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

Monday, March 18, 2024 | 9 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 50











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Legislators update



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

About 40 people attended the Lee County Legislative Update Friday afternoon at the Career center in Montrose. Topics included speed cameras, eminent domain, and school safety.

SPEED CAMERAS: Sheriff candidates discuss application of traffic cameras

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

LEE COUNTY - With the second funnel of the 2024 90th Legislative session complete, area legislators updated Lee County residents Friday on priorities of bills moving through the legislature.

Reps. Martin Graber and Matt Rinker, along with Sen. Jeff Reichman, talked with voters at the Lee County Career Advantage Center in Montrose.

Graber, in his opening remarks, addressed legislation around a bill to restructure state Area Education Associations. The bill crafted in the House, House file 2612, is proposing legislation different from what Gov. Kim Reynolds was hoping for in reformulating AEAs across the state.

Reynolds was looking for more privatization of services, while the House bill got out of committee and over to the Senate with tax dollars going to districts in a pay-for-services system with AEAs, which gives local districts a little more control.

Graber also said school safety has been a priority in the session following the tragedy at Perry on Jan. 4. Graber

See **UPDATE**, page 8

COUNTY NEWS

County board to discuss 2025 fiscal year budget outlook

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

LEE COUNTY - Lee County Supervisors will get a look at initial combined budget numbers at Monday's regular board meeting.

On the agenda is a \$43.4 million

budget with about \$3.6 million in deficit spending that will eat into the combined fund balance, taking it to \$10.5 million by the end of June 2025.

Lee County Supervisor Matt Pflug said last week that the county doesn't even want to go below \$3.5 million in the general basic fund to protect against

emergencies. The county is projected to run the general fund balance to \$3.47 million by the end of June 2025.

The general supplemental fund is also planned to run in deficit spending. That fund typically pays for employee benefits

See **BUDGET**, page 2

COMMENTARY



Rubbing paint on county speed cameras

Election season is heating up. At Friday's monthly legislative update at the Lee County Career Advantage Center, a very well-attended event, I might add, we got a sniff of the Lee County Sheriff's race.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber is now being formally challenged by former Lee County deputy Elliott Vandenberg. Vandenberg left the department to go into the private sector earlier this year, but then made a hard-right and abruptly announced his decision to challenge Weber at this month's Lee County GOP meeting in Donnellson.

Weber, at the start of the question period at the event, told State Sen. Jeff Reichman he had spoken with another state legislator about the cameras and Reichman started a quick update on a bill that's still in play that could ban the cameras from state highways.

Weber defended the county's decision to install the speed cameras along the Highway 27/218 corridor. The two-term sheriff is seeking a third term leading the county's law enforcement agency.

The speed cameras were installed last winter at three different locations and are visibly signed warning motorists of their presence. Weber said the equipment is starting to slow down traffic.

"The average speed on violations when we first started collecting data was in the 80s, now it's more like 78. And I've spoken with friends who own businesses out there and they

See **SPEED**, page 9

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WEATHER MON 18 MarClear & cold, 38° F/ 27° F 🏻 🧅 Clear & cool,61° F/ 31° F TUE 19 Mar ... WED 20 Mar. Clear & chilly, 46° F/ 26° F

DOUBLE PLAY 03/16..... 9 11 13 29 69, Powerball: 12 LOTTO AMERICA 03/1611 30 43 47 51, Star Ball: 4 All Star Bonus: 5 **LUCKY FOR LIFE 03/16....**1 6 19 27 45, Lucky Ball: 14 MEGA MILLIONS 03/15..... 13 25 50 51 66, Mega Ball: 6 Megaplier: 5 PICK 3 EVENING 03/14, 03/15, 03/16335, 357, 376 PICK 4 MIDDAY 03/14, 03/15, 03/16.....9407, 4567, 3518 PICK 4 EVENING 03/14, 03/15, 03/16......9726, 8179, 1522

POWERBALL 03/16.... 12 23 44 57 61, Powerball: 5 Power Play: 2

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM J. ANDERSON,

William J. "Bill" Anderson, Jr, 65 of Ft. Madison passed away on Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 5:45 PM at the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in West Burlington.

He was born on September 23, 1958 in Ft. Riley, KS to Bill and Betty Ullrich Anderson, Sr.



ANDERSON, JR.

Bill was a self employed paint contractor. Bill graduated from FMHS in 1977 and then graduated from the University of Iowa in 1981. He was an avid St. Louis Cardinals and Burlington Bees fan. The family would like to extend their gratitude and special thank you to the staff in ICU at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center for the care they provided to Bill.

Survivors include his mother, Betty Anderson of Ft. Madison; three brothers, Bruce Anderson of Dallas City, IL, Brian Anderson of Cedar Rapids and Brad (Amy) Anderson of Columbia, MO and three nieces.

He was preceded in death by his father and grandparents.

Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. There will be no formal services, the family will have a private burial in Sacred Heart Ceme-

A memorial has been established in his memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

OBITUARIES

PATTY R. WILKINS

Patty R. Wilkins, 75 of Ft. Madison passed away on Saturday, March 16, 2024 at her home.

She was born on January 9, 1949 in Marceline, MO to Gilbert and Rosiena Cerrot-



ti Bell. On August 20, 1967 she married Craig Wilkins at the Sharon Church and he passed away on March 22, 2017. Patty was a realtor and was also the Director of the Ft. Madison Chamber of Commerce for tweny years. She enjoyed spending time with her friends and family, especially her grandchildren.

