Utility scam targets local businesses

BY CHUCK VANDEMBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Another rash of recent scams targeting utility customers is targeting local businesses.

A recent attempt to extract money from a local business had a caller claiming to be a representative from Alliant Energy.

The called said the businesses needed to make a payment over the phone immediately or service would be cut off at the end of the day. The caller also indicated that the business had received several warnings and needed to call an 800 number and make payment to correct the situation.

Justin Foss, a senior spokesperson for Alliant said scammers are continuing to target area customers and some simple fact checking will prevent any loss of money.

See SCAMS, page 4

Sheriff’s dept. cuts $350,000, Secondary roads $320,000

BY CHUCK VANDEMBERG  
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - Lee County officials continue to trim proposed numbers for the 2018-19 fiscal year as the budget is still about $400K short of balancing.

At Tuesday’s Lee County Board of Supervisors’ meeting, budget director Cindy Renstrom presented an updated budget that shows the county out of balance in the 2018-19 budget year by $1.961 million. Total revenues for the year are projected at $25.88 million with expenses showing at $27.85 million. Renstrom is showing a balance carryover of $10.4 million at the end of this fiscal year June 30. That carryover would be reduced to $8.42 million under current budget numbers.

Don Hunold, chair of the county supervisors, said that’s not a pattern the county should continue with. In the last fiscal year, the budget carryover balance went from $13.4 million to $10.4 million.

Dana Millard, marketing and communications director for Lee County Economic Development Group, tried to get out in front a potential cut in funding by updating the board on the economic climate.

Gerdes retires from FMCH Board of Directors

FORT MADISON - Jim Gerdes, a member of the Fort Madison Community Hospital Board of Directors since 2001, has announced his retirement from the Board effective January 29th, 2018. He will be replaced by JoAnn Lampe.

“It has always been a honor and a privilege to represent our patient base on this Board. I have enjoyed the relationships I developed with my fellow Board members and the employees of the hospital,” expressed Gerdes.

JoAnn Lampe is a registered nurse and a retired FMCH employee, holding the position of Vice-President of Patient Care Services prior to her retirement in 2014. JoAnn will join the Board as a voting member effective immediately.

The remaining community members on the FMCH Board of Directors include: Ann Menke, President; Dave Poland, Vice-President; Bob Bonta, Past-President; Vicki Stephenson; Deanna Barr and John McKillip.

The FMCH Board of Directors is made up of seven community members who volunteer their time to guide FMCH in fulfilling their mission and vision.

County continues to work on trimming budget

I know it’s tough times and you’re looking at numbers, but also think about the people, the communities and the businesses.”

-Dana Millard  
LCEDG spokesperson

Pen City Current

Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2018 | 7 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 40

Monday grass fire

Wever firefighter Bryor McMillen walks the edge of a 2-acre grass fire that got out of control just before noon Monday on 354th Avenue just north of 175th Street. Wever Fire and Rescue and Denmark Fire and Rescue battled the fire.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC
OBITUARIES

MOLLY ELIZABETH WOOD

Molly Elizabeth Wood, 34, of Waukee, Iowa, formerly of Danville, Iowa, passed away Friday, January 26, 2018, at her home surrounded by her loving family.

Born April 7, 1983 in Burlington, Iowa, the daughter of Daniel and Theresa Wood. Molly is survived by her significant other: Tim Munford of Waukee, Iowa; her parents: Theresa (John) Wood of Danville, Iowa and Dan Wood of New London, Iowa; brothers: Joey Wood of San Diego, California, Andy Wood of McKinney, Texas and Johnny Wood of San Diego, California; step-sister: Melissa Wood of Burlington, Iowa and beloved dog: Murphy. She is also survived by several cousins and many special friends.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, aunts, uncles and beloved dog: Newt.

