

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Monday, July 22, 2024 | 7 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 123



www.pencitycurrent.com

BOS to mull suit against FM

MONDAY: Possible action on 302nd Avenue drainage issue on agenda again

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC Editor

LEE COUNTY – Lee County Supervisors are moving forward with action against the City of Fort Madison with regard to problems on 302nd Avenue where the county claims the city's PORT trail has caused drainage issues.

The county met in closed session earlier this year to discuss imminent legal action, and the topic, with possible legal action against the city, is again on the agenda for Monday's meeting.

The county and the city have a 28E agreement which

would require the city to restore the drainage system that was there previously and relocate the trail if a compromise on the drainage problems can't be found.

The county and city agreed to an easement for the P.O.R.T. trail to be constructed on the county right of way, with assurances that the city would maintain the trail and construction wouldn't cause any damage to other county property.

County officials have offered to allow the city to take possession of the street where they claim damage is being done, but city officials have balked at that sugges-

See COUNTY, page 6



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

With the P.O.R.T trail, on left, constructed, city and county officials are butting heads over who's responsible for the damage to 302nd Avenue, visible on the right. County officials are discussing the issue again today in the Board of Supervisors' meeting with a court filing on the horizon if a compromise can't be reached.

CITY NEWS

Police investigating Thursday assault in Old Settler's Park

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Police are investigating an assault that took place at Old Settlers Park Thursday evening.

According to information from the Fort Madison Police Department, a fight occurred at about 5

p.m. in the park among approximately eight people, one who brandished a pistol.

Fort Madison Police Chief Mark Rohloff said witnesses reported they observed one of the subjects was on the ground being punched by an-

other. It also appeared that assailant had a black pistol in his hand and pointed it at the one on the ground.

A video of the incident has been provided to police and officers con-

See FIGHT, page 6

COMMENTARY



Is capitalism headed for a reality check?

Editor's Note: This week's Beside the Point was originally written last week, but postponed due to the attempted assassination of 2024 presidential candidate Donald Trump.

Some people say there's a capitalism hunta coming. Not a hunta of a seizure per say, but a transition resulting from economics.

I spent the last five days trying to get my daughter back to New York City after a week's stay with my family in Tennessee.

For the past four years, I felt like many national institutions including retail, health care, and legal institutions have been failing Americans. Not just me, but most people like me, or those that have taken similar paths.

Healthcare has become an institution of revenue, and only an institution of bonafide health care, when and if it makes sense, for the institution. Hospitals need to be run by legitimate doctors of people. Not former CFOs or bankers or hedge fund managers. Doctors.

But that's just sour grapes, right?

How about an airline that refused to let a passenger on a flight who was at the ticket counter 45 minutes before the flight took off. This airline had ONE person at the counter to help her after the kiosk booking system was shut down 45 minutes before the flight took off.

We had one bag, and yeah, we were up against it. But they weren't selling the seat (at least they weren't supposed to have sold the seat). She had a ticket and we were willing to forget

See GREED, page 6

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WEATHER

MON 22 Jul..... Sunny with slight chance of thunderstorms, 82° F/ 64° F
TUE 23 Jul..... Sunny, 83° F/ 66° F
WED 24 Jul..... Sunny, 82° F/ 63° F

IOWA LOTTERY

DOUBLE PLAY 07/20.....	10 14 31 34 67, Powerball: 20
LOTTO AMERICA 07/20.....	6 7 13 16 36, Star Ball: 1 All Star Bonus: 4
LUCKY FOR LIFE 07/20.....	14 19 20 35 46, Lucky Ball: 11
MEGA MILLIONS 07/19.....	10 17 23 50 67, Mega Ball: 3 Megaplier: 3
PICK 3 MIDDAY 07/18, 07/19, 07/20.....	8 8 7, 4 2 5, 2 9 4
PICK 3 EVENING 07/18, 07/19, 07/20.....	7 9 6, 2 4 9, 8 9 6
PICK 4 MIDDAY 07/18, 07/19, 07/20.....	7 4 1 7, 6 4 9 7, 6 1 1 0
PICK 4 EVENING 07/18, 07/19, 07/20.....	7 8 8 2, 9 8 6 3, 8 4 7 0
POWERBALL 07/20.....	18 25 31 40 57, Powerball: 4 Power Play: 3

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Obituaries/Illinois News

Hamilton Police rescue 65-year-old man from river

BY PCC STAFF

HAMILTON - Hamilton Police Department Chief of Police Mike Boley reports that at approximately 5 a.m. on today's date, a call was received in reference to a citizen that had been missing overnight in the flood waters near the Spring Island Campground.

