

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Monday, June 10, 2024 | 8 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 101



www.pencitycurrent.com

Whittlers carve up park



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Doug Gratton of "Drunk'In Spoons" of Bonaparte works a pull knife on a fresh piece of wood pulled to carve a spoon as part of SpoonFest Saturday in Fort Madison's Central Park.

SPOONFEST: Exhibitors come to Central Park to show how to make wooden spoons

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – With a steady crowd meandering through Central Park Saturday, several woodworking men took to some hand tools to create wooden spoons during SpoonFest 2024.

The festival featured a local band playing in the bandshell, a snowcone vendor, some breakfast burritos and tacos, and some wooden wares on Saturday and Sunday in downtown Fort Madison.

Doug Gatton of the Drunk'In Spoon in Bonaparte was quite frank in saying he learned to carve the spoons mostly by watching YouTube videos.

Gatton sells his wares at festivals and then exclusively at the Waterfront Place Antiques along the Des Moines River in Bonaparte.

"I started doing this about seven years ago," Gatton said. "And honestly, I started by watching YouTube videos and told myself, 'You can do that.'"

See **SPOONS**, page 8

COMMENTARY



We're watching Clark for the special moments

Ok. So here I go into an arena that I'm not really primed for.

Women's basketball has not been my favorite sport. That's nothing against the athletes that play it, but it has always seemed a little clumsy for the most part.

My brother was a girls' head coach for more than 20 years and has about three decades of coaching experience. He took one team to state and several to substate, I think. That tells you how much I follow it.

I've covered girls' basketball for more than 10 years and it's relatively the same thing. Lack of ball control, lack of an ability to score under the basket, and a press that only works in man-to-man. You can say that's an obtuse perspective, and it is, but it's my perspective from the court. I think most people think the same thing, but that's beginning to change.

I've never covered women's basketball at a level higher than high school, and Caitlin Clark wouldn't know me from any other stranger at the coffee shop.

But I have a Sunday audience so I'm going to dump my opinion here on what is happening with her.

It's been much to my chagrin that I've been following some of the national sports talking heads and I've found them to be polarized, fickle, and they step on themselves as the Clark story unfolds.

So here's an opinion from the peanut gallery and it take it for what its worth.

People aren't watching the WNBA because of the controversy. They aren't. Angel Reece, who's surfaced as the anti-Caitlin Clark says people are watching because of her, too, but they're not. The WNBA, with all its efforts to the contrary, has been boring and viewership will bear that out. There was no storyline. Now

See **CLARK**, page 8



Thank you to Jamie Baier and Jim Baier, Inc for their continued support for the Fort Madison Light Up The Sky This 4th of July fireworks campaign. Pictured is Jamie Baier, Owner and Tim Gobble, Fort Madison Partners Executive Director.

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WEATHER

MON 10 Jun.....Sunny and cool, 75° F/52° F
 TUE 11 Jun.....Sunny and warm, 81° F/63° F
 WED 12 Jun.....Sunny and warm, 88° F/69° F

IOWA LOTTERY

DOUBLE PLAY 06/08.....11 21 57 58 68, Powerball: 5
 LOTTO AMERICA 06/08.....5 7 23 37 45, Star Ball: 3 All Star Bonus: 2
 LUCKY FOR LIFE 06/08.....3 17 29 31 33, Lucky Ball: 11
 MEGA MILLIONS 06/07.....3 5 12 22 66, Mega Ball: 7 Megaplier: 4
 PICK 3 MIDDAY 06/06, 06/07, 06/08.....210, 729, 578
 PICK 3 EVENING 06/06, 06/07, 06/08.....531, 195, 286
 PICK 4 MIDDAY 06/06, 06/07, 06/08.....5400, 9582, 0761
 PICK 4 EVENING 06/06, 06/07, 06/08.....6506, 2052, 2256
 POWERBALL 06/08.....8 38 52 54 64, Powerball: 15 Power Play: 3

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

ALICE L. PENCE

Alice Louise Pence, 84, of LaHarpe, Illinois, passed away at 9:15 p.m. Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at Courtyard Estates in Bushnell, Illinois.

Alice was born June 12, 1939 in Lomax, Illinois, the daughter of Fred B. and Dewey (Pitts) Cox. On September 15, 1957 she married David L. Pence in Lomax. He preceded her in death October 25, 2021.



PENCE

Alice was raised in the Lomax area and graduated from Terre Haute High School in 1957. She was a homemaker when her children were young. Later, she was employed by King Seeley in Macomb, Schaefer Pen in Fort Madison and retired from Methode in Carthage. She also owned and operated Home-town Video in LaHarpe with her husband.

