

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Wednesday, November 29, 2023 | 8 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 201



www.pencitycurrent.com

Footage released of Monday burglary



Image courtesy of FMPD

Fort Madison Police released several images from Monday morning's burglary at Horan's Cabaret in Fort Madison. This one shows a perpetrator at that location at about 4:08 a.m. and anyone with information about the two is encouraged to call the FMPD or Crimestoppers.

PHOTOS: FMPD releases images of Monday morning burglary at the Cabaret

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison police are releasing footage of potential suspects of the Monday early morning robbery at Horan's Cabaret.

On Tuesday, police detectives were able to obtain video surveillance footage from the burglary to Horan's Cabaret Irish Pub that occurred in the early morning hours of Monday. Detectives in reviewing that footage were able to obtain numerous angles and videos of the suspect.

- Detectives note the following descriptors of the suspect:
- Dark colored jacket, possibly a Swiss Tech brand. Jacket will have a white cross logo on the left sleeve that is approximately a 1in x 1in logo.
 - Blue colored hooded sweatshirt.
 - Black backpack.
 - Light colored (Tan or Grey) ankle height boots with black lacing and a black patch across the heel of the boot.
 - Light colored work gloves

See **BURGLARY**, page 7

City Council votes to offer employment to candidate

CITY MANAGER: Closed session ends in vote without opposition

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - After nearly six hours of closed sessions, the Fort

Madison City Council voted 6-0 to make an offer of employment to a candidate for the vacant City Manager position.

A panel made up of the Fort Madison City Council, Brett Hinson from Hinson Consulting of Mason City, city department heads, and the city's attorney, have met in closed session five times now starting with a week

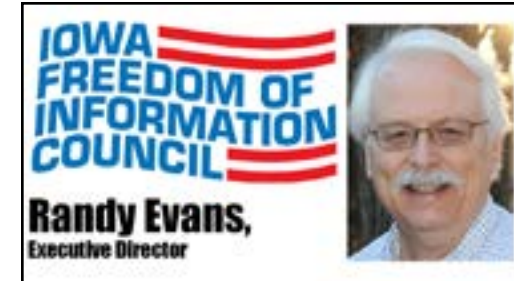
ago Saturday to evaluate the qualifications of the candidates.

Each time, the council came out of closed session with no decision.

On Tuesday night, the council debated for close to 90 minutes and then opened a special public session to announce a candidate has been

See **CANDIDATE**, page 7

COMMENTARY



Government should look harder at our care centers

A few months ago, I bumped into a former aide to Gov. Robert Ray. As we reminisced about the governor, our conversation turned to his nearly daily meetings with journalists.

The aide said yes, those press conferences provided reporters with access to the governor and his comments on issues the state was handling and hearing about from Iowans.

But Ray believed the daily press gatherings had another important benefit, too: Ray could do his job more effectively by listening to the journalists' questions, the aide said.

State government is a sprawling operation. With reporters combing government agencies for news and bringing their questions to the governor, it meant Ray would be better informed about what was going on in the government he was responsible for managing. Sometimes, those questions dealt with concerns the governor was unaware of — matters that could be dealt with quickly before a small issue could grow into a bigger problem.

Today, Iowa is at the point where one issue has been allowed to fester into a significant problem — and this should alarm Iowans with elderly relatives or who expect to be elderly someday themselves. That issue is the quality of care provided by some of Iowa's 414 nursing homes and care centers.

Reporter Clark Kauffman of Iowa Capital Dispatch has focused on this issue. He has written about tragic deaths and serious injuries that were due to neglect or lack of adequate, timely care from nursing home employees. He has informed Iowans about the

