

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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# WAHOO! Grand champs



Courtesy photo

Fort Madison High School's Swingspan, performs this past weekend at the Wahoo High School Court of Champions and came away with their second Grand Champion award in the past two weeks.

## SWINGSPAN ROLLING: FMHS ensemble takes title for 2nd week in a row

BY PCC STAFF

WAHOO, Neb. - Fort Madison High School's Swingspan show choir is on a roll, having secured the Grand Champion title for the second time in two weeks, this time at the Wahoo Court of Champions show choir competition in Wahoo, Nebraska.

Facing off against 16 schools from Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, and Colorado, Swingspan delivered a high-energy and captivating performance that left the audience in awe and earned the favor of the judges. The show featured standout solos from seniors Oliver Santiago, Ella Wright, Aiden Benda, and Javean Davis.

When asked about his thoughts on the season Stoddard says, "It feels amazing to see all the kids' hard work pay off. The kids came into the season with a goal in mind and were not going to stop until they reached it. Once they reached their goal, they set a new one. It has been so fun to watch them work as a team and realize that every single person within the show choir, band, and crew plays a vital role. Their hard work as a team is what has led them to success."

Adding to their accolades, Swingspan also scooped up several other awards, including Most Entertaining Show, Best Vocals (group), Best Choreography, and Best Show Band.

See **SWINGSPAN**, page 8

## LEE COUNTY NEWS

# Farm Bureau working on petition to fend off bonding

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - A petition to block Lee County from borrowing construction funds totaling about \$7.3 million has surfaced quickly emanating from the Lee County Farm Bureau.

The petition was launched last week following the Lee County Board of Supervisors' vote to hold two public hearings on bond issues for construction funding to build a new EMS bay in Keokuk and a new LCHD/EMS bay in Fort Madison.

Brent Koller, the president of the Lee County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

said the move isn't a move against the construction, but a move to force the county to put the borrowing in front of county voters.

"This petition is not a no. We've had 100s of people sign it. I can't give you a

See **PETITION**, page 8

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

# Old Fort may go unstaffed

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The City of Fort Madison is once again looking at the future of the Old Fort.

A discussion of what that future looks like was placed on the agenda of the regular meeting of the Fort Madison City Council Tuesday night. That discussion was spurred by a recommendation to secure the buildings, repair a roof, and then fence off the property with historic and informative signing that would allow for self-tours along outside the fence.

Councilman Rusty Andrews and Councilman Kevin Rink were assigned by Mayor Matt Mohrfeld to look into possible plans for the historical museum.

Andrews said a meeting was held with

See **FORT**, page 3

## SPORTS

# Holy Trinity boys cut down nets at district finals

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP  
PCC SPORTS

OTTUMWA - Holy Trinity boys basketball coach John Hellige is a big proponent of team-building exercises.

One of the things Hellige did with the Crusaders this season was take them on a road trip - get a good meal, and then watch North Mahaska play.

"I had a premonition we might be seeing them (in the postseason)," Hellige said.

He was right. The Crusaders got the Warhawks in Tuesday's Class 1A district final.

And when it was over, Holy Trin-

See **CRUSADERS**, page 5

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## WEATHER

THU 22 Feb.....Cloudy with slight chance of rain, 59° F/ 35° F  
FRI 23 Feb.....Mostly sunny & chilly, 48° F/ 25° F  
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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### WESLEY S. POHORSKY

Wesley Steven Pohorsky, 83, passed away peacefully on February 19, 2024 after an extended illness.

Wes to friends and Steve to family, was born on July 7, 1940 to Wesley A. and Marie Pohorsky of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He was a graduate of Parsons College.



POHORSKY

Wes married Marilyn Mortley on August 18, 1962 and built a life in Keokuk, Iowa where they had two children, Brent and Nicky. Wes was an excellent father and grandfather to McKenzy, Steven, Emma and Izzy and devoted great-grandfather to River.

Wes devoted his life to education and coaching, serving as both a teacher and coach in the Keokuk Community Schools. He started his 35 year career in Keokuk as a student teacher, then as a teacher and lastly as Athletic Director. Teaching both Physical Education and Art at multiple levels, Wes had a direct influence on thousands of students over his 36 years. Wes served as the high school head wrestling coach and as a football coach. Wes served in many capacities at the state athletic level as well with the IHSAU, IHSAD and IHSGAU. In 2011, Wes was inducted into the Athletic Director Hall of Fame.

Those who knew Wes, knew he was born a century too late. As an artist, his arts reflected his love of the west. From saddles to rope art to horses, Wes loved everything a cowboy should. He spent many hours in his art studio watching his other love, the Mississippi River.

Those who knew Wes, knew his genuine smile and glass half full attitude was contagious. Wes was a devoted family man who loved his children, grandchild-

dren and his great-grandchild. "Camp Grandpa" was a favorite destination for all.

