

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 | 8 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 154



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## Birkwood gives sneak peak

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC Editor

FORT MADISON – Birkwood Village is resetting the bar on what senior assisted living looks like.

A recent tour of the new construction at The Madison was unveiled to some future tenants on Friday and the conversations around the facility were excitable, to say the least.

Brenda Graham, the Community Relations Manager for the new facility, greeted visitors and then treated them to grilled lunch.

After Graham delivered a welcome presentation to the future residents, she asked if any of them had any questions.

“When can we move in?!” one resident asked with anticipation.

Graham told the group that if everything goes according to plan and the facility pass-

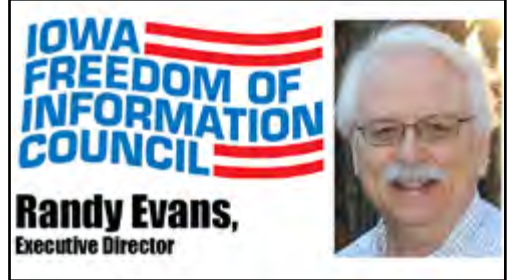
See **SENIORS**, page 3



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Birkwood Village Community Relations Director Brenda Graham talks with future residents on a tour of the new facility on Friday in Fort Madison. The facility is slated to open for residents in late November or early December.

### EDITORIAL



## IPIB creates misguided legislation

Many decades ago, Mrs. Gentry and Mr. Halferty put up with an inquisitive kid's classroom questions about American democracy and the workings of government.

I did not imagine back then how the meaning of some words could take on such importance in government. Take, for example, a much-talked-about word in Iowa last week, vexatious. It means abrasive, aggravating, annoying, irritating or nettlesome.

Whether you vote for Democrats, Republicans or Whigs, everyone should have access to government records that are not confidential. That is a way for you to understand what your state and local government is doing.

Iowa's open records law says succinctly: “Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record.”

In 2012, the Legislature created the Iowa Public Information Board to referee legal disputes over the state's “sunshine” laws. Last week, the board's staff proposed legislation to give the board authority to designate certain people as a “vexatious requester” of public records — a status that would allow a state agency, city, county or school district to bar the person from seeking records for up to one year.

The factors contributing to someone being labeled vexatious would include the frequency, number and scope of their requests for government docu-

See **VEXATIOUS**, page 8

### Art on the Avenue

Ian Hauck talks to a customer at his display during Art on the Avenue Saturday afternoon in Fort Madison. Hauck's drawings and metal artwork were on display at the event held on Avenue G. Residents were able to see local art and woodwork from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



### TRI-STATE RODEO

## 75th Tri-State Rodeo may go down in history books

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Using the word phenomenal to describe this year's Tri-State Rodeo isn't out of bounds.

Chuck Kempker, the General Chairman of the 75th Tri-State Rodeo, said

this year's event couldn't have been scripted any better.

When asked if this year's Rodeo may be the best ever, Kempker didn't mince words.

“That's about as fair of a statement as you're gonna get,” he said. “I could not

have scripted it any better than what the outcome was.”

The Rodeo was a complete sellout Wednesday for the Jim Baier/Dodge Ram Chute-Out and Saturday's finale was also sold out.

See **RODEO**, page 8

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### WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap  
**WED 20 Sep**..... Mostly cloudy and cool, 79° F/ 61° F ☁  
**THU 21 Sep**..... Partly sunny and cool, 78° F/ 61° F ☁  
**FRI 22 Sep**..... Partly sunny and cool with chance of showers, 78° F/ 63° F ☁☔

### IOWA LOTTERY

**LOTTO AMERICA 09/18**..... 4 24 25 32 51, Star Ball: 7 All Star Bonus: 4  
**LUCKY FOR LIFE 09/18**..... 2 22 28 31 38, Lucky Ball: 6  
**PICK 3 MIDDAY 09/18**..... 9 4 4  
**PICK 3 EVENING 09/18**..... 2 9 8  
**PICK 4 MIDDAY 09/18**..... 2 8 8 0  
**PICK 4 EVENING 09/18**..... 7 5 5 5  
**POWERBALL 09/18**..... 2 21 26 40 42, Powerball: 9 Power Play: 3

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### TIMOTHY R. CARTER

Timothy R. Carter, 69, of Camp Point, IL and formerly of Ft. Madison, passed away on September 16, 2023 at 1:30 AM at his home.

He was born on June 26, 1954 in Ft. Madison to Andrew and Irene Baker Carter.



CARTER

On August 25, 1977 he married Kathleen Burke in Alameda, CA. Tim served in the US military and retired after 20 years of service as a cryogenics technician. After the military he worked for Methode Electronics and Timewell Tile. Tim loved to gamble. He also enjoyed fishing and gardening. Most of all he loved his family, especially spending time with his grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Kathleen Carter of Camp Point, IL; three sons, Jacob Carter of Council Bluffs, IA, Nicholas Carter of Pittsfield, IL and Stephen Carter of Mendon, IL; five grandchildren, Caitlyn McClain, George Carter, Brennen Carter, Leif Carter and Nikki Carter; one sister, Charlene Russell of Irving, TX; three brothers, Richard Carter of Dallas, TX, Mark Carter and Roger Carter both of Los Angeles, CA; numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, his foster parents, Nick and Norma Pranger and eleven siblings.

