

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Monday, February 26, 2024 | 7 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 35



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Partners hand out honors



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison Partners Executive Director Tim Gobble addresses a full house Friday night at McAleer Hall at the group's annual awards dinner. State Farm's Jess Sutcliffe was named Ambassador of the Year, FMHS' Derek Doherty was named Daily Democrat Citizen of the Year, and Mark Holtkamp and the staff at Birkwood Village were honored as Community Developer of the Year.



COUNTY NEWS

Supervisor says Farm Bureau petition could kill project

County board to vote this morning on moving on with bonding effort

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – The Lee County Board of Supervisors will hold two public hearings on Monday for dis-

cussion on issuing \$6.3 million in total bonds to construct two county buildings.

The first would be an EMS ambulance facility to replace the deteriorated Keokuk facility on Blondeau after buying property adjacent to the current structure for \$70,000. That facility will house the expanded staff serving the Keokuk area in the wake of the closure of the Keokuk Blessing Hospital in 2022,



SEYB

including the Emergency room.

The county has approved a contract with Schickedanz Construction and that project is scheduled to break ground in the coming weeks with completion planned for July of this year.

See COUNTY, page 3

COMMENTARY



Spring golf trip is a nice start to year

March is just around the corner and that means it's time for what's become an annual trek to the Ozarks for a week of golf, food, and basketball.

Several years ago, some really great guys invited me to go with them to shack up on the west shore of some lake in Missouri and, in the morning, eat Dan Fullenkamp's wife's coffee cake and head out to play golf. You haven't had coffee cake, you really haven't, until you eat this wonderment of cinnamon and butter.

We rotate players each day and I believe that is so everyone gets to see how truly horrible and funny I am playing this ridiculous game where you smack a ball around big stretches of bent grass with a beer and, occasionally a cigar, in your hand.

These guys have been friends of mine for a blink of an eye, and they know I play because of the social eclipse that shrouds everything else. It's not about being good at the game for me. For others maybe, but not for me. It's the anticipation that at any time, you can do something great.

I still have the score card for the first time I legitimately broke 100. I do. I kept it. It's apropos that it sits right next to the framed ball of my only hole-in-one. It reminds me that the social golfer plays for the memories, while the good golfer plays for the score.

When it gets too dark to golf in the hills of the Ozarks, we usually find a restaurant or head back to a fridge full of cheese, chips, meat, crackers, dips, etc., all the things that I just don't eat that much of anymore. And with these guys, you're not always sure what the "meat" actually is.

See GOLF, page 7

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WEATHER

MON 26 Feb Sunny and breezy, 75° F/49° F
TUE 27 Feb Mostly sunny with chance of rain, 72° F/24° F

IOWA LOTTERY

WED 28 Feb Mostly sunny and cold, 33° F/18° F
DOUBLE PLAY 02/24 5 6 16 34 35, Powerball: 17
LOTTO AMERICA 02/24 10 19 30 33 52, Star Ball: 10 All Star Bonus: 3
LUCKY FOR LIFE 02/24 14 21 28 33 35, Lucky Ball: 18
MEGA MILLIONS 02/23 4 6 40 41 60, Mega Ball: 11 Megaplier: 5
PICK 3 MIDDAY 02/22, 02/23, 02/24 3 5 8, 7 5 5, 4 0 7
PICK 3 EVENING 02/22, 02/23, 02/24 5 8 1, 3 5 8, 2 1 7
PICK 4 MIDDAY 02/22, 02/23, 02/24 0 9 4 7, 1 4 7 4, 8 3 9 6
PICK 4 EVENING 02/22, 02/23, 02/24 1 7 8 2, 7 2 4 1, 4 8 2 2
POWERBALL 02/24 3 8 40 53 58, Powerball: 3 Power Play: 3

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

JOYCE E. DAVIS DYE

Joyce Elaine Davis Dye, 89, of Keokuk, passed away February 23, 2024 at her home.

She was born August 11, 1934 the daughter of M.V. "Jeff" and Ruth Elizabeth Hays Davis. Her early education began in Sandusky, where she attended a one-room schoolhouse before graduating from Keokuk High School.



On July 11, 1952, she was united in marriage to Keith E. Dye sharing decades of love and companionship.

Joyce worked at Northwestern Bell Telephone as a switchboard operator and then in the local office. She also devoted her skills and compassion to nursing at Dr. John Lee's office.

She was presently a faithful member of the First Baptist Church in Wayland, MO. While attending Calvary Baptist Church in Keokuk, she generously shared her musical talents by playing the organ and imparted wisdom as a Sunday School teacher.

In her leisure time, Joyce pursued adventurous hobbies, including motorcycle riding across the country and making a memorable trip to Sturgis following her retirement. She found solace in the pages of books, and her nimble fingers crafted beautiful stitches through her love of sewing and embroidery. Joyce's curiosity knew no bounds, and she embraced the opportunity to explore a variety of interests.