Molly was a 2001 graduate of Danville High School. She attended Southeastern Community College and received her Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Iowa. She continued her education and training at Mercy College in Des Moines and began her career as a cardiac sonographer at Iowa Heart Center where she worked for six and a half years. Molly had been active in high school sports where she participated in track, basketball and softball. She enjoyed watching the Iowa Hawkeyes, Oakland Raiders and Chicago Cubs. In September of 2002, Molly met Tim Munford and together they enjoyed motorcycling and boating. She also enjoyed watching the "Housewives" series. Molly had a zest for life, a radiant smile and a great sense of humor. She was an adored daughter and sister, always kind, non-judgmental and was a best friend to many.

The family will receive friends from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Thursday, February 1, 2018, at Hamilton's near Highland Memory Gardens, 121 NW 60th Avenue in Des Moines, Iowa.

The family will also receive friends from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m., Saturday, February 3, 2018 at Nauvoo United Methodist Church, 1610 Ripley Street in Nauvoo, Illinois.

A funeral service will be held at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, February 3, 2018 at Nauvoo United Methodist Church in Nauvoo with Pastor Mark Anderson officiating. Burial will be at Saints Peter and Paul Cemetery in Nauvoo. Memorial contributions in the Des Moines, Iowa area may be directed to Four Paws Unleashed in loving memory of Molly. Contributions in the Nauvoo, Illinois area will be received by the family and designated at a later time.

Schmitz Funeral Homes are assisting the family with local arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries 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.

Lee County Health Department - Hospice

Hospice Volunteer Training
Providing Comfort on the Journey Home

March 6 - March 27, 2018
4 Tuesday Evenings
6:00-9:00pm
Lee County Health Department office

No fee to the general public. To register, call Lee County Health Dept.-Hospice at (319)372-5225 or (800)458-6672 by March 2nd.

Volunteers are needed in Iowa counties of Lee, Henry, Van Buren, Des Moines and in Illinois counties of Hancock & Henderson.

Lee County Health Department ~ PO Box 1426
Ft. Madison, IA 52627
www.leecountyhd.org ~ LIKE us on Facebook

Image courtesy of Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game</th>
<th>Draw Days</th>
<th>Sales Cut Off Time</th>
<th>Approx. Drawing Time</th>
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<td>Mon &amp; Thu</td>
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<td>Lotto America®</td>
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Lucky Ball: 24
Megaplier: 3

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1/30 EVENING
2 9 5

1/30 MID-DAY
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1/30 EVENING
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 penalized
Pheasants Forever raffle tickets on sale

LEE COUNTY - Raffle tickets for Lee County Pheasants Forever 25 Gun Raffle are available from any club member or at the banquet. Tickets are $10 each and are limited to 3,000. The raffle will be held during the chapter’s annual banquet on February 24, 2018. Proceeds from the raffle are used to support the Tri-State Young Guns and Fort Madison Clay Crushers High School Trap Shooting Teams. For more information about the raffle, go to http://www.leecountypf.org/raffles/

FMHS Boosters Trivia Night Feb. 10

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Bloodhound Boosters are holding a Trivia Night on Feb. 10 at the Fort Madison Eagles Club from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

The night will feature a full trivia contest in addition to a silent auction and other games for cash prizes. Teams are to be no more than eight people at $10 per person. Participants are encouraged to bring snacks for their team table. A cash bar will be available.

Proceeds go to benefit the Fort Madison Athletic Booster club. The first 15 teams to register will receive an advantage on trivia night.

You can register at the following link https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1vSl-uLm7nEKEPM0vv-D46Esju6NxJU6TPrvR-wXFTQ/edit. Forms need to be returned to FMHS athletic office or to a Booster club member.

Soroptimist Business Meeting Feb. 1

FORT MADISON - Soroptimist International of Fort Madison will be holding their regular business meeting at noon at Atlas Steak & Smokehouse on Thursday. Women who are interested in our organization are invited to attend.

Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for $15. Add a photo for $5. Non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of $10 per 25 words and $3 per photo. To place your listing, click here or call Lee at (319)371.4125.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report
01/29/18 - 10:09 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Avenue N. 01/29/18 - 11:21 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 500 block of Avenue G. 01/29/18 - 11:35 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1200 block of Avenue H. 01/28/18 - 6:42 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 5400 block of Avenue O. 01/28/18 - 7:17 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 200 block of Hwy 61. 01/30/18 - 7:51 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 700 block of Avenue E. 01/30/18 - 8:01 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 300 block of Avenue F.

