

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Wednesday, February 15, 2023 | 8 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 39



www.pencitycurrent.com

Southern takes off April 1

BURLINGTON: New air provider says they have 99.3% reliability rating

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

BURLINGTON - A single prop, blue-and white, fixed-wing aircraft with the name SOUTHERN emblazoned across its body sat in the large hangar at Southeast Iowa Regional Airport Tuesday morning.

The new aircraft represents the recent signing of Southern Airways Express as the Essential Air Services provider out of the airport in Burlington.

About 30 dignitaries and media gathered in the hangar for

the announcement that Southern will start offering flights on April 1.

"No joke," said Mark Cestari, Chief Commercial Officer, to a laugh from the crowd in the hangar.

But the remark rang loud with the crowd, most of whom have been involved in economics of a regional airport. Southeast Iowa Regional Airport has had three different carriers in the last 18 months and sustainability is critical to the area.

See **SOUTHERN**, page 8



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Charlie Walsh of the Southeast Iowa Regional Airport board greets dignitaries at the airport's hangar on Tuesday morning. Walsh was introducing Southern Airway Express as the new provider at the airport starting April 1.

CURT SWARM

Empty Nest author makes more book, movie recommendations

A must see movie is "A Man Called Otto" with Tom Hanks, Mariana Trevino and Tom Hanks' son, Truman. Both Ginnie and I read the book, saw the original Swedish movie on Netflix, "A Man Called Ove," and now the American version. Outstanding! Although

Ove's love of Saabs over Volvos plays much better than Otto's love of Chevys over Fords. BTW: Mariana Trevino upstages Tom Hanks, hands down.

"Blonde" starring Ana de Armas, based on the novel by Joyce Carol Oates, on Netflix, is a shocker. This fictionalized version of Marilyn Monroe had me

going over scenes in my head for days. Bobby Cannavale, playing Joe DiMaggio, Marilyn's second husband, does an outstanding job. Warning: movie should be rated Triple R!

"The Wonder" on Netflix is a wonder.

See **SWARM**, page 5

OLD FORT PLAYERS

OFPs' winter production kicks off this weekend

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 OFP. 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

See **PLAYHOUSE**, page 3

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WEATHER

WED 15 Feb Mostly cloudy and breezy, 42° F/28° F

THU 16 Feb Snow with wind gusts, 32° F/11° F

FRI 17 Feb Sunny and cold, 27° F/19° F

OpenWeatherMap

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 02/13 2 17 21 22 26, Star Ball: 10 All Star Bonus: 3

LUCKY FOR LIFE 02/13 1 8 15 39 48, Lucky Ball: 7

PICK 3 02/13 MIDDAY 8 0 3

PICK 3 02/13 EVENING 2 4 6

PICK 4 02/13 MIDDAY 0 3 6 9

PICK 4 02/13 EVENING 1 8 7 6

POWERBALL 02/13 17 26 37 61 65, Powerball: 2 Power Play: 2

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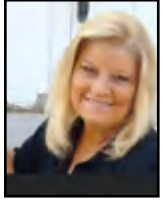
Obituaries/Education News

OBITUARIES

TRELAWNEY S. WOOD

Trelawney Sue "Tawny" Wood, 59, of Dallas City, Illinois, passed away at 7:21 a.m. Monday, February 13, 2023 at the Memorial Hospital in Carthage, Illinois.

Tawny was born October 31, 1963 in Iowa City, Iowa, the daughter of Wayne D. and Patricia Ann (Zachmeyer) Essary.



WOOD

Tawny enjoyed helping others, making crafts and prayer clothes for fundraisers, auctions and church events and spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. Her big heart was noticeable by all she did for others. When she wasn't helping others she could often be found fishing and arrowhead hunting.

She worked at Circle C in Dallas City for over 20 years and for a short time at Wal-Mart. She was a member of the Pontoosuc Community

Church.

Survivors include three children: Gary (Mikayla) Wood of Tennessee, Illinois, Nicole Wood of Dallas City and Shane Wood of Macomb, Illinois; her mother: Patricia Essary-Ritz of Fairfield, Iowa; four grandchildren: Chandlar and Skylar King and Connor and Collin Meyer; one great-grandchild: Elton Allen King; three sisters: Felicia Graham of Fort Wayne, Shari Durand of Dallas City and Christy Moody of Fort Wayne; several loving nieces and nephews and her dog: Bandito Gizmo.

She was preceded in death by her father and one brother: Johnny Wayne Essary.

Cremation has been entrusted to Banks & Beals Funeral Home.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, February 17, 2023 at the Pontoosuc Community Church, Pontoosuc, Illinois.

