

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Monday, January 30, 2023 | 7 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 28



www.pencitycurrent.com

History in the making



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Hailey Kemper, who gets control of CR Kennedy's Treanne Wyatt in early wrestling Friday, became the first Lady Bloodhound to qualify for the state wrestling tournament with a title in the 100 lb. division at the Region 5 qualifier in Cedar Rapids Friday night.

KEMPER: Sophomore takes 100 lb. title becoming FM's first state qualifier for girls

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

CEDAR RAPIDS – Hailey Kemper has learned a valuable lesson in reckoning.

The Lady Hound sophomore beat two wrestlers who had beaten her multiple times earlier this year as she worked her way through the 100 lb .bracket at the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union's Region 5 state qualifier in Cedar Rapids.

Kemper rolled through the 10-girl bracket without a loss avenging two first-round pins earlier this year at the hands of Mid-Prairie junior Gabi Robertson (32-5), who was the top seed at Friday's event.

"I've gone against her twice and she beat both times so I did not expect to win that match," Kemper said.

"It's really crazy up here. From the

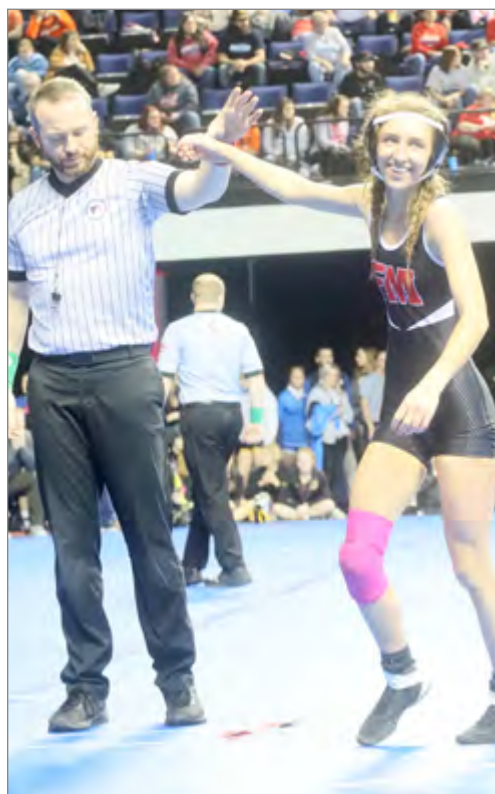
moment we walked in here and saw the whole arena, it was something we just weren't used to. So, it was really cool."

Fort Madison Head Coach Kyle Doherty said the win would give Kemper at least a top six seed at Thursday's IGHS AU State Tournament at the Xtreme Arena in Coralville. The union hosted six regionals and the top four girls from each regional advancing. But he said she could break the top four depending on seeding criteria.

"Getting two pins there in the final two tough rounds, I would think she'd be a top four seed going in," he said.

"We have a webinar on Sunday and I'll have more information then, but she wrestled very well today and she

See **KEMPER**, page 7



SUNDAY EDITORIAL



The marble keeps banging us around

Sometimes life brings you gifts - a dream, a spouse, a friend...and sometimes it just punches you in the face.

People in Fort Madison see me routinely with a backpack and a camera standing on the sidelines of a football game or wrestling match or baseball, softball or basketball game.

Most know me with some kind of familiarity, or recognition, but very few would call me a friend. Many do, but not nearly as many as a person needs in the mean 72.3 years on earth.

I took my mother out for dinner on Saturday at The Sombrero, or "The Som" as it's known to Burlingtonians. If you haven't been there, they have really remarkable food for a bar.

But the point of today's piece isn't about the Bulgogi Cheese Fries with kimchi and grilled steak, or the mahi mahi tacos, it's about what happened with and after the food.

I decided to head to "The Turf" in Burlington to watch some softball with family

When we got there we ran into some friends that I hadn't seen in quite a while.

Life is funny, well...not so much.

But it's weird how the turning of the big blue marble always seems to slam us into enchanted moments. On Saturday, with that marble seeming to once again spin angrily out of my control, I ran into a buddy of mine from my early college years.

After a hug and a whiff of the warm, earthy cologne he had spritzed onto his fleece pullover, I asked how, and what, he was he doing.