WILKINS

Survivors include one daughter, Ann (Mike) Thomas of Donnellson; two sons, Robb (Carrie) Wilkins and Scott (Tiffiny) Wilkins of Ft. Madison; four grandchildren, Ethan Wilkins, Leo and Lily Thomas and Jordan Schuck and her beloved dog, Pepe'. She was preceded in

death by her parents and husband. Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A Celebration of life will be held at a later date and burial will be held at a later date in Sharon Cemetery, Farmington. Online condolences may be left at www. kinglynk.com.

County projecting deficit spending for next fiscal year

BUDGET - Continued from Page 1

and shows \$6.24 million in spending against \$5.98 million in revenues.

The county is projecting revenues of \$18.6 million compared to \$19.5 million in re-estimated general fund 2024 numbers. Expenses in the fund are projected to drop just \$222,000 in the coming fiscal year.

Budget director Cindy Renstrom is showing the county ending the fiscal year on June 30 of this year at just over \$14 million. That number compares to \$18.5 million to start the current fiscal year on July 1, 2023.

The board will just be reviewing the budget numbers with Renstrom. No action is

listed on the agenda.

Property tax numbers show a decrease of .58 cents at 12.95/\$1,000 of assessed valuation after state mandated rollbacks on assessments. That includes a \$5.08 general fund levy, which, according to current state regulations, must be at \$3.50 by the start of the 2029 fiscal year.

The Emergency Management fund has a 76.7 cent levy and the pioneer cemetery levy is set at 2 cents. The general supplemental levy is \$3.43 which represents a 13-cent increase over current fiscal year numbers. The special EMS levy of 75 cents and the debt service of levy of 63 cents per \$1,000, combined with the rural basic levy of \$2.27, bring the total to \$12.95. That number is the second-highest in the past seven years with the current total levy of \$13.53, the highest in the past seven years.



Lunch Specials March 18-22 11am - 1pm

Monday, March 18 Minit Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans

Tuesday, March 19 Meatloaf, Loaded Potato, Corn

Wednesday, March 20 Burnt End Sandwich, Cheese Potatoes

Thursday, March 21 Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, March 22 Tuna & Noodles, Blueberry Fluff







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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

EUNICE L.

Eunice L. Nolte, 82, of Ft. Madison, IA, passed away on Wednesday, March 13, 2024.

She was born on August 13, 1941 in Keokuk to Albert and Berniece Cox Varner.



NOLTE

On June 25, 1960 she married Frank Nolte in Ft. Madison. Eunice was an executive assistant at Sheaffer Pen Co. for twenty years and then was in Human Resource Management at Climax until her retirement. Eunice enjoyed being outdoors and especially enjoyed her daily walks with Frank. Her greatest love was her family and she was especially fond of her grandchildren.

Survivors include her husband, Frank Nolte of Ft. Madison; one son, Jim (Lisa) Nolte of Morning Sun; one daughter, Carol (Paul) Gousset of Lemont, IL; seven grandchildren, Gabrielle (Bobby) Redd,

Alexandra Gousset, Dominique Gousset, Jacob Gousset, Zachary (Tran) Nolte, Alyssa (Vince) Micek and Emily Nolte; one great grandson, Rowan Redd and a soon to be great granddaughter; one sister, Rhoda Newell of Wheat Ridge, CO; brother in law, Gene Myhre of Donnellson and sister in law, Darlene Morrison of Keokuk; many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Paul and Glen Varner and sisters, Imogene Heidbreder, Ruth Myhre and Ina Owenby.

Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024 from 1-4 PM at the Kingsley Inn, Fort Madison.

A memorial has been established St. Jude Children's Hospital and online condolences may be left at 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

OBITUARIES

HENRY C. BECERRA

Henry C. Becerra, 91 of Ft. Madison passed away on Friday, March 15, 2024 at 12:02 PM at the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in West Burlington.



BECERRA

He was born on May 26, 1932 in Ft. Madison to Enrique and Frances Winkler Becerra. On June 11, 1966 he married Bernadine Nolte in Ft. Madison and she passed away on October 6, 2005. Henry worked at Anchor Metals and also scrapped metal. Henry enjoyed gardening, sewing, carving wood and spending time with his family.

Survivors include one daughter, June Shoup of T. Madison; three sons, Henry (Cindy) Becerra Jr, Carl Becerra and Walter (Mandy Allen) Becerra and all of Ft. Madison; eight grandchil-

dren, Bernadine, Heather, Jessica, Afton, Natalie, Doug, Brandon and Rick; thirteen great grandchildren; two sisters, Rudi Castagna of Ft. Madison and Petra (Gerald) Leafgreen of Ft. Walton Beach, FL; one brother, Arnuflo (Darlene) Becerra of Ft. Madison; several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; a grandson, Josh; two sisters, Natalia and Elissa and one brother, Brigido "Brick"

Cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A Celebration of life will be held at a later date and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

BONNIE S. WITT

Bonnie Sue (House) Witt passed away on Friday, March 15th, 2024, at her granddaughter's home surrounded by her family. Bonnie was a beloved daughter, sister, aunt, mother, but the title she loved and cherished most was that of



WITT

Grandma. Bonnie was quick witted, loved to joke, and loved being silly with her grandkids who spent countless days and nights at Grandma's house. Bonnie's laughter and humor will be missed beyond measure by her family.

She is survived by her two sisters: Barbara (Wayne) Howell of Mount Vernon, Mo, and Candace (Vince) Schreck of Kahoka, Mo. Three children: Andy Baker of Keokuk, IA, daughter Becky Land (Baker) of Keokuk, IA, and daughter and son-in-law Joanna (Baker)/ Tim Wilson of Chandler, IN. Six grandchildren: Cassan-

dra (Cassie) Cizek of Keokuk, IA, Ashley Reed of Keokuk, IA, Michael McNitt of Keokuk, IA, Bryan Land of Keokuk, IA, Cameron Wilson and Megan Peak of Chandler, IN, and 14 Great Grandchildren and countless "adopted" grandkids.