Wes was also a devoted supporter of Keokuk. You could find him working hard at the annual tourism board events. At the Battle of Pea Ridge reenactment, Eagle Days and Geode Fest. While he might have had some strong arm twisting from his late wife Marilyn, Wes was a devoted volunteer who always had a smile and a love of Keokuk.

Wes was preceded in death by his wife Marilyn, parents Wesley and Marie and brother-in-law Jack Mortley. Wes is survived by his son Wesley "Brent" Pohorsky (Linda) of Rockwall, TX. and their children Mckenzy and Steven and great-granddaughter River. Daughter Nicky Sand (Chris) of Muscatine, and children Emma and Izzy. Brother Richard Pohorsky (Judi) of Cedar Rapids, and their children Jeni and Chad. Sister-in-law Margie Mortley of Albuquerque, NM. Wes also leaves behind longtime friend Teresa Johnson. Wes leaves behind many other families as well. His tourism family, his wrestling family and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

"In heaven, there will always be a place for cowboys, riding through the clouds, forever young."

Funeral Services will be held at 10:30 am on Saturday, February 24, 2024, at First Christian Church of Keokuk, with burial to follow at Sandusky Cemetery. Visitation will be held on Friday, February 23, from 2 to 7 pm, with family meeting friends from 4 to 7 pm at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk.

Tributes and condolences may be left at [www.dejongsfuneralhome.com](http://www.dejongsfuneralhome.com). DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.



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## From the Front

# City wants to divest Old Fort to private group in future

**FORT** - Continued from Page 1

a group of people interested in the Fort including city staff, and the main topic of conversation centered around the current program not being effective.

"It costs the city a fair amount of money just to open the doors," Andrews said.

"It's not making any revenue. Does history tourism usually make revenue? No, but if it could be closer to (net) 0 that would be great."

He said the Fort opened in 1988 and by 1992 it had 17,000 people going through it. However, by year 10 it was 7,600 and by year 20 attendance had dropped to 4,000. By 2018 it was 3,500.

"Half way through its life, we've mellowed out at about 4,000 people and with the boat that's still what we had," Andrews said.

American Cruise Lines announced last year that they would no longer be making stops in Fort Madison, for the time being.

He said the facility is showing its age and will take money to renovate or rebuild.

"If that's where the community wants us to go, to rebuild a facility that costs us a ton of money to run every day, the people can speak and we can go that route," he said.

"But is there another option?"

In a memo included in the council's packet from City Manager Laura Legois, she issued a recommendation to use insurance funds for roof repairs, secure the buildings to ensure no one can enter, and have adequate signage around the buildings to inform visitors to tour the grounds on their own with no staffing or re-enactments.

She said based on the meetings and conversations with staff and committee the Fort is an important part of the city and in an effort to keep the history alive a

committee of interested individuals would be formed to help develop a more comprehensive vision.

She also said a location outside of the flood plain would need to be determined and in the future the property would not be owned by the city, but would be supported by the city with planning and funding options.

"With the right people involved could somebody come up with a plan to make that tourist destination viable, succeed, grow. How do we do that?," Andrews said. "The employees of the city aren't going to win that battle. We are too busy focused on public safety, infrastructure, those kinds of things."

He said a group of people in the public who are supporters of the Fort need to come together with the city to get it done. He said City Hall didn't build a pickleball court, or a dog park.

"It wouldn't have got done if you waited on City Hall to build it," he said.

"I'm hoping we can rally the right people to come together, come up with a plan, and raise money with the city's partnership," Andrews said.

"We're not going to bulldoze it - we're not going to burn it down - we have insurance money to put a roof on it, but status quo of it being staffed is not in our budget. So what do we do with it? Sitting like it is with the gates locked doesn't benefit anyone.

"How do we make it a tourist destination that is unmanned?"

He said you can't leave the doors open because vandals will destroy it.

Bill Napier, an original member of the commission that created the Old Fort said greater communication with the public needs to happen. Napier was the longest serving member of the original commission.

"It seems to me that the No. 1 thing about that Fort is to take a message into the community about the

importance of it," he said.

"Not only the history of the country and this city, but to the future of the city. I think a lot of people know almost nothing about the War of 1812, of which this was a part. This was a war we almost lost and this country could have gone back to the British."

He said the biggest mistake that's been made has been the failure to excite the local population about the importance of the Old Fort.

Napier said American Cruise Lines valued the Fort enough to make it a key part of their marketing for the Upper Mississippi and he believes they will come back.

In other action, the council:

- voted 6-0 to approve special event permits for Pen City Cruisers Car Show on May 4, Riverside Pride Festival on June 7, Southeast Iowa Spoonfest on June 8, Ballgown Baseball June 15th-June 16th, and Art on the Avenue Sept. 15th. The council waved all special event fees for those events in exchange for being named a sponsor of the event.

