

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's **Black & White** and **Read** all over

Wednesday, January 25, 2023 | 7 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 25



www.pencitycurrent.com

STE(A)M events this weekend

ARTS CENTER: Still time to register kids for art activities in Burlington and FM

BY LORI ILLNER GREENE
PCC EDITOR

Just in case you have been busy and have overlooked getting the kiddos registered, this is a reminder that we are in our final days before STE(A)M Days kick off on Friday and Saturday of this week at the Art Center of Burlington and the FMAAA Art Center.

What is STE(A)M? It is the creative and innovative component that underpins the STEM disciplines.

See **STEAM**, page 7

Youth Classes STE(A)M
Saturday, January 28, 2023

\$25 / STUDENT

10-11:30am **3D Printing** ages 7to9
12:30-2pm **Film Editing/Stop Animation** ages 10to12
2:30-4pm **V/R Investigations** ages 13to16

825 Avenue G Fort Madison
319-372-3996 | fortmadisonart.com

OPINION



Many questions, but few answers on school choice

You don't need a crystal ball to see that private school vouchers appear to be barreling toward passage by the Iowa Legislature, just three weeks into the 2023 session. These vouchers, or education savings accounts, or whatever you want to call them, would give parents \$7,600 per year for each of their kids to attend a private K-12 school.

Although the outcome has been easy to foresee, it has not been easy to get answers to the many questions being asked across the state as lawmakers move to make this landmark change in education in Iowa.

Some questions that deserve answers include:

Does the governor and other proponents really believe \$900 million can be siphoned away from Iowa's 327 public school districts over the next four years for vouchers without harming the public schools?

The premise is to give parents a choice of where their children will be educated. Don't parents already have a wide range of options if they can't afford the tuition at a private school — from enrolling their kids in an adjacent public school district at no cost, to home-schooling, or enrolling them tuition-free in Iowa Connections Academy or Iowa Virtual Academy, Iowa's two online public schools?

If a child has learning disabilities or behavior issues, or if English is not the child's native language, do vouchers serve their intended purpose when these children can be turned away by a private school without the parents having any recourse? When that occurs, what happens to the governor's "school choice"?

See **EVANS**, page 7



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Crews demolish the former Ebay Sales building at 904 Avenue G on Tuesday afternoon. The building was last owned by Asay properties according to Beacon Schneider.

IOWA NEWS

Washington mayor arrested on sex abuse charge

BY PCC STAFF

WASHINGTON - Jaron P. Rosien, the current mayor of Washington, Iowa has been charged with felony sexual abuse stemming from an incident at Rosien's bar on Jan. 8.

According to a release from the Iowa Department of Public Safety, Rosien turned himself into police on Tuesday

after investigators viewed surveillance tape after obtaining a warrant. Rosien admitted to investigators of the flirtatious behavior but said due to alcoholic consumption couldn't remember if any of the touching allegations took place.

Rosien has served the city of Washington since 2014, first as a councilman until 2018, and then as mayor from 2018 to present day.

Allegations surround an incident at the bar where Rosien approached a 27-year-old man and engaged in inappropriate touching that appears to be verified by

investigators who viewed surveillance tape after obtaining a warrant.

Rosien admitted to investigators of the flirtatious behavior but said due to alcoholic consumption couldn't remember if any of the touching allegations took place.

Rosien was taken into custody by the Washington County Sheriff's Department and is being held in the Washington County jail.

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
WED 25 Jan.....Cold with wintry mix, 32° F/ 22° F
THU 26 Jan.....Cloudy and cold, 28° F/ 18° F
FRI 27 Jan.....Cloudy, 39° F/ 22° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 01/23.....6 8 16 43 47, Star Ball: 9 All Star Bonus: 3
LUCKY FOR LIFE 01/23.....1 2 26 36 38, Lucky Ball: 1
PICK 3 01/23 MIDDAY.....0 6 6
PICK 3 01/23 EVENING.....0 0 5
PICK 4 01/23 MIDDAY.....0 2 11
PICK 4 01/23 EVENING.....9 2 7 4
POWERBALL 01/23.....12 31 47 58 60, Powerball: 23 Power Play: 3

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

LINDA K. YALEY

Linda Kay Boe Yaley, 81, of Denmark, IA died Friday, January 20, 2023 at River Hills Village in Keokuk, IA.

