

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Friday, June 16, 2023 | 11 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 105



www.pencitycurrent.com

OLD FORT DILEMMA: Dr. Eugene Watkins resigns during replica's renovation

The Doctor is not in

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The changes at the Old Fort just keep coming.

On Wednesday prior to an 8 a.m. staff meeting, Dr. Eugene Watkins, director of the Old Fort in Fort Madison handed in his resignation to City Parks Director Mark Boussetot.

The resignation comes in the middle of heavy renovations at the Old Fort, which included the demolition of several buildings and other roof and chinking repairs.

In January, city officials moved toward demolishing the replica of the military outpost erected about three decades ago in Riverview Park.

A public outcry derailed those plans as Mayor Matt Mohrfeld and the Fort Madison City Council made a right turn to save the Old Fort contingent upon volunteer work and resources coming to bear.

Fort Madison Building Director Doug Krogmeier and Fire Chief Joey Herren had closed the facility until improvements were made to guarantee the safety of visitors.

When the decision was made to close the Old Fort pending



While renovations continue to shore up the Old Fort replica in Fort Madison, Director Dr. Eugene Watkins has left his position effective Wednesday.

repairs, an announcement was made on the Old Fort Facebook page indicating the city was closing the Old Fort and was going to tear it down.

See **WATKINS**, page 10

IOWA NEWS

Jobless rate still under 3% in state

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held level at 2.7 percent in May as 6,400 new workers joined the labor force. In comparison, the U.S. unemployment rate increased to 3.7 percent.

Iowa's labor force participation rate increased to 68.5 percent in May, up from 68.3 percent in April. The number of unemployed Iowans decreased to 46,300 in May from 46,800 in April.

The total number of working Iowans grew to 1,688,600 in May. This figure is 6,900 higher than April and 11,400 higher than one year ago.

"May was yet another month where large numbers of Iowans reentered the workforce and quickly found jobs," said Beth Townsend, Director of Iowa Workforce Development. "Across Iowa, businesses continue looking for the workers they need to help our state prosper and grow. IWD serves as a connecting point enabling workers and employers to capitalize on the opportunities available in Iowa."

Despite the labor force growth measured by surveying households, total nonfarm employment in Iowa decreased slightly in May (-200), according to a separate survey of Iowa businesses. Employment now rests at 1,596,400 jobs. Goods producing sector losses outpaced service sector gains this month, which (after revisions) is the first drop for total nonfarm employment since November 2022. While private sectors decreased by 500 jobs overall, government added 300 jobs and now rests 5,500 jobs higher than last May.

Manufacturing shed 1,400 jobs in May to lead all sectors. This is the second loss for this sector this year, and losses were evident in both durable goods (-500) and nondurable goods factories (-900). Many of the jobs lost were related to animal slaughtering and processing (-300). This loss ends a string of strong hiring over the past two months which saw 3,400 jobs gained since February. Retail trade was the only other substantial loss since April (-900). This drop breaks a string of five consecutive increases that saw 3,300 jobs added since November. All other sector losses were minor and included

See **JOBS**, page 10

GAME CHANGER

Jamie Baier, far right, observes Technician Derion Scully rotate the tires on a dealership vehicle while he also changes the oil as part of Jim Baier Ford's new Mobile Service Van. Baier is hoping to put the van in service as early as next week.

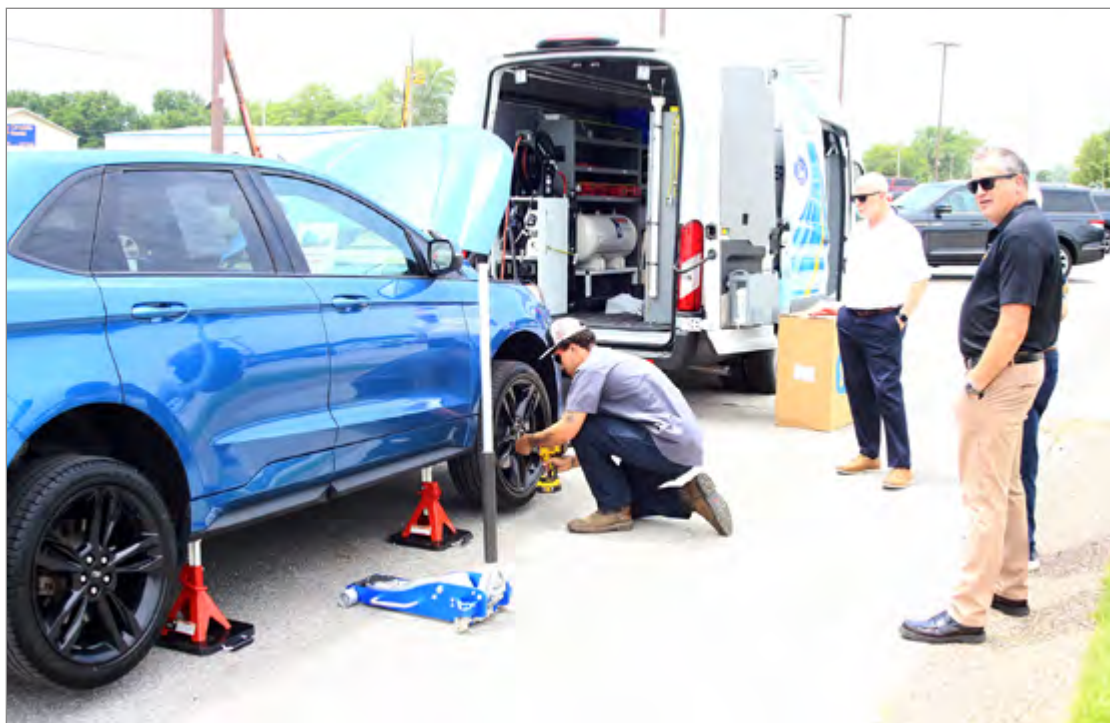


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Jim Baier opens era of local mobile auto services

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Jamie Baier is changing the face of local vehicle service.

It's one of those ideas that make you think, 'why has this taken so

long?'

And Baier says it's a game changer. Jim Baier Ford in Fort Madison is unveiling the first ever mobile service van in the area.

The van that was on the auto dealership lot in Fort Madison Wednesday

afternoon is capable of doing oil changes, tire rotations, recall work and diagnostics – from your house.

