

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Wednesday, February 8, 2023 | 8 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 35



www.pencitycurrent.com

City bond rating dips

From A2 to A3: City may look at changing rating companies for future bonds

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

FORT MADISON - Moody's has knicked the city's bond rating. The city uses the bond rating company to establish a rating for when the city has to issue bonds. The rating determines short and long-term interest rates the city can secure when borrowing money. City Manager David Varley said he doesn't know what the impact will be, but the city's rating went from A2 to A3, which is a downgrade. Varley said the company has done some calibrations on how they evaluate a city's rating and predominantly knocked everyone down a bit.



VARLEY

"It will affect future bond ratings, basically effecting the interest rates," Varley said. "The higher the rating, the lower, the better interest rate, the lower rating will affect that. But it's hard to determine (what impact the lower rating will have).

Varley said the city may look at using Standard and Poor going forward because he was a little perplexed as to why the rating system at Moody's was calibrated.

He said there was a final phone call on Tuesday with

See **MOODY'S**, page 8

CITY NEWS

Council waives fees for this year's Downtown Summer Market



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison Downtown Summer Market Festival founder and organizer Darla Farrell approaches the Fort Madison City Council about fees being assessed for picnic tables and barricades of close to \$700. The council voted unanimously to waive the fees.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The downtown Summer Markets got a boost from the Fort Madison City Council Tuesday night.

Darla Farrell updated the council on what will be the fifth annual Downtown

Summer Festival and said she's trying to blow up this year's festival because not many events last five years in Fort Madison.

Farrell has spearheaded the summer market since it's inception five years ago in 2018. She said this year she wants to make the festival a bit more special to celebrate its fifth year.

"We're getting ready to do our fifth year starting June 8. We'll have three markets and they are phenomenal. It took about six months to put it together and it keeps going."

She said initially she funded the event, but now she tries to keep it out of

See **FESTIVAL**, page 8

EDUCATION

Financial aid night set at Southeastern

WEST BURLINGTON - Southeastern Community College will offer complimentary assistance with completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at its FAFSA Ready Iowa event on Wednesday, February 15.

The event will take place from 3 to 6 p.m. at both the West Burlington and Keokuk campuses. The West Burlington event will be held the Yohe Library and the Keokuk event will be located in Room 419.

"Filing for financial aid can be intimidating for students of any age and their families," says Sheri Knipe, SCC Financial Aid Director. "We help people through the process so they know it is right the first time."

Knipe encourages people who plan to attend college to file the forms as soon as they can.

"The event is a great way to complete the FAFSA in a timely manner without interruptions," she said, adding, "Submitting it now gives students a better chance to receive more state and institutional aid."

This event is free and open to students of any age or income, regardless of which college they plan to attend. There is no need to pre-register; attendees will be assisted throughout the afternoon and evening on a first-come, first-served basis.

Staff members from the SCC Financial Aid Office, the Educational Opportunity Center, and other college departments will be on-hand to guide students through the FAFSA and to answer questions about financial aid.

Knipe recommends that students under age 24 attend with at least one parent or guardian.

"Most traditional college-age students are required to include parental information on their FAFSA, so it's helpful if both the student and at least one parent can attend."

To complete the 2023-2024 FAFSA, students and parents should each bring the following:

- Social Security number, driver's license number and date of birth

See **FAFSA**, page 8

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WEATHER

WED 08 Feb.....Cloudy with chance of rain, 44° F/ 34° F
THU 09 Feb.....Mostly cloudy and rainy, 42° F/ 25° F
FRI 10 Feb.....Mostly cloudy and cold, 30° F/ 17° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 02/06.....3 4 20 32 35, Star Ball: 6 All Star Bonus: 5
LUCKY FOR LIFE 02/06.....15 15 39 46, Lucky Ball: 16
PICK 3 02/06 MIDDAY.....7 8 4
PICK 3 02/06 EVENING.....6 6 0
PICK 4 02/06 MIDDAY.....18 19
PICK 4 02/06 EVENING.....0 7 7 8
POWERBALL 02/06.....5 11 22 23 69, Powerball: 7 Power Play: 2

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Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

JOYCE L. GIBBS

Joyce L. Gibbs, 79, of Burlington, died Saturday, February 4, 2023, at her home. Born June 4, 1943, in Burlington, IA, she was the daughter of John Frederick and Lena Emma Elliot Wirt. On December 6, 1963, she married Ronald Lester Gibbs in



GIBBS

Joyce's parent's home. On August 8, 2021 he passed away. Joyce graduated from Burlington High School in 1961 then attended business school for banking.

