

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Friday, March 22, 2024 | 8 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 54



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Prank results in lockdown

CENTRAL LEE: No weapons found on student tracked through IT tools

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DONNELSON – An incident that Central Lee Superintendent Dr. Andy Crozier said was an attempt to start spring break a little early has been dispensed with by the school district.

School officials received an unspecified threat of a suicide call from LeeComm dispatch at about 10:22 a.m. Thursday. School officials quickly put both buildings on a soft lockdown until they could determine the origin of the threat.

School officials and Lee County Sheriff's deputies on the



CROZIER

scene were quickly able to identify the device that the threat came from as being inside the high school.

At 10:55 another threat came into the school, but it was determined the second threat came from the same device.

"We were able to obtain the IP address and used the URL from the suicide hotline to locate the device the threats came from, and we were able to secure that student within minutes," Crozier said.

See PRANK, page 2

AG Bird gets after TikTok for targeting children

AGE RATING: Iowa's top lawyer nipping at TikTok's heels again after filing suit in January

DES MOINES - On Wednesday, Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird filed to change TikTok's app store age rating to protect kids while the office's lawsuit continues.

In January, Attorney General Bird sued TikTok for deceiving parents by lying about children's widespread access to explicit videos on its social media app. The lawsuit makes the case that TikTok is violating App Store guidelines by claiming a "12+" age rating, despite containing frequent and intense adult material such as sexual content, profanity, self-harm, drugs, and binge-drinking. The temporary injunction will require TikTok to change its App Store age rating to "17+" while the lawsuit is ongoing.

"It's past time for TikTok to be honest with parents," said Attorney General Bird. "As a mom and prosecutor, I am deeply disturbed by TikTok's lying to parents and recommending explicit videos to kids, including videos packed with sexual content and self-harm. That's why I'm taking action to make TikTok raise its App Store age rating to '17+'. I will do everything in my power to stop TikTok's deception and keep kids safe online."

TikTok's deception violates the Iowa Consumer Fraud Act. The lawsuit aims to stop TikTok from misleading parents and users about the availability of inappropriate videos on the app. It also challenges TikTok's misleading statements about TikTok's parental controls, both in the platform's Community Guidelines and in the Google and Microsoft app stores.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Roger Ricketts, executive director, of the North Lee County Community Foundation talks with representatives of 501c3 organizations Wednesday afternoon at the Hawkeye Restaurant in Keokuk. Ricketts, and Phillip Ricketts, foundation administrator, gave an update on the foundation and grant programs.

State's jobless rate down, but so is labor participation

DES MOINES – Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 2.9 percent in February, down from 3.0 percent in January and equal to the rate one year ago. Meanwhile, despite widespread job growth across multiple industries, Iowa's labor force participation rate ticked down from 67.3 percent in January to 67.2 percent in February

as a large concentration of young Iowans left work for education.

The U.S. unemployment rate increased to 3.9 percent in February.

The number of unemployed Iowans decreased to 50,200 in February from 51,100 in January, while the number of working Iowans fell to 1,650,700 in February. The employed figure is 3,000 lower than January

and 13,200 lower than one year ago.

"February was warmer than normal, and the impact of that showed up in Iowa's economy," said Beth Townsend, Executive Director of Iowa Workforce Development. "Iowa businesses added jobs in nearly every major industry last month,

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WEATHER

- FRI 22 Mar.....Rainy and cool, 50° F/ 25° F
- SAT 23 Mar.....Chilly with clear skies, 44° F/ 31° F
- SUN 24 Mar.....Windy with a chance of a wintry mix, 50° F/ 44° F
- IOWA LOTTERY
- DOUBLE PLAY 03/20.....7 9 10 26 43, Powerball: 24
- LOTTO AMERICA 03/20.....3 6 29 44 50, Star Ball: 7 All Star Bonus: 3
- LUCKY FOR LIFE 03/20.....23 30 33 37 45, Lucky Ball: 1
- PICK 3 MIDDAY 03/20.....0 4 6
- PICK 3 EVENING 03/20.....4 4 0
- PICK 4 MIDDAY 03/20.....5 0 3 3
- PICK 4 EVENING 03/20.....4 9 1 6
- POWERBALL 03/20.....13 22 27 54 66, Powerball: 9 Power Play: 2

