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

Thursday, February 1, 2024 \mid 8 pages \mid Volume 8 • Issue 20









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County VA needs drivers

Goals

Lee County Veteran's Affairs Administrator Nikki Sugars works on some veterans' services in her office at the North Lee County Courthouse after-Wednesday noon. The VA offices are in need of drivers to transport veterans to health visits at area VA clinics. Despite the shortage of drivers, the VA office is seeing growth in the number of veterans getting services.

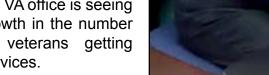
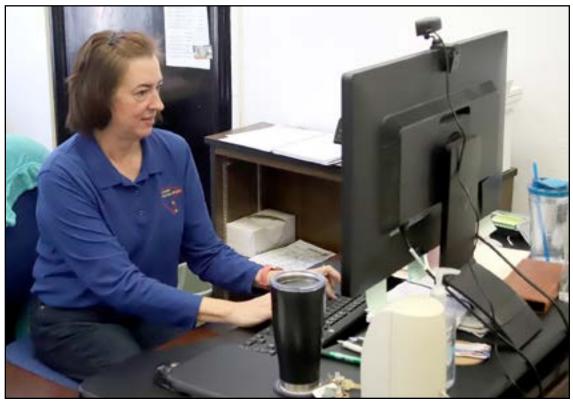


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



GROWTH: County VA offices collected more than \$1 million in benefits in 2023

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - Lee County Veterans Affairs Administrator Nikki Sugars has her work cut out for her. But it's work on some pretty lofty goals she's set for herself.

Sugars is closing in on three years as the county's veterans administrator after serving as the county's election commissioner and deputy auditor.

Coming from a family steeped in military service, Sugars has been receiving rave reviews from veterans and county officials for her ability to connect much-needed services and compensation to about 25% of the county's 2,250 veterans.

Part of that service is getting veterans to and from medical appointments throughout the region including Quincy, Burlington, and Iowa City. A donated van from Disabled American Veterans is used to transport veterans, but the county has been running short on drivers for the past several years.

Sugars would like to get that corrected.

"Right now we have four, but one is on medical and may not be able to return and another is set to be on vacation, so we'll be down to just two drivers in February,"

When the number of drivers gets that low, Sugars said, at some point, she may have to decline rides and she doesn't want to do that. She said SEIBUS, a transportation system run by Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission, will take veterans to Iowa City if schedules allow,

See **SUGARS**, page 8

IOWA NEWS

Bird announces bill to increase penalties for trafficking

DES MOINES—As Human Trafficking Prevention Month comes to a close, Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird today announced a bill to combat human trafficking. The bill heightens penalties for human traffickers and ensures victims receive the care they deserve.

The Iowa Office to Combat Human Trafficking reported a 151% increase in trafficking tips and leads from January

through October 2021 to the same timeframe in 2022. Globally, an estimated 27 million people are exploited by the abuses of human trafficking at any given time, regardless of age, background, or nationality.

"Human trafficking is modern-day slavery, and it's time we treat it that way," said Attorney General Bird. "This bill requires prison time for criminal

traffickers and offers necessary support to survivors. As the human trafficking crisis worsens, we are sending a zero-tolerance message. We won't stop fighting until victims get the support and justice they deserve. I'm grateful to the Iowa House and Senate for passing the bill through subcommittee."

See BILL, page 8

LOCAL NEWS

State auditor "up in arms" over IFC sale

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

WEVER - Iowa's State Auditor Rob Sand has weighed in on the potential acquisition of the OCI Nitrogen Iowa Fertilizer facility in Wever by Koch Industries.

Sand penned a letter to the Federal Trade Commission and copied the U.S. Department of Justices' Asst. Attorney General for Antitrust Division on Tues-

Sand said the deal is essentially OCI Global reneging on its commitment to Iowa taxpayers.

"This is something that we saw and instantly understood to be dangerous to taxpayers," Sand said Wednesday in an interview with Pen City Current.

"You look at this and go 'hold on a second'. We just put 500 million bucks into this thing as a state and we did that to keep it out of the hands of Koch. We ought to be up in arms about it, so I'm up

Sand didn't know what weight the letter would carry but said speaking up about it could stop a bad thing from happening.

"Who knows? It's a letter and it didn't take us long to pen or do the work, but if saying the truth about this can stop a bad thing from happening, then we should."

Sand cited the more than half a billion in state, federal, and local incentives that were committed to OCI to lure the project to Iowa, that should encourage the owners to do the right thing and maintain their ownership of the facility.

He said putting the facility in the hands of Koch flies in the face of the state's reasoning for creating the largest incentive package in Iowa history.