- voted 6-0 to acquire 13 tax certificates on properties in the city to clean up and get in the hands of developers to get back on property tax rolls. The cost was estimated at \$500 per certificate by Building Director Doug Krogmeier.

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# Raiders hand Bloodhounds opening-round loss

**WILLIAMSBURG:** Hounds rally late, but come up short in in district opener

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP  
PCC SPORTS

WILLIAMSBURG — The same emotions that Fort Madison’s boys basketball team carried out of last season will be the ones the Bloodhounds carry into next season.

Fort Madison was eliminated in the first round of the Class 3A district tournament, falling 70-64 to Williamsburg on Monday night.

The Bloodhounds were knocked out in the first round by Mount Pleasant last season, and coach Ryan Wilson knows how much that hurts.

“It’s not a fun feeling,” he said. “No one wants their season to end.”

The Bloodhounds (11-9) were eliminated because Williamsburg (14-8) found a way to outrebound Fort Madison, and force turnovers that led to points at the other end.

“Two big factors for tonight — rebounding and turnovers — and we needed to win both of those to have a shot,” Wilson said. “When you look at it, all we needed to do was cut the rebounding (difference) in half — 17, 18, 20 rebounds, whatever it was. Cut that in half and we win the game.”

The Raiders, the third seed in the district, pounded the glass against the sixth-seeded Bloodhounds. The second chances, and sometimes even more than that, were relentless.

Williamsburg built a double-digit lead late in the first half and the Bloodhounds couldn’t get to within single digits until a furious finish that put them in a position to maybe get away with a win.

The Raiders led by as much as 16 points early in the second half before Fort Madison got the lead whittled to five points twice in the final two minutes. But Williamsburg always seemed to have an answer.

Kellen Cockrell scored off a lob pass with 1:19 remaining to give the Raiders a 66-59 lead. After Hunter Cresswell scored on a putback to cut the lead to five again, Clayton Steckly’s two free throws built Williamsburg’s lead. Derek Weisskopf’s steal and dunk then clinched the win for the Raiders.

“We went to a junk defense late,” Wilson said. “We got them to take the shots we wanted them to take late. They missed, and we couldn’t capitalize, and that’s the ballgame.”

“We didn’t fold over in the fourth quarter. Down 12, 11, whatever it was, going into the fourth quarter, we could have folded. Get it to within five, and then, we couldn’t rebound.”

Wilson noted how the Raiders always seemed to win the battle for loose balls. “That’s just an urgency thing,” he said. “Got to want it, got to go get it.”

Cresswell led the Bloodhounds with 22 points, 10 in the fourth quarter. Nolan Guzman added 13.

Grant Hocker had 21 points for Williamsburg. Weisskopf, who has signed to play football at Iowa next season, had 18 points. Cockrell had 11.

Fort Madison loses eight seniors from this team, but bring back five underclassmen.

“We’re going to lose a lot,” Wilson said. “We’re going to lose a great group of seniors. We had eight seniors, and five non-seniors, and on paper that’s probably your starting five next year. But we’ve got to get to work right away, get into the gym right away, understand how to play basketball, have some urgency.”

“Value that basketball. That’s what we have to work on for next year — valuing that basketball, and what that basketball means for us, and how important it is for us. Not having turnovers, getting rebounds. Rebounding is effort and wanting to get the ball, and we have to have people who want to get the ball.”

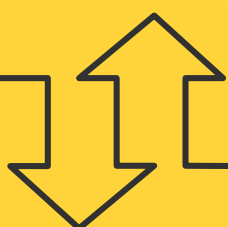


Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Sophomore Nolan Guzman floats in the lane while the Raider defense collapses on the Bloodhound. Guzman finished with 13 points in the loss. Below left, Hunter Cresswell slides past Williamsburg’s Derek Weisskopf and below right, Julian Dear pulls up for a jumper outside the lane.



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# Sports

## HTC gets to substate final Saturday

**W-MU:** Crusaders get four in double figures in district final win

**CRUSADERS** - Continued from Page 1

ity got another team-building exercise — cutting down the nets.

The 70-66 win sent the Crusaders (19-5) into Saturday's substate final against Winfield-Mount Union (19-2) in Fairfield, with the winner advancing to the state tournament.

"We all had that mindset of, 'Why not us?'" said senior Conner Gehling, whose 3-point play gave Holy Trinity its final lead of the game, and also had two key blocked shots in the final minutes. "I really can't put it into words. It's one of the greatest feelings I've had in basketball."

"It's all the effort these guys have put in through the years, especially this year in the offseason, in the summer, and then during the season," Hellige said.

"These guys have worked their tails off, they bought into the system. Just a great group of kids. It's so rewarding to see them rewarded, if that makes sense."

