

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 | 6 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 193



www.pencitycurrent.com

Holtkamp gets new hat

Past Tri-State Rodeo general chairman Tony Johnson, left, hands off the general chairman buckle to incoming general chairman Bobby Holtkamp Tuesday at the Tri-State Rodeo Arena.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



GENERAL CHAIR: Bobby Holtkamp gets reins from past-chair Tony Johnson

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The next three years of the Fort Madison Tri-State Rodeo are in good hands.

In October, the Rodeo committee announced Bobby Holtkamp will be the rodeo general chairman for the next three years.

Holtkamp slides into the position after more than 15 years volunteering with the rodeo committee on the advertising, hospitality, security, and pre-rodeo committees.

The Fort Madison native follows previous chairman Tony

Johnson and Chuck Kempker, who took over in a rare 1-year term to usher in the rodeo's 75th anniversary.

"I had some hopes that I would've been next, but there are a lot of good people involved with this," Holtkamp said.

"Chuck took it and ran with it and had a great, great exciting year. It was record-setting and I've had some people since I was announced tell me that will be tough to follow. But I'm up for the challenge.

"I don't think I'll ever reach the level of Chuck's event, but we're not going to go backwards, we're going to keep moving."

See CHAIRMAN, page 6

ELECTION 2024

Griffin takes on Riechman for 1st District state senator

Fort Madison business owner throws name in the ring for state office

PCC Staff

FORT MADISON - Tuesday, community leader and small business owner Nannette Griffin announced her campaign for the Iowa Senate in Senate District 50, which includes all of Lee County, Burlington, West

Burlington, and Danville. Senator Jeff Reichman currently represents Senate District 50. She released the following statement:

"I decided to run for the Iowa Senate because Southeast Iowa's small businesses need a fighter. During Senator Reichman's initial campaign, he said he ran because of the "decline of economic opportunity" in

our corner of the state. Unfortunately, the Senator has not been able to turn things around, and I think it's time to send a small business woman to Des Moines to bring opportunity back to southeast Iowa. As State Senator, I will empower working class families by bringing economic opportunity back to the district for entrepreneurs looking to open or expand their small business, and fight to increase apprenticeship programs in our schools and union membership."

Griffin is the owner of Griffin Muffler & Brake Center, and recently served as the Treasurer for the Fort Madison Area Chamber of Com-



GRIFFIN



REICHMAN

See GRIFFIN, page 6

OPINION

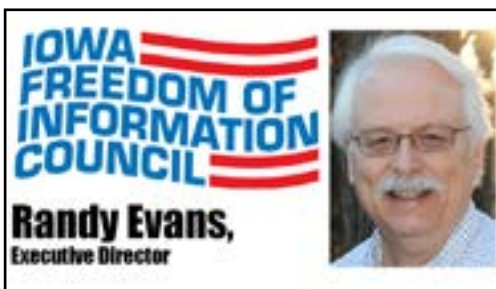
Uneasy times as a librarian shuts out other ideas

The word for today is optics — but not the kind where your eye doctor is an expert.

Instead of eyeglasses, I am thinking about the kind of optics that result when the perception of some person's or some institution's values are contradicted by the reality of the actions they take.

Here's an example. This involves poor optics.

Librarians across Iowa have been



put on the defensive by parents and grandparents who criticize some of the thousands of books that fill a community library or school library.

This criticism has been especially sharp toward books intended for teenage readers that contain content with homosexual or transsexual themes or that include descriptions of sexual encounters that some people believe are too explicit for these readers.

Librarians have stepped forward to explain that it is not proper for people to force the removal of chal-

See EVANS, page 4

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WEATHER

WED 15 NovSunny & cool, 66° F/ 43° F
THU 16 NovMostly sunny & cool, 66° F/ 38° F
FRI 17 Nov.....Sunny & chilly, 48° F/ 28° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 11/1317 18 20 44 51, Star Ball: 4 All Star Bonus: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE 11/138 10 30 45 47, Lucky Ball: 14
PICK 3 MIDDAY 11/133 13
PICK 3 EVENING 11/133 8 1
PICK 4 MIDDAY 11/133 2 19
PICK 4 EVENING 11/130 1 15
POWERBALL 11/1324 33 35 37 42, Powerball: 21 Power Play: 2

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

ANITA L. MULCH

Anita Lois Mulch, 86, of Sutter, Illinois, passed away on Saturday, November 11, 2023, at Sunset Home in Quincy, Illinois.

