

County to vote on 2026 budget

PUBLIC HEARING: Supervisors to hold hearing, then vote on 2026 fiscal budget

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – The Lee County Board of Supervisors will hold a rare meeting on the 5th Tuesday of the month. The board will meet Tuesday in regular session to approve the fiscal year 2026 budget.

A public hearing will be held at 9:01 a.m. to take any comments on the budget and that will be followed by a resolution to approve the budget.

The county budget proposal has revenues of \$42,470,345 down from the current budget year’s revenues of \$47,966,659. Total expenses are listed at \$44,739,839 also down from the current year at \$50,439,833. The ending fund balance projected for June 30, 2026 is \$15,550.153 which represents deficit spending of about \$2.26 million. The county is projecting a fund balance of \$17,819,647 on June 30 of

this year.

Following that public hearing, the board will consider the second reading of an ordinance that will provide regulation for siting and operations of wind, solar, and battery energy systems within the county.

A draft of the ordinance can be found at the following link: <https://www.leecounty.org/files/documents/ProposedOrdinanceDRAFTnews61261478041725-033725PMa.pdf>.

The ordinance would go into the county code under Title VI, Property and Land Use - Chapter 13, as Regulations for the Siting and Operations of Wind, Solar, and Battery Energy Systems, the purpose of which is to “establish a set of minimum standards for the siting, placement, construction, installation, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of utility-scale Wind, Solar, and Battery Energy Systems, in order to protect the public health, safety, and community welfare of the residents of Lee County”.

Ramsey Financial

Fort Madison’s Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting Friday morning at Ramsey Financial’s office in Donnellson. The former Welch’s Insurance company transitioned to the new name recently.



Photo courtesy of FM Chamber of Commerce

COMMENTARY

Ginnie gets her Pink Dogwood at Empty Nest farm

Every year around Arbor Day, I like to plant a tree. Last year it was a Colorado Blue Spruce that I planted where one had died in our wind break. (The rabbits chewed it up good this winter.) The year before, it was a Weeping Willow. Where I bought it, they had it marked as a Red Maple. When I got it home, and discovered it was a Weeping Willow, I was a little perturbed, but then thought, “Weeping

EMPTY NEST
By Curt Swarm



Willows are cool.” So no tears shed. Get it? The year before that, it was a Flowering

Peach. The year before that, it was a Chinese Crabapple, and the year before that a Weeping Cherry. Interspersed in there have been Burning Bush, Lilacs, Roses, Hydrangea and a Yellow Trumpet Vine, scavenged from our neighbor up the road. Along with the trees already on the Empty Nest Farm, like Silver Maple, Catalpa, Pin Oak, Colorado Blue Spruce,

See SWARM, page 7

FMCS D sets meet-greet Wednesday

CANDIDATES: District to hold hour-long meeting with candidates for superintendent at 11 a.m. at Junior/Senior high

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The final two candidates for the Fort Madison Community School District Superintendent will be part of a meet-and-greet at the Fort Madison Junior/Senior High School Wednesday from 11 a.m. to noon.

According to FMSCD Board of Directors’ President Josh Wykert, the district has invited the public to the event at the high school.

The event includes some brief introductions and background to the group and there will be time following for community members to talk to the candidates.

Current superintendent Dr. Erin Slater’s resignation was approved last week after she accepted a position at a Tennessee school district. Following that announcement, the district contracted services with Grundmeyer Leader Services of Huxley, Iowa, and on Thursday, the district announced two finalists for the position, David Keane, currently a director of teaching at West Burlington Independent School District, and Mike Wolter, a secondary principal at Columbus, and a former FMCS D teacher.

Keane is the current director of teaching and learning, special education, and human resources for the West Burlington Independent School District.