See **EVANS**, page 7

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WEATHER

WED 29 Nov.....	Clear & chilly, 43° F/ 28° F
THU 30 Nov.....	Partly sunny & chilly with chance of rain, 45° F/ 27° F
FRI 01 Dec.....	Mostly cloudy & cold with chance of rain, 38° F/ 26° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 11/27.....	18 23 25 50, Star Ball: 4 All Star Bonus: 3
LUCKY FOR LIFE 11/27.....	6 20 22 26 38 Lucky Ball: 17
PICK 3 MIDDAY 11/27.....	177
PICK 3 EVENING 11/27.....	729
PICK 4 MIDDAY 11/27.....	6 8 4 5
PICK 4 EVENING 11/27.....	7 8 3 7
POWERBALL 11/27.....	2 21 38 61 66, Powerball: 12 Power Play: 2

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

RICHARD D. McCARL

Richard Delbert McCarl, Sr., 89, of Keokuk, passed away on Sunday, November 26, 2023, at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Fort Madison, Iowa.

Richard was born on December 31, 1933, in Corydon, Iowa, the son of Ray and Iva Mae (Farr) McCarl. On June 22, 1952, he was united in marriage to Betty Bryant in Keokuk, Iowa. She survives.



McCARL

Richard began his working career at Steel Castings for fifteen years, before opening McCarl Auto Sales, operating his business until his retirement in 2018. He was a hard worker and a jack-of-all trades, remodeling every home he ever lived in. Richard also assisted his brother Jay with tree cutting. He enjoyed going to car auctions, traveling, and camping, and wintered in Texas for several years. He loved children, and they loved him. Most of all, Richard loved spending time with his family.

Richard is survived by his wife Betty of Keokuk; his son Richard "Rick" Delbert (Susan) McCarl, Jr., of Park Hills, Missouri; two daughters: Vicky Mitchell of Keokuk and Tammy (John) Hanson of Fort Dodge, Iowa; his son-in-law Charlie Stevens of Cummings, Georgia; thirteen grandchildren: Todd, Julie, Tara, Scott, Amy, Angie, Johnnie, Jason, Shaila, Alana, Sarah, Amanda and Richard "Ricky" Delbert McCarl, III; several great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Richard is preceded in death by his parents; his daughter Kathryn Stevens; his great-grandson Vincent; his son-in-law Chuck Mitchell; and six siblings: Orvell, Bud, Mae, Hazel, Alice and Jay.

Funeral services will be held at 12 pm (Noon) on Thursday, November 30, 2023, at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home, with burial to follow at Sunset Memorial Park in Keokuk. Visitation will be held at the funeral home on Thursday from 10 am to 12 pm (Noon) directly before the service.

Memorials may be directed to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

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

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

OBITUARIES

MARY G. KELLER

Mary Gwynn Keller, 92, of Donnellson, Iowa, went home to Heaven at 5:13 p.m. on Friday, November 24, 2023, at the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Ft. Madison, Iowa.



KELLER

She was born on March 2, 1931, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the daughter of James and Effie (Cone) Johnson. On January 21, 1949, she married John Ronald Keller in Billings, Montana. He passed away on March 22, 2018.

Survivors include their six children: Rhonda (Tom) Shouf of Palatine, Illinois, Stanley (Kathleen) Keller of Brookville, Indiana, Mickey (Rebecca Wright) Keller of Ft. Madison, Iowa, James Keller of Council Bluffs, Iowa, Calvin (Kimberly) Keller of Morning Sun, Iowa, and Teddy Ann (Paul) Van Velzer of DuBois, Wyoming; one sister: Sharon Stockton of Owatonna, Minnesota; fifteen grandchildren and forty-seven great grandchildren; 1 great- great grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her husband: Ron; her son: Mark; her daughter-in-law: Cyndi Keller; great granddaughter: Sarah Dane and grandson: Micah Keller. Mary attended Embury United Methodist Church. She enjoyed Bible study and her faith was in the Lord Jesus Christ as her Savior. She enjoyed studying the genealogy of her family. The highlight of her year was being part of the Pioneer Village at the Old Threshers Reunion in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. She especially loved interacting with people as she sat on the log cabin porch playing her dulcimer.

Her body has been entrusted to the crematory of Schmitz Funeral Homes for cremation.

A celebration of life will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, December 2, 2023, at Embury Methodist Church, rural Donnellson, Iowa with Pastor Nancy Sinclair officiating.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in her memory for Backpack Ministries at Embury United Methodist Church.

