

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Thursday, April 6, 2023 | 13 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 66



www.pencitycurrent.com

WHERE ARE THE VOLUNTEERS?



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Dr. Eugene Watkins gives the Fort Madison City Council an update Tuesday night in Fort Madison on what repairs are needed immediately and what can be put off in order to get the Old Fort open before Memorial Day.

MOVING FORWARD: Council approves spending up to \$40,000 to start Fort work

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – City officials are behind a \$40,000 effort to get the Old Fort replica ready for visitors by Memorial Day.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Fort Madison City Council, the council heard from several city officials about what would need to be done at a minimum to get the Old Fort shored up in time to meet a May 29 commitment.

The council wants to get the Old Fort, which has been closed since January due to structural insufficiencies, open for tours again.

Building Director Doug Krogmeier offered a proposal that cost

\$71,000 to get the building temporarily secured.

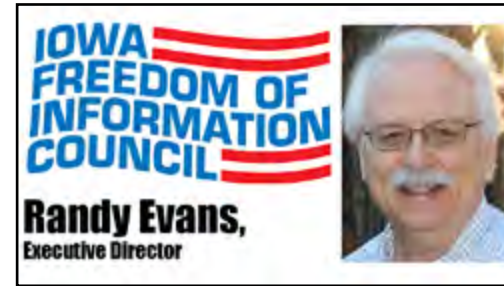
"That's just to get opened. That doesn't include all the chinking or reroofing all the buildings," Krogmeier said.

Included in Krogmeier's options are the demolishing of three buildings, including the gift shop and moving that operation to the north blockhouse on the property. That building would require about \$14,000 in repairs including a reroofing, because Krogmeier said rain is coming right into the building now.

The city would also construct some kind of fence to lead visitors to the proper starting place for the tours. Other fencing would also

See OLD FORT, page 4

EDITORIAL



With parents' rights, Iowa giveth and taketh away

The Iowa Legislature and Governor Kim Reynolds cannot seem to make up their minds whether they support parental rights or are against Mom and Dad being the decision-makers when it comes to their children's well-being. Trying to analyze Republican officials' views on parental rights is challenging. Baseball's infield fly rule is simpler.

In 2021, the Republican majorities in the Iowa House and Iowa Senate passed legislation to prohibit schools from requiring students to wear facial masks in the classroom to fend off Covid. The governor quickly signed the new law, offering this explanation: "Iowa is putting parents back in control of their children's education and taking greater steps to protect the rights of all Iowans to make their own health care decisions."

Iowans who disagreed with the effects of the new law at least could understand its parental-rights premise. But last month, the Republican majorities in the Legislature and the governor made a sweeping U-turn on parental control of children's health care — at least when that care involves teens and pre-teens who identify as transgender.

The Legislature passed a controversial bill prohibiting health care professionals from giving medical treatment "for the purpose of attempting to alter the appearance of, or affirm the minor's perception of the minor's gender or sex, if that appearance or perception is inconsistent with the minor's sex [at birth]."

Doctors had been providing that care only in a small number of cases in Iowa and only then with the approval of parents. The LGBTQ clinic at University of Iowa Hospitals served 211 patients under age 18 last year, the Cedar Rapids

See EVANS, page 8

ILLINOIS NEWS

Eagle Scout builds overlook in Niota for service project

BY PCC STAFF

NIOTA - The official opening an an Eagle Scout project in Niota will take place this month.

Zed Moorehouse, who was honored with his Eagle Scout, the highest youth honor bestowed in the Boy Scouts of

America, built a trail and fencelind for the Prairie Land Conservancy (PLC) called the Eagle Overlook at Stony Hills Nature Preserve.

This event is free and open to the public from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on April 29, (Rain out date of May 5th 1 p.m.- 3 p.m.). The group will meet at the

parking lot at 1 p.m. to hike 0.5 miles to Zed's Eagle Overlook till 1:30 p.m.