She enjoyed feeding and watching hummingbirds, crossword puzzles, watching game shows, and attending local sporting events. She especially enjoyed spending time with her family.

Survivors include two children: Ed (Jennifer Schuster) Pence of Blandinsville, Illinois and Nancy (Jeff Abernathy) Vogler of Roseville, Illinois; nine grandchildren: Jennifer (Michael) Skinner, Tiffany (Sarah Job) Vogler, Tyler (Blake Red Elk) Vogler, Travis (Janelle Schneiderman) Pence, Montana (Michael) Applegate, Carley (Richard) Le Cuirot, Lacey (Josie Finch) Pence, Ryan (Isabella) Smith and Wyatt Pence; eighteen great-grandchildren: Sosie and Sloane Skinner, Cameron, O'Brien and Knox Job, Lucas Pence, Hayden, Tinley, Elliott, Rowynn and Jaxton Covert, Charlotte and Myles Le Cuirot, Ruby, Calvin and Vivian Smith, Ella and Emmy Applegate and one sister: Bea Tolander of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

Besides her husband, she was preceded in death by one daughter: Jerri Lynn Smith; one son: Tim Pence; her parents; step-mother: Eunice Cox; a granddaughter-in-law: Alicia Pence and three brothers: Gail, Benny and Charles Cox.

The family will receive friends from 1:00 until 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in LaHarpe. A funeral service will follow at 2:30 p.m. at Banks & Beals with Pastor Maxine Dennison officiating. Cremation will be entrusted to Banks & Beals Funeral Home following the service. Burial will be held at Crane Cemetery at a later date.

A memorial fund has been established for Courtyard Estates (Betty's Garden) or Traditions Hospice. To leave an online condolence for the family, please visit Alice's obituary at banksandbeals.com.

OBITUARIES

PAUL M. CORZATT

Paul M. Corzatt, 96, of rural Dallas City, Illinois, passed away at 11:15 a.m. Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at The Elms in Macomb, Illinois.

Paul was born August 28, 1927, in Raritan, Illinois, the son of A. Buell and Cordelia (Lofftus) Corzatt. On August 1, 1948 he married Barbara Blythe at the Durham United Methodist Church. She survives.



CORZATT

Paul spent his childhood in the Raritan area. His family moved to the Durham community in 1936, where he would live and farm all of his life. He enjoyed his work. He also hauled livestock for many years. He and Barb traveled together and in younger years attended many State Fairs with their family. He also enjoyed cattle and horse sales, horse races and tractor pulls.

He loved spending time with his grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

He was a member of the LaHarpe Masonic Lodge, Hancock County Farm Bureau and the LaHarpe Christian Church, where he served on the church board many years ago.

Besides his wife, survivors include four children: Kathy Butler of Blandinsville, Gary (Teresa) Corzatt of LaHarpe, Carol (Todd) Stevens of LaHarpe and Wayne (Debbie) Corzatt of Dallas City; eleven grandchildren: Julie (Jeremy) Smith, Matthew (Valerie) Butler, Jeffrey (Melissa) Butler, Robyn (Matt) Nichols, Laura (David) Panto, Kevin (Kimberly) Corzatt, Lesley (Bruce) McCain, Kristin (Chad) Lolling, Chris (Deanne) Corzatt, Craig (Kristina) Corzatt and Jensen (Mackenzie) Corzatt and 29 great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren with one more on the way.

He was preceded in death by his parents: two siblings: Ada Thompson and Ivan Corzatt; one son-in-law: David Butler and two great-grandchildren: Jeffrey Panto and Laken Corzatt.

The family will receive friends from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m. Monday, June 10, 2024 at the LaHarpe Christian Church. A funeral service will follow at 11:00 a.m. at the church with Pastor Nate McCarter and Rev. Bruce Goettsche officiating.

Burial will follow in Durham Cemetery. A memorial fund has been established for the LaHarpe Christian Church or MDH Hospice.

Banks & Beals Funeral Home of LaHarpe is assisting the family. To leave an online condolence for the family, please visit Paul's obituary at banksandbeals.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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FRIDAY, JUNE 14
GRILLING ON THE SIDEWALK

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PEN CITY CURRENT

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Baseball Recaps

No. 1 Nikes snap Hounds' 3-game win streak

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Bloodhounds dropped a 6-0 decision to Class 1A No. 1 Burlington Notre Dame Friday night.

The Hounds held off arguably the area's best high school baseball team for six innings behind some stellar pitching from junior Luke Hellige and solid defense.

The Bloodhound went 4 1/3 innings allowing just three hits and one run earned while fanning two.

The Nikes opened the game with a couple one-out hits including a double by Caden Schwenker that moved runners into scoring position. Eli Oleson then hit a sacrifice fly to right scoring Spencer Brent. Hellige would get a ground out to end the inning and then the teams would go scoreless for the next four innings.