She is proceeded in death by her parents Raymond and Alberta House, brother Glenn (Skip) House, Grandchildren Matthew Cizek and Melanie Skinner.

A graveside service will be held at 11 am on Friday, March 22, 2024, at Green Glade Cemetery in Farmington, Iowa.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Crossings Church of Keokuk summer camp program.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com.

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

OBITUARIES

ALICE L. JOHNSTON

Alice Lucille Bowen Johnston was born Sept.13,1931 to James Corbley and Ruby (Smith) Bowen in Maloy, Iowa. She later moved to Benton, Iowa where Alice attended Benton school where she graduated as valedictorian of her Senior class. She also participated playing on the 6 on 6 high school girls basketball team.

t e

JOHNSTON

After graduation she worked at the Gunter Jewelry store in Mt. Ayr, IA and the Bedford Café in Bedford, Iowa where she met and fell in love with Thomas T(Tim) Johnston and would marry on June 18,1950. Alice then started her numbers career (bookkeeping) at the Johnston Motor Co. in Mt. Ayr, Iowa until 1961 when the family moved to Fort Madison, Iowa where she went to work in the Production Control Office of Sheaffer Pen Corp. for over 30 years, retiring in 1993. Tim and Alice celebrated 37 years of marriage until Tim's death in 1988.

Alice enjoyed the opportunity to spoil her grandsons in their early years and loved watching their sports and activities. Her house on Oak Drive was a stopping place for her grandsons, nieces and nephews and their friends to gather. Being #5 of 12 children and with 25 nieces and nephews gave her opportunity to be involved in many family events and celebrations.

In later years she enjoyed traveling with family and friends and her Friday nights at the casino; as well as watching sporting events on TV. She also enjoyed her daily phone calls from her surviving siblings. Alice still insisted on balancing her checkbook with only pencil and paper.

She is survived by one son Thomas T. "Ted" Johnston Jr. and wife Joan of Ft. Madison; grand-sons Todd Johnston (Rachel Hodges) of Murrells Inlet, S.C. and Nicholas (Kate) Johnston of Bloomington, IL; great granddaughters Emma Olson, Maddie and Mia Johnston; siblings Mickey Routh of Mt. Ayr, IA, Joe (Alice) Bowen of Iowa City, IA and Sandy Hulett of Osage Beach Mo; also, numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; sisters, Annie Haley, Sally Pratte, Katie Butler, Jean Herrington and Belle Graham; brothers, James, Jr. "Bobby", Larry Bowen, and Jerry "Oscar" Bowen.

Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The memorial service will be held on Friday, March 22, 2024 at 1:30 PM at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. John Simpson officiating. The family will meet with friends from 12:30 PM until the time of service. Burial will be in Oakland Cemetery.

A memorial has been established in her memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

JAMES HEALTHCARE

March Madness

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COMMENT ON A POST = 2 TICKETS
BOTH COMMENT & SHARE A POST = 5 TICKETS
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1ST PRIZE = LEXINGTON PIT BOSS GRILL SET

3RD PRIZE = 5100 MEAT BUNDLE
3RD PRIZE = DR. GETWELLS \$50 GIFT

WAR I

DOES NOT APPLY TO PEDERAL BENEFICIARIES

OBITUARIES

JOHN M. HASEK

John Morton Hašek, 85, of Nauvoo, Illinois, passed away at 9:26 a.m. Thursday, March 14, 2024 at his home. He was born on October 6, 1938 in Oak Park, Illinois,

HASEK

the son of Milvoj and Kathryn (Lepley)
Hašek. On June 12, 1964 he married Constance "Connie" Simons at the Manti, Utah,
Temple.

He is the proud father of ten children. He

is survived by his wife, Connie; nine children: Eric (Sonia) Hašek of Lafayette, Indiana, Craig (Danette) Hašek of Cleveland, Georgia, Ann (Mark) Maeser of Lindon, Utah, Carolyn (Mike) Filetti of Blountville,

Tennesee, Barant (Kimberlee) Hašek of Donnellson, Iowa, Laura (Jason) Skog of Nauvoo, Illinois, Mary (Jon Whibley) of Warsaw, Illinois, Sarah Maerz of Ankeny, Iowa, and Mark (Beth) Hašek of St. George, Utah. Also surviving are thirty seven grandchildren, twenty two great grandchildren and counting.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one son Jared; and one sister Barbara Anne Adams.

John worked in Human Resources for Bechtel & Brown Root, Fruehauf Trailer, Orschlen, and retired from Nauvoo Restoration Incorporated. His work had taken him all over the world. He enjoyed making jewelry out of exotic woods, silver, ebony and ivory piano keys, and collecting old tools and cars. He also enjoyed being outdoors, gardening and bird watching. He served as a boy scout leader and was a life long member of The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints, where he served as Bishop in Nauvoo from 1995 to 2000.

Friends may call after 12:00 noon Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo. The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, March 21, 2024 at The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints in Nauvoo. Burial will follow in the Nauvoo City Cemetery.

À memorial has been established in his memory for the Nauvoo Fire Department.

Schmitz - Banks & Beals Funeral Home is Assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at www.sbbfuneralhome.com.

Obituaries/Classifieds

OBITUARIES

NELSON JEAN

Jean Smith Nelson, 100, of Peoria, Illinois, formerly of Nauvoo, passed away peacefully on March 4, 2024, at her home in Lutheran Hillside Village.

NELSON

She was born on June 5, 1923, in Oakville, Iowa, the daughter of David Howard Smith and Lillian Bernice (nee Russell) Smith and was the second oldest of four children. She married Joseph Lewis Nelson of Nauvoo, Illinois, on December 24, 1941, and had three children: Joseph Randall, Jeffry Brooks and Jon Howard. Jean attended Wapello Grade School and graduated from Wapello Consolidated High School.

