

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Monday, May 6, 2024 | 6 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 79



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## FMHS PROM COURT 2024

### COMMENTARY



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

From left to right front are Jordyn Burch, Aija Jenkins, Ella Wright, Miah Wellendorf, Lily Arnold, and Olivia Kraus. Back row prom king candidates from left to right, Javean Davis, Henry Wiseman, Nathan Bowen, Jamarkus Kline, Aiden Benda, and Jan De Gracia Hernandez. Hernandez and Wright were named King and Queen.

## Not much can dampen the Hound spirit

You know, there are things that make your nose crinkle up and put a chill in ya.

For me it's wet socks. I hate wet socks. It's a legitimate peeve that makes you feel cold inside and beg for coffee, a t-shirt, and pajama bottoms.

I left Thursday's track meet before the boys 4x100 because it was raining, THE WHOLE TIME, and Fort Madison AD Jeff Lamb wouldn't even turn on the damn lights let alone close the roof.

He did however have some magical powers because when I pressed him about the lights for the second time, he lost it and pointed to his watch and CABLOOOEY, on come the lights. I'm not making that up. He mumbled something incoherent, smiled, and then literally pointed to his watch, the lights come on, and he throws his arms out and head back like Creed frontman Scott Stapp singing "My Sacrifice". Irony has no bounds. I absolutely love the people of Fort Madison.

And it's not abnormal for Lamb to be able to pull off miracles, especially around the lighting systems at Jim Youel Field. He did it in his first year back here when it looked like there would be no lights for a football game. He probably has a light "angel" somewhere.

The point here isn't that I bailed on the track meet because my feet were wet, although I did, and they were.

It's that for the first time in a long time Fort Madison has hosted a multitude of track meets in one season and

See TRACK, page 6

### COUNTY BOARD PREVIEW

## Supervisors may authorize bids on LCHD this week

### USDA tells county it can now go out for bids on new construction

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – The company heading up the construction of the new Lee County Health Department/EMS building has received an approval to go out for bids on the project.

The USDA has been reviewing some final documentation before authorizing the county to direct Carl A. Nelson out of Burlington to put together bid packages on the project and get them in front of construction companies.



SEYB

The USDA is using about \$3 million in federal funds to help pay for the project under a congressional appropriation secured by Congresswoman Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA)

and through a Rural Emergency Health Care grant. Because the building is being constructed with USDA appropriations, the federal agency had to review construction documents and county financial documents prior to authorizing the bidding process.

The county could have gone out for bids without the USDA permission, but that would have all but ruled out the federal assistance on the estimated \$5.5 million project.

The county is also using \$1 million in remaining ARPA funds, a \$600,000 Community Development Block Grant and more than a half million in funds from the North Lee County Community Foundation. That figure hasn't been fully flushed out but Roger Ricketts, of the foundation, said he has secured at least that much in private investments in the building.

The county was informed in March that the funding from the congressional appropriation had finally been approved by Congress, but the language around the specifics funding delayed the USDA moving forward sooner.

The Health Department is currently operating out of the former Iowa State

See LCHD page 2

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### WEATHER

MON 06 May.....Mostly sunny & warm, 76° F/ 59° F  
TUE 07 May.....Chance of showers & storms, 74° F/ 54° F  
WED 08 May.....Warm with showers likely, 76° F/ 53° F

### IOWA LOTTERY

DOUBLE PLAY 05/04.....18 27 63 66, Powerball: 26  
LOTTO AMERICA 05/04.....5 11 25 37 42, Star Ball: 5 All Star Bonus: 2  
LUCKY FOR LIFE 05/04.....14 5 6 33, Lucky Ball: 1  
MEGA MILLIONS 05/03.....6 13 15 53 56, Mega Ball: 11 Megaplier: 2  
PICK 3 MIDDAY 05/02, 05/03, 05/04.....3 0 6, 4 7 5, 2 5 4  
PICK 3 EVENING 05/02, 05/03, 05/04.....6 0 8, 0 2 2, 4 3 2  
PICK 4 MIDDAY 05/02, 05/03, 05/04.....5 4 5 8, 0 1 3 2, 5 4 8 9  
PICK 4 EVENING 05/02, 05/03, 05/04.....4 3 4 0, 0 9 5 5, 6 0 3 6  
POWERBALL 05/04.....14 20 23 53 69, Powerball: 4 Power Play: 2

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# Obituaries/For the Record

## For the Record

**Fort Madison Police Report**  
05/02/24 - 12:41 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 900 block of 2nd Street.

