



# Pen City Current

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## Governor signs budget law, officials react

*Dems wanted to use slush fund, GOP says that would've pushed problem to 2018*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Gov. Terry Branstad signed into law today, a bill that balances the current fiscal year budget, which was facing a shortfall of approximately \$117 million.

Although not an unexpected result from a Republican controlled legislature, several local officials weighed in on the 1st legislative bill to be signed into law in the new session.

State Sen. the money the cuts law will "We've fund that said. "We problem



HEATON

"Now we're cutting education, public safety including Iowa Highway Patrol by a million. You get in a wreck you better hope someone shows up because the state patrol may not make it," Taylor said.

The governor said in signing the bill he was pleased that critical funding wasn't part of the de-appropriation.

"Lt. Gov. Reynolds and I appreciate that the 1st bill passed by the Iowa legislature, responsibly balances

Rich Taylor said Iowa had to offset the shortfall and coming as a result of this hurt Iowans. got \$700 million in a slush we could have used," Taylor could have fixed this and then went to work on corporate tax cuts to repay those funds next year."

the budget Gov. Terry Condition adjustments pleased that tough de-exempting Medicaid backfill for local governments from reduction, providing stability for Iowa schools, businesses, and families."



TAYLOR

for fiscal year 2017," said Branstad. "As I said in my of the State address, these are required by law. I'm the legislature made the cisions early in the session K-12 education funding, payments and property tax

The bill passed the Iowa House 58-38 on Jan. 30, 2017 and the Iowa Senate on Jan. 26, 2017, 28-19.

Rep. Dave Heaton (R-Mt. Pleasant) said some thought the shortfall could be handled differently, but those choices didn't make sense to him.

"Critics of the bill say we could have financed this

See BUDGET, page 2



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

### Top shaved-need dirt

The future site of the park being planned to commemorate the battles of the War of 1812 fought in Fort Madison has had the surface scraped and is now in need of good top soil for a grass bed to be seeded. Anyone interesting in donating to the project should contact Andy Andrews at the North Lee County Historial Society at 372-7661.

## Lee County budget levy static to FY 2017

*Tax asking drops .016/\$1000 for 2018 fiscal year*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - Lee County Budget Director Cindy Renstrom has turned in a 2018 preliminary budget that is very similar to 2017.

The county levy for 2018 is being projected at \$10.372 per \$1,000 assessed valuation with

revenue generation at \$11,671,396. In 2017, the levy was \$10.388 per \$1,000 and generated \$11,572,060.

Renstrom said the difference is in debt service.

"The reason it went down is that I'm using some of the debt service fund to cover some of the levy," Renstrom said. "I also didn't raise the general supplemental even

though (Public Safety Answering Point-911) went up about \$70,000 because we have enough carry over to cover it."

Renstrom also said if health insurance rates come in lower, which she seemed to think it will, that could possibly help lower the rate a bit as well.

Currently the county pays \$1,410 towards a county employee's health insurance per month and \$916 to a single policy. The employees pay \$95 and \$20 for family and single respectively.

The general categories for the budget are General Basic, General Supplemental, Mental Health-Developmental Disability, Debt Service and Rural Basic.

The projected rates for each category are \$3.50 for General Basic and General Supplemental; 69.7 cents for MH-DD, 54.9 cents; and \$2.127 for Rural Basic.

Valuations for the county sit at \$1.26 billion compared to 1.25 billion

See LEVY, page 2

## Task force nabs two in Keokuk

MONTROSE - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of two Keokuk, Iowa residents on misdemeanor drug charges.

Rachel Gennelle James, 47, of 3616 235th Avenue, Lot 25B, Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on January 30th, 2017 at the Lee County Sheriff's Office on a misdemeanor drug charge. James is charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance (marijuana), a serious misdemeanor. If convicted, James faces up to 1 year in the Lee County jail.

The arrest of James stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that she was involved in the use of illegal drugs in the Lee County area.

In an unrelated matter, Jeremiah David Gray, 38, of 1902 Palean Street, Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on January 31st, 2017 at the Keokuk Police Department on misdemeanor or drug charges. Gray is charged with Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor, and Maintaining a Drug House, an aggravated misdemeanor. If con-

victed, Gray faces up to 2 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility.