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Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

SHARON M. HUFF

Sharon M. Huff, 75, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 1:53 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL. She was born on June 20, 1948 in Kirksville, MO to Victor L. & Elizabeth R. McMurray Anthony. She married Richard E. Huff on July 24, 1966 at Santa Fe United Methodist Church in Fort Madison, IA. She babysat for numerous children over the years and was the church Secretary at Santa Fe United Methodist Church, and later worked for Fort Madison Community Hospital for 17 years. She was a member of Harmony Bible Church, Quilting Queens, Hancock County Quilts of Valor, Cradle of Hope, and the Harmony Bible Church Quilting Group. She enjoyed music, reading, playing her kazoo, and spending time with her family and grandchildren.



HUFF

Sharon is survived by: her mother: Betty Anthony of Fort Madison, IA; her husband: Rick Huff of Fort Madison, IA; 2-sons: Nick (Shelley) Huff of North Richland Hills, TX & Lance (Tammy) Huff of Shepherdsville, KY; 8-grandchildren: Nicole Schukow, Brandon Palmer, Baustin Quillen, Beux Quillen, Brielle Quillen, Heinze Huff, Rylan Huff & Griffin Huff; 4-great grandchildren: Dimitri, Anya, Addison & Logan Schukow and many special friends she has made along her journey. She was preceded in death by her father & 1-sister: Vicki Anthony.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A visitation will be held from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 25, 2024 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Pastor Matt Mitchell officiating. Burial will be held at Greenglade Cemetery in Farmington, IA. A memorial has been established for Quilts of Valor. Online condolences to the Huff family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com. The family would like to give a big thank you to the Blessing Hospital ICU staff for their outstanding care.

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.

No credible threat from student

PRANK - Continued from Page 1

“The investigation has showed that this was not a credible threat and was more of a prank by one student. It’s my opinion this was a bad choice by a student to try and get spring break started early. Years past this used to be a bomb threat.”

Central Lee’s spring break begins Monday. Crozier said the student had no weapons and the biggest message for the district is that no students or staff were ever in any danger, and there was a very quick response to the incident from the district

and Lee County Sheriff’s Office.

He also credited IT Director Kris Brewer for quickly utilizing information at hand to identify whose device was being used and where that device was located.

As a result of the investigation, a 15-year-old juvenile was detained and taken to the Southeast Iowa Juvenile Detention Center and charged with Threats of Terrorism, a Class D Felony.

The district ended its lockdown at 11:30.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

03/20/24 – 1:50 p.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Joshua Edwin James Hartman, 38, of Fort Madison, at 15th Place and Avenue M, on charges of possession of a controlled substance – methamphetamine and driving under suspension. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/20/24 – 5:52 p.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Michael Anthony Abreu, 25, of Connecticut, in the 4800 block of Avenue O, on a charge of enticing under 16 – sex abuse. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/21/24 – 12:26 a.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Brandon Warron Traman, 36, of Fort Madison, in the

1100 block of 34th Street, on charges of interference with official acts and 3rd degree harassment. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Keokuk Police Report

03/20/24 – 2:29 a.m. – Keokuk police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1400 block of Timea Street.

03/20/24 – 8:19 a.m. – Keokuk police responded to a report of vandalism in the 400 block of High Street.

03/20/24 – 8:33 p.m. – Keokuk police arrested Joshue Lee Stark, 39, of Keokuk, in the 600 block of High Street, on a charge of false ID of law/public service officer. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

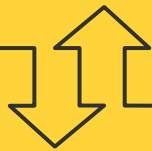
Lee County Sheriff Report

03/21/24 – 12:05 a.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Brett Lee Traman, 35, of Fort Madison, in the 500 block of Avenue G, West Point, on charges of eluding, driving under suspension, assault of law office/others – no injuries, and 3rd degree harassment. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/21/24 – 4:37 a.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Cody Dale Kussman, 36, of Fort Madison, at the Lee County Jail, on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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Illinois News/Scene Around the Area

Legacy lineup changes in Carthage

CARTHAGE - The magician performing at The Legacy Theater in May has changed. But the performance will remain magical for young and old.