From 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m., those who want can join in to pull garlic mustard. PLC will supply baked goods, water (please bring your own bottle), gloves,

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WEATHER

THU 06 Apr.....Sunny and gusty, 54° F/ 33° F
FRI 07 Apr.....Sunny and warm, 63° F/ 38° F
SAT 08 Apr.....Sunny and warm, 65° F/ 42° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 04/04.....10 13 20 22 25, Lucky Ball: 8
MEGA MILLIONS 04/04.....137 45 62 64, Mega Ball: 4
PICK 3 04/04 MIDDAY.....917
PICK 3 04/04 EVENING.....477
PICK 4 04/04 MIDDAY.....3888
PICK 4 04/04 EVENING.....6663

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

MARGARET K. BENTZINGER GREGORY

Margaret Kathryn Bentzinger Gregory, aged 100, of Donnellson, Iowa died on March 30, 2023, at Addington Place Assisted Living of Ft. Madison, Iowa in the care of Southeast Iowa Regional Home Health Hospice. Her life began in the room where she, her siblings and her mother were born.



GREGORY

Her birth was on September 2, 1922, to Carl M. and Edna Jane (Benjamin) Bentzinger. She was preceded in death by her parents, her siblings and one niece: Richard Alvin Bentzinger, Rosalie Jane Bentzinger and Rhoda Lee Gregory Brown. She is survived by her daughter: Rosalie Jane Gregory Mills, and her son: Carl Richeson Gregory, and grandchildren: Jason Novell Mills, Jeanne-Jo Gregory, Brian and Kelly Gregory and Alan Gregory. Also surviving are nieces and nephews: Rebecca Bentzinger, Sarah Bentzinger Clarahan, John Bentzinger, Philip Bentzinger, David Gregory, Jr., Gabrielle Gregory Elliott, Janet Gregory Moore, Susan Gregory Hilldrup. She has nine great nieces and nephews.

Margaret was a graduate of Donnellson High School and Iowa Wesleyan College, and was a Licensed Practical Nurse.

In 1944, Margaret met the love of her life, Robert Todd Gregory, a Naval Academy graduate and Naval Aviator taking flight training in Ottumwa, Iowa where she was living. They married eight weeks later. Upon his death, they were married just short of 40 years.

Margaret accompanied her husband to duty stations until he was discharged from the Navy, and then to graduate schools at Iowa State, Florida State and the University of Illinois, where he completed his doctorate; then to professorships at the University of California at Santa Barbara, the University of Texas at Austin, and the University

of Tennessee in Knoxville, in all of which he was a mathematician and computer science professor. Because of her faithful support of him in raising their children and overseeing their home during his schooling and throughout his teaching career, he was able to pursue a very successful and productive teaching, research, publishing and lecturing career.

Margaret accompanied her husband on sabbaticals where he did research, lectures and publishing in Switzerland, throughout Europe and Scandinavia, India, and Australia, and they travelled around the world together.

After her husband's death, Margaret moved to Nashville, Tennessee with her sister, Rosalie; when Rosalie retired, they remodeled and moved back into their childhood home in Donnellson, where they lived until Rosalie's death. Shortly thereafter, Margaret moved to Addington Place Assisted Living of Ft. Madison, Iowa.

Margaret was a member of PEO Sisterhood (of which she was the State President of Tennessee), Pi Beta Phi sorority, University Ladies' Club and a faithful member of the Methodist and Baptist churches in the various places they lived. Margaret and her husband taught the college Sunday School classes in Santa Barbara and Austin and hosted the college students in their home on Sunday evenings. Margaret was an officer at a variety of levels of every organization with which she was involved.

After Margaret and Rosalie returned to Donnellson, Margaret joined the Garden Club, sang with the St. Barnabas Choir, and at her home church. She was a member of the United Methodist Women, sang in the church choir, served ice cream faithfully after church every Sunday, and she and Rosalie started and taught in the Kids' Club.

Margaret and her husband attended the World Methodist Conference in Hawaii, and Margaret, her sister Rosalie and her daughter Rosalie Jane attended the World Methodist Conference in Nairobi, Kenya and traveled to several different countries on safari in Africa.

Margaret was devoted to her family and was the "eager mother" behind her son becoming an Eagle Scout. After her husband's death, Margaret found a letter he had written to his brother (their grandfather had raised racing horses), saying that when he met Margaret, "I knew a thoroughbred when I saw one." Margaret was indeed one amazing, remarkable woman.

