

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Wednesday, January 31, 2024 | 8 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 19



www.pencitycurrent.com

Corps gives LCC Pool 19 option

RECOMMENDATION: Conservation district gives nod to Corps recommendation

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

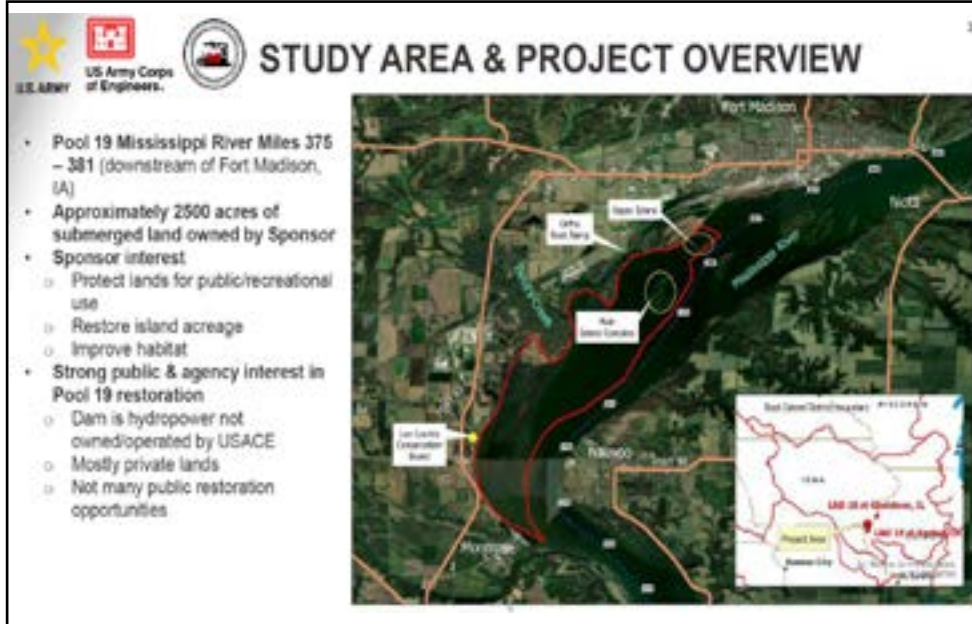
LEE COUNTY – A plan to bring island habitat back to Pool 19 on the Mississippi River in Lee County took another small step forward this week.

The Lee County Conservation Board met and approved a recommended approach from the Rock Island Army Corp of Engineers to use dredged materials to resurrect some islands that were submerged when the Keokuk dam was built.

Lee County Conservation Director Heather Huebner was cautious in her approach to the board's approval saying it was just another small step in a very large project. A project with a price tag of more than \$6 million, and \$2 million would be a local share.

"This meeting was to take action on moving forward with the feasibility study with the Army Corps of Engineers. This was not agreeing to fully commit to the project," Huebner said.

"We are not signing an agreement for design or construction or any financial commitment. There is no commitment beyond our agreement to complete the



Courtesy limage

The drawing here shows the recommended plan of action for a Pool 19 island resurrection, a plan that's been in the works for the past 10 years.

Feasibility Study. They were simply asking for the board's buy-in to move forward with analysis of their recommended alternative.

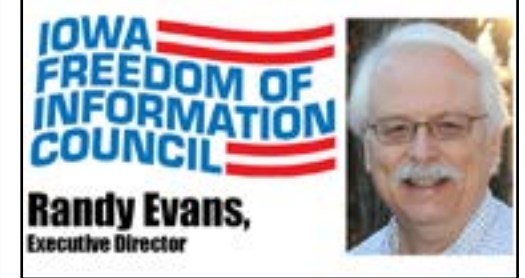
"They want us to feel comfortable and informed and in return will ask that we send

them an email of support. This is a step in their Corps process."

According to a spreadsheet of alternatives presented to the board, the chosen alterna-

See **POOL 19**, page 4

COMMENTARY



Mandating the singing of national anthem not a good idea

These days, with political campaigns that seem to go on forever, Iowans may not recognize the significance of what occurred at polling places across the state on November 5, 1968.

Voters approved an amendment to the Iowa Constitution that day, ending the Legislature's practice of only meeting every other year. Biennial sessions had been a fact of civic life in Iowa since statehood 122 years earlier.

Advocates for the amendment made the case lawmakers needed to be in session each year to deal with the growing complexity of challenges and the pressing demands facing Iowa.

In recent years, however, leaders like Gov. Kim Reynolds and her allies in the Legislature often talk about government overreach and the need to rein in the size and scope of state and local governments.

Maybe they are correct. Maybe voters should be asked to undo the 55-year-old constitutional amendment and return the Legislature to meeting every other year. Maybe that would give lawmakers and the governor time to thoughtfully study these complex challenges and pressing demands — so they do not go into hurry-up law-making mode whenever they spot some perceived need for a new law.

You may disagree with the perception the process of making laws has gotten out

See **BILL**, page 8

COUNTY NEWS

Seyb says he'll run for Supervisor again in 2024

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Lee County Supervisor Chairman Garry Seyb announced during the GOP caucus earlier this month that he would be seeking another 4-year term as a Lee County Supervisor.

Seyb said it took some time and consideration before deciding on whether to run for another term, citing the commitment that is required of the post.

Seyb defeated long-time supervisor Gary Folluo in the 2020 election by about 250 votes and has served as either Vice Chairman or Chairman of the board of supervisors for three of his four years.

Seyb joins current Lee County Supervisor Ron Fedler and current



Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise in announcing their intentions to seek a spot on the board. Fraise will challenge Fedler for the District 1 seat.

Seyb said he's made a commitment to reduce taxes in the county and he wants to see that promise through.

"I told voters four years ago that I was going to reduce taxes and I want to see that done, even though it may take another two or three years to get it done," Seyb said.