She is survived by her husband Keith Dye of Keokuk, two daughters, Jayne Woods of Hamilton, and Cheryl (Wayne) Morehouse of Keokuk, four grandchildren, Andrew (Sarah) Morehouse, Denise (Jason) Hendricksmeier, Mike (Ashley) Davidson, and Michelle (Albert) Keppel, Nine great grandchildren, Alex Hendricksmeier, Jacob Hendricksmeier, Tanner Keppel, Kole Keppel, Draven Davidson, Levi Davidson, Veda Blue Davidson, Calvin and Gadsden Morehouse. She is also survived by a brother, Gary (Mary) Davis of Hamilton, two nieces, Shelly Burdo and Diana Cosby, two sisters-in-law, Linda (John) Hayes and Miriam Dye Snider.

She was preceded in death by her parents, son-in-law, Norm Woods, step-grandson, Nathan Keppel, and brothers-in-law, Ernest (Shirley) Dye and Glenn Snider and her paternal in-laws, Jimmy and Esther (VanAusdall) Dye.

A funeral service will be held 10 a.m. Monday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with Pastor Daniel Fox officiating. Burial will be in the Sandusky Cemetery.

Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service with the family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to Lee County Hospice.

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

OBITUARIES

SHIRLEY R. HIGBEE

Shirley Ruth Higbee, 88, of Keokuk, IA passed away Thursday, February 22, 2024 at the Birkwood Village in Ft. Madison, IA.

She was born July 21, 1935 in Ravenscroft, TN the daughter of Roy and Louvenna Page Nash.



HIGBEE

On October 10, 1953 Shirley was united in marriage to Ursel Eugene "Gene" Higbee. He preceded her in death on September 11, 2009.

Shirley was a member of New Testament Christian Church in Keokuk.

She enjoyed crocheting, planting flowers and watching hummingbirds and wildlife. She was a devoted mother and homemaker who greatly enjoyed caring for her family. Her greatest joy in life was her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by four daughters, Debbie Martin (Chuck) of Montrose, IA, Linda Messenger of Palmyra, MO, Brenda Hoffstatter (Bob) of Branson, MO and Wanda Schindley of Mt. Pleasant, TX, two sons, Kim Higbee of Mt. Pleasant, TX and Kirk Higbee of Kenmore, WA, thirteen grandchildren, thirty-two great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. She is also survived by one sister, Sonnia Rowlett of Ft. Madison, IA.

Besides her husband, she was also preceded in death by her parents, one son, Steve Higbee, one grandchild and one sister, Sandra LaBonte.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m., Monday, at the Keokuk National Cemetery with Pastor Dawn Butler officiating.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Compasses Hospice.

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

OBITUARIES

DONNA M. AVELINO

Donna Millicent Avelino, 57, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 12:55 p.m. on Thursday, February 22, 2024, at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in West Burlington, IA. She was born on July 2, 1966, in Freeport, IL, to Claude & Millicent Nork Klenke. She married Maria Victoria Avelino on October 26, 2013, at



AVELINO

VanderVeer Botanical Park in Davenport, IA. She worked in Human Resources at Scott's Miracle-Gro Corporation in Fort Madison, IA. She enjoyed cooking and traveling to flea markets and antique stores.

Donna is survived by: her wife: Victoria Avelino of Fort Madison, IA; 2-step sons: Christian (Isilene) Cruz of Louisiana, MO & Jonathan (Hermila) Cruz of Perry, MO; 1-step daughter: Paola Roxana (Guillermo) Cruz of Mexico City, Mexico; 1-sister: Doris Klenke of Champaign, IL; 2-brothers: Clifford (Karen) Klenke of Gratiot, WI, & Clayton (Cynthia) Klenke of Springfield, IL; 1-sister in law: Beatriz (Leticia) Avelino of Toronto, Canada; 2-nephews: Matthew & Joshua Klenke of Springfield, IL; & 1-niece: Grace Klenke of Springfield, IL. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and no services are planned. A memorial has been established for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation and contributions may be sent to: Victoria Avelino, 117 High Point, Fort Madison, IA 52627. Online condolences to the Avelino family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.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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Located right across the road from Jim Baier Ford in Fort Madison

Iowa News/From the Front

Farm Bureau presses county on projects

COUNTY - Continued from Page 1

Both projects are being offered under the state's urban renewal program which allows the bonds to be issued without going to a formal vote of county residents. However, Iowa law allows for a petition process to force the issue in front of voters.

The other public hearing is for the proposed new Lee County Health Department/EMS facility in Fort Madison.