There he has led the collaborative effort



WOLTER



KEANE

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WEATHER

TUE 29 Apr.....Chance of thunderstorms, then partly sunny, 69° F/ 50° F
WED 30 Apr.....Showers, 68° F/ 58° F
THU 01 May.....Showers, 71° F/ 50° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 04/27	419 35 36 41, Lucky Ball: 5
PICK 3 MIDDAY 04/27	459
PICK 3 EVENING 04/27	422
PICK 4 MIDDAY 04/27	9849
PICK 4 EVENING 04/27	4086

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WEEKEND SPORTS DIGEST

Central Lee boys suffer first loss at No. 4 Notre Dame

PCC Staff

Hounds drop two at Pella tourney

PELLA – The Fort Madison Bloodhounds dropped their second and third games in a row this weekend with a couple losses at a Pella three-way tournament. The Hounds dropped a 3-2 loss to Pella in the first game and then were shut out by ADM 5-0 in the second game before heading back to Fort Madison. Henry Graham scored both the Pella goals. One on a penalty kick and one from an assist from Connor Horn. Keelynd Ross made 6 saves in the Pella game and he made 15 saves in the ADM game. The Hounds are now 4-5-1 and 3-1-0 in Southeast Conference play at Fairfield Tuesday.

Central Lee boys suffer first loss

DONNELLSON - Central Lee lost to Class 1A No. 4 Burlington Notre Dame 5-0 Friday night in Burlington, the Hawks’ first loss of the year. Max Jones had 11 saves on the night as the Nikes peppered the Hawks’ defense throughout. The Nikes

scored at the 32:38 mark, the 24:54 mark, and at 19:50 in the first half for a 3-0 lead. They would add two more in the second half. The boys downed Columbus on Thursday night. The Hawks’ three goals came all on assists with Zach Estrada getting the hat trick. He got assists from Ayden Kent, Peter Seyb, and Colton Taft, all in the first half. Columbus scored on a penalty kick at the 11-minute mark of the first half to set the final score. Jones had four saves in the match.

Central Lee runners set more PRs at L-M meet
LETTS – The Central Lee Hawks won eight medals and again set more than a dozen personal bests at the Louisa-Muscatine Invitational Thursday.

The Hawks’ 4x400 team of Brett Cook, Riley Salter-Rickman, Brayden Wyrick, and Luke Kruse took second at 3:43.83. In the girls’ meet, Kamryn Cox won the 400-meter hurdles at 1:16.32, which was also a personal best for her. Allison Grunmeir won the 100-meter hurdles at 17.7, which was a season’s best for her, as well. Aubrey Weber won another discus event with a throw of

109’3.5”. Kylie Fortune took second in the long jump with a 14’11.75 and 2nd in the high jump at 4’8”, while Weber earned 2nd in the shotput with a throw of 32’9.5”, both personal high marks.

Griffin leads HTC girls at MEPO
MEDIAPOLIS – Elizabeth Griffin and Emma Mohrfeld both shot a 50 to lead Holy Trinity’s girls golf team to a 223-236 win over Mediapolis Thursday night at Wapello Country Club. Griffin had two birdies and Morhfeld carded an eagle on the way to medalist honors.

Adalyn Kruse shot a 61 and Eva Denning carded a 62 for the Lady Crusaders. At the boys’ event, Brock Scheetz shot a 47 to lead Holy Trinity. The Bulldogs won 168-193 behind four 42s from Max Griffin, Jonathan Ford, Gannon Gunn, and William Worrall. For HTC, Blake Mohrfeld and Max Kruse shot 48s. Luke Hellige carded a 50 and Jameson Denning shot a 54. Nathan Box came in with a 56.

BACK PAIN?

Do You Have Hip Pain? Are You As Stiff As a Board When You Try to Get Up From a Chair? Have You Run Out of Hope?

How 5 Lies About Low BACK PAIN May Keep You Hurting, Frustrated & Exhausted...Forever!

NEW Scientific Breakthroughs Often Make Short Work of Low Back Pain...Just What Big Medical Centers and High Priced Clinics Are PRAYING You Never Figure Out On Your Own!

Hi, I’m Dr. Jason James, and if you’ve got any kind of back, hip or leg pain, your worries may be over in just a few minutes. Why? Because I’m the owner of James Healthcare & Assoc. clinic, and I’ve discovered what may be the best healing secrets for “bad backs”— EVER!



Dr. Jason James, D.C.