A military graveside service will be held on Friday, September 22, 2023 at 1:30 PM with military rites performed by the US Navy Honor Guard.

King-Lynk Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements and online condolences may be left at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.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. Repeating of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

## OBITUARIES

### LONNIE W. JOHNSON

Lonnie Wayne Johnson, 66, of rural Dallas City, Illinois, passed away at 8:50 p.m. Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics in Iowa City, Iowa.

Lonnie was born January 21, 1957 in St. Louis, Missouri, the son of J.W. and Betty L. (Robinson) Johnson. Lonnie married Sandy Doolley. They later divorced.



JOHNSON

Lonnie enjoyed restoring old cars and being outdoors. He worked as a truck driver all his life. Previously, he was employed by Hazmat Environmental Group in Buffalo, New York and was currently employed by Chem Gro Inc in Adrian, Illinois.

Lonnie was a giving person and enjoyed helping others. At the end of his life he displayed this as an organ donor.

Survivors include one son: Kyle Johnson; one daughter: Shelby Johnson; three grandchildren: Camron, Chayzlee and Chloe; one sister: Vicki (Bill) Clark and three brothers: Stanley (Shelley) Johnson, Randy (Melinda) Johnson and Darrin (Shirley) Johnson.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister: Linda Holmes and one brother in infancy: Martin Gale Johnson.

Cremation has been entrusted to Banks & Beals Funeral Home.

A Celebration of Lonnie's Life will be held at a later date. A memorial fund has been established for the Lonnie Johnson Memorial Fund. Memorials and cards may be sent to Lonnie Johnson 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 Lonnie's obituary at [banksandbeals.com](http://banksandbeals.com).



### JERRY L. HATFIELD

Jerry L. Hatfield, 82, of Keokuk, passed away on Monday, September 18, 2023, at Southeast Iowa Behavioral Healthcare Center in Keokuk, Iowa.

Jerry was of the Catholic faith and proudly served his country in the United States military. Jerry loved to color and create art. He was all about America and the red, white and blue.



Jerry's life will be celebrated with a funeral service at 11 am on Friday, September 22, 2023, at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk, with burial to follow at Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk. Visitation will be held at the funeral home on Friday from 10 to 11 am directly before the service.

Tributes and condolences may be left at [www.dejongsfuneralhome.com](http://www.dejongsfuneralhome.com).

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

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W-2319024 11/18

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# Obituaries/From the Front

## \$8M facility to open in late November

**SENIORS** - Continued from Page 1

inspections, residents could move in as early as late November or early December.

The \$8 million expansion on Fort Madison's west side has been underway since July of 2022. Construction crews cleared hallways to allow for the future residents who were invited out for a sneak peak of the facility.

Renee Hudnut, the newly appointed assisted living director, said independent assisted living and memory care units are part of the new construction.

The new facility has 24 assisted and independent living apartments and 12 memory care units.

The facility is designed with salon facilities on site as well as a bistro and open seating areas for families to come visit.

Graham said it's not uncommon to see senior living centers have happy hour type events, but nothing to this level.

"We're just making it more of an easier space to us. There is more appointed space for those type of events," she said.

"My background in assisted living has been with rooms that are smaller and windows are smaller. But this is more open and, with memory care, the more open spaces you have for those with those types of issues, the better. Doors can be very confusing to

someone with dementia."

She said they are in a sweet spot with a new building and with everything being thoughtfully designed for memory care and keeping people as independent as possible.

She said a few apartments have a stove and an oven, in addition to the laundry facilities in each room.

She said the memory care section is also designed with additional lighting to help with what Hudnut called "sundowning" which is the time of day when people suffering from dementia get a bit more agitated.

Hudnut said Birkwood staff has done a great job of staying in touch with those that have made deposits on apartments. There are 21 of the 36 units already claimed with deposits made by founding tenants.

Graham tries to meet with the group monthly to create some familiarity and for some socialization among the future tenants.

Schickedanz Construction is the manager of the project and Mark Holtkamp, originally from Lee County, is the owner of the facility.

Graham said there is a better sense of care in the facility, but also more than just care.

"It's much more of a social model community than what I think senior

living started out to be.

In some ways, we're very similar to other senior facilities. But some of our amenities are really focused on the socialization factor. Through COVID-19, seniors have become very lonely and isolated. It's been very slow to see the resurgence," Graham said.

"We have a group of people who are super excited to be a part of this. It's remarkable. This is a little different for me, because these are people who want to be a part of this new facility."

Graham said within the next couple of weeks, she wants to hold some private tours for those who may be interested in one of the remaining apartments. She also wants to hold a tour for emergency responders and city officials with a larger grand opening celebration after residents have moved in.

### OBITUARIES

## ROSA HARRIS

Rosa Harris, 87, of Nauvoo, Illinois, passed away at 9:45 a.m. Sunday, September 17, 2023, at Memorial Hospital in Carthage.

Born on September 20, 1935 in Blitzenreute - Oberspringen, Germany, the daughter of Andras and Maria (Heisler) Knorr. On November 22, 1961, she married Dale Harris in Carthage, Illinois.



