

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Wednesday, July 26, 2023 | 8 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 129



www.pencitycurrent.com

# Sweet Corn Court

**PRINCESSES, QUEENS:** Canisters out at area businesses for candidates



HEIDBREDER HELENTHAL NEWMAN JOHNSON YOUNG BEELMAN WESTERMEYER SCHMITT MELLER

PCC Staff

WEST POINT - The 2023 Sweet Corn Festival Princess and Queen courts have been announced by the festival committee. The princesses will be crowned on Thursday August 10th at 6 p.m.

Each contestant has a money jar at the location of their choice— drop your spare change in to help the chance of her becoming the 2023 SCF Princess

**Lexi Newman**

Daughter of Eric and a Nancy Newman  
Canister location: Sonny's Super Market

Why do you want to be the 2023 Sweet Corn Festival Princess?

"I love eating sweet corn because it's so good. The SCF is something our family looks forward to every year. My favorite part is buying new things from all the local stores. I would also like to be a real princess"

**KateLynn Helenthal**

Daughter of Lindsay Swindler and Bill Helenthal  
Canister location: K & Co.

Why do you want to be the 2023 Sweet Corn Festival Prin-

See **COURT**, page 4

## SUMMER PROGRAM

# Youth naturally funny in this weekend's play

BY **CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Some spunky kids are taking to the stage this weekend in downtown Fort Madison and this one you'll want to check out.

A series of book reports called "Book Reports of Destiny" are the thrust of this year's Youth Summer Theater Program at Old Fort Players this weekend.

Tickets are on sale online at www.oldfortplayers.com. Adults are \$8 and students are \$5.

Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

Youth programs are filled with "radio silence" at times, but these kids pull it off.

When the students in Ms. Kim's class present the book reports, their imagination takes over as they bring the reports to life on stage.

Fractured fairy tales, birthday parties, super heroes, and the color of gutsy kids



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Ripley Mena leads a band of funny kids taking the stage this weekend at Old Fort Players' Youth Summer Series. Tickets are still on sale at \$8 for adults, \$5 for students.

bringing it all to life adds something special to the historic stage on Avenue G.

Ripley Mena is freshly one of the most animated players on the stage and brings her charm right to the front of the stage.

In the first book report, Mena plays Jubie K. Ruby, "the world's spunkiest grade-schooler" who employs the help of other kids to find a missing pony at her birthday party. Aubrey Davis plays Chloe, the book "reporter" and guides

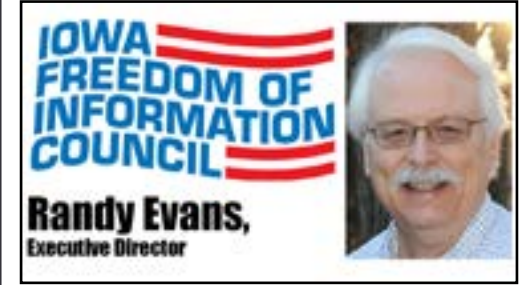
the cast through the apple-scented farce.

The second book report looks at the Grimm Tales of Wunzapon, but the report goes off the rails when the characters take over the report and clamor for bigger roles.

The final report brings things down with Richard Bruster as the laughable Principal Blutt who's the alter-ego of

See **PLAY**, page 3

## EDITORIAL



# Thin skins plague Iowa officials

Around the time the famous movie "The Bridges of Madison County" premiered in 1995, author Robert James Waller was at a book-signing in West Des Moines. Between scribbling his signature for fans on copies of his novel, Waller answered questions from a Des Moines Register reporter.

At one point, the persnickety Iowan became peeved by the nature of the reporter's questions. He yanked the notebook from her hand and flipped it aside.

That led to a letter to the editor a few days later in the Register in which a reader observed that Waller should use some of his millions in book and movie royalties to buy himself a thicker skin.

Some local government officials in Iowa show signs of needing thicker skins, too, because they have tried to silence critics at meetings of city councils and school boards for making comments they did not like.

Earlier this month, Davenport Mayor Mike Matson threatened to adjourn any city council meeting if a member of the public makes comments that he or the city attorney believe are defamatory toward city employees or officials.

Controversy has bubbled in Cherokee over plans to arm up to 40 school employees with guns. Last month, the school board president read a statement in which the school's attorney suggested legal action could be taken against a Cherokee mother for calling school officials inept.

And in the Bettendorf school district, as in some other Iowa districts, the

See **EVANS**, page 8

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## WEATHER

WED 26 Jul.....Mostly sunny & hot, dangerous heat index, 95° F/ 74° F  
THU 27 Jul.....Hot & sunny, 98° F/ 77° F  
FRI 28 Jul.....Hot & sunny, 97° F/ 72° F

## IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 07/24.....6 13 20 29 51, Star Ball: 7 All Star Bonus: 2  
LUCKY FOR LIFE 07/24.....3 17 31 35 42, Lucky Ball: 12  
PICK 3 MIDDAY 07/24.....212  
PICK 3 EVENING 07/24.....4 6 4  
PICK 4 MIDDAY 07/24.....2144  
PICK 4 EVENING 07/24.....2 0 5 6  
POWERBALL 07/24.....3 4 12 28 49, Powerball: 25 Power Play: 2

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## For the Record/Opinion

### For the Record

#### Fort Madison Police Report

07/21/23 - 10:50 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit & run in the 2500 block of Avenue A.