She was born April 10, 1941 in Wayne, NE the daughter of Rymer and Thelma Eide Boe. Linda graduated from Ft. Madison High School in Ft. Madison, IA.



YALEY

On May 29, 1959 Linda was united in marriage to James "Jim" H. Yaley at Denmark Congregational Church in Denmark, IA.

She is survived by her husband, Jim of Denmark, IA, two sons, Dave Yaley of Denmark, Larry Yaley (Anne) of Burlington, one daughter, Cheri Yaley Mayfield (David) of New York, NY, seven grandchildren, Cory Bohnenkamp (Jessica) of West Point, IA, Kayla Bohnenkamp of Montrose, IA, Jason Bohnenkamp (Jami) of Denmark, Eric Yaley (Ashley) of Ft. Madison, IA, Sarah Yaley of Ft. Madison, IA, Brandon Yaley (Jessica) of New London, IA and Shawna Ross (Zeke) of Ft. Madison, IA, eleven great-grandchildren and eighteen nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one daughter, Lisa Bohnenkamp and three brothers, Dale, Richard and Don Boe.

Linda had been employed by Great River Area Education Agency as an audiometrist. She was a member of Denmark Congregational Church and Harmony Bible Church. Linda was a talented seamstress and loved to bake and decorate cakes.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date this spring.

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.

Respiratory Season is Here!

Complete with Influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and COVID-19!

The colder temperatures keep us all cozy and warm inside, but this closeness and the decreased indoor air flow only increase the spread of uninvited viruses.



Keep your family safe during Respiratory Season by following these tips:

- Stay home if you are feeling sick.
- Get a vaccination/booster for any viruses circulating. In our region this includes flu and COVID-19.
- Wash hands often, especially after sneezing, coughing, using a bathroom, or blowing your nose. It is always important to wash your hands before touching your face.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth whenever possible.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes or cough into your sleeve.
- Disinfect any surfaces you frequently use, such as doorknobs, faucet handles, children's toys and remote controls.

If you do catch one of these viruses, consult your medical provider for any symptoms that are severe or concerning.



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PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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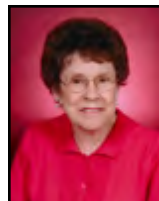
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OBITUARIES

IMELDA M. GROENE

Imelda M. Groene, 95, of West Point, Iowa, passed away at 9:11 p.m. Saturday, January 21, 2023, at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City.

Born on August 6, 1927, in Fort Madison, the daughter of Dr. S. P. and Elinor Catherine (Winnike) Holtz. On August 4, 1947, in West Point, Iowa, she married James J. Groene. He preceded her in death on March 19, 2007.



GROENE

Imelda is survived by her three daughters: Jeanne Bremekamp of Belize, Central America, Janet (Bill) Benjamin of Donnellson and Joyce (Bill) Meierotto of West Point; twelve grandchildren; twenty-one great grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; two brothers: Carl (Rita) Holtz of West Point and Delmar Holtz of St. Joseph, Missouri. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband: James; son-in-law: John Bremekamp; great granddaughter: Reagan Hulsebus; brother: Lester Holtz; sisters: Lucy Vonderhaar and Rozella Freitag.

Imelda graduated from Saint Mary's High School. She was a member of St. Mary's of the Assumption Catholic Church, the Altar and Rosary Society of the church and Daughters of Isabella. She enjoyed playing cards and spending time with family. Her passion was being a wonderful mother and grandmother.

Her body has been entrusted to the crematory of Schmitz Funeral Home for cremation.