The project had a 2022 estimate of \$5.5 million from Carl A. Nelson Co., the construction managers for the build. Close to \$3 million in funding has already been secured for the project to include \$1 million in county ARPA funds, \$974,000 from a USDA Rural Emergency Health Care grant, \$600,000 from a Community Development Block Grant and \$500,000 from the Lee County Community Foundation. There is an additional \$2 million for the project currently wrapped up in the Congressional Farm Bill under a Community Development Project appropriation. However, that bill has not been brought to the floor by the U.S. House of Representatives or the U.S. Senate. Latest information out of Congresswoman Mariannette Miller-Meeks' office

is that bill could come to the floor in the first week of March.

Supervisor Chuck Holmes, who sits on the Lee County Community Foundation board, said additional funding is likely to come forward when the project is underway.

However, the Lee County Farm Bureau has been circulating a petition at county functions for the past nine days trying to gather the roughly 1,150 signatures needed to stop the county from borrowing the money.

With more than \$1 million of the funds wrapped up in ARPA funding, the Fort Madison project would need to be completed prior to the end of the 2026.

The county farm bureau board of directors met with county officials last week and questioned the need for the new building in Fort Madison and why other options have been so quickly dismissed.

Those options included two buildings in Keokuk that could have been purchased for about \$500,000.

Supervisor Chairman Garry Seyb gave an impassioned defense of building the structure. Supervisors Chuck Holmes and Ron Fedler were also in attendance.

"I just showed you \$5.1 million potential and \$3 million you

got that didn't cost the private taxpayers here more. It's tax dollars but would you rather have it go to Des Moines, rather have it go to Washington D.C., rather have it go to Texas? We were given grants under the auspice that it would be a new building built there. Why is everyone against building it there? I just don't get it," Seyb asked the farm bureau board.

"I promise you if we don't do it, it ain't gonna happen. Show me a champion of this project. Who's going to champion it?"

Farm Bureau board chairman Brent Koller said a year ago the county said they were close to being broke.

"That's a scary a thought. Just a year ago you were in this room 'we don't know how we're going to make it,'" Koller said.

The farm board asked the county what the long-term government infrastructure plan is

for Lee County.

"How the hell I would know," Seyb said. "Nobody knows. Do we have plans long-term? Secondary roads does, but they are all notions. As funding comes up, we prioritize and do what we can do."

He said he has no problem being second-guessed on decisions, but he said the decisions are personal to him.

"It's not just a job. And when some of you elected me it's personal. I do everything I can to work for you in what I believe is in your best interest. If you want to fire me, the time to do that is this year, if I run. I've announced I'm running but I'm taking a lot of things into consideration."

Joel Bobb, another member of the farm bureau board, asked county officials what's next, hinting at having to deal with courthouses.

Gray wolf found 90 minutes from FM

DAVENPORT - A large canine found lying in the median of I-80 in Scott County Monday morning has been identified as a young adult male gray wolf.

The animal, estimated to be around two years old, was seen laying in the I-80 median near the interchange with I-280 by State Conservation Officer Brooks VanderBeek who collected it for examination.

The wolf was taken to the Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Lab in Ames, and received a full necropsy on Wednesday to confirm cause of death and assess overall health. The DNR is planning to send tissue samples for DNA testing to verify if it's a true wolf or hybrid, and its population of origin.

Based on the examination, state furbearer biologist Vince Evelsizer and state wildlife veterinarian Dr. Rachel Ruden are confident it is a gray wolf.

"He was in fair shape physically, with not much fat under the hide but a good amount of fat internally," Ruden said. "He was also moderately parasitized by tapeworms, including Echinococcus, which is not unexpected as wild canids are the definitive host. However, this particular parasite can infect people through the ingestion of eggs in feces, so this serves as a good reminder for our hunters, trappers and wildlife rehabilitators to take care when handling coyotes and foxes."

This wolf likely originated from the Great Lakes population in Wisconsin and Minnesota, Evelsizer said.

"Wolves have a complex social structure and will naturally disperse, typically in the fall or winter, not necessarily associated with breeding. We received a quality daylight photo of a gray wolf from a trail camera in Delaware County in November, and this wolf appears to have similar coloring, but we don't know for sure it's the same animal or not," said Evelsizer.

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Sports/Classifieds

Crusaders' rally to state falls just short in substate final

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

FAIRFIELD — It was the end of the season, but Holy Trinity boys basketball coach John Hellige wanted it to be the beginning of something more.

The Crusaders' run through the Class 1A postseason ended with Saturday's 46-41 loss to Winfield-Mount Union at Fairfield High School.

Holy Trinity finished 19-6, one step short of the state tournament.

To Hellige, it was the start of the journey.

"Like I told the kids, 'You guys put in the work. You worked your tails off in the offseason. You've done everything and more that I've asked you to. You've put Holy Trinity basketball back on the map,'" Hellige said. "I told the underclassmen, I said, 'There can't be a letup. There can't be a drop-off. We lose two amazing seniors, but you underclassmen have to get to work.' We want to be in district finals. We want to be in substates. We want to be (in the state tournament) in Des Moines next year."