"That's a good word for it – Game changer," Baier said Wednesday while Technician Derian Scully performed

See **SERVICE**, page 6

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WEATHER

FRI 16 Jun.....Mostly sunny and warm, 81° F/ 58° F
SAT 17 Jun.....Sunny and warm, 86° F/ 64° F
SUN 18 Jun.....Mostly cloudy, warm, with chance of showers, 80° F/ 63° F

OpenWeatherMap

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 06/14.....2 15 26 29 30, Star Ball: 4 All Star Bonus: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE 06/14.....6 16 28 34 45, Lucky Ball: 18
PICK 3 MIDDAY 06/14.....1 6 4
PICK 3 EVENING 06/14.....9 9 9
PICK 4 MIDDAY 06/14.....5 0 1 6
PICK 4 EVENING 06/14.....8 3 6 9
POWERBALL 06/14.....3 20 36 42 64, Powerball: 4 Power Play: 2

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Obituaries/Lee County News

OBITUARIES

STEPHANIE G. MYERS

Stephanie Gertrude Myers, 75, died Sunday, June 4, 2023 at her home in Mount Pleasant.

Stephanie was born January 14, 1948, in Boston, Massachusetts, the daughter of Earl and Elizabeth (McGurr) Daggett, Sr. She graduated from high school and then served her country in the United States Marine Corp. Stephanie moved to Fort Madison in 1978, and work as a correctional officer for the Iowa State Penitentiary for 16 years. She moved to Mount Pleasant in 2010.

Stephanie is survived by three children: Linda (Greg) Fangman of Waterloo, John (Laura) Myers of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Mark (Kim) Myers of Lockridge; two granddaughters: Megan and Emily Fangman; and two grandsons: Jonathan and Brock Myers. She was preceded in death by her parents and six brothers and sisters.

According to Stephanie's wishes her body has been cremated and a celebration of life will be held at a later date. The Olson-Powell Memorial Chapel and Crematory is caring for Stephanie and her family.



MYERS



OBITUARIES

LOIS J. SHUMAN

Lois Jean Shuman, 65, of Keokuk, passed away on Saturday, June 10, 2023, at Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House in Burlington, Iowa.

Lois was born on March 4, 1958, in Covington, Kentucky, the daughter of Jennings Bryan and Dorthy (Rhodes) Thurman. She was united in marriage to Joseph "Joe" Shuman in Las Vegas, Nevada. He survives.

Lois was employed as a Physical Therapy Assistant at Montebello Healthcare Center in Hamilton, Illinois. She loved the great outdoors and enjoyed fishing, collecting geodes and mushroom hunting. She loved helping others and volunteered for the City of Christmas and the Keokuk Racers Reunion.

Lois is survived by her husband Joe Shuman of Keokuk; her son Cheyenne Mewes of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa; her grandson Braden Jennings Mewes of Mt. Pleasant; five sisters: Judy (David) Quimby of Fairfield, Ohio; Teresa Mason of Warsaw, Illinois; Eva (Mike Boley) Thurman of Warsaw; Karen Humphrey of Keokuk, Iowa; and Annie (Wade) Kehler of Hamilton; three brothers: Tony Thurman of Cincinnati, Ohio; Roger (Sharon) Thurman of Warsaw; and Stanley Thurman of Peoria, Illinois; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Lois is preceded in death by her parents and her brother Steve Thurman. A memorial service was held Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk, with burial following at Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk. Visitation was held Wednesday at the funeral home directly before the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House, City of Christmas and Keokuk Racers Reunion.

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

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



SHUMAN

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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Keokuk library hosts Juneteenth event

KEOKUK - As part of the Juneteenth celebration, KARE and the Keokuk Art Center are featuring DeAirra Stewart's artistry in the Keokuk Public Library Round Room. Stewart has seventeen fantastic paintings displayed.

DeAirra is a contemporary acrylic artist whose work is known for its bright and diverse color palette. DeAirra's passion for art began at an early age and she took every art

class available to her from sixth grade through high school. She currently lives in Nauvoo, Illinois with her husband and three children. Due to her busy life as a working mother, DeAirra appreciates the moments she can express herself through her paintings.

A public reception to celebrate DeAirra Stewart's work will be held on June 22, 2023 in the Keokuk Public Library Round Room from 5 to 7 p.m.



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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

MARY JANE GOEKE

Mary Jane (Linder) Goeke, a long-time resident of Keokuk, Iowa, passed away peacefully on June 5th, 2023 with family present. A celebration of life memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, June 17th, All Saints Parish in Keokuk at 1 p.m. Funeral arrangements are at



GOEKE

DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk, Iowa. Visitation at the funeral home is scheduled for Friday, June 16th from 2-7 p.m. with family meeting friends from 4-7 pm. Visitation will close with a Christian Vigil Service at 7 pm.

Mary Jane was born November 27th, 1931, to her parents Carl and Leota Linder of Kirksville, MO. Born and raised in the Northeast Missouri town Mary Jane grew up performing and singing with her two elder sisters, Norma and Velda.

She attended Kirksville High School and was a member of Graduate class of 1949; Mary Jane furthered her education at NE Missouri State Teachers College, Kirksville from 1949-1950 and completed a 2-year program in Music Education and Performance. During these college years she was a member of the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. She also performed in several student recitals and musical stage productions, often in the company of her leading man and future husband. Love found a way when she married Raymond Edward Goeke August 26, 1950, at Sacred Heart Catholic Parish.

A gifted musician nurtured early in her life, Mary Jane sang and played piano and organ for numerous churches and organizations for over 70 years, often singing while playing. She was a skilled accompanist to her students, friends, children, and husband for generations. Mary Jane also led worship services at many Keokuk congregations including First Presbyterian Church, St. John's Episcopal and her own spiritual home All Saints Parish. For many years Mary Jane co-led the singing (with husband Ray) and played for a local community choir, "The K Tones" and her local Rotary chapter.

Mary Jane partnered for 17 consecutive years 1963-1980 as a co-director, accompanist, and fellow founder with husband Raymond on the storied Summer Drama Music Workshop sponsored by Keokuk Schools. This annual musical production brought community, teachers and high schoolers together for many a midsummers performance in Wright Field-house, Culvert Stadium and The Grand Theatre.