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

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11am - 1pm

Monday, November 27

Pulled Pork, Cheese Potatoes, Baked Beans

Tuesday, November 28

Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes

Wednesday, November 29

Scalloped Potatoes & Ham

Thursday, November 30

Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, December 1

Fish & Shrimp Dinners

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

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

SHIRLEY D. SCHRECK-KERR

Shirley Decker Schreck Kerr, formerly of Keokuk, Iowa, and Keosauqua, Iowa, passed away on Friday, November 24th, 2023, at the Heritage House in Carthage, Illinois, where she had been residing for the past year.



SCHRECK-KERR

Shirley was born on July 8th, 1937, to Edith J. Decker and Carl W. Decker.

Shirley grew up in Keokuk and attended Keokuk Public Schools and First Christian Church of Keokuk. She was a member of the Keokuk High School Class of 1955. During her school years she was in the Pep Squad and enjoyed photography. She especially enjoyed taking photographs of her friends. Her first job was at Peter's Dairy Ice Cream Shop.

Shirley was first united in marriage to Paul Schreck. Of this union, 7 children were born: Stephen, identical twins Douglas and Dennis, Lynn, Arlin, Lorraine, and Lisa.

Later, she was united in marriage to Leon Kerr on January 7th, 1984, at First Christian Church in Keokuk, with whom she welcomed Leon's three children: David, Sherry and Lee.

Shirley worked very hard throughout her lifetime, sometimes having three jobs at the same time to support and care for her children. She was blessed with the help and support of her wonderful parents and brother Carl.

While in Keokuk, Shirley was the manager of Beef, Bread, & Brew as well as the first Submarine Shop in the mall for her classmate and friend Bob Pearl. She also worked at the Knotty Pine Restaurant for her friend and former babysitter Clyde (Butch) Mitchell and Denholm's IGA Grocery Store as the Deli Manager, which is also where she met Leon.

She was also a past member of the BPW.

Shortly after marrying Leon, they moved to Fairfield, Iowa, where Shirley ventured out of her comfort zone and took a position in the advertising department at the local newspaper. Next, she decided she would then try her hand at selling furniture at Heilig-Meyers in Fairfield. She really enjoyed working there, but after a few years in Fairfield, Shirley and Leon decided to move to nearby Keosauqua for a new adventure. They bought the popular Town & Country Tavern, where they worked side by side building what would be a very successful business and making many lifelong friends. For over 30 years, Keosauqua would be their home.

Shirley was a wonderful cook and always made enough to send some home with whoever came through her door. She enjoyed planting flowers and vegetables all around her home. She loved caring for her husband Leon, who had Parkinson's for many years. In their early years, they enjoyed flying out to Las Vegas, sometimes without telling anyone that they were going until they were already back home. In their later years, they would frequent many of the local casinos instead of Las Vegas, while also buying and flipping homes in the area. When at home, they enjoyed watching the St. Louis Cardinals.

Shirley had a special companion, Snoopy, a black Cat. Snoopy was such a comfort to her when it became harder for her to walk. She also enjoyed reading local cookbooks and cooking magazines, while also playing cards with her friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband Leon, her parents Edith and Carl Decker, sons Douglas, Dennis, and Arlin, brother Carl Decker, sister Maurine, nephew Joe Decker, great nephew Bobby Sackman, and her mother and father-in-law Sibyl and Clark Kerr.

Shirley is survived by 7 children: Stephen Schreck, Lynn Price (Steve), and Lorraine Worrell of Keokuk, Iowa, Lisa Lorton of Fort Madison, Iowa, David Whalen (Vicki) of Keizer, Oregon, Sherry Whalen of Riverside, California, and Lee Kerr (Shelley) of Mediapolis, Iowa, 1 niece: Chris Sackman, 12 grandchildren: Brad Schreck, Brett & Cole Price, Trent and Tori Lorton, Kierra Bullard, Devan and Amanda Williams, Chad and Travis Worrell, Aaron, Eric, and Nick Whalen, Skylah Kerr, Savanna Kerr, and Grace & Michael Headinger, and 6 great grandchildren (as well as one little Whalen girl on the way).

