

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Wednesday, February 1, 2023 | 9 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 4



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ABOUT FACE!



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Fort Madison Council Chambers were standing room only Tuesday night as supporters of the Old Fort filed in to vocalize their opposition to the city's plans to demolish the replica. The Council passed a resolution directing staff to take steps to get the Old Fort back in shape for the 2023 riverboat cruising season.

OLD FORT: Supporters pile into hear city's plans for the Old Fort replica

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A regular command of military structure is "About Face".

The Fort Madison City Council said the city will do just that after saying two weeks ago they were going to tear down the Old Fort.

Now, with a resolution of support and new partnership with the Fort Madison Partners and leveraging the newly created Fort Madison Tourism Bureau, the city has committed to shoring up the replica facility in time for riverboat cruising season in 2023.

The decision was made in front of a packed house of supporters and about six people got up to speak about preserving the Fort, including Fort Madison Partners Executive Director Tim Gobble.

On Jan. 18, the city put out a press release stating the Fort would be closed due to safety concerns and dilapidated conditions.

A Facebook post from the staff at the Old Fort let the community know and then several news reports came out about the city's position: first, that someone had spoken out of turn,



GOBBLE

and then, two hours later, confirming the staff's post that the facility would be closed - sparking an outcry from city residents.

The reaction to the news also prompted several area groups to meet with city officials to have them reconsider the city's position.

"The most important thing, the takeaway is, let's not focus on the blame and what happened yesterday. Let's focus on today and move forward," Gobble told the group.

"It speaks volumes that this room is full because it's hardly ever full. I applaud everyone for being here."

Gobble said he, too, had heard the Fort was in bad shape, but he said he didn't realize it was "in such bad shape". He said a fundraising effort is already underway and conversations are taking place with individuals with the state for grant opportunities.



MOHRFELD

"A lot of things are still on the table, but a lot of that is communication," he said.

After the meeting, Gobble said the Partners' role in this

See FORT, page 5

OPINION



Randy Evans,
Executive Director



Hart's focus shouldn't be on caucuses

Not that she asked, but I have some advice for Rita Hart, the new chair of the Iowa Democratic Party.

Yes, Hart is an experienced practitioner of politics. She was twice elected to the Iowa Senate. She was the Democrats' lieutenant governor candidate on the ticket with Fred Hubbell in 2018. And two years ago, she came within an eyelash — six votes — of winning a seat in Congress. She also is a former teacher and still farms with her husband near the Clinton County town of Wheatland.

Normally, I would trust the judgment of someone with her credentials on what her priorities should be as the Iowa Democrats' top state leader. But this is the Iowa Democratic Party, and too many party activists, along with civic boosters and journalists, cling to the belief that the process of choosing presidential nominees absolutely and without question must begin in Iowa.

The pressure will be on Hart to try to reverse the decision made late last year by the Democratic National Committee to reshuffle the party's nomination calendar. The decision removed Iowa's precinct caucuses as the lead-off event in the presidential selection process every four years.

But Hart should not waste even one minute trying to undo what has been done. The caucuses had long been unwieldy and failed to let all Democrats engage in the presidential nominating process.

Instead, Hart should focus on a much more important task — getting the Iowa party, and its candidates, back into shape to wage effective campaigns for seats in the Legislature, in courthouses across Iowa, for top elective offices in state government, and

See EVANS, page 8

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WEATHER

WED 01 Feb.....Windy and cold, 33° F/18° F
THU 02 Feb.....Sunny and cold, 37° F/7° F
FRI 03 Feb.....Sunny and cold, 21° F/14° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 01/30.....2 16 28 32 38, Star Ball: 8 All Star Bonus: 3
LUCKY FOR LIFE 01/30.....9 16 34 46 47, Lucky Ball: 13
PICK 3 01/30 MIDDAY.....9 8 0
PICK 3 01/30 EVENING.....5 6 1
PICK 4 01/30 MIDDAY.....0 3 0 9
PICK 4 01/30 EVENING.....0 9 7 4
POWERBALL 01/30.....1 4 12 36 49, Powerball: 5 Power Play: 2

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

BETTY L. ELDER

Betty Lou Elder, 83, formerly of Fort Madison and Burlington, passed away on Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 2:40 AM at the New London Specialty Care Center.

She was born on February 13, 1939 in McDonough County, IL to Hiram and Sara Alter Stolp. Betty married Roger Elder on October 8, 1957 in Carthage, IL and he passed away on August 12, 2015. She enjoyed gardening, going to the casino, telling and listening to jokes and watching the Grand Ole Opry. Betty was a generous giver to anyone in need. Most of all she loved her family, especially her grandchildren and great grandchildren.