A work-from-home small business owner and operator before it was cool, Mary Jane started teaching music at the age of 13. She taught private voice and piano to countless students for more than 65 years in Missouri towns and Keokuk. She played and/or sang for countless music contests, weddings and funerals for generations of parishioners, friends, and family. Mary Jane also taught general music in Missouri public schools from 1949-1951. At her recent 90th birthday celebration numerous former students and their proge-

ny showered Mary Jane with cards, Facebook postings and stories of the great impact her instruction provided in their formative years. She loved her work, and she loved sharing the gift of music with her students and family.

Mary Jane was active as a board member and writer on the Keokuk Community Concerts Association for over 20 years. Patrons of the local art scene could always count on her carefully composed performance reviews published regularly in the local Daily Gate City. She also remained active in the League of Women Voters, Mothers Study Club and The PEO Sisterhood.

Mary Jane revered time with family both at home and through extensive travel. She did so first with her 5 children and husband across the US and Canada. And whether gathered away or hosting at home, she could always be found with a camera dangling from her wrist. This need to capture every moment on film would happen even at weddings, much to her children's chagrin, urging us all to recreate a funny moment or pose once again. Although her family gave her considerable grief at the time, they are all now thankful for the volumes of photo albums with numerous "candid" photos meticulously annotated on the back.

Over the years Mary Jane continued to travel and explore new places with her sisters and their husbands on cruises and trips abroad including Europe and Mexico. Her annual travel with Ray included Florida for winter months and The Northwest for sight-seeing and family gatherings.

Mary Jane is preceded in death by her mother, father, two elder sisters and brother's in-law: Norma & Fred Hulen, Velda & Bob Ewing.

Mary Jane is survived by her husband of 72 years, Ray Goeke; and all five children: Teresa Mathews, West DesMoines, IA; Babetta & husband Rick Davids, Traverse City, MI; Ed Goeke and wife Katie Bolt-Goeke, Springfield, MO; Joe Goeke, Seattle, WA; Chris Goeke and wife Lori Shaffer, Cape Girardeau, MO.; Her 11 grandchildren: Jonathan (Stephanie) Mathews; Ben (Ashley) Mathews; Nick (Lindsay) Davids, Matt (Samantha) Davids; Nolle (Davids) and Matt Tice; Danielle (Davids) and Dave Ruelle; Joshua and Kara Goeke; Katrina and Mallory Goeke; Annika Hedley Goeke; Sarah Goeke (Travis Staton-Marrero); and Catharine (James) Goeke-Munch. Mary Jane is survived by her 13 great grandchildren: William, Eleanor & Evelyn Mathews; Michael & Alex Davids; Sloane & Hudson Davids; Landon and Levi Tice; Wyatt Ruelle; Bolt and Ender Goeke; and Sarah Ivy Goeke-Munch.

Many thanks to the Caregivers and Nurses of Independence Village of Waukee, and Suncrest Hospice of Des Moines for their loving care of Mary Jane at her journey's end.

In lieu of flowers memorials gifts may be given to the Keokuk Community Foundation Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com.

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

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

DENNIS E. SLY

Dennis E. Sly, 77, of rural Lomax, Illinois, passed away at 11:50 a.m. Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at his home.

Dennis was born November 11, 1945 in Fort Madison, Iowa the son of James and Fern (Eckhardt) Sly. He was raised by his mother and step-father, Fern and Leo Jolly Wallace. On February 21, 1964 he married Kay Lynn Carothers in Dallas City, Illinois. She preceded him in death January 26, 2005.



SLY

Dennis attended grade school in Stronghurst, Illinois, and graduated from Dallas City High School. He worked as an Ironworker with the Local #577 all of his life. He also worked for a short time at Royster-Clark Chemical in Niota, Illinois.

He enjoyed mushroom hunting, going on gambling trips with the guys for many years and especially enjoyed spending time with his family and many friends.

Survivors include one daughter: Tena (Kenny) Krow of Lomax; three granddaughters: Kayla (Jesse) Ferguson, Kenna (Burdette) Wetzel and Kadee Krow; two great-grandchildren: Bellamy and Harrison Wetzel; one brother: Mike (Cindy) Wallace and three half-siblings: Greg (Linda) Sly, Linda Sly and Rosie (Scott) Sly-Ginther. Besides his wife, he was preceded in death by one son: Todd Sly; his parents, step-father and one brother: Larry "Barney" Sly.

As per Dennis' wishes, no services are planned. Cremation has been entrusted to Banks & Beals Funeral Home.

A memorial fund has been established for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). Memorials may be sent to the Dennis Sly Memorial Fund, c/o Banks & Beals Funeral Home, P.O. Box 70, Dallas City, Illinois 62330. To leave an online condolence for the family, please visit Mr. Sly's obituary at banksandbeals.com.

OBITUARIES

RALPH D. DAVIS

Ralph "Toby" Dale Davis, 95, of Keokuk, IA died Monday, June 5, 2023 at Southeast Iowa Regional Hospital in Ft. Madison, IA.

He was born July 10, 1927 in Centerville, IA the son of Lawrence and Mildred Newland Davis.



DAVIS

Ralph was a veteran of the United States Navy and Coast Guard.

On October 7, 1950 Ralph was united in marriage to Peggy Percival in Keokuk. She preceded him in death on June 12, 2020.

Ralph had been employed at several businesses in the area, including Thomas Trucking, Midwest Carbide and Industrial Engineering.

He was a member of the Living Waters Assembly of God Church in Keokuk. He was also a member of the Eagles Club.



Ralph enjoyed motorcycle riding, dancing, golfing and traveling. Ralph and Peggy had traveled extensively throughout the United States and they had made a trip to California every summer for twenty-two years. He was a gardener with a green thumb and grew large vegetable and flower gardens every year. He was a talented leatherworker and enjoyed creating beautiful items.

He is survived by two sons, Mike Phillips Davis (Refina) of Patterson, CA and Steve "Gus" Davis (Diana) of Hamilton, IL, one daughter, Debbie Miller (Ron) of Keokuk, thirteen grandchildren, Melissa Hilleby (Manes), Michele Presnell (Jason), Mike Phillips (Jeanette), Toby Davis, Steve Davis, Ron Miller (Risse), Jacob Davis (Kate), Matthew Davis (Lexie Shipley), Cory Long (Teresa), Heather Brown (Nate), Meghan Kavanagh, Matthew Nelson, Kelsey Washburn, and Isaac Malloy, fourteen great-grandchildren, Ella, Chase, Alex, Aaron, Mia, Aiden, Eli, Ezra, twins, Asher and Asa, Zoe, Lincoln and Justien. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews and close friends, John and Kathy Happs.

