## PEN CITY CUR.

It's Black & White and Read all over

Monday, January 6, 2025 | 12 pages | Volume 9 • Issue 9









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## **TOP STORIES MAY-AUGUST 2024** Barge strikes BNSF bridge



Patrons of Turnwater Bar and Grill watch as a towboat tries to move a section of a barge that broke free after striking the BNSF Bridge in Fort Madison closer to shallow waters Thursday at about 1:30 p.m.

#### **SINKS:** Barge sinks at city's riverfront after hitting BNSF bridge in Fort Madison

May 9 - Webviews: 5,814, **Facebook: 17,232** 

FORT MADISON - A southbound barge struck the Burlington Northern Santa Fe bridge Thursday causing the barge sections to separate and at least one to begin to sink in the Mississippi River Thursday afternoon at about 1:15 p.m.

The barge struck the north side of the open swingspan causing at least four sections to break free. One tucked up against the side of the bridge, the other sections passed through and made their way down river.

A tugboat from Ingram Barge Co. appeared to be pushing a section to the shallower water to keep the section from sinking, but it broke free and got back into the channel while the boats were chasing other sections of the barge.

Law enforcement officials barricaded the bridge after the vehicles on the Iowa side of the bridge had to back down the bridge. Fort Madison Police Chief Mark Rohloff said the bridge is closed but didn't know how long it would be shut down.

BNSF officials couldn't be reached for comment. The towboat that was moving sections of the barge is owned by Ingram Barge Co. based out of Nashville, Tenn, a subsidiary of Ingram Industries.

Motorists that were on the bridge at the time of the collision were forced to back off the bridge and find different routes to Illinois.

#### NFL works with Rodeo committee for television commercial

#### **August 12 - Webviews: 2,240, Facebook: 18,315**

FORT MADISON - It wasn't the usual size of a rodeo crowd at C.E. "Eddie" Richards Arena.

It will look like a packed house in the commercial that was being filmed.

A production company from Los Angeles, North of Now, was in southeast Iowa to film a commercial for the National Football League, and Fort Madison's rodeo arena was chosen as one of the locations.

A call to Tri-State Rodeo Committee chairman Bobby Holtkamp put the production into motion, and on Monday night, an estimated 200 people showed up to be in the grandstands as part of the commercial that is expected to air sometime this football season.

"A couple of weeks ago, I got a call from a producer in Los Angeles," Holtkamp said. "I didn't know how serious it was, but they were persistent and kept calling me, and here we are."

Laurent Lawson, a coordinator for the shoot, said scenes for the commercial have been shot in Texas and Utah, with shots in Illinois and California still scheduled.

### Details released in June boating accident

June 20 - Webviews: 11,615, Facebook: 15,209

FORT MADISON - More details have been released on the boating accident that occurred at around 6:45 p.m. Wednesday.

According to Fort Madison police, Carlos Tecpanectal, 21, of Fort Madison was injured when he fell off the front of the boat as it was traveling forward.

The driver of the boat was Zachariah Raines, 23, also of Fort Madison. Raines was given field sobriety tests and was taken by Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources staff for a blood test, but results of that test have not been released.

There were six occupants in the boat when Tecpanectal went into the river north of Fort Madison. Police said Tecpanectal was struck multiple times by the propeller after he was overrun by the boat and suffered multiple lacerations. The occupants administered first aid on the way back to Willow Patch where they were met by first responders, who were initially dispatched to the marina.

He was transported by AirEvac to University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics for injuries sustained in the accident.

### **BNSF** announces bridge closures

June 20 - Webviews: 612, **Facebook: 14,782** 

FORT MADISON - The bridge over the Mississippi River between Fort Madison and Niota will see substantial closures this summer and fall for maintenance.

According to a release from Burlington Northern Santa Fe on Monday, the bridge will be closed to auto traffic in August and from September through November.

In a statement released, the railroad indicated the following:

"In the interest of public safety, the Fort Madison bridge will temporarily close to automobiles for necessary repairs from Aug. 5 through Aug. 30, 2024, and again Sept. 9 through Nov. 22, 2024

Illinois State Route 9 between Niota, IL and Fort Madison.

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#### MON 06 Jan....