She was a note teller for F&M Bank and Trust for 42 years.

Joyce enjoyed quilting, cross stitch and remodeling. She liked to go camping and enjoyed watching the squirrels and other animals.

Survivors include son, Kurt Edward Gibbs of Tipton, IA; daughter, Deborah L. Gibbs of Burlington, IA; two grandchildren, Sarah (Colin) Stuefen of Tipton, IA and Kimber (Rachel) Gibbs of Burlington, IA; great-grandchild, Phoenix Mitchell of Burlington, IA.

Besides her husband of 57 years, she was preceded in death by her parents and sister Barb.

Visitation will be from 1:00 PM until 2:00 PM Friday, February 10, 2023 at Prugh Funeral Service, 3940 Division St.

The funeral service for Mrs. Gibbs will be 2:00 PM Friday, February 10, 2023, at Prugh Funeral Service, 3940 Division St., with Pastor T.J. Rehak officiating. Burial will be in Burlington Memorial Park Cemetery.

A memorial has been established.

Prugh Funeral Service is in care of the arrangements.

A photo tribute can be viewed and condolences can be sent to the family by visiting Joyce's obituary at www.prughfuneral.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
Feb 6 - 10
11am - 1pm

Monday, February 6

Pork Loin, Cheese Potatoes, Baked Beans

Tuesday, February 7

Minit Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Corn

Wednesday, February 8

Scalloped Potatoes & Ham, Green Beans

Thursday, February 9

Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, February 10

Fish & Shrimp Dinners

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Pen City Current, www.PenCityCurrent.com, and Pen e-Saver are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Monday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

Founded in 2016
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OBITUARIES

PEGGY M. ANDERSON

Peggy M. Anderson, 90, of Montrose, Iowa, passed away on Sunday, February 5, 2023, at Addington Place in Fort Madison, Iowa.

Peggy was born on September 1, 1932, in Flat River, Missouri, the daughter of Everett and Jeanette (Cummings) Doss. She graduated from Keokuk High School in 1950, and on December 10, 1954 she was united in marriage to Russell Philp in Keokuk. He preceded her in death on February 24, 1977. On June 22, 1979, she was united in marriage to Arthur Anderson in Montrose, Iowa. He preceded her in death on December 22, 1995. Over the years, Peggy was employed at Sheaffer Pen, was self-employed as an Avon lady, and finished her working career at State Central Savings Bank. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church in Montrose, and was also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star in Montrose. Peggy enjoyed traveling, reading, and solving puzzles and crosswords. Peggy loved to play cards, and was known to cheat here and there in order to win! Most of all, Peggy loved her family.



ANDERSON

Peggy is survived by four children: Bill (Marla) Andrews of Lowell, Arkansas, Dave (Tammy) Andrews of New Boston, Iowa, Ronald (Pearl) Philp of Fort Madison, Iowa, and Robert (Vickie) Philp of Lowell, Arkansas; three stepchildren: Judy (Mike) Bowton of Naples, Florida, David Anderson of Montrose, and Michael (Sherri) Anderson of Altoona, Iowa; her brother William Doss of Hampstead, North Carolina; several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren on the way.

Peggy is preceded in death by her parents; her husbands Russell and Arthur; her grandson Derek Andrews; her nephew Phillip Zinn; two sisters: Iris Lee Mecey and Ila Jean Nye; three brothers-in-law: Sterling Mecey, Clyde Nye and Everett (Margaret) Philp; and two sisters-in-law: Nancy Doss and Mary Lou (Ralph) Zinn.

Funeral services will be held at 12 pm (Noon) on Friday, February 10, 2023, at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk, Iowa, with burial to follow at Hickory Grove Cemetery in Keokuk. Visitation will be held at the funeral home on Friday from 10 am to 12 pm (Noon) directly before the service.

Memorials may be directed to Montrose Riverfront, Inc.

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

DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.

JOYCE A. BOGGUSS

Joyce Ann Bogguss, 80, of Nauvoo, Illinois, passed away at 6:37 a.m. Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at her home.

Born on January 7, 1943, in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of Robert Lee and Leona Josephine (Webb) Althar. She married Edwin Bogguss, they later divorced.