Besides his wife, he was also preceded in death by his father, Lawrence Davis, his mother, Mildred Rifenbery, his son, Lawrence "Larry" Davis, two brothers, Ray Davis and Donnie Davis in infancy, and one sister, Mary Lou Buffington.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Monday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Pastor Larry Wallingford officiating. Burial with military rites will be in the Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk, IA.

Visitation will be held prior to the service, from 10-11 a.m., Monday at the funeral home with family meeting with friends at that time.

In lieu of flowers and plants, memorials may be made to the Disabled Veterans of America.

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

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Monday, June 12

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Tuesday, June 13

Beef Enchiladas, Spanish Rice

Wednesday, June 14

Meatballs, Loaded Potatoes, Broccoli Salad

THURSDAY, JUNE 1

FRIED CHICKEN DINNERS

Friday, June 2

Lunch on the Sidewalk

Obituaries

OBITUARIES

RANDY LOGES

Randy Loges, a spirited adventurer and eternal optimist, bid farewell to his earthly journey on June 7, 2023, at his home, surrounded by his adoring family. Born on February 9, 1965, in Keokuk, Iowa, Randy was the embodiment of a life lived fearlessly.



LOGES

From his early days at Harmony High School to his alma mater, Iowa State University, where he graduated in 1987, Randy embraced every opportunity to challenge himself and pursue his passions. Following his insatiable thirst for knowledge, he furthered his education at North Carolina State University, earning his teaching certificate.

While teaching was his profession, Randy's heart was captivated by the enchantment of the land. For over three decades, he joyously nurtured the earth as a devoted farmer. The fields flourished under his watchful eye, bearing the fruits of his labor and his unwavering connection to nature's rhythms. Even as the spring of 2023 approached, Randy's farming spirit burned brightly. He was able to get into the tractor and plant some corn this spring.

In the realm of sports, Randy's vibrant energy and love for competition found expression in the world of volleyball. Coaching became his canvas, and he fearlessly painted his wisdom on the hearts of countless young athletes. Harmony High School, Central Lee High School, Keokuk High School, and West Hancock High School were all fortunate to witness his fervent dedication to the sport.

As an active member of the Zion Mennonite Church of Donnellson, Randy discovered solace in his spiritual community, where his unwavering faith and boundless optimism inspired all who knew him. He radiated warmth, compassion, and an unyielding belief in the goodness of humanity.

Randy's legacy will forever resonate within the hearts of his beloved wife: Tina Loges, and their three children: Heather (Corey) Austin of Milton, Kelcey Loges of Nicholasville, Kentucky, and Addison Loges of Farmington, Iowa. His grandchildren: Carter, Parker, Kloei Austin and Kaylei Moore, delighted in his infectious laughter and unwavering support. Randy's parents: Laverne and Barbara Loges, and his siblings: Tamila (Ross) Griffeth of Lowell, MI, Lori (Stuart) Davidson of Center Point, IA, Scott (Ann) Loges of Forrest City, IA, and Bradley Loges of Farmington, IA, carry his spirit forward, enriched by the memories they shared. Eight nieces and nephews were fortunate to experience Randy's zest for life.

Visitation for cherished friends and family will be held on Sunday, June 11th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson, Iowa. The celebration of Randy's extraordinary life will take place on Monday, June 12th, at 10:30 a.m. at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson, Iowa with Pastor Rachelle Luitjens officiating. Burial will follow at the Mennonite Cemetery.

In remembrance of Randy's indomitable spirit, please consider honoring his memory through donations to the Sandra J. Schulze American Cancer Society Hope Lodge of Rochester, Minnesota, and the Zion Mennonite Church of Donnellson.

As we bid farewell to Randy, let us remember his boundless enthusiasm, his relentless pursuit of adventure, and the spark of joy he ignited within us all.

May his soul embark on the grandest of adventures in realms unknown. Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

OBITUARIES

PRISCILLA L. BLECHA

Priscilla L. Blecha, 79, of Warsaw, Illinois, passed away on Wednesday, May 31, 2023, at her home in Warsaw. Blessed be the life and memory of Priscilla. She was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa August 27, 1943 to parents Earl and Lucille Maulson Croskey. She joined older sister,



BLECHA

Patricia and they lived in several areas of Iowa until settling in Iowa City. When Priscilla was four years old, her younger brother Phillip was born. As a youngster, he was not able to pronounce her name and called her Sissy. Thus the name stuck and Priscilla has been known far and wide with the nickname "Sissy."

Priscilla was proud of the fact that at eleven years old she was named an ambassador for the opening of Herbert Hoover Elementary School. As a result, she was introduced to President Hoover and it was an important day in her life.

While attending Iowa City High School she worked as a telephone operator. Priscilla graduated from high school in 1961. She immediately went to University College of Cosmetology where she began her career as a hair stylist.

In 1965 she married Jim Blecha. They moved to Eldora, Iowa where Priscilla opened her salon named, Colonial Coiffures. Even though she was very successful she was missing an important part of her life: children. She found that love and fulfillment in children, SuSana and Jose'. Her life was complete. Priscilla and the children moved to LaCrosse in 1985 where she worked at Glenbies Beauty Shop and later she managed The Dayton Hudson Beauty Salon. She bought a couple homes while living in the area and with her designer skills she was able to improve and profit from her efforts.

She later met Tom Landis and their romance blossomed. The decision was made for her to move to Warsaw, Illinois and begin her life with Tom along the Mississippi River Bluffs. Once again, in her lifetime, Priscilla embraced all that the area offered. She was active in her Trinity United Methodist Church, Deer Run Golf Course, PEO, Mississippi Speed Record Team, Warsaw City Council, Warsaw Community Women's Club, Angels on the River, annual migration bird counts, book clubs and her bridge groups. Priscilla loved flowers, fruit trees, and developing new gardens and landscaping. She treasured every minute she could be outside. She saw God in everything she did in nature and all around her. Priscilla was grateful for every day given her. Even though we miss her deeply, she danced the day, May 31, 2023, when she joined her mother Lucille, her father Earl, her sister Patricia and her beloved Tom Landis, in eternity. She is survived by her children, SuSana Blecha, Jose' Blecha, her brother Phillip Croskey and his wife Denise, her aunt Genny Croskey, nieces, cousins, and friends.