Fort Madison had two runners on with one out in the bottom of the second, but back-to-back strikeouts by the Nikes' Jaxon Sadler would end that threat. The Hounds would put two more on with one out in the bottom of the fourth when Tateum Schelic and Stephan Berlett would both single. But again back-to-back strikeouts would strand both runners.

In the bottom of the fifth inning Michael Fuller would open the bottom half with a walk and Brody Cashman would get hit by a pitch. Mitchell would pop up a sacrifice bunt attempt for the first out. Hunter Cresswell would fan and then Fuller would get picked off at second to end the inning.

Brent would reach on an error to open the sixth, but he would get caught stealing second, and Berlett, on in relief of Hellige, would get the next two hitters to end the inning.

Fort Madison would go down 1-2-3 in the bottom half of the sixth and then the flood gates would open in the top of the seventh.

Berlett would get a strikeout to open the seventh, but then a single and an RBI double by Logan Brent would make it 2-0. Jeremiah Crow reached on an error and then an RBI single would make it 3-0 with just one out.

The Hounds walked the next hitter to set up a force anywhere, but a wild pitch would plate another run before Brent would come up with a single to right scoring two more runs setting the final at 6-0.

Hellige suffered the loss giving up the one run in the bottom of the first inning. Berlett's line was five runs on four hits with two walks and two strikeouts. Schelic, Berlett and Fuller had the only hits for Fort Madison (7-5, 3-2 in Southeast Conference).

The Hounds travel to Davenport today for games with West and Central beginning at noon.

Thursday night Schelic got the win in a 4-3 conference win over Washington, the Hounds third win over the Demons this week. Schelic also had two hits in the win. Cresswell had one hit and an RBI. Berlett had the only other RBI for the Hounds in the win. Reece Huey, and Aiden Mitchell also had hits in Thursday's game. Fort Madison scored one run each in the first, second, fourth and fifth innings. Washington put up all three runs in the first inning with Huey on the mound.

Manwill's walk-off gives Central Lee seventh win of season

PCC Staff

DONNELSON – Zach Manwill's walk-off single in the bottom of the eighth inning secured the seventh win for the Central Lee boys, a 5-4 win over Fairfield Friday night at Central Lee High School.

The Hawks trailed Fairfield 2-0 after the top of the fourth when the Trojans scored a run each in the third and fourth.

Central Lee got things turned around in the bottom of the fourth when freshman Blake Davis singled and Manwill got hit by a pitch. Bo Herdrich then hit a 1-0 pitch over the left field fence for a 3-run homer with no outs. Kayden Calfee then walked and Chase Johnson singled to put runners on at 1st and 3rd. Calfee would score on a wild pitch, but Hunter Edlin would line into a double play catching Johnson at second for two outs. A ground out would end the inning with the Hawks up 4-2.

The Trojans would tie things up in the top of the 6th. A couple walks in between a strikeout and fly out would put two Trojans on with two outs. Gage Van Ausdall would come on in relief of Caedon Newton and surrender a walk and two singles to load the bases. Sophomore Dain Burkhart then singled to right for Fairfield to plate two and tie the game at 6.

Van Ausdall would get a ground out to end the inning, but the Hawks would go down 1-2-3 in the bottom of the sixth. Fairfield would get two baserunners in the top of the seventh but a strikeout and fly out ended the threat. The Hawks would again go down in order in the bottom of the seventh forcing at least an extra inning. Again two walks around two outs put a runner in scoring position, but Van Ausdall would get a strike



out to strand the two Trojans.

Then Cory Jones opened the bottom of the eighth wearing a pitch and Davis would follow with a single moving Jones to third. Manwill then stroked the game winner to center to give the Hawks (7-3, 3-2 SEI Superconference South) the win.

On Thursday, the Hawks knocked off Van Buren County 10-6. Davis had three hits including an RBI double in the second that spotted the Hawks to a 4-0 early lead. Van Buren would score five runs in the top of the 5th. Chase Johnson started the inning, but gave way to Herdrich who inherited three runners and gave up a couple runs and a 6-5 Van Buren lead.

But the Hawks responded with six runs of their own in the bottom of the fifth. After a strikeout to open the frame, the Hawks put two runners on with a single and hit batter. Edlin grounded into a fielder's choice moving Calfee to third with two outs. He would score on a passed ball and then Kayden Ames would work a walk. Van Ausdall and Jones would both get plunked before Davis singled to right scoring Jones and Van Ausdall for a 9-5 lead the Hawks wouldn't surrender. Manwill would drive in another run before the end of the inning.

Van Buren would score one in the top of the sixth, but Herdrich would retire the side with two strikeouts and a line out to center to end the game.

