

# Tax bill repeals "Special law"

**Special Law of 1848:** Add-on to 3.8% flat tax bill would allow consolidation in county

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A bill that passed both the Iowa House and Senate before the legislature adjourned early Saturday morning could permit the Lee County Board of Supervisors to consolidate court services only.

Senate File 2442, which is the bill that contains legislation approving a 3.8% flat income tax for the state, also contains verbiage at new section 17 that repeals what is known as the Special Law of 1848.

That law was passed 12 years after Iowa became a state and

specifically required of Lee County that district court and clerk of court duties be carried out in both Fort Madison and Keokuk. The law was specific to Lee County because that was the only county in the state at the time that had two county seats, one in each city. A dynamic that exists yet today.

The act also makes no provision regarding location for offices of any of the other county officers or functions. Rather, the act is focused on the functions of the court services in Lee County, according to an opinion from the Iowa Attorney General's office several years ago.

See COURTHOUSES, page 8

## COMMENTARY

### EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



# All wealth comes from the soil

I've heard it said that "All wealth comes from the soil." Sitting in my recliner in our living room (my favorite place in the house), looking through the picture window at the fields that surround us, I believe this statement to be true. (Thomas Edison even said it.) I see rich, brown, Iowa soil, and often times, a BNSF freight train heading east, loaded with coal, or the opposite: another BNSF freight train, heading west, empty, to the coalfields of Wyoming for refilling. Sometimes these two behemoth caterpillars meet: one train fully loaded with coal, the other empty and hungry. They scream at each other, saluting, and the sight and vibration is such a rush, I rest my head back and marvel at the power, wealth and tragic beauty. It all comes from the soil. It is fitting that the train cars and soil are near the same sepia brown, one begetting the other.

From my recliner I can watch the road and see when the mail arrives, or when someone pulls in our driveway, or when some gigantic farm equipment stops on the road, the farmer talking on his cell phone. I watch the sunrise from this window. I've seen a coyote crossing the field, a rooster pheasant on a morning strut, a hawk dive bomb a rabbit. You can probably imagine why this recliner is my favorite writing, reading and napping spot. The stimulus to my imagination is powerful and productive. The dreams

See SWARM, page 8

## Shot on goal

Fort Madison's Hadley Wolfe (6) fires a shot on goal toward the north goal Monday against Keokuk. The girls' and boys' varsity Bloodhound soccer teams shut out the Chiefs at Baxter Sports Complex in Southeast Conference action. For more on the Bloodhounds' sweep see pages 4 and 5 of today's edition.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

## EDUCATION NEWS

### FMCSA lands \$800K in Career Tech program grants

PCC Staff

FORT MADISON, IA — The Fort Madison Community School District has received several grants that will enhance its Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs for students. The funds will be used to provide students with valuable

industry-recognized credentials to enhance their career readiness in high-demand fields.

The grants, totaling \$158,246.32 in funding, include the following:

- Hunter Automotive Technologies Grant: The district received \$56,409.65 from Hunter Automotive Technologies to

enable students to acquire industry-recognized credentials. Specifically, the students will gain hands-on experience in wheel balancing and tire changing, preparing them for careers in automotive service and repair.

- OSHA 10 Certification: Students

See GRANTS, page 5

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## WEATHER

TUE 23 Apr.....Chance of showers, 68° F/ 41° F ☁  
WED 24 Apr.....Mostly sunny, 60° F/ 40° F ☀  
THU 25 Apr.....Clear & sunny, 66° F/ 52° F ☀

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### JENNIE L. SCOTT

Jennie Lee Scott, 83, of Keokuk, passed away on Saturday, April 20, 2024, at her home in Keokuk.

Jennie was born on November 2, 1940, in Jefferson City, Missouri, the daughter of Thomas and Vanuida (Gibson) Sinnett. On December 24, 1959, she was united in marriage to Ron Scott in Jefferson City, Missouri. He survives.



SCOTT

Jennie attended Trinity United Methodist Church in Keokuk. She was a talented duplicate Bridge player, attending national tournaments and becoming a Life Master, one of the highest accolades obtainable. Jennie was an active member of her community for many years. She was a participant in the Keokuk chapter of League of Women Voters. She was an enthusiastic advocate for the Torrence Elementary and City Council PTA and was an active volunteer with the hospital auxiliary. She was the driving force in bringing Safety Town to Keokuk and was its first director. Jennie was also a lifelong quilter, in addition to family gifts providing several quilts for community raffles.