"Then-Governor Terry Branstad's administration put together a package totaling more than half a billion dollars in state, federal, and local incentives to secure the deal. Less than a decade later, OCI Global is cashing out, with Koch Industries seeking to reap the benefits by buying the plant. But the fact that it

See **AUDITOR**, page 8

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WEATHER

SAT 03 Feb

•Mostly cloudy and cool, 53° F/ 36° F THU 01 Feb.... ... Partly sunny and cool, 50° F/ 40° F FRI 02 Feb. Partly sunny and cool, 55° F/ 39° F

INWAINTTERV

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LUCKY FOR LIFE 01/30	110 23 36 38, Lucky Ball: 2
	223
PICK 3 EVENING 01/30	866
PICK 4 MIDDAY 01/30	8556
PICK 4 EVENING 01/30	2/15/0

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Obituaries/Iowa News

OBITUARIES

RANDALL L. WALLETT

Randall "Randy" Lee Wallett, 73, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 4:11 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House in West Burlington, IA. He was born on February 6, 1950 in Keokuk, IA to Robert &



Avis Moffitt Wallett. He married Karen Kay Nichols on May 17, 1986 at St. John United Church of Christ in Fort Madison, IA. He worked at Armour Dial for 35 plus years, West Liberty Foods and in retirement, he worked part time at Hinterland Dairy. Randy enjoyed nature, fishing, working in the yard, gardening, having bonfires, Chicago Sports, his morning coffee and an occasional shot of whiskey. He was a kind and gentle man and loved all animals. His family was his world.

Randy is survived by: his wife: Karen Wallett of Fort Madison, IA; 3-daughters: Nicole (Andy) Johnson of Little Rock, AR, Traci (Jason) Smith of Spring, TX & Ashley (Seth) Jackson of Iowa City, IA; 1-son: Zach (Lynnae) Wallett of Iowa City, IA; 5-grandchildren: Grant & Owen Smith, Emma & Cooper Johnson & Lucy Jackson and several nieces & nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents & grandparents.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A visitation will be held on Sunday, February 4, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A memorial service will immediately follow at 2:00 with Rev. Dean Graber officiating. Following the memorial service, the family would like to invite everybody to the Eagle's Club to share food and memories and to have a toast to Randy. A private family burial will be held at Oakland Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials have been established for P.A.W. Animal Shelter or Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House in West Burlington. Online condolences to the Wallett family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

Grassley puts up bill to combat child trafficking

WASHINGTON – Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Jon Ossoff (D-Ga.) introduced a bipartisan bill to strengthen federal child trafficking prevention initiatives. The Preventing Child Trafficking Act of 2024 would enhance cooperation among federal agencies by requiring the Department of Justice and Department of Health and Human Services to implement the Government Accountability Office's (GAO's) anti-trafficking recommendations.

Grassley is a staunch advocate for trafficking victims. Grassley and Ossoff authored a law to strengthen federal prosecution for those guilty of child sex trafficking. In January 2023, Grassley's legislation to enhance human trafficking prevention programs was signed into law. Grassley is also calling on federal agencies to act on evidence of suspected trafficking of unaccompanied migrant children.

"The federal government can and must do more to prevent children from falling prey to the evils of human trafficking. By strengthening collaboration between federal agencies, our bill aims to more effectively prevent future instances of trafficking, prosecute criminals and safeguard vulnerable children," Grassley said.

OBITUARIES

KENNETH BILLINGS

Kenneth "Chick" Billings, 79 of Keokuk, IA passed away Thursday, January 25, 2024 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL.

He was born February 16, 1944, in Keokuk, IA the son of Albert and Dorothy Mc Coy Billings.



Kenneth worked as an over-the-road truck driver for many trucking companies including Holland Trucking. He was also employed with Jerry's Welding as a fabricator.

Kenneth enjoyed racing and building stock cars and drag racing. He also enjoyed drag car racing and had a drag car named Chick-N-Hutch which is where he got the nickname of "Chick".

BILLINGS He is survived by two sons, Jason Billings of Keokuk, Jermey Billings (Amy) of Keokuk, seven grandchildren, Zack Lovell, Blayn Billings, Hank Billings, Kaylee Feikert, Chantel Bergheger, Greg Jones and Alexis Billings, three great grandchildren, Eastyn Billings, Bella Dunne and Auri Harris. He is also survived by four sisters, Janet Rossi, Mary Smith (Carroll), Jean Logsdon (John) and Kathy Young (Jim), two sisters-in-law Carol Sue Billings and Judy Billings along with many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers Ed Billings, Wayne Billings, Oscar Billings and James Billings.

A funeral service will be held 11:00 a.m. Thursday, February 1, 2024 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA.

Visitation will be held after 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at the funeral home with family meeting with friends from 5-7 p.m.

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

SHANE A. CHEELY

Shane Allen Cheely, 47 years, of Burlington, Iowa died January 13, 2024 at the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, West Burlington, Iowa. He was born October 9, 1976 at Iowa City, Iowa, a son of Cindy Cheely. On March 22, 2023, he married Shilo Stockwell.



his grandparents.

Shane worked in production. He loved arts and crafts, including drawing, especially shoes and painting, using melted jollyranchers. He enjoyed fishing, being outside and most of all loved being

He was survived by his wife, Shilo Cheely, of Burlington, Iowa;

children: Makayla, Serena, Shaylee, Marya, Dru and Jackson; mother, Cindy Cheely and two siblings: James (Tamela Knox) Riggs and Cody (Jenny) Cheely, all of Burlington, Iowa; one aunt, Alive Foster and four grandchildren: Asher, Oakland, Grayson, and Kora. He was preceded in death by

No formal services are planned at this time. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Cheely family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.





