMS Improvement Loan Agreement following a petition

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 heretofore proposed 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, and in lieu of calling an election upon such proposal, has published notice of the proposed action and has held a hearing thereon, and a petition has been filed with the County asking that the question of entering into the Loan Agreement be submitted to the registered voters of the County;

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

Section 1. The Board of Supervisors hereby directs the County Auditor and County Staff to review the petition for legal sufficiency and report back to the Board at its next meeting on March 4, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. At such time, the Board will further consider whether to proceed with the Loan Agreement.

Section 2. All resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 3. This resolution shall be in full force

VROOM. VROOM. Get Pre-Approved in Seconds.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

and effect immediately upon its adoption and approval, as provided by law. Passed and approved February 26, 2024.

/s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, County Auditor.

At 10:16 a.m. Seyb opened a Public Hearing on a proposal to enter into a General Obligation Urban Renewal Loan agreement and borrow money in the principal amount not to exceed \$6,000,000 for the Health/EMS Building. Comments were received from Lee County Health Department Administrator Michele Ross regarding the future of Health Departments in Iowa. The State has conducted a study. They will begin regionalizing Behavioral Health and Disability Services first. Regionalization of Health Departments would likely follow in the next couple years. There is still so much unknown. Natoli asked if the property that was donated to the County for the Health/EMS Building could be earmarked for any other use by the County. Koller stated that his comments from the previous public

hearing were intended for both hearings. He asked the Board to be more open to the public with future plans. Chris Brown asked about potential grants for the building and wanted to remind the Board that this money is not guaranteed.

At 10:35 a.m. a motion was made by Fedler and seconded by Holmes to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

Moved by Schulz, seconded by Pflug, to approve Resolution #2024-65. Roll call: Schulz-aye, Pflug-aye, Fedler-aye,

Holmes-aye and Seyb-aye.

RESOLUTION 2024-65

Resolution taking additional action on

Parcel #	Address	Name	Amount	Special Dues
024715043330320	1129 - 16 th Street	Angela Eid	\$6,080.00	\$419.00
024715054580060	2512 Avenue O	Eric Fortune II	2,477.84	\$419.00
024715053880010	2736 Avenue O	Eric Fortune II	4,413.30	\$419.00
024715053870070	2802 Avenue O	Eric Fortune II	1,807.00	\$0.00
024715081020060	3104 Avenue O	Charles Lozano	7,225.80	\$1,311.47
024715044320020	1116 - 13 th Street	Integrity Investment, LLC	11,780.23	\$2,322.00
024715043330330	1131 - 16 th Street	Donna Marie Warner	3,694.00	\$2,330.00
024715053870030	2818 Avenue O	Integrity Investment	10,184.00	\$8,304.00
024715054550080	1222 - 26 th Street	Michelle/Lance Meredith	25,883.56	\$0.00
024715053880020	2728 Avenue O	Isaac Rairden	9,452.00	\$5,092.00
024715044510030	1517 Avenue M	Lynn Rotter	4,120.20	\$3,769.20
024715043790060	1519 Avenue M	T W Barton Restoration	1,315.00	\$1,158.00
024715043790070	1521 Avenue M	Kevin Chapman	15,095.25	\$8,455.25
				\$33,998.92

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Madison has expended a minimum of \$47,039.93 to abate 78 nuisances at these properties;

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Madison has requested the Lee County Board of Supervisors for the acquisition of the

County Held Tax Sale Certificates described above for purposes of going through the redemption process with the property owners for the purpose of acquiring a treasurer's deed for the property and improving the property, which will increase the value of the

property and properties in the area and in turn generate tax revenue for Lee County;

WHEREAS, Section 446.31 provides in pertinent part: When the County acquires a certificate of purchase, the county may assign the certificate for the total

amount due as of the date of assignment or compromise the total amount due and assign the certificate. An assignment or a compromise and assignment shall be by written agreement. A copy of the agreement shall be filed with the treasurer ...