The Lee County Attorney's Office, Lee County Sheriff's Office, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, Iowa State Penitentiary K9 Unit, and the 8th Judicial District of Probation and Parole assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

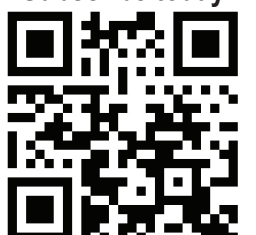
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## From the Front/Local News

# Ash says community college cut could have been worse

**BUDGET** - Continued from Page 1

De-Appropriation bill in a different way. They say we can use the reserve as a source of funding. Yes, we could, but by law we would have to repay the fund in the following year. This would create a \$117 million shortfall in that year. There would be no money for education and we would have to short health care," Heaton said

in a statement released Monday prior to becoming law Wednesday. "This bill does not come without, what I feel, shortcomings. The Department of Corrections will experience a \$5.5 million reduction; the courts will receive a \$3 million cut; and the Highway Patrol budget will be reduced by \$1 million.

We did the best we could to soften the blow in these three critical areas. It is my hope that in the coming budget year we will do everything we can to re-establish the funding levels for our prisons, our courts and our highway law enforcement. The new law requires an \$18 million reduction from the three state uni-

versities and \$3 million from community colleges. Dr. Michael Ash, President of Southeastern Community College said any reduction in funding is tough to swallow. "We don't have any fat in the budget" he said. "As with any agency facing a shortfall, SCC is greatly disappointed. We understand there are challenges

with the state budget, however community colleges are attempting to address skills and jobs training in local economies. With those cuts or lack of appropriate funding it limits our ability to do just that," Ash said. Heaton said SCC will experience a \$159K decrease versus over one-half million dollars

that was in the Governor's original de-appropriation request. "Well I'm going to say I'm thankful, if someone could be thankful with a cut in funding, that they moved it from \$8.7 million to \$3 million. It does impact the college by over \$126,000 we will tighten a little bit more. I don't have much left," Ash said.

## Fund balance will drop \$1.5M in 2018

**LEVY** - Continued from Page 1

in 2017 an increase of \$9.1 million. The increase in assessed valuations will result in an additional \$99,000 in revenue. The \$10.37 levy is the lowest levy the county has submitted since 2005 when no debt service was assessed and the levy was set at \$8.60/1,000.

According to Renstrom's fund balance sheet, she is projecting a 2017 fiscal year total fund balance of \$12,125,408 and she's budgeting for a \$1,572,571 loss in the funds at the end of fiscal year 2018 for a net ending balance of approximately \$10.55 million.

Highlighting the top expenditure estimates for 2018 is the general basic fund which has expenditure totals of \$11.08M, Secondary Roads at \$6.85M and \$1.01M in debt service. Six funds are expected to take a loss in 2018, General Basic, MH-DD Services, Attorney Fine Collection Fund, Sheriff Commissary Fund, Records Management and Debt Service. Rural Basic services is showing a \$322,000 surplus.

### AREA HONOR ROLLS

**PCC STAFF**

**FORT MADISON** – Fort Madison Middle School has announced their second quarter honor rolls. Pen City Current and our advertisers congratulate all these students for their hard work and dedication to their education.

**8th Grade**

**Principal's Scholars**

Kendall Beebe, Nadia Boeding, Kylee Cashman, Ethan Deacon, Kendra Fuget, Rachel Hellman, Shyanna Hoenig, Amanda-Marie Jones, Lauren King, William Larson, Gavin Lorence, Morgan Meierotto, Raigan Munson, Madelyn Rashid, Madelynn Schaefer, Madelyn Swigart, Jeremy Thurman, Brandy Walker, Aidan Wendorf, Madison Williamson, Blake Wilson

**A Honor Roll**

Lauren Bailey, Anthony Barnes, Taylor Barnes, Kyndon Boatman, Cameron Bowman, Cassandra Bringman, Bryce Britton, Olivia Cornelis, Chance Decker, Kaylyn Eaves, Emily Eid, Dylan Estrada, Alyssa Fincher, Samantha Golowach, Kailyn Guzman, Gracie Haessig, Allyson Helmick, Kylie Hernandez, Isaiah Hoaglin, Caeden Klesner, Brenden Kline, Kyle Knepp, Myah Kruse, Owen Kruse, Jordan Kuhlmeier, Reyna Lampe, Makayla Leasch, Nadia Leveling, Marcel Lopez, Levi Lowney, Calem MacLearn, Kearstin Mason, Samira Mehmedi, Aiden Mesecher, Jake Perry, Keaton Poe, Julien Pope, Hailey Ridgway, Chloe Sage, Olivia Shields, Levi Sissel, Kyla Smith, Jyliyah Smutney, Alex Steffensmeier, Alicia Stephenson, Tori Vincent, Randall Wagler, Kyndall Wells, Hayden Whitaker, Allysen White, Bryce Workman