Most importantly, she devoted her life to her family. Jennie is survived by her husband Ron Scott of Keokuk; three children: Susan Elizabeth (Doug) Cline of Johnston, Iowa, Brian Keith (Kellie) Scott of Ankeny, Iowa, and Sarah Lynn (Adam) Schultz of Boone, Iowa; her daughter-in-law Catherine Scott of Des Moines, Iowa; seven grandchildren: Mitchell (Kelsey) Cline of Carmel, Indiana, Christopher (Callie) Cline of Des Moines, Iowa, Jacob (Fiancé Kathryn LeRoy) Scott of West Des Moines, Iowa, Michael Scott of Ankeny, Matthew Scott of Ankeny, Vincent Schultz of Boone, and Beatrix Schultz of Boone; and two great-grandchildren: Collins and Leona Cline of Carmel, Indiana.

Jennie was preceded in death by her son Martin Scott, her parents, her two brothers and a sister.

A private memorial service will be held in Keokuk, with interment at Waveland Cemetery in Des Moines at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to God's Way Christian Center in Keokuk.

Tributes and condolences may be left at [www.dejongsfuneralhome.com](http://www.dejongsfuneralhome.com).

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

## OBITUARIES

### WILLIAM H. MULLAN

William Harrison Mullan, 97, of Fort Madison, Iowa died peacefully Saturday, April 20, 2024 at his home. He was born January 3, 1927 at Aberdeen, South Dakota, a son of William Earl and Leedice Marian (Olds) Mullan. Upon graduating from



MULLAN

High School in 1945, he entered the U S Navy. He completed 2 years active duty and 5 years in the Naval Reserve. On May 25, 1949 he married the love of his life, Frances L. Smith in Ames, Iowa. They were blessed with four children: Jeri, David, Bill and Lynn. Frances passed away September 11, 1994. They were married for 45 years.

His oldest son, David, preceded him in death on December 18, 1999. In December of 1995 Bill married, Mary Jane Luegering. She passed away in 2014. He is survived by his children: William S.

(Shannon) Mullan of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Jeri Mullan-Lee (Davey Lee) of St. Paul, Minnesota and Lynn Mullan-Marek of Fort Madison; grandchildren: Megan Mullan, Sharmiki, Hannah and Jenna Mullan, and Jack Marek; step-children: Gregory (Barb) Luegering of Katy, Texas; Susan (Bob) Nutgrass of Indianola, Iowa and Julia (Duane) Russell of Nebraska City, Nebraska; close friends and care givers, Gloria Alvarez-Sharpman and Juan Alvarez.

Bill graduated from the Iowa State College in December of 1951 with a BS Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He was a Licensed Professional Engineer. Most of his career was spent in the food industry. He retired from the Dial Corporation in 1994, after being employed there for almost 20 years. Bill was a part of a team during his employment at Armour Dial that designed, patented and placed in operation the Vienna Can Filling System that is still operating to this day! Bill often shared, "It depends on who you ask, if I accomplished much or did very little there." Insert laugh.

Bill was definitely a workaholic. He enjoyed volunteering on many boards in the community. Some of those were the Lee County Conservation Board, FM Board of Adjustment and Appeals, Airport Commission and the Fort Madison Lion's Club. He was a lifetime member of the NRA and served 7 years on the NRA Board of Directors. Bill volunteered 30 years of his life teaching Hunters Education and Safety as an instructor both here in Iowa and also in Minnesota. When Bill was not working or volunteering he spent time with his family, and as well as he enjoyed hunting, fishing, and rifle and pistol competitions.

Bill's family will greet friends from 9:30 to 10:30 am, Thursday, May 2, 2024 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. His memorial service will follow and begin at 10:30 am, Thursday at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Burial will be at Hillcrest Memorial Park Cemetery, Fort Madison. A memorial has been established for Three Rivers Conservation Foundation and the Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice. Contributions may be left at Barr Memorial Chapel. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Mullan family and an online guest book may be found at [www.barrmemorialchapel.com](http://www.barrmemorialchapel.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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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### DONNA DeLOZIER

Donna DeLozier, 89, of Hamilton, IL, passed away Sunday, April 14, 2024 at her caregiver's home, in Hamilton.

She was born July 11, 1934 in Colusa, IL the daughter of Dorren and Julia Walton Scanlan. Donna graduated from Colusa High School with the class of 1952.



