SHOP LOCAL: Check out the Business Directory in today's Classifieds • See page 7

Tuesday, January 30, 2024 | 8 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 18

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State framing county budgets

PEN CITY CURR

SHELL GAME: Supervisors disappointed in paths to get to mandated \$3.50 levy

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - The Lee County Board of Supervisors continue to be dismayed with how the state is reshaping the ability of counties to manage their own budgets.

In his report to the board, chairman Garry Seyb said the county is now playing a shell game with finances and the state has forced their hand.

The county had planned to reduce its general levy by 58.7 cents per year for the next four fiscal years to move from a current levy of \$5.85 to the state's mandated

FY 2029 maximum levy of \$3.50. That's a difference of \$2.35 or 58.7 cents per year.

Seyb said he had a long conversation with officials at the Iowa Dept. of Management who have indicated that the county cannot reduce their general levy from the \$5.85 because then they wouldn't be at the state maximum on general levy, which triggers the general supplemental.

"We did receive word from the Dept of Management that we will not be able to reduce the \$5.85 any until we drop it to 3.50. Their argument is a county must be at

See LEVY, page 8

Support

Liz O'Neill Rich, a psychologist with more than a quarter century of experience working with developmentally disabled students, works with an area student recently as part of the Great Prairie Area Education Assocation's educational local support.



Courtesy photo

Area Education Agency psychologists provide support

Submitted article

ensure the well-being and success of genuine interest. The decision to students. Let's take a closer look at become a school psychologist isn't

Group wants to build pool of child care substitutes

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - An effort is underway to try to bolster the number of child care workers to help alleviate staffing problems for child care centers in the county.

The county was awarded a matching \$10,000 grant two years ago for a Rural Child Care Market study which generated helpful data and ideas for helping solve a deficit of about 1,600 child care slots in the county.

One of the top ideas out of the survey, according to Breanna Kramer-Riesberg, the community outreach coordinator at the Lee County Health Department, was creating a pool of substitute caregivers to supplement the workforce in the county. "We've received funding from the Lee County Charitable Fund and that will run for about six months into June. So we hope to enroll people for an initial trial period to see if the process works and see if people are interested," Kramer-Riesberg

Editor's Note: This is the next in a series of articles provided by the Great Prairie Area Education Association outlining the services provided by the AEA.

LEE COUNTY - Did you know that Great Prairie AEA provides school psychology support for your school? School psychologists play a vital role in shaping the educational landscape, working tirelessly to

the diverse and impactful responsibilities that fill a typical day in the life of these dedicated professionals. Liz O'Neill Rich is in her 25th year as a school psychologist. Her inspiration to pursue this career comes from growing up with parents deeply immersed in the psychology field. Witnessing their dedication to helping others navigate their inner worlds sparked a

just following family footsteps; it's a personal calling, driven by a passion to contribute to the well-being and academic success of students.

Reflecting on her service, she acknowledges that the journey hasn't always been easy, but it has undeniably been rewarding. Every day, filled with diverse challenges and

See GPAEA, page 8

See **SUBS**, page 6

INDEX

GPAEA

Business Directory	
Connection Bank	
EDUCATION NEWS	P.8
Fort Colony Family Restaurant	P.4
Fort Madison Family YMCA	
FOR THE RECORD	
FROM THE FRONT	Ps.6,8
LCK Roofing	P.4

Lee County Health Department Hospice ... LEE COUNTY NEWS...... P 3 PS.6.8 **OBITUARIES.** .Ps.2,4 • Lonnie D. Glasscock, 75 • Susan T. Haeger, 77 Stanley C. LaFrenz, 81
William Marlin, Sr., 81 • Sandra O'Shea Moore, 75

Pen City CurrentPs.4,7-8
Pothitakis DentistryP.8
Public Notices
RonDavooP.2
Sonny's Super MarketP.5
Southeast Iowa
Regional Medical CenterP.5

WEATHER

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JE 30 Jan Slight chance ra	ain/snow, patchy fog, 40° F/ 29° F	-
/ED 31 Jan		
HU 01 Feb	Partly sunny, 50° F/ 36° F	٨
1U 01 Feb	Partly sunny, 50° F/ 36° F	2

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

SUSAN T. HAEGER

Susan Teresa Haeger, 77, of West Point, Iowa, passed away at 11:30 p.m. on January 15, 2024, at her home, surrounded by her husband and four children. Sue was born on May 6, 1946, in Lewistown, Montana to Edward "Red" Han-



ley and Selma (Wieglanda) Hanley. She married Reed Ross Haeger on August 10, 1968, in Lewistown, Montana.

She attended Marycrest College in Davenport, Iowa receiving her Bachelor's Degree in social work. Sue briefly worked in the field of social work in Lee County, Iowa. Reed and Sue's first business in West Point was Reed's Pizza. Although this business was short in duration, it was the beginning of many lifelong friendships. Sue

HAEGER

started bartending at the Corner Tap, which she and Reed later purchased in 1983. In August of 2023, they celebrated 40 years in business. The

Corner Tap was Sue's life, and countless loyal customers over the years will forever be Sue's "Corner Tap Family".

