

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Wednesday, May 24, 2023 | 8 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 97



www.pencitycurrent.com

Woodside steps down at BSC

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Board of Directors of the Baxter Sports Complex has announced the resignation of Jeff Woodside from his current position as Executive Director.

Since joining Baxter Sports Complex in 2017, Woodside has helped facilitate the growth and development of the facility, organization, and community as a whole. The complex now averages more than 22,000 visitors to the complex annually with numerous leagues, tournaments and events.

Baxter Sports Complex is also home to the Fort Madison Junior High and High School Boys and Girls Soccer programs, as well as Fort Madison High

School Girls Softball.

Woodside has accepted a new position with the Burlington Community School District that will allow him to advance his career and continue to make a difference within his community.

The board issued a statement about Woodside's departure Tuesday

"The Board of Directors thanks Jeff for his countless contributions that have paved the way for the continued success of Baxter Sports Complex. While we will miss him and his leadership greatly, we wish him the absolute best in his new endeavor."

Woodside's departure opens the door for someone to step into the Director role and continue to build on the great programs already in place. Woodside will stay in place through the board's 3rd Annual Golf Tournament & Auction Fundraiser in July, but at the time of this announcement, a job posting has been created and is currently listed on [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com). Over the next few weeks applications will be accepted to fill the position and the board is hoping to identify a candidate quickly so Woodside can help train his successor.

"Again, we cannot thank Jeff enough for the unmatched dedication, enthusiasm and overall passion he has given us over the last six years. He will be missed by our Board of Directors, fellow staff members, and all who have passed through our gates!"



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Holy Trinity graduates throw up their mortarboards in the traditional photo by the flag pole outside of Holy Trinity Catholic School Sunday afternoon following graduation ceremonies. The Crusaders and Central Lee both held graduation ceremonies this past weekend. Fort Madison's is set for June 3.

WEST POINT

Story Walk set for West Point Square starting June 1

PCC STAFF

WEST POINT - The West Point Public Library, along with the help of local businesses, will again be sponsoring a StoryWalk™ around the West Point town square this summer.

A StoryWalk™ is a fun and unique way for children and adults to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time. Typically pages from a children's book are attached to wooden stakes, which are installed along an outdoor path.

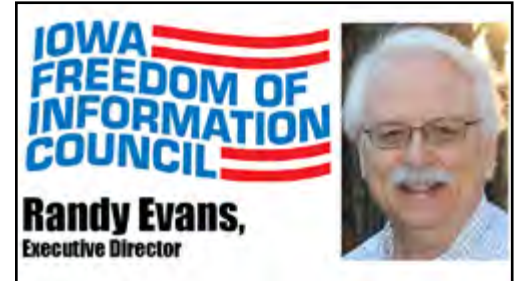
In this case, the Library has asked local businesses to place the pages of

the story in their windows/door. As you talk a stroll around the square, you'll be directed to the next page of the story.

The StoryWalk™ Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition (VBPC) and the Kellogg Hubbard Library. Our StoryWalk™ will begin June 1 and continue through the month featuring the story Pete the Cat Plays Hide-and-Seek by Kimberly and James Dean. Keep a look out for a new story come July Books Aren't for Eating by

See **LIBRARY**, page 2

RANDY EVANS



Dixon, Ill. a case in need for scrutiny

When FBI agents led a Dixon, Ill., official out of city hall in handcuffs and the charges against her became public, the most often asked question was "How?"

How did City Comptroller Rita Crundwell manage to embezzle an astounding \$54 million from the north-west Illinois community of 15,700 people before she was finally detected?

How did city officials and an outside CPA auditing firm fail to get even a whiff of her brazen scheme for the 22 years she robbed the city treasury?

Crundwell was arrested in 2012. Her case is old news now. But Iowans should have more than idle curiosity in her crime.

Hers is a textbook case of why it is important to have independent outside auditors and investigators with the legal tools and the expertise to dig into potential "paper" crimes or misconduct involving government employees.

At its core, that is what is at stake in the coming days when Gov. Kim Reynolds decides whether to sign or veto Senate File 478, a bill that would severely tie the hands of Iowa's state auditor to dig into suspected malfeasance or unwise spending by government or its employees.