**B Honor Roll**

Chrissa Ahlen, Maryah Bender, Trinity Brewer, Cade Burgher, Kimberly Burkhardt, Ayla Carter, Aubrey Corson, Alexa Crank, Lucas Day, Chase Durbin, Jake Eaves, Colton Engeman, Treveon George, Ashton Heidbreder, Lane Herrierman, Samuel Huffman, Haley Janic, Brandon Jarvis, Aydn Kelly, Kenzie Kempker, Gayla Mallory, Jacob Marshall, Jameria McCullough, Brodey McGowan, Haley McManus, Seth Mendez, Emma Menke, Carmen Mesecher, Colby Moore, Frances Moyers, Anastasia Noon, Kaylynn Ransford, Alexis Rehm, Cadence Reyes, Eric Riggs, Chayton Smith, Damien Smith, Tasia Swain, Jennifer Whisenand, Isabel Williamson, Logan Wilson, Travis Young

**7th Grade**

**Principal's Scholar**

Dayton Davis, Hunter Edgar, Rachel Frey, Grace Janic, Sylvia Jerden, Logan Johnson, Tate Johnson, Alexia Lantry, Abram Lorence, Kinley Lumsden, Maggie Lurvey, Madison Meyer, Austin Miller, Addie Scanlan, Hattie Schrepfer, Reese Shannan, Tyler Wade, Kirsten Walz, Kerrington Wardlow, Gavin Wiseman

**A Honor Roll**

Braxton Akers, Emilia Arnold, Arianna Brantner, Gage Brockman, Kennedy Brookhiser, Jealousy Claiborne, Tierra Dahlstrand, Miles Dear, Maria Delgadillo, Laton Denning, Katelyn Dennis, Emily Eaves, Kami Eaves-Fedler, Shaylin Fullenkamp, William-Michael Gager, Ebony Hoaglin, Matthew Hopper, EvaJean Hora, Tyler Horn, Kylee Howren, Coree James, Kyle Kemper, Abagayl Kirchner,

Kayla Kruse, Anna Lynk, Neil Macomber, Colton McDonald, Kaylie McFadden, Jakob McGowan, Cale McKnight, Dimari Meredith, Matthew Moore, Shelby Penrod, Marli Phillips, Madison Pirri, Olivia Puga-Vass, Jennifer Riggs, Kerridwen Roberts, Alexandra Robertson, Leighton Rockhold, Kayla Rollins, Dominick Schafer, Hannah Shepler, Chelsea Smith, Matthew Steffensmeier, Dakota Sullivan, Layni Vessell, Amy Wamsley, Landes Williams, Hayden Wolfe, Rylee Zimmerman

**B Honor Roll**

Maya Barraclough, Nickolas Booten, Lillian Brasfield, Jose Butler, Gabriella Carle, Madison Clute, DaShyia Deal, Austin Ensminger, Luke Gernhardt, David Greenwald, Sydney Hare, Gracie Heidbreder, Mandy Helenthal, Garrett Hermes, Matthew Hoenig, Gavin Horn, Alexandra Kelsey, Shelby Kemp, Kylie Kemper, Nathan Leasch, Kaleb Mancill, Emily Mayes, Isaiah Miller, Ashton Peterschmidt, Dezirae Porter, Christian Rains, Wyatt Richers, Cuyrin Ross, Andrew Schaefer, Brennan Silva, Alana Simpson, Emma Slater, Elizabeth Stuekerjuergen, Mariana Tecpanecat, Josilyan Thrasher, Reiburn Turnbull, Alan Vincent, Mercedes Voorhees, Abbygail Wheeler, Alivia Williams, Loki Windbigler, Paige Wright - Anderson

**6th Grade**

**Principal's Scholar**

Ivy Arnold, Isabel-la Boeding, McKenna Cashman, Lucy Deacon, Ran Detlefsen, Kencade Fraise, Anna Hasenclever, Trinity Hodson, Molly Knipe, Emmett Kruse, Lauren Otte, Cade Packard, Aidan Pennock, Kay

Quittem, Ellie Schulte, Kailey Sutak, Dalaney Walker, Kane Williams, Brianna Wright