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

The family is planning a Memorial Celebration for Margaret later this summer.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in her memory for the Donnellson United Methodist Church and can be mailed to the family at: Schmitz Funeral Home, P.O. Box 56, Donnellson, Iowa.

Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.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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It's Black & White and Read all over

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Lee County News/From the Front

Conservation group hosts fishing events

PCC Staff

LEE COUNTY - Join Lee County Conservation for a summer of fishy fun with a youth fishing event planned for each month! Thanks to our wonderful Fishing Clinic sponsors - Lake Cooper's Anglers Association, Izaak Walton League, and Pheasants Forever - kids will have the opportunity to practice their fishing all summer long, then compete in the annual Youth Fishing Derby sponsored by the Quiesner Family!

On May 6th, the Youth Fishing Clinic will be at Chatfield Park (3593 Lake Road, Keokuk, IA 52632) from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Lake Cooper's Anglers Association is sponsoring the event and will have their fishing experts on hand to assist kids with their fishing techniques.

On June 4th, the Youth Fishing Clinic will be at Pollmiller Park (2448 County Rd 103, West Point, IA 52656) from 9am to 11am. Izaak Walton League will be sponsoring the event and will be providing door prizes and lunch.

On July 8th, the Youth Fishing Clinic will be at Heron Bend Fishing Area (2392 Highway 61, Fort Madison, IA 52627) from 9am to 11am. Pheasants Forever will be sponsoring the event and will have various activities for kids, in addition to fishing.

On August 5th, the Annual Youth Fishing Derby



sponsored by the Quiesner Family will be at Pollmiller Park. Kids will get the chance to compete in their age groups to catch the largest fish. Prizes and trophies will be given out to participants and winners. A cookout lunch will follow the event.

Lee County Conservation will have fishing poles available to borrow at each of these events. No pre-registration is required and all events are free thanks to each sponsoring group.

Crafting

Join Naturalist Lia for an afternoon of crafting at the Lee County Conservation Center on April 29th at 1pm! You'll get to paint real pinecones to make them look like succulent plants, then design a framed succulent art piece out of them. Cost is \$10 and space is limited, so register today by calling the office at (319) 463-7673 or emailing conservation@leecounty.org

Wednesday crash claims lives of two from Van Buren Cty

LEE COUNTY - Two Van Buren County people were killed Wednesday afternoon in a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Hwys 103 and 218.

According to Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber, the two were westbound on Hwy. 103 and were struck by a semi heading northbound on Hwy. 218.

Weber said emergency crews were dispatched to the scene at about 3 p.m. and were on scene until about 8:15 p.m.

The Iowa State Patrol is handling the investigation but a preliminary report of the accident is not yet available. Family members of the two victims have been notified.

The driver of the semi was uninjured.

Lee County Sheriff's office was assisted by West Point Fire & Rescue, Donellson/West Point Police, and Lee County EMS Ambulance.

Stewardship part of project event

NIOTA - Continued from Page 1

and containers for disposing the garlic mustard. Please wear closed-toed shoes and dress appropriately for the weather. Please park 1/4 mile after the intersection of Leisure Rd. and CO N Rd. 1430.

Join in to celebrate this accomplishment with members of the PLC staff, Zed Moorehouse, his parents, and community members. A discussion about the history of Stony Hills Nature Preserve, Zed's accomplishments,

and share baked goods will also be held.

In pairing with this event, guests are also invited to join in stewardship work of removing invasive garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). Garlic mustard is an invasive, non-native, biennial herb that spreads by seed that emerges earlier in the spring than most native plants.

For more information and registration, please visit www.prairielandconservancy.org, call 309-833-4747, or email pc@prairiehillsrcd.org.

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From the Front

City to put up \$40,000 to get Fort repairs started

OLD FORT - Continued from Page 1

be required to enclose areas where buildings were being demolished. Total cost for poles for the new fencing is projected at about \$35,000, or just about half the total cost.

City Public Works Director Mark Boussetot said he has an opportunity with Alliant to purchase some used utility poles at about 25% of what they would cost to purchase new.