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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

KENNETH R. THOMAS

Kenneth "Kenny" Ray Thomas, 65, of Keokuk passed away Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at his home in Keokuk.

He was born March 16, 1958 in Keokuk the son of Kenneth Leroy and Marilyn

Joy Mann Thomas.



THOMAS

Kenny graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 1976. On November 24, 2000 he was united in marriage to Angela Haislip in Keokuk. She survives.

Besides his wife, he is also survived by a step-son, Shawn Hemingway of Keokuk, a brother Bill Mann (Penny) of Ankeny, IA and a sister, Sherry Thomas (Jim) of Keokuk. Additional survivors include many nieces and nephews, Kim Pfaff (Sean), Bill Mann

(Amber), Tori Thomas (Tom), Kevin Thomas (Andrea), Crystal Thomas, David Rogers, Daniel Rogers, Dusty Rogers, Dakota Rogers Kelee Bawden, and Kelsie Bawden and several great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, David Thomas and a sister, Brenda Bawden.

He was employed by the City of Keokuk for thirty-one years until his retirement on January 10, 2020. Prior to his retirement he was the cemetery groundskeeper. He also did odd jobs for people.

He was a member of Living Waters Assembly of God Church in Keokuk. Kenny loved walking and taking care of his yard.

A celebration of life will be held Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at Wells Carey on 9th and Timea from 2 – 6 p.m. with family meeting with friends at that time.

Burial will be held at a later date in the Oakland Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Lee County Hospice. The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.

com.

JASON L. TURPIN

Jason Lee Turpin, 49, of Farmington, Iowa, passed away at 11:33 p.m. Monday, January 29, 2024, at his sister's home in rural Revere, Missouri.

He was born on January 30, 1974, in Fort Madison, Iowa, the son of Claude, Jr. and Sheila (Mendenhall) Turpin.



He is survived by his children: Sharraden (Daniel Price) Turpin, Dustin (Ashley) Turpin, Cheyanna Turpin; five grandchildren; his mother: Sheila Turpin and sister: Kynda (Ricky Arnold) O'Tool. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father.

Jason worked for Chem Gro. He was a member of the Farmington

American Legion. He enjoyed four wheeling, hunting, camping and being outdoors.

His body has been entrusted to the crematory of Schmitz Funeral Home for cremation.

Per his wishes there will be no services.

A memorial has been established in his memory and can be mailed to the family at: Schmitz Funeral Home, P.O. Box 56, Donnellson, Iowa 52625

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

OBITUARIES

JOHN K. BOGERT

John Kenneth Bogert, 67, of rural Donnellson, Iowa, passed away at 9:00 a.m. Friday, January 26, 2024, at his home

He was born on September 4, 1956, in Keokuk, Iowa, the son of Clifford

Marion and Evelyn Marie (Peel) Bogert. On October 7, 1978, he married Catherine Schier at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fort Madison. They later divorced in 2008

He is survived by three children: Vanessa Bogert, Derek Bogert, and Shaye Bogert; and one sister Janice (Greg) Gobble. Also surviving are several nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

BOGERT

He was preceded in death by his parents.

From the time he had his driver's license, John loved competing in the demolition derbies held in the area, especially at the Lee County Fair. He and his buddies would strategize with one another on how to take the "out of towners" out of the running. One year the prize was finally his and when the local paper reported his winning the Derby, it referenced him as the "Hometown Favorite." Some of his buddies went so far as to put a crudely constructed sign north of town announcing "Donnellson, Home of Hometown Favorite, John Bogert"

John loved conversation and managed to remember everything he had been told by Dad, Maurice and other elders who had imparted their knowledge to him on topics from local history, family history, farming and deer hunting. He was a member of the Franklin Township Deer Hunting Association through several generations of hunters and would regale any listener with not only details of the hunt but the pranks the hunters pulled on one another. He loved history and was an avid reader devouring books and watching documentaries on the World Wars and other major historical events.

He was devoted to family and friends his entire life. He was eager to help those that needed help or at least offer his sage advice on how to handle problems life throws at you. He dearly loved his kids, Vanessa, Derek & Shaye and his extended family Erinne, Emma, Garrett, Ashley & Daniel and their offspring. He prided himself on being the "Patriarch" of his clan.

A visitation will be held from 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m. Monday, January 29, 2024 at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson, where the family will receive friends from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Donnellson, Iowa with Tony Keefe officiating. Burial will be in Evangelical Cemetery, Donnellson, Iowa.

A memorial has been established in his memory for St. Paul's United Church of Christ or Donnellson Fire and Rescue.

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Sports

Chiefs shut down Lady Hounds in SEC matchup

14-0 2nd Quarter: Keokuk holds Bloodhounds scoreless in 2nd quarter enroute to 52-29 win

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

KEOKUK – Fort Madison Head Coach Landon Bentley was kicking around the second quarter of Tuesday night's 52-29 loss to Keokuk in his head for a bit after the game.