Accordingly, NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, based on the authority of Lee County pursuant to section 446.31 the Board of Supervisors hereby, through this resolution, signed by the Mayor of the City of Fort Madison, is duly authorized to execute this agreement on behalf of the City of Fort Madison, enters into this agreement for the compromise and assignment of the tax sale certificates, pursuant to the terms contained herein:

Lee County hereby compromises with the City of Fort Madison regarding the total amount due for the tax sale certificates and waives the collection of the total amount due for the assignment of the tax sale certificates and hereby assigns the tax sale certificates on the described parcels to the City of Fort Madison. In

exchange the City of Fort Madison hereby agrees to go through the redemption process on the properties in an attempt to obtain a treasurer's deed for said properties. The City of Fort Madison has determined that acquisition of these properties is necessary to remediate blight and nuisances, to assist in restoring the surrounding neighborhoods, and/or for project-related purposes. The City agrees it shall abate these nuisances and establish rehabilitation arrangements of these properties for purposes of getting them back on the tax rolls.

A copy of this Resolution and Agreement shall be filed with the Treasurer of

Lee County pursuant to Iowa Code Section 446.31, a transaction fee of ten dollars for each assignment transaction shall be collected from the assignee to be deposited in the County general fund.

Dated and signed at Fort Madison, Iowa on this the 20th day of February, 2024.

Board of Supervisors.
/s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, County Auditor. City of Fort Madison. /s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor. /s/ Justina M. Cullen, City Clerk.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Pflug, to approve the Consent Agenda that included the February 20, 2024 Board minutes, the claims for payment and a Class C Retail Alcohol License for Powdertown Golf, for the period December 6, 2023 through December 5, 2024. Motion carried.

Received and filed the Commission of Veteran Affairs Minutes of Meeting for January 30, 2024.

Committee Reports: Fedler reported on a Farm Bureau Board meeting and the County Assessor and Emergency Management Commission budget hearings. County Engineer Ben Hull reported to the Board that the County is obligated, along with Des Moines County, to tear down a bridge on Bridgeport Road.

At 11:00 a.m. it was moved by Holmes, seconded by Fedler, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 4, 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 26, 2024	
ABRA Auto Body, svcs	1000.00
Access Energy, svcs	1111.47
Access Systems, svcs	179.71
Alliant, svcs	2162.61
AssuredPartners, costs	3600.00
Benco Dntl, svcs	490.62
Bound Tree Med, svcs	3224.82
R Bradley, svcs	130.00
Capital 1 Pbl fnd, ambulance	199882.07
CenturyLink, svcs	90.95
Christn Twnshp, svcs	85.00
Commerce Bank	
1Password, sftwr fee	19.95
2Bigfeet, boots	134.96
4Imprint, svcs	551.17
Access Systems, sftwr fee	68.40
Adelitas, meals	32.46
Adobe, sftwr fee	21.19
Alliant Energy, util	383.00
Amazon, svcs	5747.65
American Heart Shop, edu	210.00
Autozone, parts	31.49
BP, fuel	35.11
Bpandcc LLC, svcs	100.00
Casey, fuel	124.74
Centurylink, svcs	3571.65
Cheapdoorhangers, svcs	109.13
Chewy.com, svcs	
	150.65
Community Wholesale Tire, svcs	2861.04

Covertrack Group, sftwr fee	1888.00
Dish, svcs	84.48
Dodd Printing, svcs	31.05
Dollar General, svcs	93.25
Donnellson Lumber, svcs	32.31
Double Bubble Car, svcs	9.00
Doubletree, meal	467.20
DPH Regulatory, license	180.00
Expedia, lodging	198.89
Fastenere, svcs	13.00
First Responder, edu	107.48
Forestry Suppliers, svcs	179.44
Fort Madison, svcs	110.21
Freddys, meal	37.01
Galls, uniform	1752.85
GDIT FAA, FAA Zoning	10.00
Getmeregistered, edu	519.12
Getsling.com, sftwr	8.96
GovConnect, fee	92.48
Hampton Inn, lodging	217.92
Hancock County Journal, svcs	259.03
Hornblasters, parts	339.95
HP Direct, hrdwr	15500.00
Huffmans Farm & Home, svcs	795.18
Huhot Grill, meal	49.31
Hulu, svcs	19.25
Hyatt Conf Ctr, lodging	971.60
Hy-Vee, svcs	11.31
IA Secretary of State, fee	30.00

