

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Tuesday, November 21, 2023 | 6 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 197



www.pencitycurrent.com

And now a wind farm

WEST POINT: Private energy firms snooping around northwestern Lee County

BY **CHUCK VANDENBERG**
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A private energy firm is looking at north-west Lee County for an up to 400-megawatt wind farm.

An official with Tenaska, an independent energy firm headquartered in Omaha, Neb. confirmed the project is underway, but in the very early stages.

“We’re very early in development. Size of that project is up to 400 megawatts contingent upon securing land rights and getting interconnection rights that will enable us to move forward,” said Kyle Gerking, a Tenaska project manager out of Omaha.

“We’re on the front end of that. We intend to come meet the Board of Supervisors and other local decision makers as we believe in being transparent with our development. We’ll introduce the project and let them know what’s going on.”

Lee County landowner Andrew Johnson brought the project to the attention of Lee County Supervisors Monday morning as part of a discussion about future zoning and setbacks for utility projects.

Johnson, who was at the center of the opposition to land grabs under eminent domain for Navigator’s Heartland Greenway CO2 pipeline, said the county has some time now to

See **WIND**, page 6



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Construction crews continued to do work on the facade of buildings in the 900 block of Avenue G last week. Private investors are restoring the building’s interior and exterior.

IOWA NEWS

Reynolds sets Nov. 24 as Mia Peterson Day in Iowa

DES MOINES – Gov. Kim Reynolds has proclaimed Friday, Nov. 24, 2023, as “Mia Peterson Day in Iowa” to commemorate the 50th birthday of an under-recognized Iowan who worked throughout her adult life to promote self advocacy and equal treatment.

Peterson served in state and national

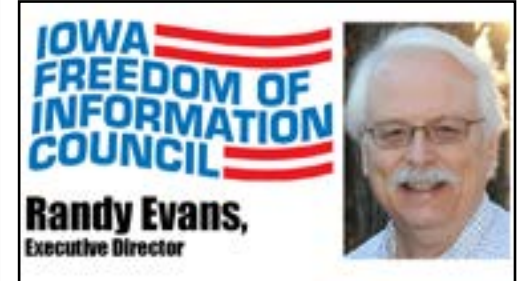
roles while living in Iowa and Ohio. She returned to Iowa in 2005, and passed away in 2021, but her legacy endures. The proclamation includes Peterson’s belief that we should “let people with disabilities speak for themselves, and don’t let others speak for them.”

Iowa Developmental Disability Council

Chair Brady Weger of Waverly will read the proclamation during a ceremony at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 21, at the State Historical Building of Iowa in Des Moines. It will be live streamed via Facebook Live. The program will serve as the official

See **IOWA**, page 4

EDITORIAL



Kindness is in season

This is my favorite time of the year. There is no late-night bombardment from infernal fireworks like there is with the Fourth of July. There is not the pressure of Christmas to choose just the right gift.

With Thanksgiving, it is about enjoying the company of family and friends — and deciding whether to scoop up pumpkin pie, apple or banana cream. With Thanksgiving, it is a time to reflect on our blessings and to think about others who are not as fortunate.

Back during my years as a newspaper editor, I was always eager for stories that raised our spirits and warmed our hearts. Those stories were a needed antidote to the heartache that seemed too often be in the news.

The need for that antidote now is as great as it ever was. Fortunately, there are plenty of examples of uplifting news if we look for them.

Katie Steller, a Minneapolis hair stylist, is an inspirational phenomenon. She is motivated by the belief that if fear is contagious, then why can’t kindness be contagious, too?

In 2017, discouraged by stories of hate, pain and despair, she did what she was equipped to do. She took her red stylist’s chair out onto the streets of Minneapolis and began giving free haircuts to needy people without homes or jobs.

Roadsides, medians and beneath overpasses became her salon. She talked with the people she encountered. She listened to them. And she cut their hair.

“It became clear that being kind is never a wasted action, and the impact can create a ripple effect of good,” Steller tells people. “If we want to see changes in our world, it needs to start with showing up and being kind to the person right in front of you.”