HARRIS

Survivors include her husband, Dale; one son Sean Harris of Wever, Iowa; two grandchildren: Brittney (Tanner) Conn and Andrew (Allyson) Harris; great grandson Braxton; one sister Lottie Hardy of Augusta, Georgia. Also surviving are several cousins and friends in Germany.

She was preceded in death by parents, daughter Ingrid K. Harris, and brother Rudolph.

Rosa worked at the Nauvoo Dairy Creme, Drydens, and the Shaffer Pen Company. She retired from the Joseph Smith Historic Properties after 27 years. Rosa was a member of the Moose Club and several dance clubs. She enjoyed country dancing, her flowers, housekeeping, taking long walks, and traveling especially to her home land in Germany.

Her body has been entrusted to the crematory of Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home for cremation. A graveside memorial service will be held at a later date at the Nauvoo City Cemetery.

A memorial has been established for the PAW Animal Shelter and can be mailed to the family at P.O. Box 274, Nauvoo, Illinois 62354.

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

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends everyone over the age of 6-months receive the annual flu vaccination - with September and October being the best time to get vaccinated. Ask your healthcare provider about other vaccines that are right for you. **Protect yourself and those you love and think prevention!**





**ACT PREP**

CLASSES BEGIN:  
Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>

EXAM HELD:  
Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>

REGISTRATION ACCEPTED:  
September 8<sup>th</sup> - September 20<sup>th</sup>

REGISTER ONLINE: [fortmadison.org/ytk](http://fortmadison.org/ytk)

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## Sports/Education News

# Fairfield sets Lady Hounds back

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP  
PCC Editor

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison High School's volleyball team fought to get a fourth set.

Fairfield fought back and kept the Bloodhounds from a fifth one.

The Trojans' 25-14, 25-18, 26-28, 25-23 win on Thursday was a battle for the Southeast Conference lead, and the final two sets were filled with cascading momentum on both sides.

Fairfield (10-9 overall, 3-1 conference) secured the win by taking control of the fourth set by scoring 11 consecutive points after Fort Madison (3-18, 2-2) led 15-9.

The fact that the Bloodhounds were still playing at that point impressed their coach.

"I told them I wish we could have started with Game 3," Fort Madison coach Kelly Knustrom said. "Games 1 and 2 were not what we expected. But I am super proud of them for not being done, for coming back and fighting the way they did. It would have been real easy to say, 'We're done.' But I admire them for fighting back."

The Bloodhounds were chasing points throughout the night until they started chipping away at Fairfield in the third set. They were down 9-2 early, and were behind 12-7 before scoring nine of the next 10 points to rattle the Trojans.

"We talked about in Game 2 about certain goals, spots to hit on the court," Knustrom said. "I think in Game 3 it clicked a little more.

"We've had a hard time all season coming back. You

hope that it clicks, you hope that it clicks at the right time. And it did in that third game."

Fairfield fought off set point at 24-23. Fort Madison fought off two match points at 25-24 and 26-25, then the Bloodhounds scored three consecutive points. Taylor Johnson had a kill to tie the match at 26. Dayonna Davis' tip found the floor for a 27-26 lead, then Ajia Jenkins' tip did the same for the win.

Fort Madison kept the pressure on Fairfield into the fourth set. The Bloodhounds had their biggest lead of the night at 15-9, then the Trojans went on their crucial run. Knustrom called two timeouts during that stretch, but Fairfield just kept going.

The Bloodhounds had one more run in them. They were down 23-18 before scoring four consecutive points and forcing the Trojans to call a timeout. Lilly Bergren's kill put Fairfield at match point, but Lauryn Helmick's kill kept Fort Madison alive.

Fairfield, though, finished the match with a kill from Claire Thompson.

Davis led Fort Madison with 12 kills. Johnson had eight kills and a block. Amy Yasechok was 15-of-15 serving with four aces. Mara Smith had 29 assists and 11 digs. Elle Ruble added 15 digs. Helmick was 10-of-11 serving with two aces, and added 10 digs.

"I was super proud of the way that we played the last two games, how we settled in and realized we could do some things and be successful," Knustrom said. "We've got some time in the next few days to get some practice in. There's a lot of volleyball to be played, and we can still do some good things."

# Ashmore named Cooke scholar

DONNELSON — Central Lee Middle School student Micah Ashmore has been named a Jack Kent Cooke Young Scholar by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation.

Ashmore is one of 43 Young Scholars selected from a pool of 800 applicants for the program. He will receive a five-year, pre-college scholarship, recognizing his outstanding achievements as a seventh-grade student. Ashmore was recommended for the scholarship by Central Lee talented and gifted teacher Hollie Weber and middle school math teacher Andrew Orton.

"Micah has embraced the multitude of opportunities that Central Lee has provided, actively participating in various activities throughout his academic journey," said Weber. "I am eager to witness the experiences and growth that this program will offer him, as well as his continued success."

The comprehensive pre-college scholarship encompasses academic guidance, college advising, participation in sponsored summer programs, internships, music and art lessons, and support for hardware, software needs, and enrichment opportunities tailored to each student.