Funeral services will be held at 1 pm on Thursday, November 30, 2023, at First Christian Church in Keokuk, with burial to follow at Sunset Memorial Park in Keokuk. Visitation will be held at the church from 11 am to 1 pm directly before the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Heritage House in Carthage, Illinois, or First Christian Church in Keokuk.

Tributes and condolences may be left at dejongsfuneralhome.com.

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

**WARNING
SIGNS
OF
T1D**



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

OBITUARIES

LARRY D. CLARK

Larry Dean Clark, 81, of Dallas City, Illinois, passed away at 5:33 p.m. Wednesday, November 22, 2023 at his home.

Larry was born at home in Pontoosuc, Illinois, on October 20, 1942, the son Dale and Grace (McNaught) Clark.



CLARK

Larry began working in the construction industry at 18 years old and quickly became a heavy equipment operator. He was a 60 year member of Local 649 Union, Peoria, Illinois. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and mushroom hunting. He was a loving father, grandfather, brother and friend to many.

Survivors include one daughter: Michelle (Jason) Gold of Dallas City; two grandchildren: Alex Gold and Emily (Dalton) Merry; nine siblings: Dennis McNaught of North Covina, California, Rose Davidson of Peoria, Sandy Penrod of Ft. Madison, Iowa, Curtis Clark of Sacramento, California, Dale Clark of Donnellson, Iowa, Nick Clark, LaVeta Smith, LaVera Leebold and Sheryl Clark all of Dallas City; a special friend: Sandra Schertz of Lomax and several nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one sister: Sylvia "Sally" Clark and one brother: Montray Clark.

Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. Friday, December 1, 2023 at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City, where the family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m.

The funeral service for Larry will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, December 2, 2023 at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City with Rev. Jim Luder officiating. Burial will follow in Harris Cemetery, near Dallas City.

A memorial fund has been established for Lee County Hospice or the Nauvoo Ambulance Service. To leave an online condolence for the family, please visit Larry's obituary at banksandbeals.com.

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Sports

Lady Hounds run away with FM Invitational title

BY CHUCK
VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – After winning the first girls' wrestling tournament ever held at Fort Madison High School by more than 50 points, Head Coach Kyle Doherty didn't jump up and down, he didn't even smile. He wanted more.

"I called them out a little bit," Doherty said after the event.

"There's a difference. Winning a tournament like this at home is fantastic. You wanna win it, but how you win it wasn't the way we want to win it. We want to win it with clean wrestling and I don't think we did that tonight," Doherty said.

"We need to go back to the drawing board ASAP tomorrow and keep going."

Senior Chloe Sokolik who got her first title of the year wrestling at 130 lbs. said the Lady Hounds needed the butt chewing from Doherty after the event - the first time in FMHS history a girls' wrestling tournament was held at home.

"I feel like we needed it so we don't get in our heads," Sokolik said. "There's always room for improvement. We can't go out there and think we can win every single one of them. We have to know there are people better than us and do different things to beat them."

Sokolik (12-2) knocked off Tori Hansen of Louisa-Muscatine with a pin :24 seconds into the third period. She won all her matches by pin including a pin over teammate Briena Fenton in the first period.

Fort Madison had eight girls make the finals in the five-hour event at the Hound Dome. Hailey Kemper (100 lbs), Annah Blanchard (115 lbs), Mara Smith (125 lbs) Sokolik, Alaina Schwerin (135 lbs), Kat DiPrima (140 lbs), Tatum Peters (145 lbs), Sadie Brandon (155 lbs).

"Eight in the finals is fantastic. It's nice to sit in the chairs and stay in them," Doherty said. "We just have to attack the finals."

Part of Doherty's frustration were the losses in the final four matches and

a highly emotional match between Blanchard and Tipton's Alyssa Lovell. The referee had to stop the match at several points to calm both wrestlers down after several warnings for slapping head gear.