Yes, there are FBI agents and Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation agents who can crack open cases like these. But the actions of Rita Crundwell show you need more people looking for scoundrels, not fewer people. And no political party is ever

See **EVANS**, page 6

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WEATHER

WED 24 May.....Sunny and warm, 84° F/ 53° F ●
 THU 25 May.....Sunny and cool, 72° F/ 47° F ●
 FRI 26 May.....Sunny, 76° F/ 51° F ●

OpenWeatherMap

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 05/22.....5 8 23 32 43, Star Ball: 10 All Star Bonus: 2
 LUCKY FOR LIFE 05/22.....17 25 37 40 41, Lucky Ball: 1
 PICK 3 MIDDAY 05/22.....5 9 0
 PICK 3 EVENING 05/22.....7 5 0
 PICK 4 MIDDAY 05/22.....9 3 8 6
 PICK 4 EVENING 05/22.....4 6 3 4
 POWERBALL 05/22.....9 38 48 52 68, Powerball: 25 Power Play: 4

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

JAMES E. MINTER

James Earl Minter, 75, of Keokuk, passed away on Monday, May 22, 2023, at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Fort Madison, Iowa.

James was born on June 28, 1947, in Hamilton, Ohio. On December 2, 1983, he was united in marriage to Kimberly "Kim" Marie Grice in Margate, Florida. She survives.



MINTER

James was an Airborne Ranger in the United States Army, serving during Vietnam. On February 23, 1966, he lost his leg to a machine gun, earning him a Purple Heart. James enjoyed spending his time outdoors, fishing, grilling, and working in his yard. He was a pet-lover and was known for his outgoing personality and friendly, caring demeanor.

James is survived by his wife Kim Minter and his son Dakota Minter, both of Keokuk.

James is preceded in death by his son James Minter, II.

A private burial with military honors will be held at Keokuk National Cemetery.

Memorials may be directed to Keokuk Animal Services or the Keokuk Humane Society.

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

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



OBITUARIES

HENRY E. GRAY

Henry E. Gray, 90 of Keokuk, IA died Sunday, May 21, 2023 at River Hills Village in Keokuk.

He was born November 21, 1932 in Wayland, MO the son of Guerdon and Matilda Roberts Gray. Henry was a veteran of the United States Army and proudly served his country in the Korean War.



GRAY

On November 26, 1955 Henry was united in marriage to Juanita Trugas at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Keokuk. She preceded him in death on October 30, 2018. In the early '60's Henry owned and operated Gray's Texaco Gas Station. He later was employed by Stone Container for thirty-two years, until his retirement in 1995 and owned and cared for several rental properties through the years. Henry was a member of the

American Legion.

Henry loved to collect antiques and had a good eye for finding them. He and Juanita owned the Treasure And Trash Antique Store in Keokuk for several years. He also loved to purchase fixer upper homes and flip them, before flipping houses was cool. Henry enjoyed traveling and never missed an opportunity to take off on an adventure. He was a dedicated and hardworking man, whose greatest joy was spending time with his family.

He is survived by one daughter, Vicki Ames of Keokuk, one son, Patrick Gray (Julie) of Carroll, IA, five grandchildren, Jill Seibold (Bill) of Keokuk, Jacob Ames (Michelle) of Keokuk, Matthew Ames (Ashley) of Keokuk, Blake Gray (Danielle) of Carroll, IA and Evan Gray of Carroll, IA, thirteen great-grandchildren, Ryan Seibold (Kelsey), Andrew Seibold (Gracie Briscoe), Jordan Seibold, Kayden Ames, Grayson Ames, Kenadi Ames, Kali Ames, Kamri Ames, Traven Ames, Gavin Gray, Braelynn Gray, Kallum Gray and Myah Gray and two great-great-grandchildren, Hadley and Laker Seibold. He is also survived by one daughter-in-law, Laronda "Tuffy" Boltz of Keokuk, several nieces and nephews, including a special niece, Beth Clouse. Besides his wife, he was also preceded in death by his parents, one son, James Gray, one brother, Russell Gray and four sisters, Anna Carlson, Lenora Bunnell, Ethel Elefritz and Betty Clouse.