DeLOZIER

On November 14, 1954 Donna was united in marriage to George DeLozier in Colusa. He preceded her in death on December 11, 2011.

Donna and her husband owned and operated DeLozier Electric in Hamilton, IL.

Donna was a member of United Methodist Church of Hamilton, Deer Run Ladies League and the Red Hat Society. Donna and George were honored as the 2001-2002 Hamilton High School Athletic Boosters of the Year.

Donna and George enjoyed traveling throughout the United States, including Alaska, and Europe, and spending winters in Arizona since 1976. They enjoyed watching their grandchildren's sporting events and followed their games across the United States.

Donna also enjoyed playing cards and competing in many golf tournaments with George.

She is survived by two daughters, Becky Summers (Doug) of Hamilton, IL and Bonnie Sammons (Tim) of Mt. Pleasant, IA, five grandchildren, Zach Summers (Randi), Ben Summers (Kelsey), Kendall Summers (Carley), Angie Farnsworth (Joel) and Brad Sammons (Erin) and eight great-grandchildren, Blake Summers, Harrison Summers, Addison Summers, Ellison Summers, Abby Farnsworth, Joel Farnsworth and Ellie Sammons and Sammie Sammons. She is also survived by one sister, Norma Neill of West Point, IL, two step-sisters, Judy Smith and Donna Cook, one step-brother, Dan Cook, one step-sister-in-law, Jean Cook and several nieces and nephews.

Besides her husband, she was also preceded in death by her parents, one brother, Mahlon, in infancy, her step-mother, Velma Scanlan, step-sister, Barb Bonner and step-brother, Lanny Cook.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday April 27, 2024 at the United Methodist Church of Hamilton in Hamilton, IL with Pastor Mark Hanson officiating. Burial will be in the Oakwood Cemetery in Hamilton.

Visitation will be held prior to the service from 9-11 a.m., Saturday, at the church with family meeting with friends at that time.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the United Methodist Church or Deer Run Golf Course.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

### RONNIE G. PENROD

Ronnie George Penrod, 83, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 7:33 p.m. on Thursday, April 18, 2024 at his home. He was born on November 9, 1940 in Fort Madison, IA to Lorren & Luella Wilson Penrod. He married Donna J. "D.J." Gregory



PENROD

on June 16, 1988 in Kahoka, MO. He worked in the paper industry his whole life, working at Consolidated Packaging and later moving to Indiana to work for another paper mill. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and loved spending time with his dogs and training them. He also raised horses when he was younger.

Ronnie is survived by his wife: Donna "D.J." Gregory Penrod of Fort Madison, IA. He was preceded in death by his parents and a daughter, Dawn Penrod.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and no services are planned.

Online condolences to Ronnie's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).



## OBITUARIES

### DIANNA L. COPPAGE

Dianna Lee Loretta Adam Coppage, 80, of Claremore, Oklahoma passed away Friday, January 23, 2024 of Parkinson's disease.

She was born on March 10, 1943 in Ottumwa, Iowa to Joe and Lucille (Specht) Adam. Dianna grew up in rural Bonaparte, IA with her 11 siblings.



COPPAGE

Dianna married Forrest Gregory Coppage on December 11, 1965 at Sacred Heart Church in Ft. Madison, IA. Dianna enjoyed working as a school secretary in Ft. Madison and later as an administrative assistant at American Airlines in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Dianna's hobbies included cooking, gardening, walking and being creative in making a comfortable home for her family. She loved baking cakes for family birthdays and weddings. Dianna shared fun activities with the kids in her life, from taffy pulling, to scavenger hunts through the woods. As a skilled homemaker, she always had amazing food cooking and a guest book for visitors to sign so she could look back and treasure the time spent with friends and family.

Her biggest pride and joy in life was her family. Dianna thrived on visiting and supporting her kids and grandkids. She showered them with love and lots of sweets from her candy dish and purse.

Dianna is survived by her daughters, Deb Coppage and Laura (Wes Rettig) Coppage; 8 grandchildren (Luke, Zoe, Evan and Fiona Mahler, Kennedy and Adam Coppage, Colin and Logan Rettig); 10 beloved siblings and 5 sibling in-laws; and many cherished nieces and nephews.

Dianna is preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, Greg Coppage; her son, Craig Coppage; her parents and her brother, Larry Adam.

