

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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“An historic day”



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Lee County Board of Supervisors voted Monday to approve \$4.7 million in construction contracts to build the new Meller Health Facility- Lee County Health Department. Supervisor Chairman Garry Seyb called the unanimous vote an “historic day” for the county.

CONSTRUCTION TO START: County hands project over to construction manager

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Supervisors called it an historic day for Lee County.

Supervisors on Monday approved bids for construction of a \$6.5 million Lee County Health Department/EMS facility in Fort Madison on the former Iowan Motel property.

The county has been trying to get the health department its own facility for several decades and now, with the assistance of about \$3.6 million in federal grants, close to \$500,000 in funding from the North Lee County Community Foundation, and a million dollars in remaining county ARPA funds,

that is now a reality.

That totals close to \$5.2 million of the \$6.5 million. The county has already paid \$350,000 towards site preparation and fees.

The bids came in at close to \$4.7 million in construction with the remaining \$1.8 million attributed to architect and management fees. Carl A. Nelson Co. out of Burlington is the construction manager with SVPA Architects, Inc. of Donnellson designing the building.

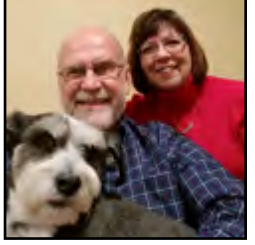
The rest of the funding could come in the form of additional contributions from Lee County residents as part of a

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COMMENTARY

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



68 days in captivity

When 82-year old Roy Libby and his wife Karla of Mt. Pleasant hear of hostages being taken, it brings back memories and emotions that hit home. Three-and-a-half years ago, on January 3, 1989, Roy and his fellow missionary associate, Richard Grover, were taken hostage by a group of guerrilla fighters near Cali, Colombia, at their annual church association conference.

The insurgents appeared out of a sugarcane field disguised as Army soldiers, but their ragtag appearance made them suspicious. The guerrilla fighters said they were there to protect the missionaries from fighting that was going to occur nearby. Soon, it was revealed that they wanted Roy and Dick to accompany them for the purpose of bringing back a communique. Since the church congregation of more than 100 was unarmed, there was no alternative but to accompany the soldiers.

All-in-all, compared to savage brutality that hostages can be subject to today, Roy and Dick were treated well. It was more of a spiritual retreat for them, but traumatic for their families. Their wives didn't know if their husbands were being tortured, or why they were taken, or if they would be released.

The captors asked them what they would like to have to help pass the time. Would they like a pocket knife for whittling? Roy thought this was a strange thing to ask a prisoner, but decided to ask for a Bible and something to write on. They were furnished with two Gideon New Testament Bibles, with Psalms and Proverbs, a hymnal and a devotional, plus a small pad of paper. Roy wrote in tiny print short “daily prayers” revealing events in such a way that it wouldn't in-

See SWARM, page 3

FM NEWS

Comedian, historian come to FM library in September

FORT MADISON - Laughter and railroad history will be the topics of two programs coming to the library at the end of September.

On Friday, Sept. 20, middle school science teacher and comedian Bill Douglas will be at the library beginning

at 5 pm for an hour of comedy. On Friday, Sept. 27, Cindy Wilson, author of “The Beautiful Snow” will be at the library at 3 pm to talk about the impact that weather during the winter of 1880-1881 had on trains getting supplies to settlers in the Dakota territories.

By day, Bill Douglas is a middle school science teacher. At night...he's still a middle school science teacher. But he travels the country, from New England to San Francisco, performing

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WEATHER

TUE 27 Aug..... Extreme heat, 97° F/ 71° F
WED 28 Aug..... Cooler with chance of storms, 89° F/ 69° F
THU 29 Aug..... Mostly sunny, then chance of storms, 87° F/ 68° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 08/25.....8 17 19 29 31, Lucky Ball: 12
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PICK 3 EVENING 08/25.....4 1 5
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PICK 4 EVENING 08/25.....4 1 7 4

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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

08/20/24 - 10:47 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested John Robert Winkle Mead, 45, of Fort Madison, in the 1500 block of Avenue M, on a warrant for probation violation. He was held in Lee County Jail.

08/20/24 - 11:56 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 500 block of Avenue G.