Due to unforeseen personal circumstances, Johnny Magic is not able to perform his show at The Legacy Theater in Carthage. In his place, the theater has engaged Magician Jason Hudy to perform his show, "Mesmerizing Magic," on the same date, May 3 at 7 p.m.

Tickets already purchased for Johnny Magic will be honored for Jason Hudy's performance.

"I have engaged Jason Hudy at previous venues. I am thrilled to bring him to Carthage," said Tom Robbins, new executive director of The Legacy Theater. "He never fails to engage the audience with his illusions."

With over 8,000 performances around the world in the last 20 years, Hudy's one-man show specializes in lively action and audience participation.

From close-up magic with the audience to large illusions where people appear and vanish, guests at his shows all leave with the same question: How did he do that?

Hudy has performed his illusions in large theaters and performing arts centers, cruise ships, late-night talk shows, amusement parks, corporations and more.

Now master magician Jason Hudy is bringing his "Mesmerizing Magic" Show to The Legacy Theater for a one-night-only, family friendly, magical engagement.

The Jason Hudy performance at The Legacy Theater is sponsored by Marine Bank and Trust.

In addition to his public show on May 3, Hudy will perform a free show for many Hancock County students, supported in part by the United Way of the Great River Region.

"Bringing live entertainment into the lives of young people is an important part of The Legacy Theater's mission to educate and inspire," said Robbins.

Tickets for the Jason Hudy's Mesmerizing Magic, and all other shows of the 2024 season, are available at www.thelegacytheater.com, by calling 217-357-9479, or by visiting the box office 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. The box office is also open 2 hours prior to performances.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Central Lee Agricultural Education/FFA participated in National Agriculture week recently by driving agricultural equipment to school. The theme for this year's celebration, "Agriculture: Growing a Climate for Tomorrow," reflects exciting opportunities in agriculture for those who dedicate their lives to this vital industry and the responsibility we share to bring forward innovative thinking and ideas to secure agriculture's future. Front(L-R) Jalyn Hawk, Dusty Souder, Cloey Koch, Aubrey Weber, Charlee Clay, Connor Bollin, Korbin Wilson, Craig Mortimer, Brody Johnson, Gavin Polhans. (Back L-R) Lucas Wenke, Landon Rudd, Sydnie Larson, Will Ferris, Korben Moeller, Kaden Snow, Dylan Rankin, Nic Wiegand, Joe Krebill, Kegan Damico, Cameron Stewart.

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Sports/Local News

Fishing slows a bit as water temperatures drop in SE Iowa

DES MOINES - The following is the weekly fishing report for southeast Iowa waters provided by the Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources.

Lake Belva Deer

Water temperature down to 40 degrees. Fishing pressure has dropped due to weather. Black Crappie - Slow: Anglers are picking up a few crappies from the beach when wind allows them to slow drift using ice fishing jigs. Channel Catfish - Fair: Anglers continue to pick up a few along the face of the dam using cutbait. Largemouth Bass - Slow: Target the northside out of the wind using soft plastics or jigs with trailers where the sun is warming the water.

Lake Darling

Water temperature around 40 degrees. Colder weather and wind have kept angler pressure low. Channel Catfish - Slow: Looking around rocks at the weirs in the in-lake silt dams. Largemouth Bass - Fair: A few largemouth caught along the rocks. Fish soft plastics or jigs bounced slowly



along the bottom along the rocks. A few crawdads are out and about.

Lake Geode

Water temperatures dropped into the mid 40s. Largemouth Bass - Slow: Bass fishing has slowed some with return of cooler weather. Fish the upper end of the lake in shallows which warms faster on sunny afternoons.

Lost Grove Lake

Water temperature dropped a little this week, now around 39-40 degrees. Largemouth Bass - Slow: With forecasted colder, wet weather, expect bass to move off shallow rocky areas to edges of nearby deeper water. Catch them by slowly working jigs along those edges.

For more information on the above

lakes and rivers call the Lake Darling Fisheries Office at 319-694-2430.

Hawthorn Lake

Try cut bait for channel catfish in areas with the wind blowing in.

Lake Miami

Bluegill - No Report: As water warms target brush piles and shoreline with small jigs. Channel Catfish - Slow: Try cutbait along windblown shorelines.