ELDER

Survivors include on son, David (Bonnie) Elder of Bushnell, IL; one daughter, Kimberly (Tom) Gerelman of Lockridge, IA; five grandchildren and four great grandchildren; nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband; one brother, Virgil; two sisters, Florence and Mary.

The family will meet with friends from 10 AM until 11 AM on Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with the funeral service to immediately follow at 11 AM with Reverend Pete Hagglund officiating. Burial will be in Keokuk National Cemetery.

A memorial has been established for Wounded Warriors and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.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.

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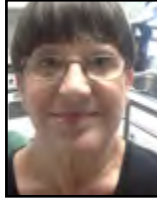


OBITUARIES

KATHLEEN S. CORNELIUS

Kathleen Susan Cornelius, 69, of Keokuk, IA died Thursday, January 26, 2023 at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Ft. Madison, IA.

She was born December 9, 1953 in Hannibal MO the daughter of Abbott and Dody Stout Shearman. Kathleen graduated from West Pike High School in Hull, IL.



CORNELIUS

On September 30, 1972 Kathleen was united in marriage to David Cornelius. He survives.

Other survivors include one daughter, Angela Marie Witte (Randy) of Peoria, IL, one granddaughter, Payten Jean Cornelius of Port Charlotte, FL, one sister, Linda Mosley of Hannibal, MO and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one son, Ben Cornelius, one sister, Carole Hull and one brother, James Shearman.

Kathleen had been employed by Walmart in Keokuk and Bud and Joyce's Restaurant in Hamilton, IL. She volunteered at the Keokuk Area Hospital for many years.

She was a member of the First Lutheran Church in Keokuk.

Kathleen enjoyed doing needlepoint, reading mystery novels and loved all animals, especially cats. Kathleen was a loving wife, mother and grandmother who leaves a lifetime of wonderful memories for her family to cherish.

A memorial service will be held at 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA. A private family burial will be in the Oakwood Cemetery in Hamilton, IL.

Visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m., Tuesday, at the funeral home with family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to Keokuk Humane Society.

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

KERMIT J. FULTON

Kermit John Fulton, 86, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 4:15 p.m. on Sunday, January 29, 2023 at his home. He was born on July 16, 1936 in Valley, IA to Mervyn E. & Myrtle E. Black Fulton. He graduated from Fairfield High School



FULTON

in 1955, after which he volunteered for the draft and served four years in the U.S. Army, including a year stationed in Korea. Upon his return, he attended Parsons College in Fairfield.

Kermit married Barbara Dean in Packwood, IA on June 21, 1959 and they were married for 63 years. His employment history included JC Penney & Company in Fairfield, Wilson & Company and General Mills in Cedar Rapids. In 1972, he moved with his family to Fort Madison where he was part

of the start-up team for the new Armour-Dial manufacturing plant. He worked there until his retirement in 2000.

Kermit is survived by: his wife: Barbara Fulton of Fort Madison, IA; 3-children: David Fulton of Fort Madison, IA, Dana (Curt) Fuget of Streator, IL & Douglas (Tami) Fulton of Bondurant, IA; 6-grandchildren; 4-great grandchildren; 1-sister: Judy Fulton of Galesburg, IL and 1-sister in law: Diane Fulton of Davenport, IA. He was preceded in death by: his parents, 3-brothers: Keith, Raymond & Leland Fulton, 1-sister: Vickie Hammontree and 1-brother in law: John Hammontree.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. No services will be held. Friends are welcome to call at the home as they desire. Memorials have been established for P.A.W. Animal Shelter or Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice and may be sent to Barb Fulton, 3033 213th Street, Fort Madison, IA 52627. Online condolences to the Fulton family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.



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Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

NORMAN E. WOLLBRINK

Norman E. Wollbrink, 91, of Sutter, Illinois, passed away on Sunday, January 29, 2023, at the Illinois Veteran's Home in Quincy, Illinois.



WOLLBRINK

Norman was born on May 17, 1931, in Sutter, Illinois, the son of Elmer and Jennie (Buckert) Wollbrink. He graduated from Warsaw High School in 1949, and proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict from 1952 until 1954. He was honorably discharged. Norman was united in marriage to Joyce Mae Waechter on March 15, 1958, at Trinity United Church of Christ in Quincy, Illinois. She survives.