Lovell was issued a penalty point and a caution in the match and held a 4-2 first period lead. Blanchard turned the tables in period 2 with an early escape from a down start where a few moments later action was stopped to draw down tempers.

Blanchard responded with a takedown and then Lovell turned things around with a reversal. As the wrestling moved to the outer circle, Blanchard was able to score her own reversal with two seconds left in the period for a slim 7-6 lead going into the final period.

The Lady Hound started down in the third period. Lovell was issued a hold caution off the whistle and then Blanchard quickly got out of Lovell's grasp for a two-point reversal, but Lovell worked her way out getting four points in



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Senior Chloe Sokolik executes a cradle in her title match Monday night at the Fort Madison Invitational enroute to her first-place finish.

a reversal and near fall. Blanchard would escape but suffer another takedown and eventually a fall at 5:08.

Doherty said the Hounds have to learn to fight through the adversity and emotion of the matches, especially in finals matches.

"Annah Blanchard's match was a high match. We gotta be better there. We can't let everything around us consume us. When the moment was hot in the finals, we caved."

In addition to Sokolik's title, the Hounds got titles from Kemper and Smith.

Kemper rolled through her bracket getting a first round bye and then getting a quick pin over Louisa-Muscatine's Neyva Alberhasky in just :37 and then Wapello's Kenadee Helscher in 1:22 for the title.

Smith rolled easily at 125 until the finals where she was headlocked and hip-tossed three different times in her championship match with English Valley sopho-

more Anna Gorsch. Gorsch grabbed Smith into a headlock almost immediately off the whistle and flipped her to the ground 15 seconds into the match, recording five quick points. The Fort Madison sophomore, who qualified for state last season, was able to slip out of the hold for a reversal, but

was whistled for a penalty point after returning the favor with a headlock and hip-toss of her own that left Gorsch needing a medical timeout. After the penalty point, Smith trailed 6-2 at the end of one. Smith started on the bottom in period two and received a penalty point on a hold. Gorsch was cautioned again after another headlock, but Smith was again able to slip away from the grip for two points. Gorsch executed a third headlock takedown and then got a near fall before Smith slipped a reversal and came out on top of Gorsch chest-to-chest and scored a pin for the title.

"That was definitely

something new. I usually don't get thrown in a headlock a lot," Smith said. "It was nerve wracking being put on my back that many times. I was sitting there thinking, 'I gotta go,' because I knew I was losing. I definitely got caught in a lot of risky positions on my part."

The four-point deficit was the largest deficit Smith had to wrestle back from in the Hounds' first four tournaments. Doherty said Smith has only been on her back six times this year, three in that match.

But Smith said she's starting to gain her confidence in any spot on the mat.

"I was nervous at the start of the year, but now I feel like I'm getting in the groove and have more confidence."

Doherty agreed.

"Mara's starting to figure out there's different competition out there. What's changed from last year to this year is that she doesn't panic. She's wrestling."

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
MEETING MINUTES
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 2023**

The Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa, met on Monday, October 16, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.,

**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.

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.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.



at the County Administration Building, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison, Iowa.

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

All votes are unanimous unless indicated otherwise.

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

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Holmes, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Public Input: Ryan Drenner with Xiphos, gave the Board an update on the NuStar pipeline project. Devon Dade with the Talbot House, invited the Supervisors to tour the facility.

Moved by Schulz, seconded by Holmes, to form a committee to make recommendations to the Board on how to utilize the funds coming from Opioid Settlements. The make up of the committee will be a Board of Supervisors member with a back-up, a member from the Health Department, a member from the City of Fort Madison, a member from the City of Keokuk, a member from the unincorporated area of the County, a member from the Faith Based community, a member from Law Enforcement and a member from the Judicial System. Motion carried. Seyb appointed Schulz to the committee with Pflug being the back-up member.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Fedler, to approve the Iowa Economic Development Authority Community Development Block Grant Contract. The grant is for \$600,000 and will be used for the Health/EMS Building. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Holmes, to approve the Consent Agenda that included the October 9, 2023 Board minutes, the claims for payment for the week and

a Class E Retail Liquor License for Garner One Stop, Montrose, for the period December 1, 2023 through November 30, 2024. Motion carried with Fedler abstaining from approval of the Board minutes.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Pflug, to approve a new hire for the Sheriff's Office, John Gram, Correctional Officer, \$21.77/hr., effective 10/30/23. Motion carried.