Lake Sugema

Try cut bait for channel catfish along the wind-blown shorelines.

Lake Wapello

Bluegill - No Report: Target brush piles as water warms with small jigs. Channel Catfish - Slow: Target wind-blown shorelines using cutbait or dead chubs.

Ottumwa Park Pond South (Trout Pond)

Trout will be stocked Saturday, March 23rd at 11 a.m.. You will need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout.

Rainbow Trout - No Report: Try small plastics spoons or spinners.

Rathbun Reservoir

The current lake level is 902.83; recreation pool is 904. Surface water temperature is 44° F. The Dedication Site boat ramp has reopened but use caution as the lake is still below recreation pool. Docks have not been installed at this time. Very little fishing activity occurring. Lake Rathbun has zebra mussels so properly drain, clean and dry equipment before transporting to another waterbody. Channel Catfish - Fair: Try cutbait on the windblown shorelines. Walleye - No Report: All walleye less than 15" must be immediately released unharmed. .

Red Haw Lake

Bluegill - No Report: As water temperature warms look for bluegill along brush piles. Use small jigs or spinners. Channel Catfish - Slow: Try cut bait along the shore.

Contact the Rathbun Fish Hatchery at 641-647-2406 with questions about fishing in south central Iowa.

JAMES HEALTHCARE

March Madness

REFER A PATIENT = 5 TICKETS
 SHARE A POST = 2 TICKETS
 COMMENT ON A POST = 2 TICKETS
 BOTH COMMENT & SHARE A POST = 5 TICKETS
 REFERRAL ACCEPTS = 20 TICKETS

1ST PRIZE = LEXINGTON PIT BOSS GRILL SET

2ND PRIZE = \$100 MEAT BUNDLE

3RD PRIZE = DR. GETWELLS \$50 GIFT CARD

* DOES NOT APPLY TO FEDERAL BENEFICIARIES

FMAAA hosting Region 12 Art Show Saturday

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Area Art Center is proud to announce that it will be hosting the Iowa Artists Region 12 Art Show on March 23rd, 2024, from 10am to 5pm.

This show comprises artists from the Des Moines, Henry, Jefferson, Lee, Louisa, Muscatine, Van Buren, and Washington counties in Iowa. Artist participants need to be current members of the Iowa Artists Association. Artwork may be 2D or 3D, with this show effectively comprising a jurying process for the State Show. All Blue ribbon work is invited and expected to go to the State Show in May. All work must be original in concept and created by the artist. Reference photos must be of the artist's own making or used with the written permission of the originator.

No copyrighted material created by others may be used as a reference. As an artist, it is your responsibility to research and understand the current "Fair Use Practices." Artwork must have been completed within the past two years and not previously shown in any Iowa Artists show (includes regional, state, online, traveling, or any other Iowa Artists-sponsored contest).

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Sports

PREVIEW

Lady Hound girls building again

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison girls golf squad is coming off an improvement year in 2023 under first-year coach Paul Wilkerson, but this year’s squad has experience, some scoring, and a new coaching squad that looks an awful lot like the girls’ wrestling coaches.

First year head coach Janelle Cresswell is working Kyle Doherty and Ryan Peters, who worked with the girls on the Lady Hounds’ wrestling team. Cresswell said numbers are good for this year’s golf team and now there’s some experience. Prior to Wilkerson, the Lady Hounds played as individuals with just a couple golfers. Now, they are competing as a team.

“Last year I think they had healthy numbers and we have a lot of incoming freshmen. I think we have seven returners from last year,” Cresswell said.

“So I think there’s some sustenance. Golf is getting popular. The coverage of it professionally kind of is making it cool again, and this is something they can do the rest of their lives.”

The Bloodhounds will look to senior Lauryn Helmick to lead scoring. Helmick was the top scorer last year.

“I believe she posted our team’s best score last year and I think she just wants to build on that,” Cresswell said.

“The rest of the girls are coming and working hard and we have some freshmen who have been playing a while and taking lessons and I’m looking for them to help us get some Ws.”

She said Lucy Arevalo and Ella Wright will also be counted on to keep the Lady Hounds in meets.