Anita was born on December 21, 1936, in Keokuk, Iowa, the daughter of Merle and Dorothy (Bornscheuer) Foley. She graduated from Warsaw High School, and on April 23, 1955, she was united in marriage to Clyde Arthur "Doc" Mulch at Concordia Lutheran Church in Warsaw. He preceded her in death on January 7, 2021.

Anita was a bus driver for the Warsaw School District for many years and was also employed as a babysitter for some time. She was a member of Bethlehem United Church of Christ in Sutter, and was devoted to her family, especially her grandchildren. She enjoyed spending her time gardening, caring for her flowers, camping, and attending car races and state fairs, especially the Iowa State Fair. Anita loved traveling the United States and animals, especially her dogs and cats.

Anita is survived by her son Kim (Valerie) Mulch of Pella, Iowa; her daughter Lisa Starr of Quincy, Illinois; six grandchildren: Amanda (Brandon Edwards) Mulch of Carbondale, Illinois, Derek (Sara) Mulch of New Braunfels, Texas, Nathan Starr of Manhattan, New York, Amy (James) Wallace of Quincy, Heather (Adam) Spory of Quincy and Breann (Harold) Esindu of Quincy; six great-grandchildren: Emily Edwards, Clayton Edwards, Gracy Spory, Alex Spory, Paige Wallace, and Ava Esindu; and her brother Myron Foley of Mount Vernon, Illinois.

Anita is preceded in death by her parents, her husband Clyde and her brother Merle Foley, Jr.

A memorial service will be held at 11:30 am on Wednesday, November 22, 2023, at Bethlehem United Church of Christ in Sutter, with burial to follow at the church cemetery. Visitation will be held at the church on Wednesday, November 22, from 10:30 to 11:30 am directly before the service.

Memorials may be directed to Bethlehem United Church of Christ in Sutter.

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

Printy Funeral Home of Warsaw is in charge of arrangements.



MULCH

OBITUARIES

ARTHUR L. VAUGHAN

Arthur L. "Beezer" Vaughan, 99, of Keokuk, passed away on Sunday, November 12, 2023, at Mississippi Valley Healthcare Facility in Keokuk.

Arthur was born on August 22, 1924, in Keokuk, Iowa, the son of James Henry and Grace Martha (Washburn) Vaughan. He married Gladys L. Hopkins on February 16, 1946, in Kahoka, Missouri. He attended the Wells-Carey Elementary and Keokuk High School. At the age of seventeen, he enlisted in the United States Navy and served four years in the Asiatic, Pacific, Philippine, Lib and European Theaters. He received his Honorable Discharge in 1946. After returning to the States, Arthur worked at several local businesses, including Purity Oats, Thomas Truck, and Atlas Energy Com-

VAUGHAN

pany, where he retired as a meter repairman after twenty years. Arthur was a member of Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Keokuk since 1958. He was an active member, serving on the Administrative Board and also sang in the choir for many years. He was the church's number one salesperson for Emmanuel's annual Election Day Chili Soup Fundraiser for years. "Beezer" was a DIE-HARD Chicago Cubs Fan, watching every game and attending some in-person at Wrigley Field in Chicago, Illinois. He was thrilled to see the Cubs win the World Series in 2016.



Arthur is survived by his son Arthur L. Vaughan, Jr., his stepson James E. (Judy) Hopkins, his stepdaughter Barbara Weber, all of Keokuk; twelve grandchildren, thirty great-grandchildren and twenty-eight great-great-grandchildren.

Arthur is preceded in death by his parents, his wife Gladys, infant daughter Diana, stepdaughter Patricia West, stepson Max Hopkins, infant brother Thomas, brother Jack Vaughan, son-in-law Jack West and son-in-law James Weber.