God bless her memory and the contributions she made in her lifetime of 79 years.

A private visitation was held from 4:00-5:00 PM on Saturday, June 3, 2023 at Printy Funeral Home in Warsaw, Illinois. A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, June 24, 2023 at the Gay-Ciha Funeral Home, 2720 Muscatine Ave., Iowa City, IA at 10:30 AM.

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

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

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Baier bringing auto maintenance to the front door

SERVICE - Continued from Page 1



Jim Baier technician Derion Scully hooks up an oil reclaimer to a pump before changing the oil on a Jim Baier vehicle Wednesday afternoon. The service is part of Jim Baier Ford's new Mobile Service Van that will be put into service next week.

some training on a Ford Escape on the lot. "People don't like to come to the dealership anymore and sit in the waiting room. That time factor is more important now than it's ever been," Baier said. "So that's the theory behind this whole thing." The program was launched by Ford back in 2019 according to Ford's Dan Kimball. Baier said it's a sizeable investment, but it gets the dealership a mobile service stall. "This is uncharted territory. I'm less concerned about the financial investment as I am about taking care of the customer. Because I think this is the future of customer service. I really do," Baier said. "If I break even I'll be happy." He said plans include being able to take the van to customers' work sites if allowable so oil changes, rotations and other services can be done while the employee is at work. Baier said he's not convinced that eventually he won't need a fleet of the vans, but wants to take it one step at a time. He wants to offer the service all throughout Lee County and up to Burlington. They are going to be able to go out into the marketplace and actually take care of customers on site. Whether it's a business, a fleet, or a customer at their house. We will have the ability to change oil, rotate tires. We can do programming and recalls on vehicles," said Kimball, a Ford mobile van specialist. "It's a very friendly and efficient way for Jamie and his team to be all over taking care of customers." The vans have air compressors that will allow for

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extracting old oil and pumping in fresh. It has 20, 20 and 40 gallon oil tanks with fresh oil and a 49-gallon recovery tank, which will allow the vans to do six or seven oil changes before having to return to replenish and discard old oil. Kimball said Ford started doing mobile servicing with 450 mobile units on the road, and currently there are up to 1,300 throughout the country. They have ordered another 1,000 for this year. "Jamie is really excited and we are really excited for him to have a mobile service unit and be able to start getting out to customers." Baier said there is heavy training with the van going on throughout this week and he wants to put the system into operation with customers starting Monday. "They just need to call and ask about the mobile service," he said. Baier also said there would be no surcharge on the mobile service. "Nope, same prices as if they came into the dealership," he said. The van is blue and white emblazoned with the Ford Logo and "Ford Mobile Service" with email and phone contact information for Jim Baier Ford on the side. Baier said the service isn't just for Ford or dealership models and vehicles. "We we be able to service almost any make or model with this new service," he said. "This is for the customer. It's the next big step in our commitment to service. It's a game changer."

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 <p>'23 GMC Sierra 1500 Pro 4x4 MSRP \$49,875 Total Discounts & Rebates \$3,500 SALE PRICE \$46,375</p>	 <p>'23 Buick Enclave Essence AWD MSRP \$51,640 Total Discounts & Rebates \$2,500 SALE PRICE \$49,140</p>	 <p>'23 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT 4x4 MSRP \$58,665 Total Discounts & Rebates \$5,670 SALE PRICE \$52,995</p>	 <p>'23 GMC Sierra 1500 Elevation 4x4 MSRP \$62,780 Total Discounts & Rebates \$6,278 SALE PRICE \$56,502</p>	 <p>'23 Chevy Silverado 1500 Crew Cab LTZ 4x4, 3.0 L Duramax Diesel MSRP \$65,535 Total Discounts & Rebates \$6,553 SALE PRICE \$58,982</p>	 <p>'23 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 RST 4x4 MSRP \$61,050 Total Discounts & Rebates \$1,100 SALE PRICE \$59,950</p>

Tax, Title, License, and Doc. Fee are extra. With approved credit. Must finance with GM Financial. Sale Price includes all applicable rebates and discounts. Some features have limited, late, or no availability.

*Finance charges accrue from date of financing. Length of contract limited. Must finance with GM Financial. Down payment required at signing, if applicable. Offer not available in FL. Some customers may not qualify. Not available with lease and some other offers.

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'15 Jeep Renegade SALE PRICE \$14,929	'17 Chevrolet Equinox LS SALE PRICE \$15,452	'17 Chevrolet Equinox LS SALE PRICE \$15,884	'17 Chevrolet Spark LT SALE PRICE \$16,333	'14 Toyota RAV4 Limited SALE PRICE \$16,999	'15 Cadillac SRX Performance SALE PRICE \$16,999	'13 Cadillac XTS Platinum SALE PRICE \$17,566
'17 Hyundai Santa Fe Sport SALE PRICE \$17,885	'15 Toyota RAV4 Limited SALE PRICE \$17,999	'13 Ford F-150 XLT SALE PRICE \$18,499	'19 Dodge Journey SE SALE PRICE \$19,790	'16 Nissan Frontier S/SV/PRO SALE PRICE \$19,999	'15 BMW 4 Series 435i SALE PRICE \$19,999	'19 Chevrolet Equinox LT SALE PRICE \$19,999
'19 Chevy Equinox SALE PRICE \$21,353	'20 Chevrolet Equinox LT SALE PRICE \$21,896	'13 GMC Sierra 1500 SLE SALE PRICE \$21,899	'19 Buick Encore Preferred SALE PRICE \$21,922	'18 Jeep Compass Latitude SALE PRICE \$21,999	'17 Chrysler 300 S SALE PRICE \$22,499	'14 Lexus IS 250 SALE PRICE \$22,899
'15 Chevrolet Colorado Z71 SALE PRICE \$22,978	'20 Chevrolet Equinox LT SALE PRICE \$23,900	'20 Chevrolet Equinox LT SALE PRICE \$23,999	'21 Buick Encore GX Select SALE PRICE \$24,999	'18 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo SALE PRICE \$25,475	'20 Nissan Rogue SV SALE PRICE \$25,784	'22 Buick Encore Preferred SALE PRICE \$26,333
'22 Chevrolet TrailBlazer ACTIV SALE PRICE \$27,999	'19 Ford Ranger XLT SALE PRICE \$28,486	'18 Ram 1500 Big Horn SALE PRICE \$29,974	'18 Mercedes-Benz GLC 300 SALE PRICE \$29,999	'19 GMC Acadia SLT SALE PRICE \$30,989	'21 Ram ProMaster City SALE PRICE \$31,989	'20 Chevrolet Blazer Premier SALE PRICE \$32,295
'16 Chevy Silverado 1500 LTZ 4x4 SALE PRICE \$32,744	'20 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT SALE PRICE \$34,999	'19 GMC Canyon SLT SALE PRICE \$35,888	'20 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 SALE PRICE \$35,987	'18 Ford F-150 XLT SALE PRICE \$35,989	'21 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited SALE PRICE \$36,233	'21 Chevy Colorado Z71 4x4 SALE PRICE \$36,537
'20 Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited SALE PRICE \$36,889	'21 GMC Sierra 1500 SLE SALE PRICE \$38,989	'19 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT SALE PRICE \$39,999	'21 GMC Acadia Denali SALE PRICE \$41,465	'21 Toyota Tundra SR5 4x4 SALE PRICE \$42,884	'20 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT SALE PRICE \$43,799	'20 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT SALE PRICE \$44,465