Partly sunny and cold, 21° F/ 4° F TUE 07 Jan. ...Sunny and cold, 19° F/ 4° F

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LUCKY FOR LIFE 01/04	3 9 27 29 33, Lucky Ball: 6
MEGA MILLIONS 01/0320	42 46 59 69, Mega Ball: 19 Megaplier: 4
	086,594,431
PICK 3 EVENING 01/02, 01/03, 01/04	<b>4</b> 102,025,204
PICK 4 MIDDAY 01/02, 01/03, 01/04	5570,1249,4931
PICK 4 EVENING 01/02, 01/03, 01/0	<b>4</b> 4686,4239,4675
	32 43 54 56, Powerball: 24 Power Play: 2

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### County hits snag on speed cameras

June 10 - Webviews: 2,860, **Facebook: 14.853** 

LEE COUNTY - A glitch in the wording, along with some generosity of the county, could end up forcing the county to shelve its automated enforcement cameras until 2026.

The county was notified last week by an Iowa Department of Transportation official that according to the specific language of House File 2681 signed in May of this year, because the county hadn't issued any citations before the end of the year, they may not be able to keep using the automated enforcement system currently in place on Hwy. 27.

The new law allows for agencies that had systems in place prior to Jan. 1, 2024, to continue to operate the systems in the same fashion they had prior to that date.

However, Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said the county was issuing warnings in December as part of a data collection process.

Weber said he's looking for an opinion from County Attorney Ross Braden on the new law, but said for now, the county will continue to use the enforcement systems to try to slow down traffic on Hwy. 27.

Lee County Supervisor Garry Seyb said he's aware of the issue, but has been told by area legislators that Lee County is "good to go".

"I am aware of one DOT official who has expressed there may be some concern," Seyb said.

The bill was signed into law on May 17th and puts permitting and regulation of the camera systems in the hands of the DOT. It also defines what the revenue can be used for. That will likely require the county to revisit the ordinance.

### **Boating accident** sends one to hospital

June 10 - Webviews: 6,554,

**Facebook: 12,232** 

FORT MADISON - Area first responders were called to the Mississippi River at about 6:30 p.m. Wednesday for a boater who had been injured north of the city.

A male subject was lifted from a boat at the Willow Patch river access and put in a Lee County EMS ambulance to await AirEvac to transport him to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics with severe

Details of the incident weren't released by authorities. His condition will not be made public due to federal HIPAA regulations.

First responders originally resported to the marina, but were then redirected by LeeComm to Willow Patch, which is where the boat was able to get to land.

An officer on the scene was observed administering sobriety tests to the boat operator after the victim had been taken away in the helicopter.

Fort Madison Police, Lee County Sheriff's deputies, Lee County EMS personnel, Fort Madison Fire & Rescue, and AirEvac personnel responded to the scene.

Fort Madison firefighters had the department rescue boat and were on the way to the scene as reports indicated the boat had become disabled, however the boaters who administered first aid to the victim on the boat, were able to get the boat moving.

### County sheriff's K-9s to get safety vests

June 10 - Webviews: 917 **Facebook: 11,308** 

MONTROSE - Lee County Sheriff's Office's deputy K9 Mack will receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc.

K9 Mack's vest is sponsored will be embroidered with the sentiment "In memory of K9 Hobbs, Des Moines, IA - EOW 12/12/23". Delivery is expected within eight to ten weeks.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., established in 2009, is a 501(c)(3) charity whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States.

This potentially lifesaving body armor for four-legged K9 officers is U.S. made, custom fitted, and NIJ certified. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. has provided over 5,627 vests to K9s in all 50 states at a value of \$6.9 million, made possible by both private and corporate donations.

The program is open to U.S. dogs that are at least 20 months old and actively employed and certified with law enforcement or related agencies. K9s with expired vests are also eligible to participate. There are an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. accepts tax-deductible

contributions in any amount, while a single donation of \$985 will sponsor one vest. Each vest has a value of \$1,800.00, weighs an average of 4-5 lb., and comes with a five-year warranty.

For more information, or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts donations at www.vik9s.org, or you may mail your contribution to P.O. Box 9, East Taunton, MA 02718.







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#### Aspire residents evacuated

Aug. 28 - Webviews: 5,305, Facebook: 10,784

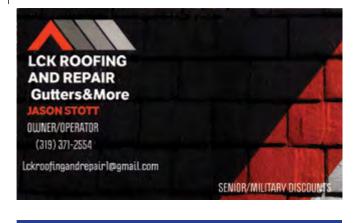
DONNELLSON - According to state and local officials, residents at the Aspire of Donnellson senior care center were transferred out of the facility late Tuesday

A spokesperson at the Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals and Licensing said state officials were on hand Tuesday night overseeing the transfer of patients at about 8:30 p.m.

Calls to Ashleigh Hackel, general counsel for DIAL went unreturned Wednesday, but Donnellson Police Chief Brad Roberts confirmed the closure and transfer of patients, but directed all questions to the DIAL officials.