ASHMORE

Ashmore completed several rounds of the application process in May 2022 and spanning throughout the summer of the same year. He was assisted by Nadine Weirather, K-12 talented and gifted coordinator, in the completion of his application.

"The honor, distinction, and growth opportunities presented by the Jack Kent Cooke Young Scholar program are unparalleled," said Dr. Andy Crozier, Central Lee Superintendent. "We are incredibly proud of Micah for securing this prestigious scholarship, and we have full confidence that he will seize this opportunity, paving the way for his success in high school and beyond."

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation is dedicated to advancing the education of exceptionally promising students. The Young Scholars Program, one of the organization's flagship initiatives, offers tailored scholarships and educational support to exceptionally promising students who demonstrate leadership, persistence, financial need, and outstanding academic ability and achievement.

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject to change as finalized by the City Clerk. For a final official copy, contact the City Clerk's

### HELP WANTED

#### PUBLIC WORKS GENERAL OPERATOR

#### GENERAL PURPOSE

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

#### DESIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

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

#### Special Requirements:

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

#### Necessary knowledge, skills, and experience:

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

Submit applications to Justina Cullen at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, IA 52627 or via email at [jcullen@fortmadison-ia.com](mailto:jcullen@fortmadison-ia.com) by 4:30pm on Friday, September 29, 2023.



office at (319) 753-8124.

### MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BURLINGTON, IOWA CITY COUNCIL Meeting No. 38 July 17, 2023

The Burlington City Council met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. in the Thomas J. Smith Council Chambers, City Hall, 400 Washington Street, with Mayor Billups, Council Members Critser, Graham-Murray, Maupin and Wilson present.

#### BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

### HELP WANTED

#### WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT FULL-TIME OPERATOR/LAB TECHNICIAN

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Assist in the operation and monitoring of the water reclamation facility. Additional duties performed include collecting routine water samples and performing laboratory test; cleaning clarifiers, wet wells and elevated tanks; maintenance of pumps, valves and meters; property maintenance to the building and grounds; and completing daily documentation.

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Apply at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, IA or email applications to [jcullen@fortmadison-ia.com](mailto:jcullen@fortmadison-ia.com) by Friday, September 29th.

Applications can be found on the city website at [www.fortmadison-ia.com](http://www.fortmadison-ia.com)



**PROCLAMATION:** National Night Out - Police Chief Marc Denney  
**COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:** Mayor Billups stated that this is the last City Council Meeting that Laigha Anderson would be reporting as a Hawk Eye reporter. He thanked her for covering news on the city and wished her good luck in the future. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

#### CONSENT AGENDA:

To the Public:

All matters listed under Item I., Consent Agenda, having been discussed were considered to be routine by the City Council and were enacted by one motion. There was no separate discussion of these items. If discussion was desired, that item was removed from the Consent Agenda and was considered separately.

Introduced By: Graham-Murray Seconded By: Critser

**MOTION:** To approve all items listed under Item I., Consent Agenda.

**DISCUSSION:** Mayor Billups reviewed the items listed on the consent agenda to the viewing audience. He announced those individuals appointed to various City commissions and boards. Chris Roepke of 2228 Madison Avenue requested the removal of the Resolution Approving Design Services Proposal from OPN Architects for the Burlington Fire Department from the consent agenda for discussion at the close of the meeting. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")

#### CARRIED HEARINGS:

1. Statement: Consideration of Sale of Property Locally Known as 1117 Linden Street, Burlington,

Iowa with Conditions  
**COMMENTS:** Angela Andon, City Planner, stated that the City acquired the property at 1117 Linden Street as an abandoned property. She stated that the neighbor to the east of the lot is interested in acquiring the lot to expand their lot size. She stated that Alan Bunz Vallard has submitted a bid in the amount of \$500.00. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

Introduced By: Maupin Seconded By: Critser  
**Motion to Close CARRIED**

Introduced By: Maupin Seconded By: Critser  
**Resolution Approving Sale of Property Locally Known as 1117 Linden Street, Burlington, Iowa with Conditions**

**DISCUSSION:** None.  
 (VOTE: 5 - "AYES")

**ADOPTED**  
 2. Statement: Consideration of Plans and Specifications for the 2023 Dankwardt Park Playground Improvement Project

**COMMENTS:** Chad Bird, City Manager, stated that the completion date of the project has been extended approximately two weeks to December 1, 2023. He stated that the engineer's estimate from construction cost of the project is \$1,625,242.20. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

Introduced By: Critser Seconded By: Maupin  
**Motion to Close CARRIED**

Introduced By: Critser Seconded By: Wilson  
**Resolution Approving Plans and Specifications for the 2023 Dankwardt Park Playground Improvement Project**

**DISCUSSION:** None.  
 (VOTE: 5 - "AYES")

#### ADOPTED

**RESOLUTION:**

Introduced By: Billups Seconded By: Wilson  
 1. Resolution Approving Design Services Proposal from OPN Architects for the Burlington Fire Department

**DISCUSSION:** Matt Trexel, Fire Chief, stated the resolution approves OPN Architects as the architectural and design consultants for the proposed new fire station #3. He stated that seven firms submitted proposals for design, three were interviewed and OPN Architects proposal was selected by the Station 3 Committee. He stated that the proposal includes developing preliminary station design, estimated cost, and referendum support for a November 7, 2023 ballot. Chris Roepke of 2228 Madison Avenue asked if it was appropriate to spend money on a consultant before the issue is voted on by citizens.