In Harrison, Ark., a teenager named

See **EVANS**, page 6

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WEATHER

TUE 21 Nov.....Rainy, breezy, and chilly, 46° F/ 28° F
 WED 22 Nov.....Sunny and chilly, 45° F/ 29° F
 THU 23 Nov.....Sunny and chilly, 46° F/ 27° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 11/19.....1114 29 42 43, Lucky Ball: 3
 PICK 3 MIDDAY 11/19.....8 6 0
 PICK 3 EVENING 11/19.....3 2 5
 PICK 4 MIDDAY 11/19.....0 1 1 1
 PICK 4 EVENING 11/19.....7 9 0 5

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

JAYME A. BOEDING

Jayme Anthony Boeding, 66, of West Point, Iowa, passed away at 2:50 p.m. Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City surrounded by his family.



BOEDING

He was born on November 10, 1957, at the Sacred Heart Hospital in Fort Madison, the son of Louis Henry and Mary Louise (Harmeyer) Boeding.

Survivors include his five siblings: John Boeding, Francis Boeding, Mary Jane (Allan) Pranger, Marianna (Mitsugu) Mori and Flavian (Barb) Boeding; nephews and niece: Adam (Ita) Mori, Akio Mori, Kent Mori, Nathan Pranger and Leina (Naveen) Kumar.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Jayme was a 1976 graduate of Marquette High School. He was a member of St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point. Jayme owned and operated B&C Salvage and Service. He was a "master" mechanic and also mowed for several rural cemeteries. He enjoyed gardening, hunting, fishing, cutting wood and traveling, camping and farming. Jayme was beloved by his family and friends and he will be missed by all.

A visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Friday, November 24, 2023, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in West Point.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, November 24, 2023, at St. Mary's Catholic Church with Father Apo Mpanda as celebrant.

Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery in West Point.

A memorial has been established in his memory for West Point Fire and Rescue.

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

OBITUARIES

DOLORES J. WITTE

Dolores Jean Witte, 89, of West Point, Iowa, passed away at 9:55 p.m. Saturday, November 18, 2023, at the Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House in West Burlington, Iowa.



WITTE

She was born on July 16, 1934, in Keokuk, Iowa, the daughter of Glenn C. and Juanita L. (Bailey) Poland. On February 8, 1953, she married Robert B. Witte at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fort Madison, Iowa.

Survivors include her two sons: Mike Witte of Fort Madison, Iowa, Greg (Nancy) Witte of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa; two daughters: Diana (Bill) Hawkins of Nebraska, Becky (Lloyd) Fraise of West Point, Iowa; seven grandchildren; eleven great grandchildren; two sisters: Karen Belcher of West Burlington, Iowa and Bev Myllo of Oklahoma. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband: Robert; brothers: Chuck Poland, Clarence Poland; sisters: Carol Brissey, Marilyn McGinity, Joy Brown and Shirley Poland.

Dolores was a member of Joy Baptist Church in Fort Madison. She worked at Sylvanas, Benners Groceries, Bruns Meat Market and B&D seamless Gutters.

A visitation will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, November 22, 2023, at Joy Baptist Church in Fort Madison.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, November 22, 2023, at Joy Baptist Church in Fort Madison with Reverend Earl Beal officiating.

Burial will be at Claypoole Cemetery rural Fort Madison, Iowa.

Memorials have been established in her memory for Joy Baptist Church or West Point Fire and Rescue.

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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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

11/16/23 - 9:55 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 4800 block of Avenue O.

11/16/23 - 11:38 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 700 block of Avenue D.

11/16/23 - 5:08 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Paul William Londrie, 49, of Fort Madison, in the 500 block of 10th Street, on charges of disorderly conduct - threat, possession of a controlled substance - 1,2,3rd, and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

11/16/23 - 6:15 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Belinda Lorene McWhortor, 35, of Fort Madison, in the 600 block of 34th Street, on a charge of city: no pet tags.

11/16/23 - 7:27 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 2800 block of Avenue N.

11/16/23 - 8:09 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Victoria Elizabeth Jones, 28, of Fort Madison, at 28th Street and Avenue N, on a charge of 2nd degree theft greater than \$1500 less than \$10000. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

11/17/23 - 3:52 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1900 block of Avenue M.