The plan also includes demolishing buildings B and D at a total cost \$20,000, including the gift shop.

Councilwoman Rebecca Bowker asked where the city was going to come up with the \$71,000.

City Finance Director Peggy Steffensmeier said she was asked to find money for the demolitions and there is about \$20,000 in an Old Fort reserve fund that could be used.

She said there was also about \$40,000 in the upcoming budget for Fort repairs so that puts the city about \$11,000 short of Krogmeier's proposal.

The council balked at committing to spend the \$71,000, but authorized \$40,000 to get the work started and then asked Krogmeier to come back to the council with updates on how the work is going.

The city has already paid to have the study completed on what needed to be done to shore up the Old Fort for the next 10 to 15 years. The cost of that study was close to \$430,000.

Several residents, including Shelley Dowling, advocated on

behalf of the Fort saying the city has committed to fixing the property to include gathering volunteers and funding to get the 35-year-old historical replica of the original Fort Madison safe for people to visit.

She was also concerned about demolishing the gift center and moving it to the blockhouse.

"I see a real problem with the gift shop. That's where the people enter, they start, they peruse, and that's the travel way to go into the Old Fort. We take that away and put up an orange snow fence? That's really tacky," Dowling said.

"It looks like Fort Madison has no investment in the tourists that are coming in."

Dowling also asked for the city to look for what she called "time and talent" from volunteers around the city.

"That's how the original started with a lot of prison work," she said.

Resident Linda Baxter asked the council to remember what visitors are coming to Fort Madison to see, specifically with regard to American Cruise Line passengers that come off the ships during dockings.

"I want everybody here to realize that the boats are coming to see the Fort. They aren't coming to see the marina or other things. They are coming to see the Fort. We should consider them when we consider what it's worth for Fort Madison to be on the map for people around the world," Baxter said.

Dowling said she was under the impression that the city, specifically the mayor, was going to find volunteers to work on the project to keep costs down.

"We look to you guys as leaders and now you're coming back at us," she said.

At a March city council meeting discussing the work, Mohrfeld said residents came out in force to support sustaining the Old Fort over demolishing it and now those people need to step up and help get the replica shored up.

"The loud and clear thing we've heard was this was important to us, and we will show up. And we're going to take the community up on that. We truly are. I think it's important that people support what they create," Mohrfeld said back on March 21.

Councilman Rusty Andrews said he volunteers on many committees, and he sees the same people at each committee, hinting that other people in the community need to step forward.

"I sit on about as many committees and organizations as anybody can - Rodeo, Fiesta, Kiddie Parade. And all the people on those committee are in this room. Damn near," Andrews said.

"That leaves another 10,000 people in this town that aren't doing anything. I'm not bashing on them, that's their choice. Those days are gone of having this huge volunteer base, each organization having their own 100 people."

He said he sees the same people at all the meetings. "We can't get people to sell popcorn at an event. You gotta pay somebody \$2 to sell it for \$3. You get a dollar."

He said we need to publish that the city needs volunteers. Dowling said the city needs to get the word out that there is a need for time and talent on this project.

"This is what the Fort means. Do you want to invest in the future of our Fort?"

Andrews said that will never be taught in schools or at City Hall. It has to be taught in how we raise our kids.

"I'm sorry. I was dragged around by the old man every day my whole life. We implement our students to graduate to do volunteer hours and slip someone \$20 to sign their paperwork," he said.

"You have to explain to people how enjoyable it is and then you have to make it enjoyable."

Andrews said he hopes the city can find volunteers to help with the work, but there is a very tight timeline.

"We don't have six weeks to teach a kid how to use a hammer. I don't think volunteers are going to be the saving grace for this one," Andrews said.

"But where are the volunteers? That should be the headline in the newspaper."

BACK PAIN?

Do You Have Hip Pain? Are You As Stiff As a Board When You Try to Get Up From a Chair? Have You Run Out of Hope?

How 5 Lies About Low BACK PAIN May Keep You Hurting, Frustrated & Exhausted...Forever!

NEW Scientific Breakthroughs Often Make Short Work of Low Back Pain...Just What Big Medical Centers and High Priced Clinics Are PRAYING You Never Figure Out On Your Own!