Lucy Arevalo and Ella Wright come with experi-



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Fort Madison Lady Hounds golf team is under new direction with Head Coach Janelle Cresswell, far left, joined by Ryan Peters, back row right and Kyle Doherty, kneeling front row right. Senior Lauryn Helmick is expected to lead the growing squad in 2024.

ence. I know they hung close to some leaders (last year). We have some athletes, and these girls know what to expect.”

Cresswell said the girls had extra commitment to preseason workouts, as well, with open gyms and indoor hitting at Spirit Hollow’s Shankopotamus.

“We’ve had quite a few open gyms this year and we took them to Shankopotamus, so they’ve hit a few.”

She said golf is a good game for the girls to learn and develop confidence in themselves and build on teamwork.

“I think it’s an important sport to learn and a nice

break from the regular ball sports.”

She said underclassmen will need to help seal some wins and Jaycee Fullenkamp could be one of those on the score card at the end of the day.

“She’s been putting the work in and has a great attitude. She’s been at all of our meets and I really think she’s going to sneak up on some people. I’m excited for her.”

The girls’ first meet is April 1 at Washington. The Lady Hounds have two home meets this year at Sheaffer and play twice at Flint Hills. They will also have matches around the conference in Fairfield, Keokuk, Washington, and Mt. Pleasant.

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- 4,404 CATTLE ON FEED
- 180,458 HOGS SOLD
- 98,127 HOGS
- 41 TURKEYS
- 1,322 LAYERS



9% JOBS IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

22% JOBS IN CROP PRODUCTION

- MARKET VALUE OF CROPS = \$75.2 MILLION
- 69,962 ACRES OF CORN
- AVERAGE CORN YIELD PER ACRE = 173 BUSHELS
- 63,967 ACRES OF SOYBEANS
- AVERAGE SOYBEAN YIELD PER ACRE = 51 BUSHELS



Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
DONNELLSON
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY,
MARCH 11TH, 2024
7:30PM
CITY HALL**

The regular meeting of the Donnellson City Council was called to order by Mayor Dave Ellingboe, with Council Members Moeller, Marshall, Weber, Wagner & Newton present. City staff present were City Clerk Rebecca Schau, Police Chief Brad Roberts, Public Works Director Todd Herdrich & Librarian Sunny Robbins.

Motion by Newton, second by Moeller to approve the agenda: all ayes.

Citizen comments – Focus Groups with Donnellson Vision, projects of interest. Trees Forever & Iowa State University Extension will be putting together the data and getting it back with the vision committee.

Motion by Weber, second by Marshall to

approve the minutes of the February '24 meeting: all ayes.

Motion by Weber, second by Wagner to approve the February '24 financial reports: all ayes.

Motion by Weber, second by Newton to approve the February '24 disbursements and March '24 bills to be allowed: all ayes.

Motion by Weber, second by Marshall to Approve Application for New Liquor License and Wine/Beer Permits for Patrick Profeta & Neal Kohlmorgan DBA Lee County Speedway / KP Race Promotions LLC: all ayes.

Motion by Wagner, second by Moeller to Approve Special Class C Retail Alcohol License (BW) for KP Race Promotions LLC: all ayes.

Motion by Weber, second by Marshall to Approve Class C Retail Alcohol License (LC) for Green Acres Club: all ayes.

Motion by Moeller, second by Weber to Set

Public Hearing & Special Meeting for March 26th 2024 @ 6pm – Proposed Property Tax Levy: all ayes.

Motion by Marshall, second by Weber to Set Public Hearing for April 8th 2024 @ 7:30pm – Amend Ordinance changing council meeting times from 7:30pm to 6:30pm: all ayes.

Motion by Newton, second by Wagner to Set Public Hearing for April 8th 2024 @ 7:30pm – Amend FY24 Budget: all ayes.

Opened bids for sealcoating of streets, one bid received from LL Pelling Co 2.80 single sealcoat, 3.35 base repair and single sealcoat, \$175 hourly rate for drainage repair. Motion by Moeller, second by Newton to award sealcoating of streets for summer 2024 to LL Pelling Co out of North Liberty: all ayes.

Reviewed Insurance Policy, no changes made.

