

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Tuesday, May 14, 2024 | 6 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 84



www.pencitycurrent.com

Vandals bugging city

Tony Menke, of Clear Vision in Fort Madison, points to the damage done to the window at the vision service. Vandals shot out the first pane of glass in the window at a cost of \$1,000 to replace. The incident was one of about 27 in the past two weeks in the city.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

BBs and Pellets: Incidents are most likely one or two people driving with air rifles

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Police Department is looking for help in solving a recent string of vandalism incidents around the community, most involving a pellet or BB-gun.

Fort Madison Police Chief Mark Rohloff said individually the crimes are misdemeanors, but collectively, the crimes are an incredible burden on the community.

“Vandalism has always been a teenage prank-type thing, but when it’s to this degree and magnitude and the amount of damage that’s occurred...how can people be so callous and

unconcerned,” Rohloff said.

“And these are just random victims. You’re costing people a lot of money and this has been going on for two weeks. No care, no thought, no conscience.”

Since May 2, there have been 27 incidents of vandalism in the community and Rohloff said only three of them don’t involve a vehicle window or building window being damaged.

Seven of 27 have been on Avenue L along the Business 61 corridor, including Sub Arena, and four have been along the same corridor on Avenue H. Four others have been in the business district of Avenue G.

See COPS, page 4

FORT MADISON NEWS

Eastin raises close to \$7,000 sitting in the Depot Tower

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Tourism Bureau celebrated National Train Day in a unique and exciting way this year with their Tower By The Hour fundraiser. On May 11, Director Chi Eastin embarked on an 8-hour journey in the Santa Fe Depot tower to raise funds for the newly formed Festivals & Cultural Events Support Fund.

The event garnered attention from both

local residents and viewers worldwide, as members of the Fort Madison Fire & Rescue department lifted Eastin into the tower with their firetruck bucket lift, providing a spectacle that was witnessed by passersby, Facebook Live viewers, and Virtual Railfan enthusiasts.

“This crazy idea was thought up by tourism board member Amy Lambert last fall,” stated Eastin. “She is the Lead Agent

at the Fort Madison Amtrak Ticket Office and thought that this could be a different fundraiser that could get a lot of attention from railfans. We decided to coincide the event with National Train Day and it was a great success. I would like to recognize Matt Panther from Texas who was a previous Fort Madison resident that watches

See EASTIN, page 4

COMMENTARY



Saint Chuck finds a small road treasure

I found a little treasure on Saturday about three hours from my house.

It wasn’t the pretentious little Korgies that walked on short leashes, while the affluent in golfie attire and watches that don’t count steps, walked closely by in shades.

This day-trip on a weekend produced results beyond expectations as we sauntered over brick sidewalks and tight, well-formed squared off curbs into Llewylens for a few beverages on a breezy spring day.

The Spirit, Southwest, and United Airlines rolled and banked against a jet blue sky and reminded me of the trip I have coming to New York City. I hate flying. So I do it right. Sit up front so you can get on last and get off first. It costs a bit more, but it’s more than worth it.

I sipped on an orange IPA and talked with my sister-in-law-in-law Joyce. Yeah, that’s real. It’s my brother’s sister-in-law. You get it. Just let it sink in and you’ll be like, ‘Oh yeah, in-law, in-law.’

We talked about a myriad of things as birds flew by, waiters flew by, and time flew by.

We stopped in after walking through the boutiques of clothes, fudge, fresh dipped strawberries, and cooking implements.

At one of the stores I stood with the plexiglass just under my nose and watched the kid probably making 12 bucks an hour drizzle warm frosting over milk chocolate berries and appreciated how nice it was to be an adult with a few bucks in my wallet. It made me miss my kids. Taylor’s in New York deal-

See CHARLES, page 6

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WEATHER

WED 15 May.....Cool, showers likely, 66° F/ 48° F
THU 16 May.....Sunny and warm, 73° F/ 55° F
FRI 17 May.....Showers likely, 71° F/ 55° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 05/12.....8 14 26 29 47, Lucky Ball: 15
PICK 3 MIDDAY 05/12.....9 0 7
PICK 3 EVENING 05/12.....7 1 6
PICK 4 MIDDAY 05/12.....2 9 6 5
PICK 4 EVENING 05/12.....1 1 1 2

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Obituaries/Lee County News

WP Library brings Hoopla Digital

WEST POINT – Patrons of the West Point Public Library can now instantly read, watch, and listen to more than a million titles through the hoopla Digital app. The popular on-demand streaming service hoopla digital is now available for free at the West Point Public Library. The West Point Public Library Foundation, with money received from the Dale Wilson Estate, has agreed to provide the funding for this exciting new service to our community.