Roberts said he offered assistance in moving residents at the facility, however state officials said the assistance wasn't necessary.

An answering machine at the facility located at 901 State Street in Donnellson directed messages to Talisa Jacobs as the on-site administrator, however messages weren't returned.







#### **Lee County Health Department Hospice**

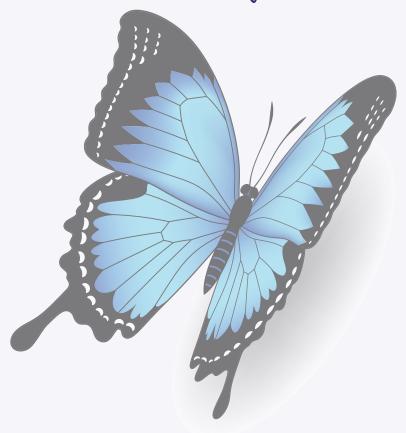
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### Bushong's celebrates 100 years

**May 14 - Webviews: 917 Facebook: 11,451** 

FORT MADISON - There's probably not a lot of people who really know who Dana Bushong was, or more specifically, were.

The relevant part of that query is they ultimately laid the foundation for a jewelry store that is been in Fort Madison for 100 years.

Skip Young is the current fourth generation owner of Dana Bushong Jewelers in downtown Fort Madison. He's the descendant of two Dana Bushongs - Dana Ulysses Bushong and Dana Mosier Bushong, father and son. Skip is Dana Mosier's grandson and Dana Ulysses' great-grandson.

The two Danas left Bay City, Michigan in 1919 as a 40-year-old father and a 20-year-old son because they had heard of this amazing "pen man" W. A. Sheaffer in Fort Madison and they wanted to become associated with the business.

"They walked into W.A. Shaeffer's office when it was in what is now Dr. (Mark) Pothitakis' offices and introduced themselves. The younger Dana had acquired the skill of copying signatures and doing hand-engraving from a prisoner in Michigan," Young said.

"I don't know how the two of them got together, but

I did hear that the older Dana knew the prisoner and they spent time with him learning how to perfect that skill."

The skill was actually forgery, Young said, but it was never used with that intent by his grandfather. However, he said he felt the prisoner was incarcerated for something along those lines.

The younger Bushong worked with that prisoner and learned that doing the signatures upside down and inverted was a way to perfect copying signatures.





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### FM Housing authority experiencing growth

July 17 - Webviews: 944 Facebook: 9,247

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Housing Authority Director Michael Dear told city officials Tuesday night that the housing authority is experiencing a resurgency.

Dear gave the presentation as part of the regular Fort Madison City Council meeting.

He said he's going on two years with the authority and there are resets taking place all over the housting authority's

Dear said FMHA has about 10 vacancies and he called that unfortunate and fortunate at the same

"They are not fully occupied. I'm gonna say that's unfortunate and fortunate at the same time," Dear said. "We are taking advantage of the vacancies to go further than just deep cleaning and trying to create something sustainable for the future. The next families that come will really experience



DEAR

City Manager Laura Liegois said she has toured the facility apartments and there are some complete resets with new cabinetry, carpet, and appliances among other upgrades being brought into the facilities.

Dear said he's also working on bringing additional services to Hillview for senior residents there including dental services, mental health services, and other needed services to address more than just providing housing.

"My job is to help people who need help. It's one thing to give them keys, but they also need keys to life," Dear said. "I've been reaching out to community partners and did some outreach at Salvation Army to let people know what's going

"If you walk into Hillview today, there's been a reset out there. We've been thinking how we make it easier for folks that are disabled to get around Hillview and also to get outside the facility."

He said they have also been doing compliance checks on all units under the program. He said it's important to keep tabs on what's going on with residents in authority units to try to help curb depression.

"Prior to me coming on, compliance checks were not done for a very long time. I've been inside every one of these places. Clutter and depression go side-by-side. Look it up," he said.

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## Redd gets 17 years for robbing FM Hardee's

Aug. 20 - Webviews: 1,536 Facebook: 9,419

FORT MADISON - An 8th District judge has sentenced a Fort Madison man to at least 17 years in prison after a conviction on charges of felony robbery and assault.

On Friday, Shaukim Redd, 31, of Fort Madison was ordered to serve 25 years for Robbery in the 1st Degree, and five years for assault while participating in a felony in connection with a robbery at the Fort Madison Hardee's at 15th Street and

The mandatory minimum for count one requires that Redd is to serve a minimum of 17.5 years within the Iowa Department of Corrections before he can be considered for parole. The sentences are to run concurrently, or at the same time. Redd was immediately placed into the custody and was transported to the Iowa Department of Corrections.