Visitation will begin at 12:00 noon, Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point, where the family will receive friends from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. A parish rosary will be recited at 4:00 p.m. and a Christian wake service will be held at 5:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, January 26, 2023, at St. Mary's of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point, with Father Dan Dorau as celebrant.

Burial will be held in Calvary Cemetery in West Point.

A memorial has been established in her memory for West Point Holtz-Geers American Legion Post #668 or Calvary Cemetery.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com. Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements.



Lunch Specials
January 23-27
11am - 1pm

Monday, January 23
Turkey Sandwich, Cheese Potatoes, Corn

Tuesday, January 24
Breaded Pork Chop, Loaded Potatoes

Wednesday, January 25
Tater Tot Casserole, Green Beans

Thursday, January 26
Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, January 27
Fish & Shrimp Dinners, Fries, Slaw

Sports

Kruse's 28 leads Lady Hounds to win over Clark Cty.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Senior Camille Kruse was less than seven points from the school scoring record with a quarter to play Tuesday night.

Instead of finding her shots, she continued to look inside for teammates that were open as Clark County tried to find the answer for the Hounds' top scorer.

But the Indians had little in the way of the answer as Kruse went for 28 and the Hounds won 53-31 in a non-conference matchup at the Hound Dome.

"That's just who Camille is. She's our beast. She plays very unselfish basketball," said Head Coach T.J. Sargent.

"We knew she was getting close in the third period and we tried to get her open looks, but it seemed almost every time she found someone open and gave it up."

Sargent said she believed the single-game scoring mark is 34 and Kruse had all 28 before the fourth period started. She only took one shot in the fourth quarter, but found Dayonna Davis and Hadley Wolfe open late in the period for assists rather than forcing her own agenda.

Kruse started early with a 3-pointer to give Fort Madison a 5-2 advantage. After a Lady Hounds' defensive stop, Kruse would find Hadley again across the lane in transition for 7-2 lead.

Clark County would cut the lead to two at 7-5 but then Fort Madison would tear off 11 straight highlighted by Kruse's 11 points to take an 18-5 first quarter lead.

Aija Jenkins, who finished with 11 on the night behind Kruse, scored on

a putback to open the second quarter, while Clark County missed on their eight shots from the field in the second quarter allowing the Lady Hounds to amass a 30-7 lead with two minutes left in the half.

The Indians would make a small charge to the buzzer, outscoring Fort Madison 6-2 to trail by 17 at the break.

Kruse kept a regular beat with a 3-ball to open the Hound scoring in the third and then hit another after a couple defensive stops. She had five 3-pointers on the night and was 9-of-9 from the free throw line.

Clark County would never get closer than 15 points the rest of the way.

Fort Madison again got solid minutes from freshmen as Halle Menke, Davis, Wolfe, Dynasty Bell, and Mara Smith all got minutes in the win.

Bell came out and played stifling defense and came up with three steals, one which led to her first basket of the year in the fourth quarter.

"She's a really good defensive player, but again, another freshman. We've got quite a few freshmen in this group. We're trying to get some of these girls more ready and get them some confidence."

Sargent said a newer offense was giving Kruse some more open looks.

"It just depends on if we run it right or not," Sargent said. "That's where she was getting some open looks and we've been trying to get that."

The Hounds improve to 10-6 overall and they stand at 4-2 in the Southeast Conference. They host Fairfield on Friday night and then travel to Burlington Notre Dame on Saturday in a 1 p.m. tilt. The varsity boys follow.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison senior Camille Kruse drives past a Clark County defender Tuesday night on her way to 28 points as the Lady Hounds won 53-31 to move to 10-6 on the year.

Lady Crusaders get 41 out from Bendlage in loss to Notre Dame

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

BURLINGTON — Mary Kate Bendlage set a new school scoring record and nearly completed Holy Trinity's attempt at a comeback in Tuesday's 77-68 loss at Notre Dame.

Bendlage, a junior, scored 41 points, including 19 in the fourth quarter as the Crusaders (8-8 overall, 5-7 SEI Superconference South Division) took a big slice out of the Nikes' 25-point lead before finally falling.