08/20/24 - 8:12 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1800 block of Avenue G.

08/20/24 - 9:01 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Donald O'Rien Bell, 22, of Fort Madison in the 1700 block of Avenue H., on a warrant for 3rd-degree attempted burglary. He was held in Lee County Jail.

08/21/24 - 7:56 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1800 block of Avenue F.

08/21/24 - 10:36 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a vandalism in the 2000 block of Avenue J.

08/21/24 - 1:23 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2700 block of Avenue L.

08/21/24 - 2:02 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage acci-

dent in the 5000 block of Avenue O.

08/21/24 - 4:24 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Victoria Elizabeth Jones, 28, of Fort Madison, in the 1700 block of Avenue H, on warrants for probation violation and failure to appear. She was held in Lee County Jail.

08/21/24 - 6:22 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2100 block of Avenue E.

08/21/24 - 9:51 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a personal injury accident in the 1500 block of Avenue H.

08/22/24 - 1:18 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 3100 block of Avenue L.

08/22/24 - 3:14 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 3400 block of Avenue N.

08/22/24 - 6:03 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Zachariah Justice Raines, 23, of Fort Madison, in the 2400 block of Avenue L, on a charge of possession of marijuana.

08/22/24 - 6:03 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Zachary Jay Krueger, 21, of Fort Madison in the 2400 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving under suspension.

08/22/24 - 6:46 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 3400 block of Avenue L.

08/24/24 - 8:14 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Andrew Garnett Davis, 35, of Fort Madison, in the 5000 block of Avenue O, on a warrant for public intoxication. He was held in Lee County Jail.

08/24/24 - 8:53 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Alyssa Blair Hardy, 34, of Fort Madison, on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of controlled substance.

08/25/24 - 12:47 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2600 block of Avenue L.

08/25/24 - 2:40 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 900 block of 48th Street.

08/25/24 - 12:58 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Michael Goldman, 62, of Fort Madison, in the 2600 block of Avenue L, on charges of 3rd-degree theft.

Keokuk Police Report

08/20/24 - 9:32 p.m. - Keokuk police arrested Jason Bruce Spangler, 42, of Hamilton, in the 2100 block of Main Street, on a warrant for violation of probation. He was held in Lee County Jail.

08/21/24 - 2:30 a.m. - Keokuk police arrested Cristhian Yahir Castro, 21, of Keokuk, in the 1100 block of Main Street, on a

charge of OWI- He was held in Lee County Jail.

08/21/24 - 9:13 a.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2200 block of Middle Road.

08/21/24 - 10:02 a.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1200 block of Grand Avenue.

08/21/24 - 11:03 p.m. - Keokuk police arrested Dillan Joseph McCarty, 25, of Keokuk, in the 2300 block of Main Street on a warrant for failure to appear, and charges of eluding and driving while barred. He was held in Lee County Jail.

08/22/24 - 12:30 a.m. - Keokuk police cited Ike Lavern Byers, 31, of Keokuk, in the 1500 block of Main Street, on a charge of driving under suspension.

08/22/24 - 7:38 p.m. - Keokuk police arrested Thomas Christopher Dodge, 57, of Keokuk, in the 1500 block of Main Street, on warrants for failure to appear. He was held in Lee County Jail.

08/22/24 - 7:45 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 300 block of N. Park Drive.

08/22/24 - 9:27 p.m. - Keokuk police arrested a 17-year-old male juvenile in the 200 block of N. Park Drive, on a charge of assault. He was released to a parent.

08/23/24 - 3:17 a.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 300 block of Main Street.

08/23/24 - 9:50 a.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1400 block of Main Street.

08/23/24 - 10:01 a.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 300 block of 12th Street.

08/23/24 - 1:26 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 100 block of S. 10th Street.

08/23/24 - 4:05 a.m. - Keokuk police arrested Stephen Ray Miller, 30, of Carthage, in the 700 block of Bank Street, on a charge of 3rd-degree criminal mischief. He was held in Lee County Jail.

08/23/24 - 7:32 p.m. - Keokuk police arrested Dakota Lee Stark, 32, of Keokuk, in the 800 block of Johnson Street Rd, on a warrant for domestic assault-choking. He was held in Lee County Jail.