The Crusaders rallied from a two-point second quarter to challenge the fifth-ranked Wolves (20-2), who are going to the state tournament for the first time since the 1996 team finished second, concluding a five-year run of state tournament appearances.

"With our history, it's been a drought," said W-MU coach Klay Edwards, who played on three of those state tournament teams in the 1990s. "Like small school basketball, we have a very rich history. But it's a small

school, it goes up and down. So it's huge, huge for these kids. I've been (coaching) these kids since kindergarten — three of them are mine — so it's a joy to be able to get them to this point."

Holy Trinity's zone forced a slower pace, but it's something Edwards has grown to expect as teams try to slow seniors Cam Buffington and Abram Edwards, who will play NCAA Division I football next season.

"I don't want to play in the 40s, I want to play in the 60s, 70s," he said. "It's what we've seen all year. People like to sit in the zone, play a half-press to kind of slow us down."

"They're big kids," Hellige said. "They're Division I football players. It's difficult. That's why we went zone the first three quarters. Looking back at it, in the fourth quarter, the man-to-man boosted our energy a little bit, led to some transition, some excitement, things like that. But for a full four-quarter game, it's hard to match up with two monsters man-to-man."

Holy Trinity, which scored just two second-quarter points, trailed by 11 points early in the third quarter, but kept the game in the single digits for most of the second half, getting to within two points twice in the final 3:22, the last time at 40-38 with 2:26 remaining. But Abram Edwards and Buffington had two big baskets inside to stem the Crusaders' run.

"They were scrappy," Klay Edwards said of the Crusaders. "They had some active hands in there and turned us over a couple of times. But we were able to be

See **SUBSTATE**, page 7



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Senior Maddox Rung drives the lane in the first half for a bucket against the Winfield Mt. Union defense. The Crusaders trailed by 10 at the half, but came back to close the gap to just two with less than 3 minutes left in the game before falling 46-41.

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
Agenda

DATE: Monday,
February 26, 2024

MEETING
CONVENING TIME:
10:00 A.M. (CDT)

LOCATION:
933 Avenue H
Fort Madison, IA

---AGENDA---

Lee County Board of Supervisors

Feb 26, 2024, 10:00
-11:30 AM (America/Chicago)

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microphone muted to cut down on background noise. If you are participating by phone, press *6, this will mute your phone.

Pledge of Allegiance
Approve Agenda
10:01 a.m. Public Hearing on Proposal to Enter into General Obligation Urban Renewal Loan Agreement and Borrow Money Thereunder in Principal Amount Not to Exceed \$1,300,000 For Keokuk EMS Building

Consider Approval of Resolution Taking Additional Action on Proposal to Enter Into General Obligation Urban Renewal Loan Agreement for Keokuk EMS Building

10:15 a.m. Public Hearing on Proposal to Enter into General Obligation Urban Renewal Loan Agreement and Borrow Money Thereunder in Principal Amount Not to Exceed \$6,000,000 For Health/EMS Building

Consider Approval of Resolution Taking Additional Action on Proposal to Enter Into General Obligation Urban Renewal Loan Agreement for Health/EMS Building

Public Input
Consider Approval of Resolution Assigning Tax Sale Certificates to City of Fort Madison

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

• Tuesday, February 20, 2024 Board Minutes

• Claims for Payment
• Class C Retail Alcohol License for Powdertown Golf

Reports:
A. Commission of Veteran Affairs Minutes of Meeting

Commission or Committee Reports
Adjourn

PUBLIC MEETING
CITIZENS WELCOME

Vision and hearing assistance available upon request

Contact Title VI Administrator 319-372-3705

County Website: www.leecounty.org

11:00 a.m. Exchange of Proposals for Sheriff Union Contract

Bargaining exempt under Iowa Code Section 20.17(3)

1:00 p.m. Exchange of Proposals for Administrative Union Contract

Bargaining exempt under Iowa Code Section 20.17(3)

PUBLIC NOTICE
West Burlington
Regular City Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday,
January 3, 2024

The West Burlington City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at West Burlington City Hall, 122 Broadway Street, West Burlington, Iowa, with Mayor Ron Teater presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Ron Teater, Ringo Covert, Andy Crowner, John Johnson, Therese Lees, and Melanie Young

MEMBERS ABSENT:
ALSO PRESENT:
Police Chief Jesse Logan, City Clerk Kelly Fry, Finance Manager Angela Moore, and City Administrator Gregg Mandsager

CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

• Minutes from the Regular City Council meeting on December 20, 2023

• Minutes from the Special City Council meeting on December 28, 2023

• Liquor License renewal for Broadway Bar &

Grill, Inc.