"I know my role," Bendlage said. "I'm confident in my shot and I'm confident my team knows I can do it. If the shots aren't going in, I'll look for someone else.

But tonight they just happened to be falling in every time."

Bendlage has scored 92 points over her last three games.

"The game has really slowed down for her the last three games," Holy Trinity coach Tony Johnson said. "She's a big-time player, and in big-time moments that's when those kind of players step up."

"In practice I've been keying in on not just (scoring) inside, but outside as well," Bendlage said. "Because if you can do both, you're a really hard player to stop."

The Nikes (14-4, 11-1), ranked 11th in Class 1A, led 72-47 with seven minutes to play when Bendlage took over. She had all but two of the Crusaders' points

in a 21-2 run over the next five minutes that got Holy Trinity within 74-68.

Bendlage's last chance to get points came with 37 seconds left and the Crusaders down 76-68, when she drove the baseline for a layup but was called for an offensive foul. She fouled out on Notre Dame's next possession, and Notre Dame's Taryn Stephens made the first of two free throws for the final margin.

Bendlage said the late rally was something the Crusaders can use for momentum.

"I think we can honestly beat anyone moving forward," she said. "If we wouldn't have dug such a big

See **BENDLAGE**, page 4



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Sports

BLOODHOUND SPORTS

Hound boys rebound with win

CLARK COUNTY: Boeding scores 18 and Hounds play uptempo game to wipe out loss to Keokuk last week

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison boys basketball team had some thinking and re-thinking to do after surrendering a 22-point lead last week against Keokuk.

The Hounds lost that critical Southeast Conference game after collapsing in the final 13 minutes of the game. But there was no collapse Tuesday as the Hounds rolled Clark County, Mo, 69-34.

Fort Madison played fast and aggressive and opened up a 10-0 lead behind a couple buckets from Hunter Cresswell, and a Carson Rashid 3-pointer.

The Indians were dominant on the boards in the first half, pulling down five offensive rebounds in the first five minutes and 10 in the first half. But the Indians had trouble getting the ball to go down and couldn't cut into the lead early on as Fort Madison opened a 16-5 first quarter lead.

"We talked about that and told them we gave up 10 offensive rebounds in the first half, Wilson said. "Coach Beelman wasn't with us, but texted that in. We had a 13-point lead and we gave up 10 offensive rebounds and seven turnovers. You cut that even in half and you have an even more different ball game score-wise."

Fort Madison opened the game up with a 12-point lead in the third period when Leif Boeding hit a 3-ball in front of the Indians' bench on the left wing.

Clark County's Grayden Kleine countered with a bucket for the Indians and then Fort Madison's Julien Dear hit a 3-pointer from the left wing to make it a 13-point game and the Hounds held that lead through the first half, taking a 28-15 lead into the locker room.

Boeding, who finished with a game-high 18, hit another 3-pointer to open the scoring in the third period. The Bloodhound defense clamped down on the Indians,



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Bloodhounds' Dayton Lamar squeezes in for a shot between a couple of Indian defenders including Conner Pearl (12).

forcing the visitors to miss their first three shots from the field, while the Hounds pushed the lead to 41-15 as Aidan Boyer and Boeding combined for 13 Fort Madison points in the first 1:40 of the third period.

The Hounds ran away from Clark County from that point allowing Wilson to empty his bench with about four minutes left in the fourth period.

"We really moved the ball well tonight against the zone and the press and that allowed us to get some easy baskets. We also had some good inside-out going in the half-court," Wilson said.

"But I think I was most impressed with our guys moving the ball up in transition. Our guards tend to overdribble when we have people open in the wings."

"That's how we want to play. We have the athletes to play in transition. If we play in transition to our liking, we've got the guys that come do some things and that was on display tonight."

Wilson said the Hounds watched a lot of film in practice this week and kept pointing out where there were open guys on the floor, while the Hounds tried to dribble through presses.