The Crusaders took a road trip on February 8 to North Mahaska to see the Warhawks play Martensdale-St. Mary's, just to get a feel of what they could see in the postseason.

"We just took the night off from practice, stopped and ate in Oskaloosa, then went on to New Sharon," Hellige said. "We just kind of snuck into the gym, hung out in the corner."

It was important, Hellige said, to get a feel of a team that Holy Trinity hadn't seen before.

The statistics for the Warhawks also gave the Crusaders an idea of what they might be facing — 232 of North Mahaska's 653 field goals were 3-pointers.

The Warhawks did get nine 3-pointers, but the first one didn't come until midway through the second quarter.

"I think tonight was just effort," Hellige said. "Effort and execution. I thought we did a good job of limiting them to nine threes, which is a lot of threes, but that's just a gunslinging team. We watched game after game after game where they've hit 20, 25 threes, something like that. It was super important that we played tough man-to-man defense and make them beat us off the bounce, which they did a little bit too."

Holy Trinity led by as much as 13 points in the first half, but North Mahaska kept making runs that

would cut into that margin. The Warhawks eventually tied the game with 3:19 left on a 3-pointer by Lucas Nunnikhoven.

But Gehling came back 13 seconds later with a drive to the basket, scoring as he was fouled. His free throw gave Holy Trinity a 60-57 lead.

Gehling then came up with blocked shots on the Warhawks' next two possessions, sandwiched around two free throws from Holy Trinity's Adam Sobczak.



GEHLING

"I knew we needed stops," Gehling said. "Once we got stops, then we got rebounds and we got going again."



HELLIGE

"Guys like Conner and Maddox (Rung), who have been around for three or four years at the varsity level, when things are getting tough you can expect Maddox to get a steal, or Conner to get you a rebound or a blocked shot," Hellige said. "You expect big things out of your seniors."



L. RUNG

Holy Trinity clinched the win with 10 consecutive free throws over the final 2:44.

Luke Hellige led Holy Trinity with 21 points. Layne Rung had 18 points. Gehling had 15, and Adam Sobczak added 12.

"We knew they were really good 3-point shooters, so we knew they were going to hit some," Gehling said. "But we were going to hit some. Layne and Luke, they were hitting on all cylinders tonight. We got the last run of the game, and that's the one that matters the most."

Hellige recalled one other team-building exercise the Crusaders did before the game.

"I thought one of the cool comments that they made was, 'Hey, let's win it for all of the teams in the past who didn't get this opportunity, or maybe had a district final opportunity and didn't capitalize. Let's win it for those guys, for the alumni from (Marquette and Aquinas), and Holy Trinity,'" Hellige said. "I thought that was pretty mature."

Now the Crusaders are a step away from the state tournament.

"One more," Gehling said. "One more. Got to finish."

## Former Iowa great takes over Keokuk football program

PCC Staff

KEOKUK - The Keokuk High School has hired Marvin McNutt as the head varsity football coach for the 2024 season.

McNutt is a former NFL Wide Receiver from Hazelwood Central High School in St. Louis, Missouri, where he was an All-State athlete in baseball, basketball, and football. He then went on to graduate from the University of Iowa, where he started out his career as a quarterback and transitioned to become the all-time leader in receiving touchdowns and yardage (single season & career) while playing with Keokuk graduate James Vandenberg. He was the Team Captain in 2011 and on Kirk Ferentz' Leadership committee from 2007-11.

He was a two-time ALL BIG Ten Wide Receiver and won BIG Ten Receiver of the year in 2011. He then was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles in the sixth round, pick #194 of the 2012 NFL Draft. Coach McNutt played three seasons in the NFL continuing his Career with the Miami Dolphins, Carolina Panthers and Washington Commanders.

He started his coaching career as the Head Coach of the Cedar Rapids Titans of the Indoor Football League (IFL) for the 2017 season and then the general manager in 2018. He then went on to serve as the Coe College WR coach until 2022, having an All-Conference WR in his first two seasons. Coach McNutt was married to his wife Brittney in 2014 and they have five kids (three girls and two boys).

He is originally from the St. Louis Area and graduated from Hazelwood Central High School. In high school, he also started as a quarterback and lettered in basketball and baseball as well. His high school honors include First Team All-State as a senior, two-time Second Team All-Conference, Suburban Journal Athlete of the Year, Second Team All-State as a junior, also earned All-Conference Laurels as a sophomore.

For more information on his UofI career, go to <https://hawkeyesports.com/roster/marvin-mcnutt/>.

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# Classifieds/Public Notices

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDINGS FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL 1/16/2024

At 5:30 P.M., Council met in adjourned session on Tuesday, January 16, 2024. Mayor Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Amandus, Andrews, Thele, Roller, Gray and Rink present. Council Member Yager was absent.