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
THE IOWA DISTRICT
COURT FOR LEE
COUNTY
CASE NO. ESPR009047**

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PATRICIA BREWER, Deceased

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Patricia Brewer, Deceased, who died on or about April 19, 2021:

You are hereby notified that on February 6, 2023, the undersigned was appointed administrator of the estate.

Notice is hereby given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, 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 four months from the date of

the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of the mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated on June 5, 2023. /s/ Gerald Brewer
Gerald Brewer, Administrator of the Estate of Patricia Brewer
2076 275th Street
Argyle, IA 52619

David L Wetsch, ICIS#: AT0008399
Attorney for the Administrator

Dickinson, Mackaman, Tyler & Hagen PC
699 Walnut Street
Suite 1600
Des Moines, IA 50309

Date of second publication: June 23, 2023.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
PROCEEDINGS
FORT MADISON
CITY COUNCIL
6/6/2023
SPECIAL SESSION/
WORK SESSION**

At 4:30 P.M., Council met in a Special Session/Work Session, on Tues-

day, June 6, 2023, with Mayor Mohrfeld presiding and Council Members Roller, Bowker, Amandus, Gray and Andrews.

Council members interviewed candidates Dustin Yager and Angela Salazar for the 5th Ward Council vacancy. A motion to appoint Salazar for the 5th Ward Council vacancy failed for lack of a second. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-39, appointing Dustin Yager as 5th Ward Council Member. Mohrfeld then gave the Oath of Office to Yager.

Council held a Work Session concerning a Vision for the City of Fort Madison and discussed a city manager search.

At 5:25 P.M., Mohrfeld adjourned the Special Session/Work Session.

**PROCEEDINGS
FORT MADISON
CITY COUNCIL 6/6/2023**

At 5:30 P.M., Council met in regular session on Tuesday, June 6, 2023. Mayor Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Yager, Andrews, Bowker, Amandus, Gray and Roller present.

On motion, Council approved the Consent Agenda: Minutes of 5/16/2023; Liquor License Renewals: Caseys #2319, Caseys #2023, Fareway & Elks Lodge; Partial List of Cigarette Permits; Claims dated 5/31/2023, May Library & Manual Claims; Payroll of 5/19/2023.

On motion, Council approved the first reading of an ordinance amending Title 1, Administration, Title 2, Boards & Commissions, and Title 6, Health & Sanitation. On motion, Council approved the first reading of an ordinance amending Title 9, Chapter 7, Stopping, Standing, Parking. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-40, approving changes to the City's Personnel Manu-

EXPENDITURES	
General	\$ 57,872.04
Special Revenue	157,953.77
Road Use	31,598.04
Debt	904,727.65
Capital	928,234.87
Water	70,548.52
Sewer	56,045.82
Sld Waste, IWC	2,082.38
SW Utility	1,031.72
	<u>\$2,210,094.81</u>

REVENUES	
General	\$27,972.05
Special Revenue	559,819.99
Road Use	128,687.36
Capital	352,211.04
Water	346,956.20
Sewer	337,849.81
Solid Waste/IWC	90,386.67
SW Utility	19,186.96
	<u>\$1,863,070.08</u>

CLAIMS - 6/6/2023
3E ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, MARINA LIGHTING..... 101,601.00

al. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-41, approving tax exemptions for MBMRE/MM Real Estate for property located at 2231 Avenue H and 236 Avenue E.

On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-42, approving the Mayor's signature on a one-year Contract for Transportation Services between the City and Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission, effective 7/1/2023.

On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-43, approving the Mayor's signature on a five-year contract with BergankDV of Des Moines, Iowa, for city audit services.

On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-44, approving the request of Asay Properties to demolish the structure at 1227 Avenue E.

On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-45, supporting the submission of an application for a Workforce Housing Tax Credit project for the old Jefferson School property located at 2301, 2331 and 2333 Avenue G.

On motion, Council approved the Mayor's appointment of Chris Greenwald to the Fort Madison Housing Authority, term expiring 6/3/2024.

On motion, Council approved the Mayor's reappointment of Tyler Caldwell to the Airport Commission, term expiring 9/30/2026.

On motion, Council approved the bid of Norris Asphalt Paving, LC, of Ottumwa, Iowa, for Phases 1, 2 and 4 of the Marina Asphalt Project, in the amount of \$525,216, the cost to be reimbursed to the City of Fort Madison by the Southeast Iowa Aquatic Restoration Group, Inc., d/b/a Fort Madison Marina.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 P.M.