Hi, I'm Dr. Jason James, and if you've got any kind of back, hip or leg pain, your worries may be over in just a few minutes. Why? Because I'm the owner of James Healthcare & Assoc. clinic, and I've discovered what may be the best healing secrets for "bad backs" - EVER!



Dr. Jason James, D.C.

I'd be stupid to make such a claim if I couldn't back it up. But I am so confident we can help your back, I insist on giving you a 100% SATISFACTION PLEDGE at James Healthcare. I hate empty promises, and I also hate the lies most folks have been told about their backs. That's why it's important I expose these MYTHS about back pain.

MYTH #1: Sciatica (pain down your leg) is always caused by a herniated disc!

No way...even though most doctors will sell you a \$3,000 MRI at the first sign of leg pain. But they don't tell you about a 5-inch muscle in the hip that can squeeze the sciatic nerve. And it feels EXACTLY like you've got the worst slipped disc on earth. It's a major discovery and...



The good news is that it can be easy and inexpensive to correct! How? Just keep reading! But first, here's a picture to show you where the pain comes from:

MYTH #2: Stiffness from Arthritis means you're getting old...and it must be the reason for all your pain and stiffness!

Not true, because thousands of folks with arthritis in their backs have absolutely NO PAIN! Then why do YOU feel like your back will snap if you bend forward or twist too fast? Because the truth is:

Your stiffness may be caused by a hidden, even more dangerous problem than arthritis, and it can lead to a hip replacement!

You see, most folks believe that something mysterious (like maybe an "arthritis fairy?") waved a wand over them, and they're cursed... doomed to suffer forever.

But did you know that many arthritis problems are CAUSED by a combination of unseen imbalances in the spine and surrounding muscles? It's the most common cause of hip replacements but not that hard to correct if we catch it in time. It's like the tires on your car...

If the alignment is off just a teeny-weeny bit, at first you don't notice, but over a few thousand miles you start to see signs of wear...that is, if you're lucky enough to catch it before a flat on the freeway ruins your day. In your spine, you're lucky if you catch untreated imbalances before they ruin your spine! How to fix them? Just look at Myth #3.

MYTH #3: Your Back is "Out"!

Sure, that's exactly how it feels. But guess what, we found that's usually not the case. It sounds good, but we now know better. You see, there are 7 different reasons for that painful, locked-up and stuck feeling that causes so much misery:

- low-grade spasm
- pelvis torque and tension
- imbalance of hips

- fallen or dropped arches
- stiff vertebra joint
- adhesions in leg muscle
- pinched nerve

It's NOT just your spine, and it's NOT just your muscles. As a matter of fact, if one of the major muscles that stabilize the spine is partly spasmed, a "2nd stringer" will have to carry the load. But this is a serious problem...

It's like having your plumber doing all the dangerous electrical work!

Sure, he may get it done, and it may work at first, but how long until there's a fire? Or your back locks up? Which leads me to our next myth:

MYTH #4: "It's Only a Muscle!"

Boy, it's scary how many people think muscle problems are no big deal. Unfortunately, tight, bound-up, and spasmed or tight muscles can wear out joints faster than you can say, "Charley Horse!"

That's why it's important to examine the spine AT THE SAME TIME as the muscles that control it. It's also why we've had such outrageous success with even the worst backs at James Healthcare. Because we deal with BOTH the spine and muscles at the same time. We have spine doctors (chiropractors), pain doctors (nurse practitioners) and muscle professionals (therapists) and together they deliver an outstanding way to help "bad backs". This ties in to Myth #5 and the diagram:



MYTH #5: "Muscle Relaxants" will help your muscles heal! Good grief, NO!

Your muscles tighten up for a reason, and muscle relaxants are like turning back the clock on a time bomb...you know it's still going to blow up! Sure, you may feel better now, but you'll pay later...and pay "in spades"! So don't fall for these lies about your low back. They'll keep you hurting, frustrated and exhausted forever!

WOULDN'T YOU RATHER:

Turn over in bed without pain waking you up?

Get up in the morning without being as stiff as a board?

Be able to stand for as long as you want without sitting down for relief?