On motion, Council approved the Consent Agenda: Minutes of 1/2/2024; Liquor License Renewal: Simple Table LLC; Claims dated 1/11/2024, December Manuals and December Financial Report; and

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Payroll of 12/29/2023 and 1/12/2024.

On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2024-03, approving the following applications for a Three-Year Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption for Tenneille Speer, 3401 Avenue L and Asay Properties LLC, 1231 Avenue E. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2024-04, approving the Mayor's signature on a Three-Year Service Agreement with Aramark Uniform Services. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2024-05, approving the Mayor's signature on the Iowa Department of Transportation – Federal-Aid Agreement for the Richards Drive Bridge replacement through the City Highway Bridge Program. On motion,

EXPENDITURES	
General	\$33,651.09
Special Rev.	127,323.46
Road Use	34,867.30
Debt	0.00
Capital	11,831.35
Water	133,314.61
Sewer	284,048.00
Sld Waste, IWC	23,304.57
SW Utility	0.00
	<u>\$648,340.38</u>

REVENUES	
General	\$27,720.19
Special Rev.	12,931.54
Road Use	120,271.76
Debt	8,766.75
Capital	0.00
Water	0.00
Sewer	7,854.07
Sld Wst & IWC	0.00
Sewer	0.00
	<u>\$177,544.31</u>

#### CLAIMS - 1/16/2024

AHLERS & COONEY, PC PROF FEE - URBAN RENEWAL.....	297.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, UNIFORM..	83.56
AMSOIL, INC, OIL/FILTER .....	374.00
ANSER IOWA, ANSWERING SERVICE .....	232.00
ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES, UNIFORM/SHOP SUPPLIES .....	147.94
AT&T MOBILITY, PHONES/HOT SPOTS .....	1,789.15
B&B PROPANE, HEAT .....	960.20
BEST MOVE INC., MOVING EXPENSES .....	2,375.00
BJ 'S PERFORMANCE, REPLACE TIRES ...	75.00
BROZENES HYDRAULIC SERVICE, MEGA HOSE .....	2,386.95
BUILDING MATERIALS INC, ROOF MATERIAL/BOARDS/SCREWS .....	7,175.81
CDL NOW, CDL CERTIFICATION/TESTING .....	3,150.00
COMMUNITY HEATING & COOLING, REPLACE	

Council adopted Resolution No. 2024-06, approving the 2024 Park Rental Fees. On motion Council adopted Resolution No. 2024-07, approving a contribution of \$10,000 of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Low-and-Moderate Income (LMI) Set-Aside housing funds to Great River Housing Trust Fund for projects in 2025.

On motion, Council approved the appointment of Justina Cullen as City Clerk, effective February 1, 2024. Mike Norris with Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission provided an update on the James Block Building.

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 P.M.

/s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld,

Mayor

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

PAYROLL		12/29/2023
General		\$ 166,529.99
Old Fort		1.70
Road Use		21,186.67
Water		29,687.44
Sewer		25,879.58
Solid Waste		13,942.72
Airport		489.00
Storm Water		2,321.40
		<u>\$260,038.50</u>

PAYROLL		1/12/2024
General		\$ 231,318.66
Merschon Trust		508.75
Road Use		26,124.64
Water		38,879.54
Sewer		32,877.15
Solid Waste		17,084.30
Airport		312.77
Storm Water		3,147.66
		<u>\$350,253.47</u>

FURNACE .....	2,800.00
COMPANY NURSE LLC, ON JOB INJURY ....	86.00
CORE & MAIN LP, COPPER TUBE.....	590.00
CULLEN PEST CONTROL, REFILL MICE STATION .....	204.00
DAILY DEMOCRAT, PUBLICATIONS.....	511.21
DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP, PLOWGUARDS .....	2,280.00
DATA SUPPORT COMPANY, MICRO PADS .....	871.00
DIAMOND CONSTRUCTION CO, COLD PATCH .....	787.35
DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY, EXTRA TRASH SCHEDULES .....	62.00
DOUDS STONE, LLC, ROADSTONE....	2,712.00
DRAIN DOCTOR LLC, CLEAR SWR BLOCKAGE .....	240.00
DUKE'S ROOT CONTROL, INC., ROOT CONTROL.....	11,173.25
DUNKIN GARAGE & TOWING, VEHICLE FULL SERVICE.....	340.00
ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING, INSTALL RADIO SYSTEM	