"The real question was how are we going to rebound from Friday. I think a lot of people in the gym tonight were wondering that. We rebounded well. Were we perfect? No, but we were pretty good for four quarters," Wilson said.

The Bloodhounds stand at 5-8 on the year and just 1-6 in Southeast Conference play. They take on Fairfield Thursday night on the road, and then travel to Burlington Notre Dame on Saturday. The Hounds have a rare Friday off this week.

Nikes hang on to beat Crusaders

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

BURLINGTON — Holy Trinity's boys basketball season is heading into its final weeks.

Which is why coach John Hellige challenged his team after Tuesday's 54-42 loss at Notre Dame.

It's time, Hellige said, for the Crusaders to get tougher.

Holy Trinity (5-12 overall, 3-9 SEI Superconference South Division) trailed 32-23 at halftime, and was down 45-30 before going on a 9-0 run to close the gap with 3:55 to play. But the Crusaders would get just three points the rest of the game.

"Tonight, overall, we just didn't have as many scoring options as we typically have," Hellige said. "And we just really weren't tough enough — loose balls defensive rebounding you know. We've got to get tougher."

"We're just not playing tough enough yet, night in and night out, to compete with the top teams in the South Division."

Luke Hellige had 18 points, but no other Crusader scored in double figures. Conner Gehling had nine points, and Layne Rung had eight.

"Their size got to us a little bit," John Hellige said.

The Nikes just steadily pulled away throughout the second and third quarter. Holy Trinity had just eight second-quarter points and only two field goals in the third quarter.

Matthew Booten led Notre Dame (13-4, 9-3) with 15 points. Hunter Lillie had 13 points and Liam Delaney had 10.

"Matt Booten had a heck of a game and we weren't expecting it," Hellige said. "Caden Schwenker had a ton of offensive boards and that hurt. And their role players played really, really well."

Holy Trinity has games against Wapello, Van Buren, and Central Lee in the next seven days.

"We talked about being tougher this next few weeks," Hellige said. "You know, it's just a matter of desire, heart, and just grittiness."

HTC uses early charge to seal win

BENDLAGE - Continued from Page 3

hole for ourselves in the beginning, we could have easily won that by 10, 15 points."

"I was happy to see that, when we got down 20, whatever it was, we rolled right back and didn't give up on each other," Johnson said. "That was impressive to me."

Holy Trinity used an early 13-0 run to take a 19-12 lead and led 29-28 with 2:10 left in the first half before Notre Dame closed the quarter with a 10-3 run. The Nikes then opened the second half with a 13-1 run.

"It's hard to come back from that," Bendlage said. "We're down at halftime, but it's not like volleyball, where you come out and it's 0-0 and it's a clean start."

Kayla Box added 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Crusaders.

Lauren Krieger had 18 points to lead Notre Dame.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
TENTATIVE AGENDA
FORT MADISON
CITY COUNCIL**
Tuesday,
January 31, 2023
4:30 P.M.
City Council Chambers,
City Hall

FY 2023-24 BUDGET
WORK SESSION
Discussion

**REGULAR MEETING
AGENDA**
The Regular Meeting
will begin following the
close of the Budget Work
Session.

ROLL CALL

OTHER
1. Discussion and
possible action concern-
ing replica of Old Fort
Madison

ADJOURNMENT - The
City Council's next regular
meeting will be 5:30 P.M.
on Tuesday, February 7,
2023

**PUBLIC NOTICE
MINUTES
KEOKUK CITY
COUNCIL MEETING**
December 15, 2022
501 Main Street
5:30 P.M.

The City Council of the
City of Keokuk met in
regular session on De-
cember 15, 2022 at 501
Main Street. Mayor Kathie
Mahoney called the meet-
ing to order at 5:30 p.m.
There were eight council
members present, one
absent. Linda Altheide,
Roslyn Garcia, Shelley
Oltmans, John Helenthal,
Steve Andrews, Dan Till-
man, Roger Bryant, and
Michael Greenwald were
present. Carissa Cren-
shaw was absent. Staff in
attendance: City Adminis-
trator Cole O'Donnell, City
Clerk Celeste El Anfaoui,
Community Development
Director Pam Broomhall,
and Sewer Department
Manager Michael Clark,
Fire Chief Gabe Rose,
Water Pollution Control
Manager Tom Wills,
Bridge, Park, Sanitation &

Cemetery Manager Bob
Weis, Chief of Police Zeth
Baum as well as other city
employees.