Sue loved nothing more than visiting with family and friends over a glass of wine, a mixture of Cabernet Sauvignon and Pinot Grigio being her drink of choice. She loved gravel travel with a "water bottle" and NPR playing on the radio. She loved a good campfire and great company to go with it. Listening to music was a favorite pastime of Sue's: from hosting bands at Reed's Pizza and the Corner Tap, to attending concerts, to tapping out a beat while listening to music from the jukebox. She and Reed recently celebrated 55 years of marriage, with many cherished memories of trips which included fishing, visits to family in Montana and Chicago, and countless other destinations.

Sue is survived by: her husband: Reed of West Point; three daughters: Kathleen "Katie" (Chris) Dailey of Terre Haute, Indiana, Jennifer "Jenny" Steffensmeier (Randy Larson) of West Point, Iowa, Megan (Bill) Kruse of West Point, Iowa; son: Ross (Erin) Haeger of Burlington, Iowa; thirteen grandchildren: Daniel Dailey, Jack Dailey, Claire Dailey, Isaac Steffensmeier (Courtney Abolt), Rachel Steffensmeier (Julian Holmes), Sarah (CJ) Richardson, Aaron (Taylor) Steffensmeier, Nathan Steffensmeier (Larissa Ferrill), Elton Kruse (Madelyn Swigart), Owen Kruse (Katie Beach), Emmett Kruse, Liam Haeger and Gordon Haeger; two great-grandchildren: Ouincy and Calvin Richardson, and one on the way! Three brothers: Jerry Hanley of Maiden, Montana, Patrick (Marilyn) Hanley of Billings, Montana, Colonel Robert Hanley (Ret.) of Fayetteville, North Carolina; three sisters, Barbara (Keith) Bruski of Maiden, Montana, Mary Beth (Kenny) Roy of Lewistown, Montana, and Nancy Foecke of Donnellson, Iowa.

Sue was preceded in death by her parents; siblings: Sister Kathleen Hanley, CHM, Mark Hanley, Laurie Voelker, Edward Hanley, brother-in-law: Eugene Foecke, and son-in-law: Ben Steffensmeier.

A visitation was held Saturday, January 20, 2024, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point.

A time of remembrance was held Saturday with Father Gary Beckman officiating at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point. A time of food and fellowship will be held at the West Point American Legion after the service. Following the luncheon, a celebration of life will be held at the Corner Tap.

Burial will be at a later date at Calvary Cemetery in West Point.

In lieu of flowers, memorials have been established in her memory for Iowa Public Radio, Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice or the University of Iowa Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center.

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

WILLIAM MARLIN, SR

William "Bill" Marlin, Sr., 81, of Burlington, IA formerly of Keokuk, died Saturday, January 13, 2024 at his home.

Bill was born on July 9, 1942 in Keokuk, IA the son of John and Dorothy E. Summers Marlin.



He had attended Cardinal Stritch High School and graduated with the Class of 1962.

On February 27, 1965, Bill was united in marriage to Sala Ann Marvin at St. Peters Catholic Church in Keokuk. She preceded him in death on March 26, 2017.

MARLIN

Bill had first been employed by St. Louis Die Casting in the

shipping department for five years. He then worked for the Iowa State Penitentiary as a correctional officer for five years, City of Keokuk as a Police officer for ten years and finally worked at Northrop Grumman as a Security Supervisor for ten years, prior to his retirement due to a heart attack.

Following his heart attack he lived for thirteen years in Burlington, IA. Sala and Bill bought a farm in Burlington and raised beef cattle and loved gardening and canning what they raised. It was the best time of their lives.

Bill enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing cards and traveling to his winter house in Arizona with Sala. He was a very strong Christian man and faithfully read his Bible daily.

His is survived by two sons, William C. Marlin, Jr. (Shelley) of Fort Madison, IA and Scott A. Marlin (Staci) of Montrose, IA, five grandchildren, Amanda Ellyn Fitzpatrick, Anthony D. Marlin, Addison LeAnn Marlin, Samantha A. Marlin, and Matthew Scott Marlin, three great grandchildren, William N. Bowshier, Kyrianna L. Bowshier and Aven Brand. He is also survived by one brother, Francis Marlin (Carol) of Keokuk, two sisters, Kathleen Church of Keokuk and Therese Wheatley of Columbia, MO, several nieces, nephews and cousins and two sisters-in-law, Nan Marlin of Cedar Rapids, IA and Sharon Lemon of Keokuk.

Besides his wife of fifty-two years he was preceded in death by his parents, a son, David Marlin, three brothers, Bob Marlin, John Marlin and Michael Marlin and one sister, Rosemary Dinkleman.