Citizen Concern – Traffic on Mill St turning around in front of de-

pot and cutting into the grass. Chief to speak will elevator to see if they are aware of who might be doing it and provide extra patrol.

Contacting CCS out of Keokuk regarding a street cleaner for Main St prior to summer activities.

Set April 22nd thru May 3rd to flush mains – regular maintenance.

Chief speaking with owner of 115 S Oak regarding condition of the property and the steps needed to bring into compliance.

Police Report – There were 49 calls for service, 21 traffic stops and 6 citations. 40 building checks were done during the day & nighttime hours.

Water / Sewer Superintendent Report – resident had high water usage; printed usage report & spoke with property owner. Replaced fire hydrant in the 500 block of Main St.

Clerk Report – Roadside Cleanup will be April 27th – volunteers needed. Spring Cleanup for resi-

dential properties only will be April 20th 2024, items to be placed roadside by 7am. Farmers Market will be in Railroad Park again this year on Thursdays 4:30-6:30pm starting May 16th. Tunnel to Towers 5K Run/Walk will be held again July 4th – registration is open online. Property owner with large water leak in shed asked for sewer forgiveness on the excess water, motion by Newton, second by Moeller to credit \$91.20 on utility account: all ayes.

There being no other business to come before the Council, motion by Moeller, second by Newton, Mayor Ellingboe declared the meeting adjourned: all ayes.

Dave Ellingboe, Mayor
Attest: Rebecca Schau,
City Clerk

Summary of All Receipts: General \$37,124.87 Capital Equipment Reserve \$0 Road Use Tax \$9,114.03 Employee Benefit \$74.61 Local Option Sales

Tax \$12,696.43 Debit Service \$144.00 Rathbun \$0 ARPA \$0 Water \$21,947.20 Water Sinking USDA \$1,816.00 Sewer \$28,139.30 Sewer Sinking \$0. Summary of All Disbursements: General \$61,656.08 Capital Equipment Reserve \$0 Road Use Tax \$4,185.95 Employee Benefit \$1,534.48 Local Option Sales Tax \$0 Debit Service \$0 Capital Project Fund \$0 Rathbun -\$0 ARPA \$0 Water \$15,751 Water Sinking \$1,816.00 Sewer \$10,280.25 Sewer Sinking \$0.

AFLAC, Insurance \$80.76
PHILIP INSURANCE AGENCY, Insurance \$50,829.69
WINDSTREAM, City of Donnellson Water \$291.69
ALLIANT ENERGY, Electric \$5,832.60
GRRWA, Landfill \$953.00
MCFARLAND SUPPLY, Office Supplies ... \$218.93
MID AMERICAN ENERGY, Gas \$342.31

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 DAILY DEMOCRAT, PROCEEDINGS \$103.16
 ARMSTRONG TRACTOR LLC, Semi Chisel.. \$41.40
 CESSFORD CONSTRUCTION CO, Mod Rock \$660.93
 MUNICIPAL SUPPLY, Curb Boxes..... \$471.00
 MARC, Lift Station Degreaser..... \$4,240.50
 CITY OF WEST POINT, Chief Wages \$3,315.54
 AXON ENTERPRISE, INC., Tasers..... \$426.10
 KEMPKERS TRUE VALUE, Postage, Supplies \$40.43
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 IMFOA, Dues..... \$50.00
 VERIZON, Aircards \$120.03

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Applications can be found online at www.fortmadison-ia.com.



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 MICROBAC LABORATORIES, Chlorine, Coliform \$17.50
 IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, Sales & Use Return Summary \$263.24
 IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, Water Service Excise Return .. \$1,101.17
 RATHBUN REGIONAL WATER, Monthly Bill \$4,825.60
 GWORKS, Implementation & Onboarding \$3,864.76
 KOHLMORGAN HAULING, City Pickup \$5,440.00
 LYNCH DALLAS, P.C., General Matters.. \$137.50
 RSM US LLP, Microsoft, Exchanges..... \$488.92
 VERTICAL COMMUNICATIONS, Telephone/Internet \$56.74
 T-MOBILE, Chief Cell \$120.10
 DONALD CONSULTING GROUP, Cameras & Licensing \$10,147.30
 STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Images of RR Depot..... \$100.00
 DAVE ELLINGBOE, Mileage..... \$76.38
 PAYROLL CHECKS, TOTAL PAYROLL CHECKS \$16,384.44
 CLAIMS TOTAL \$119,021.58