Received and filed the Treasurer's Report of Fees Collected for the month of September 2023.

Committee Reports: Pflug reported on an Employee Safety Committee meeting and a Best You Coalition meeting. Fedler reported on a RUSS Board meeting. Holmes reported on a Conservation Board meeting. Schulz reported that he has shown the County-owned apartments to the 2 x 4 for Hope Board and they are interested in the properties. Seyb reported on an Economic Development Board meeting.

At 11:10 a.m. it was moved by Pflug, seconded by Holmes, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 23, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Administration Building in Fort Madison.

Garry Seyb, Chairman

Attest: Denise Fraise,
Lee County Auditor

**Claims paid
October 16, 2023**

ABRA Auto Body, svcs	483.97
Access Energy, svcs	768.45
Ace Hardware, splys	154.97
All American Sanitation, svcs	640.00
Alliant Enrgy, svcs	9624.93
Altorfer, splys	1157.86
E Andries, exps	18.00
Armstrong Tractor, parts	19.30
Axon Entrps, equip	647.05
E Biddenstadt, exps	21.00
Blessing Hlth, svcs	230.00
J Booth, exps	238.50
Ray Bradley, svcs	130.00
Brightree Hm Hlth, svcs	3621.82
Brngtn Multimedia, publ	740.00
ClickStart Web, svcs	

.....	44.85
A Cook, exps	89.00
CJ Cooper, svcs	400.00
Counseling Assc, svcs	720.00
Culligan, water	111.94
Democrat Co, publ	6685.00
Discount Tire, svcs	66.95
RK Dixon Co, equip	539.64
Dodd Prtg, splys	513.60
Donnellson Tire, tires	1162.58
Douds Stone, mtrl	105.56
Drake Hdwr, svcs	1714.00
EMSLRC, mtrl	23.00
B Fader, exps	90.50
Farm/Home, splys	31.96
5th Dist Co Officers, edu	50.00
T Forseen, svcs	202.00
French-Reneker, svcs	8989.15
B Gaylord, exps	40.00
Geotechnics, svcs	5800.00
Govt Forms, mtrls	720.62
N Granaman, svcs	1452.62

GRRWA, svcs	13382.00
J Hall, exps	201.50
A Hayes, exps	128.50
Health Sol, svcs	2865.70
hibu Inc, publ	155.48
H Huebner, svcs	71.96
ICONNECTYOU, svcs	160.00
IA Co Atty Assoc, reg	370.00
IA DOT, svcs	1380.00
S Jeffries, exps	267.00
Jet Gas, fuel	12694.08
J Johnson, exps	31.00
Rvfrnt Brdctg, publ	250.00
Kimball Midwest, splys	143.26
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PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

From the Front

Iowa has poor inspector ratio

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

backlog of complaints to state regulators. And most recently, he wrote about a report from the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging that found Iowa has the second worst ratio of nursing home inspectors to care centers. "Inspection delays endanger nursing home residents," the report said.

Iowa has 46 inspectors who are responsible for an average of nine care centers each. An inspector's workload encompasses about 600 beds.

In contrast, the Senate report showed Nebraska's 33 inspectors are responsible for 5.7 care centers each, or an average of 430 beds per inspector. Missouri's 190 inspectors cover an average of 2.7 centers each, or 280 beds. And in Illinois, the 315 inspectors each cover an average of 2.2 care centers, or 280 beds.

John Hale, who advocates on behalf of Iowa nursing home residents, said the federal report shows the Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals and Licensing has too few inspectors to ensure care centers are meeting their obligations to residents and to the government, which pays the nursing home bills for low-income people.