07/21/23 - 6:31 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1900 block of Avenue M.

07/21/23 - 9:15 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1200 block of Avenue B.

07/22/23 - 2:10 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Ron Christopher Lucky, 54, of Keokuk, in the 1100 block of Avenue E, on a charge of possession of a controlled substance - marijuana 1st.

07/23/23 - 5:57 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1700 block of Avenue H.

07/24/23 - 12:27 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1100 block of Avenue F.

#### Lee County Sheriff Report

07/21/23 - 8:12 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Maurice Evan Treadwell, 33, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on

a judgment entry/mittimus warrant. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on time served.

07/21/23 - 11:21 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Theresa Ann Potter, 55, of Fort Madison, at the South Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for failure to appear - citation. She was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on bond.

07/21/23 - 9:42 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Donte Chevez Steward, 43, of Missouri, in the 1300 block of Hwy. 27, West Point, on charges of speeding and possession of a controlled substance - marijuana 1st. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on a promise to appear.

07/22/23 - 7:39 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Monte Del Horner, 55, of Waterloo, at the South Lee County Courthouse, on a judgment entry/mittimus warrant. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

07/23/23 - 8:52 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Barbara Jo Coovert, 60, of Keokuk, in the 2500 block of Hilton Road, Keokuk, on a charge of domestic abuse assault - 1st.

She was taken to Lee County Jail.

07/24/23 - 9:37 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Keaten Mitchell Howell, 22, of Keokuk, in the 2400 block of 340th Street, Keokuk, on charges of 5th degree criminal mischief and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

07/24/23 - 10:41 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Andrew Phillip Boylan, 29, of Fort Madison, at the North Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for failure to appear/contempt of court. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on bond.

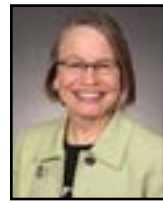
07/24/23 - 6:28 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Treyvin Monroe Jarrell, 23, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office, on a warrant for pretrial release violation. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on bond.

*Those listed above are charged with a suspicion of a crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

## Restoring Faith in our Government

BY MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS

In the United States, our government institutions are entrusted with safeguarding the rights and welfare of citizens while ensuring the rule of law prevails. However, in recent times, there has been a growing sense of disillusionment and mistrust towards these institutions. To preserve the essence of democracy and foster a cohesive society, it is imperative to restore faith and accountability in our government.



MILLER-MEEKS

Last week, the House conducted hearings in which two IRS whistleblowers came forward and confirmed that the Attorney General was not impartial in its investigation of Biden family members. Appointment of a special prosecutor, as many requested, would have assured some objectivity.

The preponderance of evidence indicates Hunter Biden, with the full knowledge and participation of the then Vice-President Biden, leveraged his family name to receive business deals from China and other countries. This is an abuse of power, and not an appropriate use the Office of the then Vice President. If the DOJ will not do its job and complete a thorough investigation, then it is up to Congress to provide the accountability needed. Iowans want to have faith in our criminal justice system, and that starts with an equal application of the law.

The politicization of the FBI has also become a major problem in the Biden Administration. The FBI has targeted parents who show up to school board meetings to hold their elected representatives accountable, targeted pro-life Americans who exercise their First Amendment rights to peacefully protest, and rushed to investigate claims of Russian collusion, even when those claims were not backed up by any evidence.

Yet when dealing with Hunter Biden, the FBI chose to go easy on him and gave him a sweetheart plea deal, leaving him unlikely to go to jail. If people in my District were guilty even a small fraction of what Hunter Biden did, they would be behind bars.

An independent judiciary is crucial to uphold the rule of law and ensure justice for all citizens. Government must ensure that the judicial system remains free from undue influence and interference. A fair and impartial judiciary will go a long way in reinforcing our belief in the government's commitment to justice and equality.

Many have simply lost confidence and serious changes must be made to root out the favoritism and double standards in the Biden Administration. Iowans should have trust in their institutions once again, and I'm committed to ensuring transparency and good government.

*Mariannette Miller-MEEKS currently represents Iowa's First District in the United States House of Representatives.*

### ISP inmate dies after unexpected emergency

IOWA CITY - Romeo Casino Hardin was pronounced dead at 6:22 a.m. on Sunday, July 23, 2023, at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. He had been transported there on Tuesday, July 18, following an unexpected medical emergency at the Iowa State Penitentiary where he was housed. Hardin was 42 years old at the time of his death. An autopsy will be conducted to determine cause of death. Foul play is not suspected.