Norman was a devoted member of Bethlehem United Church of Christ in Sutter and worked as a farmer in the Sutter area most of his life. He actively served his church and community in many ways and was a fifty year member of the Lima Masonic Lodge. He was also a member of the Great River Ski Club, the Quincy Shrine Club, the Warsaw School Board, the Quincy Bicycle Club, the Bethlehem United Church of Christ Board, the Quincy Consistory, the Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation Board, the Korean War Veterans and the Warsaw American Legion. Norman also served as sexton of the church cemetery for many years and was a Shriner Clown. In his free time, Norman enjoyed skiing and cycling. One of his favorite events in life was the opportunity to participate in the Great River Honor flight, and he encouraged all veterans to go.

Norman is survived by his wife Joyce Wollbrink of Sutter; four sons: Bruce (Cyn-dy) Wollbrink of Sutter, Illinois, Brad (Brenda) Wollbrink of Quincy, Illinois, Kevin (Mindy) Wollbrink of Sutter, and Kirk Wollbrink of Tioga, Illinois; five grandchildren: David (Melissa) Wollbrink of West Point, Illinois, Hannah (Luke) Muegge of Mendon, Illinois, Josh (Taylor) Wollbrink of Quincy, Brandon Wollbrink of Quincy, and Jacob Wollbrink of Quincy; his step-grandson Justin Hainline of Mexico, Missouri; three great-grandchildren: Addison Wollbrink, Emma Wollbrink and Cooper Wollbrink; and great-grandchild Muegge due in March.

Norman is preceded in death by his parents and two brothers: Clarence and Herbert Wollbrink.

Funeral services will be held at 12 pm (Noon) on Saturday, February 4, 2023, at Bethlehem United Church of Christ in Sutter, with burial with military honors to follow at the church cemetery. Visitation will be held at the church on Saturday from 10 am to 12 pm (Noon) directly before the service.

Memorials may be directed to the Bethlehem United Church of Christ or the Great River Honor Flight.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.printyfuneralhome.com.

Printy Funeral Home of Warsaw, Illinois, is in charge of arrangements.



For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

01/26/23 - 12:37 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited Raymond Evan Hymes, 30, of Fort Madison, in the 300 block of Avenue E, on a charge of driving under suspension.

01/26/23 - 8:33 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit & run in the 800 block of Avenue D.

01/26/23 - 12:11 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit & run in the 800 block of Avenue D.

01/26/23 - 12:32 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Logan J. Dale Hand, 26, of Danville, in the 3300 block of Avenue N, on a charge of driving under suspension.

01/26/23 - 9:58 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Jenica Ann Stewart, 41, of Fort Madison, at the intersection of 28th Street and Avenue L, on a charge of driving under suspension.

01/27/23 - 1:54 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Daniel Sirrel Jackson, 47, of Niota, at the intersection of 18th Street and Avenue G, on a warrant for failure to appear - driving under suspension and a charge of possession of a controlled substance - 1,2,3rd.

01/27/23 - 10:57 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited Johnny Nickala Rhoer, 53, of Fort Madison, in the 3900 block of Bluff Road, on a charge of driving while barred.

01/27/23 - 12:53 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 700 block of Avenue E.

01/27/23 - 2:23 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1100 block of 48th Street.

01/27/23 - 4:54 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Avenue H.

01/27/23 - 7:59 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 5000 block of Avenue O.

01/28/23 - 8:11 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2300 block of Avenue J.

01/28/23 - 2:59 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1500 block of Avenue L.

01/28/23 - 3:26 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Donna Kay Dawsey, 52, of Fort Madison, in the 3400 block of Avenue L, on a war-

rant for driving while suspended and a charge of driving under suspension. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

01/28/23 - 7:26 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 100 block of Iris Lane.

01/29/23 - Fort Madison police had no activity to report.

01/30/23 - 4:53 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 4800 block of Avenue O.

01/30/23 - 7:36 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Aneika Shatterrah Forrest, 25, of Fort Madison, at the intersection of 25th Street and Avenue L, on a charge of driving under suspension.

01/30/23 - 11:00 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Amber Nicole McVeigh, 36, of Fort Madison, at the intersection of 18th Street and Avenue L, on a charge of driving under suspension.

01/31/23 - 1:46 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1900 block of Avenue L.

01/31/23 - 4:24 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited Jamie Scott Lillie, 54, of Burlington, at the intersection of 19th Street and Avenue L, on a charge of driving under suspension.