08/24/24 - 7:12 a.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1100 block of Orleans Avenue.

08/24/24 - 1:54 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a property damage accident at 7th Street and Main.

08/24/24 - 4:35 p.m. - Keokuk police arrested Jill Marie Lovell, 35, of Keokuk, in the 1100 block of Johnson Street Road on a warrant for violation of probation. He was held in Lee County Jail.

08/24/24 - 4:47 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1000 block of Fulton Street.

08/25/24 - 1:33 a.m. - Keokuk police arrested a 16-year-old male juvenile in the 1300 block of Main Street on a charge of possession of alcohol under legal age. He was released to a parent.

08/25/24 - 3:49 a.m. - Keokuk police arrested Charles James Busch, 65, of Montrose in the 100 block of N. 10th Street, on charges of OWI and having an open container. He was held in Lee County Jail.

08/25/24 - 10:56 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report

of a larceny/theft in the 300 block of N. Park Drive.

08/25/24 - 10:59 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of 2nd Street.

08/26/24 - 2:04 a.m. - Keokuk police cited Grady Evan Fountain, 31, of Keokuk in the 1300 block of Concert Street on a charge of driving while license revoked or denied.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

08/21/24 - 9:41 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Shawn Michael Carrell, 28, of Keokuk, at the South Lee County Courthouse on a warrant for harboring a runaway. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.

08/22/24 - 9:18 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Anthony Mabary, 40, of Columbia Heights, Minn., in the 2300 block of Hwy. 2 in Donnellson, on charges of OWI, speeding, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and an open container violation. He was held at Lee County Jail.

08/25/24 - 3:12 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Christian Joel Velez, 29, of Burlington, in the 700 block of Avenue F, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was held in Lee County Jail.

08/25/24 - 7:59 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Lynett Elizabeth Gohn Sollars, 38, of West Burlington, at the Lee County Jail, on a charge of criminal mischief. She was held in Lee County Jail.

08/25/24 - 5:45 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Morgan Paige Burns, 36, of Carthage, at the sheriff's office, on a warrant for violation of probation. He was held in Lee County Jail.

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

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From the Front

Kidnap victim returns 20 years later

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

criminate the soldiers. During their 68 days of captivity, Roy and Dick read through the New Testament six-and-a-half times, and Psalms five times. They read a Proverb a day. It was their mental and spiritual food. On two school notebooks Roy wrote 76 devotionals in Spanish. (In training for missionary work, they had been taught Spanish.) Never were guns pointed directly at them, and at times guns were even stacked within easy reach of the captives. Roy and Dick prayed for God's Will to be done. They were moved twenty times in the foothills of the rugged Andes mountains of Colombia. Each farmhouse, or simple shelter would be the stopping place for this band of nine or ten. Sometimes these stopping places had been abandoned and other times were inhabited by families.

Although they never witnessed nor were subject to violence or brutality, it was always just under the surface. At one farmhouse where they were held, the previous owner had a son murdered when the father refused to let his son be taken by the guerrilla group.

Most of the dozen or so combatants were of the 15 - 20-year age, with little more than a second-grade education. Their prize possession was their weapon.

Roy and Dick were given the best places to sleep, which could be a single or double bed, a dirt or board floor, or concrete. Every meal was provided to them first. On the first Saturday evening in captivity, the owner of the house had returned with a sack of small bread rolls. He gave everyone a roll. Roy and Dick saved one of these rolls so that they could have holy communion the following Sunday morning.

The second in command of the guerrilla group, Orlando, had a girlfriend, Jenny. Orlando asked Roy and Dick what they were reading. Dick without reservation said, "We're reading from the book of

Thessalonians, where we are told that our savior, Jesus Christ, after He was crucified, rose from the dead and then ascended into heaven. We are expecting Him to return for his believers. That could happen any day, and if it does, you won't be able to find us." That very night there was a radio broadcast in Spanish entitled, "The Day the Lord Came Back." Orlando and Jenny came into Roy and Dick's room and listened to the broadcast.

On Sunday, March 12, 1989, Roy and Dick were released without demands nor monetary exchange. The kidnapers stated, "We had been informed that you were members of the CIA or DEA and it was our responsibility to put you on trial. It was discovered that there was not enough evidence to convict or acquit you." They demanded that Colombia stop extraditing Drug King Pins to the US for prosecution.