Funeral services will be held at 11:30 am on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk, with burial to follow at Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk, Iowa. Military honors at the cemetery will be rendered by the United States Navy and the American Legion Post #41. Visitation will be held at the funeral home from 10:00 to 11:30 am on Wednesday directly before the service.

Memorials may be directed to Everystep Hospice and American Legion Post #41.

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

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

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Pen City Current obituary policy

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

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LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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PEN CITY CURRENT
It's Black & White and Read all over

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Obituaries/Iowa News

OBITUARIES

MICHAEL L. CURTIS

Michael "Mike" Lynn Curtis, 64, of Warsaw, IL died Sunday, November 12, 2023 at his home.

He was born December 25, 1958 in LaHarpe, IL the son of Robert and Marilyn Young Curtis.



CURTIS

On October 18, 2014 Mike was united in marriage to Lester T. "Chips" Hohn, Jr. in Warsaw, IL. He survives.

Other survivors include two brothers, Christopher Curtis (Susie) of Columbia, MO and Robert Curtis of Seattle, WA, two step-sisters, Diane Jones (Kenny) of Warsaw, IL and Phyllis Frey of Keokuk and one step-brother, Tommy Buckert (Laura) of Hamilton, IL, two brothers-in-law, Kevin Hohn (Cindy) of Winfield, MO and Dennis Hampton of St.

Peters, MO and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Curtis and Marilyn Curtis Buckert, his step-father, Harold Buckert, one brother, Rodney Curtis and one sister-in-law, Denise Hampton.

Mike had been employed by The Plum Tree in his younger years and later was the co-owner of Chippers Lounge in Warsaw, IL.

Mike was a talented chef and had a passion for food. He created wonderful meals for his family and friends to enjoy.

There will be no services at this time.

The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA is assisting the family with arrangements.

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

EVELYN L. WESTFALL

Evelyn L. Klesener Westfall, 100, of Waukee, Iowa, formerly of Fort Madison, Iowa, passed away at 5:11 a.m. Monday, November 13, 2023, at Independence Village in Waukee.

She was born on July 24, 1923, in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of Edward and Adelaide (Bendlage) Mansheim. On February 26, 1946, she married Erwin Klesener. He preceded her in death on November 7, 1987. On February 4, 1994, she married James Westfall. He preceded her in death on March 5, 2006.

She is survived by her children: Joan (Richard) Fraise, James (Linda) Klesener, Kenneth (Nancy) Klesner; step-children: Jeannie Stamp, Gerald Westfall; three grandchildren; six great grandchildren; one brother-in-law, several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husbands; one grandson; one granddaughter; two brothers and three sisters.

Evelyn was a member of Sacred Heart Church, Holy Family Parish in Fort Madison and the Altar and Rosary Society of the church.

A graveside service will be held at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, November 16, 2023, at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Fort Madison with Father Gary Beckman officiating.

A memorial has been established in her memory for the Fort Madison Food Pantry

Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.



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EASY?
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Dept. of Corrections reports recidivism is down 2.7%

DES MOINES – The Iowa Department of Corrections (IDOC) reports that the three-year recidivism rate for FY2023 is 34.3%; or 2.7% lower than the recidivism rate observed in FY2022. These numbers show three consecutive years of reduction in the systems overall recidivism rate.

Recidivism can be defined in a multitude of ways. Generally, recidivism is defined as the likelihood that an individual "relapse[s] into criminal behavior, often after the person receives sanctions or undergoes intervention from a previous crime." [1] The IDOC defines recidivism as an individual leaving an Iowa prison who is then re-incarcerated within three years for any reason.

"Three consecutive years of reducing Iowa's recidivism rate is a clear indicator that what we're doing in our correctional system is working," said Gov. Kim Reynolds. "And now that community based corrections have been placed under the purview of the IDOC, I'm confident our alignment efforts will produce even greater results. I'd like to thank IDOC staff for all they do to keep Iowa safe and I have no doubt they will continue to meet their mission of creating opportunities for safer

communities."


"Our state's recidivism rate is a key indicator in determining if what we're doing is having the intended impact," IDOC Director Beth Skinner said. "Not only have we lowered our recidivism rate for three consecutive years, in FY23 we saw our biggest reduction yet. This is a department-wide effort and these efforts are producing outcomes that positively impact public safety. I couldn't be more proud of the hard work and dedication of our staff in keeping Iowa communities safe."