Visitation was held Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to the family to be distributed to Bill's favorite charities.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at <u>www.vigenmemorialhome.</u> com.

OBITUARIES

LONNIE D. GLASSCOCK

Lonnie Dean Glasscock, 75, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 3:12 p.m. on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at his home. He was born on June 23, 1948 in Keokuk, IA to Dean T. & Anna L. Vice Glasscock. He married Vera Elizabeth Mo-



eller on August 19, 1972 in Fort Madison, IA. He was a truck driver for many years for Shipley Construction and served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He was a member of the American Legion, Knights of Columbus, Fort Madison Moose Lodge, Fort Madison Eagles Club, ABATE and was an officer of the Lee County Veterans Commission. He was a loving father and grandfather. He enjoyed playing golf and reading. He proudly passed his love

GLASSCOCK

of reading on to his daughters. He was known to sing a couple Karaoke songs in his Hawaiian shirts!

Lonnie is survived by: his wife: Vera Glasscock of



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Fort Madison, IA; 2-daughters: Kelly (Greg) Reeder of Matthews, NC & Tracy (Toby Wagner) Glasscock of Fort Madison, IA; 2-grandchildren: Austin & Grego-

Black & White and Read all over

ry Reeder; 3-bonus grandchildren: Toby, Kurt & Ryan Wagner; 7-bonus great grandchildren: Lacy Vaughn, Zach Vaughn, Bailey Vaughn, Beau Wagner, Eliza Wagner, Emma Wagner & Keller Wagner; 2-sisters: Twila Parke of Fort Madison, IA & Julie Smith of Riverside, IA. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation was held on Saturday, January 20, 2024 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A private family burial will be held at Soldiers' Circle in Oakland Cemetery. A memorial has been established for the Fort Madison American Legion. Online condolences may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: <u>www.kinglynk.com</u>.

Charles Vandenberg, Editor

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

SANDRA O'SHEA MOORE

Sandra "Sandy" (White) O'Shea Moore, 75, of Keokuk, passed away on Friday, January 19, 2024, in Keokuk.

Sandy was born on September 20, 1948, in Keokuk, Iowa, the daughter of Harry E.



MOORE

White and Mary Lucille Meyers. She married Mike O'Shea, and they were later divorced. She later married Michael Moore, and they were later divorced. Sandy worked different jobs in her life, and in 1998, she worked as manager of the VFW Post 3508. She was employed there for sixteen years until her retirement in 2014.

Sandy enjoyed being with her family, sewing and other crafts. Sandy is survived by her three sons: Rick (Tracy) O'Shea of Morrison, Illinois, Tim (Tanya) O'Shea and Jamie (Rebecca) O'Shea, both of

Keokuk. They were the loves of her life. She was also survived by ten grandchildren: Phillip O'Shea of the U.S. Marines, Tristan (Andrew) Zahnle of Camanche, Iowa, Tom and Tony (Ashley) Vanderleest of Morrison, Illinois, Brant and Tate O'Shea of Keokuk, Haley, Brooke, Lauren, and Landen O'Shea of Keokuk; four great grandchildren Brynn, Lexi, Bennett, and Oaklynn; her longtime companion Leon Ewart of Keokuk; her brother Harold White of Keokuk; two sisters Jean (Carl) Lawson of Keokuk and Janet Conover of Kahoka, Missouri; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Sandy was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Harry E. White, Jr., her sister Kathy Wilsey, her brother-in-law Everett Conover, her niece Lori Conover Bollin and a special friend Tina Garthwaite Andrews.

There were many special people in Sandy's life, most of which she called friends. She wanted to say thank you to all of them for being in her life. You all made her laugh, cry and gave her happiness. You were always there when she needed you or wanted to talk or go to lunch. She appreciated and loved all her friends and the difference they made in her life, especially Diana, Anne, Kathy, April, Carey, Pam, and Tina.

Sandy's life will be celebrated with a memorial service at 5 pm on Thursday, January 25, 2024, at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk. Visitation will be held on Thursday from 4 to 5 pm at the funeral home directly before the service. A Celebration of Life will follow immediately after the funeral service at the Keokuk Yacht Club. Memorials may be directed to the American Cancer Society, the Shriners, or Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice.

Tributes and condolences may be left at <u>www.dejongsfuneralhome.com</u>.

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

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.

OBITUARIES

STANLEY C. LAFRENZ

Stanley C. (Charlie) LaFrenz died Saturday, January 20, 2024 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, Illinois. In his own words, his obituary follows:

Charlie was born December 12, 1942, in Fort Madison, IA, to Joseph S. and Eva



Lancaster LaFrenz. He was raised by his mother, Eva and step-father, John H. Orozco. He attended Ft. Madison schools and graduated from Ft. Madison High School in 1961. He graduated from Burlington Junior College and then attended Northeast Mo. State College in Kirksville, Mo. In 1966, Charlie enlisted in the Army Security Agency and after basic training, was sent to the Defense Language Institute to study French and then to Ft. Devens to learn traffic analysis. His final assignment

LaFRENZ

was a unit in Bangkok, Thailand, working in French and Crypto/ Traffic

analysis during the Vietnam War. While still at Devens, he wrote essays and built displays for the Legacy of Freedom Program receiving several letters of commendation. While in Thailand he volunteered at Dr. Piera's orphanage and other programs. He was honorably discharged in Jan. 1970.