With hoopla, the West Point Public Library offers its patrons a vast digital collection that maximizes the power of their library cards. Hoopla provides access to borrow audio-books, eBooks, comics and manga, music, movies, TV, and more with BingePass, from anywhere, with no wait, all for free with a library card. Content can be streamed from a computer or a mobile device by downloading the hoopla Digital app for iOS and Android. Along with popular entertainment titles, hoopla also offers diverse content related to important DEI topics like race, mental health, and religion, and more than 100 world languages. Hoopla also has more than

152,000 juvenile titles and Kids Mode, where kids can browse and borrow content curated specifically for ages 12 and under.

The West Point Public Library is thrilled to offer this new online streaming service in addition to Bridges, our current downloadable e-books/audio books system. Information on how to sign up and use Hoopla, as well as Bridges, can be found at the library and/or on our website at www.westpoint.lib.ia.us.

About LIBRARY

The mission of the West Point Public Library is to enrich the quality of life in the community by supporting lifelong learning, stimulating a desire to read, and serving community needs.

About hoopla Digital

Hoopla is a category-creating service that partners with public libraries across North America, Australia, and New Zealand to provide online and mobile access to thousands of movies, TV shows, music albums, eBooks, audiobooks, and comics. With hoopla Digital, patrons can borrow, instantly stream, and download dynamic content with a valid library card.

OBITUARIES

DOROTHY B. ZIMMERMAN

Dorothy B. Zimmerman, 100 of Keokuk, IA passed away Monday, May 13, 2024 at River Hills Village in Keokuk.

She was born October 28, 1923 in La Plata, MO the daughter of Olen and Orva Burnett Wait.



ZIMMERMAN

On August 6, 1941 Dorothy was united in marriage to Eugene Zimmerman. He preceded her in death on December 19, 1997.

Dorothy had been employed by JC Penny in Galesburg, IL for sixteen years, until her retirement.

She was a faithful member of New Testament Christian Church in Keokuk.

Dorothy's faith was an active and vital part of her life. She loved Ladies Bible Study and Small Group Study at her church. She was a caretaker of many people and loved spending time with her family. She was involved with Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts through the years with her children. She enjoyed camping, boating and prayed for snow every winter so she could take a horse drawn sleigh ride to her grandmothers for Thanksgiving.

She is survived by one daughter, JoAnn Spoon (Richard) of Bend, OR, one son, Larry Zimmerman (Lanea) of Keokuk, three grandchildren, Luke Zimmerman, Stephanie DeVore and Richard Spoon and four great-grandchildren, one sister, Betty Seidt (Marvin) of La Plata, MO and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Besides her husband she was also preceded in death by her parents, a sister, Norma Gehle and a brother, Teddy Wait.

A memorial service will be held 11 a.m. Thursday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with Dawn Farris officiating.

Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service with the family meeting with friends from 10 – 11 a.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to the New Testament Christian Church.

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

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May 13 - 17
11am - 1pm

Monday, May 13
Lasagna, Cottage Cheese, Breadstick

Tuesday, May 14
Burnt End Sandwich, Potato Salad, Baked Beans

Wednesday, May 15
Sausage & Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes

Thursday, May 16
Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, May 17
Grilling on the Sidewalk

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

CHARLES F. SCHNEIDER

Charles "Fritz" Fredrick Schneider 88, of Keokuk passed away, Saturday, May 11, 2024 at his home surrounded by his family.

He was born March 16, 1936 in Keokuk, IA the son of Merle Allen and Martha May Johnson Schneider.