Lee County Sheriff Report

01/26/23 - 1:37 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Audrick Ray Haist, 23, of Keokuk, in the 2500 block of Hwy. 61, Fort Madison, on charges of violation of a no-contact order - domestic and felon in control of a firearm - domestic abuse. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

01/26/23 - 5:04 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Johnathon Francis Austin Keefe, 25, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on a judgment hold warrant. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

01/26/23 - 8:00 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Isaac Allen Deshong, 25, of Carthage, on warrants for drug trafficking - 5gm-100kg methamphetamine and drug tax stamp violations. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

01/27/23 - 8:46 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies responded to a report of a single-vehicle accident on 223rd Avenue. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Dakota Darin Ray Tanne Oberman, 24, of Fort Madison, was heading westbound

on 223rd Avenue, when it lost control due to icy road conditions, left the roadway and entered the ditch, striking a mailbox. No injuries were reported. The vehicle was totaled. No citations were issued.

01/28/23 - 5:35 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Trenton Darius Gosnell, 26, of Montrose, in the 3000 block of Argyle Road, Argyle, on a charge of driver's license denied/revoked - OWI. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

01/28/23 - 8:41 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Jason Michael Dye, 44, of Keokuk, at the North Lee County Courthouse, on a judgment hold warrant. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

01/29/23 - 12:56 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Alan James Westermeyer, 30, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on a charge of disorderly conduct - fight/violence. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

01/29/23 - 12:58 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Edwin Dewayne Rodgers, 56, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on a charge of disorderly conduct - fight/violence. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

01/29/23 - 2:07 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Koltan Alan Enke, 26, of Denmark, in the 200 block of Academy Avenue, Denmark, on a charge of simple assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on his own recognizance.

01/30/23 - 2:14 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies responded to a report of a single-vehicle accident in the 100 block of Bluff Park Avenue, Montrose. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Maurice Evan Treadwell, 33, of Keokuk, was traveling adjacent to the railroad tracks on River Road when it left the tracks and headed toward the river, coming to rest its nose on the partially-frozen river. No injuries were reported. The vehicle sustained minor damages and was towed from the scene. Treadwell was arrested and charged with OWI.

01/30/23 - 2:50 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Maurice Evan Treadwell, 33, of Keokuk, in the 100 block of Bluff Park Avenue, Montrose, on a charge of 1st offense OWI. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

01/31/23 - Lee County sheriff deputies had no activity to report.

Those listed above are arrested on suspicion of a charge and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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Sports

Holy Trinity girls hang on in win over Central Lee

OVERTIME: Lady Hawks rally in 4th quarter, but come up just short in OT loss to Crusaders

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DONNELSON - Central Lee's bench was dancing earlier this week on a last-second win over Danville. That dance almost continued Tuesday on Senior Night.

The Lady Hawks trailed by 12 points with 1:55 left in the third period, but came all the way back to force overtime before falling 60-58 in a SEI Superconference matchup at Central Lee.

Mary Kate Bendlage, who had a game-high 34 points, converted underneath where the game was getting very physical, with just under two minutes left in the third period to give the Crusaders a 40-28 lead.

Makayla Morrison hit a 3-pointer with :14 seconds left in the third period to cut the lead to nine. Then Mya Lampe hit a three to open the fourth period to make it a seven point game.

The Crusaders missed their first three shots of the final period as Central Lee closed to within four on another Morrison bucket inside the arc. Kayla Box finally got HTC on the board in the fourth working in the lane, but Lampe hit another of her five 3-balls on the night to cut the lead to three at 42-39.

Holy Trinity shot a cool 3 of 16 from the field in the fourth quarter with a very physical Central Lee interior defense keeping Bendlage working for buckets.

Central Lee's Kenna Sandoval hit a three with 4:36 left in the game to give the Lady Hawks their first lead of the second half 44-42. Bendlage would tie it up at the other end with 4:00 left. Lampe would hit a rare bucket inside the arc for the only other field goal of the quarter for either team to tie things up at 47.

Morrison would hit a couple free throws to give Central Lee a 49-47 lead with 1:04 left, but the Crusaders' Teagan Snaadt answered with two freebies with :32 left. Mary Hellige would commit a foul along the baseline with nine seconds left, but freshman Taylor Jones missed the front end of the one-and-one and HTC couldn't convert before the end of regulation.

Hellige would make amends down the stretch. In the meantime, the Crusaders missed their first two shots from the field in the four-minute OT period. Central pulled away 53-49 before Anna Bendlage buried a 3-ball from the left wing to make it 53-52.