Jean was preceded in death by her parents: Howard and Lillian; brother: DeLos; baby sister: Fay; and her husband: Joseph Lewis.

Survivors include sister: Joan Smith Rice of Sacramento, California; sons: Joseph of Overland Park, Kansas; Jeffry (MaryAnn) of Chicago, Illinois, and Jon of Verona, Wisconsin; granddaughters: Catherine and Jill and five great grandchildren.

As teens, Jean and Betty Baxter of Nauvoo, Illinois, were friends, and together they attended and later were counselors at the King's Daughters summer camp in Montrose, Iowa, across the Mississippi River from Nauvoo. After camp, the girls would spend an extra week at each other's homes. While visiting Betty in Nauvoo, Jean was introduced to a handsome young man, Jody Nelson. They were engaged and later married on Christmas Eve, 1941; a marriage that lasted 62 years until Joe's death in 2003.

During WWII, Joe enlisted and became an Army Air Corp officer and a pilot. Stationed stateside as an advanced training instructor for fighter pilot cadets, Joe and Jean spent the war years moving to and from numerous Air Corp bases in the South. Jean found employment and education opportunities at each location. During this time, Jean graduated from Illinois Commercial College, and took continuing education courses at University of Illinois, University of Tennessee, and University of Wisconsin. While stationed in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Jean worked on the Manhattan Project, where the atomic bomb was developed.

After the war the couple moved to Seattle, Washington, where Joe, a pilot by training and an industrial designer by education, worked his dream job at Boeing. Soon, however, they were asked to return to Nauvoo to manage the family's electric utility, Nauvoo Electric Light and Power Company.

After the power company was sold, Joe built a career in design and management with major manufacturers in several states, while he and Jean raised their three sons.

Jean had many interests, often acquired from her travels, both domestic and abroad. She was a lifelong, voracious reader with always one, if not two, books going at the same time. Her particular interest in history and biographies made for many interesting conversations. Jean was also a highly accomplished seamstress, making her own dresses, coats and a variety of sweaters and wearing apparel. She also enjoyed quilting and loved to gift her works to her children and grandchildren. She continued to enjoy music, growing up as a pianist and later as a follower of the Peoria Symphony.

Jean was a Nauvoo Historical Docent and led many busloads of tourists around historic Nauvoo, explaining the historical impact that both Mormon and later French Icarian settlers had on Illinois history. By 1844, Nauvoo was actually the largest city in Illinois (today, the population of Nauvoo is 950).

As varied as Jean's interests appear, her love of shopping remained the undisputed focus of many, if not all, her adventures.

Always cheerful, optimistic, and energetic, Jean made friends easily everywhere she went. During her life, Jean was active in several community, service, recreational and church organizations including: the Methodist WSCS, the YWCA, her many Book Clubs and P.E.O.

In 1981 Jean and Joe moved back to Nauvoo to the family home on Knight Street. When Joe retired in 1986, they decided to reside in Nauvoo and travel. They enjoyed attending and even instructing Elder Hostiles around the country. In 2001, Jeff and Mary Ann, then of Peoria, Illinois, invited them to consider living at Lutheran Hillside Village, which had yet to break ground. Jean and Joe moved from Nauvoo to Liberty Village, in Peoria, while work on LHV was under way. They spent a number of days in the mobile offices behind the LHV construction site talking to Phil King about the wonderful experience awaiting them when LHV was completed. They moved in as soon as the "paint was dry," becoming two of LHV's inaugural residents. Jean thoroughly enjoyed LHV remarking once that LHV was the longest period of time she had ever lived anywhere.

Joe passed away on July 3, 2003, and Jean continued to live in Lutheran Hillside Village and later Samaritan, until her passing in 2024. At the time of her death, Jean was the second longest resident of LHV.

During her life, Jean accumulated a large collection of books which were donated to Lutheran Hillside Village's several libraries in her name.

Beloved Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother, Jean will forever be remembered for her cheerful, optimistic, and witty nature and the love she freely and relentlessly gave to her entire family. She was always happy to see us. God Bless you Mom. We will miss you.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Schmitz - Banks & Beals Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at <u>www.sbbfuneralhome.com</u>.

NCITY CURI

PUBLIC NOTICE Lee County, Iowa **Board of Supervisors** Agenda **DATE: Monday,** March 18, 2024 **MEETING CONVENING TIME:** 10:00 A.M. (CDT) LOCATION: 933 Avenue H Fort Madison, IA

---AGENDA---

Lee County Board of Supervisors

Mar 18, 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 **Public Input Best You Coalition** Update

Library Association Consider Approval of Changes to Dust Control Policy

Consider Approval of Purchase of Two Belly **Dump Trailers**

Review of Proposed County Budget

Discussion of Mandatory Proposed Tax Mailing Consent Agenda

- Monday, March 11, 2024 Board Minutes
 - Claims for Payment
- Tax Abatement Reso**lution**

Personnel Actions A. New Hire-Secondary Roads

B. Step Increase-EMS C. Step Increase-Sheriffs Office

Reports:

A. Manure Management Annual Updates for Fullenkamp Farms in Marion Township

Commission or Committee Reports Adjourn

PUBLIC MEETING CITIZENS WELCOME

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PUBLIC NOTICE TENTATIVE AGENDA FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL Tuesday, March 19, 2024 Time: 5:30 P.M. City Council Chambers, City Hall INVOCATION **ROLL CALL**

VISITORS AND AP-PEARANCE REQUESTS: At this time persons may address Council on any matters not on the Council agenda. After identifying yourself by name and address, please briefly state your issue.