Both Roy and Dick's families had been moved to Quito, the capital of Ecuador. Roy and Dick flew to Quito where they were reunited with their families. Their families were so relieved to see them. Both men enjoyed a much-needed vacation and spent time sharing the stories of God's grace during their captivity. They returned to missionary work, Roy as Director of Ethnic Ministries with a Baptist Association in Oregon for 25 years, and Dick to teach in Ecuador. Roy and Karla have been married 61 years. The two families continue to be in contact.

Twenty years following his kidnapping, Roy and Karla went back to Colombia to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the church's mission in Colombia. One of Roy's captors came forward and asked for forgiveness. And Roy was told that Orlando had found Jesus Christ.

The Lord works in mysterious ways.

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

Historian to talk about winter of 1880-1881

LIBRARY - Continued from Page 1

comedy. Bill has opened for Steve Bjork, Mitch Stinson, Andy Beningo, and Paul D'Angelo. For more than 35 years, 12-years-olds have prepared him for people NOT laughing at his jokes. If you're heading out to the downtown Fort Madison musical fest, Porchstock, on September 20, stop by the library for some comedy first.

The following week, we're getting a jump on the River and Rails weekend with Cindy Wilson, author of "The Beautiful Snow". Cindy's book talks about the weather conditions in the winter of 1880-1881, that led to the events Laura Ingalls Wilder wrote about in her book "The Long Winter". Cindy's talk is titled "The Big Cut West of Tracy" and is about a half hour presentation focusing on the railroad blockades that kept food and fuel from reaching the newly-formed towns in southwestern Minnesota and southeastern Dakota Territory during the hard winter of 1880-81. Cindy uses newspaper records, historic photographs, railroad maps, drone photography and video, to introduce the factors that caused the tracks to clog with snow, preventing the trains from running.

After delving into the weather that was so difficult that winter, we will then go through the struggle to fight the drifts that blocked the trains. This talk will primarily focus on the history of the winter and not as much on Wilder's novel.

If you need more information or have questions, contact Sarah Clendinning, (319) 372-5721, SarahClen@fortmadison.lib.ia.us.



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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

OWEN M. FOX

Owen Martin "Marty" Fox, 85, of Keokuk, IA, died Friday, August 23, 2024 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL.

He was born on April 17, 1939 in Keokuk, the son of Albert Lee and Eva Pearl (Taylor) Fox.



FOX

Marty enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1956 and proudly served his country for 21 years, retiring in 1977 with the rank of Master Sergeant. Throughout his 21 years he was stationed in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Vietnam, Germany, England, Alaska, Labrador and Utah and received many awards for his Honorable service. He finished his education in 1976 while stationed at RAF Greenham Common in Newbury, England

On May 26, 1958, Marty was united in marriage to Opal Jacquelyn "Jacquey" Bone in Chandler, AZ. He met Jacquey in Goose Bay, Labrador while her father was stationed there as a 1st Sgt. Jacquey preceded Marty in death on December 24, 2014.

Prior to entering the Air Force, Marty worked with his dad on the family farm in Edwardsville, IL. After his military retirement, he was a Police Officer with the Chandler, AZ Police Department. He then returned to Keokuk and worked at Decker Manufacturing Company. He purchased the business in 2009 and continued as owner-operator through present day.

He was a faithful member of All Saints Parish. He served on the Parish Council and was a trustee. He was a Eucharistic Minister for mass and also for the home-bound. He was active with Crusillo retreats and had served on three Crusillo teams.

Marty was a member of the American Legion Post #41 and was the Post Commander for six years. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and served as Grand Knight for six years. Marty also was a member of the Keokuk Country Club and the Lee County Republican Committee.

Marty loved golf, he lived and breathed it. He also enjoyed leatherwork, woodworking and feeding the birds. His most cherished family tradition was gathering with family at Christmas time.

He is survived by his son, Anthony (Deanna) Fox of Keokuk, three grandchildren, Martin (Ashley) Fox, Nathon (Elizabeth) Fox and Jessica (Brody) Forman, six grandchildren, Kellen, Lucy, Gavin and Conor Fox and Maia and Penelope Forman.