On Central Lee's next possession the Hawks got bogged down on the perimeter, forcing head coach Taylor Hickey to call a time out with 1 second left on the shot clock. The Hawks set up an inbound play underneath the basket and Morrison was able to sneak in and convert inside with a foul.

She made the free throw to make it a four point game, but Bendlage answered with a couple free throws and then Snaadt hit the back end of a double bonus to make it a 1-point game. After missing the first free throw, the ball bounced right back to Snaadt who thought it was a one-and-one situation and she shot



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Central Lee freshman Kenna Sandoval drives past the HTC defense in the second half of the Hawks' 60-58 OT loss Tuesday night. Sandoval finished with a team-high 19

again quickly prompting the Central Lee bunch to call a technical, but officials ruled Snaadt didn't realize it was a two-shot bonus and no foul was called. Snaadt hit the second freebie to make it a one-point game.

Morrison scored again with :27 left slashing through the lane in transition on the way down.

Holy Trinity would miss twice on the next possession but got a couple offensive rebounds and kicked the ball out to Hellige who hit a three-ball from the left wing to tie the score again at 58. Central Lee couldn't get a shot off at the other end when Morrison drove and dished inside but the ball got away. Mary Kate Bendlage scooped it up and took off for the other end with :06 on the clock.

She was fouled on the way down and hit both free throws. That left the Hawks four seconds, but they couldn't get a decent shot off before the buzzer sounded.

Snaadt had 10 for Holy Trinity. Hellige had eight. Sandoval had 19 to lead Central Lee. Lampe and Morrison each pitched in with 17.

"Right now, whenever we play Holy Trinity, it's always a very good game. Both teams are very competitive. I can remember last year, they won on a buzzer-beater and that was on our minds coming in. We were just on

the other side of this again," Hickey said.

"The biggest thing is experience. Makayla had the ball with time running down and I thought she was going to the basket and would get fouled with us in the bonus, but she ended up passing, and they are a good defensive team. They came away with the steal. We should've let the time run down and play that out on our end.

"This gives us momentum. We are on the other end of this last week. We're getting confidence and the girls know they can do it and things are possible."

Holy Trinity Head Coach Tony Johnson said games like this come down to a few plays, despite Bendlage putting up 34.

"We had one more point than them, that's all the points I care about," Johnson said.

"It was a game of runs. It seems like we'd go on a four or five-point run and then they would change it and they would go on a run. There was not a flow to the game because all the fouls called. That fourth quarter and overtime was pretty rugged."

Johnson said close games with the season running down are good for the Crusaders.

"Having close games like this is better going into the playoffs than just running through people. These games are much better building blocks than a blowout game. You don't learn a lot in a blowout game."

The Hawks fall to 6-8 in the SEISC South and 8-11 overall. HTC improves to 7-7 in the loop and 11-8 overall. Both teams will play in this weekend's SEI Superconference Shootout.

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Sports/Iowa News

Girls post-season pairings released for 1A-3A

HTC, HAWKS HOST: Central Lee and HTC host 1st rounders

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

Holy Trinity and Central Lee open the Iowa girls high school basketball postseason with home games, as the Class 1A, 2A and 3A regional pairings were announced on Tuesday by the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union.

Holy Trinity plays host to Wapello in the Class 1A Region 8 first round on February 9. The winner of that game plays a quarterfinal at eighth-ranked Winfield-Mount Union on February 14.

Regional semifinals are February 17. The regional final is February 22 at a site to be determined.

Other first-round games on Holy Trinity's side of the bracket are Keota at WACO and Notre Dame playing host to New London. The winners of those games will play a quarterfinal at WACO on February 14.

The other side of the bracket has Tri-County at North Mahaska, Moulton-Udell at Sigourney, Seymour at Twin Cedars and Moravia at Lynnville-Sully.

Central Lee plays host to Davis County on February 11 in a Class 3A Region 2 quarterfinal. The winner of that game will play either Solon or Fairfield at Solon High School on February 15 in a semifinal. The regional final is February 18.

The other side of the bracket has Tipton playing at Mount Vernon, and Washington playing at Davenport Assumption. The winners of those two quarterfinals will play at Mount Vernon in a February 15 semifinal.

In Class 2A, Van Buren County plays at Louisa-Muscatine in a first-round game on February 11, with the winner playing a quarterfinal at Mediapolis on February 14. West Burlington plays host to Danville in another quarterfinal on February 14. The semifinals are February 17, with the regional final set for February 22.

Class 4A and 5A regional brackets will be announced on February 8.