Intl Svc Fee, fee	0.20
Intoximeters, svcs	192.00
Iowa Environmental Health, edu	42.00
lowacountiesit.org, dues	50.00
Issda, edu	250.00
ISU Event Registration, edu	350.00
Jim Baier, svcs	156.25
Josh's Frogs, svcs	51.13
Kempkers, svcs	157.39
Konomigrill, meal	122.57
McFarland Swan, svcs	1729.59
Mediacom, svcs	245.45
Menards, svcs	564.01
MOCIC, edu	150.00
Motion Ind, parts	8.09
MSFT, sftwr	308.00
National Assoc, edu	800.00
Ntl Oral Health Conf, edu	1000.00
NENA, dues	197.00
Netflix.com, svcs	24.60
Novavision, svcs	99.58
ODP Bus Sol, svcs	1114.75
Office of Prof Reg, edu	270.00
O'Reilly, svcs	290.69
Oryza, meal	33.85
Panera Bread, meal	380.31
Phillips, fuel	52.48
Precision Locker Co, svcs	145.20
Quadiant, postage	215.65
Quill Corp, svcs	31.46
Sherwin Williams, svcs	288.65
Shottenkirk, svcs	882.90
Tasty Tacos, meal	17.38
The Western Co, boots	

	-112.19
T Mobile, svcs	454.71
US Cellular, svcs	2689.75
USPS, postage	91.20
USPS.com Clicknship, postage	50.50
Verizon Wireless, svcs	1899.86
Walmart, svcs	519.96
Wineingers Country, tools	258.70
Winsupply Greenville, parts	710.35
Compass Minerals, rock	49838.75
Democrat Co, publ	16.92
Diamond Drugs, rx	474.75
Discount Tire, svcs	105.95
Donnellson Tire, svcs	216.00
Douds Stone, mtrl	10597.61
Drake Hdwr, svcs	1484.00
EMSLRC, edu	8.50
Fastenal Co, equip	409.00
Floyds EZ Way, svcs	70.00
FM Water, exps	3904.38
Geotechnics, svcs	11000.00
GRRWA, svcs	60.00
Hlthcarefirst, svcs	807.15
HrtInd Business, svcs	20056.12
Huffman Wldng, svcs	31.17
HyVee, svcs	848.04
ICONNECTYOU, svcs	160.00
Intrst All Bttry, svcs	102.05
Jet Gas, fuel	4238.94
Keo Water, svcs	622.92

Khlmrng Hlg, svcs	150.00
LCL Farms, svcs	400.00
LeeCo Hlth, svcs	12629.41
LeeCo Pheas Frvr, dues	250.00
Liberty Util, gas	2145.50
McFarlands, svcs	230.89
MidAmer Enrgy, gas	1713.17
A Millizer, svcs	267.16
Municipal One, svcs	5796.00
Nrth Cntrl Ambul, svcs	42.75
O'Reilly Auto, parts	33.47
OMG Midwest, svcs	4547.27
Optum Phrmcy, rx	855.48
Pitney Bowes, svcs	702.00
Prairie Farms, svcs	332.00
Prvnt Child Abuse, edu	150.00
Qdient Finance, pstg	4000.00
Road Groom, svcs	784.55
RSM US LLP, svcs	2473.50
SIADSA, svcs	7840.00
SIEDA, cntrb	263.11
Sue's Quilts, svcs	45.00
VB Co Hosp, svcs	10624.62
Verizon, svcs	40.01
Wshngtn Co Hlth, svcs	15144.83
West Pnt Lmbr, svcs	6.99
Windstream, svcs	559.48
Young Innvtns, mtrl	109.99

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Lee County News/From the Front

Central Lee looking for next round of Hall of Fame inductees

DONNELSON — The Central Lee Community School District is seeking nominations for the 2024 inductees into its three Halls of Fame.