He is also survived by four sisters, Nellie Hellemeyer of Ft. Madison, Joyce (Mike) Johnson of Montrose, Linda Schrader of Montrose and Gloria (Bob) Dunn of Ft. Madison, and numerous nieces and nephews. Other survivors include his oldest and dearest friend, Darrell Johnson of Louisiana, and special friend Dorothy Cackley, his listening and dinner partner.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Jacquey, his daughter, Terra, two brothers, Ronald Fox and Marion "Smoky" Fox, four sisters, Sharon Seltzer, Norma Roth, Dorothy Roth and Orpha Decker, three brothers-in-law and a special friend, Keith Fink.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 am, Saturday, August 31, at All Saints Parish. Burial with Military Rites will be in the Oakwood Cemetery in Hamilton, IL

Visitation will be held on Friday, August 30, from 5 - 7 p.m. at the funeral home with the family meeting with friends at that time. A Rosary will be recited at 4:30 p.m.

Memorials may be made to the Keokuk Area Foundation (Fox Family Memorial Fund) or All Saints Parish or St. Jude Children's Hospital or PAW.

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



OBITUARIES

BREECE L. ROOT

Breece Lawrence "Larry" Root, 88 of Keokuk passed away Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at his home.

He was born September 6, 1935 in Kilgore, Texas the son of Frank Allen and Ollie Lee Hines Root.



ROOT

Larry was a veteran of the United States Army and proudly served his country from 1956-1958.

He had been employed for ten plus years by Century 21 Shows and Foley and Burk Shows in California. He also worked for Guardsmark Inc. in Bakersfield, California, and as a security guard at BTR in Keokuk until his retirement in 1999.

He was attended New Bethel Church in Keokuk for years.

On March 21, 1998, Larry was united in marriage to Candance Sue Janish in Bakersfield, California. She preceded in death on November 12, 2016.

Survivors include six daughters, Neysa (Rob)Whippie of Keokuk, Rebecca (Mitch) Root of Warsaw, Wanda (James) Goldsmith of Hamilton, Deborah Root of Keokuk and Helen Fontenot of Welsh, Louisiana and Shawn Weaver of Keokuk, two sons, Bergis Root of Hamilton and Michael Root as well as seventeen grandchildren and twenty great grandchildren, lots of cousins and nieces and nephews and a longtime family friend, Donna Becas.



Besides his wife, Larry was preceded in death by his parents, step sister Venicille Fontenot, his son Robert Root, son-in-law Anderson Fontenot and a granddaughter Candace Fontenot.

Larry enjoyed watching football and baseball on T.V. and was on a bowling team in California. He loved talking to people, doing crossword puzzles and playing dice. He would reminisce often about working at the carnival. Larry loved to just take off in the car and go where the family never knew where they were going to end up!

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, August 30, 2024 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA Pastor Debra Letcher officiating. Burial with military rites will be in the Keokuk National Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Southeast Iowa Hospice.

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

DAVID A. MYERS

David Arthur Myers, 61, of Niota, Illinois, passed away at 9:00 p.m. Saturday 24, 2024, at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, Illinois.

He was born on April 27, 1963, in LaHarpe, Illinois, the son of Larry, Sr. and Janice Faye (Moore) Myers.

He is survived by his brother: Jason (Nicole Morrow) Boyle of Niota, Illinois.

He was preceded in death by his parents; step-father: Clarence Robert Boyle; brother: Larry and grandmother: May Moore.

David worked as a welder. He enjoyed fishing, hunting for decoys and helping T&S Farms.

A private family graveside service will be held at the Appanoose Township Cemetery in rural Niota, Illinois.

A celebration of life will be held at 4:00 p.m. Saturday, September 14, 2024, at the Wye Not in Niota, Illinois.

A memorial has been established in his memory.

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

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COMPLIMENTARY REVIEW

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE

The Green Bay Levee & Drainage District will hold a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, August 29, 2024, at Heartland Co-op, east of Wever.