11/17/23 - 5:56 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Matthew Thomas Kuhlman, 50, of Burlington, on a charge of driving under suspension.

11/18/23 - 6:28 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Justin James McAndrews, 29, of Fort Madison, in the 1300 block of Avenue E, on charges of assault with bodily injury and simple assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

11/18/23 - 6:28 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Robert Alan

Ulik, 43, of Fort Madison, in the 1300 block of Avenue E, on a charge of simple assault.

11/18/23 - 7:36 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Earl Filimore Davis, 71, of Fort Madison, at 31st Street and Avenue L, on a warrant for forgery. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

11/18/23 - 10:20 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Jacob John Montgomery, 36, of Fort Madison, in the 800 block of 2nd Street, on a charge of 4th degree criminal mischief greater than \$300 less than \$750.

11/18/23 - 10:20 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Natasha Sharie Herriman, 35, of Wever, in the 800 block of 2nd Street, on a charge of assault with bodily injury.

11/19/23 - 7:08 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1400 block of 36th Street.

11/19/23 - 6:29 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1400 block of Avenue C.

11/19/23 - 10:57 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Taylor Ann Bottger, 19, of Keokuk, in the 4600 block of Bluff Road, on charges of driver's license denied/revoked - OWI, possession of a controlled substance - 1,2,3rd, possession of a controlled substance - marijuana 1st, and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

Keokuk Police Report

11/14/23 - 6:06 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a two-vehicle accident in the 1400 block of Main Street. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Albert Arnold Gatton, Jr., 64, of Keokuk, was turning left in the 1400 block of Main Street when it was struck in the front passenger side by a vehicle driven by Johnathanne Taylor Palm, 26, of Fort Madison, that was traveling west-

bound in the 1400 block of Main Street. Palm was transported to Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center - Fort Madison campus for an injury. No other injuries were reported. Gatton, Jr. was cited for failure to yield right of way left turn. Both vehicles sustained disabling damages and were towed from the scene.

11/16/23 - 10:43 a.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a two-vehicle accident at 13th & Main Streets. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Dixie Ann Lestina, 71, of Argyle, was traveling eastbound in the 1300 block of Main Street when she ran a red light and struck a vehicle driven by Nicole Rena Kindhart, 46, of Keokuk, that was crossing Main Street. Kindhart was transported from the scene by Lee County Ambulance Service after complaining of injuries. No other injuries were reported. Kindhart's vehicle sustained disabling damages and was towed from the scene; Lestina's vehicle did not sustain damages. Lestina was cited for failure to obey traffic control device.

11/17/23 - 9:33 p.m. - Keokuk police cited and released Tammy Louise Bottoms, 54, of Fort Madison, in the 300 block of North Park Drive, on charges of 4th degree fraudulent practice and possession of drug paraphernalia.

11/18/23 - 3:04 a.m. - Keokuk police arrested Davion Shana McGhee, 27, of Keokuk, at South 14th and Timea Streets, on a warrant for failure to appear/contempt of court and a charge of driving while barred.

11/18/23 - 3:27 a.m. - Keokuk police arrested Wesley Lane Stinson, 19, of Keokuk, in the 2400 block of Bank Street, on a

charge of public intoxication and 3 charges of 1st offense 3rd degree burglary - vehicle. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

11/18/23 - 8:41 p.m. - Keokuk police cited and released Melinda Jo Saunders, 49, of Keokuk, in the 1500 block of Blondeau Street, on a charge of 4th degree criminal mischief greater than \$300 less than \$750.

11/18/23 - 9:22 p.m. - Keokuk police cited and released Robert Douglas McNitt, Jr., 59, of Keokuk, in the 1500 block of Johnson Street, on a charge of driving under suspension.