The Hawks travel to Mediapolis on Tuesday and Wapello on Wednesday in Superconference action.

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Obituaries/Classifieds

OBITUARIES

EVERETT J. GABEL

Everett J. Gabel, 86, of Donnellson, Iowa, passed away at 7:45 a.m. Thursday, June 6, 2024, at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, Iowa.

Born on May 22, 1938 in Donnellson, Iowa, the son of Harry and Helen (Wagner) Gabel. On June 27, 1959 he married Alice I. LaVelle at the Sacred Heart Church in Fort Madison, Iowa, she preceded him in death on February 20, 2019.



GABEL

He is survived by two daughters: Barb (Flavian) Boeding of West Point, Iowa and Janet Hellweg of West Point, Iowa; grandson Justin (Deana) Knight of Donnellson, Iowa; brother-in-law Jack Smith; sister-in-law Dorothy Menge and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Alice; brother Duane; and son-in-law Marty Hellweg.

Everett enjoyed visiting with his family and friends, raising cattle, and farming the land, he was the third generation to farm the family farm and received the Century Farm Award in 2007. He was involved in the farming operation teaching his grandson to farm, up until the last couple years.

His body has been entrusted to the crematory of Schmitz Funeral Home for cremation.

The family will receive friends from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. Sunday, June 9, 2024 at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson, Iowa

Burial will be in Everhart Cemetery in Donnellson.

Following the burial a gathering will be held at the Learning Center on the Lee County Fair Grounds in Donnellson.

Memorials have been established in his memory for Everhart Cemetery.

Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneral-homes.com.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report
06/06/24 - 9:26 a.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Alyssa Blair Hardy, 34, of Fort Madison in the 800 block of Avenue D, on charges of possession of a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

06/06/24 - 1:27 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Adam Paul Carson, 41, of Fort Madison, in the 2700 block of Avenue J, on an active warrant. He was held at Lee County Jail.

06/06/24 - 3:31 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Larry Wallace Dawson, 69, of Fort Madison on a charge of driving while barred. He was held at Lee County Jail.

Keokuk Police Report
06/06/24 - 3:24 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the

2000 block of Main Street. 06/06/24 - 4:42 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1400 block of Ash Street.

06/06/24 - 6:51 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2000 block of Main Street.

06/06/24 - 5:31 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 600 block of Hawthorn Place.

06/06/24 - 8:47 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 600 block of Timea Street.

06/07/24 - 2:56 a.m. - Keokuk Police arrested Dantwon Jackson III, 32, of Keokuk, in the 3700 block of Main Street, on a charge of public intoxication. He was held at Lee County Jail.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

06/06/24 - 12:19 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Matthew Jay Wells, 23, of Fort Madison, in the 1500 block of Avenue H, on charge of public intoxication and interference with official acts. He was held at Lee County Jail.

06/06/24 - 1:00 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested James Lee Alberts, 26, of Keokuk at the South Lee County Courthouse on an active warrant. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.

06/06/24 - 1:05 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Lindy Marie Bell, 36, of Keokuk, at the South Lee County Courthouse on an active warrant. She was held at Lee County Jail.

Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice to Bidders Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Please note that the DNR Central Office has moved to 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200, Des Moines

Sealed bids will be received by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, at 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200, Des Moines, IA, 50321, or via email at construction-bids@dnr.iowa.gov until 11:00am, June 27, 2024 for the public improvement projects listed below, at which time they will be opened publicly. When emailing bid documents, the subject line of the email must state the following: Project Number, Project Name, and Bid Letting Date. Please ensure the first page of the emailed attachment, or first of multiple attachments, is the bid proposal. No bids shall be accepted via FAX.

After the bid opening, bid results may be obtained by visiting the Department's website at <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/engreal/projectlist.asp>. In addition to attending the bid opening in person, interested parties may also call in to the following number to listen to the bid opening: Conference call num-

ber: +1 (240) 623-0919

PIN: 683-750-293#

In order to improve sound quality, please mute your phone by pressing *6. If you have questions, you can unmute your phone by pressing *6.

Project documents, including drawings, specifications, proposal forms, and addenda items for the project are available at Beeline and Blue, at 2507 Ingersoll Ave, Des Moines, IA, 50312. Please visit www.beelineandblue.com or contact (515) 244-1611 for more information. Alternatively, Bid Documents can be viewed or printed online at <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/engreal/projectlist.asp>.