See **SEYB**, page 8

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WEATHER

WED 31 Jan.....Partly sunny, 49° F/ 36° F
THU 01 Feb.....Partly sunny, 52° F/ 40° F
FRI 02 Feb.....Patchy fog then partly sunny, 50° F/ 44° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 01/29.....5 9 15 50 51, Star Ball: 1 All Star Bonus: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE 01/29.....14 16 28 30 43, Lucky Ball: 13
PICK 3 MIDDAY 01/29.....1 6 6
PICK 3 EVENING 01/29.....0 9 3
PICK 4 MIDDAY 01/29.....5 2 4 1
PICK 4 EVENING 01/29.....3 6 1 5
POWERBALL 01/29.....39 41 43 49 64, Powerball: 4 Power Play: 2

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

FRED G. BERTRAM

Fred G. Bertram, 66, of Montrose, Iowa, passed away at 2:19 p.m. Thursday, January 18, 2024, at his home.

Born on November 26, 1957 in Fort Madison, Iowa, the son of Darwin and Carolyn (Arnold) Bertram. On June 13, 1987 he married Angie Klingler in Keokuk, Iowa.

Survivors include his wife Angela; son Ethan (Andrea) Bertram of Montrose; daughter Krista (Darin) Hoener of Golden, Illinois; his father Darwin Bertram of Montrose; five grandchildren: Brayden, Brylee, Amber, Tucker, and Allie. Also surviving are two step-brothers and one step-sister.

He was preceded in death by his mother Carolyn.

Fred was a 1976 graduate of Central Lee High School. Fred worked as a truck driver for Blomme Trucking. He enjoyed fishing and hunting.

A visitation was held Monday, January 22, 2024 at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson, where the family received friends.

A graveside service for family and friends was held Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at the Montrose Cemetery with Reverend John Simpson officiating.

A Memorial has been established in his memory.

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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OBITUARIES

MITCHELL L. SWINDERMAN

Mitchell "Mitch" Lee Swinderman, 68, of Merced, CA, passed away on January 18, 2024, at 6:50 AM, at his home. Mitch was born on July 24, 1955, in Keokuk, Iowa to Jerry and Mary Swinderman.



SWINDERMAN

As a child, Mitch and his three brothers, Mike, Mark, and Martin, enjoyed life in Donnellson, Iowa. In Mitch's early teens, the family left Iowa and moved to Visakhapatnam, India, for his father Jerry's work with Chevron. This work allowed the family to visit several countries.

In 1969, the Swinderman family moved to California where Mitch finished his junior and senior years at Pinole Valley High School. It was in Pinole that Mitch met his future wife, Kathleen Corr (Kathy). They married June 22, 1974, at St. David's Church, Richmond, CA.

Mitch attended Contra Costa College and received his degree. He volunteered, during this time, as a Richmond, CA, Police Reserve Officer.

Mitch worked for Greif Corporation for 46 years; he retired as Plant Superintendent in 2019.

Mitch very much enjoyed John Wayne movies, his Harley Davidson motorcycle, his classic cars ('66 Corvette and '65 Mustang), golf, and going on family vacations.

Survivors include his wife of 49 years, Kathy; his sons, James Edward and Jason Lee of Merced, CA; and two grandchildren, Anissa and Bryan Swinderman of Fresno, CA; his brother, Martin of Benecia, CA, Mark II of Mesa, AZ; a niece, Natalie (John) Sagun of Benecia, CA, as well as many other nieces and nephews.

Mitch was preceded in death by his parents, Jerry and Mary; his two brothers, Michael and Mark; as well as other aunts and uncles.

There will be no services per Mitch's request. Burial will be in Montrose Cemetery, Montrose, IA. A private memorial will be held later. Donations can be made to Hinds Hospice, Merced, CA.

King-Lynk Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences for the family may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

MICHAEL A. WESTOVER

Michael Anthony Westover, 66, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Saturday, January 20, 2024 at his home. Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and no services are planned.

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

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

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

Obituaries

OBITUARIES

OLIVER S. HOARD

Oliver Stark Hoard, 69 of Burlington, IA passed away Thursday, January 18, 2024 at Aspire of Donnellson in Donnellson, IA.



HOARD

He was born September 1, 1954, in Chicago, IL the son of Howard and Eunice Starks Hoard. Oliver graduated from Harlem High School and later from Western Illinois University where he received his Bachelor's Degree.

He was married to Retha Cobbs. They later divorced, but remained close friends.

Oliver had been a dedicated minister who traveled throughout the country spreading faith. He also had worked as a counselor in the Mt. Pleasant Correctional Facility in Mt. Pleasant, IA.

His faith was an active and vital part of his life. He loved spreading the gospel and singing gospel music, pleasing God with every note he sang. Oliver enjoyed traveling, especially to Africa and he also loved to play chess.

He is survived by two sons, John Hoard (Michelle) of Keokuk and Steven Hoard of Cedar Rapids, IA and two grandchildren, Brenton Hoard and Kylee Hoard. He is also survived by six siblings, Howard Hoard, David Hoard, Gail Levy (Michael), Addie Robertson (Ray), James Allen and Tyson Allen (Jennifer) and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, January 27, 2024 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA.

Visitation will be held prior to the service from 10-11 a.m., Saturday, at the funeral home with family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to the family, for Oliver's grandchildren's education fund.

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

OBITUARIES

LILLIAN M. HELLING

Lillian M. Helling, 86, of rural Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 11:50 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at her home surrounded by her family. She was born



HELLING

on August 3, 1937 in Houghton, IA to William & Loretta Hellweg Jacobsmeier. She married Stanley B. Helling on January 26, 1957 at Sacred Heart Church in Fort Madison, IA. In her early years, she was one of the first Candy Strippers at Sacred Heart Hospital in Fort Madison. She was a homemaker and helped her husband on the farm. She was a member of Holy Family Parish and enjoyed baking, singing, writing poetry, camping, square dancing, ballroom dancing. Her favorite dance of all was the waltz. Lillian was known for her famous cinnamon rolls, her infectious giggle & her sense of humor. She sang bass in the barbershop quartet with her sisters, the L-Aires. She was the biggest cheerleader for her children's and grandchildren's activities and her most joyful moments were being surrounded by her family.