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:

MYTH #2: Stiffness from Arthritis means you’re 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 suffer forever.

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 your car...

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 control 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 outstanding 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 board?

Be able to stand for as long as you want without sitting down for relief?

Lean forward over the sink without that “stabbing” in your back or leg?

SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGH:

A hidden muscle may be causing your SCIATICA! Does Your Back Seem “Too Old” for Your Own Body? Not everyone qualifies for treatment, so help us see if you do. If you check off even one box, drop what you’re doing and call James Healthcare NOW. And bring this coupon when you come in for your 39-Point “Back-Pain Track-Down Exam”. Now check off what describes you:

- ☐ Tension...always tight across the beltline
- ☐ 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 do—or when!
- ☐ 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

No one will try to sell you anything, and you make no commitment...you just find out what’s wrong!

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612 Main Street

“I broke my back when I was 41 years old and have had problems from then on, until June 2017. Dr. James gave me my life back! I have very few back problems now. It is great to be able to do my everyday duties without back problems.”—Roger Kirchner

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

LARRY R. KREBILL

Larry R. Krebill, 87, of Donnellson, Iowa, passed away at 2:10 p.m. Sunday, April 27, 2025, at the Clark County Nursing Home in Kahoka, Missouri.

He was born on November 18, 1937, in rural Donnellson, Iowa, the son of Robert and Leota (Rings) Krebill. On August 16, 1959, he married Nadine J. Wilson at St. Peters United Church of Christ in Franklin, Iowa.



KREBILL

He is survived by his two daughters: Audrey (Linus) Krogmeier of Congerville, Illinois, Natalie (Pete) Knezevich of North Liberty, Iowa; one son: Jeffrey (Amy) Krebill of Donnellson, Iowa; eight grandsons: Paul, Brian, Daniel, Nicholas, Joseph, Thomas, Jacob and Elijah; five great grandchildren: Case and Axel Krogmeier, Chenoa Spears, Grant and Lynn Krogmeier and one brother: Vernon (Margaret) Krebill of Donnellson, Iowa.

He was preceded in death by his wife: Nadine; parents; two brothers: Gary and Leron; one sister: Geraldine Stice.

Larry was a member of St. John's United Church of Christ in Fort Madison. He served on the church council, the Lee County Fair Board and was a Franklin Township trustee. Larry was a lifelong farmer and had a love of the land, which he started farming with his brother. He and his brother also owned and operated the Krebill Bros. Cornsheller and in later years, he continued farming with his son. Along with farming, Larry also enjoyed attending his eight grandsons sporting events and spending time with his family.

A visitation will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Friday, May 2, 2025, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, May 2, 2025, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson with Martha Wolf officiating.

Burial will be held at a later date at Evangelical Cemetery in Donnellson.

A memorial has been established in his memory for Donnellson Fire and Rescue.

Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

OBITUARIES

VIRGINIA MARTINEZ-HALL



MARTINEZ-HALL

It is with a heavy heart that we share that our beloved Virginia Martinez-Hall, 83, of Federal Way, Wash., daughter of Frank & Lupe Martinez of Fort Madison, and wife of Carl (Buddy) Hall passed away Friday, April 25, 2025, and is at peace in Heaven with our other loved ones who have passed before her. We know how very much she was Loved. Thank you for all your thoughts and prayers, she was a pillar in our family. She will be greatly missed.

CAROL L. FOJTIK

Carol Lee Fojtik, 82 of Hamilton, IL passed away Saturday, April 19, 2025 at the Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House in West Burlington, IA.

She was born September 3, 1942 in Keokuk, IA the daughter of John and Rachel Mae Jenkins Happs. Carol graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 1960.

She had been employed by Griffin Wheel in Keokuk for twenty one years, until her retirement in 2004.

Carol had a green thumb and loved planting flowers. She took great pride in keeping her home clean and welcoming, a place where everyone felt comfortable and loved. She enjoyed watching QVC and was always excited to find something new.