PLEASE NOTE: This is not an opportunity to discuss issues with Council or to get information. In accordance with Open Meetings law, Council may not deliberate upon, nor take action on any complaint or suggestion or respond to any allegations which are not part of the published agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA 1. (BLANK) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to approve the consent agenda:

- Minutes of March 5, 2024;
- Setting public hearing for 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, concerning the proposed 24/25 Fiscal Year Maximum Property Tax Levy;
- Setting public hearing for 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 concerning the Floodplain Management Zoning Code;
- · Claims dated March 13, 2024, February Financial Report; and
- Payroll of March 8, 2024.

PUBLIC HEARING Concerning updates to the Natural Gas Fran-

chise Agreement with MidAmerican Energy Company. (Ord. D-70) Close Public Hearing

2. (BLANK) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to approve the first reading amending Ordinance D-70, MidAmerican Energy Company Franchise Agreement.

Concerning Public Improvement Project 2023-02, Connecting Fort Madison PORT Phase IV

Trail along 48th Street from Avenue L to River Valley Road.

Close Public Hearing 3. A. (BLANK) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED

to approve a resolution adopting plans, specifications, form of contract and estimate of cost for Public Improvement Project 2023-02, Fort Madison PORT Phase IV Trail.

B. (BLANK) MOVED and (blank) SECOND-ED to adopt a resolution awarding a construction contract in the amount of \$379,121.06 to Blue Top Excavating, LLC, of Wever, lowa, and approving the contract and bonds of Blue Top Excavating, LLC, pending receipt of the documents.

COMMUNITY RE-PORTS

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*maybe even faster than this car gets to 60, just sayin'!



Classifieds/Public Notices



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PUBLIC NOTICES

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

4. (BLANK) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to approve the third and final reading amending Ordinance D-55, Title 9, Chapter 15: Operation of Golf Carts, ATVs and UTVs.

5. (BLANK) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to approve the sec-

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Applications can be found online at www.fortmadi-upww.fortmadi-upwm.gr/

son-ia.com.

by March 22, 2024.



ond reading amending Ordinance D-47, Title 2, Chapter 4: Civil Service Commission.

OTHER

6. (BLANK) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to approve the Mayor's signature on a Three-Year Lease Agreement with Building Materials, Inc.

7. (BLANK) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to approve the Mayor's signature on a Five-Year Lease Agreement for farmland at the Water Treatment Plant with A & R Enterprise, Ltd. of Montrose, Iowa.

8. (BLANK) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to approve the Mayor's signature on a Subrecipient Agreement between City of Fort Madison and Fort Madison Beautification to outline that the City of Fort Madison, at the request of Fort Madison Beautification, will be applying for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Downtown Revitalization Fund (DTR) grant for the rehabilitation of facades within downtown Fort Madison and that Fort Madison Beautification will be procuring for the Architect and Historian and pay the invoices for these services.

- 9. Special Event Permits:
- a. Cottontail Dash Fun Run/Walk, Saturday, March 30, 2024 (See Council Report No. 2024-24)
- b. Downtown Summer Markets, June 6, July 11 & August 8, 2024 (See

Council Report No. 2024-25)

ÚPDATES
CITY MANAGER/DEPARTMENT REPORTS
COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS/MAYOR
ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT – The next City Council meeting will be held at 5:15 P.M. on Tuesday, April 2, 2024.

PUBLIC NOTICE MINUTES OF THE BURLINGTON, IOWA CITY COUNCIL INFORMAL WORK SESSION February 26, 2024

The Burlington City Council met in an informal work session at 4:30 p.m. in the Thomas J. Smith Council Chambers, City Hall with Mayor Billups, Council Members Bailey, Graham-Murray, Scott and Weiss present.

Items discussed at the informal work session are listed on the work session agenda on file in the office of the City Clerk. No action was taken.

Adjournment: 6:34 p.m. Approved: March 4, 2024 Chad Bird, City Manager

Jon D. Billups, Mayor

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF
WEST BURLINGTON
Regular City
Council Meeting
Wednesday,
March 20, 2024
6:00 PM
West Burlington
City Hall

122 Broadway Street

TENTATIVE AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER PLEDGE OF ALLE-GIANCE

ROLL CALL PERFECTING & AP-PROVAL OF AGENDA CONSENT AGENDA

All items on the Consent Agenda are Action items that will be considered by a single vote. Council members may request that an item be pulled for discussion and held for a separate vote. Items on the Consent Agenda may include claims over the City Administrator's authorized spending limit, payments related to previously approved contracts, and non-controversial or routine expenses as defined by the City's Purchasing Policy.

- 1. Minutes from the Regular City Council meeting on March 6, 2024
- 2. Payment to Carahsoft \$6,311.26
- 3. Approve a Quote from ACCO for materials needed to repair grating at Swimming Pool \$5,805.00
- 4. Pay Request #2 to Jones Contracting for work completed on Phase 2 of the Gear Ave. Trail Extension Project \$45,075.90
- 5. Payment to Mississippi Valley Pump for repairs to a swimming pool pump \$9,530
- 6. Payment of Claims as listed on the Expense Approval Report \$248,138.37

COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS

- ADMINISTRATOR:
- PUBLIC WORKS:POLICE DEPART-
- POLICE DEPART-MENT:
- FIRE/BUILDING DE-PARTMENT:
- CLERK/FINANCE/IT:
- OTHER STAFF RE-PORTS:
- COUNCIL REPORTS:COMMUNITY RE-
- PORTS: CITIZEN INQUIRIES

PROCLAMATION

1. Mayor Teater will
read a Proclamation

read a Proclamation declaring Thursday, April 4, 2024 as Junior Achievement Day in West Burlington

OLD BUSINESS NEW BUSINESS CITIZEN INQUIRIES ADJOURN

PUBLIC NOTICE GREEN BAY LEVEE & DRAINAGE DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES THURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024 7:00 P.M.