A memorial fund has been established to help with expenses.

To leave a condolence for the family, please visit Tawny's obituary at banksandbeals.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.

OBITUARIES

JAMES B. BAILEY

James Bernard Bailey, 91, of Mount Hamill, IA, passed away at 7:15 a.m. on Monday, February 13, 2023 at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in West Burlington, IA. He was born at home on November 3, 1931 in Stockport, IA, the son of



BAILEY

Bernard Bailey & Marjorie (Donald) Bailey. On June 2, 1951 in Mt. Pleasant, IA, he married Margaret A. Fread of Winfield, IA.

Jim was a 1949 graduate of Mt. Pleasant High School and served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He worked at the Sheaffer Pen/Textron Company in Fort Madison and retired from Electronics Application Company in Burlington, IA. Jim and his wife lived in the Montrose community for 35 years before moving to Mount Hamill in 1995.

He was a long-time amateur radio operator, WØYWP, with an ARRL Level 3: Extra Class License, a member of the American Legion and was of the Methodist Faith. Jim enjoyed spending time with his family, the Mount Hamill coffee club, talking to worldwide friends on his ham radio, feeding the squirrels and wild birds and his cat.



Jim is survived by: his wife, Margaret, two daughters, Deborah A. (Sam Strange) Bailey and Sandra L. (Greg) Smith, all of Iowa. Also surviving are sisters, Antoinette (Bill) Morehouse of Iowa and Tanya (Don) Cox of Oklahoma and a sister-in-law, Jean Bailey of Nebraska. Also surviving are several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and there will be no services at this time. Online condolences to the Bailey family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

Governor, Dept. of Education team up

DES MOINES – Governor Reynolds and the Iowa Department of Education are partnering with the National Foundation for Governors' Fitness Councils (NFGFC) and its chairman Jake Steinfeld to participate in the DON'T QUIT! campaign which aims to reverse growing trends in mental illness and childhood obesity. NFGFC will gift a state-of-the-art DON'T QUIT! fitness center to three elementary or middle schools in Iowa.

"Since becoming Governor, my administration has made historic investments in Iowa's mental health, including the first-ever children's mental health system in our state," stated Governor Reynolds. "I believe in supporting mental health in a variety of ways and am excited about how the DON'T QUIT! campaign can help improve the men-

tal and physical health of school-age children by providing fitness centers for three Iowa schools."

Steinfeld, also known as fitness icon "Body by Jake", has spent the last 40 years promoting the importance of physical activity to combat childhood obesity, and has seen firsthand that the benefits don't stop there. "Exercise has been proven to provide a positive effect on a child's mental health as well," Steinfeld said. "Our kids are our most precious resource and by providing them with a strong foundation in health and fitness, we will be helping them excel beyond their wildest dreams. It's inspiring to see elected leaders like Governor Kim Reynolds champion the DON'T QUIT! vision and we look forward to bringing the campaign to Iowa."



Lunch Specials

Feb 13-17
11am - 1pm

| |
|--|
| <p>Monday, February 13 Carved Ham, Loaded Potatoes, Corn</p> |
| <p>Tuesday, February 14 Tenderloin, Cheese Potatoes, Baked Beans</p> |
| <p>Wednesday, February 15 Beef Stroganoff, Green Beans</p> |
| <p>Thursday, February 16 Fried Chicken Dinners</p> |
| <p>Friday, February 17 Fish & Shrimp Dinners</p> |


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It's Black & White and Read all over

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

JANIE L. OURTH

Janie Lee Ourth, 60, of Fort Madison, Iowa, passed away Monday, February 13, 2023, at her home.

Janie was born on May 20, 1962, the daughter of Lee and Carmen Ourth and was raised in Nauvoo, Illinois.



OURTH

Janie was a graduate of Nauvoo Colusa High School and earned her Baccalaureate degree in Nursing from Graceland College (now Graceland University). She practiced nursing earlier in her career including at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City.

She was a lifelong member of the Community of Christ church.

Janie was the loving mother of Anthony and Bryan Ourth and grandmother to Caleb, Sophira and Lexi (Anthony's children) and Tristan and Aubryanna (Bryan's children).

Janie was also the sister of Joe (Nancy) Ourth, Julie (Brad) Bengé, Joni (Tim) Finlay and Jill (Kelly) Phipps and aunt to nine nieces and nephews. She is also survived by her stepmother: Karen Ourth.

She was preceded in death by her loving mother: Carmen.

A memorial service will be held at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, February 18, 2023 at Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo.