The Department shall comply with all public improvement procurement laws, as outlined in the plans and specifications and including but not limited to: Iowa Code chapter 26 related to public construction bidding; Iowa Code chapter 73 related to preferences; Iowa Code chapter 573 related to labor and materials on public improvements; rules promulgated by the Department of Administrative Services - General Services Enterprise as they may apply; rules promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Commission,

as they may apply; and any federal statutes, rules and/or executive orders that may be associated depending on funding sources. Bidders shall comply with these laws to be considered and are encouraged to be familiar with public improvement procurement requirements and the bidding documents before submitting a bid.

POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY PROJECT NO. 23-04-78-01

Lake Manawa State Park
Crack and Seat Overlay and Pavement Maintenance
Proposal Guarantee: \$75,000.00
Completion Date: 11/15/2024

Project Description:
This project consists of a crack and seat overlay on South Shore Drive at Manawa State Park and pavement maintenance on roads near the beach parking lot. Work to include double reinforced PCC pavement over two existing culverts, crack and seat, HMA overlay 2.13 miles of existing PCC, paint markings and granular fillet on both sides of the new pavement surface of South Shore Drive. Patch, clean and seal cracks, and fog seal 0.36 miles of exist-

ing HMA roads near the beach parking lot.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
MEETING NOTICE
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
MONDAY
June 10, 2024
MEETING CONVENING
TIME: 10:00 A.M.
933 AVE H**

-----AGENDA-----

Lee County Board of Supervisors
Jun 11, 2024, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM (America/Chicago)
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noise. If you are participating by phone, press *6, this will mute your phone.

Pledge of Allegiance
Approve Agenda
Public Input
Best You Coalition Presentation

Consider Approval of Second Reading and Possible Waiver of Third Reading of Livestock Ordinance

Consider Approval of Agreement with Allender Butzke for Geotechnical Investigation for replacement of BR 84.1

Consider Approval of Replacing vacant full-time Family Support Specialist position at the Lee County Health Department

Consent Agenda
• Tuesday, June 3, 2024

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Board Minutes

- Claims for Payment Personnel Actions:
- A. New Hire (Replacement) - Recorder's Office
- B. Step Increase - Treasurer's Office

Reports:

HELP WANTED

BECOME THE BRAVEST Fort Madison Fire Department is Hiring Firefighters

The Civil Service Commission of the City of Fort Madison, Iowa will be conducting examinations for the position of Firefighter on 09.28.2024

Applicants must be between 18 and 64 years of age, be able to read and write in the English language, and must possess a valid high school diploma or GED.

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 - \$64,000 base pay after 18 months of employment
 - 24/48 shift schedule
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 - MFPRSI Pension Program
 - Tuition Assistance

Application packets are available by contacting the Fort Madison City Clerk at Fort Madison City Hall, 811 Avenue E, or cityclerk@fortmadison-ia.com, or (319) 372-7700, ext. 206.

Application packets must be returned to the City Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 240, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627 or emailed to cityclerk@fortmadison-ia.com no later than 4:30 p.m. on 06.14.2024.



- A. Sheriffs Monthly Report
 - B. Treasurer's Report of Fees Collected
 - C. Auditor's Report of Fees Collected
- Canvass the June 4, 2024 Primary Election Commission or Committee Reports
- Adjourn

PUBLIC MEETING CITIZENS WELCOME

Vision and hearing assistance available upon request

Contact Title VI Administrator 319-372-3705 County Website: www.leecounty.org

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING MINUTES Mount Pleasant, Iowa REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING March 27, 2024

The Mount Pleasant City Council met in regular session on Wednesday,

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day, March 27, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 307 East Monroe Street, second-floor meeting room. The meeting was called to order by the Mayor and the roll being called there were present Steven K. Brimhall in the Chair and the following named Councilmembers.

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

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

- the minutes of the March 13, 2024, City Council meeting;
- the payment of bills totaling \$160,184.58;
- the report of officers;
- the renewal of a Special Class B Retail Alcohol License for Mt. Pleasant Redemption Center located at 1001 North Broadway Street.

Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.

The Council received a letter from Anderson, Larkin & Co., PC that the FYE23 Audit was completed and can be viewed at City Hall.

Councilmember Griffith moved and Councilmember White seconded that the Council approve the agenda as printed with the deletion of item 8e).

Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.

5:33 p.m. A Public Hearing was held on a Notice and Order to Remove, Place or Destroy Dangerous Animal. The Council heard testimony from the owners of the dogs, the police officer on duty and the community service officer. They also heard testimony from a witness of the attack. At 6:15 p.m. Councilmember Crull moved and Councilmember Griffith seconded the motion to close the Public Hearing.