The loss drops the Lady Hounds to 6-2 in the Southeast Conference, a full two-games behind the Chiefs, and 11-4 overall. It was the second loss in three days for

The two teams battled to an 8-8 tie in the first quarter, but Keokuk's full-court pressure took its toll in the second quarter where they outscored Fort Madison 14-0. The Lady Hounds managed just six shots from the field in the quarter and missed them all. The constant pressure forced three consecutive turnovers midway through the period, but the Chiefs only managed three points off the miscues.

However, the Bloodhounds shooting went cold and only pulled down one offensive rebound in the set. Keokuk shot a cool 4-of-14 in the half but got to the freethrow line 10 times in the quarter to two for Fort

Bentley said the energy disappeared from his team in the second period.

"We talked about that at halftime, about bringing the energy back and playing our game again. I thought we did a fine job with their press – it didn't affect us that badly except in that second quarter," Bentley said.

"We broke the press and then we tried to play oneon-one and we got away from what was working in the first quarter. They go on a 14-0 run, and basketball is a game of runs, and that was a big one. So we gotta find ways to weather that."

Fort Madison would get buckets from Irelynd Sargent and Hadley Wolfe to get things going in the third period. The Hounds would get within 11 on another Wolfe bucket with about four minutes left in the period. Keokuk senior Makenna Altgilbers hit back-to-back 3-pointers to push Keokuk's lead back to 15 headed into the final period.

Wolfe would start the fourth with a made freethrow and Dayonna Davis scored on a put-back on Wolfe's second from the stripe to cut Keokuk's lead to a dozen.



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Keokuk's Allison Ames (10) scrapes Fort Madison's Aija Jenkins' glasses off playing defense in the third period of Wednesday's 52-29 Keokuk win in Keokuk.

Wolfe would score again on the Lady Hounds' next possession to make it a 10-point game, but then the Chiefs scored 12 unanswered to make it 45-23.

Sargent would end the run with a bucket followed by a full time-out by Bentley, but sophomore Kendra Boatman would hit a three out of the timeout for Keokuk. The two teams went into foul mode the rest of the way, with Fort Madison hitting just three of eight down the stretch. Keokuk hit 3 of 6 in the final few minutes and their fouling kept Fort Madison from getting any traction from the floor.

"Keokuk's a great team. They're a solid basketball team and, when they got that energy, they kind of ran away with it. We tried to battle back," he said.

"At halftime I said we have to find a way to believe. I felt like not everyone on our team, not all 15 girls, believed we could win. They wanted to win, but there's a big difference.

Bentley was content to have the Lady Hounds sit in the half-court defense and not put any pressure on the Chiefs until they were down by almost 20 and were forced to pick up the pace.

"Watching film, I thought they struggled a bit more running their half-court offense. We didn't want that to be a foot race. That was the game plan," he said.

The Hounds ran into foul trouble early with Halle Menke picking up her fourth foul about two minutes into the second half and was left on the bench until

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about 3 minutes left in the game.

Bentley said having to play without her in the paint was part of the problem in the second and third peri-

Wolfe led Fort Madison with 10 points. Davis had seven, while Sargent and Jenkins each added four.

The Hounds travel to Washington on Friday night for another Southeast Conference matchup.



of Keokuk defenders on a drive through the









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Sports

Keokuk boys run past Bloodhounds in fourth quarter

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

KEOKUK – An uncharacteristic string of late turnovers all but ended Fort Madison's hope of a run at the Southeast Conference title this season.

The Bloodhounds (5-3, 7-7) fell a full two games back of front-runner Mt. Pleasant (7-1, 11-4) after falling on the road to Keokuk 56-46 in a rare Wednesday night make-up game.

"One of our goals to win conference just became extremely hard, if not impossible, But the season's not over. We've got Washington Friday, followed by Clark County, followed by Keokuk, Muscatine, and Ottumwa. It's all about post-season seeding now and, if we can get a few more wins, we'll see what happens," said Head Coach Ryan Wilson.

Fort Madison came out with confidence, hitting three 3-pointers to open the game including two by senior Leif Boeding both from the right side of the half-court offense for a 9-4 lead early. But Keokuk's 6-9 Jaxon Clark scored nine of Keokuk's first 11 points including a 3-ball that cut the lead to just two. Fort Madison would get buckets from Carson Rashid and Dayton Lamar, who leaped above Clark to score on a jumper in the lane.

Keokuk's Bodie Beagles countered with a bucket at the other end to tie things at 13 and then Brenton Hoard would hit a 3-ball at the horn to give Keokuk a 16-13 lead after one.

The Chiefs shot just 3-of-10 from the field in the second quarter. The Hounds also hit on three buckets from the field to hold the deficit at three through the period and trailed 24-21 at the half.

Clark would open the scoring for the Chiefs in the third period with a bucket but Lamar would score again inside off a Dear 3-point miss. Senior Hunter Cresswell would score inside off a nifty pass in from the blocks from Boeding to tie things up at 26.