After loafing for a while, Charlie returned to what was then Northeast Mo State University, earning a BA in French

with minors in Spanish and history. With BA in hand, he returned to his former career of bar tending, mainly at Caesar's and the Country Club in Fort Madison. With some GI bill funding remaining, he decided to try something new and attended Bill Hill's Academy but, after 3 years of showing poor talent for hair design he decided he was not successful in this endeavor. As he approached his 40's he realized it was time to use his education and enrolled at Western Illinois University and after two years, earned his teaching certificate. He spent his teaching career at Central Lee Middle School, teaching Language Arts, and Exploratory Spanish, retiring at age 65.

Early in Charlie's teaching career, he was invited to play Bridge and was partnered with Janet Fife, his future wife, and the rest is history. Together, they bought a great old house on Grand Avenue in Keokuk and were married in front of the fireplace in May 1997. With Janet, also a teacher, they spent their summers traveling throughout Europe, dancing wherever they found a dance floor. When Janet's daughter Menda married and had 2 children, Charlie became "Papa Charlie" to Jada and Jacob.

Charlie's love of dancing brought him great joy. He also had a passion for Russian Imperial history and spent much of his spare time reading biographies.

Charlie is survived by his wife, Janet, her daughter Menda (Carlos) and her children, Jada and Jacob of Washington D.C. Also surviving are his brother, John D. Orozco (Louise) and their children, Erin (John) and Ben (Bree) as well as their children all of Colorado who affectionately know him as "Uncle Charlie." He also leaves behind his father's 2 children, Barbara (LaFrenz) Johnson and Wayne LaFrenz, his dear friends the Sloat family, dear cousins and friends, and his dog Jasper.

Charlie's body has been donated to the University of lowa College of Medicine. After

science is finished with his remains, he is leaving his estate to his niece and nephew, Erin and Ben, so that they may take some of his cremains to all the places he has been around the world to sprinkle some here and there.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be given to the Keokuk-Hamilton Dam Museum or Planned Parenthood or other organization of your choice. A celebration of life will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the Keokuk Yacht Club. King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory in Fort Madison is assisting the family. Online condolences to the LaFrenz family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.





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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

01/19/24 - 10:03 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1500 block of Avenue B.

01/19/24 - 8:50 p.m. -Fort Madison Police arrested Meagan Nichole Pool, 28, of Fort Madison in the 1700 block of 35th Street, on a warrant for 5th-degree theft. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

01/19/24 - 10:12 p.m. -Fort Madison Police arrested Michael Jason Westcott, 42, of Fort Madison, in the 1200 block of Avenue D, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

01/20/24 – 6:01 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 3400 block of Avenue Q.

01/20/24 – 7:32 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 4800 block of Avenue O.

01/20/24 - 11:10 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 3900 block of Avenue L.

01/22/24 – 1:01 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 5000 block of Avenue O.

01/23/24 - 3:43 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 800 block of Avenue G.

01/24/24 – 5:13 a.m.

- Fort Madison Police arrested Isaac Isaiah Seay, 41, of Fort Madison, in the 1500 block of Avenue L, on warrants for 1st-degree harassment and obstruction of emergency communication. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

01/24/24 - 12:00 p.m. -Fort Madison Police arrested Jayme Thomesa Jenkins, 37, of Fort Madison in the 4600 block of Avenue J on warrants for failure to appear, trespassing, and charges of trespassing, interference with official acts and unlawful possession of prescription drugs. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

01/24/24 - 1:51 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 800 block of Avenue D.

01/25/24 - 5:51 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1000 block of Avenue E.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

01/19/24-2:02 p.m.-Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Heather Marie Koita, 45, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on a judgment hold. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released after serving the weekend.

01/19/24 - 3:30 p.m. -Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested lan James Fifer, 18, of Macomb, in the 600 block of Des Moines Ave in Keokuk, on warrants for 4th-degree theft and 3rd-degree criminal mischief. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

01/20/24 - 4 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jeremy John Lee Smrt, 43, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

01/22/24 - 7:28 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hwy. 16 near 330th Avenue. According to the report, a semi-trailor driven by Abdurakhmon Imomaliev, 49, of Philadelphia, Pa., lost control on slick roads and slid into the ditch while trying to turn right onto 330th Avenue. No citations or injuries were reported.