**Keokuk Police Report**  
05/02/24 - 1:09 p.m. - Keokuk police arrested Aidan Angalia Mason, 21, of Keokuk, in the 700 block of Main Street, on a charge of 1st offense domestic abuse assault. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

**Lee County Sheriff Report**  
05/02/24 - 11:32 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested

Everett Eugene Russell, 77, of Keokuk, in the 1900 block of 320th Street, Argyle, on charges of driving under suspension, failure to provide proof of financial liability, open container - driver 21+ YOA, and operation with ignition interlock. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on a promise to appear.

05/02/24 - 3:21 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Kimberly Ann Lee, 38, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office, on charges of contraband/weapon at correctional facility and possession of less than 5GM metham-

phetamine. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

**Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report**  
05/02/24 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to eight medical calls

05/03/24 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to eight medical calls and one oil cleanup

05/04/24 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to four medical calls and one lift assist.

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

## EMS consultation on board agenda

**LCHD** - Continued from Page 1

Penitentiary's John Bennett Center, a facility that is costing the county about \$7,500 a month in lease payments and has maintenance issues.

The facility will also provide space for a Fort Madison base of operations for the Lee County EMS facility.

Supervisor Chairman Garry Seyb is requesting an amendment to Monday's agenda to allow for action on bids, but said he would not be opposed to a special meeting of the board to get formal action on going out for bids on the project.

In a related agenda item, Supervisors will also consider approval for an independent consultant to review the operations of the Lee County EMS service. Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise called for the review about a month ago to see if there were any efficiencies that could be found within the department. Supervisors have expressed concern about the amount of overtime being spent within the department, but have also praised the operations and how staff has adapted to the closure of the Keokuk Blessing Hospital in 2022.



**Lunch Specials**  
**May 6 - 10**  
**11am - 1pm**

Monday, May 6  
Tenderloins, Fries, Baked Beans

Tuesday, May 7  
Minit Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Corn

Wednesday, May 8  
Roast Beef Sandwich, Cheese Potatoes

Thursday, May 9  
Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, May 10  
Grilling on the Sidewalk

## OBITUARIES

### MARY E. HEMMIE

Mary E. Hemmie, 79, of Montrose, IA, passed away at 1:05 p.m. on Saturday, May 4, 2024 at her home. She was born on September 17, 1944 in Keokuk, IA to Harland & Garnet Richey Holland. She married Delbert Wayne Hemmie



HEMMIE

on September 2, 1961 in Kahoka, MO. He preceded her in death on January 25, 2007. She worked at Troy Cleaners in Fort Madison and later was the housekeeping supervisor at the Fort Madison Health Center with 21 years of service. She was a member of the Montrose Presbyterian Church and served on the Montrose Watermelon Festival Committee and the Montrose Zoning Committee. She enjoyed cooking, gardening, reading, puzzles, camping, western movies and fishing.

Mary is survived by: 2-daughters: Lisa (Sherry) Loring of Muscatine, IA & Erica (Jason) Daughters of Montrose, IA; 2-sons: Darryl (Sally) Hemmie of Montrose, IA & Mike (Jeanette) Hemmie of Montrose, IA; 5-grandchildren: Craig & Brent Hemmie, Wyatt & Kyhlie Daughters & Hanna Blomme; 3-great grandchildren: Jackson, Weston & Waylon Hemmie; 1-brother: Mark (Barb) Holland of Montrose, IA; her best friends: Cathy Cocherell of Farmington, IA & Karen VanBrocklin of Montrose, IA and her pen pal of 60+ years: Fiona from Edinburgh, Scotland. She was preceded in death by: her parents, husband (Wayne), 2-sisters: Judith Brisby & Carol Holland.

The visitation will be held from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The graveside service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 9, 2024 at Montrose Cemetery. Memorials have been established for the Montrose Ball Association, Lee County Hospice & Montrose Fire Department. Online condolences to the Hemmie family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

### RUBY L. BERRMEL

Ruby Lee Bermel, 76, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 12:20 a.m. on Friday, May 3, 2024 at Birkwood Village in Fort Madison. She was born on April 9, 1948 in Keokuk, IA to James & Barbara St. Claire Burke. She married Charles



BREMEL

G. Bermel on January 6, 1990 in Davenport, IA. She received her BA in Psychology from St. Ambrose University and was a Social Worker II, Case Manager, for the State of Iowa. She was an activist for human rights with a focus on women's rights.