Redd was found guilty of the charges on

The incident occurred November 7, 2023 when Redd entered the store between 7:45 p.m. and 8 p.m. His face was covered with a cinched black hooded sweatshirt to conceal his identity. He hopped the counter, armed with a knife and began demanding the cashier open the cash drawer. The cashier was unable to comply and prior to fleeing the scene the man punched the shift manager in the face resulting in significant injuries. He cut his hand when he punched her and left a trail of blood leading out the



May 2 - Webviews: 1,402 Facebook: 9.776

FORT MADISON - When it's helping on movie sets, styling hair, or even pruning plants, Fort Madison's Aimee Gauley is going to find an outlet for her creative energy.

The owner of Aimee's Salon on 9th Street in downtown Fort Madison has just self-published a book based in Fort Madison, but fictional in nature. And not only has she published the book, but said there is also a movie deal in the works.

Gauley, who's served as an associate producer on several movie sets and has also been employed as a make-up and hair and special effects artist on sets said there are plans to shoot her murder mystery novel Hunter and Prey.

Gauley self-published the book at her own cost, but then has been marketing it regionally and grabbed the attention of festival producers who have shown interest in filming the book, which has prompted Gauley to develop a screenplay before actually finishing the thriller.

She had sent a portion of the novel to a production company who jumped at the chance to produce a full length film based on the novel. Gauley is working with Barnes and Noble in Iowa City who she said at first wasn't interested in self-published works.

"Until they were like 'Oh, its already been optioned for a movie' and I told them I stopped writing the book to finish the screenplay after the production company read the first part of the book and wanted to put it on their slate of projects," she said.



### **FMHS 2024 Prom Court**

May 3 - Webviews: 1,102 **Facebook: 10,278** 

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison High School Prom Court was announced this week at an allschool assembly.

Seniors being named to the King's Court were Jan De Gracia Hernandez, Aiden Benda, Javean Davis,

Jamarkus Kline, Henry Wiseman, and Nathan Bowen.

The Queen Court included Lily Arnold, Jordyn Burch, Aija Jenkins, Olivia Kraus, Ella Wright, and Miah Wellendorf.

Parents of the court treated the students to breakfast at Turnwater Bar and Grill Friday morning with Prom set for Saturday night.

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## River Road repair comes in high for Montrose

June 2 - Webviews: 803 Facebook: 8,866

MONTROSE – A bid to permanently fix the Mississippi River Road just south of Montrose has come in at \$700,000.

Montrose Mayor Matt Mullins said Thursday that he received the bid from Geo Stabilization International of Minneapolis/St. Paul and reviewed it on Monday.

Mullins said there are some things in the bid that he isn't familiar with and is having it reviewed.

He said one part of the bid allows the company to charge up to \$1,200/hour for down time in the event that something would halt work on the road.

"I reviewed it Monday and I'm not familiar with some of the language in there. If it was for a building or clinic or something I would understand it, but this is different. I've sent it to Garry Seyb at Lee County Supervisors to look at," Mullins said. He said the issue will be put in front of the Montrose City Council for discussion but nothing is being voted on.

Seyb said the county is helping the city connect the dots to groups that could provide assistance.

Mullins said he's also working with local, state and federal officials to try and find funding sources, but the city has other issues at hand as well.

For the past dozen years or so heavy rains have caused, at different times, a portion of the Mississippi River Road to collapse towards the Mississippi River.

The city is in a fact-finding stage with regard to the road, but is also having to deal with very pressing concerns at the sewer plant.

Mullins said in a recent story, there are several broken pieces of equipment at the sewer plant but it's still meeting Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Agency benchmarks for water discharge into the river.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PC0

Michael Mohrfeld, of MM Real Estate, talks with the Fort Madison Planning and Zoning Commission Wednesday night about the company's Jefferson Apartments proposal.

## Mohrfeld rolls out plans for new apartments in Fort Madison

June 19 - Webviews: 1,468 Facebook: 8,310

FORT MADISON – A city panel approved a rezoning request Wednesday that sets the stage for a multi-unit housing project on the former Jefferson Elementary School property.

The Fort Madison Planning & Zoning commission heard comments in Council Chambers from advocates and opponents of an 80-unit, four-building complex being proposed by Michael and Jillian Mohrfeld, owners of MM Real Estate in Fort Madison.

Michael Mohrfeld said the complex will help the city keep from leaking potential residents to area communities, specifically Burlington and Keokuk. Mohrfeld is currently involved on a multi-unit project in Keokuk, and his other Mohrfeld companies have been part of numerous projects in Burlington.