A funeral service will be held at 12 noon, Friday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Pastor Shawn McAfee officiating. Burial with military rites will be held in the Keokuk National Cemetery. Visitation will be held prior to the service Friday from 10 a.m.-12 noon at the funeral home with family meeting friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to the Wounded Warriors Project.

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



Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.



LUNCH SPECIALS
MAY 22-26
11 AM - 1 PM

Monday, May 22
Beef Stroganoff, Green Beans

Tuesday, May 23
Chicken Fajitas, Spanish Rice

Wednesday, May 24
Sloppy Joes, Baked Beans, Mac & Cheese

Thursday, May 25
Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, May 26
Lunch on the Sidewalk

Local businesses help put on Story Walk

LIBRARY - Continued from Page 1

Charlie Sorosiak. Who said you couldn't walk and read at the same time!!

The library would like to thank the following local businesses for their participation: West Point City Hall, Fullenkamp Insurance, Kim's Confections, Cooper's Bar

& Grill, Harmeyer Insurance, Lee County Mutual Insurance, West Point Post Office, West Point Chiropractic Clinic, Menke & Company, Paul's Plumbing, Aspelmeier Law Firm, Sonny's, Hair Etc., and Holy Trinity Catholic School.

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Charles Vandenberg, Editor

(319).371.1670
charles.v@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager

(319).371.4125
lee.v@pencitycurrent.com

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

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Sports

FM girls win in thriller

PELLA NEXT: Bloodhound girls down BHS 3-2 in penalty kick session

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

BURLINGTON — Fort Madison's girls soccer team was eliminated in penalty kicks in last season's regional semifinal.

Since then, the Bloodhounds have become masters of the PKs.

And now it's gotten them one win from the state tournament.

Fort Madison was perfect in penalty kicks in Tuesday's Class 2A Region 5 semifinal against Burlington, winning 3-2 (3-0) to advance to Thursday's regional final against fourth-ranked Pella.

Mary Kate Bendlage, Teagan Snaadt and Hadley Wolfe made their penalty kicks, and goalkeeper Taylor Johnson made a key save after the first two Burlington shots missed, and the Bloodhounds celebrated beating the Southeast Conference regular-season champions who shut them out twice during the regular season.

"Oh, it means everything, especially after losing to them twice," Johnson said. "Beating them with PKs, it's a great feeling."

"Burlington's a great team. It could have gone either way, like it has all season," Fort Madison coach Carrie Burken said.

Then she smiled when she brought up how the Bloodhounds had gone to PKs three times this season, and won them all.

"Our PK run continues," Burken said.

Kevynn Siefken led off the penalty kicks for Burlington, but her shot went wide to the left. Bendlage hit her shot, and it was 1-0.

Josephine Blazic, who tied the match in the second half with a breakaway

goal, was next for the Grayhounds. She tried the upper right corner, but her shot clanged off the right post. Snaadt delivered on her shot, and it was 2-0.

Burlington's Lily Newell stepped up with the chance to get the Grayhounds back in it, but Johnson smothered her shot.

"It was huge," Johnson said. "I kind of read her eyes a bit, and I knew where she was going."

That gave the Bloodhounds three chances for the winning goal, and Wolfe made it look easy.

Wolfe had missed a scoring chance midway through the first half with Fort Madison down 1-0, and she was still thinking about that when she stepped up for her PK.

"I really wanted it because I felt bad for what happened earlier in the game," Wolfe said. "I just wanted to go win it for my team."

And she did, her goal touching off a wild celebration and sending the Bloodhounds (12-5) to their first regional final, a trip that has been denied the last two years, first by North Scott in 2021, and then by Clear Creek Amana last year.

"It's as good as it gets," Burken said. "Now we get to take another step."

Fort Madison trailed 1-0 at halftime — Siefken gave the Grayhounds an early edge with a goal 16 ½ minutes into the match. The Bloodhounds had three good scoring chances in the half, but missed on all of them.