Lillian is survived by: her husband: Stanley Helling of Fort Madison, IA; 7-children: Marvin Helling of Fort Madison, IA, Steve Helling of Davenport, IA, Mark (Julie) Helling of Kansas City, MO, Darrel (Patrick Bell)

Helling of Overland Park, KS, Margaret (Paul) Cooper of Montrose, IA, Patrick (Mike Rasso) Helling of Moline, IL & Marilyn (Brian) Dingus of Danville, IA; 11-grandchildren: Derek Helling, Brett Helling, Ryan Cooper, Dustin Helling, Addison Houston, Tanner Kruse, Aubrey Helling, Trenton Kruse, Teagan Kruse, Blain Dingus & Cami Rasso; 2-step grandchildren: Airanna Rasso & Bella Rasso; 1-great granddaughter on the way: Lyla Houston; 2-sisters: Luanne (Jim) Pruetz & Laura Hyatt of Fort Madison, IA. She was preceded in death by: her parents, 1-step grandson: Michael Miller & 4-siblings: Wendell, Martin, Justin Jacobsmeier & Lorene Ellerhoff.

A visitation will be held from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 29, 2024 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. At 6:00 p.m., Rev. Dean Graber will say a few words. The funeral mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at Sacred Heart Church with Rev. Gary Beckman officiating. Burial will be held at Gethsemane Cemetery. Memorials have been established for: Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice, St. Jude's Children's Hospital or Holy Trinity Catholic Schools. Online condolences to the Helling family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

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!

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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 spasm, 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 spasm 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?

SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGH:

A hidden muscle may be causing your SCIATICA! Does Your Back Seem "Too Old" for Your Own Body? Not everyone qualifies for treatment, so help us see if you do. If you check off even one box, drop what you're doing and call James Healthcare NOW. And bring this coupon when you come in for your 39-Point "Back-Pain Track-Down Exam". Now check off what describes you:

- 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
- Chronic pain for over 5 years

No one will try to sell you anything, and you make no commitment...you just find out what's wrong!

P.S. Why You MUST Not Wait! Because of appointment availability, we can only honor this \$27 offer or bringing in a new or gently used winter coat through October 31, 2022. So don't say, "Well, maybe I'll be better tomorrow." Don't put your life on hold. Don't call in sick again. Live your life pain free! Tie your own shoes for a change.

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TWILA D. PARKE

Twila D. Parke, 67, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 5:39 a.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Fort Madison.



PARKE

She was born on November 23, 1956 in Fort Madison, IA to Dean & Anna Vice Glasscock. She was an emergency room nurse for more than 20 years and was active in the ABATE Motorcycle Club with her brother, Lonny Glasscock. She loved outdoor activities in nature like camping, canoeing and kayaking, but most of all, spending time with her family.

Twila is survived by: 1-son: Levi (Brittany Klepzig) Parke of Des Moines, IA; 1-daughter: Megan (Trevor Walt) Parke of Cedar Rapids, IA and 1-sister: Julie Smith of Hills, IA. She was preceded in death by her parents & 1-brother, Lonnie Glasscock.

A visitation will be held from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 27, 2024 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. She will be cremated following the visitation. A memorial has been established in her memory. Online condolences to Twila's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

Sports/From the Front

Bloodhounds can't find defense in first half of Tuesday loss

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison Head Coach Ryan Wilson told his squad that West Hancock likes to shoot threes and that could be the key to the game. He wasn't wrong. The Titans hit eight threes in the first half enroute to a 67-58 win over the Bloodhounds in an Iowa/Illinois border battle at the Hound Dome Tuesday night. West Hancock's Lewis Siegfried hit four of the threes in the first half as Fort Madison had trouble guarding on the perimeter. The junior led all scorers with 20 points. Fort Madison got into trouble in the first half missing some bunnies inside the lane banging around with the Titans who play in Illinois. The game was more physical than the Hounds usually see playing in Iowa. But it was the long range proficiency that gave the Titans a 17-point first half advantage. Fort Madison trailed by just five 21-16 at the end of the first quarter, but then shot just 3-of-11 in the second quarter and failed to get to the freethrow line one time. However, the Hounds made a run of things in the third quarter when they figured out how to roll with the Titans' perimeter rotations. "We just figured out how to play defense in the second half," Wilson said. "I harped on it all night and coming into tonight. They'd shoot three after three after three. They'd run that little two-guard rotation at the top. They want to shoot 35 threes a game and we couldn't let that happen. Early on we just let them do what they wanted. Wilson said no changes were made defensively in the second half. "We saw it. They were going to either shoot a three or take it to the rim. You saw them pick it up at the elbow and either look for a back-door cut or throw back. That's their offense. Two up top and three in the corners and they look for that three," Wilson said. "We have to recognize those things." The Bloodhounds were able to shut down the perimeter in the final two periods, but couldn't cut into the lead as the Titans turned to scoring off the dribble with the defense spread out. Hunter Cresswell's bucket with 4:05 left in the third period on a move inside cut the lead to 12 at 43-31. The Titans would go 5-of-5 from there to push the lead back to 16 at 53-37 going into the final period. Fort Madison would go on a 15-6 run through the first five minutes of the fourth period. Julian Dear hit a 3-ball from the left wing and then, after a Hounds' defensive stop, Leif Boeding converted a 3-point play on a driving layup from the right side to cut the lead to just nine at 59-50. Fort Madison would get another stop at the south end of the gym and then Cresswell would get fouled putting back a Carson Rashid miss. The senior would convert both free-throws to make it 59-52. West Hancock would get a freethrow from Gavin Grothaus, but Rashid would score on a driving one-handed scoop with :51 left to cut the lead to six at 60-54. That would be the closest the Hounds would get as they had to go into foul mode and the Titans managed to keep the ball in Nolan Hurt's hands and he hit five out of six down



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg;PCC

Fort Madison senior Hunter Cresswell tries to cut off West Hancock's Nolan Gooding (15) in the first half of the Hounds' 67-58 loss Tuesday in Fort Madison.