Hardin had been serving a life sentence with the possibility of parole for the crime of Murder 1st Degree from Scott County. His sentence began on April 7, 1997.

# Healthy + Happy

## Successful Children

Parents, you know a lot goes into preparing your children for a successful school year. And probably the most important thing on the list is their annual Well-Child Visit with their pediatric or family medicine provider.

### Pop Quiz for parents

1. An annual well-child visit:
  - A. Is essential to keeping tabs on your children's physical, mental and emotional health.
  - B. A great time to get any scheduled vaccines.
  - C. Provides an opportunity to discuss any concerns you may have about your child's health or development with their healthcare provider.
  - D. Helps build a partnership with your child's healthcare provider so if any health issues arise, they know your child.
  - E. All of the above.

(correct answer E.)



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Lunch Specials  
July 24-28  
11am - 1pm

Monday, July 24  
Lasagna, Salad, Garlic Toast

Tuesday, July 25  
Roast Beef, Cheese Potatoes, Green Beans

Wednesday, July 26  
Meatballs, Loaded Potatoes, Broccoli Salad

Thursday, July 27  
Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, July 28  
Lunch on the Sidewalk



# Obituaries/Local News

## OBITUARIES

### MICHAEL P. KELLY

Michael "Mike" Patrick Kelly, 70 of Keokuk, IA died Monday, July 24, 2023 at his home surrounded by his family after an eight month battle with brain cancer.

He was born November 20, 1952 in Keokuk, IA the son of Warren and Verna Horning Kelly. Mike graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 1971 and later received his Master's Degree from Western Illinois University in Macomb, IL.



KELLY

He was a veteran of the United States National Guard and proudly served his country for six years.

On April 16, 1983, Mike was united in marriage to Pamela Peterson in Keokuk. She survives.



Other survivors include two daughters, Alaina Tuttle (Ross) of Muscatine, IA and Nicole Marti (Nathan) of Chicago, IL, one son, Bradley Kelly (Tysha) of Pleasant Hill, IA and two grandchildren, Calvin and Franklin Tuttle. He is also survived by one brother, Carl Kelly (Nancy) of Branson, MO, two sisters, Peggy Rader (Tim) of Keokuk and Jean Montgomery (David) of Bushnell, IL and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Mike had been employed by Bearing Headquarters, Dial Corp and most recently by Roquette America for twenty years, until his retirement in 2018.

He was a member of Faith Family Church, and was a passionate Bible study leader throughout his life.

Mike loved to travel and took numerous memorable trips, including many assisting his wife with leading Gemini Excursions Tours. He stayed active and walked four miles every day. A lifelong learner, Mike was always full of ideas, planning and organizing different projects. He was a dedicated supporter of the local boy scouts where he was most recently in the group in charge of the current Camp Eastman pool restoration project.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 10 a.m., Friday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Pastor Jay Zetterlund officiating.

Visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m., Thursday, at the funeral home with family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to the Columbia Mennonite Guest House, 4409 E. St. Charles Rd., Columbia, MO, 65201 or to Camp Eastman Development Association, PO Box 183, West Burlington, IA, 52655 with "pool" written in the memo line or online donations [www.campeastman.org/pool](http://www.campeastman.org/pool).

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://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.

## OBITUARIES

### SUSAN T. SIEGFRIED

Susan Theresa "Susie" Siegfried, 68, of Niota, Illinois, passed away at 12:15 a.m. Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at her home.

She was born on June 11, 1955, in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of James and Florence (Moffitt) Parrish. On November 10, 1973, she married Henry Siegfried at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Nauvoo.



SIEGFRIED

Survivors include her husband: Henry; three sons: Andy (Kristy) Siegfried, Michael (Kelly) Siegfried, and Doug (Krissy) Siegfried; nine grandchildren: Hayden, Landon, Madison, Isaac, Lewis, Maxwell, Jackson, Cameryn, and Samuel; three brothers: Richard (Beth) Parrish of St. Peters, Missouri, Dr. Robert (Diane) Parrish of Peoria, Illinois, and Paul (Kristi) Parrish of Nauvoo, Illinois; one sister, Linda (Dennis) Mott of Fort Madison, Iowa. Also surviving are several nieces, nephews, cousins, and many special friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Susie was a 1973 graduate of Nauvoo-Colusa High School. She owned and operated Country Cottage Antiques in Nauvoo for many years. She was a member of the Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, the Catholic Women's Club and the Questers Queens Ladies Group. Susie enjoyed gardening, walking, flowers, antiques, spending time with her family - especially her grandchildren and attending their events.

A visitation will begin at 12:00 noon, Thursday, July 27, 2023 at Schmitz - Banks and Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo, where the family will receive friends from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. that evening. A rosary will be recited at 6:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, July 28, 2023, at the Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Nauvoo with Father Tony Trosley as celebrant.

