

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Tuesday, November 28, 2023 | 7 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 200



www.pencitycurrent.com

FM wins 1st ladies' invite



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Annah Blanchard takes an aggressive position with Tipton's Alyssa Lovell in the finals of the 115 lb. bracket Monday night in the 16-team Fort Madison Invitational. Blanchard would finish runner-up and the Hounds would win the title with 195 points. See Pen City Current Tuesday morning for the full story.

City suffers yet another ATM burglary

CABARET HIT: Police believe burglary is similar to ATM robbery at Cottage Cafe

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A burglar has struck again in Fort Madison, this time at The Cabaret where police are reporting an ATM inside the facility was broken into early Monday morning.

According to a statement this afternoon from Fort Madison Police Chief Mark Rohloff, shortly before 6 a.m., a burglary reportedly occurred at Horan's Cabaret, at 1337 Avenue G.

The owner stated that after she unlocked the establishment that morning, a male subject wearing a ski mask was encountered inside. He immediately fled, leaving with a substantial amount of cash taken from an ATM. Investigation revealed that entry was made through a secluded back door, and that the perpetrator was apparently inside a significant amount of time, evidenced by the effort taken to cut open the ATM with an angle grinder. The victim could only provide a preliminary clothing description, which included a puffy black ski jacket, silky looking black ski pants, and a black ski mask.

Officers attempted to locate the subject and canvassed the area for witnesses and surveillance video. A detective was called in to process the scene.

Rohloff said a substantial amount of cash was stolen from the ATM inside The Cabaret.

It was noted that the circumstances bore similarities to the November 7th burglary at the Cottage Café, 5833 Avenue O, also involving the theft of cash from an ATM. The investigation continues to pursue various leads.

The burglary is the second in the past 30 days and police are currently investigating the link of that burglary at Hard-ee's with a burglary in September at the

See **BURGLARY**, page 7

ILLINOIS NEWS

Dallas City man killed in Saturday structure fire

DALLAS CITY - A Dallas City man has died as a result of a structure fire Monday morning.

Hancock County Sheriff Travis Duffy released a statement about the residential fire in Dallas City on Saturday.

At approximately 10:47 a.m. Dallas City Rural Fire Protection District was paged to a structure fire at 180 West Second Street. Firefighters from Dallas City, Colusa, and Lomax all responded to the scene. When firemen arrived

on scene the structure was heavily involved. Crews battled the fire and located a person inside who was already deceased.

When deputies arrived they met with fire officials and learned that they had made entry into the residence where they discovered the resident was still inside. The fire was extinguished, and deputies worked with fire officials to investigate the fire and death. The Hancock County Coroner was called to the

scene along with an investigator from the Illinois Fire Marshal's Office. Both offices then joined the investigation.

The victim was removed from the scene and transported for autopsy. Preliminary results show that the victim died of carbon monoxide and smoke inhalation. The victim was identified as Lonnie E. Lewis, 74 of Dallas City. Family members have been notified.

The fire itself remains under investigation and no foul play is suspected.

City officials to continue City Manager search Tuesday

CLOSED SESSION: Panel to hold 4th closed session in the past week

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison City Council will be holding another closed session Tuesday evening in hopes of reaching a consensus on a city manager candidate.

Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld said Monday there

were a couple issues the hiring committee wanted to revisit with one particular candidate.

"We will be holding another closed session Tuesday night with one of the candidates," he said. "There were a couple of issues that the committee wanted to take a closer look at."

Mohrfeld said there could be an open session following the meeting if the committee does reach a decision on a candidate.

"That would be the only possibility of an open session Tuesday night and it would be to extend an offer to one of the

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WEATHER

TUE 28 NovMostly sunny & cold, 31° F/ 21° F ☀️
WED 29 NovClear & chilly, 42° F/ 27° F ☀️
THU 30 NovPartly sunny, chilly with chance of rain, 44° F/ 27° F ☁️

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PICK 3 EVENING 11/26.....9 8 7
PICK 4 MIDDAY 11/2610 9 3
PICK 4 EVENING 11/26.....7 8 2 1

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

SABRINA E. WRIGHT

Sabrina Ekko Wright, age 53, of rural Donnellson, died at 7:59 am Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, Iowa. She was born November 3, 1970 in Tarzana, California. On April 5, 1997, she married Lanny "Ash" Wright in California. They moved to Iowa 30 years ago. She worked in restaurant management and was a shift supervisor for Independent Can for 14 years. She was of the Buddhist Faith, she believed that people should be nice to each other and give second chances. She loved her family and her pets.