The Hounds are 5-2 in Southeast Conference action, tied with Keokuk just a game back of Mt. Pleasant (6-1). Fort Madison is now 7-6 overall and travels to Keokuk in a boys'/ girls' makeup double header Wednesday and then travel to 6-9 Washington Friday night.

the stretch to seal the win. "Kudos to our guys in the second half. We held them to 27 points and the last seven or eight were free-throws. We got to within five or six and you think back to some of the easy layups and freethrows we missed early on," Wilson said. "The refs let us play. They weren't calling much. It's tough to adjust to that with consistency," Wilson said on the Illinois officiating team. But he said he hopes the second half carries over into tomorrow's clash in Keokuk saying all games matter going forward. "They all do. The big thing about tonight is how we responded and played in the second half. We scored 37 or something and we need to carry that into tomorrow night in Keokuk. Every game in this stretch is huge in the conference right now."

LCC director says no county money would be used on Pool 19 project

POOL 19 - Continued from Page 1

tive carries a \$6.2 million pricetag. That includes a \$550,000 feasibility study paid for by an allowance from federal dollars, making the new cost of the project \$5.65 million. That cost will be split 65/35 with the county's total as a sponsor being \$1.98 million. Huebner said the conservation district will not be using county money for their share should they move forward with the project. "I'm talking to other interested parties regarding this project," she said. She said the goal for the Corp of Engineers would be to complete the feasibility study and move forward in the fall of 2024. "At this time, if we are not prepared to move forward, whether that is financially, or not comfortable with any aspect of the project, then we do not have to move forward," Huebner said. "It is in our best interest to let them finish the feasibility study as we are not committed financially or in any other manner yet. The island project conversation has been happening for at least a decade with Jim Noll leading the charge. We are thrilled that we have the attention of the Corps and other groups in the interest of Pool 19... we just have to see what we can make happen."



Lunch Specials

Jan 29 - Feb 2
11am - 1pm

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

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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Sports/Classifieds

Lady Crusaders rebound from rough Monday loss

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON - The second loss of the season for Holy Trinity's girls basketball team provided plenty of motivation for Tuesday's 59-21 win over Central Lee at Shottenkirk Gym.

The Crusaders (16-2 overall, 11-2 SEI Superconference) were steamed at Monday's 56-49 loss at Danville for a lot of reasons. That anger is why coach Tony Johnson was so confident in Tuesday's game.

"We weren't happy when we left Danville, so I knew we would be all right," Johnson said. "There was nobody happy wearing a blue shirt last night, and I knew this was going to be the outcome."

"It was a lot better than last night. We remained in control," said senior Mary Kate Bendlage, who led the Crusaders with 20 points. "I think when we stay in control, and not get out of our senses, we are such a good team. Last night we got out of whack, it got a little helter-skelter, and then we just lost control. Our heads kind of blew up."

That kind of mayhem affected the Crusaders.

"It was really frustrating," Bendlage said. "We missed bunnies, I missed free throws. If we would have made our free throws, made the little shots, we win that game by 10 or 15 points."

Holy Trinity opened this game with a 9-0 run and led 20-4 at the end of the first quarter, 37-9 at halftime.

"I was glad that we played better tonight," Johnson said. "We got the ball where we wanted, we were more under control."

Central Lee (5-13, 5-8) scored just two points over the final 7:50 of the first half. The Hawks finished a



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg:PCC

Fort Madison senior Natalie Randolph feeds sophomore Presley Myers who's posted up in the lane in the third quarter of the Lady Crusaders' win Tuesday night.

stretch of four games in five days that included games against Danville and Holy Trinity, the two top teams in the South Division, and a game against Keokuk, which

is ranked 15th in Class 4A.

"We just haven't had any practice to work on things," Central Lee coach Taylor Hickey said. "Last night against Notre Dame, I told the girls that we could take spurts from each game, and we're a whole different team. We've got to put it all together, plus we're just worn down."

Holy Trinity's pressure defense bothered the Hawks, Hickey said.

"Our girls just got sped up," she said. "We made some mistakes, as we normally do. And when their shots started falling, our heads started dropping."

Central Lee was without point guard Lizzy Mason, who was injured in Monday's game against Notre Dame.

"Just a lot of weird things tonight," Hickey said. "We're just trying to figure out how to get better. It's hard when we're losing, and the girls are getting down. It's, like, how do we find good in it, and how can we teach them? There were times, when Holy Trinity was running their 1-2-2 press, that I wanted to call a timeout and say to the ref, 'Can I go out and show the girls really quick what we need to do?'"

Taylor Jones led Central Lee with 10 points.

Natalie Randolph added 18 points for the Crusaders, who play in Saturday's SEI Superconference Shootout game at Southeastern Community College in West Burlington.

"I think we had some hungry kids tonight who wanted to play for something we've never had a chance to do on Saturday," Johnson said. "It's our first time getting to play in the Saturday game at SCC, and I know that's something that they wanted to do."

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDING FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL 12/19/2023

At 4:30 P.M., Council met in Exempt Session on Tuesday, December 19, 2023. Mayor Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Andrews, Bowker, Yager, Gray, Roller and Rink present. Amandus was absent.

On motion, Council approved to enter into Exempt Session under Iowa Code 20.17(3) to discuss collective bargaining strategy with the City's bargaining representative, Lynch Dallas, P.C.

On motion, Council approved to exit out of Exempt Session at 5:11 P.M.

Following the Exempt Session, Council recessed until 5:30 P.M.