The Mohrfelds also own GreenOak Development which has built multiple housing units off Bluff Road on Woodland Heights, and the 33rd Street development.

Mohrfeld said more than a year ago he applied for a workforce housing tax credit with the state of Iowa to build homes aimed at attracting workforce to rural Iowa.

He said with the credit, the apartments will not be income restricted.

"A lot of the recent developments we've seen in Fort Madison have been tagged with HUD money and different things that create income restrictions that eliminate potential occupants," he said.



Lunch Specials January 6-11 11am - 1pm

## Monday, January 6th Chicken & Noodles, Mashed Potatoes

Tuesday, January 7th Beef Enchiladas, Spanish Rice

Wednesday, January 8th
Dale's Chili, Peanut Butter Sandwich

Thursday, January 9th Fried Chicken Dinners

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### Koch finishes \$3.6 billion IFC purchase

Aug. 29 - Webviews: 2,450 Facebook: 8,250

WEVER - Koch announced today that it has closed on the purchase of the Iowa Fertilizer Co in Wever.

The \$3.6 billion sale divests OCI Global from its ownership interest in the facility.

The sale marks the end of a controversial ninemonth federal review after Koch Ag & Energy Solutions announced in December that they had made an offer on the large-scale US greenfield nitrogen fertilizer

The deal required multiple regulatory and shareholder approvals and drew the ire of Iowa State Auditor Rob Sand who said OCI was going back on their commitment to increase competition in the fertilizer field by selling to Koch.

In 2012, OCI received more than \$110 million in state incentives, about \$130 million in property tax exemptions through a Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement with Lee County, as well as \$300 million in tax benefits through the sale of disaster bonds for construction of the facility.

Iowa Fertilizer was the first greenfield nitrogen fertilizer plant built in the United States in more than 25 years, and the largest private construction project in Iowa's history, adding more than 3,500 jobs during the construction period.

"This acquisition marks another significant investment in the growth of our fertilizer business," said Mark Luetters, president of Koch Ag & Energy Solutions. "In the past 15 years, we have invested \$2 billion in our North American production facilities to enhance reliability, expand production and improve logistics for our customers. This investment enhances our ability to serve customers long-term by providing additional flexibility to adapt to their nitrogen preferences."

### Barnes wins second straight bass event

July 17 - Webviews: 933 Facebook: 7,804

KEOSAUQUA - Anthony Barnes of Fort Madison was fishing lights out on Lake Sugema to finish at the top of the leader board for the second time this summer. With temperatures reaching in the nineties and with stiff winds anglers caught fish on drop baits, frogs and buzz baits. Water temperature ranged 80-82' degrees. Barnes finished with 91.25 inches.

Rob Needham, Kirksville, Mo. was second place with five fish at 85.25 inches of largemouth bass. Included in his fish limit was a nice 20.625 incher.

Third-place finds angler Ryan Culbertson, West Point, IA. with a 84.50 inch bag of fish including the Big Bass of the tournament with a golly whopper 21.50 inch bass. It has been said he caught them on a special proprietary homemade bait he keeps as a secret.

Fourth place Jeff Eaves of Fort Madison, finished with a very respectful 57 inches.

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### Hawks play Pekin at Field of Dreams

June 24 - Webviews: 1,085

Facebook: 7,124

DYERSVILLE — It's one thing to see the baseball field in a movie.

It's another thing to step on its pitching mound and deliver your own masterful performance, or step up to its home plate and smack a baseball into the corn.

Central Lee wrote its own script on Monday with a 12-2 win over Pekin at the Field of Dreams, five innings and 90 minutes that the Hawks won't forget.

"I mean, it was awesome," said freshman pitcher Blake Davis, who struck out 10 in four innings while allowing just two hits. "You don't get to do this every day. It's a once-in-a-lifetime thing."

The Hawks (12-5) had a nine-run fourth inning to take control, and closed the game on the 10-run rule in the fifth inning when Hunter Edlin's single, his fourth hit of the game, drove in Carter Ellingboe with the game's final run.

The Hawks watched the movie "Field of Dreams" as a team last week, junior Chase Johnson said, but there's a difference seeing the field on the screen and then getting a chance to play on it in real life.

"I thought, wow, we're really going to play on a field that's been in a movie," Johnson said.



## BACK PAIN?

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I'd be stupid to make such a claim if I couldn't back it up. But I am so confident we can help your back, I insist on giving you a 100% SATISFACTION PLEDGE at James Healthcare. I hate empty promises, and I also hate the lies most folks have been told about their backs. That's why it's important I expose these MYTHS about back pain

#### MYTH #1: Sciatica (pain down your leg) is always caused by a herniated disc!

No way...even though most doctors will sell you a \$3,000 MRI at the first sign of leg pain. But they don't tell you about a 5-inch muscle in the hip that can squeeze the sciatic nerve. And it feels EXACTLY like you've got the worst slipped disc on earth. It's a major discovery and...