We talked about our children, and our

See **FRIENDS**, page 6

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WEATHER

MON 30 Jan.....Windy and frigid, 10° F/1° F
TUE 31 Jan.....Sunny and frigid, 21° F/10° F
WED 01 Feb.....Mostly sunny, 35° F/17° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 01/28.....1 24 34 37 52, Star Ball: 9 All Star Bonus: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE 01/28.....2 5 35 38 45, Lucky Ball: 9
MEGA MILLIONS 01/27.....4 43 46 47 61, Mega Ball: 22 Megaplier: 4
PICK 3 01/26, 01/27, 01/28 MIDDAY.....6 0 3, 9 3 3, 8 1 3
PICK 3 01/26, 01/27, 01/28 EVENING.....141, 9 6 2, 8 5 8
PICK 4 01/26, 01/27, 01/28 MIDDAY.....9 5 7 8, 2 2 7 0, 5 0 9 9
PICK 4 01/26, 01/27, 01/28 EVENING.....2 0 0 3, 5 0 3 6, 6 5 5 4
POWERBALL 01/28.....2 18 23 27 47, Powerball: 15 Power Play: 4

OpenWeatherMap



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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

JESSE W. MCGEE

Jesse W. McGee, 65, of Fort Madison, Iowa, passed away at 8:57 a.m. Thursday, January 26, 2023, at his home.

Born on June 13, 1957, in Keokuk, Iowa, the son of Jesse Robert and Mildred Viola (Thompson) McGee.



McGEE

He is survived by his four children: Jesse (Danielle) McGee of Kahoka, Missouri, Ashley McGee of Kahoka, Missouri, Justin (Samantha Mills) McGee of Williamsburg, Iowa and Addison McGee of Hedrick, Iowa; several grandchildren; two brothers: Bobby (Wanda) McGee of Rock Springs, Wyoming and Rick (Sue) Burgees of Keokuk, Iowa; three sisters: Sally Bennett, Kimmy (Phil) Korschgen of Keokuk, Iowa and Becky (Dawn) Hurt of Monroe City, Missouri. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; four brothers: Kevin McGee, Danny Burgess, John Burgess and Spike Burgess; two sisters: Ellie McGee and Thelma Sherrill.

Jesse was a 1975 graduate of Keokuk High School. In 2021 he retired from Feinbergs. He was a member of GPAA. Jesse enjoyed fishing, panning for gold, mushroom hunting, camping and boating.

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

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

A memorial has been establish in his memory.

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

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Meet our loan officers from left to right: Scott Piper, Brett Wrieden, Justin Menke, and Nichole Nagel

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www.PilotGroveSavingsBank.com

OBITUARIES

MARGARET E. ICKES

Margaret E. "Peggy" Ickes, 67, of Ft. Madison, IA, formerly of Montrose, IA died Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at The Madison in Ft. Madison, IA.

She was born September 13, 1955 in Hammond, IN the daughter of Harold Lee and Norma



ICKES

Jean Wickham Ickes. Peggy graduated from Central Lee High School. She then furthered her education at Southeastern Community College and Mid State College in Carthage, IL.

Peggy had been employed at Ft. Madison Community Hospital as a secretary.

She was a member of the Montrose Church of the Nazarene in Montrose, IA. Peggy enjoyed playing Bingo and was a pool shark who always played to win. She was an avid Chicago Cubs and Chicago Bears fan.

She is survived by two sons, Timothy "T.J." Burgess (Mandy Saunders) of Keokuk and Jason Pihl of GA, ten grandchildren, Austin Burgess, Cheyenne Burgess, Tyce Scott, Karter Soper, Joseph Reeves, Derek Adam Black, Alexis Latch, Allison Pommrehn, Jasmine Saunders and Madison Couchman and two great-grandchildren. She is also survived by one sister, Melanie Savoie of Ft. Madison, IA, one brother, Timothy Ickes (Marilyn) of CA and two nieces and two nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and one daughter, Erin Heffron.

A memorial service will be held at 12 noon, Friday, February 3, 2023 at the Montrose Church of the Nazarene with Pastor Preston Smith officiating.

Visitation will be held prior to the service from 11 a.m.-12 noon, Friday, at the church with family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to the family.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City Current runs obituaries one time 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. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.