At 5:30 P.M., Council met in adjourned session on Tuesday, December 19, 2023. Mayor Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Amandus, Andrews, Bowker, Yager, Gray, Roller and Rink present.

On motion, Council approved the Consent Agenda: Minutes of 12/5/2023;

Liquor License Renewals: Dollar General #15777; Claims dated 12/14/2023, November Financial Report; and Payroll of 12/15/2023.

On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-88, approving the final determination on potential sale of interest in real property and approving and authorizing execution of a purchase agreement by and between the City of Fort Madison and Kapo Realty, LTD within the Business US Highway 61 Corridor Urban Renewal Area for a cost of \$155,000. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-89

appointing City Manager Laura Liegois to serve on the SEIRPC Board of Directors, term expiring 1/1/2025. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-90, approving Partial Payment Application #1 in the amount of \$110,834.55 to Voltmer, Inc. of Decorah, Iowa for Public Improvement Project 2022-03 Fort Madison Municipal Airport AWOS Replacement Project. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-91, approving the Title VI Non-Discrimination As-

urances and Agreement, appointing Mark Bousset as the City's Title VI Coordinator and naming Mark Bousset and Laura Liegois as designated signatories for the City of Fort Madison. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-92, accepting Public Improvement Project 2022-02, Marina Improvements - Fuel System as complete. On motion, Council ap-

proved 2024 City Council Meeting Dates. On motion, Council approved the Mayor's appointment of Josh Denning to the Airport Commission, filling an unexpired term, expiring 9/30/2025. The meeting adjourned at 6:04 P.M. /s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor ATTEST: /s/ Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk

EXPENDITURES	
General	\$37,832.38
Special Rev.	372,438.57
Road Use	31,748.98
Debt	0.00
Capital	0.00
Water	40,203.56
Sewer	50,055.64
Sld Waste, IWC	26,322.06
SW Utility	118.00
	<u>\$558,719.19</u>

REVENUES	
General	\$146,987.44
Special Rev.	243,706.60
Road Use	124,720.27
Debt	61,992.68
Capital	0.00
Water	0.00
Sewer	12,203.17
Sld Wst & IWC	0.00
SW Utility	0.00
	<u>\$589,610.16</u>

CLAIMS 12/19/2023

AHLERS & COONEY, PC PROF FEE - URBAN RENEWAL..... 175.00 AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING, ANNUAL WEB HOSTING FEE 500.00 AMSOIL, INC, GREASE/LUBE SPRAY274.11 ANSER IOWA, WATER ANSWERING SERVICE

PAYROLL	
General	\$ 202,668.57
Road Use	25,870.08
Employee Benefits	7,707.49
Water	37,348.54
Sewer	32,414.16
Solid Waste	16,839.10
Airport	343.01
Storm Water	3,096.98
	<u>\$326,287.93</u>

..... 232.00 ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES, SHOP SUPPLIES/UNIFORM.... 73.97 ASKEW SCIENTIFIC CONSULTING, PRE-TREATMENT SURVEY 1,400.00 AT&T MOBILITY, PHONES/HOT SPOTS 1,789.15 BARCO MUNICIPAL

PRODUCTS INC, WINTER WEAR..... 291.77 CORY BROWN, MILE-AGE 83.32 BJ 'S PERFORMANCE, REPLACE TIRES 657.48 BURLINGTON MUNI WATER, BACTERIA SAMPLE 85.00 CALHOUN-BURNS AND ASSOC, PROF FEE - BROS SWAP 2,455.00 CESSFORD CONSTRUCTION CO., ROCK 331.90 CLIFFORD STEWART, EDUCATION..... 75.00 CPEC, FUEL SYSTEM @ MARINA..... 5,655.40 CRESCENT ELECTRIC SUPPLY, FUSE 26.59 CULLEN PEST CONTROL, TERMITE RENEWAL..... 269.00 DAILY DEMOCRAT, PUBLICATIONS..... 288.83 DOG WASTE DEPOT, DOG WASTE BAGS 199.95 DOUDS STONE, LLC, CLEAN STONE 3,016.98 DUNKIN GARAGE & TOWING, OIL CHANGE 572.00 EAGLE ENGRAVING, NAME TAGS..... 9.50 EUROFIN ENVIRONMENT TESTING, WEEKLY SAMPLE 355.24 FARM & HOME SUPPLY,

HINGE 67.96 FRENCH-RENEKER-ASSOC., PROF FEE - 48TH ST TRAIL 6,210.10 GREAT RIVER REGIONAL WASTE, GARBAGE PICK-UP 21,839.26 GREAT WESTERN SUPPLY CO, TOWELS.. 88.14 GREENWOOD CLEANING SYSTEM, TRASH BAGS..... 929.05 HACH COMPANY, TESTING SUPPLIES.. 2,397.61 HOENIG TREE SERVICE INC, REMOVE TREE @ 2001 G..... 4,250.00 HOWARD R GREEN COMPANY, PROF FEE - GIS 2,500.00 HUFFMAN WELDING & MACHINE, BOLTS 1,036.14 HUMBURD AUTO SERVICE, TIRE REPAIR 55.25 HY-VEE ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE, PAPER PRODUCTS 69.28 ICONNECTYOU, INTERNET FOR FINGERPRINT MACH..... 5.00 IDEAL READY MIX COMPANY, CEMENT @ 24TH & B..... 1,402.41 IOWA DEPT OF NATURAL RES., CERTIFICATION FEE 80.00 IOWA MUNICIPAL WORKERS, WORKMAN'S COMP #6 11,400.00