Dianna's family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to her special friend, Bunny Patterson, to Ellen and Mark Meek, and to the staff at Grand Haven Retirement Community and Heartland Hospice for the love and care they have given her.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 27, 2024 at St. Boniface Church in Farmington, IA with Father Dan Dorau as celebrant.

Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery in West Point, Iowa

After the burial, a luncheon will be served at St. Boniface Church. All are welcome to attend.

Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com).

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## Sports

# Lady Hounds pitch another shutout over Keokuk



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Keokuk goalie Kyla Muston (00) goes up to try and block a shot at the north goal at Baxter Sports Complex Monday evening in a doubleheader in Fort Madison. Both the Bloodhounds and the Lady Bloodhounds shut out the Chiefs in one half of Southeast Conference soccer action.

**RANDOLPH:** Senior scores four goals against Chiefs for 3rd time

**BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP**  
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON - Natalie Randolph had four goals for Fort Madison's girls soccer team in Monday's 12-0 win over Keokuk at the Baxter Sports Complex.

Which wasn't a surprise, because Randolph has scored a lot against the Chiefs in her career.

Randolph has scored four goals in each of her last three matches against Keokuk, and her scoring burst to open this match set an early tone for the Bloodhounds (6-1 overall, 4-1 Southeast Conference).

"I don't know what it is, but she likes scoring against Keokuk," Fort

Madison coach Carrie Burken said. "What she's really good at is facilitating passes. So she starts the pass, and then she's looking for that 1-2 pass, getting that ball back. You have to make a good pass to get the pass back, and that's what I think she's good at."

"I had really good assists from my teammates," Randolph said. "They got me open looks and got me in the right positions, and the 1-2 passes really helped as well."

Randolph had three goals in the first 8 1/2 minutes to start the Bloodhounds' run, then her fourth goal with 17:18 to play in the first half gave Fort Madison an 8-0 lead.

Everyone up front for the Bloodhounds got goals. Hadley Wolfe had three goals, Emma Snaadt and Kara Lake each had two goals, and Halle Menke added a goal.

Reilynn Turnbull had three assists. Wolfe and Ellie Hellman each had two, and Randolph, Menke and Olivia Kraus each had one.

"For a Monday game, I liked how we were connecting passes," Burken said. "I thought we did that well, and that's why we were so successful. And, we were able to rotate people, and the level didn't drop. And we finished well."

"I feel like we were really doing good on the

offensive side, and our defense held up well," Randolph said. "We were connecting our passes really well."

It was the 11th consecutive win for the Bloodhounds in the series. Fort Madison still hasn't allowed a goal this season outside of the three penalty kicks after two overtimes in the loss to Burlington on April 11.

Keokuk (1-6, 1-4) had no offense against the Bloodhounds — Fort Madison goalkeeper Taylor Johnson didn't touch the ball during the match.

"I think she's fine with that," Burken said, smiling.

The Bloodhounds hadn't played since last Monday's home win over Washington — last Thursday's match at Mount Pleasant was rained out.

"I liked how we looked, how sharp we looked. I was kind of worried about how we would play," Burken said. "They did a really good job of focusing, bringing the intensity that they needed."

Fort Madison will have back-to-back three-match weeks, so Burken didn't mind this match ended at halftime because of the 10-goal mercy rule.

"Yeah, not going to complain about that," she said.

"I think it was good for us, because we're going to need as much rest as we can get," Randolph said.

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## Sports/From the Front

# Slow start leads to quick finish as Hounds roll over Keokuk

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP  
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON - The simplest explanation to the slow start for Fort Madison's boys soccer team on Monday was, well, it was Monday.

And yet the Bloodhounds defeated Keokuk 10-0 in a match stopped at halftime because of the 10-goal rule.

Fort Madison (6-2 overall, 5-0 Southeast Conference) scored all of their goals in a 27-minute fury after a sluggish start in a match that was played at the Baxter Sports Complex, but the Bloodhounds were the road team because the Chiefs (0-6, 0-4) are playing their home matches in Fort Madison while a new field is installed at Calvert Stadium.

"I would say it takes us forever to get off the bus, but we drove," Wellman quipped.

Wellman said he has tried different things to get his team going, including a change in how the Bloodhounds go through warmups.

Then again, he said, it might be as simple as the day of

the week.

"They get up early, they go to school, they've stayed up late on the weekend, they come to practice and they've got nothing left," he said. "Fridays, they come to practice and they're giddy, goofing around a little more."