The Halls of Fame are part of the district's alumni recognition program, launched in 2020. Through the effort, Central Lee will honor nine individuals who achieved excellence in academics, athletics, and the fine arts during their time in the district.

"We are thrilled to embark on another round of celebrating the outstanding achievements of our alumni through our Hall of Fame nomination process," said Dr. Andy Crozier, Central Lee Superintendent. "This tradition allows us to shine a spotlight on the incredible individuals who have left a lasting impact on our community. We look forward to honoring the alumni who have helped shape the Central Lee experience."

The Central Lee Academic Hall of Fame recognizes top scholars and staff from the past. This year, the district will be introducing three students and/or former staff members who have excelled in academics

before or after their time at Central Lee.

The Athletics Hall of Fame recognizes top athletes, teams and coaches from the past. This year, the district will induct three athletes, teams, or coaches who achieved greatness in athletics.

The Fine Arts Hall of Fame recognizes students, directors and others who have excelled in band, choir, art, and other areas of the fine arts. Central Lee will introduce three inductees who have achieved greatness in the fine arts.

Committees have been established to help with the selection of inductees. For someone to qualify for a nomination, they must have graduated from Central Lee or have been a staff member. They also must be at least five years removed from the district. The committee will continue to consider individuals nominated in years' past as potential inductees for 2024 and future years.

Nominations are due by Friday, May 31. To submit a nomination, visit <https://bit.ly/CLHOFNomination>.

As tech gets better, it also tends to get relatively worse

IDIOMS - Continued from Page 1

didn't. And we find out that it had something to do with an upgrade. We have Mac-based systems so that kind of thing is supposed to be "few and far between". But "few and far between" is another idiom that the gig-economy has stripped us away from. Nothing is few and everything is more and more being pulled together.

So that leaves me with the frustration of just having to go "go with the flow". I hate just going with the flow when I can't control the energy behind the flow.

Our world of digital creation in a tech functional society is at the same time a blessing and a curse. I love the endless opportunities it provides. We saw an upgrade this week that allows us to drop backgrounds on photos in about three key strokes. But then at any time, there can be a "handshake" between platforms that gets clogged for whatever reason and you're screwed.

Typewriters required ribbon and maintenance and white out and way more action than just fingertapping. You had to swipe the carriage back by hitting the carriage return lever unless you got on of those new fangled automatic typewriters. You had the platen knob that rolled the paper through the carriage unless you used the handle and pumped it back and forth.

Ok. I don't miss the typewriter. And I don't miss the fax machine. I like email and I like "copy and paste" and I like photo correction and InDesign and Acrobat and Photoshop.

But just leave my crap alone. I like the way it works right now. I'm not sure there's a whole lot you can do to speed things up for me.

I did see a few apps that convert the spoken word into text, but there's a few issues with that. It doesn't (yet) identify the person speaking so you have to make notes about that. It also doesn't hit every word right so there's that and that's a big issue when you're quoting people. I don't think they've made one yet that works for me. I've messed around with Otter and it's nice for conversions outside the journalism field but it's not hopped enough yet for that industry.

So I'm not that old-school guy that just wants to use a pencil and notebook for my work. I like utilizing technology, but when it punches a hole in my workday, it makes me long for the days when someone else had to do the page design, press operations, sorting, and delivering.

Suffice it to say (yes, that's an English idiom, too), we press on with our tech reliance, and we suffer through the late night hours to bring you some news every weekday. And you have my word, as I watch Da Bears take Iowa's Tory Taylor as the first punter in the 2024 draft, that we'll "press on" and "weather the storm" to do our best to bring you news and sports, and breaking information - whether the "cloud" likes it or not.

And as I guy who's weathered the storm as a Vikings fan for the past 46 years without a SuperBowl appearance, not just no championships, but no championship appearance, I've thoroughly enjoyed this year's NFL draft. And no, there was NOT 275,000 people at the draft. That may have been a technical glitch, but that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is editor and co-owner of the Pen City Current and can be reached at Charles.V@PenCityCurrent.com.

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