"During halftime, I really encouraged them," Burken said "I said, 'Hey, this isn't about one individual person. It's about doing your best to help your team succeed.' And I thought they really did that in the second half, and started playing more unselfish."

Fort Madison struck quickly, with Snaadt scoring just 1:20 into the second half. It was a key breakthrough moment against the Grayhounds, who blanked the Bloodhounds 1-0 and 2-0 in their two regular-season matches.



Photo by John Lovretta/Special to Pen City Current

Above, Fort Madison High School's Halle Menker (19) and Burlington High School's Myah Rehman (3) go after the ball during their Class 2A Region 5 semifinal game, Tuesday at Burlington's Bracewell Stadium.

"Huge momentum swinger," Burken said.

"We all thought, 'Now we can do this,'" Wolfe said. "We were back in this game and we wanted to go win it."

"It was communication," Johnson said of the key to the second half. "We kept our energy up, didn't get down, and kept ourselves in the game because it wasn't over."

Wolfe scored with 18:15 left to put Fort Madison up 2-1, but Blazic scored with 2 ½ minutes to play to force overtime.

Still, Burken liked what her team had done.

"To come back in the second half, I

think that says a lot about our team," she said. "We kind of dominated the second half, honestly. The one goal they had in the second half was really their only good chance at a goal. I was really, really pleased in the second half, getting those goals."

Neither team scored in the two overtimes, setting up the PK session that the Bloodhounds would dominate.

"Each year, we've been getting a step closer," Burken said. "So ... you never know."

"It's an honor," Wolfe said. "We weren't supposed to win. But look at us now. We're going to Pella, and hopefully win there."

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
MOUNT PLEASANT
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
NOTICE**

The Mount Pleasant City Council will meet in Regular Session Wednesday, May 24, 2023, 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 report of Officers.
8. Old Business -

a) 5:30 p.m. Public Hearing to exchange road right of way for Industry Avenue (Mid Am) Building Project.

b) Resolution approving the exchange of road right of way for Industry Avenue (Mid Am) Building Project.

c) 3rd reading/adopt a proposed ordinance for building code adoption.

d) Approve Encroachment Permit for Meraki Day Spa at 126 N. Main.

*d) Class E Retail Alcohol License for Fast Break at 201 E Washington Street.

*e) Cigarette/Tobacco/NicotineNapor permit for

Holistic Gypsies at new address, 115 N. Jefferson Street.

*f) Class E Retail Alcohol License for Hy-Vee Fast & Fresh Iowa at 1702 E Washington Street.

*g) Class E Retail Alcohol License Casey's General Store #1612 at 400 W Washington Street.

*h) Class E Retail Alcohol License for Mount Pleasant Food & Liquor at 309 W Washington Street.

9. New Business
a) Approve Public Professional and Maintenance Employees IUPAT Local 2003 Memorandum

of Understanding regarding wage increase for FYE 2024.

b) Approve the request from Midwest Old Threshers Board of Directors for financial support to help in expanding useable grounds for McMillan Park and Old Threshers.

c) Resolution authorizing the submittal of the Iowa DOT grant application for the Mount Pleasant Municipal Airport Hangar Roof Replacement Project and certifies local match is available.

d) Resolution setting a Public Hearing on the proposed vacation and sale of a portion of the 1800

block of the E. Monroe Street Right-of-Way.

e) Resolution amending Personnel Policy Manual.

f) Resolution approving FYE 2024 salaries for full-time employees.

g) Resolution approving FYE 2024 salaries for Volunteer Fire Department.

h) Resolution approving FYE 2024 salaries for temporary and seasonal part-time employees.

10. Public Forum.

11. Adjourn to meet in regular session on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
MOUNT PLEASANT
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
MOUNT PLEASANT,
IOWA,
APRIL 26, 2023**

The Mount Pleasant City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 307 East Monroe Street, second-floor meeting room.

**HELP
WANTED**

**GROUNDMAN/
LABORER**

The West Point Municipal Utility System has an immediate opening for a Lineman/ Groundman.

Applicant must be able to assist with electrical power line construction, maintenance, and repair. You install both aerial and underground lines and monitor transformer function. Your duties include assembling and preparing the line apparatus, digging holes, operating utility vehicles, reading and recording meters, stocking trucks, using hand and power tools, and cleaning up the area after project completion. A lineman/groundman works regular hours, but you must also be available for any after hour call outs and emergencies.