.....	1,758.70
FARM & HOME SUPPLY, BOOT ALLOW - M GRIF-FIN.....	425.85
FRENCH-RENEKER-ASSOC., PROF FEE - 48TH ST CONNECTOR .....	1,149.04
GALL'S, AN ARAMARK COMPANY, CLOTHING ALLOW .....	171.29
GRAINGER, POWER SUPPLIES .....	1,278.40
GREAT RIVER REGIONAL WASTE, TRASH COLLECTION..	20,950.90
HACH COMPANY, TESTING SUPPLIES..	1,686.00
HOENIG TREE SERVICE INC, REMOVE TRASH .....	2,350.00
HOWARD R GREEN COMPANY, PROF FEE - AVE H 10-18.....	414.70
HUFFMAN WELDING & MACHINE, CONDUIT .....	377.55
HUMBURD AUTO SERVICE, REPAIR TIRE .....	50.00
HY-VEE FOOD STORE, COLLECTION FEE .....	42.55
HYDROFIT, FIT TEST .....	560.00
ICONNECTYOU, FIN-GERPRINTING INTER-NET .....	5.00
IDEAL READY MIX COMPANY, FILL SAND .....	652.77
IOWA ONE CALL, LOCATES .....	101.20
JIM BAIER INC., COVER .....	142.98
JULIE PETERSON, SHELTER REFUND .....	65.00
LEE COUNTY RECORDER, RECORDING FEE .....	17.00
LISCO, PHONE/INTER-NET .....	1,955.36
MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT, TOW BAR PARTS .....	56.14
MASTERCARD, ZOOM .....	2,541.99
MCFARLAND, TOWELS .....	45.99
MENARD - WEST BURLINGTON, TUBING ..	16.14
MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY SERVICES, FLOW TESTS .....	1,181.67
MICROBAC LABORATORIES LLC, SLUDGE TESTING.....	1,313.50
MOWEN CLEANING SERVICE LLC, JANITORIAL SERVICE...1,311.50	
MUNICIPAL SUPPLY INC., 4" METER .....	3,932.56
O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE, INC., PARTS/FILTERS/WIPERS .....	1,490.55
RED LION RENEWABLES, ELECTRIC .....	2,400.97
S.H. ENTERPRISES LTD., HAULING SLUDGE .....	3,513.30
SCS ENGINEERS, AR	

DEPT., PROF FEE - LANDFILL.....	189.63
SEITHER & CHERRY CO., REPAIRED FRONT GATE .....	671.93
SOUTHEAST IA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, STRESS TESTS .....	2,079.00
SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, TRAINING .....	815.00
TRUCK REPAIR INC., HOSE .....	25.08
USA BLUE BOOK, STIRRING BAR .....	350.43
WARNER ENGINEERING ASSOC INC, PROF FEE.....	11,000.00
WATER SOLUTIONS UNLIMITED, CHEMICALS .....	8,976.00
TOTAL .....	117,769.09
GENERAL .....	17,664.66
SPECIAL REVENUES .....	8,454.26
ROAD USE.....	16,318.35
CAPITAL.....	11,831.35
WATER.....	20,418.10
WASTEWATER .....	21,787.83
SOLID WASTE .....	20,172.30
AIRPORT.....	1,122.24
TOTAL .....	117,769.09

#### Manual Claims Dec 2023

ALLIANT ENERGY, ELECTRIC.....	11,309.07
ASCENT - AIRPORT FUEL, FUEL RESALE .....	2,900.29
CENTURY LINK, PHONE .....	186.57
CHASE CARD SERVICE, CC FEES .....	3,119.06
IOWA DEPT. OF REVENUE, SALES & WET TAX .....	16,892.46
IOWA FINANCE AUTHORITY, INTEREST .....	353,316.35
MCDANIELS MARKETING, FINAL PAYMENT .....	3,500.00
MIDWEST GROUP BENEFITS, FLEX BENEFIT ADMIN FEE....	16,652.10
POSTMASTER, FORT MADISON TRASH SCHEDULES 2024 .....	1,982.35
WELLMARK BC/BS, HEALTH INS PREMIUMS .....	102,843.66
WEX BANK, FUEL USAGE.....	17,273.65
WINDSTREAM, PHONE/INTERNET.....	595.73
TOTAL .....	530,571.29
GENERAL .....	15,986.43
SPECIAL REVENUES .....	114,776.14
ROAD USE.....	18,548.95
WAATER.....	112,896.51
WASTEWATER .....	262,260.17
SOLID WASTE ..	3,132.27
AIRPORT.....	2,970.82
TOTAL .....	530,571.29

### PUBLIC NOTICE MINUTES KEOKUK CITY COUNCIL MEETING January 18, 2024 501 Main Street 5:30 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Keokuk met in regular session on January 18, 2024, at 501 Main Street. Mayor Kathie Mahoney called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. There were nine council members present, Carissa Crenshaw, Tyler Walker, Roslyn Garcia, Shelley Oltmans, Devon Dade, Steve Andrews, Dan Tillman, Roger Bryant, and Michael Greenwald were present. Staff in attendance: Interim City Administrator Dave Hinton, City Clerk Celeste El Anfaoui, Public Works Director Brian Carroll, Community Development Director Pam Broomhall, Water Pollution Control Manager Tom Wills, Police Chief Zeth Baum, and Sanitation Manager Bob Weis.

**MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE:** Informed of events around the area and thanked road crew for clearing streets.

**CITIZEN'S REQUEST:** James Rauner commended street crews for their hard work, expressed concerns regarding clearing of snow from sidewalks. Scott Frey recommended Dorothy Cackley for committee reviewing city administrator position and gave thoughts on sidewalk snow ordinance.

Motion made by Dade, second by Greenwald to approve the agenda, including the consent agenda. (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

- Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting & Council Workshop of January 4, 2024;

- Cash Receipts & Treasurer's Report for December 2023;

- RESOLUTION NO. 4-2024: Approving a Liquor License for Sweet Sally's, 707 Main Street, Class C Retail Alcohol License with Outdoor Service – effective January 24, 2024 (pending application);

- Motion to pay bills and transfers listed in Register No.'s 5383-5385; OLD BUSINESS: Motion made by Garcia, second by Greenwald to remove resolution from table. (9) AYES, (0)



# Classifieds/Public Notices

## PUBLIC NOTICES

NAYS. Motion carried. Council discussed route with General Manager David Bogner with Keokuk Municipal Water Works.

Motion made by Garcia, second by Crenshaw to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 5-2024: "A RESOLUTION TO VACATE AND DISPOSE OF A PLATTED UNIMPROVED PORTION OF H STREET BETWEEN BLOCKS 72 AND 73 AND ALLEY IN BLOCK 72, MASONS LOWER ADDITION, CITY OF KEOKUK, LEE COUNTY IOWA." (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Motion made by Greenwald, second by Walker

to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 6-2024: "A RESOLUTION ADDING BOARDS & COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS, RE-APPOINTMENTS, AND RESIGNATIONS TO BE APPROVED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA." (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Oltmans, second by Crenshaw to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 7-2024: "A RESOLUTION APPROVING A LEASE FOR FREEZE DRIED USA AT THE SOUTHEAST IOWA DEVELOPMENT CENTER." (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Crenshaw, second by Bryant

approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 8-2024: "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A ONE-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH KLINGNER & ASSOCIATES FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES AT THE NORTH LANDFILL." (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Garcia, second by Dade to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 9-2024: "A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING DEPOSITORIES FOR CITY MONIES AND CITY FUNDS NOT TO EXCEED THE SUMS INDICATED BELOW PER FINANCIAL INSTITUTION." (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Greenwald, second by Walker

to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 10-2024: "A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE DAILY GATE CITY AS A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION FOR PUBLICATIONS OF OFFICIAL NOTICES." (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Andrews, second by Bryant to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 11-2024: "A RESOLUTION MAKING THE SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX RENTED IN THE NAME OF THE CITY OF KEOKUK ACCESSIBLE TO THE MAYOR, CITY ADMINISTRATOR & CITY CLERK." (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Bryant, second by Walker to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 12-2024: "A RESOLUTION APPROVING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WARSAW RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AND, WARSAW, ILLINOIS AND THE CITY OF KEOKUK, IOWA TO PROVIDE MUTUAL AID FOR SIGNIFICANT EMERGENCIES UNDER CHAPTER 28E OF THE CODE OF IOWA (2023)." (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS: Motion made by Bryant, second by Garcia to appoint Lawrence Barrett to the City Planning Commission, 5-year term to expire 05/14/2029, and

accepting the resignation of Scott Porter from the Board of Adjustments and Karole Smith from the City Planning Commission. (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS: Broomhall gave information about community catalyst remediation grant; Carroll updated on Southeast Iowa Development Center and South 18th street; Baum reported on photo enforcement signage; Hinton gave details regarding 28 E agreement, AMJET payment, and used van for WPC.

Motion made by Dade, second by Garcia to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 p.m.

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## From the Front

# Kline wins Best Performer award in Nebraska

**SWINGSPAN** - Continued from Page 1

Crimson and Black also found success in Nebraska by winning the unisex division.

Senior Jamarkus Kline received special recognition as the Best Performer of the competition, a prestigious honor awarded to only four individuals. Kline's exceptional singing, dancing, and stage presence earned him a \$22,000 scholarship to attend Midland University, a private institution located in Fremont, Nebraska. Kline, a four-year show choir participant, undoubtedly left a lasting impression on the judges.

Success on stage is secondary to how the students represent themselves and their school as Stoddard added, "more important than winning and performing is the pride the kids bring back to the community every time we go out to compete. They are proud to be from FM and want to show everyone at the competitions how great FM is. They sit in the performance venue all day to cheer on the other groups, and are always complimenting them in the hallways. They understand how important it is to represent our community in the best way possible!"