**A Honor Roll**

Gavin Archer, Katherine Beach, Lucas Benedict, Faith Bennett, Mylah Blanchard, Aidan Boyer, Jordyn Boyer, Madissyn Brewer, Danay Buchanan, Bryce Cohn, Paige Dettmers, Bailey Dodson, Kaden Dunn, Colton Durbin, Hunter Elkin, Carly Fedler, Kaitlin Gaugler,

Taegan Hamilton, Kalyssa Hansen, Paige Hathaway, Venus Hunter, Trista Jones, Macy Lebeck, Dominic Lopez, Mateo Lozano, Trevor Luke, Londyn McClellan, Brian McMillan, Landon Medland-Berry, Allison Miller, Lila Miller, Raimi Monnier, Malachi Muse, Anayi Navarro, Race Parson, Jennifer Perez, Jillian Perry, Shawn Peters, Makenna Pixler, Piper Schafer, Tristin Schneider, Tanner Settles, Tate Settles, Tauren Settles, Madison Sherwood, Daniel Sokolik, Zander Speer, Emily Steffensmeier, Autumn Stephens, Abigail Stockwell, Tanner Stoermer, Payton Sutcliffe, Nathaniel Swigart, Benjamin Thele, Breeann Walston, Vance Walz

**B Honor Roll**

Alivia Akers, Gideon Anderson, Robin Bahl, Zachary Boilesen, Brandt Booten, Mathew Brown, Maxwell Brunswig, Brianna Byrd, Haley Craft, Cayden Dohman, Drew Dravis, Rylee Dubois, Nakodah Dunlap, Kevin Durand, Chloe Edgington, Shayna Eid, Jacob Enger, Briana Epps, Cayla Feuerhammer, Charles Fullenkamp, Creedance Genck, Dylan Gilman, Nathan Gram, Collin Greenwald, Gavin Horton, Ember Johnson, Colton Jones, Kelsey Kruse, Gage Langrill,

### For the Record

**Lee County Sheriff's Report**

01/31/2017 - 8:59 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Joshua James Hayes, 28, of Avenue D in Fort Madison at the Lee County Sheriff's office, on a warrant for probation/pretrial violation and two warrants for failure to appear/contempt of court. 01/31/2017 - 10:41 p.m. Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of 270th Street and Hwy. 61. A vehicle driven by Michael Duane Stocker, 46, of Farmington was rear ended by a vehicle driven by Taylor Danielle Adamire, 17 of Montrose while Stocker was

slowing to turn right. Adamire, and a passenger in Stocker's vehicle, Dawn Harr, 46, of Montrose, were transported to Fort Madison Community Hospital for neck and back injuries. Stocker was cited for no registration and Adamire was cited for following too closely.

**Fort Madison Fire Dept. Report**

01/31/2017 - The Fort Madison Fire Department went on four medical calls.

*It should be noted a criminal charge is merely an accusation and those listed above are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.*

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### 5th Grade

#### Principal's Scholar

Jackson Amandus, Lily Arnold, Alexis Beebe, Aiden Benda, Leif Boeding, Nathen Bowen, Jordyn Burch, Collin Campbell, John Cottrell, Madyson Erb, Joni Gilpin, Eliana Gnann, Madelyn Gobble, Mazie Hotop, Caden Hutson, Raymond Jaciunde-Sutton, Haley Lampe, Alexis Leasch, Xander Lumsden, Kalob Prier, Benjamin Ramatowski, Carson Rashid, Keaghan Roberts, Teague Smith, Rylee Steffensmei-

er, Kaleb Sutcliffe, Kelltyn Weaver, Miah Wellendorf, Henry Wiseman, Amy Yasenchok

#### A Honor Roll

Sage Beals, Lacey Beimer, Reid Bell, William Bennett, Annah Blanchard, Gracie Blind, Kiley Bohnenkamp, Jayden Bowen, Dane Brecount, Ava Butler, Hailee Carle, Alix Carson, Aubrey Claiborne, Ieisha Coleman, Chailee Cover, Hunter Cresswell, Bryan Crutchfield, Javean Davis, Cade Denning, Abrie Doehling, Marissa Frantz, Conner Fuget, Cassandra Fullenkamp, Na-Renzo Gardner, Jr., Conner Gelsthorpe, Maylie Gordon, Karma Greenhaugen-Johnson, Ella Groves, Chloe Haessig, Joseph Hartman, Samuel Hasenclever, Lauryn Helmick, Michael Hollister, Reed Holmes, Madison Huebner, Damon Hunter, Tia Jenkins, Shelby Johnson, Taylor Johnson, Hunter Kempker, Emma Kern, Audrey Kirchner, Aivery