Lee County Sheriff’s report
01/29/18 - 10:18 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident on 250th Street. A vehicle driven by Theodore Gerald Bernard, 63 of Donnellson struck a vehicle legally parked behind him. No citations or injuries were listed on the report. 01/28/18 - 10:33 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Matthew Wayne White, 44, of Keokuk, in the South Lee County Courthouse on a court ordered hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/28/18 - 11:40 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Brian James Abel, 32, of Fort Madison, at the Lee County Sheriff’s office on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/28/18 - 11:52 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Colt Wayne Bergheger, 20, of Keokuk, at the Lee County Sheriff’s office, on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/28/18 - 7:22 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of 200th Street and Hwy 61. A vehicle driven by Marvin G. Tappe, 60 of Bowen, IL, was traveling northbound on Hwy 61 when a vehicle driven by Robert Dean Anspack, 61, of Montrose, entered the highway and collided with Tappe. Anspack and Tappe were both transported to Fort Madison Community Hospital with minor injuries. Anspack was cited for failure to yield. 01/30/18 - 2:30 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Travis Christopher Hutchinson, 26, of Keokuk, in the 3900 block of Valley Road, on charges of OWI-1st offense, failure to have a valid driver’s license and failure to obey a stop sign. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Pen City Current
Founded in 2016
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Burlington: 319.782-4925
Nauvoo: 217-463-9326
All Areas: 1-866-436-9326

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

WED 31 Jan
Partly Cloudy
High – 45.8º F | Low – 27.9º F

THU 01 Feb
Light Snow
High – 20.0º F | Low – 4.9º F

FRI 02 Feb
Light Snow
High – 24.3º F | Low – 15.7º F

SAT 03 Feb
Snow
High – 34.9º F | Low – 13.0º F

SUN 04 Feb
Snow
High – 11.0º F | Low – 10.7º F
Local News/Sports

Four in double figures for HTC in loss at Wapello

WAPELLO - The Wapello Indians kept Holy Trinity scoreless through the first five minutes of play and rolled to a 90-57 win in boys basketball action Tuesday night.

Wapello’s Trenton Massner put in 19 in the first half and led all scorers with 25 on the night, as the Crusaders fell behind by as much as 17 points in the first half. But HTC did put up on a 13-7 run to end the period. They cut that lead to 12 at 27-15, but were again stymied in the front half of the 2nd quarter. The Indians held HTC at 15 points until the four-minute mark of the second period. However Holy Trinity was able to contain 17-1 Wapello to just four points in the same four-minute stretch.

Wapello outscored Holy Trinity 18-16 in the second period and held a 45-31 advantage at the break.

But that’s as close as the Crusaders would get as Wapello opened up a 26-point lead at the end of the third period and led 74-45 going into the fourth. The Crusaders wouldn’t get any closer as Wapello stretched the lead to as much as 35 before the final buzzer.

Sophomore Matt Hellige paced Holy Trinity with 16 points, followed by sophomore Reed Fehseke, junior Brant Holtkamp and senior Collin Thornton, all with 10 on the night. Quentin Schneider had eight points and Blake Crabtree added three to round out the scoring for HTC.

In the junior varsity contest, Holy Trinity won 41-37, sparked by 10 points from Cole Thornton and nine from Garrett Hannum. The Crusaders led the entire game. Holy Trinity will feature Senior Night on Thursday as the boys and girls varsity squads take on New London with seniors being honored between the games. The girls game is set to begin at 6 p.m.

Alliant says new app gives quick status of accounts

“Most people think if we demand payment over the phone, we’re scammers. That’s not true,” said Alliant’s Customer Service Manager, Dave Foss.

Foss said customers need to verify any requests for payment by calling the number printed on statements and customers should never trust a number someone gives you.