WRIGHT

Ekko is survived by her husband, Lanny "Ash" Wright of Fort Madison, Iowa; her parents: Sandra Kay Hutchison and Paul Connerton, and David Bex; her children: Seth Thomas, Kathryn (Tyler) Ringer, William Wright, and Kelly Russell (Malicya Bender), all of Fort Madison, Iowa; siblings: Airicka Grove of Arkansas; Stacy (Tracy) Hutchison of Oregon; Aimee Bex (Harlan) of California; Paulina Bridges of California; Franky Dolan (Randy Orduno) of California; Elizabeth (Chris) Craig, of Oregon; Sara Connerton of New York; Paula (Eric) Connerton of Mexico, and Paul (Leann) Connerton of California; five grandchildren: Faye, Asher, Zephyr, Prudence, and Wrenly; grandmother Woody Hutchison of Missouri; numerous aunt, uncles, nieces, and nephews. She was preceded in death by her two grandfathers and one grandmother.

Her family will greet friends from 1:00 - 2:00 pm Thursday, November 30, 2023 at the Barr Memorial Chapel. A memorial service for Ekko will follow and begin at 2:00 pm Thursday afternoon at the funeral home. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Wright family, and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

OBITUARIES

FLORETTA M. SALLADAY

Floretta M. Salladay, 89, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 9:08 a.m. on Thursday, November 23, 2023 at The Kensington. She was born on February 26, 1934 in Charleston, IA to Rhine & Caroline Ried Kirchner. She married William M. Salladay on December 15, 1951 in Donnellson, IA. He preceded her in death in 1987. She worked for the Sheaffer Pen Company for more than 25 years and also worked for Connor's Cove in Fort Madison. She was a very active member of St. John's United Church of Christ and enjoyed cooking, traveling, baking pies, flowers and spending time with her grandchildren. She was very social and volunteered a lot of her time to the community. She enjoyed attending the Fan Fair Music Festival in Nashville.



SALLADAY

Floretta is survived by: 1-daughter: Tina (Jerald) Boyer of Donnellson, IA; 1-son: Mark (Glee) Salladay of Chesapeake, VA; 5-grandchildren: Jill (Cody) Lebeck, Janelle Boyer, Kyle Salladay, Brendon Salladay & Michaeline Salladay; 2-brothers: Roger Kirchner of Fort Madison, IA & David Kirchner of Colorado and 1-sister: Violet Williams of Colorado. She was preceded in death by: her parents, husband & 1-brother, George Kirchner.

A visitation will be held from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. on Monday, November 27, 2023 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A graveside service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at Oakland Cemetery with Rev. Jim Luder officiating. A memorial has been established in her memory. Online condolences to Floretta's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

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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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PEN CITY CURRENT
It's Black & White and Read all over

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

RITA GROENE

Rita Groene, 95, passed away peacefully on Saturday, November 25, 2023, in her home at The Kensington in Fort Madison, IA. Rita was born in Fort Madison on October 13, 1928, to Herman and Clara (Pollmiller) Brandt. On April 25, 1964, she married Robert Groene and together they lovingly raised a family of six children. Rita dedicated 20 years to working in accounts payable for the Sheaffer Pen Company. She then served as the business manager for the Fort Madison Catholic School system for 15 years, retiring in 1989. During retirement, Rita took great



GROENE

joy in sharing her time and talents, taking on many roles including bookkeeping at Sacred Heart Parish for several years, and volunteering at the local food pantry and hospital gift shop into her 90s. She delighted in spending as much time as possible with family and friends and was always up for a friendly card game. Rita also relished being with her children and grandchildren in the kitchen, baking cookies, making the delicious coffee cake recipe passed down from her mother, Clara or preparing impressive amounts of Chex Mix and other treats for the holidays. Rita thoroughly enjoyed any opportunity for travel, and she and Bob made many trips all around the US and to many parts of the World, but her favorite place of all was unquestionably anywhere that she could be surrounded by her beloved family.

Rita is survived by two sons, Jon (Renee) Groene of Clive, IA, and Stacy (Anita) Groene of Pickerington, OH; three daughters, Lynn (Brenton) Reeves of St. Augustine, FL, Peggy (Jeff) Carpenter of West Des Moines, IA, and Gay (Dave) DeGrange of Donnellson; one daughter-in-law, Jane Groene of Greenlawn, NY; 13 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, 3 brothers, and 2 sisters, her husband Robert, her son Jim, and her granddaughter Cara.

Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. Friends and family are invited to pay their respects on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at Sacred Heart Church, where the family will be available for visitation from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. A rosary will be recited at 9:00 a.m. preceding the visitation. The funeral mass will be held at 11:00 a.m. immediately after the visitation and will be officiated by Father Gary Beckman. Rita will be laid to rest in Sacred Heart Cemetery following the service. In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established for the Holy Trinity Catholic School System and Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice. Online condolences can be shared at www.kinglynk.com.