There are a number of department wide strategies that contributed to reducing the recidivism rate, which includes but are not limited to:

- Prioritizing institutional and community-based treatment programs for high-risk individuals
- Providing institutional and community-based treatment programs that are evidence-based
- Improved and aligned reentry practices
- Increased access to education opportunities
- Increased access to apprenticeship programs and job skills training

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www.DrMarkDDS.com

From the Front/Classifieds

Libraries need to be concerned about selection optics

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

lenged books, thereby taking away other people's ability to choose what they want to read or what they want their children to read. Library administrators have informed parents how they can limit the books their children have access to in the library or in the classroom.

But those reasonable explanations are not the same message the Marshalltown Public Library is giving some patrons about content aimed at adult readers, not at young readers.

John Worden told me in an email last week he has been called "our problem patron" by library administrators, because he has attended Marshalltown library board meetings for the past 12 months to ask the library to provide subscriptions to a couple of conservative publications, the American Rifleman magazine and the Epoch Times newspaper. The library has refused — even when a couple of library patrons offered to pay for the subscriptions.

Library director Sarah Rosenblum told library trustees earlier this year she had made a "deep

dive" into the content of these publications and has serious concerns about the science coverage in Epoch Times and about the gun magazine being published by the National Rifle Association.

That is where the poor optics occur.

No one expects libraries to carry every book, every magazine, and every newspaper. But how can libraries defend the presence of some books whose themes and content have been challenged by parents and then insist, as Marshalltown's library does, that a gun magazine and a conservative newspaper do not belong in that library's collection?

Librarians have long advocated for what is called intellectual freedom. They believe in the principle of making lots of views and perspectives available and leaving it to their patrons to pick and choose what they want to read.

Most libraries operate like a buffet. Some people come for the steamed broccoli. Others are drawn by the three-bean salad. That is why it is so baffling Marshalltown officials would dig in their heels and ignore reasonable requests from "our problem patron."

The library dust-up in Marshalltown certainly

shows the scope of our current political divide in Iowa. You often hear people talking about how Iowans are more divided now than they have been in the past.

But Michael Giudicessi, a Des Moines attorney, provided important context and insight when he spoke last week at the annual meeting of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council.

Michael reminded us that in 1857, Iowa voters ratified the state's constitution. Legal scholars praise the document for its clear recitation of the meaning behind the motto on Iowa's great seal. We learned it in Iowa history classes: "Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain."

But in the beginning, the constitution was not resoundingly popular with people living in the state.

The ratification vote was 40,311 in favor and 38,681 against. That was an approval margin of 1,630 votes — meaning that a shift of 816 votes would have torpedoed the constitution Iowans still live under 166 years later.

Talk about optics ...

Randy Evans can be reached at DMRevs2810@gmail.com.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

HELP WANTED

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE
CITY OF WEST BURLINGTON
Regular City Council Meeting
Wednesday, November 15, 2023
6:00 PM
West Burlington City Hall
122 Broadway Street

TENTATIVE AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER
 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
 ROLL CALL
 PERFECTING & APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 CONSENT AGENDA
 ORDERPLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
 ROLL CALL
 PERFECTING & APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 CONSENT AGENDA

All items on the Consent Agenda are Action items that will be considered by a single vote. Council members may request that an item be pulled for discussion and held for a separate vote. Items on the Consent Agenda may include claims over the City Administrator's authorized spending limit, payments related to previously approved contracts, and non-controversial or routine expenses as defined by the City's Purchasing Policy.