Minutes of the Public Hearing are available at

City Hall. Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councilmember Engberg and seconded by Councilmember Griffith that the Council adopt the following entitled Resolution No. 2024-26:

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL DANGEROUS ANIMAL DETERMINATION

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

It was moved by Councilmember Griffith and seconded by Councilmember White that the Council adopt the following entitled Resolution No. 2024-27:

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL DANGEROUS ANIMAL DETERMINATION

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

6:17 p.m. Public Hearing on proposed plans and specs for McCoy Street & Monroe Street Reconstruction Project.

At 6:18 p.m. Councilmember Batty moved and Councilmember Griffith seconded that the hearing close. No verbal or written arguments were heard. Roll call vote 6-0.

6:19 p.m. Public Hearing was held to vacate easements Wolcott's and Clarke's Additions. At 6:20 p.m. Councilmember Crull moved and Councilmember Batty seconded that the hearing close. No oral or written arguments were heard. Roll call vote 6-0.

It was moved by Councilmember Batty and seconded by Councilmember Griffith that the Council adopt the following entitled Resolution No. 2024-29:

RESOLUTION VACATING EASEMENT RIGHTS

Roll call vote 6-0. Resolution adopted, signed

by the Mayor and hereby made a portion of these minutes.

It was moved by Councilmember Batty and seconded by Councilmember Griffith that the Council read for the third time and adopt the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 25 MUNICIPAL FEES AND CHARGES, SECTION 25-3 BUILDING SEWER PERMIT FEES OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES

Roll call vote 6-0. Motion approved.

Councilmember Engberg moved and Councilmember McWilliams seconded that the Council approve the renewal of the City's health insurance contract with Wellmark Blue Cross for the FYE 2025. The cost decreased by 0.35%. The Personnel and Finance Committee approved the proposal and recommended approval. Motion approved, 6-0.

It was moved by Councilmember Griffith and seconded by Councilmember Batty that the Council adopt the following entitled Resolution No. 2024-30:

RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED VACATION AND SALE OF THE EAST-WEST ALLEY IN BLOCK SIX OF LEE'S ADDITION TO THE CIT OF MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA

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

It was moved by Councilmember Engberg and seconded by Councilmember McWilliams that the Council set the date for the public hearing on the proposed FY 2024-2025 Budget.

Roll call vote 6-0. The hearing is set for Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

It was moved by Councilmember Crull and seconded by Councilmember

Engberg that the Council approve the resignation of Councilmember Batty. Motion approved, 5-0. Batty abstained. The Mayor Brimhall explained the process to appoint a Councilmember at the May 22, 2024 Council Meeting to finish the term of Councilmember Batty. For more information on the appointment process contact the City Clerk at City Hall.

Teresa Rose, Library Board President, informed the Council that the Library Board has completed a Strategic Plan for the Library.

It was moved by Councilmember Crull and seconded by Councilmember Batty that the Council adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m. to meet in regular session Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING MINUTES Mount Pleasant, Iowa REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING April 10, 2024

The Mount Pleasant City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 307 East Monroe Street, second-floor meeting room. The meeting was called to order by the Mayor Pro Tem and the roll being called there were present Stephen Engberg in the Chair and the following named Councilmembers.

Present: Engberg, Crull, McWilliams, White, Griffith

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

Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

the minutes of the March 27, 2024, City Council meeting;
 the payment of bills totaling \$286,268.81;
 the report of officers including the following receipts for March; \$192,859.99 General Fund; \$75,617.31 Road Use Tax Fund; \$89,188.93 Local Option Sales Tax Fund; \$27,394.56 TIF; \$46,976.75 Debt Service Fund; \$11,321.26 Capital Projects Fund; \$6,917.00 Trust & Agency Fund; \$155,655.90 Sewer Revenue Fund; \$31,028.65 Solid Waste Fund; \$986.61 Library Fund; \$19.46 Library Gift Fund. And the following disbursements for the month of March; \$263,034.12 General Fund; \$72,867.60 Road Use Tax Fund; \$107,369.00 Sewer Plant Improvement Fund; \$669,741.00 Capital Projects Fund; \$8,260.84 Trust & Agency; \$55,386.52 Sewer Operation & Maint. Fund; \$24,341.98 ARP/Covid Relief Fund; \$33,651.08 Solid Waste Fund; \$31,928.61 Library Fund; \$347.93 Library Gift Fund. And Transfer Resolution No. 2024-31 approving

the following interfund transfers for March; \$31,057.00 from General Fund to Library Fund for 1/12th FYE24 monthly operating funds; \$89,903.00 from Sewer Revenue Fund To Sewer Sinking Fund for 1/12th FYE 24 sewer debt; \$55,000.00 from Sewer Revenue Fund to Sewer Operating & Maint Fund for monthly operating expenses;
 the renewal of a Class F Retail Alcohol License with Outdoor Service for Mt. Pleasant Golf & Country Club located at 2275 Hickory Avenue;
 the renewal of a Special Class C Retail Alcohol License for DW Costa's LLC at 115 S Jefferson Street.
 Roll call vote 5-0. Motion carried.
 Councilmember Griffith moved and Councilmember Crull seconded that the Council approve the agenda.
 Roll call vote 5-0. Motion carried.
 5:31 p.m. A Public Hearing was held as advertised on the proposed sale of a city alley right of way in the area between 800 block of W Washington Street and W Monroe Street located in block six