It was reported that the 65-year-old Hamilton resident had last been seen or heard from at approximately 8 p.m. on Friday by a relative who he had been kayaking with in the flood waters of the Mississippi River. The individuals had been attempting to access a camp site at the campground, but got separated, and one subject never arrived to the agreed upon destination.

A search-and-rescue operation was then put into place in an attempt to locate the missing man.

At approximately 9 a.m., a Hamilton Police Department officer was utilizing a kayak to search the area and located the missing subject partially submerged in the flood waters. The Warsaw Fire Department then assisted the Hamilton Police Department in getting the subject back to land where he was able to be treated by Hancock County EMS.

Hamilton Police Chief Micheal Boley said investigation is considered closed and thanked those who assisted with rescuing the subject.

Assisting the Hamilton Police Department in the rescue were the Warsaw Fire Department, Hancock County Sheriff's Office, Hancock County EMS, Hancock County Dispatch and 911, Keokuk Fire Department, and the Keokuk Volunteer Emergency Corps.

The name of the man rescued was not released by Hamilton Police.

OBITUARIES

JOSEPH K. SINK

Joseph K. Sink (Papa), of Fort Madison, Iowa, went to be with his Heavenly Father on July 17, 2024, surrounded by his family. He was born on May 3, 1965 to Tracy D. Sink and Doris (Casto) Sink. He was united in marriage to Anna M. Walters on October 10, 1993. He is survived by his wife and children, Kieth Sink (Nikki), Amber



SINK

Mott (Jerome), Fred Behm (TBD), and Ashley Woodworth (Mike) and his grandchildren Julie and Allie Sink, Aleisha and Jacob Mott, Freddy and Bella Behm, Cailyn Neal and Dawson Jones, Derick, Dylon and Kylee Woodworth. He is also survived by his Uncle Bill (Cynthia) Sink and many friends who became family. Joseph was a man of God and very dedicated to his church. He volunteered with many

local charitable organizations. He really enjoyed playing Santa for the kids. He loved to fish and spend time with his family. He was very knowledgeable and shared his wisdom with many. He was preceded in death by his parents, in laws and his best fur buddy Bruce. A celebration of life will be held at the Stake Center in Nauvoo, Illinois on August 3, 2024, at 10:00 am. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the family to help with final expenses.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

07/18/24 - 3:40 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2600 block of Avenue L.

07/18/24 - 4:13 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3100 block of Avenue M.

07/18/24 - 5:53 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3000 block of Avenue M.

07/18/24 - 7:46 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident on Tammy Lane.

07/18/24 - 8:18 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 4500 block of Avenue O.

07/18/24 - 5:34 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a

report of a property damage accident in the 2300 block of Avenue L.

07/18/24 - 7:43 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1600 block of 37th Street.

07/18/24 - 8:16 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Cory Marvin Ransdell, 55, of West Point in the 5000 block of Avenue O, on a charge of drive while license revoked or suspended.

07/19/24 - no time listed - Fort Madison police cited Anna Marie Breuer, 47, of Ottumwa at the police station, on a charge of 5th-degree theft.

07/19/24 - 3:30 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Cheyenne Nicole Smith, 28, of Fort Madison in the 2200 block of Avenue L, on a charge of public intoxication. She was held in Lee

County Jail.

07/19/24 - 7:44 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 5200 block of River Valley Road.

Keokuk Police Report

07/18/24 - 11:43 a.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2600 block of Main Street.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

07/18/24 - no time listed - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Luis Tecpanecatl, 18, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on charges of indecent exposure and violation of probation. He was held in Lee County Jail.