Fritz graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 1954, after which he dedicated four years of service to his country by enlisting in the United States Navy from 1954 to 1958. He proudly served aboard the Battleship Bremerton, stationed in Long Beach, California. He traversed the seas, venturing to Hawaii and Japan.

Following his discharge from the Navy, Fritz embarked a thirty-year career with Hubingers/Roquette, where he was employed as a maintenance worker and welder.

On June 13, 1959, he was united in marriage to Mary Jane Ellison at the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Keokuk, Iowa. She survives.

He is also survived by a daughter, Debbie Barrs (Johnny) and a granddaughter, Lea Jane Barrs all of Keokuk.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a son, Michael Allen Schneider, a grandson, Donald Anthony Barrs, a brother, George Allen Schneider and a sister, Gertrude Flora LaPointe.

Fritz lived life to the fullest, finding joy in a multitude of hobbies and pastimes. Golfing was one of Fritz's favorite pastimes, and he could often be found on the green, perfecting his swing and enjoying the company of fellow golfers whether it was a leisurely round with friends or a competitive tournament. His love for the outdoors extended to activities such as boating, swimming, water skiing, and camping. He had a green thumb and took great pride in his gardens. He also had a great sense of humor and enjoyed teasing and joking with others.

Most of all he cherished the time he spent with his family.

A memorial service will be held 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 15 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with Pastor Derek Olsen officiating. Burial with military rites will be held at the Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk.

Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service with the family meeting with friends from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to the Keokuk National Cemetery.

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



OBITUARIES

PAUL A. SHINN

Paul Allen Shinn, 72 of Montrose, IA passed away, Sunday, May 12, 2024 at his home in Montrose.

He was born September 1, 1951 the son of Lloyd and Lois Wilson Shinn in Keokuk, IA.



SHINN

Paul graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 1969.

On April 6, 1974 he was united in marriage to Alice Marie Thompson in Warsaw, IL. She survives.

He is also survived by two daughters, Angelique Boring (Bryan) of Boone, IA, Nicole Shinn of Burlington, IA, four grandchildren, Brooke Wade of Pella, IA, Blake Wade of Des Moines, IA, Makayla Gaston (Ethan)

Ankeny, IA and Lucas Boring (Josie Mozena) of Ogden, IA. He is also survived by five sisters, Connie Davis (Moe) of Keokuk, Barb Kutzner of Keokuk, Tammy Wilson (Steve) of Ft. Wayne, IN, Peggy Duke of Keokuk and Debbie Pezley (John) of Keokuk and one brother, Monk Shinn of Keokuk.

He was preceded in death by his parents, grandparents, one great-grandson, Elio Gaston, one sister, Judy Schmidt, one brother, Donnie Shinn and three brothers-in-law, Tony Schmitt, Ron Kutzner and Earl Duke.

He had been employed by Trellex Morse for thirty-two years, until his retirement in 2005. Paul was known throughout the community as the "Candyman" passing out Starbursts candy to everyone he came across and bringing smiles to their faces. He was an avid Iowa Hawkeye fan. Most of all, Paul loved spending time with his grandchildren and his dogs.

A funeral service will be held at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Pastor Larry Wallingford officiating. Burial will be in the Hickory Grove Cemetery in Keokuk.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Wednesday at the funeral home with family meeting with friends 5-7 p.m.

Memorials may be made to the Ronald McDonald House or to PAW Animal Shelter in Ft. Madison, IA. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorial-home.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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From the Front

Event was resounding success

EASTIN - Continued from Page 1

his hometown on the Virtual Railfan cam. His gracious donation quadrupled the goal that I set for myself for the event. Thank you to everyone that donated to this fundraiser.”

The event proved to be a resounding success, raising a total of \$6,953 for their first fundraiser in 2024. These funds will be instrumental in supporting and preserving cultural identity within the Fort Madison area, stimulating the creation of new or expansion of existing festivals and cultural events, and contributing to the financial viability and long-term sustainability of the area’s vibrant cultural scene.

“The Events Support Fund is greatly needed as a supplement to the Fort Madison Tourism Bureau budget,” said Eastin. “We look forward to utilizing these funds to bring more diverse and exciting events to Fort Madison.”