Must be willing and capable of working on water distribution maintenance and repair and to be or become Grade 1 water distribution certified.

Must either have or be willing to obtain a CDL and comply with Iowa CDL regulations.

We offer a comprehensive benefit plan including IPERS and health and dental coverage.

Send a confidential resume. Pre-employment physical and drug screening will be required.

West Point Utility System
313 5th Street
PO Box 69
West Point, IA. 52656

billingclerk@westpointiowa.com

The meeting was called to order by the Mayor and the roll being called there were present Steven K. Brimhall in the Chair and the following named Councilmembers-

Present: Engberg, Crull, McWilliams, White, Griffith, Batty

Absent:
It was moved by Councilmember Griffith and seconded by Councilmember Batty that the Council approve the following consent agenda items with one roll call motion vote:

the minutes of the April 12, 2023, City Council meeting;

the payment of bills totaling \$505,122.03;

the Report of officers;
the renewal of a Class E Retail Alcohol License for Hy-Vee Food Store #1433 Iowa located at 1700 E Washington Street.

Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.

Council received request from Adam Lane, Meraki Day Spa at 126 N. Main Street for new store front. Council referred the request to the Street Committee.

Councilmember Griffith moved and Councilmember Batty seconded that the Council approves the agenda as printed.

Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.

5:31 p.m. Public Hearing on proposed building code adoption ordinance was held. 5:32 p.m. Councilmember Crull moved, and Councilmember McWilliams seconded

that the hearing close. Roll call vote, 6-0. No oral or written arguments were heard.

It was moved by Councilmember Griffith and seconded by Councilmember Engberg that the Council read for the first time the following proposed ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY CODE OF MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA, CHAPTER 6 ENTITLED "BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS" TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS THEREOF AND TO ADOPT THE 2018 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE, THE 2018 INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE, THE STATE OF IOWA ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING, AND MECHANICAL CODES, AND THE 2018 INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE:

Roll call vote 6-0.

It was moved by Councilmember Crull and seconded by Councilmember Griffith and the Council read for the second time the following proposed ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 25 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA

Roll call vote 6-0.

Councilmember Batty moved and Councilmember Crull seconded that the Council adopts the following entitled Resolution No. 2023-34:

RESOLUTION DI-

RECTING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE \$1,700,000 (DOLLAR AMOUNT SUBJECT TO CHANGE) GENERAL OBLIGATION CAPITAL LOAN NOTES, SERIES 2023

Roll call vote 6-0. Resolution adopted, signed by the Mayor and hereby made a portion of these minutes.

It was moved by Councilmember White and seconded by Councilmember McWilliams that the Council approve Change Order #1 for the Downtown West Gateway Plaza resulting in an increase of \$1,403.16. Motion carried, 6-0.

Councilmember Engberg moved and Councilmember McWilliams seconded that the Council approve setting a public hearing to amend the FYE 2023 budget. Motion approved, 6-0.

It was moved by Councilmember Batty and seconded by Councilmember Engberg that the Council adjourn. Motion carried. Adjourned at 5:45 p.m. to meet in a regular session on Wednesday, May 10, 2023.

Steven K Brimhall, Mayor
ATTEST: Lori Davis, City Clerk

**PUBLIC NOTICE
5th WARD COUNCIL
SEAT VACANCY**

Notice is hereby given that the Fort Madison City Council intends to fill the Fifth Ward Council Member vacancy created by the resignation of Chad Cangas by appointment, at a meeting to be held on June 6, 2023 at 4:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa. Interested parties

should contact the City Clerk at 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa; at (319) 372-7700, ext. 206 or mblind@fortmadison-ia.com for more information on how to apply for the Council Seat. Deadline to apply is May 24, 2023.

Electors of Ward 5 have the right to file a petition requiring that the vacancy be filled by a special election. Any petition requesting a special election must be signed by eligible voters of Ward 5 equal in number to 15% of those voters who voted for that candidate for the office at the proceeding regular election at which the office was on the ballot. The petition must be filed with the City Clerk within fourteen (14) days after the appointment is made.

Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk

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For the Record/From the Front

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

05/19/23 - 9:07 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1400 block of Avenue E.

05/19/23 - 11:00 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 600 block of 10th Street.

05/19/23 - 12:28 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 5000 block of Avenue O.

05/19/23 - 10:33 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1200 block of Avenue F.

05/20/23 - 7:53 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited Zachary Edward Weyrick, 35, of Montrose, in the 5600 block of Avenue O, on a charge of driver's license denied/revoked - OWI.

05/20/23 - 8:06 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1400 block of Avenue E.

05/20/23 - 11:46 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 100 block of Iris Lane.

05/20/23 - 11:51 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited Evan Michael Fedler, 18, of Fort Madison, in the 6000 block of Avenue O, on a charge of 4th degree theft greater than \$300 less than \$750.

05/20/23 - 6:01 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 4800 block of Avenue O.

05/21/23 - 12:49 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 5800 block of Avenue O.

05/21/23 - 2:06 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Gunner Paul Larson, 21, of Fort Madison, in the 1200 block of 30th Street, on a charge of possession of a controlled substance - 1,2,3rd.

05/21/23 - 3:02 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 6000 block of Avenue O.

05/21/23 - 8:11 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit & run in the 2100 block of Avenue I.

05/22/23 - 9:12 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 3000 block of Avenue J.

05/22/23 - 3:00 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Joshua Tyler Norvell, 36, of Fort Madison, in the 2000 block of Avenue E, on a warrant for failure to appear - assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

05/22/23 - 5:14 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Brennen Lee Zeh, Jr., 51, of Niota, in the 2200 block of Avenue L, on a charge of 1st offense OWI. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

05/23/23 - 5:26 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2400 block of Henry Lady Drive.

Lee County Sheriff Report

05/20/23 - 10:08 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Aiyana Ciara Robinson, 23, homeless living in Keokuk, at the South Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for violation of a domestic no-contact order. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

05/21/23 - 11:10 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies responded to a report of a two-vehicle accident in the 1800 block of West Point Road. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Navin Dhanwar, 50, of New York, was traveling southbound on West Point Road, stopped in the road, and began to back into a private drive striking a vehicle driven by Teresa Jo Rampy, 53, of West Point. No injuries

were reported. Rampy's vehicle sustained functional damage, but was driven from the scene. Dhanwar was cited for stopping on travel portion of the roadway.

05/21/23 - 1:37 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Andrew Thomas Young, 52, of Keokuk, in the 2400 block of Hwy. 61, Fort Madison, on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

05/22/23 - 4:35 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies responded to a report of single-vehicle accident on 320th Street. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Maurice Antwon Simon, 44, of Keokuk, was traveling southbound near mile marker 11 on Hwy. 61 when the driver fell asleep and the vehicle entered the median striking a sign. No injuries or citations were reported. Simon was ordered to take a ReExam. Simon's vehicle sustained disabling damages and was towed from the scene.

05/22/23 - 8:28 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident in the S. 3400 block of Hwy. 27. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Patrick Mathew Whaley, 65, of Missouri, was traveling southbound in the 3400 block of Hwy. 27 when it signaled to pull to the side of the road and was rear-ended by a vehicle driven by Jeffrey David Roby, 52, of Fruitland, that was also traveling southbound. Whaley's vehicle was forced off the roadway to the right; Roby's vehicle entered the median to the left. Roby complained of chest pain and was seen on-site by EMS. Both vehicles sustained disabling damages and were towed from the scene. No citations were reported.

05/22/23 - 3:00 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Austin James Corwin, 27, of Fort Madison, in the 2600 block of Avenue L, on a warrant for disorderly conduct - fight/violence. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on bond.

05/22/23 - 11:55 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies cited and released Chad Richard Barker, 44, of Farmington, in the 1100 block of Croton Road, Farmington, on a charge of disorderly conduct - loud noise.

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

Bill to muzzle Sand doesn't line up with Reagan's GOP

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

immune from misconduct.