Lean forward over the sink without that "stabbing" in your back or leg?

SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGH:

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- Tension...always tight across the beltline
- Bent...crooked off to one side and can't stand up straight if your life depended on it
- Trigger Point...zinging pain to butt-cheek
- Stiff as a board...creek and groan when you first get out of bed in the morning
- Traitor...can't trust your back and what it's going to do—or when!
- Vice-like...constantly locked down tight!
- Shooting...vicious but short-lived
- Lumbago...hard to pin it down—just seems to hurt all the time, but it's hard to say where
- One-sided...right at that "bone" on one side
- Jack hammer...pounding off and on like a heartbeat or a toothache in your back
- Aching from 1-5 years
- Chronic pain for over 5 years

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE WEST BURLINGTON REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023

The West Burlington City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at West Burlington City Hall, 122 Broadway Street, West Burlington, Iowa, with Mayor Ron Teater presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ron Teater, Kathy Newberry, Andy Crowner, John Johnson, Therese

Lees, and Melanie Young
MEMBERS ABSENT:
ALSO PRESENT: Fire Chief/Building Inspector Shaun Ryan, Public Works Director Mike Brissey, City Clerk Kelly Fry, Finance Manager Angela Moore, City Administrator Gregg Mandsager, and Police Sergeant Eldon Melssen

CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL
PERFECTING & APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Moved by Lees, seconded by Johnson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Newberry, Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

CONSENT AGENDA
• Minutes from the Regular City Council meeting on March 1, 2023

• Payment of Claims as listed on the 3/15/2023 Expense Approval Report - \$124,592.63

Moved by Lees, seconded by Young, to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Newberry, Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS

CITIZEN INQUIRIES
No inquiries.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider hiring Andrew Prier and Justin Prier as Reserve Police Officers
Moved by Lees, seconded by Newberry, to hire Andrew Prier and Justin Prier as Reserve Police Officers.

Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Newberry, Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Approve a Resolution setting Public Hearing Date for April 5, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. to consider the City's Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Moved by Crowner, seconded by Lees, to approve a Resolution setting a Public Hearing Date of April 5, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., to consider the

City's Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Newberry, Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Consider a Resolution authorizing the installation of a street light at the intersection of N. Gear Ave. and W. Mt. Pleasant St.

Public Works Director Brissey asked Council to approve a Resolution authorizing Alliant Energy to install a street light on the south side of N. Gear Ave. and W. Mt. Pleasant St.

Moved by Lees, seconded by Young, to approve a Resolution authorizing Alliant Energy to install a street light on W. Mt. Pleasant Street. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Newberry, Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Consider the purchase of lounge chairs for the Swimming Pool from Kiefer Aquatics

Council considered a quote from Kiefer Aquatics for the purchase of 48 lounge chairs for the swimming pool for \$6,687.

Moved by Crowner, seconded by Lees, to approve the purchase of lounge chair as presented. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Newberry, Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Consider a quote from Bessine Electric to install line reactors on the Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) at the South Lift Station

Public Works received a quote of \$6,298.00 from Bessine Electric to install 3-line reactors on the VFD's at the south lift station. The line reactors will help with the under-voltage issues that have occurred at the south lift station.

Moved by Crowner, seconded by Young, to approve a quote from Bessine Electric to install line reactors at the south lift station. Motion carried by the following votes:

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Ayes: Newberry, Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Discuss and consider Resolution of Support for a Potential Senior Housing Project

Chris Ales, CPA, approached Council requesting support for a proposed senior housing project (to be known as Alice Place West Burlington). The project would include 47 apartments for seniors, i.e., over the age of 55, with incomes restricted to 60% of the area median income and rents ranging from approximately \$387 to \$683 for 1-bedroom apartments and approximately \$775 for 2-bedroom apartments. Chris Ales would be serving as the Project Manager and Jim Bergman, JNB West Burlington, LP, would own the development. The developer has done numerous senior housing projects like this across the state. City Administrator Mand-sager has worked with him on similar projects in Muscatine.

Most recently, they built the Alice Place Project in Monroe, WI.