In the near future, an application process

for accessing these funds will be made public for events taking place in the Fort Madison area in 2025. Those interested in supporting the Festivals & Cultural Events Support Fund can make donations through the Fort Madison Tourism Bureau website at www.visitfortmadison.com, by mail to the tourism office at 614 7th Street, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627, or by visiting the summer office location at the Santa Fe Depot.

“We truly appreciate your support and look forward to bringing more events to Fort Madison! We also need to thank the City of Fort Madison for allowing us to have access to the Santa Fe Depot Tower, the Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Crew for their assistance to reach the tower, the North Lee County Historical Society for their technical support during the day and Amtrak Amy for thinking of this fun fundraiser,” said Eastin.



Police looking for help to stop, charge vandals

COPS - Continued from Page 1

Rohloff said he thinks the crimes are being done by younger adults or youth and are being carried out after dark when less people are walking on streets or traveling around the community.

He said not all of them are windows, but most of them are.

“A lot of these are BBs or pellets so somebody, its some miscreant, driving around with a pellet gun popping stuff,” he said.

“It hits (the window) and then creates a little pit and then eventually it cracks and breaks,” he said.

“I feel really bad. These are people I know. This is largely affecting a community. A storefront window is thousands of dollars, a vehicle window is hundreds. The shear magnitude of this is a significant loss to a community.”

He said the problem is identifying a suspect. He said chances are considering the shear amount and the recency of the events, it’s probably the same person. But proving the cases is a difficult task and it would take some solid observations, maybe a license plate from someone who hears something and calls right away will lead to a break in the case.

“Can you prove them all? No, but that one we need to aggressively pursue that person under the assumption, and the community can assume that person’s responsible.”

He said restitution would be limited and the degree of the damage caused limits the degree of criminal mischief that can be charged.

He said the recent string includes businesses, vehicles, and homes. He said some have been discovered by officers

and others have been called in days later by owners.

Rohloff said as always, people need to be on the lookout or checking surveillance cameras as soon as they see activity or find damage.

He said police are being vigilant during late evenings focusing on drivers under the influence, so if there is a reason to pull a vehicle over, they are doing that.

“Then we get our nose in the window for drunk drivers, looking for drugs, any pretext for pulling a driver over, we’re going to do it. Tolerances at night are lower because our dog is out working and we’re like what are you doing out at 3 in the morning? But if we’re not finding anything, it’s difficult for us to make a case,” he said.

“If we knew within an hour of something happening, there’s a good chance someone might have seen something or remembered it. My guess is these are happening in the evening, night time with kids in a car. That’s our profile. It’s so random it’s not like it’s a vendetta against you or me. There’s nothing personal about it.”

Tony Menke, of Clear Vision, said his building was hit sometime between 1 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. Monday.

He agrees that it’s kids doing vandalism, but he said back in the day that kids had some kind of conscience about the vandalism and society would help fix the problem.

The Clear Vision building took a pellet through the first pane of glass but it didn’t puncture the second inside pane. He said the first pain will cost at least \$1,000 to fix.

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**SERVICES CENTER)
TENTATIVE AGENDA
MAY 14, 2024**

**PRECEDING THE
REGULAR MEETING
AN EXEMPT SESSION
WILL BE HELD TO
DISCUSS
NEGOTIATIONS AS
PROVIDED IN IOWA
CODE 201.7.**

**REGULAR MEETING
7:00 A.M.**

1. Roll Call
2. Approve agenda
3. Receive Visitors:
 - a) Visitors to speak about items not on the agenda
 - b) Art Presentation
 - c) National Teacher Appreciation Week
 - d) Iowa School Board Recognition Week
 - e) Honor Landon Rudd, Student Board Representative
4. Superintendent's Report:
 - a) Student Board Representative Interviews
 - b) Summer Board Meeting Schedule (June 11, July 9, August 13)
 - c) Graduation Events Schedule
 - d) Finance Update
 - e) Legislative Update
 - f) IASB Membership
 - g) Vacancies
5. CONSENT AGENDA:

- (Exhibit I) (Motion)
- a) Financial Reports: General and Schoolhouse funds, Clearing account, Hot Lunch account
 - b) Approve prepaid bills
 - c) Approve monthly bills
 - d) Approve minutes
 - e) Approve/Deny open enrollment requests
 - f) Overnight Trip requests
- NEW BUSINESS:**
1. Approve Elementary Science of Reading Curriculum Purchase (Exhibit II)(Motion)
 2. Approve June 30th, 2024 Retirement Date and Unused Accumulated Sick Leave Pay Out Request Payable by June 30th, 2024: (Motion)
 - a) Sandra Meierotto - Board Secretary/SBO
 3. Rescind Previous Payout Request Dated 1/24/2024 for Retiree Kim Myers (Motion)
 4. Approve FY2024-2025 Contracts for Staff: (Exhibit III) (Motion)
 - a) CLEA Contracts
 - b) Non-Certified Contracts
 - c) Administrative Contracts
 5. First Reading of Board Policies 400 Series (Motion)
 6. First Reading of Board Policies: (Exhibit IV) (Motion)
 - a) 504.5 - Student Fund

- Raising (Rescinded)
- b) 504.5RI - Student Fund Raising Regulation (Rescinded)
 - c) 507.08R1 - Special Health Services Regulation
7. First Reading of Board Policies: (Exhibit V) (Motion)
- a) 704.01 - Local-State-Federal-Miscellaneous Revenue
 - b) 704.06 - Fundraising Within The District (formerly titled Online Fundraising Campaigns/ Crowdfunding)
 - c) New 704.06R1 - Fundraising Within the District Regulation
 - d) 706.01 - Payroll Periods
 - e) 706.02 - Payroll Deductions
 - f) 706.03 - Reduction in Employee Pay (formerly titled Pay Deductions)
 - g) 706.03R1 - Reduction in Employee Pay Regulation
 - h) 707.01 - Presentation and Publication of Financial Reports and Information (formerly titled Secretary's Report)
 - i) 707.02 - Treasurer's Annual Report (Rescinded)
 - j) 707.03 - Publication of Financial Reports
 - k) 707.04 - Audit
 - l) 707.06 - Audit Committee

8. First Reading of Board Policy 802.4 Capital Assets (Exhibit VI) (Motion)
9. Activity Account Interest Distribution (Motion)
10. Class of 2024 Activity Account Distribution (Motion)
11. Approval of 2024 Graduating Senior Class (Exhibit VII) (Motion)
12. Approve 28E Agreement for School Resource Officer (Exhibit VIII) (Motion)
13. Approve 2024-2025 Certified Employee Handbook Modifications (Exhibit IX) (Motion)
14. Approve School Safety Grant Purchases (Exhibit X)(Motion)
15. Approve Summer Food Service Plan & Compensation for Employees (Exhibit XI) (Motion)
16. Approve Resolution Authorizing and Approving the Execution and Delivery of a Master Lease Purchase Agreement; and Approving the Execution and Delivery of Schedule No. 3 to the Master Lease Purchase Agreement (Exhibit XII) (Motion) (Roll Call Vote)
17. Set FY2023-2024 Budget Amendment Hearing Date May 29th, 2024 at 7:00 a.m.: (Exhibit XIII) (Motion)

- (Roll Call Vote)
18. Resignations: (Effective End of 2023-2024): (Motion)
 - a) Tony Johnson - Instructor, Middle School Boys Track
 - b) Sarah Kruse - Middle School Boys Track Coach
 19. Contract Approvals: (Motion)
 - a) Amanda Finch - Custodian (Effective 5/28/2024)
 - b) Jonny Swanson - Head Boys' Basketball Coach (Effective 2024-2025)
 - c) Jake Fraise - Middle School Baseball Coach (Effective 2023-2024)
 - d) Alexis Clark - Instructor (Effective 2024-2025)
 - e) Danielle Gilpin - Instructor (Effective 2024-2025)
 - f) Ashley Counts - Instructor (Effective 2024-2025)
 20. Volunteer Coach Approvals: (Motion)
 - a) Jesse Day - Middle School and High School Baseball
 - b) Lane Weirather - High School Baseball
 21. Transfer: (Effective 2024-2025): (Motion)
 - a) Tyler Bryant - Middle School Instructor to High School PE Instructor
 22. Board Reports
 23. Adjourn (Motion)