of Lee's Addition. Kevin and Kay Schrader have requested to purchase the Right of Way for \$320.00. No oral or written arguments were heard. 5:32 p.m. Councilmember Crull moved and Councilmember McWilliams seconded that the hearing close.
 Roll call vote 5-0. Motion carried.
 Councilmember Crull moved and Councilmember White seconded that the Council adopt the following Resolution No. 2024-32:
RESOLUTION VACATING AND TRANSFERRING THE ALLEY BETWEEN 800 BLOCKS OF W WASHINGTON ST AND W MONROE ST LOCATED IN BLOCK SIX OF LEE'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA
 Roll call vote 5-0. Resolution adopted, signed by the Mayor Pro Tem and hereby made a portion of these minutes.
 Councilmember Crull moved and Councilmember White seconded that the Council adopt the following Resolution No. 2024-33:
APPROVING PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF CITY COUNCIL INTENT

TO FILL VACANT COUNCIL SEAT BY APPOINTMENT AT ITS REGULAR MEETING SET FOR MAY 22, 2024
 Roll call vote 5-0. Resolution adopted, signed by the Mayor Pro Tem and hereby made a portion of these minutes.
 Councilmember McWilliams moved and Councilmember White seconded that the Council adopt the following Resolution No. 2024-34:
RESOLUTION APPROVING AWARD OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AND BOND FOR PROPOSED MCCOY STREET HENRY TO MARION & EAST MONROE 300' FROM CL MCCOY RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT 2024
 Roll call vote 5-0. Resolution adopted, signed by the Mayor Pro Tem and hereby made a portion of these minutes.
 Councilmember Crull moved and Councilmember McWilliams seconded that the Council adopt the following Resolution No. 2024-35:
RESOLUTION APPROVING AWARD OF H

EUGENE SMITH INDUSTRIAL PARK SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION-2024
 Roll call vote 5-0. Resolution adopted, signed by the Mayor Pro Tem and hereby made a portion of these minutes.
 It was moved by Councilmember White and seconded by Councilmember Griffith that the Council approve Change Order #1 for the Pearl Street Reconstruction Project to add a portion of the future Trail System to interconnect sidewalks on Main and Adams Streets. The Change order will result in an increase of \$24,486.05. Motion approved, 5-0.
 It was moved by Councilmember McWilliams and seconded by Councilmember Crull that the Council authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy Program (RISE) Agreement to fund a portion of the H Eugene Way Project. Total Cost of the project is \$487,188.00. RISE grant will pay for 50% (\$243,594.00) of the costs and the City will pay 50% (\$243,594.00).

Motion approved, 5-0.
 Councilmember Griffith moved and Councilmember White seconded that the Council approve the bid from Kinney & Sons to demolish the house at 1205 N Broadway. The City purchased the house which was severely damaged by frozen and burst water lines. Requests for bids to demolish were advertised and solicited from contractors. Kinney & Sons submitted the low bid of \$15,825.00. Big Creek Contracting submitted a bid of \$17,680.00. Motion approved, 5-0.
 Councilmember Crull moved and Councilmember Griffith seconded that the Council accept the resignation of Jack Swarm, Building and Zoning Administrator. Motion carried, 5-0.
 It was moved by Councilmember Crull and seconded by Councilmember White that the Council adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m. to meet in regular session Wednesday, April 24, 2024.
 Steven K Brimhall, Mayor
 ATTEST: Lori Davis, City Clerk

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From the Front

Nonsense isn't why we watch Clark

CLARK - Continued from Page 1

there's a storyline.

Here's evidence before I make my point. Clark's WNBA team the Indiana Fever beat Washington Friday night in what was really a good basketball game despite a period in the third quarter when neither team could make a layup, a post spin around, an 18-footer or a 23-footer. They just went cold and it was painful to watch the transition non-sense. So why did I watch?

Why was that stadium, in Washington, sold out. Do they think the Mystic are that good? No, they don't. They never have. Washington is like 0-forever. So why would people pay to go see them? Why has Indiana already set a single season record for attendance at home games?

This answer isn't hard to look for, but the really fun conversation exists around the rest of the league jockeying for position in the Caitlin Clark-era.