Lunch Specials
Jan 30 - Feb 3
11am - 1pm

Monday, January 30
Tenderloin, Fries, Oreo Fluff

Tuesday, January 31
Meatloaf, Loaded Potatoes, Sweet Corn

Wednesday, February 1
Chicken & Noodles, Mashed Potatoes

Thursday, February 2
Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, February 3
Fish & Shrimp Dinners

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

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www.lionpublishers.com



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

OFF

Drinking Habits sequel takes OFF stage Feb. 12

BY DOROTY SCHULTE
OFF DIRECTOR

FORT MADISON - The smash hit "Drinking Habits" by Tom Smith was such a success for Old Fort Players Community Theater in 2020 that they are bringing the lovable zany characters back to the stage for the much-anticipated sequel, "Drinking Habits 2: Caught in the Act" this February.

The Sisters of Perpetual Sewing miss the excitement of the old days when they were saving convents and reuniting long-lost families. So, when they learn that the orphanage where Paul and Kate grew up is in peril, they can't wait to come to the rescue. Paul is played by OFP perennial favorite, James Salisbury. The role of Kate has been assigned to OFP Board Member and faithful volunteer, Jennifer Pranger. Jennifer makes her stage debut with this production.

Everyone pitches in to mount a play to raise money, but it's no easy feat when Kate's expecting any day, Sally's hiding from stage-fright-stricken Paul after another flight from the altar, Mother Superior's acting is unexpectedly narcoleptic, and the sisters' award-winning wine keeps getting switched with the grape juice. The merry mix-ups multiply in this warm and winsome sequel to "Drinking Habits."

Sally is portrayed by a recent addition to the theater, Taegan Hamilton. Taegan has her work cut out for her as she doubles as Stage Manager and triples as Assistant

Director.

Theater veteran Shelley Dowling reprises her role as Mother Superior as does returning favorite, Karen Schumaker as Sister Augusta. Jim French is happy to return to the character of Father Chenille and share the stage with the rest of the cast - old and new.

John Todd Gorham is in his second play in a row for OFF. After a non-existent hiatus following "Miracle on 34th Street" John has taken on the role of George. And because the show cannot go on without her, the indefatigable Richar Abel (fresh off her role as director of "Miracle on 34th Street") will portray Sister Philomena.

Co-directors Ty Clute and Angela Sanford are having just as much fun this time around. "They are both such funny plays, but knowing what a success the first one was, it adds some pressure. The cast is looking forward to a packed house again this time and so are we," Clute said.

To help cover the cost of our shows, OFF turns to local businesses. This time we would like to send a big thank you to our sponsor for this production, Shottenkirk Chevrolet Buick GMC Fort Madison. We are grateful for their support of arts in the community.

"Drinking Habits 2: Caught in the Act," written by Tom Smith is produced by Special Arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. (www.playscripts.com), performances are scheduled to run February 17-19 & 24-26, 2023. Friday and Saturday shows begin at 7:30 and the Sunday

matinee begins at 2:00 pm. Adult tickets are \$15, Senior, Vet & Military are \$12, and Students are \$10. You can reserve a seat by phone or Facebook Messenger.

The theater is located in downtown Fort Madison at 725 Avenue G. Send a Facebook message, send an email to oldfortplayersfm@gmail.com or call 319-372-9559 for more information. Like them on Facebook (Fb@oldfortplayers) or visit www.oldfortplayers.com to keep up with everything that's going on at the theater.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Actors in an early rehearsal for the February Show. Pictured left to right: (Back row) Todd Gorham, Jim French, James Salisbury; (Front row) Char Abel, Jennifer Pranger, & Karen Schumaker.

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!

P.S. Why You MUST Not Wait! Because of appointment availability, we can only honor this \$27 offer or bringing in a new or gently used winter coat through October 31, 2022. So don't say, "Well, maybe I'll be better tomorrow." Don't put your life on hold. Don't call in sick again. Live your life pain free! Tie your own shoes for a change.

Call NOW! (319) 524-3339
James Healthcare & Associates, Inc.
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

James Healthcare & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Dr. Jason James, DC
Dr. Mack Kohnke, DC
Ashley Neuweg, ARNP
612 MAIN STREET • KEOKUK, IA

319-524-3339

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For more information or help finding a dentist, payment source, or transportation, call the I-Smile™ team at 1.800.458.6672 or email RPRahn@LeeCountyHD.org

Classifieds/Public Notices

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
Agenda
DATE: Monday,

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 jcullen@fortmadison-ia.com by 4:30pm on Friday, February 3rd, 2023.