Mayor Billups stated that it was necessary to hire a consultant to assist with determining the cost of an additional fire station. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")

**ADOPTED**  
 Adjournment: 6:00 p.m.  
 Approved: August 7, 2023  
 Katie Music, CMC, City Clerk

Jon D. Billups, Mayor (See recording on file in the office of the City Clerk for complete discussion and documentation.)

### PUBLIC NOTICE MINUTES OF THE BURLINGTON, IOWA CITY COUNCIL INFORMAL WORK SESSION July 31, 2023

The Burlington City Council met in an informal work session at 4:30 p.m. in the Thomas J. Smith Council Chambers, City Hall with Mayor Billups, Council Members Gra-

ham-Murray and Maupin present. Council Members Critser and Wilson were absent.

Items discussed at the informal work session are listed on the work session agenda on file in the office of the City Clerk. No action was taken.

Adjournment: 5:38 p.m.  
 Approved: August 7, 2023  
 Chad Bird, City Manager

Jon D. Billups, Mayor

### PUBLIC NOTICE LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES JULY 17, 2023

The Lee County Board of Supervisors met at the Lee County Administration Building in Fort Madison on Monday, July 17, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Present: Garry Seyb, Ron Fedler, Chuck Holmes and Tom Schulz.

All votes are unanimous unless indicated otherwise.

The Board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Seyb amended the agenda, omitting item number 5, Iowa Land Records Annual Report. Moved by Holmes, seconded by Fedler, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

Public Input: Andrew Johnson, West Point, asked the Board for any updates on the fight against the Carbon Pipeline.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Schulz, to approve the Compensation and Disclosure Statement from Assured Partners for compensation received for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 as the Broker of Record for administering County employees' health plan. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Holmes, to approve replacing one full-time and one part-time EMT. Motion carried.



# Classifieds/Public Notices

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

## PUBLIC NOTICES

Moved by Schulz, seconded by Holmes, to table approval of a lease agreement with Zoll Medical for ventilators and cardiac monitors. Motion carried.

The Board members held a discussion on funding for the new Health/EMS Building.

Moved by Schulz, seconded by Holmes, to approve the Consent Agenda that included the July 10, 2023 Board minutes, the claims for payment for the week and a Special Class C Retail Alcohol License for The Topsy Travelers for the period July 21, 2023 through July 26, 2023. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Schulz, to approve three new hires for EMS, Jesse Logan, part-time EMT, \$18.01/hr., Tamara Stott, part-time EMT, \$18.01/hr. and Matthew Heckert, part-time Paramedic, \$22.96/hr., all effective 7/17/23. Motion carried.

Received and filed the Recorder's Report of Fees Collected for the month of June 2023.

Committee Reports: Fedler reported on a RUSS Board meeting and a meeting held in West Point concerning the Carbon Pipeline. Holmes reported on a meeting held by Alliant Energy concerning the Solar Field they will be installing, a Conservation Board Meeting and a Pioneer Cemetery Commission work day.

Schulz reported that the entity that is interested in purchasing the County owned apartments will be taking the matter to their Board of Directors. Seyb reported on a meeting with the NuStar Ammonia Pipeline.

At 11:25 a.m. it was moved by Fedler, seconded by Holmes, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Monday, July 24, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Administration Building in Fort Madison.