PUBLIC NOTICE MINUTES KEOKUK CITY COUNCIL MEETING March 7, 2024 501 Main Street 5:30 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Keokuk met in regular session on March 7, 2024, at 501 Main Street. Mayor Kathie Mahoney called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. There were nine council members present, none absent. Carissa Crenshaw, Tyler Walker, Roslyn Garcia, Shelley Oltmans, Devon Dade, Steve Andrews, Dan Tillman, Roger Bryant, and Michael Greenwald

were present. Staff in attendance: Interim City Administrator Dave Hinton, City Clerk Celeste El Anfaoui, Public Works Director Brian Carroll, Community Development Director Pam Broomhall, Water Pollution Control Manager Tom Wills, Police Chief Zeth Baum, Fire Chief Gabe Rose, and Bridge, Cemetery, Parks, and Sanitation Manager Bob Weis.
 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE: Informed of local events.
 CITIZEN'S REQUEST: Dorothy Cackley expressed ideas and concerns regarding city profile presented to search for City Administrator.
 Motion made by Dade, second by Bryant to approve the agenda, including the consent agenda. (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.
 • Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting & Council Workshop of February 15, 2024;
 • Minutes of the Safety Committee meeting of February 22, 2024;
 • RESOLUTION NO.

27-2024: Approving a Liquor License for Dunagan's Shamrocks on the Mississippi LLC, 17 N. 4th Street, Class C Retail Alcohol License with Outdoor Service – effective March 8, 2024;
 • RESOLUTION NO. 28-2024: Approving a Liquor License for Site Food Mart, 1301 Main Street, Class E Retail Alcohol License – effective March 20, 2024;
 • RESOLUTION NO. 29-2024: Approving a Tax Increment Financing rebate for State Central Bank, 512-514 Main Street – renovation;
 • RESOLUTION NO. 30-2024: Approving an Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption for James & Cheri Wilsey, 227 S. 19th Street, garage;
 • Appointment of David Hunold to the Airport Commission, fulfilling a term to expire October 20, 2029;
 • Appointment of Tracie Jones to the Grand Theatre Commission, term to expire November 5, 2027;
 • Resignation of Ray Bradley, Jr. from the

Keokuk Human Rights Commission, effective immediately;
 • Special Event Permit for Dunagan's Shamrocks on the Mississippi, 17 N. 4th Street Alley, St. Patrick's Day Celebration Band, Sunday March 17, 2024, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.;
 • Motion to pay bills and transfers listed in Register No.'s 5391-5393;
 Motion made by Greenwald, second by Garcia to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 31-2024: "A RESOLUTION ALLOWING THE MAYOR TO ENTER IN AN AGREEMENT WITH IMPACT7G." (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.
 Motion made by Walker, second by Garcia to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 32-2024: "A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE MIDWEST MUNICIPAL CONSULTING LLC'S CITY PROFILE TO AID IN THE SEARCH FOR A CITY ADMINISTRATOR." (7) AYES, (2) NAYS. Motion carried.
 Motion made by Greenwald, second by Garcia

to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 33-2024: "A RESOLUTION AWARING CONTRACT FOR MILL & FILL WEST AVENUE FROM BOULEVARD TO GRAVEL AND NORTH 15TH STREET FROM CONCERT TO HIGH STREET PROJECT." (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.
 Motion made by Crenshaw, second by Dade to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 34-2024: "A RESOLUTION AWARING CONTRACT WITH WALKER OUTDOOR SERVICES FOR SOUTH 18TH STREET RIGHT OF WAY TREE REMOVAL." (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.
 STAFF REPORTS: Carroll gave update on water main.
 NEW BUSINESS: Oltmans requested revenue update for budget, Hinton informed of tentative timeline.
 Motion made by Garcia, second by Walker to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 p.m.

VROOM. VROOM. Get Pre-Approved in Seconds.

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



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Opinion/From the Front

Employers added 11,000 jobs in Feb.