Reynolds backfills veterans IVTF grants

DES MOINES – Gov. Reynolds has approved more than \$440,000 to cover a backlog of Iowa Veterans Trust Fund (IVTF) grants that were approved by the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs between March 3, 2021, and November 3, 2022, before the program was temporarily suspended due to insufficient funds. The funds are from the state's allocation of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, through the American Rescue Plan Act.

The IVTF, which is funded by the Iowa Lottery Authority and managed by the commission, receives a \$500,000 annual appropriation from the Iowa Legislature to help eligible veterans and their families with expenses related to dental care, education, or emergency needs.

Over time, the commission obligated funding beyond the program's appropriation, recently resulting in a backlog of applications and insufficient funds to reimburse veterans' expenses.

"I'm pleased that this funding will finally provide veterans the financial assistance they were approved to receive," Gov. Reynolds stated. "We owe Iowa's veterans a debt of gratitude and we must ensure that the services we offer them are available when needed."

"I'm grateful to Governor Reynolds for providing these funds. This will have a significant and very positive impact on veterans in need of emergency support and assistance," stated Todd Jacobus, Commandant of the Iowa Veterans Home and Interim Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs will begin processing payments immediately to fulfill any outstanding grants that were approved between March 3, 2021, and November 3, 2022. No further action is required by veterans whose applications have been approved by the commission and are awaiting payment.

Officials say Old Fort was in worse shape than expected

FORT - Continued from Page 1

will be to facilitate that communication.

"We'll be the conduit for communication in this."

Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren led a Power Point presentation with photos of the deterioration of the Fort, including bowing walls, rotting wood, and gaps in structural materials.

Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld said after a task force toured the facility, he said the facility showed extreme weaknesses.

"It was everything from not tidy, unclean, to unsafe. I can say all that differently, but that was the observation."

He said Herren and Building Director Doug Krogmeier said they couldn't use the facility without assuming risk.

"We couldn't just bury our head in the sand on this and we had to address the asset," Mohrfeld said.

He said the goal was to review the findings and then, as a council and a group, determine a short-term and long-term path forward.

"Part of this has to be a plan for sustainability," he said.

Several members of the original Old Fort Commission, including Bill Napier, spoke to the council. Napier said he was there to encourage the council to make a commitment to keep the Old Fort viable.

Councilwoman Rebecca Bowker said she wanted the council to move forward with transparency and not engage in back door discussions.

"I think we can all agree the way the dialogue came out about the Fort was very unorganized and was not managed correctly," she said.

"I think that's why there's been so much frustration on people's part. So, whatever the direction the council takes or the community takes, it needs to be in the form of a public forum so there's transparency."

Councilman Chad Cangas said the position of the council has changed over the past two weeks.

"I don't think there's anybody in this chamber right now that thinks it's not a good idea for the soul of Fort Madison that we find a way to move forward. I don't think anybody supports any other vision, it's just finding a way we can afford to do it," Cangas said.

No specific funding streams were identified Tuesday, other than the regular budgeted amount of funding from the hotel/motel tax that is part of the city's annual budget.

Councilwoman Donna Amandus said fundraising efforts will begin shortly to help with the rehabilitation efforts.

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Tuesday, January 31
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Wednesday, February 1
Chicken & Noodles, Mashed Potatoes

Thursday, February 2
Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, February 3
Fish & Shrimp Dinners

Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
THE IOWA DISTRICT
COURT FOR LEE
COUNTY**

IN THE MATTER
OF THE ESTATE OF
JOHN STEPHEN
FRANKLIN, Deceased

CASE NO. ESPR009040

**NOTICE OF PROBATE
OF WILL, APPOINT-
MENT OF EXECUTOR,
AND NOTICE TO CRED-
ITORS**

To All Persons Interested
in the Estate of John Ste-
phen Franklin, deceased,
who died on or about

November 23, 2022:
You are hereby noti-
fied that on December
30, 2022, the Last Will
and Testament of John
Stephen Franklin, de-
ceased, dated of April
28, 2020, ("Will"), was
admitted to probate in the
above-named court, and
that Sarah Franklin-Tharp
was appointed Executor
of the estate. Any action
to set aside the Will must
be brought in the District
Court of Lee County
within the later to occur of
four months from the date
of the second publica-
tion of this notice or one

month from the date of
mailing of this notice to
all heirs of the decedent
and devisees under the
Will whose identities are
reasonably ascertainable,
or thereafter be forever
barred.