01/22/24 - 12:15 p.m. -Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kirk Joseph Kowalski, 36, of Fort Madison at the North Lee County Courthouse on an active warrant. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

01/24/24 - no time listed - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Isaac Isaiah Seay, 41, of Keokuk at the North Lee County Courthouse, on warrants for 1st-degree harassment, assault with serious injury, false imprisonment, 4th-degree criminal mischief and emergency obstructing communication. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

01/24/24 - 12:54 p.m. -Lee County Sheriff's depu-

ties arrested Joseph Edward Curfman, 57, of Keokuk in the 3200 block of Crabtree Lane in Fort Madison, on charges of assault with bodily injury and 3rd-degree harassment. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

01/24/24 - 2:35 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kyle Dean Seneca Meredith, 22, of Quincy, III., at the sheriff's office, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

01/25/24 - 9:30 a.m. -Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Christopher Adam Barnes, 32, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a charge of sex offender registration-2nd offense. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

Keokuk Police Report

12/28/23 -12:48 a.m. -Keokuk Police responded to a report of a two-vehicle accident in the 300 block of Exchange St. According to the report a vehicle driven by Ricky Leon Riddle, 46, of Montrose was westbound when a vehicle identified by police to be driven by Ryne Steven Sackman, 31, of Keokuk was headed southbound on 4th Street at a high rate of speed. Sackman allegedly ran the stop

sign at the intersection and collided with Riddle's vehicle. A passenger in Riddle's vehicle had to be extricated and was transported to Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Fort Madison. Sackman allegedly fled the scene and charges are pending. A passenger in Sackman's vehicle was transported to Carthage Hospital with injuries.

01/19/24 - 5:19 p.m. -Keokuk Police cited Eric Patrick Mahair, 35, of Keokuk, in the 1000 block of Blondeau on a charges of 1st-degree harassment, 4th-degree theft, and 5th-degree criminal mischief.

01/20/24 - 2:11 a.m. -Keokuk Police cited Misty Dawn Rainbolt, 45, of Keokuk, in the 1300 block of Concert St., on a charge of driving under suspension.

01/20/24 - 5:43 a.m. -Keokuk Police cited Dereck Duane Fenton, 34, of Burlington, in the 600 block of Main Street on a charge of driving under suspension.

01/20/24 - 5:51 p.m. -Keokuk Police arrested Caitlyn Elizabeth Day Daniels, 25, of Keokuk, in the 800 block of Johnson Street Rd., on a charge of domestic assault with bodily injury. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

01/21/24 - 3:51 a.m. - Keokuk Police arrested James Keith Barnes, 44, of Alexandria, Mo., in the 200 block of Main Street on charges of OWI-2nd offense, and carrying a weapon will intoxicated. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

01/21/24 - 11:18 p.m. -Keokuk Police cited Alexis Nichole Jones, 26, of Keokuk, in the 1000 block of Palean St., on a charge of driving under suspension.

01/22/24 - 7:49 p.m. -Keokuk Police arrested Craig Lee Rockenbach, 43, of Keokuk, in the 400 block of Burke St., on a charge of assault with bodily injury. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

01/23/24 - 10:30 a.m. -Keokuk Police arrested a 12-year-old female in the 2000 block of Orleans Avenue on a charge of use of tobacco/vapor products by a minor. She was released to a guardian.

01/23/24 - 3:45 p.m. -Keokuk Police arrested a 13-year-old male juvenile in the 2000 block of Orleans Avenue on a charge of 5th-degree criminal mischief. He was releases to a guardian.

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

Lunch Specials Jan 29 - Feb 2



Monday, January 29 Tater Tot Casserole, Garlic Bread, Applesauce

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Tuesday, January 30 Chicken Fajitas, Spanish Rice

Wednesday, January 31 Minute Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans

Thursday, February 1 Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, February 2 Tuna & Noodles, Blueberry Fluff



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From the Front/Classifieds

Initiative would give \$300 stipend at end of training

SUBS - Continued from Page 1

said.

She said funding is available for 25 trainees and that would be a big start for the program.

"We estimated the need would be greater. The biggest need is full-time staff. Ideally this would be for people to try out the career and hopefully this leads to more full-time positions being filled."

State Department of Human Resources requirements mandate a certain staff to child ratio and that ratio is what is causing some centers to reduce the amount of children they can accept because of the worker shortage, or if centers have staff calling in sick.

Kramer-Riesberg said the substitutes would be a stop-gap measure for current shortages, but hopefully transitions into filling some of the shortages permanently.

"Its not a full solution to the bigger problem of more staff in general, but does help with ratio and keeping kids in the centers.

"We do think this would be great fit for hourly staff folks, but not to draw them away from the schools. It's another route for people," she said.

"Maybe certain people prefer babies or two-year-olds without a full commitment to an 8-5 shift throughout the week. Teacher's aides and paraeducators don't get paid during the summer, so this could make that more

a year-long work cycle for those people. We see it as a complement position rather than competitive."

Kramer said the industry usually has a pay range in the area of \$10 to \$15 per hour and she would presume that would be what the substitutes would get paid, but she said that would be up to individual child care centers.