1. Minutes from the Regular City Council meeting on November 1, 2023

2. Approve Liquor License Renewals for Hwy 34 Truck Stop and Westland Fast Break

Approve Liquor License Renewals for Hwy 34 Truck Stop and Westland Fast Break

3. Approve payment to Snyder & Associates for Engineering Services related to Phase II of the Gear Ave. Trail Project - \$4,520

4. Approve payment to Southeast Iowa Regional Airport Authority - \$22,540

5. Payment of Claims as listed on the Expense Approval Report - \$235,197.42

COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS

- ADMINISTRATOR:
- PUBLIC WORKS:
- POLICE DEPARTMENT:
- FIRE/BUILDING DEPARTMENT:
- CLERK/FINANCE/IT:
- OTHER STAFF REPORTS:
- COUNCIL REPORTS:
- COMMUNITY RE-

PORTS:
 CITIZEN INQUIRIES
 OLD BUSINESS
 NEW BUSINESS

1. Speer Financial - TIF Planning Report

2. Approve the purchase of ESO Reporting Software for the Fire Department

3. Consider a quote from Karl Emergency Vehicles for the installation of emergency equipment in the 2023 Tahoe

4. Consider a quote from Axon Enterprise, Inc. to replace Police Department Tasers over the next five years

5. Consider purchase of extrication gloves and hoods for the Fire Department

6. Consider the purchase of fire helmets for the Fire Department

7. Consider a Resolution approving the hiring of a Police Officer

8. Consider Approving a Letter of Understanding between the City of West Burlington and the Communication Workers of America

9. Consider a Resolution authorizing an internal advance of \$11,477 from the General Fund to TIF for legal services related to Urban Renewal Projects

10. Consider a Resolution authorizing an internal advance of \$400 from the General Fund to TIF for consultant services related to Urban Renewal Projects

11. Consider approval of the Annual Financial Report for FY2022-2023

12. Consider the final reading of an Ordinance regulating Solar Energy Systems

13. Consider approval of the Annual Urban Renewal Report for Fiscal Year 22-23

14. Consider approval of the TIF Debt Certification for Fiscal Year 24-25

15. Consider a Resolution accepting a Final Plat for Wayne Johnson Subdivision (pending P&Z review and recommendation)

16. Consider a Resolution accepting the Final Plat for the Fourth Addition to Whiteacre, Inc. Subdivision pending P&Z review and recommendation)

CITIZEN INQUIRIES
 ADJOURN

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE
CITY OF WEST BURLINGTON

Special City Council Meeting
Wednesday, November 15, 2023
5:15 PM
West Burlington City Hall
122 Broadway Street

TENTATIVE AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER
 ROLL CALL
 CLOSED SESSION
 Council will consider going into Closed Session in accordance with Iowa Code Section 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.

1. Consider formal action following the Closed Session.

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST POINT CITY COUNCIL
WEST POINT, IOWA 52656
NOVEMBER 13, 2023

Mayor Joseph Loving called the properly noticed regular meeting of the City Council of the City of West Point to order in the West Point Library, 309 Fifth Street, West Point, Iowa 52656 on November 13, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. In addition to Mayor Joseph Loving indicated the following Council Members were present: Phil Kruse, Dan Waters, Bruce Wellman, Brian Meierotto and Will Stuekerjuergen.

Mayor reported the following: Municipal Utility Board Meeting Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall, Library Board Meeting, Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.; Next regular City Council Meeting is Monday, December 11, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the West Point Public Library.

Randy Welding presented the City Administrator's report.

CLAIMS REPORT FOR OCTOBER, 2023

3rd Generation Electric 1,305.17
 Agrineed Inc. 12.01
 Armstrong Tractor LLC

..... 46.29
 Baker & Taylor ... 1,056.67
 Barngrover & Son Glass Co 455.12
 Cessford Construction Co 2,491.95
 CJ Cooper & Associates 135.00
 Daily Democrat 124.66
 Emblem Enterprises Inc. 299.46
 GWorks 2,831.00
 Galls 97.22
 Garden & Associates 2,995.70
 Globe Life Liberty National 39.08
 Great Western Supply 173.09
 GRRWA 992.00
 Hoening Tree Service Inc 2,150.00
 Ideal Ready Mix 706.18
 ION Environmental Services 484.00
 Iowa Association Municipal Utilities 326.21
 Lee County Conservation 58,274.73
 Mastercard 657.03
 McFarland Swan 99.98
 McGowan, Denise 7.21
 Mediacom 520.05
 Micromarketing LLC 45.77
 MidAmerican Energy 11.44
 Paul's Plumbing & Heating 13,413.40
 Petty Cash 72.84
 Pranger, Mary Jane 132.00
 Quadient Leasing 143.62
 Ricoh USA 175.16
 Robins Sales & Service LLC 40.00
 Sparks, Jeri 250.00
 Story Kenworthy/Matt Parrott 114.27
 Sun Life Financial 202.39
 Treasurer-State of Ia 211.42
 US Cellular 76.47
 USPS 70.30
 Verizon Wireless 40.01
 Welding McKenzie 125.00