He also said Alliant has new technology that customers can take with them.

“We have a new smart-phone app. Customers can download this for apple or android phone. This app gives customers instant access to their account to understand where they sit,” he said.

Foss said Alliant never demands immediate payment over the phone.

Travel Show

Come join us for an evening and check out some of the amazing tours that we have planned!

Thursday, February 8
902 Riverview Drive // Ft. Madison, IA
Doors open at 4:00 pm // Open house from 4:00-5:00 pm
Presentations start at 5:00 pm for Mayflower Tours

Tulip Time on the
Romantic Rhine

& Mosel River Cruise

Experience the re-wakening of Spring along the Rhine and Mosel Rivers. From the enchanting Keukenhof Gardens, in the Netherlands, at the peak of tulip season to the majestic heights of Switzerland. See the countryside blooms as we sail those two brook rivers of Europe.

Thanksgiving in
New York City

There’s nothing like holidays in New York City, and this tour gives you the best: the city has to offer, including spectacular views, a city cruise, marching bands and dancing lights.

Featured Tours
Two Step Tour Through Texas
The Mighty Five - Under National Parks
The Grand Pacific Northwest
The Art Enthusiast
Gettysburg & Washington D.C.
The Henry Ford Museum
John Divis - 100th Anniversary Tour

First. Fresh. Local.

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Stay Healthy

Is pain or injury causing you to sit
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in the FMCH Orthopedic clinic get
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Derek Breder, M.D.
Brent Woodbury, M.D.

Dr. Brent Woodbury • Dr. Derek Breder •
Paul Ostby, P.A.-C • Kyle Gibson, P.A.-C

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- Mark M.

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Now taking reservations for Fishing Tournaments, Sporting Events and the Annual Tri-State Rodeo!

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“Keep coming back! The books are amazing and the staff is fabulous!”

- Mark M.

No Phone Calls.

Fishing Tournaments

Sporting Events

Annual Tri-State Rodeo!

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

FORT MADISON

COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WORK SESSION

February 5, 2018

6:00 P.M.

Located in the Fort Madison Middle School Library

AGENDA

I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum

II. Recognition of guests

III. Approve the agenda

IV. Guiding Coalition Discussion

V. Certified Budget 2018-2019 Discussion

VI. Adjourn

HELP WANTED

Buffalo61 Bar & Grille

Now Hiring

The Buffalo61 Bar & Grille is now hiring for all positions:

- Cooks
- Servers
- Bartenders
- Hosts

Experience is a must.

Must be able to work in a fast-paced environment where outstanding custom-er service reigns and must be available beginning mid-to-late February for training.

Fill out an application or turn in your resume at The Buffalo, 2016 South Main Street, Burlington, IA 52601.

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Walter S. Houston

Manager

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- Mark M.

No Phone Calls.

Fishing Tournaments

Sporting Events

Annual Tri-State Rodeo!

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lee County, Iowa

Board of Supervisors

BUDGET WORKSHOP

DATE: FRIDAY, February 2, 2018

CONVENCING TIME:

2:00 P.M.

LOCATION:

County Office Building,

933 Avenue H,

Fort Madison, IA 52627

PUBLIC MEETING - CITIZENS WELCOME

Vision and hearing assistance available upon request

Contact Title VI Administrator

319-372-3705

County Website:

www.leeCounty.org

NOW HIRING

(Fort Madison)

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Job # 189528W-00

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email your ad to classifieds@pencitycurrent.com

Help Wanted

**School Age Care Program Supervisor Wanted**

Holy Trinity Early Childhood Center has an opening for a School Age Care Program Supervisor. This is a full-time (benefits eligible), year-round position that requires the following qualifications:

- Associate’s Degree in Education or Early Childhood; Bachelor’s Degree preferred
- 2+ years experience working in a youth program or education
- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Able to pass a background check and complete training as required by Iowa DHS
- Enthusiastic and patient in working with children

Please contact Stefanie Drollinger at stefanie.drollinger@holytrinity-schools.org or 319-372-6428 for application information.