OBITUARIES

MARILYN WALTE

Marilyn Walte, 85, of Keokuk, passed away on Friday, November 24, 2023, at her home in Keokuk, Iowa.



WALTE

Marilyn was born on July 1, 1938, in Keokuk, Iowa, the daughter of John and Kathryn (Diamond) Landman. She graduated from Keokuk High School in 1956, and in November of 1958, she was united in marriage to Joseph "Milton" Walte. He preceded her in death on March 27, 2020.

Marilyn was a bookkeeper for J.C. Penney for many years until they closed, then went to work for RW Cardella until her retirement. She was a homebody, and loved gardening, crafting, decorating and baking. Marilyn took great pride in her house and was constantly working on it. In her younger years, she enjoyed vacationing with Milton, traveling to every national park in the United States.

Marilyn is survived by her son Joseph (Tresa) Walte of Bonaparte, Iowa; four grandchildren: Joseph Walte of Salem, Iowa, Caitlyn (Austin) Kupka of Waterloo, Iowa, Justin Walte of Missouri and Camryn Walte of Davenport, Iowa; Four great-grandchildren: Brecken

Walte of Salem, Cassidy Kupka of Waterloo, Wyatt Kupka of Waterloo and Atticus Walte of Fort Madison; her sister Joan Martin of La Mesa, California; two bonus grandchildren; eight bonus great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Marilyn is preceded in death by her parents, her husband Milton, her son Jeffrey "Jeff" Walte, her grandson Jonathon Walte, and her sister Jean Hannarahan.

Funeral services will be held at 1 pm on Wednesday, November 29, 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 Wednesday from 12 pm (Noon) to 1 PM directly before the service.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Marilyn's caregivers: Jean Roberts, Doris Little, Robin Kitzman, Opal Lyon and Barbie Johnson

Memorials may be directed to the City of Christmas.

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

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

BACK PAIN?

Do You Have Hip Pain? Are You As Stiff As a Board When You Try to Get Up From a Chair? Have You Run Out of Hope?

How 5 Lies About Low BACK PAIN May Keep You Hurting, Frustrated & Exhausted...Forever!

NEW Scientific Breakthroughs Often Make Short Work of Low Back Pain...Just What Big Medical Centers and High Priced Clinics Are PRAYING You Never Figure Out On Your Own!

Hi, I'm Dr. Jason James, and if you've got any kind of back, hip or leg pain, your worries may be over in just a few minutes. Why? Because I'm the owner of James Healthcare & Assoc. clinic, and I've discovered what may be the best healing secrets for "bad backs" — EVER!



Dr. Jason James, D.C.

I'd be stupid to make such a claim if I couldn't back it up. But I am so confident we can help your back, I insist on giving you a 100% SATISFACTION PLEDGE at James Healthcare. I hate empty promises, and I also hate the lies most folks have been told about their backs. That's why it's important I expose these MYTHS about back pain.

MYTH #1: Sciatica (pain down your leg) is always caused by a herniated disc!

No way...even though most doctors will sell you a \$3,000 MRI at the first sign of leg pain. But they don't tell you about a 5-inch muscle in the hip that can squeeze the sciatic nerve. And it feels EXACTLY like you've got the worst slipped disc on earth. It's a major discovery and...

The good news is that it can be easy and inexpensive to correct! How? Just keep reading! But first, here's a picture to show you where the pain comes from:



MYTH #2: Stiffness from Arthritis means you're getting old...and it must be the reason for all your pain and stiffness!

Not true, because thousands of folks with arthritis in their backs have absolutely NO PAIN! Then why do YOU feel like your back will snap if you bend forward or twist too fast? Because the truth is:

Your stiffness may be caused by a hidden, even more dangerous problem than arthritis, and it can lead to a hip replacement!

You see, most folks believe that something mysterious (like maybe an "arthritis fairy"?) waved a wand over them, and they're cursed... doomed to suffer forever.

But did you know that many arthritis problems are CAUSED by a combination of unseen imbalances in the spine and surrounding muscles? It's the most common cause of hip replacements but not that hard to correct if we catch it in time. It's like the tires on your car...

If the alignment is off just a teeny-weeny bit, at first you don't notice, but over a few thousand miles you start to see signs of wear...that is, if you're lucky enough to catch it before a flat on the freeway ruins your day. In your spine, you're lucky if you catch untreated imbalances before they ruin your spine! How to fix them? Just look at Myth #3.

MYTH #3: Your Back is "Out"!