She is survived by two sons, Larry Craig Fojtik (Joanie) of Keokuk and Richard Charles "Chuck" Evermon of Keokuk, four grandchildren, Timmy Hornung, Mia Fojtik, Halley Evermon and Brittany Evermon and ten great-grandchildren. She is also survived by four brothers, John Happs, Jerry Happs, Ricky Happs and Stanley Happs and five sisters, Connie Powers, Chris Priebe, Joann McVeigh, Tracey Shuman and Donna Kay.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one daughter, Tammy Rash, one great-grandson, Owen Hornung, one sister, Vickie Happs and one brother, Raymond Happs.

According to her wishes, there will be no services.

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.

TURNWATER BAR & GRILL

Mother's Day
Brunch!

SUNDAY MAY 11TH. 9:00AM - 2:00PM.
ADULTS \$28.00. KIDS 5 YEARS+ \$14.00.

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PEN CITY CURRENT
It's Black & White and Read all over

Founded in 2016
P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Member LION Publishers
www.lionpublishers.com



Pen City Current, www.PenCityCurrent.com, and Pen e-Saver are products
of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published
Monday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report
04/23/25 – 10:48 a.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 4800 block of Avenue O.
04/23/25 – 3:15 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3000 block of Avenue N.
04/23/25 – 3:44 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 700 block of 24th Street.
04/23/25 – 3:51 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2800 block of Avenue O.
04/23/25 – 7:01 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1200 block of 25th Street.
04/23/25 – 7:15 p.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Phillip Arthur Hansen, 40, of Fort Madison, on charges of domestic abuse assault and interference with official acts. He was held in Lee County Jail.
04/23/25 – 7:50 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a vandalism in the 2000 block of Avenue D.
04/24/25 – 1:08 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 500 block of 22nd Street.
04/24/25 – 2:37 p.m. – Fort

Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of Avenue E.
04/25/25 – 9:07 a.m. – Fort Madison police cited Shawn Ralph Graham, III, 21, of Fort Madison in the 5100 block of Avenue O, on charges of 5th-degree criminal mischief and disorderly conduct.
04/25/25 – 10:15 a.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Larry Wallace Dawson, 70, of Fort Madison, in the 2300 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving while barred. He was held in Lee County Jail.
04/25/25 – 11:36 a.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Eric Eugene Fortune, Jr., 32, of Fort Madison on a warrant for 3rd degree theft and a charge of domestic assault with a weapon. He was held in Lee County Jail.
04/25/25 – 7:44 p.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Gavin Robert Horton, 19, of Fort Madison, in the 1200 block of 17th Street on a warrant for 2nd degree burglary. He was held in Lee County Jail.
04/25/25 – 11:33 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 2700 block of Avenue N.
04/26/25 – 12:05 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a

report of a hit and run in the Fort Madison area.
04/26/25 – 1:10 p.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Samantha Dawn Schnider, 27, of Fort Madison on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. She was held in Lee County Jail.
04/26/25 – 2:11 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1100 block of Avenue E.
04/26/25 – 5 p.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Joshua Alan Tadlock, 33, of Fort Madison, on warrants for 1st degree burglary and going armed with intent and a charge of interference with official acts. He was held in Lee County Jail.
04/26/25 – 8:09 p.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Lisa Ann Cloyed, 62, of Fort Madison, in the 1100 block of Avenue D, on a charge of assault. She was held in Lee County Jail.
04/26/25 – 9:01 p.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Russell Allen Gale, 55, of Fort Madison, in the 1800 block of Avenue F, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was held in Lee County Jail.
04/26/25 – 10:08 p.m. – Fort Madison police cited Thurman Edward Carrell, 64, of Fort Madison, in the 2300 block of Avenue J, on a charge of driving under suspension.
04/27/25 – 8:52 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2000 block of Avenue G.
04/27/25 – 10:59 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
04/27/25 – 6:02 p.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Scott Wesley Joseph Lynch, 46, of Fort Madison, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was held in Lee County Jail.