**MAYOR'S CORRE-
SPONDENCE:** Informed
of upcoming events in
Keokuk.

CITIZEN'S REQUEST:
Kirk Savage expressed
concerns regarding the
vacant property ordi-
nance.

Motion made by Helen-
thal, second by Garcia
to approve the agenda,
including the consent
agenda. (8) AYES, (0)
NAYS. Motion carried.

- Minutes of the Regu-
lar City Council meeting
of December 1, 2022;

- Cash Receipts &
Treasurer's Report for
November, 2022;

- **RESOLUTION NO.**
158-2022: Approving a
Liquor License for Jax's
Place, 118 S. 5th Street,
Class C Retail Alco-
hol License – effective
immediately (pending fire
inspection & dram);

- **RESOLUTION NO.**
159-2022: Approving a
Liquor License for Ras-



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- Position is continuous shift operation
- 3% annual pay increases per contract
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- Opportunities to earn up to \$29.46/hr
- \$.45 2nd shift / \$.65 3rd shift pay differentials
- 3% annual pay increases per contract
- \$175 monthly Company contribution to pension from date of hire
- 3% Company match to 401(k); 100% immediately vested
- Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO starting at \$27.69 per weekly payroll deduction
- Plus Dental, Vision, Life, STD and more!

Open Salary Positions

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Quality / Sanitation Team Leader | Environmental Engineer
Quality Specialist



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Classifieds/Public Notices

HELP WANTED

Public Works General Operator

Performs a variety of unskilled or semi-skilled maintenance work, operates a variety of equipment in the construction, operation, repair, maintenance and replacement of City street, sanitary and storm drainage facilities and systems.

DESIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS
Education and Experience:
• Graduation from high school education or GED equivalent and
• Two (2) years of experience relating to construction, maintenance, or repair, or
• Any equivalent combination of education and experience.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS
• Valid State Driver's license
• Class B CDL with the ability to obtain a Class A CDL within one year of hire

Necessary Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Some knowledge of equipment, facilities, materials, methods and procedures used in maintenance, construction and repair activities;
- Skill in operation of some of the listed tools and equipment;
- Ability to perform heavy manual tasks for extended periods of time; ability to work safely; ability to communicate effectively verbally and in writing; ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with employees, other departments and the public; ability to understand and carry out written and oral instructions.

Submit applications to Justina Cullen at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, IA 52627 or via email at jcul-len@fortmadison-ia.com by 4:30pm on Friday, February 3rd, 2023.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

cal's Pub & Grub, Inc., 820 Main Street, Class C Liquor License with Outdoor Service – effective January 2, 2023;

• RESOLUTION NO. 160-2022: Approving a Liquor License for Hy-Vee Food Store, 3111 Main Street, Class E Liquor License with Sunday Service – effective January 2, 2023;

• Motion to pay bills and transfers listed in Register No.'s 5312-5314; Mayor Mahoney opened the public hearing at 5:39 p.m. for the vacation and disposal of the remaining portion of the alley right of way in Block 5, Kilbourne Addition, City of Keokuk, Lee County Iowa. A public hearing notice was published in the Daily Gate City on December 6, 2022.

COMMENTS: Broomhall gave overview. Ron Kemp, former CEO of Community Health Centers gave details of project and answered questions.

No further comments were received, Mayor Mahoney closed the public hearing at 5:49 p.m.