Burial will be at the Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Nauvoo.

A memorial has been established to HUGS of Hancock County.

Schmitz - Banks & Beals Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences to the family may be left at [www.sbbfuneralhome.com](http://www.sbbfuneralhome.com).

## Bathmat Man comes to OFP

PLAY - Continued from Page 1

Bathmat Man - the Damp Knight. Bruster "needs a beat" as he proclaims his stature as the greatest superhero ever, while the cast claims he may be the most disgusting ever.

Either way, he comes to the rescue under the hypnotism of a couple kids in the cast as Count Von Matchstick Breakwind tries to stink up the doings.

Other cast members include Marlia Lauber, Bella Miller, Sunshine Zioui, Mia Payne, Veronica Pranger, Erin Bauswell, and Burkly Carter.

Sound and lights are being handled by Kim Albers, Issabella Pranger is the stage manager, and Olivia Shields and Oscar Bauswell co-direct.

Tickets can also be held at the door by calling 319-372-9559 or by leaving a message on the OFP Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/oldfortplayers>.

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W-2019034 11/18

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# PEN CITY CURRENT

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## Sweet Corn Festival Candidates

# Public has chance to meet SCF queen candidates at events

**COURT** - Continued from Page 1

cess?

“Because I love princesses”

**Kynslee Heidbreder**

Daughter of Amy Heidbreder and Josh Myers

Canister location: Green Bay Bar & Grill

Why do you want to be the 2023 Sweet Corn Festival Princess?

“I like being a princess and I like the Sweet Corn Festival”

**Stella Meller**

Daughter of Craig and Sara Meller

Canister location: Sub-Arena

Why do you want to be the 2023 Sweet Corn Festival Princess?

“Then I will be a real princess”

**Eleanor Schmitt**

Daughter of Ben and Ashley Schmitt

Canister location: Phil's Pub

Why do you want to be the 2023 Sweet Corn Festival Princess?

“Because I love princesses and corn”

Scarlett Westermeyer

Daughter of Dalton and Schuyler Westermeyer

Canister location: Papa's Bar & Grill

Why do you want to be the 2023 Sweet Corn Festival Princess?

“I want to be the SCF princess because I love the fair and want to be in the parade and it will make me happy”

**Bella Beelman**

Daughter of Darren and Heidi Hoenig

Canister location: Boonies Bar and Grill

Why do you want to be the 2023 Sweet Corn Festival Princess?

“I love supporting my community and love corn on the cob!”

**Hudsyn Young**

Daughter of Paige VanFleet and William Young

Canister location: Dana Bushong Jewelers

Why do you want to be the 2023 Sweet Corn Festival Princess?

“Because I've always wanted to be a princess! They are nice and beautiful”

**Peightyn Johnson**

Daughter of Kevin Johnson and Shelby Moss

Canister location: Charleston Board of Trade

Why do you want to be the 2023 Sweet Corn Festival Princess?

“I want to be the 2023 SCF Princess because sweet corn is one of my favorite foods and I love attending the SCF with my family”

The 2023 Sweet Corn Festival Queen will also be crowned at this year's festival. The public can meet the candidates at the Aug. 6 pancake breakfast or the Aug. 9 Shuckfest

**Desiree Houston**

Daughter of Pamela Beavers and Michael Houston

Keokuk High School

Hobbies include swimming, skating, crafting and coloring with her brothers!

Ellie Lake



HELLMAN



SNAADT



LAKE



HOUSTON

Daughter of Trisha and Ryan Lake  
Central Lee High School

Hobbies include playing sports, hanging out with friends and family

“As festival queen, I would have the privilege of leading and participating in the SCF activities, parades and making a positive impact on the lives of our community members. I would like to set a good example for the younger generations to be active in their community”

**Teagan Snaadt**

Daughter of Andy and Stacy Snaadt

Holy Trinity Catholic

Hobbies include showing goats, spending time with friend family, golfing and lifting!

“I would like to be the 2023 SCF Queen so I can help represent my community”

**Jenna Hellman**

Daughter of John and Sheryl Hellman

Holy Trinity Catholic

Hobbies include spending time with her family, learning more about the environment, spending time with friends and trying new things!

“I have grown up going to the SCF my whole life. From participating in the youth dance group, to watching some of my close friends received the honor of being the SCF Queen. I look back at my memories from my younger years and can only think of the joy and anticipation that comes with this time of year. The festival brings together friends and family and creates memories that will never be forgotten. There community that comes together during this time of year is inspiring and having the opportunity to be a part of it at its very center us an honor!”