• Payment to Municipal Supply - \$26,195.45
• Payment to Fye Excavation - \$8,200

• Payment of Claims as listed on the Expense Approval Report - \$171,767.94

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

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

COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS

• ADMINISTRATOR:
• PUBLIC WORKS:
• POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Mayor Teater administered the Oath of Office to Police Officer Melissa Brueck.

• FIRE/BUILDING DEPARTMENT:

• CLERK/FINANCE/IT:
• OTHER STAFF REPORTS:

• COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council member Crowner announced that nominations were open for West Burlington's Business of the Year Award. Nominations can be submitted online until January 31, 2024.

• COMMUNITY REPORTS: Burlington Library Liaison Rebecca Teater gave a short update from the Library

Board

CITIZEN INQUIRIES
No inquiries.

OLD BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS

Consider awarding the Construction Bid for the Gear Ave. Extension Project

The IDOT held the bid letting for the Gear Ave. Trail Extension Project. The low bid was from Jones Contracting for \$1,491,777, which exceeded the Engineer's Estimate. According to the Engineer, the three major cost items are unlikely able to be changed or reduced. Those items include removals, mobilization, and curb and gutter.

The City has been awarded the following funding toward the project: \$548,111 (TAP) + \$345,357 (SRT) + \$100,000 (Wellmark) for a total of \$993,468. Council could reject the bids, but historically, the Engineer hasn't seen that help with costs unless drastic changes were made to the project. In this case, drastic changes would affect our current funding sources.

With the Low Bid of \$1,491,777, the City's Net Cost or Local Match would be \$629,809. The Engineer's recommendation was to award the

Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

contract to Jones Contracting with the hope (not guarantee) of valuing engineering the project with the Contractor. City Administrator Mandsager agreed with awarding the bid and recommended utilizing additional Local option sales tax/TIF funds, which were planned for the match already.

Moved by Crouner, seconded by Lees, to approve a Resolution awarding the Construction Bid for the Gear Ave. Extension Project

Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crouner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Consider a Resolution naming the Official Newspaper for the City

Council felt it was important to be able to use the three local newspapers for publication and agreed to name Des Moines County News, The Hawkeye, and The Burlington Beacon as official newspapers for the City.

Moved by Crouner,

seconded by Lees, to approve a Resolution naming the Official Newspaper for the City Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crouner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Consider a Resolution appointing a representative to the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission Board of Directors

Moved by Crouner, seconded by Lees, to approve a Resolution appointing Mayor Teater as the City's representative to the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission Board of Directors and Melanie Young as the alternate.

Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crouner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Review City Council and staff appointments to various Boards and commissions and consider amending appointments if necessary

Council reviewed the

following appointments to Boards and Commissions and made no changes at this time.

911 Board - Jesse Logan, Police Chief
Burlington Public Library Board - Rebecca Teater (Non-Voting Liaison)

Chamber of Commerce Economic Development - Gregg Mandsager

Chamber of Commerce - Convention & Visitors Bureau/Sports Commission - Andy Crouner

DMC Assessor Conference Board - Ron Teater, Mayor

DMC Emergency Management - Ron Teater, Mayor/Gregg Mandsager, Alternate

DMC GIS - Gregg Mandsager/Kelly Fry, Alternate

DMC Solid Waste Commission - Gregg Mandsager/Mike Brissey, Alternate

Joint Safety Committee - Kelly Fry Resource Enhancement and Protection (R.E.A.P.) - Melanie Young

Southeast Iowa Nar-

cotics Task Force - Jesse Logan

Southeast Iowa Regional Airport Authority - Hans Trousil

Southeast Iowa Regional Airport Authority - Zoning Update Committee - Gregg Mandsager/Kelly Fry, Alternate

Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission Executive Board - Ron Teater, Mayor/Melanie Young, Alternate

City Township Ambulance Association (CTAA) - Ron Teater, Mayor/Gregg Mandsager

Moved by Lees, seconded by Crouner, to approve the following appointments as presented. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crouner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Consider appointing Karen Dewey, Kathy Newberry, and Mike Davis to the Planning & Zoning Commission

Moved by Crouner, seconded by Lees, to approve the appointment of Karen Dewey,

Kathy Newberry, and Mike Davis to the Planning & Zoning Commission to serve Five-Year terms from 01/03/2028 to 12/31/2028. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crouner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Consider a Side Letter of Understanding between the City of West Burlington and the Communication Workers of America - Police Department Union regarding the Wage Scale for an officer assigned to the Special Assignment K9 Unit

Council discussed a proposed Side Letter of Understanding between the City of West Burlington and the Police Department Union regarding the Wage Schedule for an officer assigned as the Canine Handler to the K9 Unit. The Letter of Understanding allows the following:

1. The patrol officer assigned as a canine handler shall be compensated 8 hours of pay

at their overtime rate per pay period.