Sure, that's exactly how it feels. But guess what, we found that's usually not the case. It sounds good, but we now know better. You see, there are 7 different reasons for that painful, locked-up and stuck feeling that causes so much misery:

- low-grade spasm
- pelvis torque and tension
- imbalance of hips

- fallen or dropped arches
- stiff vertebra joint
- adhesions in leg muscle
- pinched nerve

It's NOT just your spine, and it's NOT just your muscles. As a matter of fact, if one of the major muscles that stabilize the spine is partly spasmed, a "2nd stringer" will have to carry the load. But this is a serious problem...

It's like having your plumber doing all the dangerous electrical work!

Sure, he may get it done, and it may work at first, but how long until there's a fire? Or your back locks up? Which leads me to our next myth:

MYTH #4: "It's Only a Muscle!"

Boy, it's scary how many people think muscle problems are no big deal. Unfortunately, tight, bound-up, and spasmed or tight muscles can wear out joints faster than you can say, "Charley Horse"!

That's why it's important to examine the spine AT THE SAME TIME as the muscles that control it. It's also why we've had such outrageous success with even the worst backs at James Healthcare. Because we deal with BOTH the spine and muscles at the same time. We have spine doctors (chiropractors), pain doctors (nurse practitioners) and muscle professionals (therapists) and together they deliver an outstanding way to help "bad backs". This ties in to Myth #5 and the diagram:



MYTH #5: "Muscle Relaxants" will help your muscles heal! Good grief, NO!

Your muscles tighten up for a reason, and muscle relaxants are like turning back the clock on a time bomb...you know it's still going to blow up! Sure, you may feel better now, but you'll pay later...and pay "in spades"! So don't fall for these lies about your low back. They'll keep you hurting, frustrated and exhausted forever!

WOULDN'T YOU RATHER:

Turn over in bed without pain waking you up?

Get up in the morning without being as stiff as a board?

Be able to stand for as long as you want without sitting down for relief?

Lean forward over the sink without that "stabbing" in your back or leg?

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- Tension...always tight across the beltline
- Bent—crooked off to one side and can't stand up straight if your life depended on it
- Trigger Point...zinging pain to butt-cheek
- Stiff as a board...creak and groan when you first get out of bed in the morning
- Traitor...can't trust your back and what it's going to do—or when!
- Vice-like...constantly locked down tight!
- Shooting...vicious but short-lived
- Lumbago...hard to pin it down—just seems to hurt all the time, but it's hard to say where
- One-sided...right at that "bone" on one side
- Jack hammer...pounding off and on like a heartbeat or a toothache in your back
- Aching from 1-5 years
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Sports/From the Front

HTC boys are game-ready as season kicks off this week

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON - John Hellige likes the togetherness of the Holy Trinity boys basketball team.

But the Crusaders' head coach is also having to tell them to go home. "They just travel in a pack," Hellige said, laughing. "We have a new locker room, and the guys like hanging around in there, just talking or watching TV. Finally I have to tell them to head home. They have to go home, I have to go home. Turn the lights off and let's go."

The Crusaders have been together for a while, so it's understandable. Everyone but one player — Nick Fullenkamp, who graduated last season — returns.

Plus, Holy Trinity had a busy summer and early fall, which was why when it became time to start practice for the season, the Crusaders were way ahead of where they normally would have been.

"It didn't have a first-practice feel, because of the work we put in during the offseason," Hellige said. "We played 32 games this offseason, which is a little extreme. But I put it out there and they wanted to do it."

The Crusaders played in a fall league at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, where they faced teams from larger schools.

"We got to see some big (Class) 4A schools in Iowa and Illinois, schools like Moline and Rock Island," Hellige said. "But it was just a great experience."

Holy Trinity's players have also worked in a weight program off-campus to get stronger, and Hellige has seen the difference in strength.

It showed, Hellige said, when the Crusaders played Wilton last week in a jamboree at Hillcrest Academy in Kalona.

"We showed a lot of character," Hellige said. "For the first time in a long time, we were the strongest team on the court. That was fun to see."

The returning production has Hellige just as confident — 88% of last season's points, 92% of threes made, 90% rebounds, 95% assists and 95% of steals.

"It's an easy team to coach, because they've been together and know what I want, and know what it takes to win," Hellige said.

Hellige's son, Luke, was the Crusaders' leading scorer at 19.2 points per game last season. Conner Gehling, at 13.4 points, also returns.

"Luke's probably gained about 20 pounds in muscles and is a lot stronger," John Hellige said. "Conner has really developed his game — he's getting to the basket a lot easier now."

Senior Maddox Rung is giving the Crusaders something they've needed for a



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

while.