Ales asked Council to support the project and their application to the Iowa Finance Authority to secure funding through the LIHC Program and HOME Program. Council agreed that the proposed Alice Place West Burlington project is consistent

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What you Bring:

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- Service Mindset
- Dependability is a must

Applications are available at Fort Madison Housing Authority, 1102 48th Street, Fort Madison IA or call our office during business hours Monday-Friday 8am to 4pm 319.372.6083. Application deadline is Friday, April 14th.



with the priorities and goals established by City Council, to add new housing developments to increase the City's base and satisfy resident and employer demand for housing stock. City Council also agreed to work with the developer to negotiate a 15-Year Tax Increment (TIF) Rebate Agreement to rebate a maximum of 80% of the increment back to the developer on an annual basis.

Moved by Lees, seconded by Newberry, to approve a Resolution in support of an application to the Iowa Finance Authority to secure funding through the LIHC Program and HOME Program for the construction of an affordable senior housing project in West Burlington. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Newberry, Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

HELP WANTED

Immediate Opening JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN

The West Point Municipal Utility System has an immediate opening for a Journeyman rating and must be able to perform all duties with regard to overhead and underground electric line construction.

Grade 1 water distribution certified or willing to obtain. Must live or be willing to comply with on-call requirements and possess and comply with Iowa CDL regulations.

We offer a comprehensive benefit plan including health and dental coverage, plus IPERS retirement. Pre-employment physical and drug screening will be required.

Send a confidential resume to West Point Utility System, PO Box 69, West Point, IA. 52656 Or to: billingclerk@westpointiowa.com.

Applications are available per request. Any questions please feel free to call Dawn @ 319-837-3100 West Point, IA 52656 or to cityofwestpointiowa@gmail.com No phone calls, please



OLD BUSINESS CITIZEN INQUIRIES CLOSED SESSION Council held a Closed Session in accordance with Iowa Code Section 21.5.1.(j) to discuss the purchase of particular real estate only where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property.

Moved by Young, seconded by Johnson, to go into Closed Session at 6:31 p.m. in accordance

HELP WANTED

Public Works General Operator

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

DESIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education and Experience:

- Graduation from high school education or GED equivalent and
- Two (2) years of experience relating to construction, maintenance, or repair, or
- Any equivalent combination of education and experience.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Valid State Driver's license
- Class B CDL or the ability to obtain one within six months of hire.

Necessary Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

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

Submit applications to Justin Cullen at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, IA 52627 or via email at jculen@fortmadison-ia.com by 4:30pm on Monday, April 24th, 2023.



with Iowa Code Section 21.5.1.(j). Council member Crowner abstained, stating a conflict of interest. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Newberry, Johnson, Lees, and Young

No formal action was taken during the Closed Session.

ADJOURN

Moved by Lees, seconded by Young, to adjourn at 6:31 p.m. Motion carried by the following

votes:

Ayes: Newberry, Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young
Approved
Ron Teater, Mayor
Kelly D. Fry, City Clerk

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Sports/From the Front

Central Lee hires Dodds for football program

Former Keokuk football head coach to take over Hawks' program

PCC Staff

DONNELSON - The Central Lee Community School District has named Doug Dodds as the next head football coach at Central Lee High School.

Dodd's appointment, which is pending Board of Education approval, comes after Chuck Banks resigned from his position after three seasons leading the football program.

"I am very excited for the opportunity to help lead



DODDS

the football program at Central Lee," said Coach Dodds. "I hope to continue to build on the successes that were reached this past year."

Coach Dodds has successful head coaching experience at Keokuk High School, where he helped lead the team to the state playoffs in 2011 and 2012. He was an assistant coach for the 2007 state championship team in Keokuk. He will continue to teach middle school social studies at Keokuk while coaching at Central Lee.

Dodds has two young children who attend Central Lee schools.

"We are thrilled to welcome Doug Dodds as our new head football coach at Central Lee.

"Doug has an impressive track record, including leading Keokuk to the playoffs as their head coach multiple times and serving as an assistant on the 2007 state title team," said Wes McGraw, Central Lee Activities Director.

"He has a great understanding of the game and is a very passionate person. We look forward to a bright and successful future under his leadership."