Motion made by Oltmans, second by Greenwald to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 161-2022: "A RESOLUTION TO VACATE AND DISPOSE OF ABUTTING PROPERTY OWNERS 20' X 150.47' PORTION OF THE ALLEY IN BLOCK 5, KILBOURNE ADDITION, CITY OF KEOKUK, LEE COUNTY IOWA." (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Garcia, second by Andrews to approve the third/final reading of an amended ORDINANCE NO. 2034 amending the code of Ordinances of the City of Keokuk, Iowa, by modifying provisions of Ordinance No. 2018, the City of Keokuk Electric Franchise, relating to franchise fees.

Roll Call Vote: (7) AYES – Altheide, Garcia, Helenthal, Andrews, Tillman, Bryant, and Greenwald. (1) NAY – Oltmans. 7-1 Motion carried.

Motion made by Greenwald, second by Oltmans to approve third/final reading of ORDINANCE NO. 2034 establishing a vacant property registry code.

Roll Call Vote: (8) AYES – Altheide, Garcia, Oltmans, Helenthal, Andrews, Tillman, Bryant, and Greenwald. (0) NAY. Motion carried.

Motion made by Helenthal, second by Garcia to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION

NO. 162-2022: "A RESOLUTION APPOINTING CHIEF OF POLICE AND SETTING SALARY." (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Oltmans, second by Tillman to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 163-2022: "A RESOLUTION APPROVING BID FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT DIGESTER CLEANING." (7) AYES, (1) ABSTAIN – Helenthal, (0) AYES. Motion carried.

Motion made by Green-

wald, second by Bryant to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 164-2022: "A RESOLUTION FIXING DATE FOR A MEETING ON THE AUTHORIZATION OF A LOAN AGREEMENT AND THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION CAPITAL LOAN NOTES OF THE CITY OF KEOKUK, STATE OF IOWA (FOR ESSENTIAL CORPORATE PURPOSE), AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION OF NOTICE." (8) AYES, (0)

NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Garcia, second by Helenthal to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 165-2022: "A RESOLUTION AWARDED THE FIVER-YEAR KEOKUK MUNICIPAL AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM." (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Helenthal to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 166-2022: "A RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE PUBLIC

WORKS DIRECTOR AND SETTING SALARY." (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS: First notification for Mackenzie Kohnke to the Park & Recreation Advisory Board, 3-year term to expire 11/2/2025.

Motion made by Greenwald, second by Helenthal to approve to appoint Shelley Oltmans to Keokuk Economic Development, 3-year term to expire 12/31/2025. (7) AYES, (1) ABSTAIN – Oltmans, (0) NAYS. Motion

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From the Front/Public Notices

Many openings left for weekend art classes

STEAM - Continued from Page 1

Critical thinking and problem solving are enhanced when arts intersect, while visual thinkers find it easier to find their full potential.

Please let your family, neighbors and friends know about this opportunity. NOTE: The Saturday 3D Printing class for ages 7to9 is almost full. but we do have a waitlist. Openings still available in the Stop Animation/Film Editing and Virtual Reality classes.

Friday, January 27th the Art Center of Burlington will be hosting two classes at their 301 Jefferson Street location.

Each 60min class costs \$15

Register by visiting their website at www.btownart.com.

Lego Challenges for grades K-3rd. Kids will learn soft skills shaping how they work and interact with others, including creative thinking, teamwork, communication, conflict resolution, and problem-solving skills.

Followed by Spark Robotics for grades 4th-7th. Learn about computer science through puzzles and coding challenges. Kids will learn to code by igniting their curiosity in computer science and turning programming into play!

Saturday, January 28 the Fort Madison Art Center will feature three 90 min classes at their 825 Ave G location.

Each class costs \$25

Register by calling the Art Center (and leaving a message) 319-372-3996 - or - by emailing fortmadisonart@gmail.com and referencing STEAM registration in the subject line.

3D printing for ages 7 to 9 replicating the geometry of snowflakes while investigating symmetry and visual balance.