Garry Seyb, Chairman  
Attest: Denise Fraise,  
Lee County Auditor

### Claims paid July 17, 2023

ABC Fire, svcs.....	249.25
Access Enrgy, svcs	814.73
Access Systems, split	202.51
Airgas USA, splys	289.03
All Seasons Music, svcs	706.98
Alliant Energy, svcs	18276.78
Altorfer, parts .....	498.25
Amazon, splys .....	34.94
Animal House, edu ..	2.00
AP FBO Wrksrce, svcs	2684.07
AssuredPartners, costs	3582.00
Ball Volvo, splys ...	303.63
Bates Sntatn, svcs..	480.00
E Biddenstadt, exps	10.50
J Booth, exps.....	203.50
Bound Tree Med, splys	988.95
R Bradley, svcs.....	130.00
Cntrl IA Juv Dntn, svcs	3092.30
Conduent Pymt, splys	22.61
A Cook, exps .....	202.50
Crsrct Electric, svcs	98.87
DM Co Hlth Dpt, svcs	5165.26
LDettmers, exps .....	25.00
Dorsey/Whitney, svcs	3878.00
EMSLRC, edu.....	6.00
B Fader, exps .....	253.50
Farm/Home, splys	291.78
Frnch-Rnkr, svcs	10345.20
Garner FdMart, fuel	1047.61
N Granaman, svcs	1605.70
Grt Prairie AEA, svcs	308.25
GRRWA, svcs.....	13441.24
Grt Wstrn Sply, splys	239.95
Hall Excvtng, svcs ..	592.00
J Hall, exps.....	322.00
Hancock Co Hlth, svcs	457.50
A Hayes, exps.....	24.00
Health Sol, splys	1235.15
J Hudson, exps.....	11.00
Impact7G, svcs.....	2150.00
IA DOT, svcs.....	1842.10
IA St Pen, meals	7500.00
IA St Univ, reg.....	440.00
ISAC, reg.....	650.00
S Jeffries, exps.....	334.00
Jet Gas, fuel .....	10696.52
Jireh Inc, fuel .....	1376.34
J Johnson, exps.....	45.00
Jones Cntrctng, svcs	35141.75
Rvrfrnt Brdctg, publ	250.00
Khlmrgrn Hlg, svcs	1467.50
B KrmrRiesberg, exps	60.00
LeeCo Treas, fees	311297.16
McFarlands, splys	726.41
MidAmer Enrgy, gas	78.46
O Miller, exps.....	499.00
NAPA Auto, parts ....	63.98
JJ Nichting Co, parts	4821.17
C Oldfield, exps .....	157.32
OMG Midwest, svcs	605.86
M Park, exps.....	221.50
Pen City Current, publ	652.50
Pilot Grove Bnk, splys	8.00
Red Lion Rnwbls, svcs	2916.39
Reg Util Svcs, svcs	7000.00
Republic Co, svcs...	595.87
M Ross, exps.....	20.00
S.J. Smith, svcs.....	322.94
J Saunders, exps..	271.00
Sec/State, svcs.....	30.00
SIADSA, svcs.....	2400.00
Sidwell, svcs.....	1655.41
SEIRMC, svcs .....	100.00
SCC, edu.....	375.00
St Hygienic Lab, svcs	50.00
Stericycle, svcs.....	604.69
StryKnrwrthy, splys	302.82
M Terhune, exps ...	222.50
Timber Tree Wrks, svcs	800.00
Trinity M Hlth, svcs	5494.90
P Tripp, exps.....	242.00
US Cell, svcs .....	2242.98
US Treasury, fees	537.08
Vertical Comm, svcs	63.85
Wshngtn Co Hlth, svcs	17516.99
West Pt Utility, svcs	2178.67
S Wilson, svcs.....	60.00
Windstream, svcs ...	252.36
B Wyatt, svcs.....	100.00
B Zinnert, exps .....	341.00

Celeste El Anfaoui, Public Works Director Brian Carroll, Community Development Director Pam Broomhall, Water Pollution Control Manager Tom Wills, Chief of Police Zeth Baum, Sewer Department Manager Michael Clark, and Fire Chief Gabe Rose.

MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE: Informed of events taking place around Keokuk.

CITIZEN'S REQUEST: William Blanchard inquired about relinquishing property at 407 Timea Street.

Motion made by Greenwald, second by Oltmans to approve the agenda, including the consent agenda. (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

- Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting & Council Workshop of August 17, 2023;
- Minutes for the August 24, 2023, Safety Committee Meeting;
- Cigarette Permit for Home Town Wine & Spirit, 1501 Main Street;
- RESOLUTION NO. 285-2023: Approving a Liquor License for Home Town Wine & Spirits, 1501 Main Street, Class E Retail Alcohol License, effective pending fire inspection & occupancy permit;
- RESOLUTION NO. 286-2023: Approving a Liquor License for Dollar General #2385, 300 Main Street, Class B Retail Alcohol License, effective September 21, 2023;
- RESOLUTION NO. 287-2023: Approving a Liquor License for American Legion, Keokuk Post #41, 727 Main Street, Class C Retail Alcohol License, effective September 28, 2023, pending dram/fire inspection;
- RESOLUTION NO. 288-2023: Approving a Liquor License for Lake Cooper Foundation, 8 North Water Street, Special Class C Retail Alcohol License with Outdoor Service, effective October 4-9, 2023;
- Special Event Permit, Keokuk Cultural & Entertainment District/Main Street Keokuk, Inc., Live Music Festival, Friday, September 22, 2023, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Kilbourn Park, 1900 Timea Street;
- Motion to pay bills and transfers listed in Register No.'s 5359-5361;

OLD BUSINESS: Motion made by Walker, second by Greenwald

to remove resolution from table. (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Walker, second by Oltmans to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 289-2023: "A RESOLUTION APPROVING REVISED PERSONNEL POLICY AND HANDBOOK." (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Motion made by Garcia, second by Tillman to approve the third reading of an Ordinance amendment to Title 9 Vehicle and Traffic adding Chapter 9.91 automated traffic enforcement.

Roll Call Vote: AYES – Crenshaw, Walker, Garcia, Oltmans, Andrews, Tillman, Bryant, and Greenwald. (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Garcia, second by Tillman to adopt and give final approval of ORDINANCE NO. 2045

Amendment to Title 9 Vehicle and Traffic adding Chapter 9.91 automated traffic enforcement.

Roll Call Vote: AYES – Crenshaw, Walker, Garcia, Oltmans, Andrews, Tillman, Bryant, and Greenwald. (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Garcia, second by Crenshaw to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 290-2023: "A RESOLUTION APPROVING ALLOCATION OF HOTEL/MOTEL TAX RECEIPTS TO MANCOUNTRY." (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Garcia, second by Crenshaw to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 291-2023: "A RESOLUTION APPROVING LEASE AMENDMENT WITH ROQUETTE AMERICA AT THE SIDC."