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

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Lunch Specials
July 22 - 26
11am - 1pm

Monday, July 22
Tenderloin, Tater Tots, Baked Beans

Tuesday, July 23
Chicken & Noodles, Mashed Potatoes

Wednesday, July 24
Spaghetti, Breadstick, Cottage Cheese

Thursday, July 25
Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, July 26
Grilling on the Sidewalk

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PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

BRENDA M. DICKENSON

Brenda Marie Dickenson, 63, of Keokuk, passed away on Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at her home in Keokuk.

Brenda was born on February 23, 1961, in Keokuk, Iowa, the daughter of Bradford and Patricia (Bryant) Picton. She graduated from Keokuk High School in 1978 and went on to receive her CNA certificate. On June 12, 2010, she was united in marriage to Daniel Dickenson in Keokuk, Iowa. He survives.



DICKENSON

Brenda was employed at Lexington Square and other area nursing homes, and also worked at Keokuk Area Hospital, retiring at the age of 62. During high school, she was a Keokuk Little Feather, was a 3rd degree blackbelt, and enjoyed dancing tap, jazz and ballet. She had many hobbies she enjoyed throughout the years, including swimming, riding the motorcycle, singing, listening to music, and traveling. Brenda was known for her incredible Halloween parties, and her love for her family and others. She was a softball coach and Brownie leader for her daughter, and loved her dog Buddy dearly.

Brenda is survived by her husband Daniel Dickenson of Keokuk; six children: Krystal, Brad and Ashley Dickenson, Dereck and Jessica Harwood and Alisha Harwood-Szalma; grandchildren: Dallas Harwood, Nevaeh Poindexter, Ryder Szalma, Zoltan Szalma, Matthew Picton, Darren Harwood, Devin Harwood, Donaven Harwood, Chevy Bittner and several step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Brenda is preceded in death by her parents and her sister Barbara Picton.

Brenda's life will be celebrated with a visitation from 1 to 3 pm on Monday, July 22, 2024, at Printy Funeral Home, 917 Blondeau Street, Keokuk, Iowa.

Memorials may be directed to the funeral home for expenses.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.printyfuneralhome.com.

Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.

LINDA PICKEREL

Linda Pickerel, 86, of Ft. Madison, IA, passed away on Thursday, July 18, 2024, at 2:50 PM at River Hills Village in Keokuk, IA.

She was born on October 7, 1937, in Mozier, IL, to Harold and Hazel Hack Bailey. On August 29, 1959, she married Kenneth Pickerel in Kampsville, IL, and he passed away on April 29, 2022. Linda was a homemaker and a member of Sacred Heart Church. She loved to draw, paint and read mystery novels. Linda also enjoyed collecting Santas at Christmas time and was an avid Hawkeye fan.



PICKEREL

Survivors include one son, Christopher (Elizabeth) Pickerel of Burkburnett, TX; one daughter, Suzanne Scancella of Ft. Madison; two grandsons, Bryan Scancella and Justin Majors; one sister, Shirley (Tom) Macaully of Las Cruces, New Mexico; & one niece and one nephew. She was preceded in death by her parents and husband.

Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. There will be no formal services at this time. Online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

OBITUARIES

GLORIA J. MILLER

Gloria Jean Miller, 90, of Warsaw, passed away on Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at her home in Warsaw, Illinois.

Gloria was born on June 5, 1934, in Keokuk, Iowa, the daughter of George and Veva (Gillette) Bowles. She graduated from Keokuk High School in 1952, and on April 13, 1958, she was united in marriage to Henry Dale "Hank" Miller in Keokuk. He preceded her in death on February 1, 2024.



MILLER

Gloria was employed at Thomas Truck and Caster Company in Keokuk, Iowa, and worked on the family farm, later working at K-Mart until her retirement at the age of 65. After retirement, she went back to work at Farm and Home in Keokuk, Iowa, retiring once again at the age of 80. She was extremely talented at solving any puzzles, especially crosswords, and enjoyed gardening, canning many vegetables throughout her life. In her younger years, she enjoyed dancing and square dancing, which is where she met her husband Hank.