Once the Bloodhounds started scoring, though, the Chiefs didn't have an answer, much like they haven't had in this rivalry for a while.

It was the 13th consecutive win for Fort Madison in the series, with a combined scoring margin of 95-3 in those matches.

Leif Boeding opened the scoring at the 13-minute mark, and nine minutes later the Bloodhounds were up 5-0, and the goals kept coming.

Boeding, Jacob Shottenkirk, Henry Graham, and Mario Gomez each had two goals. Noah Swigart and Jan de Gracia Hernandez each had a goal. Shottenkirk and Jackson Haessig each had two assists. Boeding, de Gracia Hernandez, Xander Lumsden, Maddox Rung, and Layne Rung each had an assist.

"Once we got going, I liked what I saw," Wellman said.

"A lot of different guys scored, and I like that."

Wellman credited Keokuk's defense at the beginning.

"They did a good job," Wellman said. "Defense should compact in and make it difficult. And then it took us a while to spread the ball wide, and that would spread out their defense a little and give us some space in the middle. Again, after those first 12 minutes or so, we started moving the ball around and breaking down their defense."

The Bloodhounds hadn't played since last Monday's win at Washington. Thursday's home match against Mount Pleasant was rained out.

"We didn't play, and then we didn't have a place to go practice, either," Wellman said. "So we only got to practice two times last week. So it was nice to get back out here. After those first 12 minutes or so, we were going good."

Fort Madison won the junior varsity match 4-1. Connor Horn had a hat trick, and Jackson Haessig added a goal. Jonah Santiago had two assists and Mason Overberg had one assist.

## Grants help FMCSO CET programs

**GRANTS** - Continued from Page 1

enrolled in CTE fields will benefit from a grant of \$10,419.98 that will allow them to obtain OSHA 10 certification for workplace safety and compliance.

- Snap-on Precision Measurement Instruments and Hand Tool Identification: A \$51,663.79 grant will support students in mastering the use of Snap-on precision measurement instruments and hand tools. Students will learn the importance of safety and proper usage in technical fields.

- Beef Quality Assurance: A \$31,498 grant will give students the opportunity to gain certification in Beef Quality Assurance. These students will enhance their knowledge of best practices in animal husbandry and food safety.

- American Heart Association: A \$8,264.90 grant will support students in obtaining certifications from the American Heart Association in life-saving techniques such as CPR, Basic Life Support, and First Aid.

"These grants represent a major investment in our students' futures," said Dr. Erin Slater, Superintendent.

"Gaining real-world, hands-on experience while still in high school sets up our students up for success in their future careers. These grants will allow us to further enhance our existing CTE courses, providing students with valuable credentials that will help them develop the skills and knowledge needed to excel in a variety of fields."

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### PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Special Council Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**Tuesday,**  
**March 26th, 2024**  
**6:00PM**  
**City Hall**

The special meeting of the Donnellson City Council was called to order by Mayor Dave Ellingboe, with Council Members Moeller, Wagner & Newton present. Weber & Marshall were absent. City staff present City Clerk Rebecca Schau.

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

Public Hearing for Proposed Property Tax – No written or oral comments

There being no other business to come before the Council, motion by Newton, second by Wagner, Mayor Ellingboe declared the meeting

adjourned: all ayes.  
 Dave Ellingboe, Mayor  
 Attest: Rebecca Schau,  
 City Clerk

**Special Council Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**Tuesday,**  
**March 26th, 2024**  
**6:05PM**  
**City Hall**

The special meeting of the Donnellson City Council was called to order by Mayor Dave Ellingboe, with Council Members Moeller, Wagner & Newton present. Weber & Marshall were absent. City staff present City Clerk Rebecca Schau.

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

Motion by Wagner, second by Moeller to set April 8th 2024 7:30pm at Donnellson City Office Building for Public Hear-

ing on approval of FY25 Budget: all ayes.

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

Dave Ellingboe, Mayor  
 Attest: Rebecca Schau,  
 City Clerk

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**MINUTES**  
**KEOKUK CITY**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**April 4, 2024**  
**501 Main Street**  
**5:30 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Keokuk met in regular session on April 4, 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, Community Development Director Pam Broomhall, Police Chief Zeth Baum, and Bridge, Cemetery, Parks, and Sanitation Manager Bob Weis.

MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE: Updated on efforts to get rural emergency hospital opened.