Ruby is survived by: her husband: Charles Bermel of Fort Madison, IA; 2-daughters: Cathy St. Claire of Clarence, IA & Michele (Chris) Pisman of Wisconsin and 2-grandchildren: Eli Wiley & Bella Kinneestom. She was preceded in death by: her parents, 1-brother & 1-sister.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and no services are planned. Online condolences to the Bermel family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

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## Sports

# Bloodhounds 2nd, Lady Hounds 3rd at SEC meet

**DAILY SERVICE:** Lady Hounds win distance and 800-relays, while boys shine in relays and field events

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Sometimes it's a matter of just one event, but the Fort Madison Bloodhounds' boys came within five points of taking the Southeast Conference Track and Field championship Thursday night in Fort Madison.

Washington ended up winning the title with 143 points to Fort Madison's 138. Burlington was third with 96 and Keokuk finished 5th with 69 points.

The Lady Hounds finished 3rd but had some season-high marks that are favorable to how state qualifying - how state qualifying does what??? next Thursday. Washington also won the girls' meet with 173 points, followed by Mt. Pleasant with 125.

The girls' 4x800 team of McKayla Schinstock, Mara Smith, Avery Rump, and Addison Rump ran a 10:02.24 which not only earned them the conference title, but also vaulted them into the top 38 times in the state as of Thursday.

Avery Rump won titles in the 1500- and 3000-meter runs.

The boys' team racked up six first-place finishes all in relays or field events.

Kenden Bowie, who's high jumping this season for the first time ever, couldn't catch the 6'2" mark despite jumping 6'4" on several occasions already this year.

Bowie said he wanted to get back into track after only participating his eighth grade year. He said some prompting from others got him interested again.

"My varsity basketball coach (Ryan Wilson) talked to me about it a lot and I was already thinking about," Bowie said after being disappointed in his finish Thursday night.

He said he's only worked on technique with assistant coach Jordan Meierotto, but was hoping to get more instruction.

"Before the season nobody did, but Jordan does now. I'm just having some fun with it right now. But I don't know what it is, I just can't jump in the rain," Bowie said.

He qualified for Drake with a 6'4" leap at Burlington earlier this year, but soggy conditions there also hampered the junior's efforts.

"At first this was just for fun, but then the competition, especially Fairfield, started, and I like that."



Sophomore McKayla Schinstock gets ahead of Washington's Loran Horak on the first leg of the Lady Hounds' SEC champion 4x800 relay team of Schinstock, Mara Smith, Avery Rump, and Addison Rump. The Lady Hounds finished 3rd overall.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Shuttle Hurdle relay team vaulted itself into the top 17 times in the state with a 59.90 good enough for the conference title. That team consisting of Adam Sobczak, Gavin Callahan, Kiawante Smith, and Henry Wiseman had a previous best time of 1:00.93 and was 24th best going into the day.

Caden Barnes won the shotput with a 51'3.5" but had a season-best 54'1.5" which is the 18th best throw in the state this season.

The 4x400 and 4x800 relay team of Peyton Lambert, Riley Tripp, Mason McLey, and Nolan Guzman captured conference titles in those events.

Brandon Klein earned 1st in the wheelchair shotput with a throw of 16'0".

Complete results from Thursday's meet are below:

#### Girls results

100-meter dash: Emma Kern 14.56 (8th), Kenna Gittings 15.56 (10th)  
200-meter dash: Olivia Buckner 29.71 (6th), Emma Snaadt 30.76 (9th)  
400-meter dash: McKayla Schinstock 1:07.06 (6th), Ellie Huebner 1:11.76 (8th)  
800-meter run: Mara Smith 2:27.80 (2nd), Paetyn Wiegand 2:46.62 (9th)  
1500 meter run: Avery Rump 4:58.40 (1st), Addison Rump 5:22.82 (3rd)  
3000-meter run: Avery Rump 10:52.48 (1st), Wiegand 12:29.87 (6th).  
100-hurdles: Chloe Sokolik 18.39 (8th), Maleena Bentley 19.59 (12th).  
400-hurdles: Hailey Kemper 1:11.20 (4th), Alexa Walz 1:25.35 (8th).  
4x100 relay: Rylee Steffensmeier, Lillian Gelsthorpe, Kern, Sokolik 56.57 (5th).  
4x200 relay: Kern, Gittings, Alaina Schwerin, Steffensmeier 2:04.59 (6th).  
4x400 relay: Schinstock, Smith, Avery Rump, Kemper 4:26.00 (3rd).  
4x800 relay: Schinstock, Smith, Avery Rump, Addison Rump 10:02.24 (1st).  
Sprint Medley: Steffensmeier, Gelsthorpe, Buck-

ner, and Esther Gnann, 2:07.69 (6th)  
Distance Medley: Gelsthorpe, Buckner, Smith, Addison Rump 4:38.51 (3rd).  
Shuttle Hurdle: Sokolik, Schwerin, Walz, and Bentley 1:16.68 (5th).  
High Jump: no entry.  
Long Jump: Huebner 13'7.75" (8th), Schwerin 12'3.75"  
Shot put: Brylie Lorence 39'0" (2nd).  
Discus: Lorence 106'0" (5th).