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### PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE**  
**The Mount Pleasant City Council will meet in Regular Session**  
**Wednesday, July 26, 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 on appeal of Dangerous or Vicious Animal determination.
  - b) Resolution affirming, modifying, or reversing Dangerous or Vicious Animal determination.
  - c) 2nd reading of proposed ordinance for zoning change for 200 and 202 N. Jefferson Street.
  - d) 2nd reading of proposed ordinance on an application for zoning change for 200/300 blocks of South Scott Lane.
  - e) 5:30 p.m. Public Hearing to allow accessory buildings on the side yards of large residential lots and prohibit shipping containers to be used as accessory buildings.
  - f) 1st reading of proposed ordinance to allow

accessory buildings on the side yards of large residential lots and prohibit shipping containers to be used as accessory buildings.  
 g) 1st reading of proposed ordinance to prohibit parking on the west side of the 100 block of S. Marion Street.  
 \*h) Renewal of a Special Class C Retail Alcohol License for Main Street Mount Pleasant located at 101 W Washington Street.  
 \*i) Renewal of a Class C Retail Alcohol License with Catering for Mi Pueblo Real at 1106 E Baker Street.  
 \*j) Renewal of a Class C Retail Alcohol License with Outdoor Service for St Alphonsus Church at 607 S Jackson Street.

9. New Business
  - a) Resolution setting Public Hearing on City mural ordinance.
  - b) Approve Mayoral appointments.
10. Public Forum.
11. Adjourn to meet in regular session on Wednesday, August 9th, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC NOTICE MOUNT PLEASANT CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**Mount Pleasant, Iowa,**  
**June 14, 2023**

The Mount Pleasant City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 307 East Monroe Street, second-floor meeting room. 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 White that

the Council approve the following consent agenda items with one roll call motion vote:  
 the minutes of the May 24, 2023, City Council meeting;  
 the payment of bills totaling \$380,348.19;  
 the Report of officers including the following receipts for May: \$183,103.65 General Fund; \$115,110.62 Road Use Fund; \$134,597.48; Local Option Sales Tax \$9,683.80 TIF \$41,607.45 Debt Service; \$1,979,772.53 Capital Projects; \$254,747.22 Sewer Revenue; \$77,191.52 Solid Waste; \$774.53 Library General Fund; \$2353.30 Library Gift Fund; \$64,216.56 Sewer Plant Improvement; \$251.00 Trust & Agency.  
 And the following disbursements for the month of May - \$250,909.86 General Fund; \$60,914.70 Road Use Tax; \$2,000.00 TIF; \$1,440,934.19 Debt Service; \$322,517.60 Sewer Sinking; \$2,377.38 Sewer Plant Improvement; \$260,247.20 Capital Projects; \$700.00 Trust & Agency; \$55,205.01 Sewer Operation & Maintenance; \$19,056.76 ARP;

\$17594.77 Solid Waste; \$31,183.55 Library General Fund; \$2,154.57 Library Gift Fund.  
 And Transfer Resolution No. 2023-47 including the following transfers for the month of May -\$29,862 from General Fund to Library Fund 1/12 operating expenses for FYE23; \$92,834 from Sewer Revenue Fund to Sewer Sinking for 1/12 SRF Loan disbursements for FYE23; \$75,000 from Sewer Revenue Fund to Sewer Operation & Maint; the renewal applications for 2023 retail cigarette permits;  
 the renewal of a Special Class C Retail Alcohol License for Henry County Fair at 405 East Threshers Road;  
 the renewal of a Special Class C Retail Alcohol License for Pizza Hut at 900 N Grand;  
 the request from Access Energy Cooperative to close the east/west road in front of the McMillan Park Grandstand for their annual meeting on August 1, 2023.  
 Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.  
 The Council received a zone change application for 202 N. Jefferson and a letter for TK Bolin Subdi-

vision. Both were recommended by Council to send to the Planning and Zoning Commission.  
 Councilmember Griffith moved and Councilmember White seconded that the Council approves the agenda as printed.  
 Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.  
 5:30 p.m. Public Hearing was held on the proposed vacation and sale of a portion of the 1800 block of E. Monroe Right-of-Way. 5:31 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.  
 Councilmember Crull motioned and Councilmember Batty seconded that the Council adopt the following entitled Resolution No. 2023-48: RESOLUTION VACATING RIGHT-OF-WAY LOCATED IN THE 1800 BLOCK OF E MONROE ST AND DIRECTING THE TRANSFER OF THE SAME TO THE ADJACENT OWNER  
 Roll call vote 6-0. Resolution adopted, signed by the Mayor and hereby made a portion of these minutes.