Gloria is survived by her son Michael Miller of Hamilton, Illinois; her daughter Carla McClain of Warsaw; her brother Gary (Mary Jo) Bowles of Marion, Iowa; five grandchildren: Jonathan Miller of Hamilton, Justin Miller of Hamilton, Amy (Luke) Newlan of New London, Iowa, Adam Miller of Keokuk, Iowa and Alexis (Justin) Woolverton of Niota, Illinois; five great-grandchildren: Alex and Aaron Brother-ton, Abigail Newlan, and Briley and Natalie Miller; one niece and one nephew; and several cousins.

Gloria is preceded in death by her parents, her husband Hank and her granddaughter Danielle McClain.

A memorial service will be held at 11 am on Saturday, July 27, 2024, at Printy Funeral Home in Warsaw, with burial to follow at Oakland Cemetery in Warsaw. Visitation will be held at the funeral home on Saturday, July 27, from 10 am to 11 am directly before the service.

Memorials may be directed to the family for expenses.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.printyfuneralhome.com.

Printy Funeral Home of Warsaw is in charge of arrangements.

Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
****MONDAY****
July 22, 2024
MEETING CONVENING TIME: 10:00 A.M.
933 AVE H

-----AGENDA-----

Lee County Board of Supervisors
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Pledge of Allegiance
 Approve Agenda
 10:01 a.m. Public Hearing for Amendment of FY25 County Budget
 Consider Approval of

Resolution Amending FY25 County Budget
 Consider Approval of Resolution Amending Appropriations for FY25
 Public Input
 Discussion and Possible Action on Lawsuit with City of Fort Madison for Breach of Contract Concerning 302nd Avenue
 Consider Approval for Chair to Sign Iowa Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program Application
 Receive Recommendation on Newberry Center from Building Study Committee
 Consent Agenda
 • Monday, July 15, 2024
 Board Minutes
 • Claims for Payment
 Personnel Actions:
 A. Step Increase - Conservation Department
 B. Step Increases (3) - EMS
 C. Reclassification - Treasurer's Office
 Reports:
 A. Commission of Veteran Affairs Minutes of Meeting
 B. Commission of Veteran Affairs Quarterly Report
 Commission or Com-

mittee Reports
 Adjourn

PUBLIC MEETING

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From the Front

Capitalism suffocating under pressure of greed

GREED - Cont' d from Page 1

about the bag and just ship it ourselves.

This guy at the counter had his earbuds in and was talking on the phone while taking his sweet time helping the person in front of us. No conversation between the customer and the agent, just the agent talking to whomever was more important on his phone.

After 15 minutes he told the customer in front of us, he was all set and sent him on his way, only asked us "wathcha need" and told Tay she would not make her flight. He said we could catch a standby and maybe get out by 5 or 6 p.m. We were there at 10 a.m.

Tay was trying to make a shift at her job and we should have left sooner. We admit that, but there was time to catch that flight and that airline had absolutely no sense of urgency in helping one passenger. There wasn't anyone behind her and there was nothing else pressing on this agent other than whomever was on the phone in his ear.

We left, drove back to Fort Madison from St. Louis, and booked another flight at 5 p.m. on Friday. I got two more days with my kid, but lost about \$400 in airline charges. The previous Sunday, she was to fly out of Knoxville, but that flight was delayed, delayed, and delayed again, then canceled. They offered her a hotel stay and flight out the next day into Newark, not LaGuardia. She roadtripped home with me and we booked the Wednesday crapshow out of St. Louis.

Traveling is almost not worth the effort anymore. Gas prices are prohibitive, the airline industry is a disaster. We found an article from June of this year that said the air traffic control industry is 3,000 employees short - 3,000. Heard of any close calls lately? Been to an airport and seen the flashing "DELAY" and "CANCELED" indicators all over the boards?

If the market is going to create difficulties in getting from point A to point B and it's because highly profitable corporations won't react appropriately to the minimum wage established under the pandemic, but the government, people are not going to want to go back to work.

The only way this works is for profit margins to reflect living wages that include health insurance and retirement benefits.

Companies are going to have to see that employees are, as they always have been, the triggering resource to your profitability. Without them, you're gonna get market slammed. In the meantime, the employees you do have are overworked, feel underpaid, under appreciated, and are certainly underperforming.