The Green Bay Levee & Drainage District met at the reorganizational meeting on Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Heartland Co-Op, Wever. Present were trustees Mike Walker, Rick Kuntz, Brandon Bonar and clerk, Kimberly Spear. Also present were other members of the community.

All votes are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

Spear announced the results of the election:

Brandon Bonar, 13 Writeins 0. Total votes 13. Bonar was sworn in by Spear.

Moved by Kuntz, seconded by Bonar, to appoint Kuntz chairman, Walker the Corps and IFC spokesman, Kuntz the FSA Spokesman and Bonar the contact person for the Pump Master. Motion carried.

Transition to the regular meeting took place at 7:03 p.m.

Spear read the minutes from the regular meeting held on December 28, 2023. Moved by Kuntz, seconded by Bonar, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Pat Kaltefleiter gave the Pump Master report. River stage in December was 8.99. Moved by Bonar, seconded by Kuntz, to accept the Pump Master Report as presented. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the Des Moines County property. The district will hold off on moving forward.

Josh from Klinger was present to update the trustees on a meeting with FEMA. The district will take information from FEMA to the Corp to move forward on the 408. Moved by Kuntz, seconded by Bonar to allow Trustee Walker to work with Klinger on going to the Corp to get FEMA certified and moving forward with the 408 permit. Motion carried.

Klinger will also get the total amount regarding the Nustar bill so the Dis-

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

trict can be reimbursed by IFC.

There will be a UMIM-RA meeting in Quincy February 15 and 16. Trustees plan to attend.

Moved by Kuntz, seconded by Bonar to approve the Clerk's Report. Motion carried. Current balances are \$352,973.51 in the Operating Fund.

At 7:49 p.m. Kuntz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bonar. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting of the Drainage District will be Thursday, February 29, 2024.

Respectfully submitted by Kimberly Spear, Lee County Auditor's Office.

PUBLIC NOTICE West Burlington Planning and Zoning Commission **Meeting Minutes** Tuesday, November 14, 2023

The West Burlington Planning and Zoning Commission met on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at West Burlington City Hall, 122 Broadway Street, West Burlington, Iowa, with Chairman presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Blake Ruther, Karen Dewey, Gary Deen, Joe Rector, and Sandy Lee MEMBERS ABSENT:

Larisa Conner and Mary Storch

ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator Gregg Mandsager and City Clerk Kelly Fry

CALL TO ORDER ROLL CALL

PERFECTING & AP-PROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Ruther, seconded by Dewey, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by the following votes:

Aves: Ruther, Dewey, Deen, Rector, and Lee PERFECTING & AP-PROVAL OF MINUTES

Consider approval of minutes from the Planning and Zoning meeting on January

Moved by Ruther, seconded by Dewey, to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2023 Commission meeting. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Ruther, Dewey, Deen, Rector, and Lee **NEW BUSINESS**

Discuss Updates to the City's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning and Subdivision Regulations

City Administrator Mandsager updated the Commission on plans to update the City's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Codes. City Council has entered into a contract with Bolten-Menk to

develop a unified vision among community members, elected officials, and the community. The current Comprehensive Plan is outdated and does not provide a long-range vision or goals for the City. Most plans are written to provide direction for ten to twenty years after their adoption.

City Administrator Mandsager highlighted the benefit of having a cohesive plan in place and how the planning process provides an opportunity for citizens to give their input. Bolten-Menk will use a variety of tools to gain public input and encourage the Commission members to be involved with the process.

A comprehensive plan serves the following functions:

- The plan provides continuity. The plan provides continuity across time and gives successive public bodies a common framework for addressing land use issues.
- It is a tool the City can use to seek funding by illustrating the City's goals are in place and identifying the community's needs
- •It allows communities to plan development in a way that protects their valued resources and

identifies environmental features like stormwater issues, transportation needs, and housing needs

- · It provides guidance for shaping the appearance of the community.
- It promotes economic development.
- It provides justification for decisions.

Bolten-Menk will also recommend updates to the zoning and subdivision code that will support the goals of the Comprehensive Plan. Council discussed the benefits of doing the Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Code at the same time.

Moved by Crowner, seconded by Lees, to approve a Professional Services Agreement with Bolten-Menk to update the City's Comprehensive Plan, for \$71,500.

Consider a Final Plat for Wayne Johnson Subdivision

The property located at 410 Wahington Road is being subdivided into two lots. Lot one will have the single-family home and the remainder of the lot will be joined with Lot 3 in the Walker Subdivision, creating Lot 2 in the Wayne Johnson Subdivision. The Final Plat has been reviewed by City Staff and appears to be in compliance with the City Code. This is a simple split, which does not require a Preliminary Plat.

Moved by Ruther, seconded by Dewey, to recommend City Council waive the Preliminary Plat and approve the Final Plat for the Wayne Johnson Subdivision. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Ruther, Dewey, Deen, Rector, and Lee Consider a Final Plat for the Fourth Addition to Whiteacre, Inc. Subdivi-

The proposed Fourth Addition to Whiteacre Subdivision has been created to realign two lots in the Second Addition to Whiteacre, Inc. Subdivision. The lot along Agency (Lot 1) will extend further north and the lot along Broadway (Lot 2) will be reduced to 1.10 acres. The Final Plat has been reviewed by City Staff and appears to be in compliance with the City Code. This is a simple re-aligning of lots, which does not require a Preliminary Plat.

Moved by Rector, seconded by Ruther, to recommend City Council waive the Preliminary Plat and approve the Final Plat for the Fourth Addition to Whiteacre

Inc. Subdivision. Motion carried by the following

Ayes: Ruther, Dewey, Deen, Rector, and Lee Appoint Chairman for

to appoint Karen Dewey as Chairman for 2023.