11/19/23 - 4:56 a.m. - Keokuk police arrested Kylie Alana Eaton, 18, no hometown reported, in the 2000 block of Grand Avenue, on charges of interference with official acts and 1st offense trespassing. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

11/19/23 - 10:37 a.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a two-vehicle accident at 28th and Main Streets. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Dakota Allen Wayne Eads, 25, of Missouri, was traveling eastbound at 28th and Main Streets, and stopped at a red light behind a vehicle driven by Denise Ann Kemper, 51, of Montrose that was also traveling eastbound on 28th and Main Streets and was stopped at a red light. Eads' vehicle rear ended Kemper's vehicle when the light turned green and it moved forward, but Kemper was unable to move due to traffic. No injuries were reported. Eads was cited for failure to stop in assured clear distance. Kemper's vehicle sustained minor damages, but both vehicles were driven from the scene.

11/19/23 - 3:31 p.m. - Keokuk police cited and released Johna-

thanne Taylor Palm, 27, of Fort Madison, in the 1400 block of Main Street, on a charge of driving while barred.

11/19/23 - 4:34 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a two-vehicle accident at 13th and Timea Streets. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Stacie Marie McKay, 51, of Keokuk, was traveling southbound and stopped at a stop sign at 13th and Timea Streets when it pulled into the intersection and was struck by a vehicle driven by a 14-year-old female juvenile, of Keokuk. No injuries were reported. McKay was cited for failure to obey stop sign and yield right of way. Both vehicles were driven from the scene.

11/19/23 - 7:36 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a single-vehicle accident in the 2100 block of Palean Street. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Tracy Renee Hartis, 53, of Keokuk, was traveling eastbound in the 2100 block of Palean Street when the vehicle left the roadway to the right, struck an electrical pole, and came to a final rest. No injuries were reported. Hartis' vehicle sustained disabling damages and was towed from the scene. Hartis was cited for failure to maintain control.

11/19/23 - 9:19 p.m. - Keokuk police arrested Tracy Renee Har-

tis, 53, of Keokuk, at South 21st and Palean Streets, on a charge of 1st offense OWI. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

11/20/23 - 7:24 a.m. - Keokuk police arrested Alonzo Tyrone Brewer, 53, of Keokuk, in the 1000 block of Franklin Street, on 3 warrants for sexual abuse in the 3rd degree. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Lee County Sheriff Report

11/16/23 - 5:58 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Connor James Minton, 26, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office, on a judgment entry/mittimus warrant. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

11/16/23 - 10:06 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies responded to a single-vehicle accident at Hwy. 27 N. and 320th Street. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Jada Renee Macon, 24, of Minnesota, was traveling northbound on Hwy. 27 near 320th Street when the rear driver-side wheel came off, causing the vehicle to enter the east ditch. No injuries or citations were reported. Macon's vehicle sustained disabling damages and was towed from the scene.

Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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Member LION Publishers
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Pen City Current, www.PenCityCurrent.com, and Pen e-Saver are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Monday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

Founded in 2016
P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

EVA J. ENHORNING

Eva Jean Enhorning, 78, of Ft. Madison, Iowa, formerly of Burlington, Iowa, passed away at 5:20 p.m. Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at her home.

Jean was born July 31, 1945 in LaHarpe, Illinois, the daughter of James Kern and Betty Jones. She was raised by her parents and step-father: John Rod-ruck. On August 17, 1963 she married Charles Edward Enhorning. He preceded her in death January 11, 2017.



ENHORNING

Jean worked at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, Standard of Beav-erdale and retired from Winegard Company in Burlington. She took pride in being an independent woman. She enjoyed keeping a clean home, working in her yard, gardening, crafts and especially spending time with her family.

Survivors include two children: Michelle (Jeff) Bartels of Fort Madison and Corey Enhorning of Burlington; four grandchildren: Brandon Enhorning, Kristina Scott, Marty Scott and Trista Scott, eight great-grandchildren and one brother: Jim Kern of Arkansas. Besides her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents and two children: Kelly Jeffers and Michael Enhorning.

Cremation has been entrusted to Banks & Beals Funeral Home. A graveside service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at LaHarpe Cemetery.

A memorial fund has been established to assist with expenses. Memorials and cards may left at the graveside or sent to the Jean Enhorning Memorial Fund, c/o Banks & Beals Funeral Home, P.O. Box 503, LaHarpe, Illinois 61450.


To leave an online condolence for the family, please visit Jean's obituary at bank-sandbeals.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.