She is survived by her grandson Dylan Tyler Bogguss; two brothers: Bob Althar of Seattle, Washington and Jim Althar of Crosby, Texas; sister: Sandra Sampson of Warren, Ohio. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and son: Darren Edward Bogguss.

Joyce was a graduate of Nauvoo-Colusa High School. She worked for Breck in Fort Madison, Jack & Jill Food Store in Nauvoo and Methode Electronics until it closed. Joyce enjoyed boating.

Her body has been entrusted to the crematory of Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home for cremation.

A graveside service will be held at a later date in the Nauvoo City Cemetery with Pastor Mark Anderson officiating.

A memorial has been established in her memory and can be mailed to Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home, P.O. Box 201, Nauvoo, Illinois 62354.

Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home of Nauvoo is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at www.sbbfuneralhome.com.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

02/06/22 - 11:22 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident at the intersection of 35th Street and Avenue O.

02/06/23 - 1:13 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Payne Thomas Ritonya, 28, of Fort Madison, in the 1500 block of Avenue H, on a charge of driving while barred and a warrant for driving suspended. He was taken to Lee

County Jail.

02/06/23 - 1:21 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Melissa Darlene Copeland, 52, of Fort Madison, in the 2600 block of Avenue L, on a charge of city: theft.

02/06/23 - 4:49 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident at the intersection of 27th Street and Avenue L.

Lee County Sheriff Report

02/06/23 - Lee County sheriff deputies had no activity to report.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

02/06/23 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to one medical call, one medical false alarm, one lift assist, and one CO check.

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/Education

Fort Madison boys outlast Davis County rally

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON - The big start for Fort Madison's boys basketball team in Monday's game against Davis County almost turned into a disastrous finish.

It's happened before to the Bloodhounds this season, but this time they had an answer in Monday's 64-54 win.

Fort Madison (6-12) snapped a four-game losing streak by holding on after nearly letting a 30-4 start to the game go to waste.

"We were just complacent," Fort Madison coach Ryan Wilson said. "We were happy with where we were at. We thought the game was over at halftime. We took our foot off the pedal and stopped driving, being

aggressive, doing the things that we did in the first half."

The Bloodhounds let a 22-point second half lead get away in a 52-50 loss to Keokuk on January 20.

In this game, they led 39-17 at halftime before Davis County (4-15) closed to with 58-54 with 2:40 to play.

"We let them back in the game and nearly had another Keokuk game," Wilson said.

But the Bloodhounds made plays this time. Hunter Cresswell's shot inside with a minute to play pushed the lead to 60-54. Leif Boeding came up with a steal and a layup with 43 seconds to extend the lead to eight, then scored inside with 12 seconds left for the final margin.

"Leif Boeding made some

plays late," Wilson said. "We talked, as a coaching staff, after the game, and if Leif doesn't make all of those plays, you never know. He stepped up, got that steal. Hunter had a nice finish in the paint. That's the difference in the game.

"Our guys were aggressive and went and got the ball, and wanted it a little bit more at the end."

Fort Madison got off to a furious start. The Bloodhounds scored the first 14 points — 11 came from Carson Rashid — and led 23-4 at the end of the first quarter. They opened the second quarter with a 7-0 run before Davis County finally got its offense going.

The Mustangs also switched to a zone defense that would bother the Bloodhounds the rest of the game.

Rashid had 16 points at halftime, but would finish with 20.

"They went to a zone," Wilson said. "And, I don't know, but I feel like we went away from Carson a little bit. I thought he was open some times, and we didn't find him. We tried to run a set or two for him, and he didn't get a shot off or whatever. But that's just some things we've got to grow and be better at."

"We just weren't ourselves. A lot of our success early was inside-outside — we would get in the paint and then kick it out. For whatever reason, that changed, and it was frustrating."

Boeding finished with 13 points. Cresswell added 10.

Jack Bigsby led Davis County with 17 points.

Holy Trinity High releases 1st half honor rolls

FORT MADISON - Holy Trinity Catholic Schools has announced its 2nd quarter and 1st semester honor rolls for the 2022-2023 school year. Pen City Current joins our advertisers and readers in congratulating these students on their academic success. Job well done!