The program is called the Child Care Substitute Workforce Development Initiative. Interested individuals would be eligible for a \$300 stipend upon completion of the required 17 hours of training. Most of the training, with the exception of some in-person first aid training, is online. The group would also provide assistance in connecting substitutes to early childhood care providers in the county.

Currently, about 60% of providers surveyed are currently hiring full or part-time staff. Few licensed centers are operating at full capacity due to short staffing. Substitute pools for early childhood care providers exist nationwide with some states, like Tennessee, investing in statewide technological infrastructure to support widescale substitute pools similar to those operating amongst school districts.

Some larger centers in Lee County have a couple of substitutes on staff to fill-in, however, the concept of sharing substitutes and creating a recruitment and orientation procedure will be new to Lee County.

Results of the child care needs survey indicated

that 77% of parents with children ages 0 to 5 (not in Kindergarten) and 64% of parents with children ages 5 to 12 found it somewhat difficult or very difficult to find child care. Obstacles named were almost exclusively related to lack of openings or not enough spaces.

In addition, over the last 12 months, 56 parents (of 209 total respondents) have declined employment or withdrawn from the labor force due to child care and 95 parents have limited employment due to child care challenges, such as forcing them to work fewer hours or only being able to accept positions that have hours when they can secure child care. Access to child care directly correlates to improved income, expanded employment opportunities, and more stable work performance for families. The child care workforce challenge must be addressed to improve economic and broader workforce development in Lee County.

Preliminary recruitment strategies will focus on targeted populations like retirees, school staff (child care sites have more students during breaks when school is not in session), high school students, seasonal jobs (i.e. lifeguards), and current school substitutes. Offering a \$300 training stipend will provide incentive to complete the full 17 hours of required training and try the profession with little to no risk.

For more information or to apply for the program call 319-457-1395 or email littlesproutsam@gmail.com.



PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE

THE NEXT SCHED-ULED MEETING OF THE LEE COUNTY COMMIS-SION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WILL BE ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2024 AT THE KEOKUK AMERICAN LEGION OF-FICE LOCATED AT 727 MAIN STREET, KEOKUK, IA AT 12:00 NOON.

The agenda includes: 2 requests for Veterans financial assistance, December 2023 monthly financial report. minutes. monthly client report, and quarterly report.

PUBLIC NOTICE MONTROSE CITY **COUNCIL MEETING** January 30th + 4:30 P.M. **BUDGET WORKSHOP &** SPECIAL MEETING **MONTROSE CITY HALL** AGENDA

the Council is given an opportunity to comment on the issue or respond to the audience concerns, and the vote is taken. On ordinances, there is time provided for public input at the time of the first reading. In consideration of all, if you have a cell phone, please turn it off or put it on silent ring. CALL TO ORDER.

ceived from the audience,

PLEDGE OF ALLE-GIANCE.

1. Approve Agenda as written.

2. Schedule Public Hearing called for the purpose of hearing oral or written comments regarding the City of Montrose FY2025 Maximum Tax

PUBLIC NOTICES

West Burlington City Hall **122 Broadway Street**

TENTATIVE AGENDA

WORK SESSION City Council will hold a Work Session at West Burlington City Hall, 122 Broadway Street, West Burlington, Iowa. Work Sessions are open to the public.

DISCUSSION ITEM 1. Fiscal Year 2024-2025 - Budget Presentation and Review

2. Review of proposed budgets for the following departments:

 Mayor/City Council/ City Administrator Clerk/Finance

MEMBERS ABSENT: ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Jesse Logan, Public Works Di-

rector Mike Brissey, City Clerk Kelly Fry, Finance Manager Angela Moore, and City Administrator Gregg Mandsager

CALL TO ORDER PLEDGE OF ALLE-GIANCE

ROLL CALL PERFECTING & AP-

PROVAL OF AGENDA Moved by Lees, seconded by Johnson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Newberry, Crowner,

Johnson, Lees, and Young

ment - \$3,180.00 Clerk's Monthly Financial Report for November 2023

 Payment of Claims as listed on the Expense Approval Report - \$187,781.20

Moved by Lees, seconded by Johnson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Motion carried by the following votes: Aves: Newberry,

Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young **COUNCIL & STAFF**

REPORTS

 ADMINISTRATOR: PUBLIC WORKS: POLICE DEPART-

MENT: Chief Logan introduced K9 Officer Mav-

Employee Wellness Program Outcomes and presented a proposal to continue the Wellness Program for 2024. The cost to continue the program in 2024 will be \$4,045. At this time 15 employees are interested in participating. Crowner stated that he would like to see all employees at least take part in the initial screening process even if they don't participate in the program throughout the year. In addition to the cost of the program, employees who participate in seminars, challenges, monthly exercises, and preventative exams will receive points. At the end of the year, they will be eligible to receive an incentive based on the number of points they receive. The incentive ranges from 4 - 16 hours of paid time off or a payment of \$150 - \$350 based on the number of points they receive. No changes were proposed for the incentives. Moved by Crowner, seconded by Newberry, to approve the 2024 Employee Wellness and Incentive Program as presented. Motion carried by the following votes: Aves: Newberry, Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young Consider a Resolution adding Amari Bailey to

the Fire Department

Moved by Crowner,

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC: The Mayor and City Council welcome comments from the public during discussion. If you wish to speak, please step up to the Council table, state your name and address for the record and limit the time used to present your remarks to five minutes in order that others may be given the opportunity to speak. The normal process on any particular agenda item is that the motion is placed on the floor, input is reLevy February 14, 2024 at 4:30 pm.