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PUBLIC NOTICES

IOWA POLICE CHIEFS ASSOC, MEMBERSHIP 125.00
 IOWA PRISON INDUSTRIES, SIGNS 891.33
 IOWA STATE PENITENTIARY, PRISON TOURS 2,842.50
 JAMIE CARLE, TRAINING 128.08
 JIM BAIER INC., OIL CHANGE/REPLACE FILTER/BLAD 290.00
 KEMPKERS TRUE VALUE, PARTS/RENTAL/ POSTAGE 2,133.08
 KINGSCOTE CHEMICALS INC, TOILET TEST KITS..... 94.16
 LEE COUNTY RECORDER, RECORDING FEE 107.00
 LEXIPOL LLC, POLICY MANUAL/TRAINING 10,371.22
 LISCO, PHONE/INTERNET 1,963.37
 MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT, SWR CAMERA REPAIR 9,385.82
 MASTERCARD, TRAVEL; TRAINING; MEETINGS; ETC..... 1,833.68
 MCFARLAND, JANITORIAL 129.95
 MELINDA BLIND, MILEAGE FOR TRAINING 30.13
 MERSCHMAN FERTILIZER LLC, TREATED SALT 6,939.00
 MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY SERVICE, PULLIES/ STRAPS 7,351.71

MIDWEST SAFETY COUNSELORS, CALIBRATE/FILTER/LABOR 407.20
 MIGUEL LANDEROS, NUISANCE 1,179.72
 MONTROSE DOG BOARDING, DOG BOARDING 168.00
 MOTOR PARTS & EQUIPMENT CO, SILICONE 175.16
 MUNICIPAL SUPPLY INC., TRACER WIRE 17,711.61
 MUTUAL WHEEL COMPANY, REPAIR 62.82
 NORRIS ASPHALT PAVING, SURFACING 333,310.98
 O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE, INC., PARTS/CONVERTOR 1,965.09
 PEN CITY CURRENT, JOB POSTING 59.99
 PETTY CASH - MELINDA BLIND, TRAINING/ STAMPS/BATTERIES 179.00
 QUALITY FLOW SYSTEMS, INC, PUMP/LIFT 40,107.47
 QUILL LLC, INK.... 149.42
 RAINBO OIL COMPANY, OIL/FLUIDS 2,120.93
 RED LION RENEWABLES, ELECTRIC 4,147.99
 RODNEY LUCAS, TRAVEL REIMBURSE... 870.69
 SANDRY FIRE SUPPLY, L.L.C., FLOW TESTS 1,227.00
 SCS ENGINEERS, AR

DEPT., PROF FEE - LANDFILL..... 1,280.38
 SE IA REGIONAL PLANNING COMM, GRANT ADMIN 8,750.00
 SECRETARY OF STATE, NOTARY APPLICATION 30.00
 SHOTTENKIRK, LOCK 74.15
 SINCLAIR TRACTOR, SHEILD/SHAFT... 859.30
 SIRCHIE ACQUISITION CO., DRUG TESTS 269.62
 SOUTHEAST IA REGIONAL MED, PRE-EMPLOYMENT 275.00
 SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, TRAINING 790.00
 STATE HYGIENIC LABORATORY, FLUORIDE SAMPLE 21.00
 THE SHREDDER, ON-SITE SHREDDING 120.00
 TRUCK REPAIR INC., BATTERY 285.36
 UNITY POINT CLINIC, PRE-EMPLOYMENT SCREEN..... 42.00
 UPS, SHIPPING 11.81
 USA BLUE BOOK, TESTING SUPPLIES..... 804.87
 UTILITY EQUIPMENT COMPANY, FLANGES 112.00
 WALLJASPER VETERINARY CLINIC, OCT MONTHLY FEE 4,092.38
 WARNER ENGINEERING ASSOC, PROF FEE

..... 10,000.00
 WATER SOLUTIONS UNLIMITED, CHEMICALS 10,996.87
 WINDSTREAM, PHONE/ INTERNET 297.96
 TOTAL 558,719.19
 GENERAL 37,832.38
 SPECIAL REVENUES 12,195.47
 ROAD USE 1,748.98
 CAPITAL PROJECTS 359,845.88
 WATER 40,203.56
 WASTEWATER 50,055.64
 SOLID WASTE 26,322.06
 AIRPORT 397.22
 STORM WATER... 118.00
 TOTAL 558,719.19

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDINGS FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL 1/2/2024

At 5:30 P.M., Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 2, 2024. Mayor Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Roller, Bowker, Yager, Amandus, Andrews, Gray and Rink present.

On motion, Council approved the Consent Agenda: Minutes of 12/19/2023; Liquor License Renewals: Pen City Aerie 1287; Claims dated 12/28/2023, and December Library Claims.

On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2024-01, approving the Mayor's signature on a 2024 Safety Training Agreement with Southeastern Community College. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2024-02 approving applications for a Ten-Year Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption for Fort Madison Holdings, LLC, 1702 41st Street.

On motion, Council approved the Mayor's appointment of Michael Ball to the Airport Commission, filing an unexpired term, expiring 9/30/2024.

The meeting adjourned at 6:09 P.M.

/s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk

EXPENDITURES

General	\$36,612.78
Special Rev.	123,031.37
Road Use	13,407.74
Debt	185.00
Capital	35,132.90
Water	42,071.42
Sewer	20,373.12
Sld Waste, IWC	5,647.39
SW Utility	627.86
Total	\$277,089.58

REVENUES

General	\$68,694.71
Special Rev.	292,197.70
Road Use	85.00
Debt	1,661.24
Capital	371,651.76
Water	235,922.58
Sewer	289,773.34
Sld Wst & IWC	85,162.76
SW Utility	17,753.11
Total	\$1,362,902.20