Motion made by Garcia, second by Crenshaw to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 290-2023: "A RESOLUTION APPROVING ALLOCATION OF HOTEL/MOTEL TAX RECEIPTS TO MANCOUNTRY." (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

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Motion made by Garcia, second by Crenshaw to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 290-2023: "A RESOLUTION APPROVING ALLOCATION OF HOTEL/MOTEL TAX RECEIPTS TO MANCOUNTRY." (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

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Motion made by Garcia, second by Crenshaw to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 291-2023: "A RESOLUTION APPROVING LEASE AMENDMENT WITH ROQUETTE AMERICA AT THE SIDC."

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ad COUNCIL



# Classifieds/Public Notices

## PUBLIC NOTICES

(8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Oltmans, second by Greenwald to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 292-2023: "A RESOLUTION SETTING PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW A PROPOSED SUBDIVISION, A PORTION OF 365 CARBIDE LANE FORMALLY KNOWN AS CARBIDE FIRST ADDITION." (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Garcia, second by Greenwald to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 293-2023: "A RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER VACATION OF A 17'x158'-7" PLATTED UNIMPROVED STREET IN KITZMANN'S 2ND SUBDIVISION AND AN

ADJACENT 20'x158'- 7" PLATTED UNIMPROVED PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY LOCATED BETWEEN WALTE LANE AND LOFTON DRIVE." (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Garcia, second by Bryant to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 294-2023: "A RESOLUTION PROPOSING DISPOSAL AND TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE INTERESTS OF THE CITY BY SEALED BID AND AUTHORIZING PUBLIC NOTICE, SETTING OCTOBER 5, 2023, AT 2:00 P.M. AS THE DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF BIDS ON CITY OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 604 GRAND, 517 S. 7TH AND 1108 FRANKLIN." (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Walker,

second by Garcia to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 295-2023: "A RESOLUTION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER A PERMANENT ENCROACHMENT OF A 10" X 24" STONE WALL WITH COLUMNS ON THE PUBLIC SIDEWALK FOR LUCKY'S PUB & GRUB, 528 BLONDEAU STREET." (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Greenwald, second by Walker to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 296-2023: "A RESOLUTION AWARDDING A CONTRACT TO DANSCO OF KEOKUK, IOWA FOR MISCELLANEOUS BUILDING REPAIRS." (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Garcia, second by Greenwald to

approve sewer credit to fill pool for Gary McCarty, 11 North Oak Court. (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Oltmans, second by Garcia to approve fiscal year 2022-2023 Annual URA Report. (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS: Second notification re-appointment for Mark Pfafe and Thomas Dreasler to the Airport Commission, terms to expire 10/20/2029. Second notification re-appointment for Phil Dunek to the Board of Adjustment, term to expire 04/01/2028. Second notification re-appointment for Ray Bradley, Jr., Fred Seay, Jr., Sandy Seabold and Michael Price to the Human Rights Commission, terms to expire

09/19/2026.

Second notification re-appointment for Steve Worster to the Joyce Park/Tumelty Commission, term to expire 10/01/2029. Second notification re-appointment for Brenda Best, Brent Haage and Jay Kruse to the Keokuk Housing Authority, terms to expire 09/05/2025.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS: Garcia updated on Road of Honor; Greenwald informed of event planned on behalf of Keokuk Cultural and Entertainment.

STAFF REPORTS: Wills updated on new truck and digester; Broomhall reported on planning and zoning;

Carroll informed of IDNR noncompliance at landfill and public works projects; Rose updated

on fire truck repair or replacement needed; Baum reported on public safety.

Motion made by Oltmans, second by Garcia to enter closed session at 6:55 p.m. pursuant to Iowa Code 21.5(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.

Motion made by Oltmans, second by Crenshaw to enter into regular session at 7:23 p.m.

Motion made by Tillman, second by Oltmans to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

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**From the Front**

# Rodeo seems almost scripted

**RODEO** - Continued from Page 1

But Kempker said Friday's show with country Hall of Famers Alabama on stage was definitely something for the record books.

"We were at least a thousand plus over capacity on Friday night. And Alabama certainly did their part. It was memorable for sure. I breathed a sigh of relief when they opened the gates to let the crowd spill into the arena and let off some of the pressure," Kempker said.

Kempker also gave a big thumbs up to Mother Nature.

"You just can't ignore that part. You have to put the great weather in there, too. It was a gorgeous week. You could not have planned for anything that great," Kempker said.

"This is just one of those things where you go through the year and you just plan it to go as good as possible and hope for the best. The outcome this year was fantastic."

Typically, the General Chairman takes the role for two years, but Kempker was asked to take on the 75th Anniversary as a one-time Chairman. He said he's fine with doing it just one time. He had served as chairman in 2000-2001 and has been part of the rodeo operating committee for close to two decades.

He said planning the rodeo's 75th anniversary was a group effort.

"Everything just fell into place, the community, the committee, Holy Trinity's volunteer group, any hiccups couldn't even be called minor," he said. "Everything ran as smooth as it could've. You have in the back in your mind what you're thinking, and you take it to the board of directors. Then you have them standing behind you and saying this is where we need to be."