Whether Governor Reynolds and Republicans in the Iowa Legislature personally like State Auditor Rob Sand is immaterial. Everyone in Iowa should want someone like the Des Moines Democrat and his staff doing the spade work to find possible financial irregularities in state and local governments.

Crundwell's 22-year-long crime spree right under the noses of Dixon's elected city leaders is laid out in fascinating detail in the latest issue of Politico magazine. (Here is the article: <https://tinyurl.com/yx7k4spr>).

You and the governor will learn, for example, that the nearly \$54 million Crundwell stole came out of a city budget that was about \$10 million per year. Over the 22 years, her thefts averaged about \$2.5 million per year.

There were red flags to see over the country home and horse farm of the comptroller, who was paid about \$80,000 per year. She owned 400 American Quarter Horses; she won dozens of world championships; she traveled in a million-dollar motor home, and she owned a second house in Florida.

Her undoing began innocently enough a few months before her arrest when she was on vacation.

A clerk who was subbing for her called the bank and asked for the latest copies of the city's various bank statements. Among the documents the bank sent over was one for the Reserve Sewer Capital Development Account. But instead of being a city account, that was a private account belonging to Crundwell that no one at City Hall had knowledge of or access to.

The FBI soon learned that in hundreds of transactions, complete with phony invoices, Crundwell shifted money into the fake sewer account from legitimate city accounts.

Kelly Richmond Pope, a professor of forensic accounting at DePaul University in Chicago, has studied the Crundwell case and other cases of white-collar crime and corruption. "Dixon was an open safe to Rita," Pope told Politico.

During the Crundwell era as comptroller, Dixon's system of city government did not have effective checks and balances. City government's checks, bank deposits, financial statements and funding requests were all handled by Crundwell.

The supposed outside independent audits by a CPA firm were not designed to find fraud, Pope told Politico. Instead, those audits simply provided reasonable assurance the financial statements Crundwell prepared accurately reflected what she said City Hall was doing. And Pope said Crundwell tailored her financial statements to conceal what really was happening.

The Dixon City Council member during Crundwell's tenure who held the role as city finance commissioner was a high school typing teacher, Roy Bridgeman. When he retired from the council the year before FBI agents arrested his former student, Bridgeman praised Crundwell's stewardship, saying, "She looks after every dollar as if it were own."

That is certainly ironic.

My advice that Iowans should be looking at the Rita Crundwell scam is not to suggest that unscrupulous government employees are regularly bilking Iowa governments out of huge sums. Of course, no one thought Crundwell was, either.

One of the lessons from the Illinois case hit especially close to home in Dixon, where former President Ronald Reagan grew up. He had a phrase and it applies to the work of state auditors and leaders of governments large and small: "Trust but verify."

The bill on Governor Reynolds' desk to muzzle the state auditor's investigative authority is not in line with the late president's advice.

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

Summer Swim Lessons

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W-2319024 1/1/18

DENMARK HERITAGE DAYS

DENMARK, IOWA



1972 Chevy
C 10 4X4



1928 Hart Par
Model H



1920 Alamo Blue Line
Type A 2 H.P.

JUNE 2, 3, 4, 2023

FRIDAY

Tractor/Gas Engine Registration 7 a.m.
Town Wide Yard Sales 8 a.m.
Live Music in shelter house 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

by Jefferson Connection

SATURDAY

Breakfast at Fire Station by Fire auxillary 7:30 a.m.- 9:30 a.m.
Town Wide Yard Sales 8 a.m.
Flag Raising by Boy Scouts 9 a.m.
Sidewalk Chalk Drawing Contest 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Custom Cars & Pickups 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Tractor Parade 1 p.m.
Silver Steppers 2:30 p.m.
Pedal Tractor Pulls 3 p.m.
Live Auction 4 p.m.
Live Music in shelter house 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

by Jive Radio

SUNDAY

Breakfast at Church 7:30 a.m.
Church in the Park 10 a.m.
Ham Ball Dinner at Church 11 a.m.
Live Music in shelter house by
Brenden Tapp 11 a.m.
Cornhole Tournament by River City Baggers 11 a.m.
Tractor Parade 1 p.m.

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