"We haven't really had that 'glue guy,' and Maddox has become that," Hellige said. "He doesn't care if he scores. He wants to win. He wants the other team's best player on defense. He's fully committed to his defense."

Junior Adam Sobczak started every game last season.

"He's a big assist guy," Hellige said. "Now we have to get him where he can score more."

Layne Rung, now a sophomore, has seen his game grow in the offseason.

"He can shoot it. He's smart. And he's a much improved defensive player," Hellige said.

Koby Jones, Nathan Box and Tate Green will be key bench players.

"Koby's really strong," Hellige said. "Nathan is a little under-sized, but he makes up for that in muscle and sheer grit. Tate Green has really developed as a player and can do a lot of different things for us."

The Crusaders went 9-13 last season, but the experience, plus the offseason growth, has Hellige confident that record will show significant improvement.

"I really like this group," he said. "They're a lot of fun to work with, and they've put in the offseason work. I like what we've done."

Got a news tip?

Call Chuck
(319) 371.1670

or submit it online at www.PenCityCurrent.com

Council to meet in closed session again

SEARCH - Continued from Page 1

candidates," he said.

Following a 70-minute closed session Tuesday night, the hiring committee including city department heads, the city's attorney, the city council, and newly elected councilman Rick Thiele, Mohrfeld said the committee hadn't come to an consensus on a preferred candidate.

Three candidates were brought into town last week for the city's annual Wine & Beer Walk and were es-

corted by city officials downtown.

On the following Saturday, the committee met with the three candidates for about three hours in the morning and then went into a closed session to discuss the candidates and qualifications of all three.

No decision was made at that meeting, so another closed session was held Monday evening to reconvene discussions. Again, no decision was reached, so another closed session was set for Tuesday prior to the regular city council meeting.

The committee has met for close to four hours in closed session to try to reach a decision. Tuesday meeting will be the fourth session to try to reach a consensus.

City officials are looking to fill the vacancy after David Varley resigned from the post May 2. The city has been operating without a city manager for the past six months with department heads taking care of day-to-day operations.

The city will begin budget discussions in about 60 days and the city manager usually leads those discussions for the council.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
AGENDA
FORT MADISON
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
Date: TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 28, 2023
Time: 4:00 P.M.
Place: City Council
Chambers, City Hall**

ROLL CALL
CLOSED SESSION
1. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED enter into Closed Session to evaluate the professional competency of individuals, where said individuals have requested closed session, pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(i).
OPEN SESSION
2. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to extend offer of employment to the preferred candidate as City Manager, and to direct consultant, Mayor and those resources that the Mayor requests, to negotiate an offer of employment to

**HELP
WANTED**

**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.

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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.

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said candidate, subject to approval of an employment contract by Resolution by the City Council at the next Council meeting.
ADJOURNMENT

**PUBLIC NOTICE
MINUTES
KEOKUK CITY
COUNCIL MEETING
November 2, 2023
501 Main Street
5:30 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Keokuk met in regular session on November 2, 2023, at 501 Main Street. Mayor Kathie Mahoney called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. There were seven council members present, two absent. Tyler Walker, Roslyn Garcia (via phone), Shelley Oltmans, Steve Andrews, Dan Tillman, Roger Bryant, and Michael Greenwald were present. Carissa Crenshaw and John Helenthal were absent. Staff in attendance: City Administrator Cole O'Donnell, City Clerk Celeste El Anfaoui, Public Works Director Brian Carroll, Community Development Director Pam Broomhall, Water Pollution Control Manager Tom Wills, and Fire Chief Gabe Rose.

MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE: Informed of City of Christmas.

CITIZEN'S REQUEST: Dorothy Cackley commented on the challenge review committee.

O'Donnell informed Item #7 needs to be removed from agenda. Motion made by Greenwald, second by Oltmans to approve the consent agenda, including the amended agenda. (7) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

- Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting & Council Workshop of October 19, 2023;

- Minutes of the Safety Committee meeting of October 26, 2023;

- RESOLUTION NO. 329-2023: Approving a Liquor License for Aldi, Inc. #15, 3379 Main Street, Class B Retail Alcohol License-effective November 3, 2023;

- RESOLUTION NO. 330-2023: Approving a Liquor License for Dr. Get Wells Bar & Grill, 1100 Main Street, Class C Retail Alcohol License – effective November 24, 2023;

- Motion to pay bills and transfers listed in Register No.'s 5370-5372;

Mayor Mahoney opened the public hearing at 5:36 p.m. on the submission of a US EPA Brownfield Grant Application. A public hearing notice was published in the Daily Gate City on October 26, 2023.

COMMENTS: O'Donnell gave overview of grant.