2nd Quarter 4.0 Honor Roll

7th Grade - Cooper Boylan, Carter Gehling, Morgan Krogmeier, Calli Kruse, Emma Menke

8th Grade - Eva Denning, Ellie Hellman, Emmalyn Snaadt, Brooklyn Todd

9th Grade - Chase Hemann, Brock Scheetz

10th Grade - Koby Jones

11th Grade - Michael Chapman, Taegan Denning, Connor Gehling, Jenna Hellman, Natalie Randolph, Maddox Rung

12th Grade - Emily Boeding, Alexa Dingman, Jenna DiPrima, Laura Mehmert, Rachel Menke, Jacob Pothitakis, Riley Timmerman

2nd Quarter A Honor Roll

7th Grade - Olivia Bendlage, Kinnick George, Chase Menke, Mason Roach, Noah Schinstock, Layne Schmitt, David Vradenburg, Faith Ward

8th Grade - Elizabeth Griffin, Jack Hellman, Megan Holtkamp, Sydney Jarvis, Adalyn Kruse, Max Kruse, Kara Lake, Caleb Rea, Emma Scheetz, Tanner Williams

9th Grade - Nathan Box, Addison Link, Presley Myers, McKayla Schinstock, Isabella

Wheatley-Behne

10th Grade - Anna Bendlage, Luke Hellige, Teagan Snaadt

11th Grade - Mary Kate Bendlage, Daltin Boeding, Sheldon Kruse, Andrew Mehmert, Seth Moeller

12th Grade - Kayla Box, Mary Hellige, Anayi Navarro

2nd Quarter B Honor Roll

7th Grade - Jacob Baker, Jay Ellison, Natalie Meller, Tanner Snaadt

8th Grade - Sara Boeding, Kat DiPrima, Peyton Howard, Elijah Kline, Corbin Moeller, Gavin Peitz, Mia Skinner

9th Grade - James Denning, Jameson Denning, Johnathan Hummel, Blake Mohrfeld, Carson Pauly, Layne Rung, Corbin VanNiewaal

10th Grade - Mason Kruse, Brayton Schneider, Adam Sobczak, Tobias VanHamme

11th Grade - Cohen Gunnison, Reagan Holvoet, Jacob Hummel, Ethan Peitz

12th Grade - Brooke Mueller, Taylor Nelson, James Scheetz

1st Semester 4.0 Honor Roll

7th Grade - Olivia Bendlage, Cooper Boylan, Carter Gehling, Morgan Krogmeier, Emma Menke

8th Grade - Eva Denning, Elizabeth Griffin, Ellie Hellman, Sydney Jarvis, Max Kruse, Kara Lake, Emma Scheetz, Emmalyn Snaadt, Brooklyn Todd

9th Grade - Chase Hemann, Brock Scheetz, Isabella Wheatley-Behne

10th Grade - Koby Jones

11th Grade - Michael Chapman, Taegan Denning, Connor Gehling, Jenna Hellman, Sheldon Kruse, Natalie Randolph,

Maddox Rung

12th Grade - Emily Boeding, Alexa Dingman, Jenna DiPrima, Mary Hellige, Laura Mehmert, Rachel Menke, Anayi Navarro, Jacob Pothitakis, Riley Timmerman

1st Semester A Honor Roll

7th Grade - Kinnick George, Calli Kruse, Chase Menke, Mason Roach, Noah Schinstock, Layne Schmitt, David Vradenburg, Faith Ward

8th Grade - Kat DiPrima, Jack Hellman, Megan Holtkamp, Adalyn Kruse, Caleb Rea, Tanner Williams

9th Grade - Nathan Box, Johnathan Hummel, Addison Link, Presley Myers, Carson Pauly, McKayla Schinstock

10th Grade - Anna Bendlage, Luke Hellige, Teagan Snaadt

11th Grade - Mary Kate Bendlage, Daltin Boeding, Andrew Mehmert, Seth Moeller

12th Grade - Kayla Box

1st Semester B Honor Roll

7th Grade - Jacob Baker, Jay Ellison, Natalie Meller, Tanner Snaadt


8th Grade - Sara Boeding, Peyton Howard, Elijah Kline, Corbin Moeller, Gavin Peitz

9th Grade - Jameson Denning, Lia Fullenkamp, Ethan McManus, Sarah Menke, Blake Mohrfeld, Emma Mohrfeld, Layne Rung, Corbin VanNiewaal

10th Grade - Mason Kruse, Brayton Schneider, Adam Sobczak, Tobias VanHamme

11th Grade - Cohen Gunnison, Reagan Holvoet, Jacob Hummel, Seth Moeller, Ethan Peitz

12th Grade - Nikolas Fullenkamp, Brooke Mueller, Taylor Nelson, James Scheetz



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Honor Rolls/Classifieds

Central Lee High releases 1st semester honor rolls

DONNELLSON - The following is the 1st semester honor roll for Central Lee High School. Pen City Current and our family of advertisers congratulates the following students on their hard work and academic achievements.