The good news is that it can be easy and inexpensive to correct! How? Just keep reading! But first, here's a picture to show you where the pain comes from:

#### getting old...and it must be the reason for all your pain and stiffness!

Not true, because thousands of folks with arthritis in their backs have absolutely NO PAIN! Then why do YOU feel like your back will snap if you bend forward or twist too fast? Because the truth is:

Your stiffness may be caused by a hidden, even more dangerous problem than arthritis, and it can lead to a hip replacement!

You see, most folks believe that something mysterious (like maybe an "arthritis fairy"?) waved a wand over them, and they're cursed... doomed to

But did you know that many arthritis problems are CAUSED by a combination of unseen imbalances in the spine and surrounding muscles? It's the most common cause of hip replacements but not that hard to correct if we catch it in time. It's like the tires on

If the alignment is off just a teeny-weeny bit, at first you don't notice, but over a few thousand miles you start to see signs of wear...that is, if you're lucky enough to catch it before a flat on the freeway ruins your day. In your spine, you're lucky if you catch untreated imbalances before they ruin your spine! How to fix them? Just look at Myth #3.

#### MYTH #3: Your Back is "Out"!

Sure, that's exactly how it feels. But guess what, we found that's usually not the case. It sounds good, but we now know better. You see, there are 7 different reasons for that painful, locked-up and stuck feeling

- that causes so much misery
  - low-grade spasm pelvis torque and tension

imbalance of hips

- fallen or dropped arches
- stiff vertebra joint adhesions in leg muscle
- pinched nerve

It's NOT just your spine, and it's NOT just your muscles. As a matter of fact, if one of the major muscles that stabilize the spine is partly spasmed, a "2nd stringer" will have to carry the load. But this is a serious problem...

#### It's like having your plumber doing all the dangerous electrical work!

Sure, he may get it done, and it may work at first, but how long until there's a fire? Or your back locks up? Which leads me to our next myth:

#### MYTH #4: "It's Only a Muscle!"

Boy, it's scary how many people think muscle problems are no big deal. Unfortunately, tight, bound-up, and spasmed or tight muscles can wear out joints faster than you can say, "Charley Horse"!

That's why it's important to examine the spine AT THE SAME TIME as the muscles that it. It's also why we've had such outrageous success with even the worst backs at James Healthcare. Because we deal with BOTH the spine and muscles at the same time. We have spine doctors (chiropractors), pain doctors (nurse practitioners) and muscle professionals (therapists) and together they deliver an outstand ing way to help "bad backs". This ties in to Myth #5 and the diagram:

#### MYTH #5: "Muscle Relaxants" will help your muscles heal! Good grief, NO!

Your muscles tighten up for a reason, and muscle relaxants are like turning back the clock on a time bomb...you know it's still going to blow up! Sure, you may feel better now, but you'll pay later...and pay
"in spades"! So don't fall for these lies about your
low back. They'll keep you hurting, frustrated and exhausted forever!

#### WOULDN'T YOU RATHER: Turn over in bed without pain waking you up?

Get up in the morning without being as stiff as a

Be able to stand for as long as you want without

sitting down for relief?

Lean forward over the sink without that "stabbing"

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- ☐ Bent—crooked off to one side and can't stand up straight if your life depended on it
- ☐ Trigger Point...zinging pain to butt-cheek
- ☐ Stiff as a board...creak and groan when you first get out of bed in the morning ☐ Traitor...can't trust your back and what it's going to
- ☐ Vice-like...constantly locked down tight!
- ☐ Shooting...vicious but short-lived
- Lumbago...hard to pin it down—just seems to hurt all
- the time, but it's hard to say where ☐ One-sided...right at that "bone" on one side
- ☐ Jack hammer...pounding off and on like a heartbeat or a toothache in your back
- Aching from 1-5 years
- Chronic pain for over 5 years

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### FMFD holds first of referendum open houses FM native named

June 12- Webviews: 1,003 Facebook: 6.760

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison fire department opened all its 65-year-old doors to the community Wednesday evening.

The first of three open houses was held at the only fire station in the city to show residents why the city is putting a question on the ballot in November that would permit them to borrow up to \$12 million for the construction of a new facility.

Fire Chief Joey Herren is quick to add that the city will only borrow what, if anything, it needs beyond grants to pay for the structure.