Notice is further given
that all persons indebted
to the estate are request-
ed to make immediate
payment to the under-
signed, and creditors
having claims against the
estate shall file them with
the clerk of the above
named district court, as
provided by law, duly au-
thenticated, for allowance,

and unless so filed by
the later to occur of four
months from the date of
the second publication of
this notice or one month
from the date of mailing
of this notice (unless oth-
erwise allowed or paid), a
claim is thereafter forever
barred.

Dated: 12/20/22
Sarah Franklin-Tharp,
Executor
13974 240th Street
Milton, IA 52570

Ryan J. Prahm, ICIS#:
AT0010114
Attorney for the Executor
Pugh Hagan Prahm PLC

425 East Oakdale Boule-
vard
Suite 201
Coralville, IA 52241

**PUBLIC NOTICE
MINUTES
KEOKUK CITY
COUNCIL MEETING
January 19, 2023
501 Main Street
5:30 P.M.**

The City Council of
the City of Keokuk met
in regular session on
January 19, 2023 at 501
Main Street. Mayor Kathie
Mahoney called the
meeting to order at 5:30
p.m. There were nine
council members present,
none absent. Carissa
Crenshaw, Linda Altheide,
Roslyn Garcia, Shelley
Oltmans, John Helenthal,
Steve Andrews, Dan
Tillman, Roger Bryant,

and Michael Greenwald
were present. 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,
Chief of Police Zeth
Baum, Public Works
Director Brian Carroll, and
Water Pollution Control
Manager Tom Willis.

**MAYOR'S CORRE-
SPONDENCE:** Updated
on re-establishment of
healthcare services at
prior Keokuk Area Hospi-
tal facility.

CITIZEN'S REQUEST:
Marty Fox expressed
concern regarding article
in newspaper about no
smoking in parks and

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General Manager

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- 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.



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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

ambulance service. Dorothy Cackley addressed questions about city debt, commented on real estate.

Motion made by Bryant, second by Helenthal to approve the agenda, including the consent agenda. (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

- Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting of January 5, 2022;

- Cash Receipts & Treasurer's Report for December 2023;

- RESOLUTION NO. 178-2023: Approving a Liquor License for Sweet Sally's, 707 Main Street, effective January 20, 2023 - Class C Retail Alcohol License with Living Quarters and Sunday

Sales (pending dram);

- Motion to pay bills and transfers listed in Register No.'s 5318-5320;

Mayor Mahoney opened the public hearing at 5:40 p.m. on the authorization of one or more loan and disbursement agreements and the issuance of not to exceed \$12,750,000 general obligation Capital Loan Notes of the City of Keokuk. A public hearing notice was published in the Daily Gate City on January 6, 2023.

COMMENTS: O'Donnell gave overview. Dorothy Cackley inquired regarding the 3 separate issuances related to this note. Confirmed the 4.9 million issuance that will

be addressed later in the meeting relates to the public hearing held on 1.5.2023 for street repairs. She questioned the revenue loss related to closing of ADM and inquired about sewer usage billing.

No further comments were received, Mayor Mahoney closed the public hearing at 5:48 p.m.

Motion made by Garcia, second by Greenwald to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 179-2023 "A RESOLUTION INSTITUTING PROCEEDINGS TO TAKE ADDITIONAL ACTION FOR THE AUTHORIZATION OF ONE OR MORE LOAN AND DISBURSEMENT

AGREEMENTS AND THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$12,750,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION CAPITAL LOAN NOTES." (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Garcia, second by Helenthal to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 180-2023 "A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING A FORM OF LOAN AND DISBURSEMENT AGREEMENT BY AND

BETWEEN THE CITY OF KEOKUK, IOWA, AND THE IOWA FINANCE AUTHORITY, AND AUTHORIZING AND PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SECURING THE PAYMENT OF \$4,435,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING CAPITAL LOAN NOTES, SERIES 2023A." (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

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

NO. 181-2023 "A RESOLUTION APPROVING FRANCHISE FEE REBATE POLICY."

(9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Greenwald, second by Oltmans to approve the following proposed

RESOLUTION NO. 182-2023 "A RESOLUTION APPROVING AGREEMENT FOR PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION FOR THE RIVER



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Local News/Public Notices

Dems should focus on seats, not caucuses

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

for seats in the U.S. House and Senate.

The Iowa Democratic Party is a shadow of what it once was. After the beat-down in last November's elections, the Republicans occupy all the U.S. Senate and U.S. House seats from Iowa, all but one of the statewide elective offices, and two-thirds of the members of the Iowa House and Iowa Senate have Rs after their names.