No further comments were received, Mayor Mahoney closed the public hearing at 5:38 p.m.

Motion made by Oltmans, second by Greenwald to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO.

331-2023: "A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FILING OF A GRANT APPLICATION THROUGH THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY(EPA) FOR BROWNFIELD CLEANUP GRAND FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 4,485,900." (7) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Walker, second by Oltmans to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 332-2023: "A RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE STATUS OF FUNDED ACTIVITIES FOR THE CITY OF KEOKUK, COMPREHENSIVE NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PLANNING GRANT." (7) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Bryant, second by Oltmans to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 333-2023: "A RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE DISPOSAL OF EXCESS PROPERTY AT 1901 MAIN STREET." (7) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Bryant, second by Oltmans to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 334-2023: "A RESOLUTION APPROVING EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH DECKER MANUFACTURING." (7) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Oltmans to select Greenwald, second by Bryant. Motion by Andrews, to select Tillman, second by Bryant to appoint member to petition review. Vote by council members resulted in Tillman being selected 4-3.

Motion made by Bryant, second by Andrews to appoint Tillman to petition review. (7) AYES, (0)

NAYS. Motion carried.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS: First notification to appoint Philip Caropreso to the Veterans Memorial Commission, fulfilling a 5-year term to expire 6/1/2027. Second notification to appoint Andrew Whitaker and re-appoint Amanda Rogers to the Rand Park Pavilion Commission, 5-year term to expire 10/22/2028. Second notification to re-appoint Janice Linder, Raeann Salter, Terry Twitchell, Jerry Herr to the Grand Theatre Commission, 3-year term to expire 11/5/2026.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS: Bryant reported on Great River Regional Waste.

STAFF REPORTS: Wills informed of permit progress; Broomhall updated on plan for comprehensive revitalization grant; Carroll reported on public works and trail project.

Motion made by Oltmans, second by Walker to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
MINUTES
KEOKUK CITY
COUNCIL MEETING
November 16, 2023
501 Main Street
5:30 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Keokuk met in regular session on November 16, 2023, at 501 Main Street. Mayor Kathie Mahoney called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. There were eight

council members present, two absent. Carissa Crenshaw, Tyler Walker, Roslyn Garcia (via phone), Shelley Oltmans, Steve Andrews, Dan Tillman, Roger Bryant, and Michael Greenwald were present. John Helenthal was absent. Staff in attendance: City Administrator Cole O'Donnell, City Clerk Celeste El Anfaoui, Public Works Director Brian Carroll, Community Development Director Pam Broomhall, Water Pollution Control Manager Tom Wills, Police Chief Zeth Baum, and Fire Chief Gabe Rose.

MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE: Informed of upcoming local events.

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

- Minutes of Special Council Meeting of October 26, 2023;

- Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting & Council Workshop of November 2, 2023;

- Cash Receipts & Treasurer's report for October 2023;

- RESOLUTION NO. 335-2023: A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN URBAN REVITALIZATION TAX EXEMPTION FOR ROBERT & ROBIN KORSCHGEN, 728 FRANKLIN STREET, GARAGE;

- Motion to pay bills and transfers listed in Register No.'s 5373-5375; Mayor Mahoney opened the public hearing

at 5:33 p.m. to consider the vacation & disposal of platted unimproved portion of H Street & the alley in Block 72, Mason's Lower Addition, City of Keokuk, Lee County Iowa. A public hearing notice was published in the Daily Gate City on November 8, 2023.

COMMENTS: Broomhall gave overview and requested to table the resolution as Water Works is not ready yet. Oltmans had one citizen who objected.

No further comments were received, Mayor Mahoney closed the public hearing at 5:35 p.m.

Motion made by Oltmans, second by Crenshaw to table the resolution. (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Mayor Mahoney opened the public hearing at 5:36 p.m. on the status of funded activities for the City of Keokuk, Comprehensive Neighborhood Revitalization Planning Grant. A public hearing notice was published in the Daily Gate City on November 8, 2023.

COMMENTS: Sara Hecox from SEIRPC presented details of grant. Keokuk received a Comprehensive Neighborhood Revitalization Planning Grant. City procured for consultant to produce a Neighborhood Plan and contract was awarded to MSA. Total grant is \$25,000 and local match is \$3,750, \$23,000 for comprehensive plan, \$2,000 for general admin. One draw of \$1,105 in

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admin had been submitted, MSA has not requested partial payment, No changes have been made to the grant, Plans must be uploaded by November 30, 2023, IEDA will select 2-3 communities for final award, Neighborhood Revitalization Grant is up to \$1,750,000, 15% local match.

No further comments were received, Mayor Mahoney closed the public hearing at 5:38 p.m.