#### Boys results

100-meter dash: Mason Koser 12.61 (10th).  
101-wheelchair: Brandon Klein 34.34 (2nd)  
200-meter dash: Julian Dear 23:06 (2nd).  
201-meter wheelchair: Klein 1:01.80 (2nd)  
400-meter dash: Peyton Lambert 53.16 (2nd)  
800-meter run: Nolan Guzman 2:04.11 (3rd), Noah Krogmeier 2:24.47 (9th).  
1600 meter run: Riley Tripp 4:56.42 (3rd), Calvin Johnson 5:07.12 (5th).  
3200-meter run: Johnson 11:13.91 (5th)  
110-hurdles: Henry Wiseman 15.76 (2nd), Kiawante Smith 16.81 (7th).  
400-hurdles: Adam Sobczak 1:00.21 (2nd).  
4x100 relay: Sobczak, Dayton Lamar, Hayden Segoviano, and Dear 44.60 (2nd).  
4x200 relay: Segoviano, Gavin Callahan, Marcus Guzman and Lamar 1:32.38 (2nd).  
4x400 relay: Lambert, Tripp, Mason McLey and Nolan Guzman 3:35.67 (1st).  
4x800 relay: Lambert, Tripp, McLey and Nolan Guzman 8:34.01 (1st).  
Sprint Medley: Koser, Justin Maitner, Evan Richmond, and Krogmeier 1:50.56 (6th).  
Distance Medley: Segoviano, Callahan, McLey, Tripp 3:56.23 (2nd).  
Shuttle Hurdle: Sobczak, Callahan, Smith and Wiseman 59.90 (1st).  
High Jump: Kenden Bowie 6'0" (2nd), Nolan Guzman 5'8" (4th).  
Long Jump: Kiawante Smith 19'4" (6th), Hunter McGinity-McKasson 15'5.75" (10th)  
Shot put: Caden Barnes 51'3.5" (1st), Uriah Brooks 42'6" (5th).  
Wheelchair shot put: Klein 16'0" (1st)  
Discus: Cory Arnett 132'1" (1st), Brayton Schneider 123'6" (5th).

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## Sports/Local News

# Hawk's Weber 1st, Krogmeier 2nd in SEISC discus

PCC Staff

WAYLAND – Central Lee's Aubrey Weber brought home the title in the girls' discus at the Southeast Iowa Superconference track meet at WACO Thursday night.

Weber spun it 93' to become the conference champion. It was the sole title the Hawks capture at the event.

Allison Gruntmeier took 2nd in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 18.89 and was second in the high jump at 4'8". Ostyn Moore took second in the shotput for the boys with a throw of 39'3". Owen Krogmeier was second in the discus at 109' 10.5".

The Hawks grabbed up six third-place finishes, three in the boys' and three in the girls' meets. Kegan Damico took third in the 400 hurdles with a time of 1:00.1 and in the high jump with a leap of 5'8". The 800-meter sprint medley team of Will Ferris, Evan Fogarty, Brayden Wyrich, and Aden Ross finished at 1:43.60, good enough for the bronze.

On the girls' side, Kamryn Cox was third in the 400-meter dash with a time of 1:17.50. She also had the first led in the shuttle hurdle that took 3rd with Julia Fraise, Nora Lampe, and Gruntmeier in 1:19.40.

Kylie Fortune was third in the long jump going 14'0". The Hawks travel to Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont for the district state qualifier on Thursday evening.

**ADVENTURE AWAITS**  
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**MAY 18TH 2024**  
 WILSON LAKE, DONNELLSON  
 IOWA  
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 12-2 PM- LUNCH/ GAMES  
 2:00 PM- LEARN NAVIGATION  
 4:00 PM- NATURE HIKE  
 6:00 PM- SUPPER CAMPFIRE TO FOLLOW

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### PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE**  
**LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**\*\*MONDAY\*\***  
**May 6, 2024**  
**MEETING CONVENING TIME: 10:00 A.M.**  
**933 AVE H**

-----AGENDA-----

Lee County Board of Supervisors  
 May 6, 2024, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM (America/Chicago)  
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feature and wait for the Chairman to address you. If you are participating by phone, please wait until everyone is done speaking before addressing the Board.  
 Please keep your microphone muted to cut down on background noise. If you are participating by phone, press \*6, this will mute your phone.