Klesner, Jamarkus Kline, Sky Lawson, Isaac Mason, Adalynn McKnight, Kyle Menke, Mia Moore, Alma Oronia, Alexia Osborn, Lucas Pace, Emiliano Patino, Ethan Porter, Leila Roberts, Marin Rose, Megan Roxberg, Naudia Ruston, Delanee Seay, Hayden Segoviano, Autumn Sly, Chloe Sokolik, Isaac Thacher, William Thompson, Chance Weakley, Jacob Wells, Lonna Wheeler, Kadin White, Paetyn Wiegand, Ellanore Wright, Theodore Yeh

#### B Honor Roll

MaKenna Bernhardt, Micah Gernhardt, Micky Grape, Kyle Grube, Darren Harwood, Brooklynd Hellberg, Elizabeth Inghram, Ayven Kempker, Alixandra Kern, Dawson Knipe, Cloey Koch, Jennifer Marshall, Ayden Moyers, Jace Nixon, Kameron Segoviano, Elizabeth Smith, Jahbari Starks, Shelby Stotts, Benjamin Ward, Alexis Whaley, Kevin Winn

### 4th Grade

#### Principal's Scholar

Ava Barnes, Jacob Benbow, Austin Blakeley, Ellianna Boyer, Lily Brockelman, Brody Cashman, Ricky Chamness, Hunter Cook, Alyssa Crowther, NaNa Detlefsen, Danika Dotson, MaKenna Erb, Sydney Fraise, Laci Gathers, Lillian Gelsthorpe, Kylee Gilman, Marley Grizzle, Devlin Guzman, Jackson Guzman, Kayden Hansen, Ethan Huffman, Taylor Huffman, Hannah Janic, James Janic, Sabrina Jennings, Dashawn Johnson, Hadley Johnson, Hailey Kemper, Abigail Kempker, Katie Kline, Mason Koser, Dayton Lamar, Allison Lamb, Peyton Lambert, Brylie Lorence, Dacey Marshall, Macey Mclees, Sabrina Mehmedi, Brandon Osborn, Logan Pennock, Emily Ross, Danielle Shaffer, Noah Swigart, Ava Taylor, Micah Thomas, Lawson Twedt, Brady

Wade, Alexander Wamsley, Gregory Waters, Jerome Zemlicka

#### A Honor Roll

Caden Barnes, Emma Berry, Benjamin Blanchard, Cale Blanchard, Gavin Blindt, Kaylynn Boe, Klaire Bohnenkamp, Trentin Bowen, Sadie Brandon, Olivia Buckner, Gavin Callahan, Nicholas Carle, Kelsey Davis, Jackson Day, Julian Dear, Connor Dennis, Jacob Ehlers, Bella Estrada, Jacqueline Ford, Maria Frantz, Chandler Fullenkamp, Mia Gonzalez, Jonathan Hasenclever, Kalib Heidbreder, Harlie Hill, Serenity Hirte-Kempker, Autumn Hummell, Jessiona Jaciunde, Isaiah Jenkins, Alexa Johnson, Calvin Johnson, Shelby Johnson, Alma Johnstun, Abigail Karhoff, William Kempker, Emilee King, Ruby King, Madalyn Kirchner, Hunter Landrum, Austin Lantry, Jonathan Lynk, Aurora Martinez-Eid, Alen Meh-

medi, Talan Meredith, Mia Mesecher, Morgan Miller, Alexis Muldoon, Kassara Muldoon, Kaylee Newton, Victoria Peters, Aleister Raines, Naomi Ramatowski, Nicoli Reynolds, Katherine Schwerin, Nola Shores, Katelyn Sissel, Zayne Speer, Briahna Sprague, Aidan Stegall, Alexa Walz, Zaonna Williams, Thomas Williamson

#### B Honor Roll

William Bauswell, Kenden Bowie, Madison Britt, Nolen Carle, Hannah Carson, Kaden Durbin, Connor Enger, Jeffery Fedler, Micah Fraise, Joseph Fuller, Madison Gasaway, Zoe Gilman, Michealla Jones, Michael Kemp, Abigail Kensett, Aiden Mitchell, Brogan Moon, Alex Moore, Jesus Oronia, Kevin Padgett, Evan Richmond, Anna Scanlan, Megan Shacklett, Gavyn Siemens, Lilliana Stoermer, Michael Thrasher, Gracie Wagner.

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