West Point Lumber & Hardware 84.15
 West Point Professional Group 750.00
 West Point & St Paul Fire 4,280.18
 West Point Utilities 2,649.11
 Wex Bank 618.12
 Windstream 200.29

RECAPITULATION

FUND: PREV BAL, RCPTS, DSBSD, CUR BAL: Gen.
 Govt.: 430,582.04;
 134,085.73; 71,153.42;
 493,526.08 Grants:
 -16,134.60; 19,575.42;-
 -; -; -3,440.82; Cap
 Equip: 4127.06, ---, ---,
 4127.06; Lib County/
 St: 8,665.71; ---, 999.58;
 7,666.13; Lib Mem &
 Gift: 13,533.38; 428.14;
 187.23; 13,774.29; Hoe-
 nig Estate: 520,722.64;
 -; 2,142.90; 518,579.74
 Road Use Tax:
 42,459.28; 10,340.13;
 6,834.84; 45,964.57;
 LOST: 10,217.72;
 8,399.36; 8,399.36;
 10,217.72; Restricted
 Gifts: 6,335.67; 21,000.00;
 21,000.00; 6,335.67
 East Sewer;
 -26391.44; 26,391.44;
 -; -; Walk Path;
 43,354.13; 21,000.00;
 58,274.73; 6,079.40;
 American Res-
 cue: 61,068.30; 17.04;
 2,995.70; 58,089.64;
 Sewer: 68,519.76; ;
 19,367.55; 44,720.74;
 43,154.84; Sewer Sink-
 ing: 28,482.36; 8,413.33;
 -; 36,895.69; Land-
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/s/ Joseph Loving,
 Mayor
 Attest: Randy Welding,
 City Administrator
 DRM /City Clerk

LEE COUNTY SECONDARY ROADS CLASS VII ROAD MAINTENANCE FOREMAN

Lee County is taking applications for a Class VII Road Maintenance Foreman, to work at the Ambrosia Maintenance Shop. Duties will include planning, organizing, scheduling, directing, coordinating, and inspecting the work of road maintenance crews.

Requires a high school graduate or G.E.D. equivalent and must possess a valid Class A commercial driver's license with air brake and tanker endorsements. The wage range is \$29.18 to \$32.90.

Lee County provides equal opportunity in employment to all persons regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion or disability.

For a job description and to apply, download an application from our county website, www.leecounty.org/employment.aspx or you can pick an application up at the Engineer's office and return your completed application along with a resume to Lee County Engineer, P .0. Box 158, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627, or email it to engineer@leecounty.org. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

If you have any questions, please contact Lee County Engineer Office at (319) 372-2541 or email them at engineer@leecounty.org.



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Education News/From the Front

Griffin wants to take experience to work for southeast Iowans

GRIFFIN - Continued from Page 1

merce. She is the 2023 Deb Dalziel Entrepreneur of the Year winner and graduated with an Accredited Masters in Automotive Management with the Automotive Management Institute.

"I've spent my life working to empower business owners as the Founding President of the southeast Iowa chapter of the Midwest Auto Care Alliance so that everyone has an opportunity to achieve the American dream, and want to continue that work in the Iowa Senate and am looking forward to going to work for southeast Iowans in Des Moines as their next State Senator," Griffin said.

To learn more about Griffin's campaign for State Senate, go to her campaign's Facebook account at [facebook.com/GriffinforIowaSenate](https://www.facebook.com/GriffinforIowaSenate).

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Holtkamp joins legacy of leaders

CHAIRMAN - Continued from Page 1

Holtkamp said it was special to have Chuck run last year's event because he was able to rely on his past rodeo experience to bring a special event to the C.E. "Eddie" Richard's Arena on the rodeo grounds in September.