He said he had no expectations initially from the

"I have no clue what to expect. We're going to do it three times. Another one in August and then one in October. And we'll go out to all the groups, the Lions, and Rotary,..." Herren said.

"This is us asking for permission for the \$12 million so we can start working on grants. When I started filling out grants, we were told they were going to ask us if we had the money to pay if you can't get all the grant money. Well, I don't have that now so I need permission from voters to say we do."

The city is also looking to build a new public works facility. But many of the city's public works funds are enterprise funds and they generate revenues which could help with the costs of construction.

Herron said when he started in 1997, the fire de-



A Fort Madison resident leaves the Open House at Fort Madison Fire Department with a yard sign asking residents to support the referendum on the ballot Nov. 5.

partment was doing 300 runs a year, and now they are at 1,800 or so per year.

The new fire station is being planned for space where the current public works buildings are in the 2000 block of Avenue L. The building is designed at approximately 26,000 square foot with living spaces, training spaces, public entry space with restrooms, a workout area, 12 bays, a hose drying tower, bunker gear, cleaning and drying spaces, a mezzanine for additional storage space, and critical decontamination

## to UNI post

Aug. 20- Webviews: 1,003 Facebook: 6,312

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison native Jerry Wollmering was named as the University of Northern Iowa's Senior Associate Athletic Director-Chief Financial Officer on Tuesday.

Wollmering, a 1983 graduate of Fort Madison High School, has been director of athletics at NCAA Division II Truman State University in Kirksville, Mo., for the last 25 years. He will take over his new role at UNI on August 22, and will be responsible for the budgetary and account management for the university's 17 varsity sports teams and athletic facility and equipment operations. He will also serve as a primary advisor to UNI athletics director Megan Franklin on financial operations and strategic planning.

"Jerry Wollmering has served the athletics industry for 26 years gaining a national reputation thanks to his business acumen and creative strategic vision," Franklin said in a statement. "It is our gain at UNI Athletics that he will lend his expertise in serving as the Chief Financial Officer. As we embark on this Legacy Era, Jerry's insights and experiences will provide the acuity to plan and navigate the opportunities and challenges predicated on a sound business plan."

Wollmering was tied as the longest serving AD in Truman State history.

## Keokuk's Hickey named to SEIRMC board

Aug. 19 - Webviews: 1,094 Facebook: 6,237

WEST BURLINGTON - The Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center (SEIRMC) Board of Directors consists of five community business leaders who volunteer their time to guide SEIRMC in fulfilling its mission and

Dave Poland, a member of the Board of Directors since 2012, retired from the Board in June. Poland first served on the Fort Madison Community Hospital Board of Directors before it became Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center. Mike Hickey will replace

Mike Hickey was born and raised in Keokuk, Iowa

where he resides with his wife Karen. He is President and Owner of Hickey Contracting Company. Hickey is very involved in the Keokuk community and with Lee County organizations. He is an active member of the fol-Iowa Regional Economic & Port Authority, Keokuk Economic Development Corporation, Lee County Career Advantage Center, Lee County Charitable Fund, and the Lee County CEO Entrepreneurial Education Program.

The remaining community members serving on the SEIRMC Board of Directors include Joy Rayman Anderson, Neal Dodd, Bob Huffman, and Vicki Stephenson. Rounding out the SEIRMC Board of Directors is Dr. Doug Henrich, a medical staff leader, and Dr. Michael McCoy, the organization's President.

## lowing Boards of Directors: Connection Bank, Southeast

#### Bloodhounds set records at state qualifier

May 9 - Webviews: 880 Facebook: 6,213

**MOUNT PLEASANT -**The Fort Madison boys' and girls' track teams got off to a strong start at the Class 3A Mt. Pleasant District qualifier just kept it going.

Sophomore Lady Hound Avery Rump qualified for the IGHSAU/IHSAA State Track and Field meet next week in Des Moines in four events.

She won the 3000-meter run and the 1500-meter run, and anchored a very strong

3rd leg of the 4x800 relay team that set a PR for the event with a 9:57.23. Rump won the 1500 with a time of 5:00.73, and the 3000 with a 11:02.12, a full 16.6 seconds ahead of the field. She also anchored the distance medley team that earned a spot with a second-place finish.

Brylie Lorence won the shotput in the girls' event with a 38'0.25" heave, besting the field by 2'2.25". Lorence was 3rd in the discus at 107'9", which could qualify based on that mark among other non-qualifers across the state

#### Statewide telecom outage impacts FM area

June 25- Webviews: 1,337 Facebook: 6,573

LEE COUNTY - A statewide telecommunications outage has county officials unable to take 911 calls on landlines, however cellphone usage is still functional.