#HyperLocalSuperFresh

HAPPY
THANKSGIVING



In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, we will not publish an e-Edition Thursday, November 23 through Sunday, November 26. We'll resume publication on Monday, November 27. Breaking news will continue to be published on our website 24/7.

We wish you a very warm & wonderful Thanksgiving.

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OBITUARIES

GARY L. LOVELL

Gary L. Lovell, 80, of Keokuk, passed away on Sunday, November 19, 2023, at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Fort Madison, Iowa.

Gary was born on December 23, 1942, in Keokuk, Iowa, the son of Orvell C. and Marie (Haskins) Lovell. On November 10, 1962, he was united in marriage to Carol Winn in Keokuk. She survives.



LOVELL

Gary lived in Keokuk all of his life and worked in maintenance at Metzler (Henniges) for forty-three and a half years until his retirement. After retirement, he worked as a commercial fisherman. He was a member of Crossview Fellowship Church in Keokuk, serving on the Board of Officers, participating in a men's bible study and going on mission trips. He was active in the community, serving in the Emergency Corps for twenty years, Habitat for Humanity, as the Commodore at the Keokuk Yacht Club and President of the Moose Lodge. Gary always saw the good in others and was the "go-to guy" for helping others and fixing things with his brother Terry. He served in the National Guard for six years and loved the Iowa Hawkeyes and the Mississippi River. Most of all, he loved his family, and was especially proud of his children and grandchildren.

Gary is survived by his wife Carol Lovell of Keokuk; two children: Darren (Hadie) Lovell and Dana (Rick) Patton, both of Texas; his twin brother Terry (Ethel) Lovell of Keokuk; his sister Janice Prindle of West Point, Iowa; five grandchildren: Heather (Chris) Conoan, Dallas (Amanda) Lovell, Payton Lovell, Logan Lovell and Connor (Tiffani) Patton; three great-grandchildren: Azalea, Trenton, and Daisy Conoan; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Gary is preceded in death by his parents; three brothers: James "Sonny", Kenneth and Paul Lovell; two sisters: Maxine Wardlow and Lucille Dawson.

Funeral services will be held at 12 pm (Noon) on Saturday, November 25, 2023, at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk, with Pastor Terry Lovell officiating. Visitation will be held from 10 am to 12 pm (Noon) on Saturday directly before the service.

Memorials may be directed to the Emergency Corps or Crossview Fellowship Church.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com. DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.

1st Down's sufferer to serve on state council honored

IOWA - Continued from Page 1

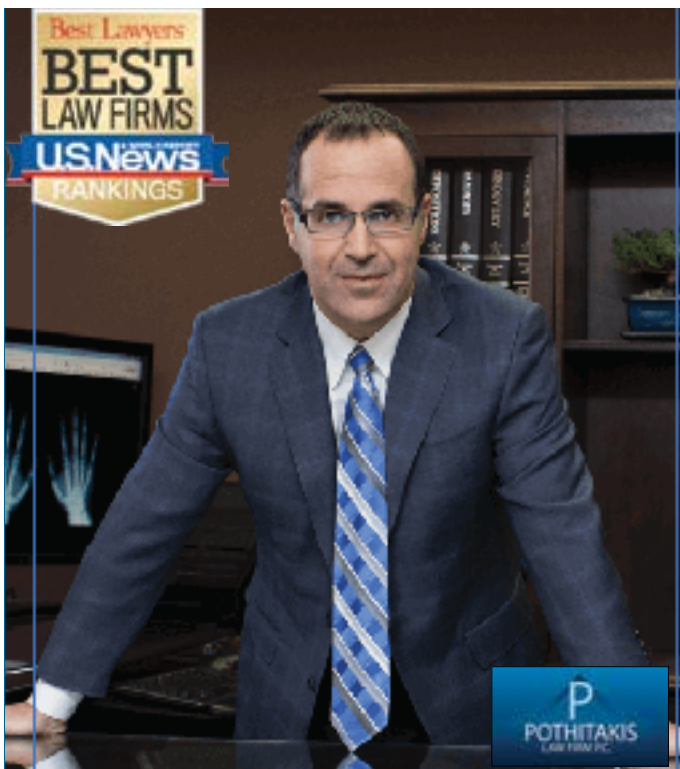
event for the proclamation.