Principal Scholar

12th Grade – Emily Barnhardt, Shane Barnhardt, Adyson Brumble, Alix Congdon, Keating Fuger, Paisley Grafton, Jacob Hohl, Macy Hupp, Allison Kerr, Mya Lampe, Karissa Moeller, James Morgan, Makayla Morrison, Karlie Pohren, Maren Robbins

11th Grade – Brooklyn Jones, Landan Lowenberg, Zach Manwill, Dante Merschman, Josie Mueller

10th Grade – Kate Azinger, Alivia Cook, Maren Doty, Sydney Gram, Jalyn Hawk, Chase Johnson, Madison McGlasson, Kodi Moeller, Lauren Sanders, Andrew Underwood, Drake Weber

9th Grade – Addison Conlee, Abigail Hand, Taylor Jones, Jayden Mueller, Addison Newberry, Emma Seitz, Peter Seyb, Lily Smith, Audrey Sturdivant

A Honor Roll

12th Grade – Grant Anderson, Brett Azinger, Emma Bell, Emma Brooks, Tom Eschman, Audrey

Hand, Everlee Harvey, Josh Hawk, Adison Holland, Maya Kearns, Elaina Lozano, Ashton Robinson, Ashlyn Rodgers, Abby Simmons, Lizann Vineyard, Jordan Vorwaldt, Gannon Wells, Jacob Young

11th Grade – Shanna Buford, Landon Crank, Sydney Graber, Bella Graham-Thomas, Sidney Gruntmeir, Makayla Howard, Cory Jones, Mercedes Kirchner, Millie Larson, Blake Lindsay, Michael Morgan, Josie Newton, Riley Stuecker

10th Grade – Kayden Calfee, Lara Canida, Cale Clark, Kamyryn Cox, Will Ferris, Kylie Fortune, Jaciann Hawk, Gavin Hayes, Reece Hayes, Abby Kempker, Owen Krogmeier, Ellie Lake, Halle Lampe, Kayleigh Larkin, Sydnie Larson, Torrence Lovell, Carlee Pezley, Adelyn Robinson, Lillian Rozario, Chadie Rudd, Lila Shepard, Abby Snook, Brayden Wyrick

9th Grade – Kain Arrowood, Beau Boyd, Charlee Clay, Aurora Edens, Riley Gregory, Will Hayes, Sophie Hocker, Frankie Jenkins, Caleb Larson, Mylan Lowenberg, Mackenzie Manwill, Gabby Maynes, Brody Moeller, Avery Peterson, Juliet Prainito, Eliza Robbins, Karagen Rodgers, Kenna Sandoval, Owen Swan, Colton Taft, Aubrey Weber, Marie

Young

B Honor Roll

12th Grade – Kylie Davidson, Brody Fuller, James Hemingsen, Sarah Martin, Bethany Peck, Ryan Roberts, Bailey Schwartz, Payton Stevens, Olivia Tennant, Carly Waldorf

11th Grade – Braeden Barlow, Aubree Boyd, Hunter Gregory, Jacob Hemingsen, Ayden Krehbiel, Hailey Lake, Shalida Mortimer, Grant Myhre, Dustin Newberry, Nolan Riddle, Landon Rudd, Logan Ryland, Gia Stewart, Daniel Vallepu, Chloe Vinson

10th Grade – Ethan Bergman, Connor Bollin, Aidan Derr, Ben Foreman, Bo Herdrich, Albert Kruse, Alex Moore, Cash Pezley, Reegyn Scott, Zoey Simmons, Lexi Stidham, Brandon Suminski, Leo Thomas, Jacob Vollmer, Kennedy Wellman, Noah Wright

9th Grade – Noah Andries, Lillyan Azbill, Addysin Boatwright, Kristianna Boyer, Aunika Bruns-King, Madelyn Derr, Ward Fraise, Layla Gonterman, Gracie Howard, Anne James, Izzy James, Makayla Mertens, Nathan Newberry, Dylan Rankin, Madison Rudd, Lily Thomas, Korbin Wilson