**American Eyecare is #ChamberStrong**

**Lee County Bank is #ChamberStrong**

**Horan’s Cabaret is #ChamberStrong**

**Fort Madison YMCA is #ChamberStrong**
LCEDG, Health dept. make pleas at Supervisors meeting

BUDGET - Continued from Page 1

progress of the LCEDG.

The economic group provides quarterly updates to the board, but with the county short on balancing the budget, and previously hinting at pulling funding of close to $210,000 from the LCEDG, board members were in attendance, along with Millard, to address the board.

Millard said the group’s focus on developing and retaining jobs in the county, has had an impact in helping reduce the unemployment number in Lee County from close to 9.8% down to 4.7%. But she said that number is still one of the highest in the state and the group has more work to do.

Hunold asked if there has been any thought to combining the LCEDG with the Fort Madison Economic Development Group and The Keokuk Economic Development Group.

"Is there any reason we don't pull that whole thing together," Hunold asked.

"There's been a lot of discussion about that," Millard said. "Each organization is set up differently and that would be more cumbersome than we want. However, one of Lee County's main goals is bringing the county together. We want one Lee County moving forward. Site selectors don't want to deal with multiple entities, they want to deal with one."

Board member Matt Morris said the current staff has done a great job of bringing those groups together and the communication is very transparent.

"We're getting the same information and the deal is happening in the past," Morris said. "It was tumultuous because groups were protecting assets, but I don’t think the relationship has ever been better."

Millard said cutting funding to the LCEDG would hurt the private/public relationship.

“I know it’s tough times and you’re looking at numbers, but also think about the people, the communities, and business," Millard said. "But if you have to cut somewhere, I implore you to not cut economic development. If people see that cut in investment, then what gives them the incentive to invest. These private entities are looking to partner with the supervisors. They don’t want to do it on their own, they can’t. They need your help in moving Lee County forward."

A week and a half ago the county was showing a budget deficit of $3.03 million for the proposed 2018-2019 budget year. Included in that is a $1.5 million negative balance for mental health and developmentally disabled services. Known as Fund 10 in the county accounting, those funds are specifically earmarked for mental health services. The state is requiring counties, currently, to spend down funds that are being held. According to county officials, those funds have been allocated to counties as a result of closing state mental health facilities such as Mt. Pleasant.

However, county supervisors are cautious that those funds may not be available in the fiscal year and the state could change their tune on spending down the fund.

The county is looking to see if those funds can be used in other departments such as Lee County Health Department and the Lee County Sheriff’s department who regularly have costs associated with the mentally ill and disabled residents.

As it stands, many departments have resubmitted budgets with areas that have been trimmed down.

The sheriff’s department has cut nearly $350,000 out of their budget.

“This is training that we’re cutting," Weber said. "You’ve got rapid response training, annual training, and then you have vehicles that have to be replaced. All this is being put on hold. Another thing that’s being cut is fuel projections. If the cost of fuel goes up, you’re probably going to see a budget amendment request because we can’t be on the road.

Weber said he was also not able to put on the additional two correctional officers at the jail. Supervisors approved hiring two after an incident at that jail where an altercation between one officer and an inmate pointed to safety issues on the overnight shift. They said Weber could look at including two more in the upcoming budget year.

Weber said the staff has agreed to work 12 hour overlapping shifts in order to make sure the safety issues are addressed and more than one officer is on the floor at all times.

“This was the staff realizing this was a dangerous situation and they worked together to come up with the idea. It was them protecting each other because we won’t be able to add the additional staff we need."

Other departments that have submitted reduced budgets include Secondary Roads which cut their initial budget by $321,000 and the Lee County Board of Health, that cut its initial budget close to $130,000.

LCHD Director Julie Schilling was also on hand to address the board pointing to the programs that are required by the state according to the Department of Public Health’s Title XIX requirements. The only programs not required are homecare and hospice care.

Supervisors agreed to meet again Friday at 2 p.m. at the County Office Building in Fort Madison to further discuss budget options.