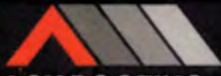
04/28/25 – 5:54 a.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 600 block of Avenue E.
04/28/25 – 8:52 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 700 block of Avenue E.
04/28/25 – 9:01 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1300 block of Avenue D.
Keokuk Police Report
04/23/25 – 11:32 a.m. – Keokuk police responded to a report of a burglary in the 700 block of Washington Street.
04/23/25 – 12:04 p.m. – Keokuk police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1000 block of Main Street.
04/23/25 – 2:10 p.m. – Keokuk police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2100 block of Main Street.
04/23/25 – 8:32 p.m. – Keokuk police cited Steven Lee Savage, 39, of Keokuk, in the 1700 block of Main Street, on a charge of driving under suspension.
04/23/25 – 11:31 p.m. – Keokuk police arrested Traci Ann Breakbill, 55, of Keokuk, in the 1700 block of Timea Street, on charges of OWI, possession of a controlled substance and driving under suspension. He was held in Lee County Jail.
04/24/25 – 11:09 a.m. – Keokuk police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 300 block of N. Park Drive.
04/24/25 – 7:55 p.m. – Keokuk police cited Cordaro Nicholson, 31, of Keokuk, in the 600 block of Johnson Street, on a charge of OWI.
04/24/25 – 8:48 p.m. – Keokuk police cited Edward Merlin Englebrecht, 63, of Keokuk, in the 100 block of N. Park Drive,

on charges of OWI, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.
04/24/25 – 10:37 p.m. – Keokuk police arrested Ashley Erin Bakrow, 42, of Hamilton, in the 300 block of Main Street, on charges of drug stamp violation, possession of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana, driving under suspension, and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was held in Lee County Jail.
04/24/25 – 11:33 p.m. – Keokuk police arrested David Alan Londrie, 62, of Keokuk, at Kilbourne Place and Timea Street on charges of possession of marijuana and a warrant for violation of probation. He was held in Lee County Jail.


Lee County Sheriff's Report
04/23/25 – 8:59 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Karley Rachelle Schmitz, 31, of Keokuk, in the 1600 block of Main Street, on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of a controlled substances. He was held in Lee County Jail.
04/23/25 – 8:59 p.m.- Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested William Joseph Thurber, 34, of Wayland, Mo., on charges of OWI, possession of a controlled substance, failure to carry registration, no proof of insurance and no valid driver's license. He was held in Lee County Jail.
04/25/25 – 2:34 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Thurman Purdiman, Jr., 58, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's department on a warrant for probation violation.
04/25/25 – 3:36 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Johnnie LaVail Braggs, 48, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on

a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released for serving the weekend.
04/25/25 – 3:54 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Aaron Joseph Gilman, 46, of Montrose, at the N. Lee County Courthouse, on a court-ordered hold.
04/25/25 – 8:17 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Daniel Wesley Warth, 37, of Keokuk, in the 100 block of S. 17th Street in Keokuk, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.
04/26/25 – 5:38 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Trenton Lee Hauk, 28, of Kahoka, at the South Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to Lee county Jail and released on bond.
04/26/25 – 11 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Chad Richard Barker, 46, of Farmington, at the S. Lee County Courthouse, on judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released for time served.

04/26/25 – 8:29 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Clinton Allen Keenan, Jr., 19, of Fort Madison, in the 2000 block of 303rd Avenue, on charges of OWI, careless driving, no proof of insurance and driving while license revoked. He was held in Lee County Jail.
04/27/25 – 6:02 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Scott Wesley Joseph Lynch, 46, of Fort Madison at the N. Lee County Courthouse on a warrant for failure to appear. He was held in Lee County Jail.
Those listed above should be and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
MEETING NOTICE**
**The Mount Pleasant
City Council will meet in
Adjourned Session on
Tuesday, April 29, 2025,
at City Hall,
307 E. Monroe Street,
2nd floor
City Administrator’s
Conference Room
at
9:00 a.m.**

AGENDA

1. Roll Call.
2. Consent Agenda: To the Public - All items with an asterisk (*) are routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion and a roll call of the Councilmembers.
There will be no separate discussion of items unless the Mayor, a Councilmember or citizen so request, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered in its normal sequence on the Agenda.
3. Approve agenda.
4. Old Business-
5. New Business
a) Training from Iowa Public Information Board on Iowa Code Chapter 21 and 22.
6. Public Forum.
7. Adjourn to meet in regular session Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE
MEETING MINUTES
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 24, 2025**

The Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa, met on Monday, March 24, 2025, at 3:00 p.m., at the County Administration Building, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison, Iowa.
Present: Denise Fraise, Ginger Knisley, Garry Seyb, Chuck Holmes, and Tim Wondra.
All votes are unanimous unless indicated otherwise.
The Board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
Moved by Holmes, seconded by Wondra, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
Moved by Seyb, seconded by Knisley, to approve the consent

agenda that included the Monday, March 17, 2025 Board minutes, the claims for payment, a Special Class C Retail Alcohol License Amendment for ownership for the Argyle Community Boosters, for the period May 7, 2025 through May 6, 2026, a Class C Retail Alcohol License for Green Bay Bar and Grill LLC, for the period of May 21, 2025 through May 20, 2026, a Special Class C Retail Alcohol License for Appleberry Orchard LLC, for the period April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026 and a tax abatement resolution. Roll call: Seyb-aye, Knisley-aye, Holmes-aye, Wondra-aye, Fraise-aye. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION
NO. 2025-66**

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lee County has by Ordinance Number VI-11 adopted a plan for a County-wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District in Lee County, Iowa; and,
WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 404.4 provides for prior approval of eligibility for a tax exemption by the governing body of the County;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of:

Jack D Kratzer Jr
2752 239th Avenue
Montrose IA 52639
For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.
PASSED AND APPROVED this 24th day of March 2025.
Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Denise Fraise, Chairman; /s/ Ginger Knisley, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Garry Seyb, Member; /s/ Tim Wondra, Member. Attest: /s/ Sherri Yasenchok, Auditor.
Mark Klesner, Facilities Director, updated the Board on progress at the new Health/EMS Building. Roofing will begin this week with the pouring of the EMS bay floors in April.
The Lee County Child Collaboration was present

to discuss Child Abuse Prevention Month. Moved by Knisley, seconded by Holmes, to approve the Proclamation Declaring April Child Abuse Prevention Month. Motion carried.
Moved by Seyb, seconded by Knisley, to approve Resolution #2025-67. Roll call: Seyb-aye, Knisley-aye, Wondra-aye, Holmes-aye, Fraise-aye. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION
NO. 2025-67**

LEE COUNTY
BRIDGE EMBARGO
RESOLUTION
WHEREAS: The Board of Supervisors is empowered under authority of Sections 321.236
Sub. (8), 321.255, and 321.471 to 321.473 to prohibit the operation of vehicles or impose limitations as to the weight thereof on designated highways or highway structures under their jurisdiction, and
WHEREAS: The Lee County Engineer has completed, or has caused to be completed, an inventory and appraisal of certain county bridges, and has determined, or it has been determined, that they are inadequate for two-lane legal loads at allowable operating stress.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Lee County Board of Supervisors that the following vehicle and load limits be established and that signs be erected advising of the permissible maximum weights thereof on the bridges listed below and supersedes all previous resolutions on specific bridge postings.

**Old Bridge No.
Road
Section
Feature crossed
Posted Limit**

Des Moines 179
320th St
NW ¼ 27-66-06
Unnamed creek
1 lane

Montrose 183.1
232nd Ave
SW ¼ 5-66-05
Unnamed creek
15 Ton

Passed and approved this 24th day of March, 2025.
Recommended: /s/ Benjamin Hull P.E. Lee County Engineer

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Denise Fraise, Chairman; /s/ Ginger Knisley, Vice Chair; /s/ Garry Seyb, Member; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Tim Wondra, Member. Attest: /s/ Sherri Yasenchok, Auditor.
Moved by Knisley, seconded by Holmes, to approve a 28E with Des Moines County for the use of Portable Temporary Traffic Signals. Motion carried.
Moved by Seyb, seconded by Knisley, to approve the Third Reading of the Lee County Traffic Code Ordinance. Motion carried. This Ordinance will go into effect upon publication.
Moved by Holmes, seconded by Wondra, to approve Resolution #2025-64 Dissolving the Lee County Compensation Board. Roll call: Holmes-aye, Wondra-nay, Knisley-nay, Seyb-aye, Fraise-aye. Motion carried.