Dodd's immediate responsibilities will include planning summer programming for the high school football team, ensuring participation in summer strength and conditioning, and preparing for the fall season.

Republican riding the fence on parental rights

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

Gazette reported.

Such treatments included medications called puberty blockers that have been used for 30 years in the United States. These slow the physical changes puberty causes in the human body. That gives children, their parents, and their health care professionals time to deal with the serious distress the child is experiencing because of a mismatch between their biological sex and the gender they identify with. Other treatments for minors have included hormone therapy and, only rarely, surgery.

But when the governor signed the gender health bill last month, she explained why parental permission was not an adequate reason for minors to receive these treatments.

"I have to do what I believe right now is in the best interest of the kids," she said. "It's not easy for our elected officials to make these decisions. We have to try to figure out what's the best for the majority of our kids."

Iowans can be forgiven if they have trouble understanding why it is not the parents who get to make those what's-best-for-the-kids decisions, in consultation with their child's health care providers.

We can forgive the Matt McIvors of Iowa who all are asking why their opinions count for nothing when it comes to medical care for their trans kids and why, instead, Kim Reynolds and Republican lawmakers have the superior intellect to make these decisions for kids.

McIvor, a Des Moines dad, is the father of an 11-year-old transgender son. He told the online news site Iowa Starting Line the prohibition on gender-affirming health care for trans kids is "government overreach that inserts legislators in between parents and children."

Many Iowans do not know any trans kids or trans adults. But if you are someone who does not believe government should be ordering kids to wear facial coverings to guard against a disease that was causing dozens of deaths per day in Iowa when the law was enacted, then why should government have the final say over health care for trans kids?

That question is especially pertinent because one of the governor's education bills, approved by lawmakers this spring, contains sweeping "parental empowerment" language that would seem to address Matt McIvor's concerns.

Language in that legislation says, "A parent or guardian bears the ultimate responsibility, and has the fundamental, constitutionally protected right, to make decisions affecting the parent's or guardian's minor child, including decisions related to the minor child's medical care, moral upbringing, religious upbringing, residence, education, and extracurricular activities."

Rep. Cindy Winckler, a Davenport Democrat, asked her Republican colleagues during debate, "How can you make such a statement about parental rights and then take it away?"

Whitney Turner of Mount Vernon, the mother of a 14-year-old transgender girl, echoed that sentiment, saying this to the Cedar Rapids Gazette about the governor: "I don't know what children she is protecting. It feels like state-sanctioned bullying."

Republicans cannot have it both ways.

Randy Evans' column runs regularly in Pen City Current. He can be reached at DMRevs2810@gmail.com.

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X 2

Friday, May 5, 2023 • Sheaffer Memorial Golf Park • Fort Madison, Iowa
Friday, Oct. 6, 2023 • Deer Run Golf Course • Hamilton, Illinois
12:00 Noon Shotgun start for both

Team Sponsor - Includes cart, lunch, free soda & water,
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May	Oct	Both
\$400	\$400	\$720
4/24/23	9/25/23	4/24/23

May event team roster due 5/1/23. October event team roster due 10/2/23.

Registration deadlines in red

Please fill out the Sponsorship Opportunities page for payment options

Packet pick-up will begin at 10:00 am.
Waiver & release must be signed before play begins.
Lunch at 11:00 am.

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Team Contact: _____ Email: _____

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Friday, May 5, 2023 • Sheaffer Memorial Golf Park • Fort Madison, Iowa
Friday, Oct. 6, 2023 • Deer Run Golf Course • Hamilton, Illinois
12:00 Noon Shotgun start for both

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Team Sponsor - Includes cart, lunch, free soda & water, 2 mulligans/golfer & 5 drink tickets/golfer.	\$400 4/24/23	\$400 9/25/23	\$720 4/24/23
Hospitality Sponsor - Includes name & logo on beverage carts, at the buffet line & throughout the golf course. Provide a jpeg of your logo to UWGRR.	\$300 4/28/23	\$300 9/29/23	\$540 4/28/23
Hole Sponsor - Includes sign by green & marketing opportunity. Provide a jpeg of your logo to UWGRR.	\$100 4/24/23	\$100 9/25/23	\$180 4/24/23

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