January 30, 2023
MEETING
CONVENING TIME:
10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.
(CDT)
LOCATION:
933 Avenue H
Fort Madison, IA

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://meet.goto.com/877237181>

You can also dial in using your phone.
United States: +1 (872) 240-3412
Access Code: 877-237-181

If you would like to pose a question to the Board, please use the Chat feature and wait for the Chairman to address you. If you are participating by phone, please wait until everyone is done speaking before addressing the Board. Please keep your microphone muted to cut down on background noise. If you are participating by phone, press #6, this will mute your phone.

9:30 a.m.

HELP WANTED



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Job # 231206W

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Under Search Jobs: Enter job #231206W or refine your search by City (Fort Madison) for information and requirements

On-line applications accepted for a limited time

DuPont is an Equal Opportunity Employer
DuPont is an E-Verify Employer
DuPont supports the "I Hire Vets" program

Closed session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 20.17(3)-to discuss strategy for union negotiations
Pledge of Allegiance
Approve Agenda
Public Input
Discuss and Consider Approval of Service Master Contract for Fire Mitigation at Lincoln Ridge
Discuss and Consider Approval of Resolution Modifying Farm to Market System

Consider Approval of MOU with Iowa Department of Administrative Services for Income Offset Program for EMS

Consider Approval of Resolution Showing Opposition to Proposed Property Tax Assessment Limitation Bill

Consider Approval of Special Class C Retail Alcohol License Application from Tri-State Gun Club near Montrose

Consider Approval of Family Farm Tax Credits for 2022

Consider Approval of Monday, January 23, 2023 Board Minutes

Consider Approval of Claims for Payment Personnel Actions:

- A. New Hire-Township Clerk
- B. Step Increase- General Assistance
- C. New Hire- EMS (Replacement)
- D. Merit Increases (2)- EMS
- E. New Hire-Treasurer's Office

Reports:
A. Semi Annual Settlement of Board of Supervisors

B. Commission of Veteran Affairs Minutes of Meeting

C. Recorder's Report of Fees Collected
Commission or Committee Reports
Adjourn

Possible workshop to follow

PUBLIC MEETING
CITIZENS WELCOME

Vision and hearing assistance available

HIRING BRING YOUR EVENT RESUME

- Production Technician**
- Starting pay is \$19.90/hr
 - Advance to \$21.64/hr within 12 months
 - Advance to \$23.98/hr within 30 months
 - Annual pay increases per contract
 - \$175 Company Contribution to your pension from date of hire
 - 3% Company Match to 401(k)

Conagra Brands in Fort Madison, IA is EXPANDING!
INCREASED starting wage for Production Technicians!
Check out additional details and job openings at conagrabrands.com/careers and search for Fort Madison, IA.

date 02/08/2023

time 4-7PM

location QUALITY INN, FM

Interview for / learn more about our open salaried job opportunities, too!

conagrabrands.com/careers



Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

upon request

Contact Title VI Administrator
319-372-3705
County Website:
www.leecounty.org

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF WEST BURLINGTON
Regular City Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 1, 2023
6:00 PM
West Burlington City Hall
122 Broadway Street
TENTATIVE AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL
PERFECTING & APPROVAL OF AGENDA
CONSENT AGENDA
All items on the Consent Agenda are Action items that will be considered by a single vote. Council members may request that an item be pulled for discussion and

held for a separate vote. Items on the Consent Agenda may include claims over the City Administrator's authorized spending limit, payments related to previously approved contracts, and non-controversial or routine expenses as defined by the City's Purchasing Policy.

1. Approve minutes from the Regular City Council meeting on Jan 18, 2023
2. Approve payment to Mississippi Valley Pump for repairs to swimming pool pumps - \$13,310
3. Approve Tyler Software Training for Willeford and Thuleen
4. Approve a Ten-Year Partial Commercial Tax Abatement for Midwest Realty Group's project
5. Approve payment to Snyder & Associates for engineering services related to the Mt. Pleasant Water Tower Project - \$4,468.75
6. Accept Officer Ringo Covert's letter of Retirement from the West Burl-

ington Police Department
7. Approve payment of Claims as listed on the Feb 1, 2023 Expense Approval Report - \$107,415.95
COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS

- ADMINISTRATOR:
 - PUBLIC WORKS:
 - POLICE DEPARTMENT:
 - FIRE/BUILDING DEPARTMENT:
 - CLERK/FINANCE/IT:
 - OTHER STAFF REPORTS:
 - COUNCIL REPORTS:
 - COMMUNITY REPORTS: Update from Burlington Public Library Liaison Rebecca Teater
- CITIZEN INQUIRIES**
NEW BUSINESS
1. Presentation of Force Main Condition Report by Shive-Hattery
 2. Consider a Resolution setting a Public Hearing Date to establish the Maximum Tax Dollars to Certify for Levy
 3. Consider a Resolution adding Payton Brockett to the Fire Department
 4. Consider a Reso-

lution setting wages for swimming pool employees for 2023 pool season
OLD BUSINESS
CITIZEN INQUIRIES
ADJOURN
WORK SESSION

Council will hold a Work Session following the Regular Meeting to discuss the Proposed Budget for FY 2023-2024

Do you have time - to help stop crime?

Visit any of these Facebook pages to learn more about what the Neighborhood Watch Program is & how to start your own group or join an existing group!

Join us today to help keep our communities safer!



APARTMENTS AVAILABLE

Affordable housing for persons 62 or older, handicapped or disabled, regardless of age.

Eagle Bluff

APARTMENTS

2803 Ave. A
Ft. Madison, IA 52627
Call for information

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This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

www.KeywayManagement.com

Click here to place your ad online 24/7



Conagra Brands in Fort Madison, IA is **EXPANDING!**
INCREASED starting wage for Production Technicians!
Check out additional details and job openings at conagrabrands.com/careers and search for Fort Madison, IA.

- 2nd and 3rd shifts
- Starting wage \$19.90/hr, advance to \$21.60/hr in 12 months or less, advance to \$23.98/hr in 30 months or less
- 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!

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Classifieds/From the Front

Spend a little extra time on the elasticity of time, friends

FRIENDS - Continued from Page 1

jobs. Our conversation was interrupted briefly by a 15-year-old Waukee girl who slammed a ball over the left-field fence nearly clipping the top of the marshmallow top of the facility before landing deftly into the hitting net near the wall about 30 feet over the fence.

"Whoa...that was a bomb," he said.

"I think it was foul," I said, but that didn't impact the magnitude of the mammoth shot.

Anyway we started talking about fishing and area fishing holes. We talked about catfishing off the rocks in the Mississippi River, and whether heavy catfishing or game fishing for bass and crappie is more fun.

The conversation spilled over into other groups' conversations and soon it was a group gaggle.

The conversation continued at a local watering hole and simmered. After an hour, we realized how much we had missed one another and we started talking about days long passed.

We talked about friends and girlfriends, parties, camping, sports, and reminiscence that brings back a longing for our youth and the days where we thought ourselves "almost" immortal.

We all had other places to be as the night turned deep black. The waitress mopped the floor everywhere but where we stood, indicating she too had other places to be.

We hugged again on the way out and my heart sunk just a bit as I knew we made promises to get in the boat this spring and test the old debate on whether it was catfish or panfish that are the most fun to chase - promises that I knew may or may not come true. Probably not. We're both very, very busy.

But there was a small moment of nostalgia in the hug and the excitement of the potential future meet up.

I said "Good-bye" to everyone and headed out the door to my truck. I sat in the back and let my sister-in-law drive as we headed to her house. As I traveled up the main drag of West Burlington to the north and silently recalled my days in that little town that regularly smells like cookies, I found myself longing for the days when I would walk a girl home, or come back from going to the mall, cutting through the yards of the neighborhood to get back home.

But it was a rare occasion if the trek was made without a buddy, and then followed up with an after-school snack before basketball or football practice.

Friends made the trek easier and they still do. But today's treks can be a little bumpier. Not much, - being a kid was tough, I've just found that as tough as life can be, it can always be tougher.

Take a moment today and remember friends not here and place a little value in those relationships as they helped form whom we all are today. And when you get the chance to stop and chat up someone you haven't seen in a while, think about the reason you're friends, and what you can do to stretch the elasticity of time just a bit.

Life is short and the relationships we treasure don't last long. The marble spins on and nothing we do in our personal lives can slow that momentum. I regularly beg for time to slow down. It doesn't matter to me anymore if something I have anticipation for comes quickly or not. It will get here and in the meantime I'm going to lean on a table and try to preserve the sands of time with a friendly face - remember how healthy that is for a state-of-mind.