The picture for Democrats was not so bleak in the 1990s and in the first decade of the 21st century. Remember when Democrats Tom Vilsack and Chet Culver served as governor from 1999 through 2010? Have you forgotten that period from 2007 to 2011 when the party had a "trifecta" in state government, meaning it held the governor's office and a majority of seats in both the Iowa House and the Iowa Senate?

Even after the trifecta ended, do you remember when the Democratic Party had a majority in the Iowa Senate, giving Democrats a voice that Republicans could not ignore when shaping proposals in front of the Legislature from 2011 to 2016?

Yes, many people have enjoyed the state's time in the national spotlight every four years, when presidential wannabes crisscross the state asking people to support them in the Democrats' precinct caucuses. We enjoy seeing our cafes and coffee shops on national television as presidential candidates, and TV news celebrities, speak with folks about the next election. Our hometown pride kicks in when presidential candidates speak to crowds in local school gymnasiums where our kids play basketball.

But the Democratic caucuses have gotten more complicated since they began 50 years ago. It takes huge

amounts of time and money to prepare for these events.

That is why some Democrats who are blue through and through make the case that the time party leaders and thousands of volunteers spend organizing and holding the caucuses would better be spent identifying, recruiting and prepping good Democrats to win offices in Iowa.

Hart's time would be better spent listening to Democrats in rural areas who believe the party's message has become too divisive for a state that has long tended to occupy the middle of the road.

She should worry more about helping independents and Democrats understand that the extreme messages they hear from candidates from both parties on the East Coast and West Coast are not messages coming from the lips of her party's candidates in Iowa.

And Hart can be successful if she marshals the armies of volunteers behind the caucuses in a couple thousand precincts and gets them to turn their attention, instead, to get-out-the-vote efforts on behalf of Democratic candidates.

It will be up to Hart to lead the way. Otherwise, her tenure as party chair will be as brief as her predecessors, and Democratic voters will be as despondent as they have been in recent elections.

There were signs last week that Hart may need more encouragement on what her priorities should be as state party chair. The Iowa Capital Dispatch reported that she said in a Q&A session with southwest Iowa Democrats a week ago, "We've got to continue to fight that fight for the first-in-the-nation status."

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

NLCHS sets first meeting for Kiddie Parade

FORT MADISON - A meeting to begin planning for the 111th annual Charlie Korschgen 4th of July Kiddie Parade will be held, Sunday, February 5 at 4:00 pm at the Loyal Order of Moose Family Center at 624 Avenue G.

At this meeting we will elect the officer for 2023 and prepare the schedule of committee meetings to prepare for the event.

L. D. "Andy" Andrews, general chairman of the event is always in need volunteers to serve on the committee to make the parade a success. It takes several volunteers to help plan the parade, assist with registration, line-up, fundraising and ensure the participants safety.

If you are unable to attend this meeting, four other meetings will be scheduled in next few months in preparation for the parade on Tuesday July 4, 2023..

If willing to help with the planning visit the Charlie Korschgen Fourth of July Kiddie Parade face book, attend this meeting or contact Andy Andrews at 319-371-5379.

Tax deductible donations to support the parade may be sent to Kiddie Parade at PO Box 243, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 to assure this event continues for many more years.

PUBLIC NOTICES

FRONT TRAIL PROJECT."

(9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Garcia, second by Bryant to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 183-2023 "A RESOLUTION APPROVING DISTRIBUTION OF PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL STATEMENT FOR \$ 4,995,000* (DOLLAR AMOUNT SUBJECT TO CHANGE) GENERAL OBLIGATION CAPITAL LOAN NOTES, SERIES 2023B." (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS: Final notification for Mackenzie Kohnke to the Park & Recreation Advisory Board, 3-year term to expire 11/2/2025. Final notification for Kristal King to Board of Adjustment, filling 5-year term to expire 4/1/2027. Final notification for Kristal King to the City Planning Commission, 5-year term to expire 5/14/2028. Motion made by Oltmans, second by Tillman to approve all

the above. (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS: Garcia reported on Oakland Cemetery projects, fundraising being held during Eagle Days to contribute. Mahoney reported for Historic Preservation, gave update on Bawden house project.

STAFF REPORTS: Carroll introduced himself as the new Public Works Director. Wills reported digester cleaning has commenced; Broomhall reported on award of \$600,000 home rehabilitation grant and vacant property registry progress; Baum informed of entry level civil service testing being held February 4th, 2023 and gave update on applicant list.

Motion made by Henthall, second by Bryant to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

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