The two would tie things up again at 31 and a three from Trammell Smith would give Keokuk a 34-31 lead. Cressell would convert two freethrows with about :45 left in the period to cut the lead to one and Rashid missed a three at the horn to leave Fort Madison down by 1 at the end of the third period.

Keokuk would then go on a 15-4 run to start the fourth period with Fort Madison's only buckets coming from Lamar on a pass from Rashid and then Cresswell scored inside on a slide from Dear driving from the top of the offense.

Clark would score seven for Keokuk in the middle of the run giving Keokuk a 49-37 lead. Fort Madison wouldn't get closer than 10 the rest of the way while the Chiefs hit 9-of-10 freethrows down the stretch to ice the game.

Wilson said fatigue could have been a factor in the late Keokuk run.

"Coulda been legs, I don't know," Wilson said.

"We didn't take care of the basketball. We talked about that before the game, taking care of the basketball and then we turned it over a lot late. I thought

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we did a great job of getting to the basket and either dumping it or shooting an open shot, but in the fourth quarter it seemed like we got a little passive. I'm not sure what the reason was for the change there.

"They did a good job of digging in on us and getting deflections and steals but we just turned it over in the fourth quarter and that was the ball game."

Lamar led Fort Madison with 13 points followed by Cresswell with 12. Boeding had 10 to round out the Bloodhounds in double figures.





Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Bloodhound junior Julian Dear pulls up for a 12-foot jumper in the fourth period as the Hounds let an otherwise tight basketball game slip away. At left, junior Dayton Lamar scores on a reverse putback over Keokuk's Diego Garcia (1).





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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIED

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE AGENDA KEOKUK CITY COUNCIL MEETING February 1, 2024 501 Main Street 5:30 P.M.

- 1. Call to Order.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance:
- 3. Roll Call.
- 4. Mayor's Correspondence:
- 5. Citizen's Request.
- 6. Consent Agenda.
- Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting & Council Workshop of January 18, 2024;
- Minutes of the Council Budget Workshop of January 24, 2024;
- Minutes of the Safety Committee meeting of January 25, 2024;
- Minutes of the Council Budget Workshop of January 27, 2024;
- Resolution approving a Liquor License for Keokuk Spirits, 1013 Main Street, Class E Retail Alcohol License - effective March 1, 2024;
- Resolution approving **Urban Revitalization Tax** Exemption for:
- * James West, 8 Cherokee Lane, addition;
- * Mark Curtis, 1115 Johnson Street Road, garage;
- * Randy & Trina Winn, 1322 Franklin, garage;
- Resignation of Ray Long from the Keokuk Municipal Waterworks Board, effective January 31, 2024;
- Motion to pay bills and transfers listed in Register No.'s 5386-5388;
- 7. Consider resolution fixing date for a meeting on the authorization of a loan and disbursement agreement and the issuance of not to exceed \$3,000,000 general obligation Capital Loan Notes of the City of Keokuk, State of Iowa, and providing for publication of notice thereof.
- 8. Consider resolution approving a preliminary plat of survey for Property Partners LLC.
- 9. Consider resolution allowing the Mayor to enter in an agreement with Interstate Power and Light Company (An Alliant Energy Company).
- 10. Consider resolution authorizing a contract with Commercial Contracting Services (C.C.S.) for the cleaning of Digester #1 and dewatering of removed sludge in the amount of \$532,500.00.
- 11. Council Liaison Reports:
- 12. Staff Reports:

13. New Business: 14. Adjourn Meeting.

PUBLIC NOTICE City of Fort Madison

Annual Salaries 2023
GIBBS, BRENT S
84,606.59 JUDD, KARL F
8,549.41 CARLE, JAMES
7,447.28
FULLHART, DUSTIN M
87,375.96 GRAY, JACK D
70,011.49
PARKER, NATHAN B
64,732.39 WORLEY, DAKOTA A
78,093.55 MINER, CAROL A
44,010.51 SCHLEIDT, KAYLA D
37,871.57
FEDLER, NICHOLAS J
70,895.42 WADE, JOSHUA A
72,359.59
WAROSH, GREGORY S74,046.78
ROHLOFF, MARK A
96,709.60
KUESEL, CARSEN S
64,225.51 CHANDLER, BRENTON
J 67,314.54
VANHEMERT, AUSTIN L64,443.77
BOECKER, JEREMY R