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
MONTROSE CITY
COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 2023
4:30 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING
MONTROSE CITY HALL
AGENDA**

NOTICE TO THE

PUBLIC: The Mayor and City Council welcome comments from the public during discussion. If you wish to speak, please step up to the Council table, state your name and address for the record and limit the time used to present your remarks to

five minutes in order that others may be given the opportunity to speak. The normal process on any particular agenda item is that the motion is placed on the floor, input is received from the audience, the Council is given an opportunity to comment

on the issue or respond to the audience concerns, and the vote is taken. On ordinances, there is time provided for public input at the time of the first reading. In consideration of all, if you have a cell phone, please turn it off or put it on silent ring.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT THE COUNCIL IS NOT LIKELY TO TAKE ANY ACTION ON YOUR COMMENTS AT THIS MEETING DUE TO REQUIREMENTS OF THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW, BUT MAY DO SO AT A FUTURE MEETINGS. THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL WELCOME COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC; HOWEVER, AT NO TIME IS IT APPROPRIATE TO USE PROFANE, OBSCENE, OR SLANDEROUS LANGUAGE. THE MAYOR MAY LIMIT EACH SPEAKER TO FIVE MINUTES.

resident trash collection fees of \$17.25 per month for each dwelling. ROLL CALL VOTE

5. Discuss Abatement updates at 400 S Water St. and 315 Water St.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consider and discuss possible Riverview park boat ramp fee.

2. Consider and approve Montrose Sandbar liquor license.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

ADJOURNMENT:

*Please note that this agenda may be changed up to 24 hours before the meeting time as provided by Section 21,4(2). Code of Iowa.

CALL TO ORDER.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed under the Consent Agenda will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a request is made prior to the time the Council members vote on the motion.

1. Approve Agenda as written.

2. Approve January 8, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.

3. Approve January 2023 Treasurer's Report as presented.

4. Approve Payment of Claims as presented.

PUBLIC FORUM: This is a time set aside for comments from the public on topics of City business other than those listed on this agenda.

EMPLOYEE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Safety Chief Shields submitted his police report, General Government & Enterprise, Culture & Recreation, Public Works, and Economic & Community Development.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Approve opening Max Levy Public hearing

2. Approve closing Max Levy Public hearing

3. Approve FY24 Budget Max Levy Amount ROLL CALL VOTE

4. Approve the first reading of the Ordinance raising City of Montrose

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date 02/08/2023

time 4-7PM

location QUALITY INN, FM

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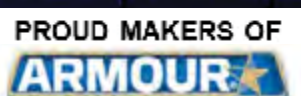
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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE
The Mount Pleasant City Council will meet in Regular Session Wednesday, February 8, at City Hall, 307 E. Monroe Street, second-floor meeting room at 5:30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Roll Call.
 2. Consent Agenda: To the Public -All items with an asterisk(*) are routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion and a roll call of the Councilmembers. There will be no separate

discussion of items unless the Mayor, a Councilmember or citizen so request, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered in its normal sequence on the Agenda.
 3. Receive & file communications.
 4. Approve agenda.
 *5. Approve minutes of previous meetings.
 *6. Approve payment of bills.
 *7. Receive reports of Officers, including Transfer Resolution approving January transfers.
 8. Old Business-
 a) Resolution approving 2022 tax abatement ap-

plications and authorizing the filing with the Henry County Assessor.
 b) Resolution authorizing the issuance of 1.7 GO Capital Loan Notes, Series 2023, and levying a tax for the payment.
 *c) Renewal application of a Special Class B Retail Native Wine License for ETC at 120 S. Main Street.
 *d) Renewal application of a Class B Retail Alcohol License for Dollar General #2010 at 710 Grand Avenue.
 9. New Business-
 a) Approve Waste Water Treatment Plant LED lighting proposal.

b) Approve purchase of Police Department vehicle.
 c) Resolution authorizing Mayor to sign agreement between City and Iowa Prison Industries for mowing and trimming Forest Home Cemetery and Old City Cemetery.
 d) Resolution awarding contract for Downtown

West Gateway Plaza construction.
 e) Resolution approving Dark Horse Subdivision.
 F) Authorize Mayor to sign ESA for Airport Hangar Door Replacement.
 g) Approve Salary Resolution for Firefighter Reserve.
 h) Approve Salary

Resolution for Firefighter Reserve.
 i) Approve Salary Resolution for Firefighter Reserve.
 10. Public Forum.
 11. Adjourn to meet in regular session on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

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From the Front

Farrell looking to bring in band for 5th year

FESTIVAL - Continued from Page 1

arrears and she wanted the city to consider waving fees close to \$700 for this year's event.