Motion made by Tillman, 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 March 21, 2024;
- Minutes of the Safety

Committee meeting of March 21, 2024;

- RESOLUTION NO. 41-2024: Approving a Liquor License for Columbian Room of Keokuk, Showboat Saturday Night, 2981 Plank Road, Class C Retail Alcohol License temporary premise transfer – effective April 20-21, 2024, pending dram and fire inspection;

- RESOLUTION NO. 42-2024: Approving a Liquor License for The Cellar, 29 S. 2nd Street, Class C Retail Alcohol License with Outdoor Service – effective April 22, 2024;

- Appointment of Dick Beaird to the Board of Trustees of the Keokuk Municipal Waterworks fulfilling a vacancy, term to expire November 1, 2028;

- Motion to pay bills and transfers listed in Register No.'s 5397-5398; Motion made by Dade,

second by Walker to approve initial reading of and Ordinance Amending Section 2.70 Historic Preservation Commission.

Roll Call Vote: AYES – Crenshaw, Walker, Garcia, Oltmans, Dade,

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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](http://www.leecounty.org) 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](mailto:engineer@leecounty.org). Applications will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 29, 2024.

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

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# Classifieds/Public Notices

## PUBLIC NOTICES

Andrews, Tillman, Bryant, and Greenwald. (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Garcia, second by Bryant to waive the second and third reading of the ordinance.

Roll Call Vote: AYES – Crenshaw, Walker, Garcia, Oltmans, Dade, Andrews, Tillman, Bryant, and Greenwald. (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Garcia, second by Crenshaw to adopt and give final approval of ORDINANCE NO. 2048: "AMENDING SECTION 2.70.080 & 2.70.090 DEALING WITH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION."

Roll Call Vote: AYES – Crenshaw, Walker, Garcia, Oltmans, Dade, Andrews, Tillman, Bryant, and Greenwald. (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Bryant, second by Dade to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 43-2024: "A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023." (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Bryant, second by Garcia to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 44-2024: "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADJUSTMENT IN SEWER CHARGES RELATED

TO FILLING OF SWIMMING POOLS." (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Greenwald, second by Dade to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 45-2024: "A RESOLUTION AWARDED CONTRACT FOR VICTORY PARK PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION." (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Garcia, second by Bryant to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 46-2024: "A RESOLUTION ALLOWING THE MAYOR TO ENTER IN A NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT WITH KEOKUK JUNCTION RAILWAY AND ITS PARENT COMPANIES." (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Walker, second by Garcia to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 47-2024: "A RESOLUTION SETTING A BID LETTING, PUBLIC HEARING AND AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR SOUTH 18TH STREET RECONSTRUCTION." (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Dade, second by Walker to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 48-2024: "A RESOLUTION APPROVING AGREEMENT FOR FIREWORKS DISPLAY WITH J & M DISPLAYS." (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Garcia, second by Oltmans to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 49-2024: "A RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ANNUAL BUDGET." (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Oltmans, second by Dade to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 50-2024: "A RESOLUTION AWARDED CONTRACT FOR SEIDC LAUNDRY FACILITY AND RECTORY REPAIR." (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Garcia,

second by Tillman to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 51-2024: "A RESOLUTION ALLOWING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH COMMAND FIRE APPARATUS FOR A 2002 SPARTAN RESCUE PUMPER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 72,500.00." (9) AYES, (0) AYES. Motion carried.

Motion made by Crenshaw, second by Andrews to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 52-2024: "A RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSING THE SALE OF REAL ESTATE AT

1108 FRANKLIN STREET OWNED BY THE CITY OF KEOKUK." (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Bryant, second by Oltmans to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 53-2024: "A RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING APPROVING THE COMPREHENSIVE NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION GRANT APPLICATION." (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Greenwald, second by Tillman to approve the resignation of 1st At Large Council Person Shelley Oltmans effective April 19, 2024.

(8) AYES, (1) ABSTAIN – Oltmans, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Crenshaw, second by Andrews to approve filling the 1st At Large Council Person seat by appointment. Motion made by Crenshaw, second by Greenwald to amend the election date to November 2024. (9) AYES, (0) AYES. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Crenshaw commended work on the Triangle Park shelter house.

Motion made by Bryant, second by Dade to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

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**From the Front**

# Supervisor "open" to talks about one county seat

**COURTHOUSES** - Continued from Page 1

State Sen. Jeff Reichman said he didn't know when Governor Reynolds would sign the bill but he thought that would come rather quickly.