2. The officer assigned as a canine handler shall be allowed to use one day of funeral leave due to the death of their canine.

3. When the officer assigned is unable to perform their duties as Canine Handler due to illness, injury, or leave, any officer who is assigned to care for the canine for a period of two weeks or more will be subject to the Side Letter of Understanding.

Moved by Crouner, seconded by Johnson, to approve the Letter of Understanding between the City of West Burlington and the Communication Workers of America - Police Department Union regarding the Wage Schedule for an officer assigned to the Special Assignment K9 Unit. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crouner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

CITIZEN INQUIRIES
ADJOURN
Moved by Lees, sec-

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

ended by Johnson, to adjourn at 6:47 p.m. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crown-er, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Approved Ron Teater, Mayor

Kelly D. Fry, City Clerk

**PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF MT. PLEASANT
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
Mount Pleasant, Iowa
December 27, 2023**

The Mount Pleasant City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, December 27, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 307 East Monroe Street, second-floor meeting room. The meeting was called to order by the Mayor and the roll being called there were present Steven K. Brimhall in the Chair and the following

**HELP
WANTED**



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APPLICATIONS
Deadline- March 29, 2024**

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- Application Process**
- Applications open January 1, 2024
 - Applications close March 29, 2024
 - Written exam April 4-5, 2024 (online)
 - Interviews April 11-12, 2024
 - High School Diploma or GED
 - Driver's License

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named Councilmembers.

Present: Engberg, McWilliams, Griffith, Batty, White, Crull

Absent: It was moved by Councilmember Griffith and seconded by Councilmember White that the Council approve the following consent agenda items with one roll call motion vote:

the minutes of the December 13, 2023, City Council meeting;

the payment of bills totaling \$595,922.19;

the report of officers;

the renewal of a Class C Retail Alcohol License with Outdoor Service for Pressbox Grille & Bar, Inc. at 1110 W Washington Street;

the renewal of a Class C Retail Alcohol License, Special Class A Beer Permit, Outdoor Service and Catering for The Grange Public House and Brewing LLC at 129 S Jeffer-

**HELP
WANTED**

**LEE COUNTY
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ROAD
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WORKER II**

Lee County is taking applications for a South Road Maintenance Worker II. Duties will include the operation of light and heavy equipment and trucks used to perform road maintenance and construction projects, occasionally plowing snow, and the performance of manual labor as required. Requires a high school graduate or G.E.D. equivalent and must possess a valid Class A commercial driver's license with air brake and tanker endorsements. The starting wage range is \$23.47 to \$28.65.

Lee County provides equal opportunity in employment to all persons regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion, or disability.

For a job description and to apply, download an application from our county website, www.leecounty.org/employment.aspx, or you can pick an application up at the Engineer's office and return your completed application along with a resume to Lee County Engineer, P.O. Box 158, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627, or email it to engineer@leecounty.org. Applications will be accepted until 4 p.m. on Friday, March 8, 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact Lee County Engineer Office at (319) 372-2541 or email them at engineer@leecounty.org.



son Street.

Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.

Councilmember Griffith moved and Councilmember Batty seconded that the Council approve the agenda as printed.

Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councilmember McWilliams and seconded by Councilmember White that the Council read for the third time and adopt the following Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA, BY REZONING AND CHANGING THE DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY CONSISTING OF VACANT FARMLAND AND A DWELLING LOCATED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF W WASHINGTON ST COMMONLY KNOWN AS 2000-2200 W WASHINGTON ST FROM "M-1 LIMITED INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT" TO "M-2 LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT"

Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councilmember Engberg and seconded by Councilmember Batty that the Council read for the first time the following Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 21 "SOLID WASTE" AND CHAPTER 25 "SOLID WASTE CHARGES" OF THE CITY CODE OF MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA, CODE OF ORDINANCES

At this time, the Mayor asked for questions or discussion.

The following citizens were present to ask questions and voice concerns regarding the ordinance amendment:

Ron Graber, 500 W Armstrong Court, asked the Council why there is no option to opt out of the solid waste program for those who have an alternative way of disposing of their garbage or an option for a smaller less expensive container. He questioned whether the Council has thought enough about all options.

Steve Gray, 1827 249th Street, owns rental properties in the Central Park area, asked if it was discussed by the Council for the apartments in that area to have a dumpster disposal. He would like the Council to contact landlords to discuss their options for tenants. He asked who would be

liable is someone steals a garbage container.

Pat and Bob Bensmiller, 1006 N Broadway, asked if there was any discussion on raising sticker prices. The council responded that they thought if they continued to raise sticker prices there would be more people move to the private sector. Pat asked if there would still be a spring cleanup.

Lane Evans, 6055 Harrison Place, had questions regarding the process and if bids were taken.

Judy Williams, 2190 Iowa Avenue, is a business owner and asked if the Council considered the elderly having to get the container to and from the street each week.