/s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor
ATTEST: /s/ Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk

PAYROLL 6/2/2023	
General	197,009.65
Old Fort	3,424.01
Road Use	25,191.80
Water	31,004.67
Sewer	30,641.21
Solid Waste	14,276.94
Airport	312.77
Storm Water	3,017.48
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PUBLIC NOTICES

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 REGULATOR .. 10,752.06
 ALEX MEIEROTTO,
 TRAINING 1,438.76
 ALEXIS FIRE EQUIP-
 MENT CO, SWITCH
 142.79
 ALLIANT ENERGY,
 ELECTRIC.....40,311.22
 AMAZON CAPITAL SER-
 VICES, FIRST AID KITS
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 ARAMARK UNIFORM
 SERVICES, UNIFORMS
 & SHOP TOWELS
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 ASHLEY GRESS, SHEL-
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QUALIFICATIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- Demonstrates the ability to hold CONFIDENTIAL information and displays honesty and high ethical standards
- Strives for high customer satisfaction, is helpful, pleasant, and approachable
- Keyboarding/typing skills
- Computer knowledge; Microsoft Word, Excel, Email & Internet
- Answering and making phone calls
- Ability to work with minimal supervision while performing duties
- High school or equivalent (Required)
- Process daily mail and various customer transactions (deposits, withdrawals, transfers, loan requests, loan payments, daily close & balance ledgers) while complying with policies and procedures
- Balance monthly check register, savings accounts and process CD investment statement

There are no benefits with this job, you will get a paid holiday (3 hours) if a plant holiday lands on a Tuesday or Thursday.

Interested applicants – email resume to dupontecu@gmail.com or call 319-376-5237, application deadline is July 3rd.

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 SOLUTION, DOG
 WASTE BAGS 510.65
 BRIAN S GREEN,
 CLOTHING ALLOW-
 ANCE..... 42.74
 BURLINGTON MUNI
 WATER, BACTERIA
 SAMPLE 170.00
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 AIRPORT ANNEX RE-
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 ROADSTONE.... 4,391.36
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 TESTING SUPPLIES
 82.34
 ESRI, LICENSE AGREE-
 MENT 3,075.00
 EUROFINS ENVI-
 RONMENT TESTING,
 SLUDGE SAMPLE
 308.16
 EXCEL IT SERVICES,
 HDMI CABLE..... 98.97
 FARM & HOME SUPPLY,
 CLOTHING ALLOW
 345.91
 FIRE SERVICE TRAIING
 BUREA, TRAINING
 150.00
 FORT MADISON WATER
 DEPT, WATER @ AIR-
 PORT..... 17.92
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 TOWELS 32.94
 GRAINGER, O-RING
 17.02
 GREENWOOD CLEAN-
 ING SYSTEM, TOILET
 PAPER/DETERGENT
 328.94
 HACH COMPANY, TEST-
 ING SUPPLIES.. 1,282.00
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 INC, TREE BRANCH
 REMOVAL 450.00
 HOLTkamp FLOORS
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 RECLINER 1,201.00
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 289.60
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 RAL RES., LAB FEE
 2,040.00
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 CATES..... 156.90
 JETCO, REPLACED PLC
 6,619.50
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CLOTHING 35.00
 JONES CONTRACTING
 CORP, PAY EST #12 -
 AVE H 10-18.... 83,767.50
 KENT BRISBY, BOOT
 ALLOWANCE 155.15
 KIMBALL MIDWEST,
 DRILL BITS/SCREWS
 207.83
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 METZ, MONUNTS
 VETERAN'S MEMORIAL
 LETTING 435.00
 LIBERTY UTILITIES,
 MIDSTATE HEAT.. 507.59
 LYNCH DALLAS, P.C.,
 PROF FEE..... 5,740.53
 MACQUEEN EQUIP-
 MENT, SWEEPER
 SHOES/SEAL.... 1,479.51
 MARICORP US, PAY
 EST #3 - DOCKS PHASE
 2 250,610.04
 MARTIN'S FLAG COM-
 PANY, FLAGS..... 492.46
 MCCLURE ENGINEER-
 ING CO., PROF FEE -
 AIRPORT..... 4,504.50
 MCFARLAND, GLOVES
 179.00
 MICROBAC LABORA-
 TORIES LLC, SLUDGE
 SAMPLES..... 209.00
 MIDAMERICAN ENERGY
 COMPANY, HEAT
 1,308.96
 MIGUEL LANDEROS,
 NUISANCE 5,656.43
 MOHRFELD ELECTRIC,
 KUHLMEIER FOUNTAIN
 REPAIR 2,854.65
 MORNING SUN FARM
 IMPLEMENT, KNURLED
 NUT/BEARING .. 1,510.52
 MUNICIPAL SUPPLY
 INC., TRACER WIRE/
 COUPLINGS 1,983.38
 NAPA AUTO PARTS,
 BATTERY 140.10
 NSI SOLUTIONS INC.,
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 115.00
 PITNEY BOWES, POST-
 AGE MACHINE AGREE-
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 BACH, PROF FEE -
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 QUILL LLC, INK.... 128.97
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 SENSUS USA, INC., ALL-
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 CORP, APPLICATION

SETUP..... 200.00
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 TREE REMOVAL
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 CALS/TRACING DYE/
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 WATER SOLUTIONS UN-
 LIMITED, CHEMICALS
 4,558.39
 WILSON DISTRIBU-
 TOR SERVIC, CHERRY
 BOMB 85.00
 TOTAL 644,601.22
 GENERAL 33,354.51
 SPECIAL REVENUES
 24,746.36
 ROAD USE..... 15,817.54
 CAPITAL PROJECTS
 450,506.91
 WATER..... 53,998.68
 WASTEWATER
 48,725.16
 SOLID WASTE 682.59
 AIRPORT..... 15,737.75
 STORM WATER
 1,031.72
 TOTAL 644,601.22
 ALLIANT ENERGY,
 ELECTRIC..... 13,479.94
 ANSER IOWA, WATER
 ANSWERING SERVICE
 222.00
 AT&T MOBILITY,
 PHONES/HOT SPOTS
 1,741.73
 CENTURY LINK, PHONE
 185.59
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 EST #2..... 409,730.40
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 CREDIT CARD FEES
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 WEX BANK, FUEL
 USAGE..... 14,764.44
 TOTAL 1,553,172.62
 GENERAL 14,943.20
 SPECIAL REVENUES
 124,778.64
 ROAD USE..... 15,780.50
 DEBT SERVICE
 894,557.64
 CAPITAL PROJECTS
 477,727.96
 WATER..... 16,549.84
 WASTEWATER
 7,320.66
 SOLID WASTE
 1,399.79
 AIRPORT..... 114.39
 TOTAL 1,553,172.62
 LIBRARY CLAIMS
 MAY 2023
 ACCESS SYSTEMS, INK
 161.12
 AMAZON CAPITAL SER-
 VICES, SHELF MATERI-
 AL 2,355.95
 BAKER & TAYLOR,
 SHELF MATERIAL
 1,316.59
 BLACK STONE PUB-
 LISHING, SHELF MATE-
 RIAL..... 155.98
 CENGAGE LEARNING
 INC./GALE, SHELF MA-
 TERIAL 127.35