Swingspan's remarkable season continues as they gear up for the Central Lee Connections Invitational at Central Lee High School next Saturday. They will culminate their show choir season by hosting the annual Stars in the Spotlight event on March 2.

# Petition a referendum on county actions

**PETITION** - Continued from Page 1

solid number, but we have had 100s. I've never once tried to mislead people into it. When everybody's informed, we can take it to a vote. (The petition) is not a yes or no," he said this morning.

According to Iowa code, the petition would require 1,153 signatures that would need to be presented at the public hearings and then validated. The public hearing is set for Feb. 27.

The two boards are scheduled to meet tonight at 7 p.m. in the Farm Bureau office in Donnellson as part of an annual invitation the agency gives to the board for an update on county functions.

But Lee County Board chairman Garry Seyb took offense to the language in the petition in a rather charged discussion with the board Tuesday morning.

The county is in the midst of constructing a new EMS facility in Keokuk at a cost of about \$1.2 million and the Lee County Health Department/EMS facility in Fort Madison at a cost estimated in 2022 numbers at \$5.5 million.

"They are actively seeking right now to force a vote on the bond," Seyb said. "If they are able to do that, that would put off the bond until the general election and then it would be voted up or voted down."

He said funding for the Keokuk ambulance station already has \$500,000 in the general fund from American Rescue Plan Act monies the county received. That is what was left from a larger chunk of ARPA funds moved over to keep the county solvent during the previous fiscal year. He said the county has already spent \$120,000 on the project.

He said it does not commit the county to bond for the entire amount.

"It means we can go up to that amount if we have to, but I don't see any reason why would have to do that," Seyb said.

He said bonding would cost less per \$1,000 on property tax rolls than it would cost the county to reach its commitment of lowering property taxes by 58 cents over the next four years. The incentive to do that is from a new state property tax law that mandates a \$3.50 general levy by 2029. The county would have to cut property taxes by 58 cents each year to get there from the current \$5.85/\$1,000.

"So in some ways, bonding makes more sense in retaining our funds to reduce our taxes for the taxpayer. It's not going to hurt our bonding rate, because we have ample space in our ability to bond and we have two bonds that will drop off in the next two or three years," he said.

He said the county may not need to borrow any money for that project depending on legislation regarding traffic enforcement cameras which provide fine revenues for people caught speeding on Hwy. 27.

He said in lieu of building the new bays, the county will have to consider what they will do to house the EMS staff, who've in essence, been working out of a garage.

"I threw an option out but everyone kind of blew me

off on that one," Supervisor Matt Pflug said.

Pflug proposed the county buy two buildings in Keokuk last year as an alternative to building a new health department and EMS bay. Those two buildings were sold to the Keokuk schools for roughly \$500,000.

Supervisor Tom Schulz said the county wouldn't have been better off doing that because he figured the county would have to spend an additional \$250,000 to update the buildings and still wouldn't have a sufficient facility for the Fort Madison EMS bay and would have to look at new construction there.

Seyb said the county has to bond to build the new Lee County Health Department, which he said has been needed for close to three decades.

The county currently has secured a \$600,000 Community Development Block Grant, a \$974,000 Rural Emergency Health Care grant from the USDA, has \$1 million allocated from county ARPA funds, and a firm commitment from Lee County Community Foundation of \$500,000. For a total of \$3,074,000. The county is also waiting to hear on an additional \$2.1 million appropriation that is part of the 2024 Ag bill that still hasn't been approved by Congress.

Supervisor Chuck Holmes, who sits on the board's directors, said the community foundation commitment is a minimum and more donations will come in. Those investors just want to see the project move forward, a move that Koller says is just more of the unknowns in the project.

"The scary thing about this is we are factoring a lot of what ifs. What if Miller-Meek's funding doesn't come in... we're factoring in more donations after the building is built," Koller said.

"Honestly, it's rare that that happens. People see it built and they say why donate when it's done. Let's maybe step back a little bit. One of my bigger concerns is that we haven't looked at all the options. And then, when they do look at one, it's to see how fast can they shoot it down."

"And if there is a reliance to hope that the federal government is going to function properly, well..."

Koller said it's the process the bureau isn't happy with and said he didn't know if the agency would be able to collect enough signatures. They launched the effort on Thursday and have been at multiple public events presenting the petition.

"It's a lot of people and a short time frame."

Seyb said the people in the county already voted that the ambulance service is essential to the county, but that level of support is capped by state code.

"But it is a good indicator they think the ambulance is important and we've gone two years trying to figure this out."

But he said the county does not have the funds to secure the construction of the Lee County Health Department/EMS bay. But to trigger all the other federal and state funds that are secured, they need to have a construction loan in place to meet the requirements of the CDBG and USDA grant money. Again Seyb said the county be able to borrow an amount less than the \$6 million requested but has to show the county has the capability to borrow that amount to the federal agencies.

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