According to a copyright article in the Des Moines Register, the outage has impacted Internet usage and services to hospitals and other public buildings have been interrupted around the state including LeeComm, the Lee County Sheriff's Office, and Lee County office buildings.

Provider Lumen Technologies, which also operates CenturyLink, had an internal water main break at its facility in Des Moines, which has "diminished" its electrical capacity, according to Polk County Emergency Management Agency. Lumen is working to bring in additional generators but the restoration timeline is unknown, according to officials from Polk County.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said landlines are down at the office, but cellphone calls to LeeComm and his office are still functioning.

The Iowa Communications Network confirmed the outage at about 9:40 a.m. Thursday morning.

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#### **Supervisors OK bids for new LCHD/EMS**

Aug. 26- Webviews: 1,423 Facebook: 7,095

LEE COUNTY – Supervisors called it an historic day for Lee County.

Supervisors on Monday approved bids for construction of a \$6.5 million Lee County Health Department/ EMS facility in Fort Madison on the former Iowan Motel property.

The county has been trying to get the health department its own facility for several decades and now, with the assistance of about \$3.6 million in federal grants, close to \$500,000 in funding from the North Lee County Community Foundation, and a million dollars in remaining county ARPA funds, that is now a reality.

That totals close to \$5.2 million of the \$6.5 million. The county has already paid \$350,000 towards site

preparation and fees.

The bids came in at close to \$4.7 million in construction with the remaining \$1.8 million attributed to architect and management fees. Carl A. Nelson Co. out of Burlington is the construction manager with SVPA Architects, Inc. of Donnellson designing the building.

The rest of the funding could come in the form of additional contributions from Lee County residents as part of a fundraising effort that is to be launched by the community foundation to allow all Lee County residents the opportunity to contribute to the project.

Supervisor Chairman Garry Seyb said the county also has about \$660,000 in reserve funds from the last fiscal year that the county set aside from speed camera enforcement. The funds were put aside prior to recent legislative action that defined where the funds can be used, so the county can access those funds with a supermajority vote of the board.

#### Central Lee hires new basketball coach

May 1- Webviews: 968 Facebook: 7,132

DONNELLSON - The Central Lee Community School District is pleased to announce the appointment of Jonny Swanson as the new head boys' basketball coach at Central Lee High School. Alongside his coaching duties, Swanson will also join the

school's faculty as a physical education

teacher.

SWANSON

Swanson brings a wealth of successful coaching experience to Central Lee. Most notably, he led the 8th grade boys' basketball team to a state tournament appearance in 2024 in Illinois. His achievements were recog-

nized when he was nominated for the 2024 Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Junior High Boys Basketball Coach of the Year award.

Additionally, Swanson has experience working with Coach Wootten's Basketball Camp in Frostburg, Maryland, and volunteered with the Western Illinois University Women's Basketball Program, assisting in opponent analysis through film study.

"We are thrilled to welcome Jonny Swanson to the Central Lee community," said Wes McGraw, Central Lee Activities Director. "His coaching expertise and dedication to player development are exceptional, and we look forward to seeing his impact on our high school boys' basketball program."

"I am honored to have the opportunity to lead the boys' basketball program at Central Lee High School and contribute to the school's physical education department," said Swanson. "I look forward to building upon the team's achievements and fostering a culture of excellence both on and off the

#### Emily Benjamin takes leadership at LCEDG

**June 25- Webviews: 1,132** Facebook:6,834

LEE COUNTY - The Lee County Economic Development Group (LCEDG) announced Monday that Dennis Fraise, President and CEO, will retire on November 21,



2024, after 11 years of dedicated service. During Fraise's tenure, LCEDG has made significant strides in enhancing the economic landscape of Lee County.

In response to Fraise's announcement, the LCEDG Board implemented their succession plan, and is proud to announce that Emily Benjamin has been

named the next President and CEO, effective immediately upon Fraise's retirement.

"We are very confident in the team we have in place

and look forward to continuing the quality work and momentum of LCEDG to benefit Lee County," said Board Chair Bob Huffman.

Emily Benjamin joined LCEDG in August 2022 as the Vice President of Economic Development. A native of Lee County, Benjamin brings a diverse background to the organization, including experience in agricultural sales and marketing, non-profit leadership, and community development. Her dedication to Lee County's potential and her expertise in stakeholder engagement, corporate social responsibility, risk management, and community planning have significantly contributed to the region's development.

"Emily's appointment is a testament to her leadership and vision for the future of Lee County," said Fraise. "Her passion for our community and her innovative approach to economic development make her the ideal leader to drive LCEDG forward."

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