Councilmember Griffith moved and Councilmember Engberg seconded that the Council approve Change Order #1 for North Aldrin Drive from West Vine Street to West Armstrong Court-Street Improvements. The Change order results in an increase of \$468.67 due to finding some soft areas in the sub-base that needed more rock. Motion approved, 6-0.  
 It was moved by Councilmember White and seconded by Councilmember McWilliams that the Council adopts the following entitled Resolution No 2023-49: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF NORTH ALDRIN DRIVE FROM WEST VINE STREET TO WEST ARMSTRONG COURT STREET IMPROVEMENTS 2022  
 Roll call vote 6-0. Resolution adopted, signed by the Mayor and hereby made a portion of these minutes.  
 It was moved by Councilmember Engberg and seconded by Councilmember White that the Council approve Change Order #1 for Bluegrass Road East of Iris Street Pavement Division 1 and

**WARNING SIGNS OF T1D**



- Headaches
- Weight Loss
- Blurry Vision
- Extreme Thirst
- Frequent Urination
- Increased Appetite
- Fruity Breath Odor
- Fatigue and Weakness
- Rapid Deep Breathing



# Classifieds/Public Notices

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

## PUBLIC NOTICES

Division 2. The Change Order results in a decrease of \$29,533.29 which is the difference between design cost and actual cost. Motion approved, 6-0.

It was moved by Councilmember White and seconded by Councilmember McWilliams that the Council adopts the following entitled Resolution No 2023-50:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF BLUEGRASS ROAD STREET IMPROVEMENTS 2022 DIVISION 1 AND DIVISION 2**

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

Councilmember Batty moved and Councilmember Griffith seconded that the Council adopts the following entitled Resolution No.2023-51:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF MOUNT PLEASANT DOWNTOWN GATEWAY PLAZA 2022**

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

Councilmember Griffith moved and Councilmember McWilliams seconded that the Council approve the following entitled Resolution No 2023-52:

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA APPROVING MAIN STREET MOUNT PLEASANT PROGRAM EXTERIOR IMPROVEMENTS GRANTS FOR 2023**

Roll call vote 5-0. Engberg abstained. Resolu-

tion adopted, signed by the Mayor and hereby made a portion of these minutes.

Ed Kropa gave an update on the Library Discovery Center and parking for 20th Century Car Cruises.

It was moved by Councilmember Batty and seconded by Councilmember Engberg that the Council adjourn. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 5:46 p.m. to meet in a regular session on Wednesday, June 28, 2023.

Steven K Brimhall, Mayor

ATTEST: Lori Davis, City Clerk

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
West Burlington  
Regular City Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday,  
June 21, 2023**

The West Burlington City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, June 21, 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 Idon Melssen

CALL TO ORDER  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
ROLL CALL

**PERFECTING & APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Lees, seconded by Young, 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 June 7, 2023

- Clerk's Monthly Financial Report for May 2023

- Payment to Iowa League of Cities for FY23-24 Dues - \$2,110

- Payment to French-Reneker-Associates for engineering related to the Mt. Pleasant St. Resurfacing Project - Phase 2 - \$1,196

- Pay Request #2 from Norris Asphalt for Phase 2 of the Mt Pleasant Street Resurfacing project - \$484,715.14

- Payment to Keltek for Bodyworn Cameras for the Police Department - \$19,647.02

- Payment of Claims as listed on the June 21, 2023 Expense Approval Report - \$129,509.98

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

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

**COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS**

- ADMINISTRATOR:
- PUBLIC WORKS:
- POLICE DEPARTMENT:

- FIRE/BUILDING DEPARTMENT:

- CLERK/FINANCE/IT:
- OTHER STAFF REPORTS:

- COUNCIL REPORTS:

- **COMMUNITY REPORTS:** Update from Burlington Public Library CITIZEN INQUIRIES No inquiries.

- **NEW BUSINESS** Consider a Resolution disposing of property consisting of a Minolta Copy Machine and 2002 Sewer Jet Truck

The City has identified a Minolta Copier and 2002 Sewer Jet Truck that are no longer needed by the City. Council directed staff to dispose of the property by listing it for sale on the public website "[GOV-DEALS.com](http://GOV-DEALS.com)".

Moved by Lees, seconded by Newberry, to approve a Resolution disposing of a Minolta Copier and the 2002 Sewer Jet Truck on [GOVDEALS.com](http://GOVDEALS.com) Motion carried by the following votes:

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

Consider a quote from Brockway Company to replace the AC unit/Heat Pump at City Hall

Moved by Crowner, seconded by Young, to approve a quote from Brockway Company to replace the AC unit/Heat Pump at City Hall for \$15,835. Motion carried by the following votes:

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

Consider a Resolution authorizing the issuance of an internal loan from the Water Fund to the Capital Outlay - Major Equipment Sewer Fund for the Sewer Jet Truck

Finance Manager Moore presented a Resolution asking the Council to authorize a \$500,000 transfer from the Water Fund to the Capital Outlay - Major Equipment Sewer Fund for the purchase of a new Sewer Jet Truck.

The loan will be repaid over a period of five years with an interest rate of 0%.

The repayment schedule will be \$75,000 annual payments from LOST, Road Use Tax, and Sewer funds beginning in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the final payment made in Fiscal Year 2027-2028.