"It was such a cool thing for Chuck because he's been involved for so many years and he brought back some of that old rodeo stuff - stuff that I never would have thought of doing."

On Tuesday, Holtkamp was passed the ceremonial General Chairman Buckle from Johnson, who's still recognized as past chairman.

The next three years will be full of excitement and learning for Holtkamp, but also a time that will cement him as one of a select group of leaders of one of the top PRCA outdoor rodeos in the Midwest.

"We're one of the best," he said. "It's all about the community, having fun and letting loose. You don't have to be a cowboy or cowgirl to enjoy the rodeo. Come on up and have some fun."

Holtkamp was, as is typical with new general chairmen, very close to the chest on what his plans are for the future. He said there are plans, however.

"Yes, but nothing's set in stone," he said. "There are some capital projects that I would like to take on to improve, but I'm just diving into the budgets and what we can do with the guidance of the board."

Holtkamp said all the past chairmen have been helpful and full of suggestions and are a great resource, especially in the first year.

"They are a great sounding board, and you really want to listen to them."

Holtkamp credits former Chairman Steve Link who encouraged him to join the rodeo volunteer effort.

"Kudos to Steve for pushing the envelope for me. As soon as I did, it was one of the greatest decisions I've

ever made," he said.

"To this day I remember, I was installing for my parents, and I had a van pulled up to a dumpster and was emptying the van. Steve came right up to me, and we started talking and, at first, I wasn't interested. But I thought about it for about a week and then called him and said I was interested."

Gary Lucas was Holtkamp's first mentor on the committee. Lucas oversaw advertising and took Holtkamp under his wing and showed him that it just wasn't about the advertising committee, but also how the committees help each other. Lucas stepped away after two years and Holtkamp took over as chairman.

Holtkamp said chairman of each committee gets the credit, but there is a strong staff, including assistant chairmen who do a ton of work behind the scenes and that's where the engine really hums along.

He said after 15 years he thought he knew a lot of about the rodeo, but he said even the past three weeks there has been a ton of learning that has taken place.

"You hear past chairmen talk about how much of a time commitment it is and, since I've known I was the guy, they've been sending me all this stuff, and they weren't kidding," he said. "It's been a big learning curve. Even though I was highly involved, I'm seeing now with the operation of the rodeo production it's a ton of work. Three weeks in and this has been a lot of fun."

He said the rodeo does not run itself, but sometimes it looks like it does.

"There is so much work that goes into it. But there are so many great people involved, it sure seems easy from the outside," Holtkamp said.

Johnson said Holtkamp was the right decision to carry on the tradition of the rodeo.

"Obviously the logical thing in my mind to continue the tradition of the Tri-State Rodeo. Bobby's going to do a great job," Johnson said.

Keokuk High's AP Biology wins WIU bowl

KEOKUK - The Advanced Placement Biology class from the Keokuk High School won first place in November in the Biology Bowl Competition during the Biology Day hosted by the Biology Department at Western Illinois University (WIU) in Macomb, Illinois.

"The students enjoyed the opportunity to visit a college campus and support one another during the Biology Bowl Competition," Kim Pfeiferling, KHS AP Biology teacher, said. The course and field trip were led by Pfeiferling.

About 90 area high school students participated in the Biology Day. The KHS students who competed in the Biology Bowl were Alex Rowe, Emma Cole, Kelly Takorbisong, and Eli Stevens. The winners received individual student trophies, a school trophy, and a lab kit.

WIU held the Biology Day to provide high school students the opportunity to explore various aspects of the field as well as to participate in the Biology

Bowl. The Biology Bowl Competition is designed to allow teams of four students from different schools to compete with one another regarding their biological content knowledge.

For more information on the WIU event, go to https://www.wiu.edu/cas/biological_sciences/events.php.




The KHS AP Biology class attended the Biology Day on Nov. 3 hosted by Western Illinois University. The students holding the trophies won first place in the Biology Bowl and are Alex Rowe (left), Emma Cole, Kelly Takorbisong, and Eli Stevens.

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