Tim Liechty, 1630 253rd Street, owns a business at 305 E Washington Street. He has two meters and asked if both utility bills will be charged the new solid waste fees. And asked if it was ever discussed to have an opt-out option.

May Swarm, 1009 N Lucas, does not use the City's current solid waste program or a private company to dispose of her garbage. She would like the City to consider a senior citizen rate and smaller container. She thinks other cities are more aware of the elderly and disabled in terms of their solid waste program.

Deb Coleman, 508 E Winfield, asked why the City didn't default to the 65-gallon container rather than the 95-gallon container.

Ted Morfield, 508 W Race Street, asked how the citizens know what they can and can't throw away. Are rules changing?

Hobart Dickey, 1007 S Locust, asked if he will be charged a fee for his garage, that has a separate meter.

Jason Roth, 423 E Beck Lane, asked when the contract ends. The contract is a 5-year contract.

Ruth McDowell, 202 N White, asked if the \$16.75 or \$19.75 charge for the container includes the base fee and landfill charges that are on the monthly utility bill.

John McDowell, 302 S Locust, would like to have an opt-out option.

Suzy Kerr, 804 E Jones Street, thought the contract should have been put out for bid. She questioned how many residents will be paying four times what they were paying with the sticker system.

Fonda Arbogast, 609

S Harrison Place, asked who will pick up the garbage and when will it get dumped.

Lynn Conrad, 705 E Henry Street told the Council that people do not like getting charged for something they do not use.

The Council listened to all who spoke at the meeting and answered questions. They will consider all comments and questions and take them under advisement.

Roll call vote 6-0.

It was moved by Councilmember White and seconded by Councilmember Griffith that the Council adopt the following entitled Resolution No. 2023-95:

A RESOLUTION NAMING CANDIDATE TO SOUTHEAST IOWA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION LOAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

Roll call vote 6-0. Resolution adopted, signed by the Mayor and hereby made a portion of these minutes.

It was moved by Councilmember McWilliams and seconded by Councilmember Batty that the Council adopt the following entitled Resolution No. 2023-96:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA APPROVING STORM E. SWANSON FOR POLICE OFFICER POSITION

Roll call vote 6-0. Resolution adopted, signed by the Mayor and hereby made a portion of these minutes.

It was moved by Councilmember McWilliams and seconded by Councilmember White that the Council adopt the following entitled Resolution No. 2023-97:

A RESOLUTION BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA, TO RECOGNIZE, AND HONOR MICHAEL T. STALDER FOR TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS OF DEDICATED AND LOYAL SERVICE TO THE CITY OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Roll call vote 6-0. Resolution adopted, signed by the Mayor and hereby made a portion of these minutes.

It was moved by Councilmember McWilliams and seconded by Councilmember Batty that the Council adopt the following entitled Resolution No. 2023-98:

A RESOLUTION BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA, TO RECOGNIZE, AND HONOR RICHARD

D. LANPHIER FOR THIRTY-THREE YEARS OF DEDICATED AND LOYAL SERVICE TO THE CITY OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Roll call vote 6-0. Resolution adopted, signed by the Mayor and hereby made a portion of these minutes.

It was moved by Councilmember Crull and seconded by Councilmember Batty that the

Council adopt the following entitled Resolution No. 2023-99:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA APPROVING THE SALARY INCREASE OF CHRIS ELLINGTON

Roll call vote 6-0. Resolution adopted, signed by the Mayor and hereby made a portion of these minutes.

It was moved by Councilmember Griffith and seconded by Councilmember Batty that the Council adopt the following entitled Resolution No. 2023-100:

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FINAL PLAT OF H. EUGENE SMITH INDUSTRIAL PARK

Roll call vote 6-0. Resolution adopted, signed by the Mayor and hereby made a portion of these minutes.

It was moved by Councilmember Griffith and seconded by Councilmember McWilliams that the Council approve the Site Plan for H Eugene Smith West Industrial Park Subdivision. Motion approved, 6-0.

Councilmember Griffith moved and Councilmember Engberg seconded that the Council approve the Mayoral reappointments of: Lori Glanzman, Amanda Dunn, Amy Frantz and Tom Young to serve 5-year terms on the Planning & Zoning Commission. Motion carried, 6-0.

Councilmember McWilliams moved and Councilmember Engberg seconded that the Council approve the purchase of a new vehicle from Stivers Ford Lincoln in Waukee, IA for the Police Department. The cost of the new vehicle is \$44,050.

It was moved by Councilmember Crull and seconded by Councilmember McWilliams that the Council adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. to meet in regular session on Wednesday, January 10, 2024.