Anything else is Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is editor and co-owner of Pen City Current and can be reached at Charles.v@pencitycurrent.com.

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Region 5 Lady Hounds' wrestling

Smith just misses as a freshman at 130 lbs.

KEMPER- Continued from Page 1

should be in the top four.”

Kemper (18-8) got two byes to start the day coming in as the No. 2 seed in her weight class. She then ran up against Terranae Wyatt (14-16) of Cedar Rapids Kennedy in the quarters.

Kemper scored a 2-point take down 46 seconds into the match for the only points of the first period, but then racked up six more in the second period on two near falls. She was penalized for locking her hands twice in the period and carried a 8-2 lead into the final period.

Wyatt scored a quick takedown in the third period, but Kemper scored a two-point reversal and turned it into a pin for the win up 10-4.

The win moved her into the semifinals where she met up with Abigail Kennis (22-11) of Bettendorf. Kennis scored a takedown 15 seconds from the start whistle, but Kemper would battle under Kennis for about 30 seconds before catching Kennis off-guard and rolling her into a pin to move to the finals against Robertson.

In the title match, the two girls went through a scoreless first period measuring each other and battling Kemper's recurring bloody noses. Kemper would start down for the second period and work an escape just over half way through the period. She was given a warning for stalling, but Doherty said that was better than risking Robertson's sweep.

With the penalty the girls were tied at 1 and then scored a 2-point take down, which Robertson would escape from 20 seconds later. Kemper would carry a 3-2 lead into the final period. Robertson would escape from her down start and then capitalize with a quick 2-point take down seven seconds later to take a 5-3 lead.

The match worked its way to the left edge of the circle where Kemper worked a nifty reversal when Robertson lost a grip. Kemper was able to roll the move into a package right on the circle and get the pin and the title. After getting her hand raised she ran over and gave Doherty a hug as the first ever Fort Madison girl to qualify for the state wrestling tournament.

She said despite having to stop three times for a bloody nose, she kept her focus “I wasn't thinking about that, just the end result. I knew I wanted to beat her and I wanted to give them an upset,” she said.

“This feels really good to be the first girl to go to state from our school.”

Doherty said he was proud of how Kemper handled herself considering two of the three girls she wrestled had beat her during the season.

“She had gotten a look at that Bettendorf girl, and that girl is really, really good. So coming out and getting a win over her was big. Gabi had beaten her - pinned her - every single time in the first round so for her to go out and wrestle in a close and action-packed first period and keeping it close was great. And then in the second period getting some momentum going into the final period was just huge.”

Doherty said Robertson likes to sweep so he told Kemper to not get into that trap “That was a good match and I was fine with her getting a penalty for stalling because it kept her out of Robertson's sweep, and then she was able to score on her after that.”

But as is the case at most qualifiers, the sweet also comes with a little bitter.

Freshman Mara Smith took 5th place in the 130 lb division, just one place out of qualifying for state. With the 5th place win, Smith earned a possibility of a wrestle-back for fourth place, but Bettendorf's Alexys Peterson knocked off Iowa City High senior Claire Brown (21-4). Brown had beaten Smith in the semifinals and if she had won the title, Smith would have earned a shot to wrestle for fourth place. Smith watched Peterson get the win two mats away and saw her state hopes dashed.

Sadie Brandon (11-14) advanced to the 5th place match but fell to Benton Community's Jessa DeMoss (21-11) to get sixth place overall in the 12-girl field. She wrestled six matches on the day and went 3-3.

Fort Madison was a high as 10th place overall in team scoring in the 25-team field, but finished at 13 with 78 points.

Complete results of all eight Fort Madison wrestlers can be found at the following link: <https://www.trackwrestling.com/predefinedtournaments/MainFrame.jsp?newSession=false&TIM=1674884764518&pageName=%2F-predefinedtournaments%2FTeamResults.jsp&twSessionId=dtPucxzgjbvalkn;sdkn-va;lSDK>



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison Mara Smith works a hold on Cedar Rapids Jefferson's Brooklyn Mills in the 5th place match Friday in Cedar Rapids. Smith finished in 5th place in the 130 lb. division.

At left, Tatum Peters gets ready to lock up with Davenport's Ivory Lesly in consolation wrestling. Lesly would record a pin to eliminate Peters.



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