BOECKER, JEREMY R

..... 59,028.78 POTTHAST, CODY 91,357.48

GILPIN, BRANDON C 55,566.25 HENNIGAR, BRYSON G

.....72,998.80 MANN, STEVEN M 54,276.56 CHANEY, BENJAMIN D

..... 55,730.34 LEFLER, JONATHON C 54,284.10

WEISINGER, DREW M71,928.53 EASTIN, CHRISTOPHER

J......70,581.53 MEIEROTTO, ALEXAN-DER S...... 81,745.06 LANGE, JONATHAN D

......71,552.56 FULLENKAMP, CHARLES E 69,032.11

GATHERS, NEAL B 90,322.30

BRISBY, KENT R48,839.47

FULLENKAMP, MIKE A JOHNSON, DANIEL L

.....71,015.03 HANNUM, CHAD J 80,613.88

SCHNEIDER, MIKE 90,735.24

BLANCHARD, JAY 91,405.72 HERREN, JOEY

.....96,600.92 HARLAND, CLINT E 70,144.84

.....71,203.00 KERN, KAYLEB E 54,132.77

CAIN, JUSTIN M

......2,674.28 CLENDINENG, SARAH B 80,516.24 MORRIS-BOYER, AMY J 19,105.80

COAKLEY, JON D

REMPE, CHLOE C 18,691.98 SHIELDS, KELLY A 6,458.85

..... 44,878.81 ALBEE, DEBORAH37,089.21

COWLES, CHRISTINE

PERRY, JILLIAN N3,018.23 FULLER, ASHLEE C19,012.16

DEACON, MEGAN L404.19 BEUNING, DALE A 20,540.80

MENDEZ, MARIO R 19,236.18 MCFALL, ANDREW D73,393.04

MENDEZ, EDWARD L17,911.78 HOPPER, MATTHEW M

......4,277.00 BARNES, STERLING L 35,661.60 SCHROEDER, EDWARD

J...... 4,277.00 POHLPETER, BILLY 49,882.53

LAMBERT, JOHN D 16,979.90 KROGMEIER, DOUGLAS E 85,369.46 NAFZIGER, MACKENZIE

J...... 38,386.66 STEFFENSMEIER, PEGGY...... 90,133.49

RINK, KEVIN M3,001.44 BLIND, MELINDA

..... 83,227.87 ANDREWS, JAMES R3,001.44 VARLEY, DAVID A

..... 82,164.98 CANGAS, CHAD A1,038.96

REES, JANIE M 42,065.14

BALES, KELSEY M43,743.72 MOHRFELD, MATTHEW

J...... 5,512.00 CULLEN, JUSTINA M41,980.01 BOWKER, REBECCA J

......3,001.44 AMANDUS, DONNA J

......3,001.44 GRAY, JACK D.. 3,001.44 HARVEY, EDWARD G

ROLLER, ANGELA M3,001.44 YAGER, DUSTIN J

WATKINS, EUGENE D 34,664.98

CARTWRIGHT, MARK A WATKINS, WILLIAM A

..... 580 GUSTAFSON, SHAYLA M...... 1,196.84

ASAY, ABRIE J .. 2,783.00 GORHAM, JOHN T1,919.50 JENNINGS, SABRINA J

......1,408.00 MILLER, MORGAN L GREEN, BRIAN S 84,412.39 ZUMDOME, SHANE W

..... 12,547.99 BRYANT, BRADLEY C 48,576.04 HELLING, COLE L

.....49,100.92 KNEPP, KYLE D 20,339.50 BENNER, DILLON L

......3,040.00 BOUSSELOT, MARK J111,048.60 BOHNENKAMP, ERIC

..... 50,784.93 GRUENING, LUKE A 50,422.92

BROWN, ROBERT T STEIN, BRIAN L

.....47,832.96 BERGQUIST, DOUG G 53,386.22

HORN, DANIEL P ANDERSON, JEREMY R 32,169.77

KOEHLER, AIDAN J 21,213.68 WILSON, WESTON C

PEITZ, JOE 55,977.62 DODSON, NORMAN R 82,988.36

BARTHOLOMEW, ED-MUND......24,981.19 KEMPKER, MICHAEL

..... 51,778.09 HOENIG, KEVIN R 53,045.24

HANNUM, GARRETT J 47,922.00 DODSON, JOSEPH A 22,418.10

PETERSON, DON34,534.81 KERN, ROBERT J

..... 53,197.41 KUHLMEIER, JASON R 64,003.72 HUEBNER, CASEY W

..... 84,090.26 GRIFFIN, MATTHEW D 60,517.08

BROWN, BENJAMIN C 58,444.60 KOSER, NATHAN A

..... 62,599.23 STEWART, CLIFFORD A 59,568.47 SCHROEDER, TRAVIS J

..... 57,592.88 ZUMDOME, DANA M 59,091.01 BRISBY, JEFF E..... 957.6

PUCKETT, ELMER 52,047.80 ESTRADA, WILLIAM

......9,400.17 DEGEN, MICHAEL49,409.95

MANNING, DONALD R17,178.29 HONADEL, KENNETH A49,262.11

CLUTE, TY W., 48,612.73 WOODS, LAWRENCE E 20,483.93

HENDERSON, KYLE W11,263.00 JOHNSON, KODY W

......19,427.98 MCCOLLUM, FRANKLIN J......19,197.34 NIELSEN, KYLE F2,660.00

WOODLEY, DAVID R 8,540.42 WILSON, LEON D 50,881.04

..... 5,840,170.08

PUBLIC NOTICE LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES November 6, 2023

The Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa, met on Monday, November 6, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at the County Administration Building, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison, Iowa.

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

All votes are unanimous unless indicated otherwise.