Pledge of Allegiance  
 Approve Agenda  
 Public Input  
 Consider Approval of Section 130 Agreement with IDOT and BNSF for Crossing # 078040R Improvements at 245th Ave

Consider Approval of Increase in Starting Salary for Assistant County Attorney

Consider Approval of Contract with Fitch and Associates for EMS Consulting

Consider Approval of Updates to EMS Supplement to Personnel Policy  
 Consider Approval of ARPA Compliance Report for FY23

Consider Approval of Letter of Support to City of Keokuk for Re-Assignment of Lincoln Ridge Sewer Drainage System

Consider Approval of Letter of Support for Grant Application for New Shelter House in Chatfield Park

Consider Approval of Change Orders for Keokuk Ambulance Building

Consider Approval of Geographic Name Proposal Recommendation for Homer Lake Consent Agenda

- Monday, April 22, 2024 Board Minutes
- Claims for Payment
- Class C Retail Alcohol License for Green Bay Bar & Grill

Personnel Actions:  
 A. Step Increase - Facilities/ Maintenance Department  
 B. Transfers from Part-time to Full-time (2) - EMS Reports:

A. Commission of Veteran Affairs Quarterly Report

B. Commission of Veteran Affairs Minutes of Meeting

C. Manure Management Annual Update for Dobson Family Farms in Van Buren Township

D. Manure Management Plan Form for Schwartz Farms in Marion Township

E. Sheriffs Monthly Report

Commission or Committee Reports

Adjourn

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## From the Front

# FMHS and good dudes creating a nice culture for athletics

### TRACK - Continued from Page 1

looked like champs. I think they had three varsity events, two of which were boys and girls combined, and numerous junior high meets.

Not even a steady rain can dampen the drive of a Bloodhound. They just keep going and going.

And they always seem to be able to pull them off without a hitch. At least that's what we see, and that's what's important.

Now Jeff's entire fam-

ily including the pets usually have a radio, clipboard and pen in hand, as do the senior golf guys who routinely duck and cover in the discus field. And as dangerous as that is, that's funny right there. Bill Schulte, Larry Smith, Terry Hope and others trying to move out of the way of flying discs is like a game show.

I almost got hit Thursday taking photos from about 150 feet away.

That caused me to re-

think the humor of it all.

Everybody's favorite golfie Doug Snaadt did the Southeast Conference high jump Thursday night in a Cubs hardhat and umbrella. Clearly he thought he would be in the discus landing zone, but ended up doing the high jump. So in the end he just looked like another sad, demented diehard Cubs fan. They're so sweet. The rain poured off the brim of that hardhat like a bad gutter. I would think however, that he probably had the same

internal water damage.

There's not really anyone better at starting track events than Roger Poage and the patriarch Timm Lamb. Although Roger usually has to yell at me a couple times per meet to get outta the damn way, he's a peach and runs a tight ship.

And Timm is always good for a laugh as he barks at Jeff and his other son Patrick who are doing yeoman's work just keeping the herded cats that are track athletes in the right place, and the right lane at the

right time.

No, it's not yet the Mt. Pleasant or Washington affairs - but we're getting there. The throwing area is improving each week, the track is still an excellent surface, the coaches are cooperative when they're not disappearing in the throngs of the athletes, and crowds of weird people that just happen to be on the field for no reason, to duck questions from a thug reporter.

Brian Mendez, never ducks, he can always be found near the side-by-

side with some contraption that prints out receipts with time stamps on them. Mendez has been around track for almost three decades and has the same look of excitement on his face every time I creep up for a comment. He loves the program, the kids, and the legacy he's troweled in brick by brick.

Fort Madison is building it's own new legacy in track and field. We have some great performances this year from great kids. Adam Sobczak hasn't come across a hurdle he can't look down on as he sails by. Avery and Addison Rump are two of the most complete athletes we've seen a while. And they both are just lovely doves in a flock. Mara Smith will beat you at just about anything, and Caden Barnes can throw a lead ball like a musket.

We've got athletes, we've got coaches, and we've got support systems that we should stack up against anyone in the area. Will we ever best the economics that are pillaging rural Iowa high school sports programs? Who knows. Maybe something will balance things out a bit, and the state has taken a few steps like they did with incorporating free and reduced lunch data into the BED classification system.

We have a ways to go, but the foundation is growing as was seen this season. We've got the right people, with the right ambitions, in the right community.

And it wasn't just the wet socks - running exhausts me. Even if I'm just watching - But that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is editor and co-owner of Pen City Current and can be reached at [Charles.V@PenCityCurrent.com](mailto:Charles.V@PenCityCurrent.com).

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