MSA Community Development Specialist Tara Walters presented details of plan for revitalization grant; should it be ap-

proved and awarded.

Mayor Mahoney opened the public hearing at 6:03 p.m. on the disposal of excess property at 1901 Main Street. A public hearing notice was published in the Daily Gate City on November 8, 2023.

COMMENTS: Jerry Palmer informed of plans for the property, should council approve the purchase.

Mayor Mahoney had inquiry regarding availability of property if council did not approve purchase.

No further comments were received, Mayor Ma-

honey closed the public hearing at 6:05 p.m.

Motion made by Greenwald, second by Bryant to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 336-2023: "A RESOLUTION DISPOSING OF MUNICIPALLY OWNED REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1901 MAIN STREET, KEOKUK, IOWA, LEE COUNTY, IOWA." (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Oltmans, second by Crenshaw to approve the initial reading of an Ordinance repealing Sections of Chapter 9.84 Weather

Emergency.

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

Motion made by Tillman, second by Andrews to waive the second & third reading of the Ordinance.

Roll Call Vote: AYES – Crenshaw, Walker, Oltmans, Andrews, Tillman, Bryant, and Greenwald. NAYS – Garcia, ABSENT – Helenthal. Motion carried.

Motion made by Olt-

mans, second by Crenshaw to adopt & give final approval of ORDINANCE NO. 2047: Ordinance repealing Sections of Chapter 9.84 Weather Emergency.

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

Motion made by Oltmans to approve considering resolution approving Aquatic Center management agreement with the Hoerner YMCA. No second motion. After discussion a motion was made by Oltmans, second by Greenwald to table resolution. (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Walker, second by Crenshaw to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 337-2023: "A RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON AMENDMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 ANNUAL BUDGET." (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Greenwald, second by Walker to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 338-2023: "A RESOLUTION APPROVING SEVENTH MODIFICATION AGREEMENT TO CONVERTIBLE PROMISSORY NOTE AND PERSONAL GUARANTEE BETWEEN AMJET TURBINE SYSTEM, LLC AND LEE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP, INC." (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Oltmans, second by Crenshaw to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 339-2023: "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADVANCEMENT OF COSTS FOR AN URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT AND CERTIFICATION OF EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE CITY FOR PAYMENT UNDER IOWA CODE SECTION 403.19." (7) AYES, (1) NAY – Walker. Motion carried.

Motion made by Tillman, second by Walker to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 340-2023: "A RESOLUTION APPROVING AGREEMENT FOR INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR." (6) AYES, (2) NAYS – Oltmans, and Greenwald. Motion carried.

After discussion, Oltmans motioned to table item, motion died due to lack of a second motion.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS: Second notification to appoint Philip Ca-

ropreso to the Veterans Memorial Commission, fulfilling a 5-year term to expire 6/1/2027. Final notification to appoint Andrew Whitaker and re-appoint Amanda Rogers to the Rand Park Pavilion Commission, 5-year term to expire 10/22/2028.

Final notification to re-appoint Janice Linder, Raeann Salter, Terry Twitchell, Jerry Herr to the Grand Theatre Commission, 3-year term to expire 11/5/2026. Motion made by Crenshaw, second by Tillman to approve only the final notifications for Rand Park and Grand Theatre. (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

First notification for Lawrence Barrett to the Grand Theatre Commission, 3-year term to expire 11/5/2026.

Mayoral Appointment: Judy McDonald to the Keokuk Convention & Tourism, 3-year term to expire 12/31/2026. After discussion, Crenshaw has an issue with the mayoral appointment.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS: Mayor reported on behalf of Historic Preservation.

STAFF REPORTS: Broomhall commented on Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. Informed deadline for submission is 11/30/23.

Motion by Oltmans, second by Crenshaw to reconsider item 8b Neighborhood Revitalization Plan by MSA Community Development Specialist. (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried. Motion made by Oltmans, second by Crenshaw to approve submission of application for Neighborhood Revitalization Plan (8b). (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Baum updated on Civil Service test date.

Motion made by Greenwald, second by Walker to enter into CLOSED SESSION at 6:46 p.m. Exempt strategy meeting to discuss collective bargaining issues pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 20.17 (2023). (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Greenwald, second by Oltmans to enter regular session at 7:37 p.m. (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Personnel Committee to discuss how to proceed with finding a permanent City Administrator.

Motion made by Oltmans, second by Crenshaw to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

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Sports/From the Front



Lady Hounds look to seniors

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON - Landon Bentley's first game as Fort Madison's girls basketball head coach was a win, and he couldn't ask for more than that.