Resolution #2025-64

Dissolving the Lee County Compensation Board
WHEREAS, the Iowa General Assembly has enacted legislation which allows county boards of supervisors to dissolve county compensation boards and assume the responsibility of setting salaries for elected county officials; and
WHEREAS, the Lee County Board of Supervisors recognizes the need to comply with this new legislation and streamline the process of determining compensation for elected officials.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Lee County Board of

Supervisors as follows:
Abolishment of the County Compensation Board: The Lee County Compensation Board is hereby dissolved effective immediately.
Assumption of Duties: The Lee County Board of Supervisors shall assume all duties previously assigned to the County Compensation Board, including the preparation and review of the compensation schedule for elected county officers.
Compensation Schedule: The Lee County Board of Supervisors shall prepare an annual compensation schedule for elected county officers.
Implementation: This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.
The above and foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa, this 24th day of March 2025 and the vote there on being as follows:
Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Denise Fraise, Chairman; /s/ Ginger Knisley, Vice Chair; /s/ Garry Seyb, Member; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Tim Wondra, Member. Attest: /s/ Sherri Yasenchok, Auditor.
Moved by Holmes, seconded by Seyb, to approve the County employees’ major medical insurance renewal at 0% for FY26. Motion carried.
Moved by Seyb, seconded by Knisley, to approve a part time new hire for the EMS department, Rady Malcom, EMT, \$18.55/hr., effective 03/24/2025. Motion carried.
Committee Reports: Seyb reported on a VA Meeting, a Lee County

Economic Development Board meeting, a Lee County Legislative meeting and a Children’s Collaborative meeting. Holmes reported on a GRRWA meeting. Knisley reported on a SEIA Community Action board meeting, a Children’s Collaborative meeting and a Keokuk Community School District meeting. Fraise reported on a SEIA Detention Service Agency meeting.
At 4:06 p.m. it was moved by Knisley, seconded by Holmes, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Administration Building in Fort Madison.
Denise Fraise, Chairman
Attest: Sherri Yasenchok, Lee County Auditor

ABC Fire Extng, svcs 145.65
ABRA Auto Body, svcs 468.96
Access Energy, svcs 1599.96
Access Systems, svcs 404.30
Accurate Cntrls, svcs 414.03
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Airgas USA, splys 140.95
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From the Front

Candidates to address community Wednesday

CANDIDATES - Continued from Page 1

to develop a new mission and a portrait of a graduate for the district, laying the groundwork for a strategic plan. He also worked to improve the efficiency of the student information management system and facilitated a K-12 mathematics' curriculum review and adoption process.

Previously, Keane was a school-to-career advisor at Humboldt High School in north central Iowa. He also has experience as a tech prep/school improvement coordinator and a science and industrial technology teacher.

Wolter has provided instructional leadership to support teaching effectiveness and student achievement at Columbus, while managing the recruitment and hiring for hard-to-fill teaching positions. He has also leveraged Professional Learning Communities to drive teacher collaboration and instructional improvement. Additionally, Wolter has collaborated with students, staff, families, and the community to strengthen the school culture.

The district has scheduled three sessions at the central office following the meet-and-greet to discuss each candidate. The meetings are set for 3:15 p.m., 4:15 p.m., and 5:30 p.m. The first two will be in closed session per Iowa Code Chapter 21.5. The code requires that the candidates request the deliberations take place in closed session, as well as being a mechanism provided by law to protect needless and irreparable injury to the candidates.

The final meeting Wednesday will be closed and then opened to the public for a potential offer of employment to one of the candidates.

The next superintendent will begin employment effective July 1, 2025.

Spring planting soon at Empty Nest farm

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

Mulberry, and Birch, I figure that by planting a tree every year, by the time Ginnie and I pass our two-and-a-half acres along to our kids, it will be a veritable Arboretum.