3. Set date, time and place for FY2025 additional Budget workshop. 4. Set date, time and place for the FY2025 City **Budget Public Hearing** and Final Approval for March 13th at 4:30 pm. ADJOURNMENT:

*Please note that this agenda may be changed up to 24 hours before the meeting time as provided by Section 21,4(2). Code of lowa.

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF WEST BURLINGTON **Work Session** Wednesday, January 31, 2024 6:00 PM

 City Hall Planning & Zoning

PUBLIC NOTICE West Burlington **Regular City Council Meeting Minutes** Wednesday, December 20, 2023

The West Burlington City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at West Burlington City Hall, 122 Broadway Street, West Burlington, Iowa, with Mayor Ron Teater presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ron Teater, Kathy Newberry, Andy Crowner, John Johnson, Therese Lees, and Melanie Young CONSENT AGENDA

 Minutes from the **Regular City Council** meeting on December 6, 2023

• Consider Right-of-Way Permit Renewals for Centurylink, Iowa Communications Network, Arcadis U.S. Inc., Danville Mutual Telephone, PEG Bandwidth, Windstream for the period of January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2026

• Approve the removal of Taylor Sours from the **Fire Department**

 Accept Fire Fighter Mennen's resignation from the Fire Department

 Approve payment to Shive-Hattery for engineering services related to the Force Main Assesserick and Mayor Teater administered the Oath of Office to K9 Handler, Officer Brice Mennen

 FIRE/BUILDING DE-PARTMENT:

CLERK/FINANCE/IT:

 OTHER STAFF RE-PORTS:

COUNCIL REPORTS:

 COMMUNITY RE-PORTS:

 CITIZEN INQUIRIES No inquiries.

OLD BUSINESS NEW BUSINESS Consider Employee Wellness Program with Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center

Tara McAlister, Wellness Specialist with Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, updated the Council on the 2023

Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

seconded by Newberry, to approve a Resolution adding Amari Bailey to the Fire Department. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Newberry, Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Consider an Ordinance Deleting Property From the Tax Increment Financing District for the West Burlington Urban Renewal Area of the City of West Burlington, Iowa, Pursuant to Section 403.19 of the Code of Iowa

City Council plans to decrease the size of the "tax increment district" for the West Burlington Urban Renewal Area by deleting several parcels around and including the Westland Mall on S. Gear Ave. The Parcels are identified as 10-35-252-008, 10-35-251-001, 10-35-252-010, 10-35-252-009, 10-35-252-007, 10-35-276-009, 10-35401-004, 10-35-402-005, 10-35-252-012 and 10-35-252-011.

Moved by Lees, seconded by Newberry, to approve the first reading of an Ordinance deleting property from the Tax Increment Financing District as stated above. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Newberry, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Abstained: Crowner Consider a Resolution Setting a Date for a Public Hearing on the Designation of the Expanded West Burlington Urban Renewal Area and Urban Renewal Plan Amendment

An amendment to the Urban Renewal Plan has been prepared which (1) updates the description of the City's Urban Renewal Administration and Professional Support Program previously approved by the City Council in the

July, 2022 Amendment to the Plan; (2) identifies certain real property situated in the Urban Renewal Area as blighted property; and (3) authorizes the undertaking of new urban renewal projects in the Urban Renewal Area consisting of (a) providing tax increment financing support to JNB West Burlington, LP in connection with the construction of housing affordable to seniors of low and moderate income; (b) using tax increment financing to pay the costs of the construction of a recreational trail or sidewalk improvements; (c) using tax increment financing to pay the costs of updating the City's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code; (d) using tax increment financing to pay the costs of the preparation of an **Economic Development** and Retail Recruitment Plan; (e) using tax increment financing to pay the costs of the construction of sanitary sewer system improvements; (f) using tax increment financing to pay the costs of the construction of street improvements on Mall Ring Road; (g) using tax increment financing to pay the costs of undertaking the development of a city-wide stormwater master plan; and (h) using tax increment financing to pay the costs of the City's Economic Development Local Business and Support Program. Council must set a Public Hearing date to consider the amendment.