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Opinion/From the Front

I found a getaway in St. Charles

CHARLES - Continued from Page 1

ing with a jackass who wants to intrude on her day to introduce himself, even though she has no interest. Kelsey is having strawberries whenever the hell she wants with the gramma probably sitting on a porch of some rustic cabin in God's court. It takes nothing for me to walk myself back to the heart-wrenching moments of Kelsey's last breath. It's selfish as hell, but my brother always tells me she's in the breeze. So I regularly pull heavily on the spring air. I do that in the winter, too, it just doesn't feel so great when it's cold. But anytime I breathe her in, it's warm.

But I've been pushing some friends of mine to go down to this Galena of Missouri and shop and stop, sample lemon bars, look through clothes, spices, yard ornaments, and other novelties.

It's St. Charles and there's something about the historical Main Street

that makes me hope that Fort Madison can do something similar, but not quite so cozy, when they reset Avenue G.

I found many, many, many shirts that said "Saint Chuck". Yep. I bought quite a few of those and sent texts with pictures of the logo. And all to a person said, "You've gotta get that". Yep.

They had stocking caps, baseball caps, t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc. that made me feel that these were just for me. I'm no saint. Hell no. But it doesn't hurt to brand yourself as someone who tries to do the right things at the right times whether it's for you or someone else. If that makes you a saint, then so be it. Most of the time it just makes you a human.

St. Charles, or St. Chuck if you're into nicknames or just think a little of me, is a wonderful day trip. We stopped

and got lottery tickets and water and I didn't get to stop at my favorite Hannibal gas station for Cajun Catfish and chicken strips because we left too early in the morning and got back home too late at night.

We met a member of the St. Charles Park Board who sat with us for close to an hour and talked about how they spend their \$9 million annual budget. He's also writing some non-fiction stuff about high school football that I can't wait to read. One of my favorite things in the world is meeting new people. This guy was as genuine as there is. He dropped a link to some of his writing in our email box before we even got home. John and I shook hands with him as walked his wife back out onto the historic Main Street with his hand on her lower back. We moved into their seats as the canopy there provided a little more shade, and I could put a pat on the head of

the Belgian Malinois that was sniffing for scraps behind us on a leash. I imagined how proficient she would be flying through the air to take down some rif-raf.

The day was beautiful and well worth the slight expense of taking a couple moms out for a special day. I think my mother would have appreciated that. My wife, as wonderful as a mother she is, was just too far away to hook up with. But we'll make sure that effort is put forth, as well.

As for me, I'm just gonna say Happy Mother's Day to all those wonderful women out there that I've had the opportunity to cross paths with. I will also say Happy Mother's Day to the dads' that pull double duty. When you get a chance, get away and drive the 2 1/2 hours to St. Charles to treat yourself to some good food, sweets, a drink or two, and the steps to work it off. I did it - But that's really Beside the Point.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Producer says beef is a sustainable protein

Editor,

If there's one thing I want my community to know during May Beef Month, it's that despite what you may read in mainstream media, beef is a sustainable protein.

As a cattle farmer in Lee County, I've watched beef become more and more environmentally friendly with each farming generation thanks to new technology and research. This adoption of innovation since the 1990s has increased beef production by 25% while lowering emissions per pound of beef by 17%.

Simply put, there's more beef for you to enjoy with less environmental impact.

Cattle also play an important role in reducing food waste and maximizing natural resources. For example, they eat plant materials humans cannot digest and imperfect foods that may otherwise end up in a landfill. They also can graze land unsuitable for growing crops. In each of these instances, cattle are upcycling the unusable into nutrient-dense protein.

We've also experimented with cover crops—plants that help keep nutrients on our farm and out of the water. Our cattle can eat these, so it's a win-win for them and our natural resources.

I hope you'll join me in celebrating all the great things cattle can do for the planet this May Beef Month. When you add a steak, burger or beef taco to your plate, know it was raised by a farmer like me who proudly cares for our animals and the environment.

Sincerely,

Lauren Hulsebus, Lee County

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