Appoint Vice-Chairman for 2024

Moved by Dewey, seconded by Rector, to appoint Joe Rector as Vice-Chairman for 2023. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Ruther, Dewey, Deen, Rector, and Lee Appoint Representative to serve on the Board of Adjustment for 2024

Moved by Rector, seconded by Dewey, to appoint Blake Ruther as the P&Z Commission's representative on the Board of Adjustment for 2023. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Ruther, Dewey, Deen, Rector, and Lee **OLD BUSINESS ADJOURN**

Moved by Dewey, seconded by Lee, to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Motion carried by the following votes:

Aves: Ruther, Dewey, Deen, Rector, and Lee Kelly D. Fry, City Clerk

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From the Front

New bill could put state in charge of traffic cameras

UPDATE - Continued from Page 1

offered an amendment to a current bill that would allow for software in schools that would alert school officials, including resource officers, when a gun is drawn out of a holster or other concealed apparatus.

Reichman said the year has been a little different than pass sessions due to priorities.

Reichman said a review of core curriculum is a priority out of the House and into the Senate for review.

He also said the gun identification software provides additional options for school districts.

"It's definitely an option and any options help, but unfortunately I think, kids would have a great time trying to figure out how to defeat that software and have some fun with it," he said. "But we like to have as many tools as we can."

Rinker said he was happy with a bill that came out regarding Pharmacy Benefit Managers. He said when Iowans go to a pharmacy and hand them a prescription, there are a lot of things going on behind the scenes.

"We heard of examples where the pharmacy is getting reimbursed 40% of the actual cost of dispensing the product."

He said the bill would make sure pharmacies get

at least 100% of the cost of providing the drug so they aren't losing money.

Questions from the audience of about 40 started with conversations around the speed cameras placed on the Hwy. 27/218 corridor.

Reichman said the senate is leading toward regulating the cameras and not banning them completely.

Graber said a bill in front of the legislature would ban cameras in the state while also requiring handsfree cellphone access. He said there is support for passing the bill but the questions legislators are grappling with is whether or not to ban them or regulate them.

There's a perception that a lot of people are doing it just to get the money," Graber said. "And I think I can show you cases in the state where they are doing that."

Resident Doug Abolt said the question of whether or not the cameras should be allowed should be put to voters and not be left to legislators to make the decision.

Rinker said he's worked a lot on the topics, including working with Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber.

"I am not at all in favor of banning them. There are certain circumstances in the state where traffic flows and risks to officers working those areas is too risky. Cameras would work in those situations," Rinker said.

He said the DOT should take over the installation, maintenance, and authority behind traffic camera placement. He said the DOT would collect the revenue, deduct the cost of the implementation from the top line, and then send the rest back to local agencies to help with related costs.

"That way the state isn't out any money because we're collecting that off the top line and local authorities could see the revenue needed for traffic enforcement," Rinker said.

That way he said private companies are taken out of the equation.

"In my opinion we can't have private companies profiting off traffic safety in the state."

Reichman said no one likes to get a ticket, but it's not unreasonable if you're going 10 mph over the limit, you should expect a ticket.

"We're lucky we're getting away with that."

Resident Ted Stein said he would rather see the issue regulated locally because trying to address the issue at the state level would be more difficult working through the state than it would be with county supervisors and the sheriff's department.

Abolt said he hasn't met one person who favors having the cameras in place. However, a hand poll of those in attendance only showed two people supported banning the cameras and one was Abolt.

Reichman said the surveillance gets scary.

"Big brother's watching. And that's scary," Reichman said.

Other issues brought up to legislators included why the state still has an abstract process instead of just going to straight to deeds, and then a discussion on eminent domain.

Abolt said eminent domain is constitutionally illegal and efforts to establish a CO2 carbon sequestration pipeline a reality in Iowa and Lee County are firing up again. Abolt said three unelected officers of the Iowa Utilities Board shouldn't be able to authorize the taking of private citizens' land for private purposes.

"We don't want it. Not one scintilla of it," he said. Andrew Johnson, West Point, who has been advocating against the use of eminent domain, said Iowans should be allowed to take companies to court to appeal the IUB process.





ww.greatriverhealth.org/prevention/colorectal-cancer/



Education News/From the Front

New bill could put state in charge of traffic cameras

SPEED- Continued from Page 1

said they're seeing more taillights. So that's a good thing."

Weber also pointed to a key piece of data with the cameras – no one has been hurt at any of the intersections where cameras are located.

Reps. Martin Graber and Matt Rinker, along with Reichman, discussed the bill that would essentially ban the cameras, while also requiring hands-free cellphone usage. None of the three supported fully banning the cameras, but they do support some form of state regulation, including taking over revenue collection and dispersing to counties based on data.

Rinker said he did not support the use of cameras if private companies profit from the fines. He said the state should take over managing the cameras.

Lee County resident Doug Abolt said using the cameras should be put to voters, calling them traps. Vandenberg agreed, but then pivoted a bit asking how the state would regulate the cameras.

"That could change the way I think about them." Weber said regulation could involve, among other things, working with Iowa Dept. of Transportation to identify higher danger areas.

Abolt asked Graber to poll the 37 people in attendance if the cameras should be banned or if they should be regulated. Only Abolt and Ray Menke raised their hands to ban the cameras. About 20 others raised their hands to have the things regulated.

Granted it was just an ad hoc straw poll on a beautiful Friday afternoon, but it was telling. People don't seem to mind the cameras if the state takes a closer look at how they are used.

Vandenberg asked if the sheriff had consulted with the state patrol on how they view the cameras.