"Mia Peterson created a lifelong advocacy legacy," Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council Executive Director Brooke Lovelace said. "She was an inspiration to everyone, always encouraging people to be their own voice. This proclamation just keeps her legacy alive and will continue to encourage others to be their own advocate."

Peterson was born in Sioux City in 1973, grew up in Webster City, and became the first person with Down syndrome to serve on the Iowa Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, known today as the

Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council. She would go on to testify before Congress, serve on the National Developmental Disabilities Council, and be viewed as a national trailblazer for self-advocacy.

"I learned of Mia Peterson's importance shortly after her death," said Leo Landis, state curator for the State Historical Society of Iowa. "She was a model for all Iowans to seek ways to shape society. When we wanted to recognize Iowans who changed our state and nation in our 'Civics in Action' exhibit, I wanted to include her, and we are honored to share a bit of her story. We can all learn from her example."



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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
TENTATIVE AGENDA
FORT MADISON
CITY COUNCIL**
Date: Tuesday,
November 21, 2023
Time: 5:30 P.M.
Place: City Council
Chambers, City Hall

INVOCATION
ROLL CALL

VISITORS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS: At this time persons may address Council on any matters not on the Council agenda. After identifying yourself by name and address, please briefly state your issue.

PLEASE NOTE: This is not an opportunity to discuss issues with Council or to get information. In accordance with Open Meetings law, Council may not deliberate upon, nor take action on any complaint or suggestion or respond to any allegations which are not part of the published agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to approve the consent agenda:

- Minutes of November 6, 2023;

- Liquor License Renewal: Garner Foods, 2236 Avenue L, effective January 15, 2024 – Class E Retail

- Claims dated November 16, 2023 and October Financial Report; and
- Payroll of November 17, 2023.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

2. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to approve the third and final reading of an ordinance amending the City Code replacing Title 3, Chapter 7, with a new Dangerous Buildings Chapter and adding Title 3, Chapter 10, International Property Maintenance Code.

3. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to adopt a resolution approving the Mayor's signature on Change Order #5 for Public Improvement Project 2020-07, Reconstruction of Old Highway 61 – 10th to 18th Streets.

(SEE COUNCIL REPORT NO. 2023-40

4. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to adopt a resolution accepting Public Improvement Project 2020-07, Reconstruction of Old Highway 61 – 10th to 18th Streets as complete. SEE COUNCIL REPORT NO. 2023-41

5. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to adopt a resolution approving the following applications for a Three-Year Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption:

A. Katharine Crank, 29 29th Place (Addition)

B. Aaron Prado, 1633 33rd Street (New construction)

6. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to adopt a resolution appointing (blank) as City Manager and authorizing the Mayor and Clerk's signatures on an Employment Agreement.

OTHER - None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS/MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT - The next City Council meeting will be at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, December 5, 2023.

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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.O. 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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From the Front

Philanthropy a good antidote

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

Ruby Chitsey understands. Kindness is her hobby. Her mother is a nurse at several nursing homes in the area. Ruby, starting when she was 10, began tagging along and visiting with the residents while mom worked.

Ruby often asked the residents what three wishes they had. She was surprised it was not money or other big things. It was little things they wanted — Chapstick, a certain snack, new slippers, warm socks. But most of all, they enjoyed having someone who sat down and talked with them.

Ruby set out to fill those wishes she heard. Now 16, she has raised more than \$500,000 and given thousands of small gifts since 2018 — along with countless hugs.

“I decided I really need to do something. It really lifts you,” Ruby told CBS’s Steve Hartman last year.

Her simple idea — brightening the day of people who live in long-term care facilities — has spread across the United States. She has a nonprofit organization, Three Wishes for Ruby’s Residents, that now is filling small wishes for thousands of nursing home residents in 40 states using an army of young people who, like her, enjoy being with their old friends.

There was a different kind of contagious kindness on display in Houston, Miss., in 1971. A young unemployed man stopped one morning for breakfast at the Dixie Diner. Suspecting the man might try to leave without paying, owner Ted Horn had a creative idea.