Ticket sales usually range from 29,000 to 32,000 and Kempker said preliminary numbers this year show closer to 36,000 tickets were sold for the four-day event.

"We're gonna be close to 36,000 tickets sold, which has got to be knocking on some kind of record," he said.

Fans were treated to a visit from Governor Kim Reynolds who stayed for the entire rodeo, as well as other dignitaries from around the area. They also were treated to a visit from Rodeo Hall of Famer Bob Tallman who worked Wednesday's Chute-Out with the incomparable Boyd Polhamus.

"Anybody in the rodeo would take Bob and Boyd together. And it was nice to have the governor. She enjoyed it and stayed for the whole rodeo and had good things to say about it," Kempker said.

He said he couldn't remember the last time a sitting governor attended the rodeo, but he says it helps keep southeast Iowa prominent in Des Moines.

The Tri-State Board of Directors will likely name Kempker's two-year successor in October following the wrap-up dinner.

"This was perfect for me to take the 75th and run with it. They're a lot of people here who can step up and we have some of the best volunteers here. This rodeo isn't going anywhere."

# IPIB proposal would limit access to public records

**VEXATIOUS** - Continued from Page 1

ments and "the nature, content, language or subject matter" of their requests or communications. The proposal would allow a government agency to seek "relief" from the allegedly vexatious person by providing the Iowa Public Information Board with details of "an unreasonable burden" these requests create and the person's conduct that allegedly is intended to harass the agency.

As executive director of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council, I am paid to monitor how government deals with the people it governs. Iowa's public records law was written a half a century ago. The proposed legislation would erode the transparency that is paramount to people's ability to know what their cities, counties, school districts and state government are doing and hold officials accountable for their actions.

When the law says "every person" has the right to examine and copy public records, it means just that. It means the likeable person, the disagreeable one, the gentleman next door, the kind lady down the road, the polite caller, the partisan, the friend, the foe, and, yes, even the vexatious requester. There is no asterisk allowing government officials to provide access only to those people who are not abrasive, annoying or vexatious.

Erika Eckley, the Iowa Public Information Board's executive director and author of the draft legislation, said the bill is an attempt to provide relief for government employees who have been subjected to "significant harassing behavior" from people asking for documents.

Under the legislation, government agencies could ask the IPIB to declare someone to be a "vexatious requester." At the conclusion of an investigation and hearing, the IPIB could issue a legally binding decision that the person was, indeed, vexatious and would not be allowed to submit more requests for records for up to one year.

This proposal is unwise and unnecessary. Iowa's public records law and past court rulings already provide officials with authority to deal with people who submit voluminous requests for documents. And there already is a criminal harassment law.

Iowa law allows (though it does not require) agencies to charge requesters for the time employees spend retrieving and copying records. Agencies are allowed to demand payment in advance before employees start retrieving those documents. And court decisions have held agencies do not have to fill requests in a specific number of days.

As for some requesters being "clearly abusive," as Eckley described them, welcome to life in 2023. Government employees and everyday Joes are no longer surprised when someone calls them a moron or a degenerate.

There is more at stake here than trying to use the law to enforce polite behavior.

Every time the public records law is changed to allow certain actions by government, those actions become the norm, not the exception. Officials who want to discourage citizens or journalists from digging too deeply learn quickly they can use the new authority to make scrutiny difficult.

That occurred when the Legislature first allowed government to charge for employee time in processing requests for records. Suddenly, many governments needed to consult highly paid attorneys or information technology specialists on these requests, driving up the fees requesters would have to pay.

The Iowa FOI Council is concerned creating a "vexatious requester" designation would soon become another way government can make it difficult for some people to obtain records an agency prefers not to see in public hands.

Sound far-fetched? Look at Davenport, where at least one resident has been threatened with trespass charges for criticizing the actions of certain city employees and officials in the days immediately prior to the collapse of an apartment building, killing three people.

Some citizens are fine with officials making access to government records difficult. They do not want their taxes being wasted, in their view, on snoopers. But easy access to government data and documents is desired by people of all political leanings — from those concerned about books and classroom materials school kids have access to, to environmental groups and landowners who want access to information about proposed pipeline routes, to social justice activists who want data on the race of people police stop.

Last week, I reminded the Iowa Public Information Board the intent of lawmakers was clear when they wrote the state open records law many years ago — that "free and open examination of public records is generally in the public interest even though such examination may cause inconvenience or embarrassment to public officials or others."

And even if the examination is by someone who is vexatious.

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**Lunch Specials**  
**Sept 18-22**  
**11am - 1pm**

<p><i>Monday, Sept 18</i>  <i>Chicken &amp; Noodles, Mashed Potatoes</i></p>
<p><b>Tuesday, Sept 19</b>  <b>Meatloaf, Loaded Potatoes, Corn</b></p>
<p><i>Wednesday, Sept 20</i>  <i>Tater Tot Casserole, Blueberry Fluff</i></p>
<p><b>Thursday, Sept 21</b>  <b>Fried Chicken Dinners</b></p>
<p><b>Friday, September 22</b>  <b>Lunch on the Sidewalk</b></p>

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