The Bloodhounds' 39-36 victory over Ottumwa last Monday, though, wasn't a surprise to Bentley.

"It was a pretty fun, crazy night," Bentley said. "It feels pretty amazing to start out that way. But I knew we could play that way."

To do it at his alma mater made it more special.

"It's a dream come true," he said. "It's funny to say that. My whole life, I've wanted to be a head coach. I'm from here, I love Fort Madison. I wouldn't want to coach anywhere else."

Bentley doesn't have a deep program yet — he went seven deep in the varsity game and the junior varsity team has eight players. But he knows he has the talent.

His three seniors — Ajia Jenkins, Taylor Johnson and Irelynd Sargent — played key roles in last Monday's win.

Jenkins led the Bloodhounds with 12 points. Johnson had nine points and 12 rebounds. Sargent had just four points, but just having her back out on the court after she suffered a knee injury last season was big for the team, Bentley said.

"I don't think you can explain it," Bentley said. "It's not just the basketball side of things. When you talk about a team spark. Anybody can make a basket. But her baskets just mean more to the team. It gets everyone excited. She brings energy, she brings passion into the game. And that can't always be taught."

The Bloodhounds have had big scorers in the last two seasons in Malarie Ross and Camille Kruse. Bentley thinks Jenkins can fit into that role.

"She's one of our best shooters, she's

got a natural athleticism to move in and out of cuts, come off screens and get open," Bentley said. "Some people are going to have to take those shots they haven't had in the past, and she did that in a big way."

Johnson's experience in the frontcourt just adds to her production.

"She's a smart player, and she's very athletic," Bentley said. "She's played a lot of minutes, and she can do so many different things."

Bentley also likes his three sophomores on varsity — Dayonna Davis, Hadley Wolfe and Halle Menke. Menke had eight points and 11 rebounds in the opener, and joined Wolfe, Jenkins, Johnson and Sargent in the starting lineup.

"Those sophomores play like seniors," Bentley said. "They really get after it when they get on the floor."

"Dayonna is just an all-around great athlete. She's strong, she's tough. Halle is a workhorse — she's done everything we've asked her to do in the offseason, and you can see it in the way she plays. Hadley doesn't get enough credit. She's our point guard. She's our glue. She keeps her composure if she makes a mistake. She turns the page, moves on to the next possession."

Freshman Reilynn Turnbull also saw time in the varsity opener, and Bentley expects her to have a key role as well.

Bentley hopes to give some of the JV players varsity experience as well.

"I want them on the bench, in the locker room, just so they can see what it's like, because that can pay off down the road," he said.

One game down, but Bentley is ready for the longer process of running the program.

"The energy and intensity level, it's different than it has been, and that's a good thing," Bentley said. "But I want to keep that going. My biggest focus as a head coach is to build the program from the ground up. And we've had a good start."

Central Lee boys need to find stride

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

DONNELSON - Preseason jamborees can tell a lot to a high school basketball coach.

The one half of basketball a team plays can tell a lot, even if the result is meaningless.

Central Lee's boys basketball team scored 28 points in its half against Sigourney in a jamboree at Mid-Prairie.

"Last year," Hayes said, "we struggled to score six (points)."

It's a sign, Hayes hopes, that the Hawks are in a good spot heading into Tuesday's season opener against Mediapolis.

"We're solid right now," said Hayes, in his third year as head coach. "Offensively, we've got a lot of things in and we're fine-tuning things with our personnel, because we're so deep this year. It feels good to be ahead of schedule a little bit."

The Hawks bring back most of their key players from last season, and that, Hayes said, has shown up on the practice court.

"This year, it feels completely different," he said. "The guys are really comfortable, and they bring a lot of energy to practice. It seems like the last couple of years the coaching staff was carrying the energy. Now these guys

understand that they need to bring the energy to practice. The guys get along together, and they're supportive of each other."

Hayes has a deep team — he plans on dressing as much as 13 players for varsity games — and he hopes that depth can make a difference.

"We're able to get out and run more, and push the ball," he said. "We're going to play more man-to-man defense — our personnel is going to allow us to do that. And hopefully we can wear some teams down with our length and our depth."

The Hawks' three senior captains — Cory Jones, Aden Ross and Dante Merschman — combined for 46 starts last season.

"That senior leadership is fantastic," Hayes said.

Junior Brayden Wyrick is back after leading Central Lee in scoring (347 points) and rebounds (167) last season.

"Brayden is just so good," Hayes said. "He had a great season last year, and he's building off that."

Hayes has options at point guard. Ross led the team with 27 assists last season. Sophomore Owen Swan made seven starts last season and was second on the team with 17 assists.

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BURGLARY - Continued from Page 1

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