The family will receive friends from 1:30 p.m. until times of services Saturday at the funeral home. Burial will be held at later date in Nauvoo City Cemetery.

A time of food and fellowship will follow the service at the Nauvoo Community of Christ Church.

A memorial fund has been established for her grandchildren. To leave a tribute for the family, please visit Janie's obituary at sbbfuneralhome.com.

Clute, Sanford directing "Drinking Habits 2"

PLAYHOUSE - Continued from Page 1

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, OFP 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.

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Sports

HOLY TRINITY CRUSADERS

HTC girls cool off in season-ending loss to Wolves

Winfield-Mt. Union stops HTC's run for the 3rd straight year

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

WINFIELD — Winfield-Mount Union has been a post-season thorn for Holy Trinity's girls basketball team.

The Crusaders came into Tuesday's Class 1A regional quarterfinal against the eighth-ranked Wolves with plenty of momentum, but W-MU took advantage of Holy Trinity's missed opportunities in the second half to take a 56-42 win.

Winfield-Mount Union (20-1) advanced to host Notre Dame (18-6) in Friday's regional semifinal.

It was the third consecutive season the Wolves have ended the Crusaders' season.

Holy Trinity trailed by four at halftime and six midway through the third quarter, but the Crusaders would have just five field goals over the last 14 1/2 minutes.

"We missed a lot of shots," Holy Trinity coach Tony Johnson said. "That was the thing I told them — we missed a lot of easy shots. Our defense was fine, we got the people in foul trouble that we wanted to, and didn't take advantage of it."

Holy Trinity (13-9), which came into the game on a five-game winning streak, was within 44-38 with 4:58 left to play in the game, but would only get a Mary Kate Bendlage shot inside and two free throws from Teagan Snaadt with 18 seconds left as Winfield-Mount Union pulled away.

"It seemed like we were in the right places, but we would either miss a shot or something else wouldn't



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Holy Trinity junior Mary Kate Bendlage brings the ball up the floor in the first half while W-MU's Keetyn Townsley catches up from behind.

work out," Johnson said.

Anna Anderson's 3-pointer with 3:50 left put Winfield-Mount Union up 48-38, then after Keely Malone's basket with 3:15 left the Wolves scored their final six points off free throws.

Bradie Buffington led Winfield-Mount Union with 16

points. Melina Oepping had 15 points.

Bendlage led Holy Trinity with 23 points. Snaadt had 13.

It was a season with plenty of roster changes for the Crusaders. Guard Natalie Randolph was unavailable after she suffered a torn ACL before the beginning of volleyball season. Bendlage hurt her knee during preseason practice and didn't play until right before Christmas break. Freshman center Presley Myers suffered a knee injury late in the season.

"There were so many highs and lows this season, with injuries and sickness," Johnson said. "You're mixing and matching, moving people around. We lost Natalie before the season even started, lost MK, and when we were .500 at Christmas that exceeded my expectations.

"I thought as the year went on, we started playing well together. The last two or three weeks we played really good basketball."

Holy Trinity loses seniors Kayla Box, Mary Hellige and Jenna DiPrima but gets back the bulk of its scoring.

"This core group coming back, plus the incoming players we have, we've got to get together this summer and work at it, if we want to get to where we want to get."



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Crusaders' Kayla Box battles Bradie Buffington in the paint during third quarter action Tuesday night. Below, HTC head coach Tony Johnson gives some fourth-quarter instruction to the Holy Trinity girls.



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From the Front/Classifieds

"Martin Luther" is a must-read for book lovers

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

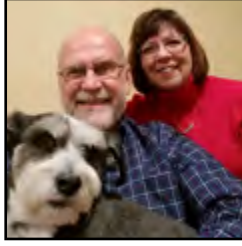
I read the book by Emma Donoghue a couple of years ago, so when the movie came out, Ginnie and I settled in. Like the story of a virgin birth recurring throughout history, a woman who appears to live without food, also pops up now and then. In fact, in my book review below, Martin Luther, in the 16th century, also encounters a woman who allegedly lives without food.

Speaking of Martin Luther, if you don't read another book the rest of your life, read "Martin Luther: The Man Who Rediscovered God and Changed the World" by Eric Metaxas. Actually, you could spend the rest of your life reading "Martin Luther." There is so much material, information and history, and Metaxas is such an intricate, detailed biographer, that I read the Introduction, Epilogue, footnotes, Appendices (something I don't normally do), and am ready to start reading the book again, and again, and again.