Being from Missouri, Ginnie's favorite tree is the Pink Dogwood, which Missouri has an abundance of. They don't do too well this far north due to the climate and wind.

When we were at the new Dutchman's Store in Cantril, amongst the trees they had for sale, were the Pink and White Dogwood. I have never seen Dogwoods for sale before in Iowa. I suppose, Dutchman's being on the Iowa-Missouri Border, it makes sense that they would have them. BTW: If you haven't been to the new Dutchman's Store, it's a must see. We had lunch there also in their restaurant (food sold by weight). Ginnie and I looked at the Dogwoods, but Ginnie ruled they don't have the protection from the wind they need here in Iowa. However, as we were checking out, I made a snap decision and ran out, grabbed a Pink Dogwood, and put it in the cart. If my lady wants a Dogwood, by golly she's gonna have a Dogwood. "But where will we put it?" she wanted to know. "It's way too windy on the Empty Nest Farm."

"I have an idea," I told her. "There's another tree missing from our windbreak. I think the Dogwood will have the protection it needs there from the wind." And that's where I put it. So far, it's doing well, and blooming, even in some fierce wind. Ginnie is so excited!

We did lose one tree over the winter, a Georgia Peach. Why? I dunno. It was a pretty mild winter. (I didn't even have to use the tractor to plow our driveway.) I'm thinking that the problem was that it was a "Georgia" Peach. If I had planted something more suited to the Midwest, like a White Peach, we would've had peaches this year.

But our McIntosh Apple tree is full of blooms, and promising to have another bumper crop, like last year. We had so many apples. Ginnie made and canned apple pie filling. Lord have mercy! I don't know how many people picked from that tree, but there was plenty to go around. Two years ago, the apple tree didn't bloom, and there were no apples. Even apple trees have to take a break once-in-a-while, or, like a horse in alfalfa, they'll founder.

Ginnie's already made a rhubarb-strawberry pie from our rhubarb. And I notice the asparagus is popping its luscious green stalks out of the black Iowa soil, like a cobra doing its eerie dance. This spring has been funky, but I see lots of promise for cornucopia abundance.

The aronia bushes are full of blooms. Once again we'll be offering people all the aronia berries they can pick, that is if I can keep the Japanese Beatles at bay. If you don't know what aronia berries are, they may be the most potent health berry on the planet. We had lots of takers last year.

I burned the garden off, and will be planting Blue Lake green beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, Indian corn, pumpkins, onions, radishes, lettuce (Romaine and leafy) and something new. Each year I like to plant something I've never raised before. Last year it was bird's nest gourds, the year before that it was sunflowers, the year before that it was okra. Don't know what it'll be this year, and probably won't until I go to buy seed. (Part of the fun.)

We have the Dogwood planted right where we'll see it when we pull in the driveway. Ginnie's mind can take her back to when she was a little girl in Missouri, the oldest of seven children, never knowing she'd love life in Iowa.

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JUNE 6,7,8, 2025

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FLEA MARKET/CRAFTS 8 AM
HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM AT BANK 9AM-3PM
LIVE MUSIC IN SHELTER HOUSE 6 PM- 9 PM
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SATURDAY

BISCUITS & GRAVY IN FIRE STATION 7 AM
BY FIRE DEPARTMENT AUXILLARY
TOWN WIDE YARD SALES 8 AM
FLEA MARKET/CRAFTS 8 AM
FLAG RAISING BY BOY SCOUTS 8:30 AM
STATE HISTORICAL BUS 8:30 AM
HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM AT BANK 9AM-12PM
PEDAL TRACTOR PULLS 9 AM
SIDEWALK CHALK DRAWING CONTEST 10 AM-12 PM
K9 DEMONSTRATION(SMALL DIAMOND) 10:30 AM
CUSTOM CARS & PICKUPS 10 AM - 3 PM
TRACTOR PARADE 1 PM
SILVER STEPPERS 1:30 PM
LIVE AUCTION IN SHELTER HOUSE 2:30 PM
LIVE MUSIC IN SHELTER HOUSE 6 PM - 9 PM
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