CLAIMS - 1/2/2024

ACCESS SYSTEMS, COMPUTER/IT LEASE 5,531.62	ANCE..... 107.89
AHLERS & COONEY, PC, PROF FEE..... 88.50	CHAD HANNUM, TUITION REIMBURSEMENT 607.50
ALLIANT ENERGY, ELECTRIC..... 36,970.30	CITY OF FORT MADISON, LEACHATE DISCHARGE 2,044.18
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, CLOTHING ALLOWANCE 206.24	DES MOINES STAMP MFG., COM DATE STAMPER 68.00
AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING, CODIFICATION OF ORDINANCE 2,650.68	DIGITAL ALLY, BODY CAMERA BATTERY KITS 1,422.00
APWA - IOWA CHAPTER, ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP 382.00	DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY, TRASH SCHEDULES..... 837.00
ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES, UNIFORM 196.59	DOUDS STONE, LLC, ROADSTONE ... 4,545.76
B&B PROPANE, HEAT 719.95	DUNKIN GARAGE & TOWING, REPLACE REAR BRAKES/ROTOR 687.66
BILLY POHLPETER, BOOT ALLOWANCE 192.59	ERIC BOHNENKAMP, CLOTHING/BOOT ALLOWANCE 780.98
BURLINGTON MUNI WATER, BACTERIA SAMPLE 85.00	EUROFINS ENVIRONMENT TESTING, WEEKLY SAMPLE 355.24
CALHOUN-BURNS AND ASSOC, PROF FEE 2,044.40	EXCEL IT SERVICES, ADAPTER..... 19.99
CASEY HUEBNER, CLOTHING ALLOW-	FARM & HOME SUPPLY, CONNECTOR 9.99
	FORT MADISON WATER DEPT, WATER @ AIRPORT..... 18.61

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PUBLIC NOTICES

FRANK MILLARD & CO. INC., REPAIR SHOP HEATERS..... 604.77	MCFARLAND, JANITORIAL SUPPLIES..... 159.99	PANTHER UNIFORMS, INC., UNIFORM.... 254.49	VEENSTRA & KIMM, INC, PROF FEE 4,865.00	ACCESS SYSTEMS, INK 74.15	PHONE..... 415.75
GREENWOOD CLEANING SYSTEM, JANITORIAL SUPPLIES..... 292.26	MENARD, HEATER 586.19	PITNEY BOWES BANK INC., POSTAGE 2,000.00	VOLTMER, INC., PAY #1 110,834.55	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, MAGNET WALL HOOKS..... 203.94	MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY, HEAT 272.51
HACH COMPANY, TESTING SUPPLIES.. 1,890.93	MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY SERVICE, HOSE HANDLE 953.42	POSTMASTER, FORT MADISON, WATER BILLS/PAST DUE POSTAGE 1,719.84	WALMAN OPTICAL, SAFETY GLASSES 300.00	BAKER & TAYLOR, SHELF MATERIAL 1,910.55	MOHRFELD ELECTRIC, BUILDING CARD ACCESS..... 6,774.18
HOENIG TREE SERVICE INC, TREE REMOVAL @ 17TH & E..... 475.00	MICROBAC LABORATORIES LLC, SLUDGE SAMPLE 179.00	QUARRY CREEK ELK AND BISON, BOOT ALLOW 300.00	WATER SOLUTIONS UNLIMITED, CHEMICALS 5,291.29	BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING, SHELF MATERIAL 185.98	PEN CITY CURRENT, JOB POSTING 59.99
HUFFMAN WELDING & MACHINE, BATTERY 868.67	MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY, HEAT 2,736.57	SELECTIVE INS. CO OF SOUT, FLOOD INS @ 1621 20TH ST ... 3,529.00	WEATHERTECH DIRECT LLC, FLOORMATS 270.90	CENGAGE LEARNING INC./GALE, SHELF MATERIAL 128.65	PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE LLC, SHELF MATERIAL..... 251.25
INTOXIMETERS, TESTING SUPPLIES..... 830.00	MIDLAND SCIENTIFIC INC., TESTING SUPPLIES 574.70	SHOTTENKIRK, REPLACE DOOR... 1,573.02	TOTAL 265,422.39	CULLEN PEST CONTROL, QUARTERLY PEST CONTROL.... 65.00	PETTY CASH - SARAH CLENDIN, CRAFT SUPPLIES/POSTAGE ..118.03
IOWA MUNICIPAL WORKERS, WORKMAN'S COMP.... 9,232.00	MIDWEST SAFETY COUNSELORS, PROPELLANT GAS 429.88	SIRCHIE ACQUISITION CO., SWAB BOX 47.10	GENERAL 31,806.32	DEMCO, OFFICE SUPPLIES 54.09	QUILL LLC, TONER 719.82
JONES CONTRACTING CORP, PAY EST 30,000.00	MOHRFELD ELECTRIC, POWER FAILURE REPAIR 315.00	SOUTHEAST IA REGIONAL MED., GRANT ADMIN 3,000.00	SPECIAL REVENUES 5,142.97	DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY, ENVELOPES 12.00	TOTAL 11,667.19
KEMPKERS TRUE VALUE, PARTS/RENTAL/SHIPPING 1,504.10	MOTOR PARTS & EQUIPMENT CO, BATTERY/CHARGER 201.80	STEFFENSMEIER WELDING & MFG, MEMORIAL BENCH TAGS 195.19	ROAD USE..... 13,407.74	DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY, ENVELOPES 12.00	GENERAL 4,806.46
LINOH2O, LLC, ANNUAL PREVENT. SCALE MAINT..... 1,930.00	MUNICIPAL SUPPLY INC., RADIO READS 3,818.64	TITAN MACHINERY, INC., SOCKET/LIGHT BAR 154.44	CAPITAL PROJECTS 35,132.90	EXCEL IT SERVICES, CLOUD BACKUP ... 39.03	SPECIAL REVENUES 6,860.73
LYNCH DALLAS, P.C., PROF FEE..... 7,329.31	NOBLE SUPPLY & LOGISTICS, TRAINING 3,950.00	TRUCK REPAIR INC., REPAIR TIRES..... 251.46	WATER..... 42,071.42	GRIMES PUBLIC LIBRARY, SHELVING 60.00	TOTAL 11,667.19
MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT, TOW BAR/PART 398.02	OMNI SITE, ANNUAL MONITORING SERVICE 304.00	UMB BANK, N.A., INITIATION FEES..... 500.00	WASTEWATER 20,373.12	KANOPY, INC., ONLINE MATERIAL..... 30.00	
MARTIN EQUIPMENT REPAIR, PARTS..... 93.24		USA BLUE BOOK, TESTING SUPPLIES..... 105.95	SOLID WASTE .. 5,647.39	KEMPKERS TRUE VALUE, JANITORIAL SUPPLIES/PARTS..... 21.77	
			AIRPORT..... 111,212.67	MADISONIAN, YEAR-BOOK 58.50	
			STORM WATER ... 627.86	MEDIACOM, BUSINESS	
			TOTAL 265,422.39		