I ran businesses for 20 years. I'm not speaking out of turn. I got out of the business because I saw the quality of employees diminishing due to poor parenting at home. Throw a pandemic in there where everyone



got paid for staying at home, and got paid well I might add, and you've got a serious problem.

Retail is getting bad because good employees are staying home. These are the low wage positions that won't hold up to people's demand for their

to wait on me now. Not once did it enter his mind, as the main point of contact for that sale, that his team cost their employer money that night.

I really try to keep this weekly commentary lighter and put a smile on people's faces when I can, but I'm frightened by where this country is headed. We are not the shining beacon on the hill. Conservatives will know what that means. And we stopped asking what we can do for our country. Liberals will know what that means.

own time. It is more important now than the wage because the wage isn't attractive.

Some industries are starting to react and have abandoned minimum wage positions in favor of what the market is demanding. But those same companies are holding their profit margins by simply reducing the number of people on a shift. I sat in a drive thru two weeks ago for more than 10 minutes. I pulled around only to be told that they were behind and were doing the best they can. I said I'm sure you are, but here's the good news, you don't have to wait on me anymore. And I drove home.

That's not being mean to that employee. I've been there and done that. He knew and I doubt very seriously he cared. I was right. He didn't have

Somebody has to take the first step. To sacrifice for the greater good. In lieu of that we can expect more debates like the one we had a couple weeks ago where we shake our heads and let them fall where our chins sit on our chest. Wondering how the mighty have fallen.

The smile today comes from having two extra days with Tay, seeing a fairly large, black bear patrolling the property line at our cabin on a warm Saturday afternoon, and riding my first mountain roller coaster. I needed a ginger ale after the second trip down because I didn't use the brakes and spun a little too fast for my equilibrium - 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.

Supervisors to vote on \$1.1 million budget change

COUNTY - Cont' d from Page 1

tion.

Supervisor Tom Schulz met with the city council at a regular meeting in May to try to explain the county's position. Schulz is a former Fort Madison City Councilman who was on the council when the plans were drawn up for the P.O.R.T. trail expansion up 15th Street to Rodeo Park.

Drainage issues started near Gethsemane Cemetery where storm water was running onto 302nd Avenue and causing damage to the roadway. City officials contend that the county signed off on the engineering plans for the trail.

Fort Madison Public Works Director Mark Boussetot said the city has taken steps to improve drainage along the roadway between the cemetery and the trail.

Lee County Attorney Ross Braden sent letters to city officials in February and again in May discussing the drainage issue and possible remedies of law available to the county under the 28E.

The May letter also informed the city of the county's intent to file a claim in North Lee County District Court to enforce the 28E. The letter also outlined a possible annexation of 302nd Avenue in lieu of any legal action.

Monday's agenda item in front of the Supervisors includes discussion and possible action.

Other agenda items include:

- a public hearing and vote on FY 25 budget amendment moving the total 2025 fiscal year budget to \$44.5 million from \$43.4 million. Increases included a \$6,000 increase in the sheriff's department, \$210,000 in the IT department, \$230,000 in the Ambulance department, and \$670,000 in non-departmental expenses.

- consider recommendations on county-owned Newberry Center in Fort Madison from the county's Building Study Committee. The county discussed raising the rent charged to UFCW Local 617 from the current rate of \$400.

Investigation into Thursday assault underway

FIGHT - Cont' d from Page 1

ducted a search for the vehicles and those involved throughout the city.

Those involved in the fight left the park with companions in separate vehicles moments before police officers arrived on the scene Thursday.

At this time no victim has come forward, and the investigation is pending the location of those believed to be involved in the incident.

SWING FOR A CURE

4-PERSON BEST SHOT

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Sponsorships

Corporate Sponsor \$1000

Type 1 Sponsor \$500

Hole Sponsor \$150

Teams

Team of 4 people \$400

Registration

Player 1 _____

Player 2 _____

Player 3 _____

Player 4 _____

FOR MORE DETAILS ON SPONSORSHIP CONTACT ALLISON AREVALO 319-470-5167