Moved by Crowner, seconded by Newberry, to approve a Resolution authorizing the issuance of an internal loan from the Water Fund to the Capital Outlay - Major Equipment Sewer Fund for the Sewer Jet Truck Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Newberry,

Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Consider a Resolution authorizing transfers for the end of Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Finance Manager Moore presented a Resolution outlining the End of Year Transfers budgeted for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Resolution 2023-31 shows the detail of the transfers between funds.

Moved by Lees, seconded by Young, to approve a Resolution authorizing transfers for the end of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Motion carried by the following votes:

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

Consider the final reading of an Ordinance amending Water Service Rates for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Council budgeted for a 4% increase in Water Rates for FY 2023/2024. The following rate structure reflects the 4% increase and would go into effect on the July 1st bill.

Effective 7/01/2023 - 06/30/2024:

A. Monthly Distribution Charge = \$33.87 per meter

B. First 3,000 = No charge with payment of Monthly Distribution Charge

C. 3,001 to 1,000,000 gallons = \$14.28 per 1,000 gallons

D. 1,000,001 to 1,500,000 gallons = \$11.74 per 1,000 gallons

E. 1,500,001 and above = \$9.55 per 1,000 gallons

F. Monthly Minimum Charge per user unit over one (1) = \$10.00 per user unit

Moved by Johnson, seconded by Young, to approve an Ordinance approving the final reading of an Ordinance amending Water Service Rates for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Motion carried by the following votes:

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

Consider the final reading of an Ordinance amending the Recyclable Materials Collection Rate for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and Fiscal Year 2023-2025

Council budgeted for an 8% increase in Sewer Rates for FY 2023/2024 and a 2% increase the following FY 2024/2025. The following rate structure reflects an 8% increase which would go into effect on July 1, 2023, and a 2% increase

which would go into effect on the July 1, 2024 bill.

Effective 7/01/2023 - 06/30/2024:

A. Monthly Minimum Charge \$10.90 per user unit

B. Monthly Metered Usage Charge \$11.91 per 1,000 gallons

C. Capital Project Charge \$1.00 per user unit

Effective 7/01/2024 - 06/30/2025:

A. Monthly Minimum Charge \$11.12 per user unit

B. Monthly Metered Usage Charge \$12.15 per 1,000 gallons

C. Capital Project Charge \$1.00 per user unit

Moved by Lees, seconded by Crowner, to approve the final reading of an Ordinance amending Sewer Rates for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Motion carried by the following votes:

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

Consider the final reading of an Ordinance amending the Garbage Collection Rates for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Council has entered into a contract with LaVeine Sanitation for the collection of Solid Waste. The following rate structure follows the rates approved in the contract.

Effective 7/1/2023 - 6/30/2025:

- Minimum Monthly Fee per residential unit or church \$14.85

Moved by Crowner, seconded by Newberry, to approve the final reading of an Ordinance amending the Garbage Collection Rates for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Motion carried by the following votes:

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

Consider the final reading of an Ordinance amending the Recyclable Materials Collection Rate for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and Fiscal Year 2023-2025

Council budgeted for a ten-cent (\$.10) increase in Recycling Rates for FY 2023/2024 and a ten-cent (\$.10) increase for FY2024/2025. The proposed rates would go into effect on the July 1, 2023, and July 1, 2024 billing.

Effective 07/01/2023 - 06/30/2024:

*we'll be back soon!*

*Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Thursday, August 10 through Thursday, August 24 for our annual summer break.*

*The e-Edition will resume Friday, August 25. The news will still be published on our website.*

**Thank for reading!**

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# Classifieds/Public Notices

## PUBLIC NOTICES

• Minimum Monthly Fee per residential unit is \$4.25

Effective 07/01/2024 - 06/30/2024:

• Minimum Monthly Fee per residential unit is \$4.35

Moved by Newberry, seconded by Young, to approve the final reading of an Ordinance amending the Recyclable Materials Collection Rate for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and Fiscal Year 2023-2025. Motion carried by the following votes:

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

Consider quote from ACCO to replace umbrellas at the swimming pool

Public Works Director Brissey found a less expensive option to replace the big shade umbrellas at the swimming pool. ACCO can replace the current 16 ft. umbrellas from Splashtacular with a 16ft. Hex Umbrella to

retrofit the Permabrella from Splashtacular. This is a powder-coated steel frame with a mesh sunshade that would be installed at the beginning of the season and taken down at the end of the season. The cost savings is \$604.11 per umbrella. This is a more permanent structure that would eliminate the need to crank the umbrellas up and down every day. Mediapolis has switched from the crank umbrellas like we are using to this Retrofit Permabrella.

The shade structures on the top of the water slides would still have to come from Splashtacular. The cost for the umbrellas from ACCO will be \$31,404.46 rather than \$34,425 from Splashtacular.