CONTINENTAL FIRE
 SPRINKLER, ANNUAL
 INSPECTION..... 275.00
 DODD PRINTING & STA-
 TIONERY, MISC PRINT-
 ING 672.88
 ELM USA, 1 YEAR WAR-
 RANTY 425.00
 EXCEL IT SERVICES,
 CLOUD BACKUP ... 35.45
 ILLINOIS LIBRARY
 ASSOCIATION, SHELF
 MATERIAL 90.38
 KANOPY, INC., ONLINE
 MATERIAL 40.00
 KEMPKERS TRUE
 VALUE, GRASS KILLER/
 TAPE 95.96
 MAGNOLIA JOURNAL,
 LIBRARY MATERIAL
 5.00
 MEDIACOM BUSINESS,
 PHONE/INTERNET
 416.49
 MIDAMERICAN ENERGY
 COMPANY, HEAT .. 111.21
 MOBILE BEACON,
 HOTSPOT SUBSCRIP-
 TION 360.00
 MOTION PICTURE
 LICENSING, UMBRELLA
 LICENSE 266.24
 NICHE ACADEMY LLC,
 ONLINE SUBSCRIPTION
 1,600.00
 OTC BRANDS, INC
 ,CRAFT SUPPLIES
 82.93
 PENGUIN RANDOM
 HOUSE LLC, SHELF
 MATERIAL..... 54.00
 PETERS HEATING & AIR
 CONDITIONING, RE-
 PLACED FILTERS
 401.86
 PETTY CASH - SARAH
 CLENDINENG, AFTER
 SCHOOL PROG. SUP-
 PLIES 84.50
 QUILL LLC, COLORED
 SHEETS/ERASERS
 34.98
 RMC IMAGING, INC,
 PRINTER ANNUAL SUP-
 PORT..... 635.00
 SERVICEMASTER, JANI-
 TORIAL SERVICE
 905.10
 U.S. POSTAL SERVICE,
 POSTAGE 1,500.00
 TOTAL 12,228.97
 GENERAL 9,574.33
 SPECIAL REVENUES
 2,654.64
 TOTAL 2,228.97

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From the Front

City to push forward with Old Fort plan at least through summer

WATKINS - Continued from Page 1

The Facebook page is not controlled by the city, so the message came from Old Fort operations. When news of the Old Fort's future was released, city officials including former City Manager David Varley said initially there was miscommunication in that information, however the city confirmed those plans later that day.

A January City Council meeting turned into a Save the Old Fort event and the city changed direction.

Watkins handed in his keys to Boussetot Wednesday but Boussetot said the letter didn't indicate why he was leaving. Watkins' son, a seasonal employee at the Fort also resigned. Boussetot said the letter didn't even indicate when Watkins was leaving.

Boussetot and Mohrfeld both indicated current plans with the Fort will continue as they are, but long-term plans are now up in the air.

"We had a meeting yesterday and obviously we're going to do the best we can with what we have," Boussetot said. "We're going to continue. We just have to figure out what that looks like."

A Support the Old Fort night is still being held at Central Park starting at 6 p.m. Sunday.

Mohrfeld said he was surprised by the resignation in light of the city's recent effort to save the Fort.

"In this particular case, Mark was trying to refocus some support for the Fort. We put

it under the purview of Parks after David (Varley) left."

Mohrfeld said prior to putting the Old Fort under the Park Department, Watkins really didn't have a direct supervisor.

"Eugene didn't have a boss so to speak, so the only thing that made sense in the system was to put in the parks and public works. That was the right move," Mohrfeld said. "I didn't get any adversarial feedback from (Watkins)."

Mohrfeld said the city will stick to regular operational hours for the next two weeks while they look for an interpreter for the rest of the summer.

"Operationally, we're going to extend city staff in for the rest of the summer to keep the process moving forward. From there, we'll have to look at what the next step is for us."

Volunteers at the Fort including Joe Thurman, who used to be the Old Fort Board of Directors Chairman took to Facebook after Watkins' resignation

"Replacing Eugene isn't something that will happen anytime soon. This seals the fate of the Fort," Thurman wrote on the Old Fort Facebook page. "This city doesn't have a clue what they are losing. Good luck to Eugene in his next adventure."

The city is looking ahead to June 24 when the first American Cruise Line is expected to dock in the city and unload passengers, many of whom visit the Old Fort replica as part of their tour packages.

"I don't know what tomorrow's gonna bring yet," Boussetot said. "Our goal is to do what we can. I've changed my plans to be at that city concert. We're going to continue and we just have to figure out what that looks like."

State hiring noticeable in last month

JOBS - Continued from Page 1

ed leisure and hospitality (-200) and professional and business services (-200). Alternatively, job gains in May were led by education and health services (+900). Education fueled most of the growth which may partially be the result of schools extending their school year later than usual this month. Other services also added jobs in May (+600). Hiring was noticeable within both repair shops and among civil and social organizations. This month's increase helps partially offset a sizeable loss in April. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities also advanced (+600). This sector has been trending down steadily over the past few months, and May's increase was the first since September. Wholesale trade added 400 jobs and has now increased in each of the last five months. This sector is up 1,900 jobs since December.

Annually, total nonfarm employment is now up 31,400 jobs. Education and health care has gained the most jobs (+11,600). Health care and social assistance has advanced the most (+6,200) and has generally trended up since March of last year. Leisure and hospitality is up 6,100 jobs with most of the gains stemming from accommodations and food service hiring (+4,500). Construction remains up 4,200 jobs annually despite little hiring versus last month. This sector has pared 1,500 jobs since January.

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