Hale told Iowa Capital Dispatch, "An analysis of the data shows that the department is significantly understaffed, deals with the under-staffing by contracting out inspection functions to private companies, and ends up paying more to get less. The Legislature's oversight committees should be — but aren't — routinely meeting with the Department of Inspections, Appeals and Licensing and other state agencies to ensure that they are giving taxpayers their money's worth. Their failure to do so is appalling."

Questions that are not being answered by state officials include this dollars-and-cents query: Why is Iowa government contracting with these inspection businesses when it would be far less expensive to hire a few more employees for the Department of Inspections, Appeals and Licensing? Iowa Capital Dispatch said the pay range for

registered nurses who work for the department and inspect nursing homes is \$66,600 to \$93,800 for a year's work. Iowa is paying a private company \$33,300 or \$40,950 for a single inspection, depending on the size of the nursing home.

These "why" questions are not being answered because reporters do not have the opportunity to meet with Gov. Kim Reynolds on any predictable basis and ask these questions. Like Governor Ray's aide mentioned, that is a missed opportunity for Reynolds to offer her perspective on the federal report and the issues it identifies. That is a missed opportunity for her to explain what her administration is doing to rectify these concerns. And that is a missed opportunity for her to address anxieties of relatives of nursing home residents who are troubled by conditions their loved ones see.

Ralph Rosenberg is an Ames attorney who served in the Legislature during the 1980s and 1990s. He is a thoughtful man, not someone who is quick to spout off. He commented on social media about the Iowa Capital Dispatch report and said Governor Reynolds could convene a special committee to dig into the issues involving nursing homes, as some predecessors did, and the Legislature could hold hearings on concerns the report identifies.

Rosenberg encouraged Iowans to tell their lawmakers and the governor to hire more state inspectors to handle nursing home complaints. He would like to see the Medicaid reimbursement raised for nursing home care for low-income people so these front-line workers could be paid more. That should help address the staffing shortages care centers now wrestling with.

I have a hunch Robert Ray would be asking state government and the best minds in Iowa to be looking for solutions to this disturbing problem.

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

Police looking for tips in recent string of burglaries

BURGLARY - Continued from Page 1

-and a military camouflage patterned face mask.

Detectives believe the suspect may be identified by these clothing items, and asks anyone who recognizes anyone that may match this description to contact the Fort Madison Police Department or Crimestoppers.

Detectives are also looking to speak to two individuals that have frequented Horan's numerous times throughout the weekend prior to and after the burglary, a photo of these individuals has also been attached.

Tips can be submitted to Lee County Crimestoppers or directly to the Police Department. Tips may be eligible for a reward, and can also be submitted anonymously.

Police have said the details of the robbery are similar to the robbery at the Cottage Cafe earlier this year. This year, the city has been hit by several after-hours burglaries and robberies of businesses that are open, including a robbery at Hardee's Restaurant where one employee and the suspect were injured.

Offer would need final approval resolution from city council

CANDIDATE - Continued from Page 1

selected. However, no names were released despite the three candidates under consideration being escorted through town last Thursday as part of the city's annual Wine & Beer Walk.

Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld got a motion and a second to extend an offer of employment to the preferred candidate for City Manager and to direct the consultant, the Mayor, and those resources that the mayor request, to negotiate an

offer of employment to said candidate.

The motion was made by Councilwoman Rebecca Bowker and seconded by Donna Amandus. Mohrfeld also requested that Councilwoman Angela Roller help with the negotiation process.

Councilman Dustin Yager was not in attendance.

The offer would be

subject to approval by resolution of the council should it be accepted by the candidate.

The position was vacated when former City Manager David Varley resigned on May 2 of this year.

City officials worked with Hinson Consulting and Southeast Iowa Regional Planning to set up the structure of the search.

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Sports

Holy Trinity girls send message in early season win

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

WAYLAND — Mary Kate Bendlage got Holy Trinity's girls basketball team off to a big start in Monday's season opener against WACO.

Then her teammates started scoring as well.