Moved by Lees, seconded by Young, to approve the purchase of 16ft Umbrellas from ACCO for \$31,404.46 Motion carried

by the following votes:

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

**OLD BUSINESS**  
**CITIZEN INQUIRIES**  
**CLOSED SESSION**  
Closed Session in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 21.5.1(i) to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session.

Moved by Young, seconded by Crowner, to go into Closed Session at 6:28 p.m. in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 21.5.1(i). Motion carried by the following votes:

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

Moved by Newberry, seconded by Crowner, to

come out of Closed Session at 6:42 p.m. Motion carried by the following votes:

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

Closed Session in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 21.5.1(i) to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session.

Moved by Young, seconded by Lees, to go into Closed Session at 6:43 p.m. in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 21.5.1(i). Motion carried by the following votes:

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

Moved by Newberry, seconded by Young, to

come out of Closed Session at 7:02 p.m. Motion carried by the following votes:

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

Consider action related to Closed Sessions

Moved by Young, seconded by Lees, to approve a \$2,500 stipend for City Clerk Fry as compensation for additional duties taken on during City Administrator's extended absence. Motion carried by the following votes:

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

Moved by Lees, seconded by Newberry, to allow City Administrator Mandsager to carry over 200 hrs of vacation in lieu of 120 hrs for the next two years on his anniversary date 11/3/2023 and 11/3/2024.

Council will revisit the issue after the two-year period. Motion carried by

the following votes:

Ayes: Newberry, Crowner, Lees, and Young

Nays: Johnson  
**ADJOURN**  
Moved by Crowner, seconded by Young, to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. Motion carried by the following votes:

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

**EXEMPT SESSION**  
Council held an Exempt Session in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 21.9 to discuss strategy in matters relating to employment conditions of employees of the governmental body who are not covered by a collective bargaining agreement.

Approved  
Ron Teater, Mayor  
Kelly D. Fry, City Clerk

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## From the Front

## Public comment time needs closer scrutiny

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

school board president reads a statement before the “public forum” portion of each meeting. That statement claims, inaccurately, that Iowa law prohibits discussing specific employees or their job performance.

The Cherokee school board has a similar prohibition on naming individuals, although it cites school policies and Robert’s Rules of Order as the legal basis for preventing speakers from mentioning employees by name.

Do such policies violate the First Amendment’s right to freedom of speech? If people cannot criticize government employees by name during meetings, does that mean they cannot praise an employee, either? It would not be a reasonable viewpoint-neutral position for a city council or school board to take if officials permitted praise but not criticism.

These are not hypothetical questions. Noah Petersen can tell you that. The Newton man was

arrested at successive meetings of the Newton City Council last October for refusing to comply with a city council policy that bars derogatory statements or comments about any individual. Petersen was charged with disorderly conduct for harshly criticizing Newton police officials and Mayor Michael Hansen.

Jasper County Magistrate Peter Lahn found Petersen not guilty. His written verdict should be read by government officials from Ackley to

Zwingle because it contains important reminders about the meaning of the First Amendment.

“It would be difficult if not impossible for a concerned citizen to comment regarding city policies or the provision of city services without referencing to some extent an official city position (e.g., mayor, police chief, etc.)” the magistrate wrote.

“The defendant was not a spectator, but rather a participant in a limited public forum during the recognized citizen participation portion of

the city council’s meeting. ... He did not act in any objectively unreasonable manner. He read a prepared statement relating to the basic city service of policing.”

Magistrate Lahn continued, “The First Amendment is an integral part of our law and social framework. Speech concerning public affairs is the essence of self-government.”

The Newton City Council meetings include a specific time for citizens to share their input on city services and policies, the magistrate said.

Petersen remained at the podium and did not use abusive language or gestures when he addressed the council, the magistrate said. Nothing in Petersen’s actions substantially impaired the conduct of the council’s meetings, the magistrate added.

I understand the concerns of government officials in places like Davenport and Cherokee about unnecessary harm to the reputation of government employees. But a bigger concern should be the not-so-subtle form of intimidation these policies represent, especially with the Davenport mayor saying he will immediately adjourn council meetings if a speaker begins making comments that are “defamatory in nature.”

Defamation is not a synonym for criticism. Lots of people criticize me, or my former employer, without crossing the line into defaming me or the Des Moines Register. I knew what I was getting into when my name began appearing on the masthead.

Likewise, it should not surprise Davenport city leaders that some people are critical of how city government responded to complaints about conditions at an apartment in the weeks before the back side of the six-story building collapsed in May, killing three people.

But just because some people’s opinions are critical of city leaders or key city employees does not automatically make those opinions defamatory. When controversy ensues, government officials are shortsighted when they try to take away the ability of people to voice their views of government and its workers.

Voters are perceptive. They see these efforts to muffle dissent for what they are — thinly veiled attempts to intimidate people into silence on the matters of tremendous local interest.

Being able to receive public criticism is in the job description for elected officials and top-level city administrators. At least it should be. It certainly is for newspaper editors.

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

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