He walked up behind the man and handed him a \$20 bill that Horn claimed he had found on the floor. “I think you dropped this,” Horn told him.

The man used the \$20 to pay his bill and then pocketed the change and left. But he never forgot Horn’s generosity, especially the feeling of dignity that came from not having to ask for a handout.

In the years that followed, that young diner went on to make millions in cable television and telecommunications. Until shortly before his death in 2007, Larry

Stewart spent years giving away \$100 bills to people he thought needed a helping hand like he once did.

Stewart became an unnamed and unidentified “Secret Santa” in Kansas City area. Before his death, he had given away about \$1.5 million and lined up a replacement “Santa,” another unnamed Kansas City businessman, who has given away about \$1 million since then.

This shows that kindness can be contagious, just as Katie Steller believes. And kindness and generosity can make a lasting difference in people’s lives — as Dale Schroeder demonstrated.

Schroeder was a carpenter in Des Moines for 61 years before retiring in 2004 at age 85. The native of Clarion never married and was the last surviving member of his family.

A friend, attorney Steve Nielsen, described Schroeder for KCCI’s Eric Hanson a few years ago: “He was a blue-collar, lunch-pail kind of guy. He went to work every day. Worked really hard. Was frugal — like a lot of Iowans.”

Schroeder told his Nielsen he wanted to give kids an opportunity he never had, to go to college. And, boy, did he.

In all, Schroeder’s \$3 million nest egg paid for college educations for 33 kids from small towns in Iowa. “Dale’s kids” graduated with no student loan debt and went on to be doctors, teachers, therapists and other hard-working taxpayers.

Nielsen said the expectations for recipients of Schroeder’s generosity were modest: “All we ask is that you pay it forward. You can’t pay it back, because Dale is gone. But you can remember him and you can emulate him.”

That admonition is a good one for all of us, because kindness grows exponentially.

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

Tenaska talking with landowners near West Point

WIND - Continued from Page 1

look at setbacks for landowners. The Navigator pipeline project has been halted and all activities around the project has been stopped.

“I don’t think that project is dead by any means, but the county has some time now to do something,” Johnson said.

Board President Garry Seyb said any time the county kicks around the idea of zoning on private land, they ultimately face opposition.

“No landowner in the county wants us telling them what to do with their land,” Seyb said. “Anytime we do that, we get phone calls.”

Supervisor Matt Pflug said he could about guarantee that the county will get some opposition to zoning.

But Johnson said he can see why people don’t want the government telling them what to do or allowing for zoning, but he said setbacks could be something to be discussed.

Pflug asked Johnson if he would support any form of zoning or setbacks. Johnson said if was framed right, he could get behind it.

Supervisor Chuck Holmes suggested that the Lee County Farm Bureau get together and provide some guidance to the county in the form of a statement outlining what they may be looking for.

Most of the opposition to the Navigator project was around eminent domain and the dangers of a pipeline rupture.

Gerking said, at this point, Tenaska and Cordelio Power plan on obtaining voluntary easements in the project and won’t use eminent domain.

“We’ve just started talking with landowners to see if there’s interest,” Gerking said. “We are a private developer and don’t have eminent domain capability. We are seeking voluntary easements and feedback has been positive.”

When told that the Navigator pipeline was a private project that had to go through the Iowa Utility Board, Gerking said they are still developing the list of any local, state, and federal permitting that the project may need to acquire.

“One of the things we kick off with is a critical issue analysis and we’re just on the front edge here, so we haven’t even done that yet,” he said.

He said the project would have a footprint of 20,000 to 40,000 acres, but only 50 to 100 acres of land would be taken out of production. He said the project would be in northwest Lee County and, at this point, not in any other county.

“That could evolve as our land acquisition matures, but as of now it’s entirely within the county,” Gerking said.

Cordelio Power and Tenaska have a joint development agreement. Tenaska has 35 years of experience as an independent power producer, developing natural gas-fired, clean coal, and renewable generation facilities. Gerking said Cordelio Power is a relatively new company, focusing on renewable energy development in select United States and Canadian Markets. He said Cordelio would be the long-term operator and owner of the project. Tenaska serves to augment the Cordelio staff and support the upfront development.

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