Have you ever read a book and wished you could read more of that book and author? Well, the well doesn't run dry with Metaxas. Can't say I agree with his politics, but as far as one of the best authors writing today, he has the corner market, biographies in particular. And with Kindle—when I'm done with one book, voila! I don't even have to leave my recliner and another book is in

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



my sweaty palms. Metaxas' threesome of "Martin Luther: The Man Who Rediscovered God and Changed the World," "Amazing Grace: William Willberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery" and "Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy," is the greatest reading I have ever done. Throw in "Miracles: What They Are, Why They Happen, and How They Can Change Your Life," and "Fish Out of Water: A Search for the Meaning of Life" (Metaxas' autobiography) all of which I read, and I'm just getting warmed up. In the hopper are, "More Men, and the Secret of Their Greatness," "Is Atheism Dead?" "If You Can Keep It, The Forgotten Promise of American Liberty" and "Letter to the American Church" all of which I haven't read, but plan to, and I'm set with reading material for the rest of my life. Eric Metaxas also wrote over 300 children's books. Holy smokes, Tonto! It's probably my imagination but I feel like my IQ increases about 10 points just by reading his books. His vocabulary is mind-boggling, but with Kindle, just touch the word and the Oxford Dictionary definition pops up. Nifty.

Metaxas is heavy reading, but rewarding. Just for fun I picked up Rick Bragg's, "The Speckled Beauty...A Dog and His People..." It's a dog story, similar to John Grogan's, "Marley." You'll love it. I had read a couple of Bragg's (I'm not bragging) books a few years ago: "The Prince of Frogtown" and "I'm a Soldier Too: The Jessica Lynch Story," for which he and his newspaper got in a little controversy over whether the book was true or not. Anywho, Bragg is an excellent Southern writer in the "good ole-boy" tradition. He has a number of other books that are also best sellers. Lord have mercy.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF
WEST BURLINGTON
Regular City
Council Meeting
Wednesday,
February 15, 2023
6:00 PM
West Burlington
City Hall
122 Broadway Street

TENTATIVE AGENDA
 CALL TO ORDER
 PLEDGE OF ALLE-
 GIANCE
 ROLL CALL
 PERFECTING & AP-
 PROVAL OF AGENDA
 CONSENT AGENDA
 All items on the Con-

sent 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 February 1, 2023
2. Approve payment to Mississippi Valley Pump - \$16,455
3. Approve payment to Southeast Iowa Regional

- Planning Commission for Grant Administration Services - \$5,000
4. Approve payment to World Insurance - \$7,398
 5. Approve payment to French-Reneker-Associates for engineering services related to the Mt. Pleasant St. Resurfacing Project - \$1,395
 6. Approve Officer Mettler's resignation from the Police Department
 7. Approve payment to Shive-Hattery for engineering services related to the Force Main Assessment Study - \$3,180
 8. Approve payment of Claims as listed on the Feb 15, 2023 Expense Approval Report - \$161,259.46
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- CLERK/FINANCE/IT:
 - OTHER STAFF RE-PORTS:
- REPORTS:**
- COUNCIL REPORTS:
 - COMMUNITY RE-PORTS: CITIZEN INQUIRIES
- NEW BUSINESS**
1. Consider Supplemental work related to the Non-Destructive Testing of Force Main
- OLD BUSINESS**
- CITIZEN INQUIRIES
 ADJOURN
 WORK SESSION
 Council will hold a Budget Work Session following the regular meeting.

#ShopLocal
 Support your local business community!

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF
WEST BURLINGTON
Work Session
Wednesday,
February 15, 2023
6:00 PM
West Burlington
City Hall
122 Broadway Street

TENTATIVE AGENDA

DISCUSSION ITEM
 Council will discuss the proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

VROOM. VROOM.
Get Pre-Approved in Seconds.

**maybe even faster than this car gets to 60, just sayin'!*



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APARTMENTS AVAILABLE

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

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Call Lee
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 THE **Scotts Miracle-Gro**
 COMPANY

HIRING EVENT

Thursday, February 16 • 9-11am & 3-5pm
at 1910 48th Street in Fort Madison
On-the-Spot Interviews

Positions Available:

- Lab Tech, \$24.55
- Machine Operator, 3rd Shift, 20.40
- Forklift Operator, 3rd Shift, 22.70
- Filler Operator, 3rd Shift, \$25.25
- MRP Planning Assistant, \$22.15-\$28.75

Not available for the Hiring Event?
 Apply online at
<https://scottsmiraclegro.com/careers>
 to schedule a personal appointment.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE
THE IOWA DISTRICT
COURT FOR LEE
COUNTY**
IN THE MATTER
OF THE ESTATE OF
JOHN STEPHEN
FRANKLIN, Deceased

CASE NO. ESPR009040

You are hereby notified that on December 30, 2022, the Last Will and Testament of John Stephen Franklin, deceased, 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 publication 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 requested 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 authenticated, 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 otherwise 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 Boulevard
Suite 201
Coralville, IA 52241

**NOTICE OF PROBATE
OF WILL, APPOINTMENT
OF EXECUTOR,
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**
To All Persons Interested
in the Estate of John Stephen Franklin, deceased,
who died on or about
November 23, 2022:

On the spot job offers!