"Now I have a \$700 bill for picnic tables and barricades and things like that. Actually we're trying to do a five-year celebration and we really don't need this," she said.

"We're going to have to get rid of the picnic tables and some things to keep this where we need to be, otherwise it comes out of my pocket."

She said she spends a lot advertising with the local outlets, but she said removing picnic tables could hurt food vendors who come to the event.

"It's a fun event and it should stand on its own. I shouldn't have to fund it and I'd like to have it waived if I could."

Farrell said she doesn't know what the vendor count is until about the end of March. She said there are usually 60 vendors throughout the summer. She said the vendor fee is \$45 per market and she said around 20 do all three markets and she discounts those fees to \$110.

"That's my security, so I know they are going to be there. The rest I don't know until the end of March."

She said with each new market, she opens it to new vendors.

Pen City Cruisers will be overseeing and organizing the car show on 8th and Avenue G.

"They will organize that so I don't have to do it, but there's no charge or anything, they are just a part of my market."

She said nothing of the caliber of the Summer Market lasts in downtown Fort Madison and this year she suggested having a band and was looking for sponsors to help with the band.

She's looking at Decade of Decadence to perform in June. She said her nephew plays for the band so they gave her a discount of \$600 to play at the June event.

Councilman Chad Cangas asked Farrell if she had any other revenue source for the event other than vendor fees. Farrell said it stands alone and she's in the past funded the event herself.

She said other costs include portapotties, music, and advertising. She said she used radio, newspapers, digital, and social media.

"You have to advertise religiously because people will forget about it. If you don't promote it, they don't come."

Moody's changes formula for how ratings are set

MOODY'S - Continued from Page 1

Moody's staff.

"They came up with a new program where they introduced new parameters they use to rate judge or rate municipal bonds. They are the service we use to rate our bonds," Varley said.

"They went across the country and redid most of the cities and today we sat down and they gave us the news and, after looking at our numbers, they downgraded us one level from A2 to A3."

Varley said the company now looks at enterprise funds, which they haven't done. He said the company is biased against a cash-based audit, which most cities in the state uses.

"They wouldn't admit it to us, but they kinda said most cities in Iowa are going to get downgraded a little bit because of that, which we don't understand," he said.

He said there were other numbers that the company isn't using properly such as transfers that haven't taken place despite the money being present, and they see negative fund balances.

"We disagree with them there a little on that," he said.

Moody's is also considering the amount of money the city is going to need to spend in the future for the combined sewer overflow separation projects, which currently is projected at \$8 million apiece for four projects, or \$32 million.

Varley said they are also factoring in the household income of Fort Madison, which is below the national median.

"We're doing the best we can, but have a lot of financial issues facing us. We have a lot of expenses coming up and that's what we ended up with," Varley said.

"We may end up, next time we do a bond, we may go to S&P (Standard and Poor) because we aren't too pleased with some of the ways they've reviewed our finances."

In a related issue, Mayor Matt Mohrfeld suggested the city also look at possibly getting fresh requests for proposals for bond counsel. The city currently uses Ahlers and Cooney out of Des Moines. The city last got proposals nine years ago in 2014.

City staff was directed to prepare RFQs for the service.

Families encouraged to bring docs to event

FAFSA - Continued from Page 1


- 2021 federal and state tax returns, complete with all schedules and worksheets
- W-2 forms or other records of income earned in 2021

- Current bank statements and investment records
- Records of untaxed income received last year
- A-Number if not a U.S. citizen

A list of frequently asked questions, including a link to a complete list of required information and documents, can be found at <https://www.icansucceed.org/financial-aid/financial-aid-process/fafsa>.

Students and parents may register in advance for an FSA ID to electronically sign the FAFSA and make future changes. Visit <https://studentaid.gov/help/create-fsa-id> to create an FSA ID or retrieve a forgotten FSA ID.


Students who are unable to attend this event are encouraged to contact the Educational Opportunity Center located at SCC. Appointments are available year-round to assist with filing the FAFSA.

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