REPORT - Continued from Page 1

from construction and manufacturing to health care and accommodation and food services. At the same time, we also saw a slight decline in the overall workforce, with most who left saying they were doing so to attend classes. Opportunity abounds for anyone who wants to work. IowaWORKS currently has more than 60,000 open job postings, and IowaWORKS career advisors will be happy to help you get started.”

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

Iowa establishments added 11,000 jobs in February, raising total nonfarm employment to 1,607,200 jobs. This month's gain is large historically and more than offsets a loss of 2,600 in January. February's advancement was propelled by hiring in private services, particularly within recreation and entertainment fields, education and health care, and professional and business services. Total nonfarm employment has gained 19,500 jobs over the year.

Accommodations and food services added the most jobs in February (+4,400). This increase more than offsets losses in each of the prior two months. Jobs gained stemmed from eating and drinking establishments, especially within limited-service restaurants along with snack and nonalcoholic beverage bars. Education and health care also added jobs in February (+2,400). Hiring was nearly even between both private education (+1,300) and

health care and social assistance (+1,100). For education services, the monthly gain is representative of larger-than-expected staffing levels to begin the school year at private education institutions. For health care and social assistance, the February increase has been more of a steady upward trend following social distancing measures related to Covid in 2020. Other services also added jobs (+1,600). Much of these hires were concentrated within religious, professional, and other civic and grant-making organizations. Administrative support and waste management added 1,100 and boosted professional, scientific, and technical services by 1,600 jobs. On the flip side, information services shed the most jobs in February (-400) and now trails last year's mark by 800 jobs.

Following the ample February gain, total nonfarm employment now rests up 19,500 jobs over the past twelve months. Education and health care has added the most jobs (+7,700). The bulk of the hiring in this super sector was rooted in health care and social assistance, up 5,800 since last February. Accommodations and food services benefitted from unexpected hiring this month and fueled a gain of 5,500 in leisure and hospitality industries. Construction benefitted from gains stretching back to October and has added 3,800 jobs. As far as losses go, both retail trade and transportation and warehousing have been dealing with recent cut-backs in staffing levels and were responsible for a loss of 6,400 in trade, transportation, and utilities.

Letter to the Editor

Sheriff candidate thanks supporters

The support I have received since my announcement has been overwhelming. I could not be more thankful to all of you who have reached out on Facebook, by phone, and in person to express your encouragement in this endeavor.

I also want to express my gratitude to all the law enforcement and other first responders who came to my announcement to show their support as I embarked on my campaign. The support has made it abundantly clear that this path forward is correct for the Lee County Sheriff's Office and for Lee County as a whole. I'm excited to bring positive change to this community. Throughout this process, I encourage each of you to reach out to me directly whenever you have a question or concern.

Sincerely,

Elliott Vandenberg
Candidate for Lee County Sheriff

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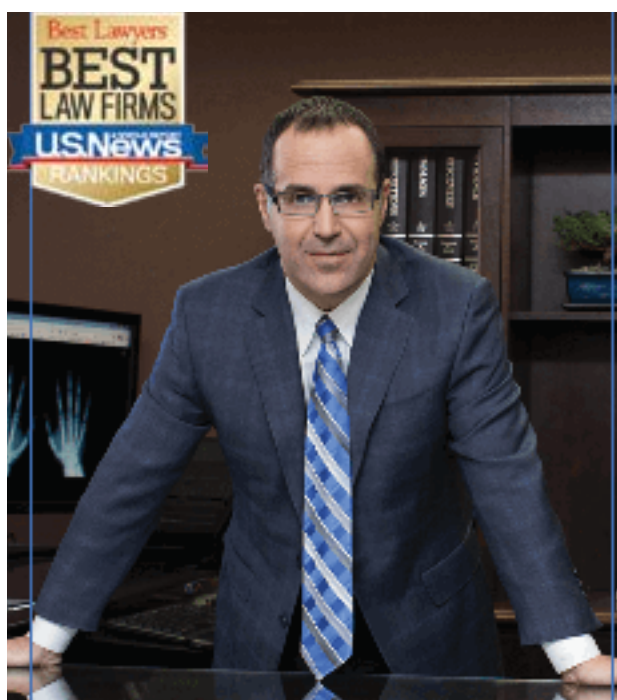


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