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

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

Public Input: Andrew Noble, with Sitestream, gave the Board a timeline on the speed camera installation and start up operation. Ted Stein, Fort Madison, had questions for the Board about the NuStar Ammonia Pipeline. Those questions will be referred to the Company.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Fedler, to approve a notice to bidders and final plans for Project #L-04-L6- -73-56, a new culvert located on 160th Avenue. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Seyb, to approve updated contracts with North Central **Emergency Vehicles for** a 2025 Ford F 550 at a cost of \$255,874.00 and a 2025/2026 Ford F 550 at a cost of \$258,874.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Schulz, to approve Medical Examiner Investigator Liaison Contracts with Brad Roberts and Mike Hellige. Motion carried.

Moved by Schulz, seconded by Fedler, to approve a contract with Sidwell Mapping Company for GIS Managed Services in the amount of \$12,910.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug,

seconded by Holmes, to approve the updated Personnel Policy. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Pflug, to approve the Consent Agenda that included the October 30, 2023 Board minutes with one correction-adding Pflug and Schulz to the Opioid Funds Advisory Committee, and the claims for payment. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler,

seconded by Schulz, to approve a step increase for Emilee McKay, EMT, from \$18.01/hr. to \$18.58/ hr., effective 10/25/23; a step increase for Justina Mortimer, EMT, from \$18.01/hr. to \$18.58/ hr., effective 10/25/23; a step increase for Ellie Vance, Paramedic, from \$22.97/hr. to \$23.82/ hr., effective 10/25/23; a step increase for Peggy Peterson, Records Clerk, from \$19.15/hr. to \$19.74/ hr., effective 11/30/23; a new hire for IT, Timothy Squire, IT Technician, \$55,000.00/year, effective 11/6/23 and a new hire for the Health Department, Angela Bauer, Registered Dental Hygienist, \$24.00/ hr., effective 12/5/23. Motion carried.

Received and filed the Lee County Commission of Veteran Affairs Minutes of Meeting for September 28, 2023.

Committee Reports: Schulz reported on a Fort Madison Economic Development meeting. Pflug reported on a Board of Health meeting. Seyb reported on a Port Authority Board meeting.

At 11:05 a.m. it was moved by Pflug, seconded by Fedler, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Administration Building in Fort Madison.

Garry Seyb, Chairman Attest: Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor

Claims paid November 6, 2023

...... 158.35 Advd Crctnl Hlth, svs14370.40 Agrineed, splys....1174.30 Airgas, splys 2316.09 D Aliprandi, svs..... 300.00

ABC Fire Extng, svs

......206.40 Alliant Energy, svs

Allen Precsn, equp

..... 5405.48 N Ancelet, edu 300.00 Area Distr, splys.... 172.29

Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

Armstrong Trctr, svs
21.02
Axon Entrp, equp
44829.70
B&B Propane, fuel
318.86
J Baier, svs 1570.94
Baycom, equp 333.00
Benco Dental, svs 2.99
E Biddenstadt, exps
38.00
Blessing Hlth, svs
165.00
B Bonar, svs 200.00
Bound Tree Med, splys
3221.48
CenturyLink, svs 86.81
City/Donnellson, svs
142.10
Continental Fire, svs
575.00
CJ Cooper/Assc, svs
45.00
Democrat Co, publ
179.99
Darkside Tint, splys

104.00
DM Co HIth Dpt, svs
8985.83
DM Co Sheriff, svs 35.74
Diamond Drugs, svs
784.27
Donnellson Lmbr, equp
621.76
Donnellson Tire, svs
1288.40
Douds Stone, mtrl
615.15
EMSLRC, edu115.00
T Ethiraj, edu 300.00
Farm/Home, splys
5th Dist Co Offcr, edu
50.00
Floyds EZ Way, svs
FM Water, svs 348.83
Garratt-Callahan, svs
N Granaman, svs
S Gray Rpr, svs 222.50

Grt Prairie AEA, svs267.02
M Guery, edu 300.00
Heartland Busin, svs
6267.20
Heritage Med, splys367.00
HP Inc., svs 4425.00
Huffman Wlding, equp
205.40
HyVee, splys 1644.00
ICS Jail Splys, splys
1588.40
Inghram Law, svs 250.40
IA Co Atty Assc, edu80.00
IA Div Labor Svs, prmts
120.00
IA Envrnmntl Svs, svs
150.00
IA Land Cnsltg, svs
415.00 IA Law Enfmt, ed 150.00
IA Prison Ind, splys
633.20
IA St Pen, meals

21250.75 TJacobsmeier, svs
Jays Auto, svs 155.75 Jet Gas, fuel 10401.88 Jireh Inc, fuel 39.74 C Johnson, exps 208.00 P Kaltefleiter, exps 44.20 Keltek, svs 673.35 J Kemper, exps 32.09 Kempkers, splys 118.79 Keo Med Equip, splys
750.00 Keokuk Water, svs 207.24
King-Lynk Fnrl, svs 1200.00
Klingner Assoc, svs