Stop Animation Video/Film Editing for ages 10 to 12 offers the opportunity to develop animation skills from a traditional format using Studio Motion. Participants learn how to transfer concepts, drawings, storyboards and characters to the studio motion application.

V/R (virtual reality) Experience and Possibilities for ages 13 to 16 is a virtual field trip providing a reflective, realistic, and immersive experience exploring different countries, cultures and landmarks. The experience will further develop verbal and written skills while exploring real world possibilities of this new creative based technology.

School voucher bill was pushed through before LSA analysis

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

message?

Forty-one of Iowa's 99 counties do not have any private schools. How are vouchers going to help students in those counties, especially when voucher money cannot be used to pay for the expense of driving to a private school in another county?

Do supporters of the governor's proposal really think state tax revenues will be sufficient to allow the Legislature to allocate \$340 million per year for vouchers indefinitely?

What happens when the income tax cuts lawmakers approved in 2022 fully take effect in the next few years? These tax cuts will reduce the state general fund revenue by about \$2 billion — a reduction of about one-fifth.

Won't the combined effects of the cost of vouchers and the reduced income tax revenue put an excruciating squeeze on the state government's budget needs? Won't that squeeze make it nearly impossible to maintain the services that Iowans have come to expect — from state law enforcement, to the courts, state parks, community colleges and state universities, to health care for the poor, and the public schools?

Why are Gov. Kim Reynolds and Republican leaders in the Legislature adamant to get the voucher program approved before the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency completes its cost analysis — especially without an estimate of how much the state will pay a for-profit company that is still to be chosen to manage the voucher applications and payments?

Might the governor and Republican leaders be trying to get this proposal approved before Iowans fully understand the cost, and the consequences, and can express their opinions when their senators and representatives are back home on the weekends?

School enrollment data show there are 482,000 students attending public K-12 schools in Iowa. Private schools now serve 33,000 students.

The governor and proponents of vouchers have talked about the "failing" public schools in Iowa. Shouldn't these officials be called on to cite specific examples of these failures, so Iowans know whether the concerns are legitimate or exaggerated?

This is the governor's third version of a voucher program. It also is the most expensive. There are no income eligibility limits, and parents earning \$15,000 a year who have been sending their kids to a public school receive vouchers of the same amount as parents earning \$500,000 a year who already send their kids to private schools.

How does the governor justify giving vouchers to the wealthiest Iowans when other forms of state assistance — such as unemployment benefits, health insurance for the poor, food assistance for low-income people — have been pared back to cover fewer people or for a shorter duration because of worries about the sustaining the cost?

Proponents of vouchers point to the governor having a mandate to enact this proposal. Would people who voted for Reynolds have had a change of heart at the ballot box if she campaigned on providing an unlimited number of vouchers and with no income ceiling for eligibility? Remember, during the campaign the voucher plan on people's minds was the one that died in 2022 for the lack of enough Republican support. It would have capped the cost of the vouchers at \$55 million.

My friend Floyd was educated in the Catholic schools in Winneshiek County long before Kim Reynolds was born. His parents chose the church schools over the public schools because they wanted him and his siblings to have a solid religious foundation to their education.

Floyd opposes the governor's vouchers for one simple reason: He thinks tax money should be used for public schools, not for church schools, nor for schools that might be started by for-profit corporations.

"Education in Iowa may need some fixing, but the law now under consideration is not the answer," he wrote to friends last week.

Randy Evans can be reached at DMRevans2810@gmail.com.

PUBLIC NOTICES

carried.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS: Garcia informed that cemetery signs would be ready for a 5k through the cemetery.

STAFF REPORTS: O'Donnell reported on the 600 Block Buildings, 457 retirement plans, and updated administrative goals.

Closed Session Pur-

suant to the Iowa Open Meeting Law Code of Iowa Sec. 21.5 (i) To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a

closed session

Motion made by Oltmans, second by Altheide to entered closed session at 6:07 p.m.

Re-enter regular session at 7:39 p.m.

Motion made by Henthall, second by Oltmans to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

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