Moved by Young, seconded by Johnson, to approve a Resolution setting a Public Hearing date of January 17, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., on the designation of the expanded Urban Renewal Area described in the preamble hereof and on the Amendment. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Newberry, Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Consider a Resolution appointing City Clerk Moved by Lees, seconded by Young, to approve a Resolution appointing Kelly Fry as City Clerk. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Newberry, Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Consider a Resolution appointing Deputy City Clerk

Moved by Lees, seconded by Johnson, to approve a Resolution appointing Katie Willeford as Deputy City Clerk. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Newberry, Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young CITIZEN INQUIRIES

OATH OF OFFICE City Clerk Fry administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Ron Teater who will begin his two-year term as Mayor on January 1, 2024. Mayor Teater administered the Oath of Office to City Council Members Therese Lees, Andy Crowner, and Ringo Covert who will begin their four-year terms on January 1, 2024. ADJOURN

Moved by Newberry, seconded by Lees, to adjourn at 6:56 p.m. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Newberry, Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

EXEMPT SESSION Following the City Council meeting, the Council held an Exempt Session in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 20.17.3.

Approved Ron Teater, Mayor Kelly D. Fry, City Clerk

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From the Front

Budget law forcing counties School's rely on AEA to to shift expenses around

LEVY - Continued from Page 1

max levy to have general supplemental," Seyb said.

"We get two gears. We either run at \$5.85, which is overdrive and overtaxing county residents, or we can run in \$3.50 where we cannot afford to run and decimate county services. Let that sink in a bit."

Sevb then outlined a workaround where the county would in essence be playing a shellgame and moving expenses currently paid out of general supplemental into general basic to reflect the need for the \$5.85. The move would then reduce the need in general supplemental.

Budget Director Cindy Renstrom said she would have to move \$984,000 from general supplemental into general basic. That dollar figure reflects the 58.7 cents per 1,000 the county was planning to reduce the general basic levy.

"We are reducing your taxes, but not the general fund levy itself. Your overall tax rate will drop the ¼ of the amount that is needed to get to 3.50 by 2029. It's bookkeeping and a shellgame that we should not have to play," Seyb said.

"We don't have a choice but to play with general supplemental to reduce taxes. I want to be as clear as I can and that's as clear as I can be without feedback from state level."

Seyb said he's been in contact with State Sen. Jeff Reichman and State Rep. Martin Graber and both have agreed to look into the issue at the state level.

"Neither one of them had a clear grasp of why that would be that way, but they were both going to look into it. Both are concerned the county was going to have to do that," Seyb said.

"We're going to make it this year, but I don't know how we're going to make that work next year."

Renstrom said with the new mandate for 2029 at \$3.50, the county would then have to move those expenses back to the general supplemental to get in line with the mandate.

Renstrom said there are 40 counties in the state that are currently over the \$3.50 levy and said communications have been started with other county auditors and many of them were planning the same course of action Lee County was, but now are in the same boat.

"We sent messages to other auditors that a lot of counties were going to drop theirs down and are finding they cannot do that. At this point, I'm going through the budget and will have to move \$983,710 out of General Supplemental and into General Basic," she said.

In other action, the county board approved Schickedanz Construction as the contractor for the new Lee County EMS facility in Keokuk. The contract for the building is close to \$1 million and construction is expected to start in March.

assist with special needs

GPAEA - Continued from Page 1

triumphs, has been a testament to the impact of her chosen profession.

One of the heartening stories shared is about Arison, a child with Down syndrome who exudes boundless happiness and a love for books. The joy of working with such a remarkable child highlights the rewarding aspects of being a school psychologist. It's a job that extends beyond assessments and paperwork; it's about forming meaningful connections with students and making a positive impact on their lives.

The evolution of school psychology in the school setting over the past 50 years is evident. From its early days of evaluating children for special education eligibility to the present, where school psychologists are recognized as core team members, working collaboratively with other experts, consultants, and social workers. Together, they form a dedicated team focused on determining the best instructional methods, curriculum, and learner support needed to ensure every child makes progress.

Each day presents a fresh set of experiences – from addressing the needs of children with complex requirements to those with minor concerns. The focus is always on supporting students' psychological, educational, and emotional well-being through activities like assessments, consultations, academic and behavioral interventions, special education support, and more.

Another student diagnosed with autism is now thriving thanks to the advocacy of his mother and the team of AEA staff and teachers. "Our speech pathologists have played a crucial role in implementing a communication device in two languages," explains Liz. "He has successfully learned a work break system, thanks to the collaborative efforts of our school social worker, who helped implement it. His classroom teachers, embracing the challenges of autism, English Language Learner (ELL) status, and bilingualism, have contributed to his thriving journey."

In the ever-changing landscape of education, Liz's journey remains a testament to the enduring value of the work. "When a worried mother or father reaches out, expressing concerns about their child, I am able to say, "I will carry that worry for you and we will come up with a plan," Liz expresses. Every day may be different, but the underlying commitment to fostering the well-being and success of students remains unwavering.

Learn more about the services provided to your school district by Great Prairie AEA at gpaea.org.

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