BENDLAGE



RANDOLPH

The result was a 62-31 win for the Crusaders, and what coach Tony Johnson expects to be a blueprint for his team this season.

Four Crusaders scored in double figures — Natalie Randolph led with 19 points, Bendlage had 15, Presley Myers had 12 points and Teagan Snaadt had 10.

"MK is going to get her points," Johnson said of Bendlage, who ranked seventh in the state in scoring last season at 23.9 points per game. "And then teams are going to start keying on her and everyone else is going to get involved. We've got a legit six players who can score like that, and that's going to be hard to defend."

Holy Trinity started the game with a 14-0 run in the first 2:08, with Bendlage getting 12 of the points and Snaadt getting the other two.

Randolph, who missed all of last season with a knee injury, then scored five points in the span of 96 seconds, and then Snaadt scored on a layup to give the Crusaders a 21-7 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Myers, who ran into some first-quarter foul trouble, came back in the second quarter and scored three consecutive times to help push the lead to 35-12.

Then the third quarter was a mix of baskets from Snaadt, Randolph and Myers. The lead at that point was 58-22, and there was a running clock for the rest of the game.

"It's good to get Natalie back — she's moving well and she's so smooth at getting points," Johnson said. "Presley had some big shots, and Teagan knocked down her open shots. When we start hitting outside shots, and with what we have inside, we're going to be a hard team to guard."

Johnson liked the way his team kept the pressure on the Warriors throughout the game.

"There were times last year where we would have slow starts, or we would come out slow in the third quarter," he said. "We emphasized at halftime tonight to finish what we started, not letting them get back in it, and I thought we did that."

Brenna Graber led WACO with 10 points.

Hellige, Rung pour in 23 each as Crusaders roll

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

WAYLAND - John Hellige wanted his Holy Trinity boys basketball team to get stronger, because it would help the Crusaders down the stretch of grueling games.



HELLIGE

One game into the season, the work has paid off.

Holy Trinity's 59-50 win at WACO on Monday night was about a dominant second half for the Crusaders, who scored 36 points in the final two quarters after trailing 29-23 at halftime.

"You can see the difference the weight room has made for this team," Hellige said. "It's super-exciting to see this team develop right before our eyes."

It was something sophomore Layne Rung could sense.

"Oh, for sure," Rung said. "It's just pushing through everything, being aggressive, and playing our roles."

Rung, who scored 23 points, sparked the second-half run with three 3-pointers in the third quarter as the Crusaders whittled at the Warriors' lead.

"I just had a lot of confidence, and did what I could to help the team win," said Rung, who had six 3-pointers, and had 11 of the Crusaders' 13 points in the second quarter.

The fourth quarter then belonged to senior Conner Gehling and junior Luke Hellige. Hellige had 14 of his 23 points in the quarter, while Gehling had seven of his 13 points.

"I think we've just gained so much ex-

perience over the last couple of seasons," John Hellige said. "Guys like Conner and Luke, Adam (Sobczak) and Maddox (Rung), they've played so much."

That experience showed as Holy Trinity made 10 of their 11 fourth-quarter free throws.

"You know, for the first time in a few years, we had the confidence, we had the composure to finish the game," Hellige said. "We knocked down free throws and took care of the ball, and that's a good sign for this team."

"I think the speech we got during halftime really got us pumped up, and I think it really fueled us," Layne Rung said. "We wanted to beat this team and prove to the (SEI Superconference) how good we are."

Gehling, Luke Hellige and Layne Rung were the only players to score for the Crusaders.

"It's just the type of team we have," John Hellige said. "Maddox and Adam can score, and we want them to score. But they also want a win, and their effort on defense and getting the ball to the open shooters was just as important to us."

Hunter Hughes led WACO with 21 points. Colton Leichty had 15.

Holy Trinity plays host to Danville in the SEI Superconference South Division opener for both teams on Tuesday.

"We didn't celebrate a ton in the locker room," Hellige said. "It's just one step for us, and we've got to be ready for Danville tomorrow night."

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