Let's just say this at the outset - Caitlin has some work to do and she knows it. She has some ball control issues when she faces the 90-feet of pressure each and every night she puts on whatever color the Fever are wearing that night.

She has a turnover issue. She 'had' a defensive effort issue, but that was transcendent from her Hawkeye days. Now she has to play defense and she's doing a much better job in the whole sphere of her game.

League games are selling out across the country. Ownership is trying to find bigger arenas to sell more tickets when Clark is in town. Do you honestly think they are coming because she might get body checked by some veteran who's trying to get a ride on the Clark train?

They are not.

Do you think they just watch when Angel Reece is playing. They are not. As a matter of fact, I would ask someone to look at the numbers of Chicago Sky attendance. I'm sure it's up. But the point is why. Is it because of Reece or Chenney Carter? It is a little, but it's more about of the Clark effect.

Reece isn't Reece without the Clark rivalry. Carter isn't even on the map until that happened. She knew it, that's why she did it. Now she's on the map.

People tune into Clark games on Ion or WNBA's stream or wherever because they want to see what 'SHE' will do next. The other extracurriculars are people trying to come along for the ride. It's not about basketball. It's about image.

The perfect example is when Clark got into a groove in the third period Friday and hit five 3s in a row, one while falling out of bounds off balance from the right wing, the crowd erupted. It's Jordan 30 years later. People are intrigued and want to be part of the next great

moment.

This has nothing to do with physical play, she's gonna get that and she's handling it okay.

It's the 3-ball. It's the assists (or dimes if you're really into it), she rebounds. She faces pressure no other WNBA woman player has ever faced. It's regular up and down the floor pressure. Double teams, traps, face guards...it's the things you do when you want to force turnovers and that's what the blueprint is for her. But people come to watch and they hold their breath every time she has the ball on the perimeter. A step-back three, a behind-the-back dribble into a step-back three, a little forearm shove to get separation, whatever she needs to do in the big-girl pants league to get just a second to goose-neck one in from the logo, she's trying to do.

That's what we want to see. The other crap is just people trying to come along for the ride. And we need to recognize that and let it slide away.

I'm not going to use the national sports talk show hosts names because we just aren't a big enough venue here, but suffice it to say they're tripping over themselves to stay on the right side of things with the league and all the owners. One guy even said the league needed to protect Clark because of the quick transition into the league after a long college season, only to say this week, she's getting a rookie treatment and that's okay. Sorry, but that's speaking out of both sides of your mouth.

This isn't difficult. People want to see Caitlin Clark do special things...on the court. And that doesn't have anything to do with getting shoulder-checked to the ground maybe with a little flop, or being shoved, or yelled at. It doesn't. People didn't watch Jordan to see Lambeer wrestle him to the ground, or Barkley start crap with him. That was an added benefit to the ticket price. They came to see how special he would perform, not all the nonsense. It's the same with Clark.

Thirty point nights, long-range bombs, dishes that are so good her teammates can't handle them and she gets hit with a turnover. All these things paint a picture of why the WNBA is cashing in on Clark.

And they should. But they better do something to protect her. If she gets hurt and sits down, ain't nobody gonna watch after that. It's just the WNBA of old, and that wasn't that good.

I know, it's just an opinion from a guy in a small-market in southeast Iowa, but it's also from a guy who's watched almost all of her college games and most of her professional games. I call it as I see it - but that's Beside the Point.

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

Market strong for specialty handmade wood products

SPOONS - Continued from Page 1

Gatton did his work with a wooden carriage-type mechanism that held a half log in place with a clamp that he worked with his legs and feet. He then used a drawknife, or pullknife, to start stripping the log of the outer wood.

After he had the wood to a certain circumference, Gatton would switch carving knives and whittling tools to get the shape of the spoon before using "scoop" knives to hollow out the spoon shape.

All in Gatton said he has about \$500 in tools not including the axe he uses to cut the log from the stump that sat on the ground next to him.

The polished wares then were displayed on the vendor table and hung around the canopy in the park for sale to those finding their way into downtown. Some made a stop at the park as part of the Love Lee County Tour that was also underway Friday and Saturday in Lee County.

John Weyer, of Sperry, had another wooden spoon display and exhibit at the park. Weyer said he's been carving spoons for close to five decades and said the market has always been good.

"I'll sell everything I make. I sell at Old Thresher's and at Spoonfests and other festivals around the area. I'll be at the Snake Alley Art Fair next week," he said.

Weyer made a career in construction and said the woodworking was always something nice to have in the down time when construction was slow. He also sells the woodworking tools at his exhibits after compiling on strong inventory from what began as just a hobby.

"I've always had an interest in whittling and then it just progressed from there," he said.

This was the second year in a row that the Fort Madison Arts Association has sponsored the event.

Got a news tip?

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