LeeCo Treas, costs	
Liberty Utility, gas 45.36	
Lynch Dallas, svs 38.00	
Mail Svs, svs 1214.71	
McFarlands, splys 96.98	
McKesson Med, svs	
72.34	
Midwest Radar, svs	
Ntnl Assoc/Co, dues	
50.00	
O'Reilly Auto, parts	
14.09	,
S Carlson, edu 300.00	,
OMG Midwest, svs	
	,
Pen City Crrnt, svs 59.99	
H Pieper, svs 3261.50	
Prairie Farms, splys	
R&J Qlty Decal, splys	i
495.00	
Rathbun Water, svs	
95.25	
RSM US LLP, svs	

380.40
Shottenkirk, svs 2495.96
SIADSA, svs 180.12
Solutions, svs11784.05
Supr Radio Comm, equp
H Swan, edu 300.00
Trinity Musc Hlth, svs
9322.42
Truck Repair, parts
203.96
US Cell, svs 602.32
USPCA, edu 50.00
Vertical Comm, svs11.43
M Walker, svs 200.00
Wayland Stone, equp
16844.10
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From the Front

More than 800 Lee County veterans being served

SUGARS - Continued from Page 1

and for a cost. The cost using the DAV van is absorbed by the county. The only other transportation available is a bus from the VA Centers that has to come down from Iowa City when it's available.

Sugars said drivers just need to have a clean driving record and a desire to help the area's veterans.

"This is a volunteer position and all you have to have is a good driving record, and some ambition to help these people."

She said any people who have even one day a week or even one day a month and are looking for ways to assist area veterans are encouraged to apply. The position requires some training on a regular trip to the VA hospital in Iowa City, but it's minimal.

The lack of drivers has been an issue for several years and Sugars said it has been labor intensive to coordinate everything while still trying to help veterans find other assistance, including housing and compensation for health issues created by the individual's service.

Despite the focus on getting veterans to area health clinics, Sugars has been able to make huge strides in the services her office provides.

She set a goal in 2022 to surpass \$1 million in assistance to the county's veterans in 2023. She found out last week that number was \$1,012,000.

She's also taken the number of veterans being served from about 300 when she took over to more than 500 now, a number she said pales in comparison to what she wants to accomplish.

"I won't be happy until we have 2,274 veterans being served," she said.

"I suspect I'm going to be here for a while. These men and women served. They put their lives out there. I'm going to do everything I can to help them."

She said in some cases she helped veterans who have been trying for three decades to get compensation, but have failed because they were trying to do it on their own. With some guidance and a few specific inquiries, Sugars, or her assistant Joshua Weeks, can get some benefits.

"Depending on their specific situation, if they were hurt or got sick from being in a certain area at a certain time, sometimes even for just one day, we can get compensation for them. They just need to come in and talk to us," Sugars said

At 100% compensation, veterans can see assistance of \$3,000 per month. "That's a huge life changer for most of these people."

She's spent a good part of the past three years getting the word out to area veterans and that has paid some dividends. But she said another hurdle is the veterans coming to terms with the idea that it's okay to ask for help.



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

Sand says IFC/Koch deal is a "terrible thing"

AUDITOR - Continued from Page 1

wouldn't be owned by Koch was a justification for the massive commitment of tax dollars in the first place," Sand wrote in his letter.

He said that's the biggest reason why the deal should be blocked.

"Once we make that investment, it's supposed to bring lower prices. Otherwise, if you only have one person, they can name their price. The idea was to promote competition and that's a good thing - I like competition. If farmers' prices go up because of consolidation, that will drive costs up for everyone else that they need to pass through."

Taking a stand and pushing back on the deal isn't a concern for Sand as far as future economic development in the area because of what the state has been willing to do to attract business and industries.

"No. If they come to the state with their hand out asking for 500 million, then they should be concerned that they would do what they said they would. And if some feel like they've got to be quiet about it, then let the watchdog do it," he said.

"I think this is a terrible idea and I don't have a problem speaking out about it." Sand referenced former Governor Terry Branstad in his letter to the FTC and DOJ, where Branstad espoused the benefit of providing competition in the fertilizer industry.

"In 2013, promoting the largest tax incentive package in Iowa history, Governor Branstad said, 'the Koch Brothers don't want the competition [...] We want competition.' I agree with the former governor. This deal should be rejected."

Sand said he didn't have any insight into what the outcome of the pending deal will be, but said opposition to the sale has to be made public.

"I genuinely don't know what the outcome of this will be. This isn't a thing where I'm trying to assess probabilities, but trying to make the better outcome more likely," he said

"And we appreciate folks down in southeast Iowa contacting us about issues that are important to them, and we encourage them to do so."

Rob Sand is Iowa's 33rd State Auditor. He was elected in 2018 after serving seven years as Iowa's chief public corruption prosecutor in the Iowa Attorney General's Office

Bird proposal would focus on human trafficking

BILL - Continued from Page 1

Attorney General Bird's proposed bill passed out of subcommittees in the Iowa Senate and House of Representatives. The bill will do the following:

Require human traffickers convicted of level "B" felonies to serve a mandatory minimum of 50% to 70% of their sentence without parole.

Provide victims of human trafficking access to an advocate for support during criminal proceedings.

Provide court-appointed counsel during criminal cases for witnesses with a mental disability.

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