Reichman said the bill resets an out-of-date control to Home Rule.

"The intent was to give them the ability to control their destiny and cut costs. It made sense back then with travel costs."

Supervisor Chairman Garry Seyb said there are several supervisors already on record with what they would want to see happen if the state did repeal the antiquated law.

"I think there are several of us out there on the record, already, as to what we thought if we were ever given the permission. It appears that we may be given that permission, but it hasn't been signed yet."

Several supervisors have said closing the North Lee County Courthouse makes the most sense as the South Lee Courthouse may have the space the 8th Judicial district is saying it needs to handle the caseload, which has been hinted at three functional jury court rooms.

County services will still be handled at the Lee County office building on Avenue H, and in Keokuk.

Tom Schulz said if the bill becomes law it won't place any restrictions on the two-county seat situation, but supervisors already have home rule power to create one county seat.

"We still have two county seats and we haven't addressed that," Schulz said.

The Supervisors can vote on one county seat at any time, but with the requirement in place that they provide court services in both cities, no issue was put on the agenda for a supervisor vote.

No law requires that a county's court services be provided in the county seat, so in theory, the county could have a county seat in one city, but provide court services in another, a move Seyb said he would welcome a debate on.

"I don't want to jump ahead, but I would be open to that discussion," he said.

Seyb said having all this come up in an election year made things a bit more interesting. The proposal to allow a consolidation of court services in Lee County was floated last year with legislators, but was pulled in the final hours of voting.

This time the move is tied to the 3.8% flat tax legislation, a priority with Governor Reynolds.

"It got through," Seyb said when asked what had changed this year.

Reynolds said the bill puts Iowa at the forefront of economic growth.

"When I took office, Iowa's income tax rate was nearly 9 percent—the sixth highest in the country. Since 2018, I've proposed four tax packages that have delivered historic income tax cuts and established a flat income tax for every Iowan who pays them; eliminated inheritance tax and taxes on retirement income; and reformed the corporate tax system by gradually reducing the rate from 9.8% to 5.5%.

# Soil even gives back in strawberry-rhubarb pie

**SWARM** - Continued from Page 1

are incredible.

My friend Chris Hinkle delivered a tractor-bucket load of chicken manure to us. I told him to dump it in the middle of our garden spot. This gave me incentive to change the oil in our tractor, mount the tiller (always a chore), and till the garden. I know it's early, being the middle of April, but farmers are already planting, so I trust their judgment. A few years back, there was a major blizzard on April 22. I remember the date well because it was my former wife's birthday and we were going out for dinner. We canceled plans. The snow was so wet and heavy the robins were water logged and cold, not being able to find food. We opened the garage door and let them

While tilling I noticed our apple tree was in full, majestic, bloom. Last year, it didn't bloom a'tall and we had no apples—they're the good McIntosh variety (Macs), the national apple of Canada. I don't pretend to understand the cycles of nature, but I do know there is a season for everything, a time of living and a time of dying, a time of growth and a time of rest.

From the tractor seat I could also see the invasive henbit weed (herb) that is taking over fields in the Midwest and South, much to the chagrin of farmers who have to deal with it. It's a strange plant, edible in salads, or cooked, and can be used as forage for animals. One of the reasons it spreads so fast is that it can self-pollinate, in addition to bee pollination. Many people ask, "What is that reddish-purple plant we see growing everywhere?" When you tell them it's "henbit" they say, "Hen what?"

The rhubarb was also well up, in fact it was going to seed. I trimmed off the seed pods to aid in the growth of stalk, and called Ginnie. I told her the rhubarb was ready, and asked if she'd make a strawberry-rhubarb pie. She said she would. I told her the asparagus was also up. Would she like some? "Naw," she said. "One thing at a time."

While I was cutting rhubarb, I heard the distant two-note whistle of a Bob White Quail. I whistled back. It answered. We went back-and-forth like this several more times. As I was walking to the house, Mr. Bob White appeared in the driveway looking for his rival. When he saw me, he skedaddled. Spring has definitely sprung.

Ginnie's strawberry-rhubarb pie was delicious. I took a picture of a piece with a slab of vanilla ice-cream on top, and posted it on Facebook. In a matter of hours there were over 2,000 "likes." Wealth comes from the soil.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, or email him [curtswarm@yahoo.com](mailto:curtswarm@yahoo.com). Curt is available for public speaking.

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