Steven K Brimhall, Mayor
ATTEST: Lori Davis, City Clerk

Sports/From the Front

Spring brings friends, fun

GOLF - Continued from Page 1

But the laughter flows, there's usually a basketball game on, and I usually fall asleep in a recliner only to wake up to more laughter. It's funny that I don't sleep very well anymore, but when I get to Missouri, I'm more rested when I come back than I am when I left. Most guys who go away for a week of golf DO NOT come back rested.

I think I secured my lifetime membership when I was golfing with Jay Baldwin, Gordy Fedler, and Dan at Sheaffer's and we were on the 18th hole. I had not been playing well and I ripped my tee shot onto the road and into the adjacent west field. So I decided to surrender another golf ball to the agriculture gods and lined one up perpendicular to the tee box and into the field. I hit a perfect low drive that managed to find the concrete tee sign in front of me. The ball ricocheted with the same velocity right back at me, blowing up my ankle. I collapsed on the tee-box in pain, but the pain was overtaken with laughter at the stupidity of what just transpired.

I rolled over and saw all three of them cracking up in their golf carts. My ankle was immediately the size of a baseball and I was comfortable in the fact that I deserved it.

I hit a tee shot on one of the rolling courses of Kinderhook and it went almost straight up in the air and headed for this metal shed. I yelled out "Tin Roof" and the ball came down right on top of the shed... "Rusted!" The group busted out in laughter and this shed was nowhere near the fairway. But that shot was talked about for the rest of the day. Anyone can hit down the middle of the fairway. That's boring. Finding trees and then finding your ball. Now that's an adventure. Navigating snakes and deer and poison ivy - now that's an adventure. And, regardless of the temperature, I wear shorts. If there isn't snow on the ground, it's Vuori shorts and a t-shirt under a long-sleeve pullover, baseball cap, and golf shoes. If my upper body is warm, it's all good.

These week-long working vacations are usually propped up with really good conversation and getting to know other people a little better than I did before. There's usually some work mixed in as well, but for the most part, it's become an entryway to the spring. A welcome respite from an otherwise dark and cold winter.

Getting a golf ball to spin the right way and striving for consistency and perfection in the swing plane, not giving up the "V" that makes up your grip and forearms, striking the ball perfectly - it's all exhausting. Most is muscle memory and takes vigorous repetition. I don't have that kind of time.

So I slug away, patiently waiting for the rare, really good shot or sinking a lengthy putt. But, more importantly, waiting on something funny to be said, or something funny to happen, usually at my expense. But that's my role. If you can't play, you get to be the comic relief. Every now and then I get in a groove, I think I even won a best-ball day last year with another guy in the group. We just happened to take turns hitting decent shots and staying in the hunt. When we got back to review score cards we got a look of "whatever".

Most guys will tell you the golf is secondary to the Euchre or Hold 'Em games that happen when the sun goes down. But it's the stories of the day's swings that are the color commentary to the play-by-play of the card games. Gordie's the consistent golfer, the metronome, and he brings good snacks. Dan is the organizer and rule-setter. The rest of us get in line and do what we're told. And the games are on.

I'm gonna try to play well when we go down in about four weeks, but I'm gonna try to play well for three holes a day. If it starts well, I can stay focused until I hit the implosion hole, which always happens. That's the 10. Then I turn my attentions to other things. However, if the first three start bad, then it's on. The rest of the day is up to the whims of nature and my humility. Nothing is off the table.

I think that may be why I keep getting invited back. In case you haven't guessed yet, most of what I write is metaphoric of mood and life. It's up to you to figure it out. Suffice it to say, if I'm comparing life to a golf game, you can be pretty sure I've shanked it - But that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is editor and co-owner of Pen City Current and can be reached at Charles.V@PenCityCurrent.com.

HTC boys taking loss as springboard to next season

SUBSTATE - Continued from Page 4

strong with the ball and finish."

The two teams were tied at 11 at the end of the first quarter before the Wolves' defense, with Buffington and Abram Edwards roaming inside, kept the Crusaders from mounting any sort of attack.

"We were physical," Klay Edwards said. "We got into hedging the curls a little bit better - we kind of broke down in the third quarter, which was disappointing - and we limited them to one shot. Cam and Abram just cleaned up everything, it seemed like. If there was an offensive rebound, it was a long one, just out of reach. We really did a good job of making every shot they took tough."

"It was just a struggle, just the physicalness of Winfield-Mount Union made it difficult," Hellige said.

Buffington finished with 17 points. Jake Edwards added 11 points.

Luke Hellige led Holy Trinity with 16 points. Conner Gehling had 10 points.

The Crusaders lose Gehling and fellow senior Maddox Rung. Next season, John Hellige said, had already started, but he knew what this one meant.

"At the end of the day," he said, "we had a tremendous season."



Head Coach John Hellige works up a play during a time out in the second half of Saturday's loss to W-MU in the Class 1A substate final in Fairfield.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



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11am - 1pm

Monday, February 26

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Wednesday, February 28

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Thursday, February 29

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