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From the Front

Bill 587 would require National Anthem in schools

BILL - Continued from Page 1

of control in Iowa in recent years. But consider:

House Study Bill 587 would require every student and every teacher in every Iowa public school district to stand and sing the national anthem every school day. Never mind the U.S. Supreme Court decided in 1943 that government schools cannot compel students and staff to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance or sing the national anthem.

You do not make Iowa kids more patriotic by demanding they sing the national anthem. This proposal is what we would expect from the dictators in North Korea or Russia. This is not something that should be coming from a state in the Land of the Free.

If this were the only example of a misguided proposal coming before the Legislature, Iowans would be forgiving. But it is not.

Another bill, Senate Study Bill 3092, would allow school districts to hire or recruit volunteer “chaplains” to help children with their mental health needs. The legislation does not require these people to have certain training or certification, or any training, for that matter.

One of the bill’s sponsors, Rep. Helena Hayes, a Republican from New Sharon, said the chaplains would provide kids with “spiritual guidance” — although it seems that should be left to churches, not to our public schools.

Senate Study Bill 3103 would prohibit the Iowa Department of Natural Resources from accepting and investigating anonymous complaints about potential violations of regulations governing animal feeding operations, waterway pollution and illegal waste disposal.

A year ago, in contrast, the Legislature changed Iowa law and made all citizen complaints confidential about the books people want to remove from public school libraries and classrooms — leaving Iowans to figure out why anonymous complaints of one variety are good, but anonymous complaints of another are bad.

The concern should not be aimed just at the topics consuming the time of Iowa’s lawmakers. The concern should be that complex, thorny problems are getting precious little discussion and study from the Legislature.

Iowans who are D’s and R’s have been scrambling to convey to their senators and representatives, and to the governor, their anxiety over the significant changes Reynolds wants to make in the operation of Iowa’s nine Area Education Agencies. The AEAs provide a wide array of specialized services most school districts cannot afford on their own — services provided by AEA psychologists, social workers, speech and language pathologists,

occupational therapists, physical therapists and behavior specialists.

Instead of convening a public study of ways to strengthen these services and make AEAs more efficient, Reynolds, instead, turned to an out-of-state consultant to work outside of public view. And instead of making the report public when she announced her AEA plans, Reynolds slow-walked Iowans’ requests for copies of the report.

The governor refused to accept federal food assistance that would have provided an extra \$40 per month per child for low-income families’ food purchases this summer while school is out. Nonprofit food pantries have been scrambling to keep up with higher-than-expected demand from low-income families. But the Legislature has not spent any time discussing ways to make a more ample food supply available for our poor friends and neighbors.

The governor said the federal summertime food aid was not sustainable long-term. But an existing state program has serious long-term sustainability questions, and those are not being discussed in the Legislature. The program provides families with \$7,600 annual vouchers for each of their children to attend private schools.

In its first year, the vouchers cost the state \$127 million. That is \$20 million more than originally expected. More Iowans will become eligible for the vouchers in the next few years, and the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency projects the cost to the state treasury will climb to \$345 million per year by 2027.

But the Legislature has not spent time talking about how that cost can be sustained.

Nor has the Legislature spent any time talking about strategies for dealing with troubling findings from a University of Iowa cancer study last year. Fifty years of data show Iowa has the second-highest cancer incidence rate among the 50 states and is the only state whose rate is rising.

Republican leaders at the Statehouse would be wise to think about the observations on leadership Gen. Dwight Eisenhower once offered. The supreme allied commander during World War II and two-term president in the 1950s knew something about leadership.

“You do not lead by hitting people over the head,” Eisenhower observed. “Any damn fool can do that, but it’s usually called ‘assault,’ not ‘leadership.’ I’ll tell you what leadership is. It’s persuasion and conciliation, education and patience. It’s long, slow, tough work.”

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

Seyb said he has a tax promise to fulfill to county

SEYB - Continued from Page 1

legislation the GOP-controlled legislature has passed and hasn’t been quiet about sharing his concerns about pinching rural Iowa through some of the bills that have been passed.

Several county officials, including Supervisor Tom Schulz and Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber, have made trips to Des Moines to meet with legislators to share circumstances Lee County is facing under new laws and proposed bills.

But Seyb said his eyes have been opened over the past four years as to how county government “touches everything”.

The military veteran, ISP officer, and volunteer firefighter said his professional life has prepared him for his public life.

“All of this has prepared me well and led me to this place of public service,” he said.

“They touch everything.”

He said the board has been very busy over the last three years and has accomplished more than he anticipated. Citing the growth of the Lee County Ambulance service and the handling of the financial crunch caused by the expansion of EMS staff in the wake of the closure of Keokuk Blessing Hospital and Emergency Room, Seyb said the board has been efficient.

He also cited the restructuring of the county’s IT department and the work done with America Rescue Plan Act funding to get increased broadband service in the county are also big improvements to the county.

Seyb serves on about a dozen committees and is liaison to many county departments. He said the county has great people and he wants to be part of continued growth in the county for four more years.

“I feel blessed to have been the vice chair or chair for three of the past four years,” he said. “I’m also proud to have been part of the first class of Certified Supervisors from ISAC.”

“This is more than just a Monday in a seat,” Seyb said. “It’s not about the money either. I think Lee County is ranked 95th or 96th in state in Supervisor pay so it’s not about that. It never has been.”



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