"I would think the State Patrol would be in favor of them if they are helping save lives," Weber responded.

Calling the cameras that are clearly marked a trap is a bit of stretch. Fines are not moving violations and are civil, not criminal, fines. Those that aren't paid get turned over to small claims.

I'm no fan of speed cameras. I go from point A to point B and sometimes I'm trying to get to point B to catch a photo, or an event, or trying to get to two or three things at the same time. I'm getting better. More importantly, I'm getting safer. But when I set my cruise at 75 on a 65 and people buzz around me, that's a problem.

We've written on the early data from the cameras and the number of people who are violating those posted limits is unbelievable – sometimes 400 a day with a predicted peak of 600 a day. We have sheriff's department staff that is spending close to four hours a day just dealing with the tickets that have to be authorized locally.

That takes the time of sheriff administrators or deputies. The bottom line is just slow down, but here's the rub with that. A good portion of the tickets are people passing through the county. They probably aren't reading this.

You can't have the conversation on speed cameras without talking about the revenue generation. That's serious money being paid by people who, let's face it, are violating the law. Some local - some not. The county is now depositing checks regularly at a rate of several million dollars a year. That's theoretical based on very early data. And that's revenue off people who are outside the grace. That's a lot of one-time money for the county to use on worthwhile projects determined by the board, locally. Money coming from people who are again, violating the law. When we think about the potential property cap implications on the budget, that could be money to help keep deputies on the road, or pave roads to reduce the need for dust control, or help families pay for legitimate driver education or drive campaigns. If the more frugal of us don't like raising taxes, isn't a fine on people who like to drive really fast a decent idea?

I think the better idea is to just freakin' slow down. That's what I'm doing - 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.

Central Lee FFA sparks leadership

DONNELLSON - The National FFA is a dynamic youth organization that changes lives and prepares members for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

FFA develops members' potential and helps them discover their talent through hands-on experiences, which give members the tools to achieve real-world success.

Members are future farmers, chemists, veterinarians, government officials, entrepreneurs, bankers, international business leaders, teachers and premier professionals in many career fields.

FFA is an intracurricular student organization for those interested in agriculture and leadership. It is one of the three components of agricultural education.

The official name of the organization is the National FFA Organization. The letters "FFA" stand for Future Farmers of America. These letters are a part of our history and our heritage that will never change. The Central Lee FFA, being one of the largest chapters in the state of Iowa, with 152 members, prides itself in the hard work of our students and the support from the community.



Front Row - (L-R); Mr. Tom Boeck (Advisor), Dustin Newberry (3rd Vice President), Alan Bollin (Sentinel), Andrew Underwood (Vice President), Landon Rudd (President), Jalyn Hawk (Secretary), Aubrey Weber (2nd Vice President), Ward Frasie (Treasurer), Mr. Noah Altenhofen (Advisor). Second Row - (L-R): Jodee Boone, Landon Crank, Riley Stuecker, Justin Snider, Landan Lowenberg, Cameron Stewart, Aydin Holland, Halle Lampe, Josie Newton, Makayla Howard, Sidney Gruntmeir, Josie Mueller, Kamryn Cox. Third Row - (L-R): Jayven Thurmond, Dakota Feilen, Ian Martin, Albert Kruse, Ostyn Moore, Carlee Pezley, Shanna Buford, Aubree Boyd, Jaciann Hawk, Cory Jones, Blake Lindsay, Cloey Koch, Fourth Row (L-R); Matthew Wenke-Frueh, Zachary Richardson, Ethan Bergman, Joseph Krebill, Adi Robinson, Lila Shepard, Kennedy Wellman, Kaleigh Coleman, Brandon Suminski, Will Ferris, Sydnie Larson. Fifth Row (L-R): Kaden Swan, Brayden Wyrick, Isabella Rooney, Adriana Rippenkroeger, Kylie Fortune, Cody Kitzman, Leo Thomas, Riley Salter-Rickman, Owen Krogmeier, Drake Weber, Ella Ashmore, Courtney Davidson. Sixth Row (L-R): Brody Moeller, Owen Swan, Chase Clark, Kegan Damico, Charlee Clay, Lily Smith, Addie Newberry, Avery Peterson, Taylor Jones, Audrey Sturdivant, Jayden Mueller, Lily Thomas. Seventh Row (L-R): Lucas Wenke, Nathan Newberry, Frankie Jenkins, Peter Seyb, Mylan Lowenberg, Jacob Vollmer, Nadia Boyer, Kayla Wenke, Ivy Smith, Riley Gregory, Layla Gonterman, Halie Coulter. Eighth Row (L-R): Jack Benner, Max Jones, Connor Boyd, Brett Cook, Blake Davis, Carson Morrison, Sienna Riley, Macie Doty, Nora Lampe, Julia Fraise, Brynnlie Howard, Destiny Rhoer, Shaye Barbee. Ninth Row (L-R): Cole Leeper, Ethan Moore, Korben Moeller, Gage Van Ausdall, Colten Taft, Nic Wiegand, Korbin Wilson, Allison Gruntmeir, Makenah Cox, Connor Bollin, Craig Mortimer, Dusty Souder, Landen Buechel. Tenth Row (L-R): Lucas Crank, Parker Ellis, Zach Estrada, Caden Weber, Baylor Ferreira, Gavin Polhans, Caden Crozier, Kenneth McFadden, Jovan Rule, Wyatt Day, Luke Vanderpool, Kaden Skow, Ethan Sparrow, Eleventh Row (L-R): Cadence Burnett, Tyler Martin, Makayla Mertens, Tanner McGlasson, Tate Gallerick, Emery Edmonson, Collin Schmidt, Kaidin Humes, Jacob Stiffler, Gabriel Young, Westyn Fraher, Sammy Rooney.

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