HIRING EVENT

**February 15th
2pm-6pm**

Now Hiring
Machine Operators
& Packers

Click on this ad or go to <https://boards.greenhouse.io/shearersnacks> and search for Machine Operators or Packers in Burlington

Click this ad to sign up now!

SHEARER'S

We Are **TEAM** STAFFING SOLUTIONS, INC. **HIRING!**

APPLY WITH US

- ✓ Pay ranging from \$12.00 - \$16.50/hr.
- ✓ Full-time & part-time positions available
- ✓ Part-time flexible hours
- ✓ Benefits offered
- ✓ Weekly pay & MORE

CALL OR TEXT:
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SEND YOUR RESUME:
jseitz@teamssi.com

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Fort Madison, IA

SCAN ME TO APPLY ONLINE
www.teamssi.com

New INCREASED Wages
3rd Shift

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 / \$1.00 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!

PROUD MAKERS OF **ARMOUR**

Scene Around the Area/From the Front



Courtesy photo

Mrs. Wendy Bailey took two of our elementary students to the capitol on Wednesday the 8th! They had a full day of learning all about STEM. They talked to legislators about what they have been doing in Computer Science as a result of the Computer Science is Elementary Grant! Martin Graber, State Representative, gave them a special tour and arranged for a guide to the top of the capitol, 363 steps! Pictured here are Wyatt Brennan (left) and Niklas Castan (right).

#HyperLocalSuperFresh

Respiratory Season is Here!

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

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



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

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

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

 Southeast Iowa Regional MEDICAL CENTER | Urgent Care

CCO says service locals need to have confidence in carrier

SOUTHERN - Continued from Page 1

Rumors of canceled flights and stranded passengers under the Cape Air brand has hurt the image of the airport.

SIRA manager Sara Sandburg said it's been a rough past 18 months.

"This will be the third in the last year and a half. We had Air Choice last February and switched to Cape Air," Sandburg said.

"Air Choice One has these same planes. In fact (Southern) bought Air Choice One when they left here. The other part is the single-engine vs. twin-engine. Part of what happened with Cape Air was Delta and Jet Blue were plucking their pilots because they were twin engine and they could fly the bigger planes."

She said there is more room in the Southern planes than the Cape Air aircraft, which is also better for travelers.

Cestari said Southern will be more sustainable for Burlington because they have plenty of pilots. The Southern fleet in the central area is single-engine planes so their pilots aren't being absorbed by larger air carriers who need twin-engine training and certification.

He said those dynamics were limiting Cape Air's capabilities and Southern won't have those constraints with more than 300 pilots in their system.

"I couldn't even fly in today from St. Louis on Cape Air because they only had one flight," Cestari said. "I had to drive in and that's a long drive."

"We have the best reliability. Our fares are lower, which stimulates the market and we have these partnerships with

United, American, Alaska, Hawai'an where people can hop on us, and then hop on them and go anywhere in the world.

"We're not perfect, but our regular reliability rate for completion in 2021 and most of 2022 was 99.3%," he said.

The prices are also going to very comparable to Air Choice and Cape Air, the other two airlines that have serviced Burlington in the last three years.

"No one will ever pay triple digits for our flights to Chicago or St. Louis," Cistari said.

Prices will be \$39 for trips to Chicago or St. Louis with 14-days advance purchase, \$69 for a 7-day advance purchase, and an \$89 walk-up rate.

Southern will fly 24 round-trip flights per week, 2 daily trips to Chicago and 10 weekly trips to St. Louis, once a day and twice on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Cestari's also a full-time resource to community partners with sponsorships of events, flight donations, and other support.

"It's really the teamwork that makes everything great," he said.

The company website www.iflysouthern.com is also a one-stop booking site and Cestari said their customer service is also better than what you'd get with the larger carriers.

"We're on it and we're aware we have a lot of work to do to rebuild confidence. It's not going to happen overnight, but I told the manager now that the spring is here and summer vacation ramping up, I think we're going to do great."