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING MINUTES Regular Meeting Minutes

Donnellson City Council
Monday, July 8th, 2024
6:30PM
City Hall

The regular meeting of the Donnellson City

Council was called to order by Mayor Dave Ellingboe, with Council Members Marshall, Weber, Wagner, Newton and Moeller. City staff present were City Clerk Rebecca Schau, Police Chief Brad Roberts, Public Works Director Todd Herdrich & Librarian Sunny Robbins. Others in attendance – Nadine Allen, Bill Dains, Janet Haeffner & Tony Keefe.

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

Citizen comments – Two residents expressed

concerns regarding city office employee & hiring of a fulltime clerk. Resident expressed concerns with speed limit on Mill St near Railroad Park as well as questioning if city staff is requirement to live within city limits.

Motion by Newton, second by Wagner to approve the minutes of the June '24 meeting: all ayes.

Motion by Marshall, second by Moeller to approve the June '24 financial reports: all ayes.

Motion by Moeller, second by Wagner to approve the June '24

disbursements and July '24 bills to be allowed: all ayes.

Discussion was held regarding deputy clerk position.

7:47pm City Clerk left the meeting. Public Works Director continued the meeting minutes.

Motion by Wagner, second by Newton to table Deputy Clerk position.

Motion by Marshall, second by Weber to table sewer cleaning contract.

Police Chief gave update on nuisance properties.

Police Report – There were 72 calls for ser-

vice, 18 traffic stops and 6 citations. 38 building checks were done during the day & nighttime hours.

Water / Sewer Superintendent Report – received sealcoat bid for this summer, came in under budgeted price. Mini Excavator was received and is in operation.

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

Dave Ellingboe, Mayor
Attest: Rebecca Schau, City Clerk

Summary of All Receipts: General \$59,602.32 Capital Equipment Reserve \$0 Road Use Tax \$14,110.62 Employee Benefit \$478.31 Local Option Sales Tax \$7995.50 Debit Service \$923.06 Rathbun \$0 ARPA \$0 Water \$24,346.51 Water Sinking USDA \$1,816.00 Sewer \$31,434.74 Sewer Sinking \$143,967.45. Summary of All Disbursements: General \$40,688.78 Capital Equipment Reserve \$0 Road Use Tax \$4,358.16 Employee Benefit \$2673.07 Local Option Sales Tax

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INGRAM Library Services, books..... 643.14

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, tax .. 1,367.00
IOWA DNR, dues.... 97.10
IOWA ONE CALL, one call 26.10
JACOBS CONTRACTING, repair roof..... 248.00
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JSPARKS, art class 135.00
KARL CHEVROLET, repairs 425.00
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Lee County Health Department is seeking a full-time RN to work in the agency's hospice & home health care programs. Experience in completing comprehensive patient assessments and providing skilled nursing care based on patient's plan of care preferred. Skilled nursing home visits and patient care management responsibilities will be required. LCHD's operational hours are 8:00am-4:30pm Monday-Friday with each RN assigned an on-call rotation every 3rd to 4th weekend and limited evenings during the month. LCHD offers a team oriented work environment with competitive wages and excellent benefits. Please send resumes to Becky Fader, Program Manager, at bfader@leecountyhd.org or to LCHD, PO Box 1426, Fort Madison, IA 52627 by August 30, 2024. LCHD is an EOE.



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Iowa News/From the Front

Fundraising left to do in paying for new building

SUPERVISORS - Continued from Page 1

fundraising effort that is to be launched by the community foundation to allow all Lee County residents the opportunity to contribute to the project.

Supervisor Chairman Garry Seyb said the county also has about \$660,000 in reserve funds from the last fiscal year that the county set aside from speed camera enforcement. The funds were put aside prior to recent legislative action that defined where the funds can be used, so the county can access those funds with a supermajority vote of the board.

Supervisor Matt Pflug questioned whether the board would have to bond for the rest, but Seyb quickly put that to rest.

"We cannot bond for this project at all because of the petition that was filed earlier," Seyb said.

The Lee County Farm Bureau presented a petition to force the county to put any bonding for the health department on the ballot in front of voters.

"Make no mistake. We will not bond for this project," Seyb said.

Supervisor Chuck Holmes made the motion to accept the bids and Ron Fedler seconded the motion.

"People need to understand that a supermajority of this funding is state and federal dollars and these are the state and federal dollars you pay in taxes that are finding their way back to Lee County," Fedler said.

"If we don't do this project, we have to send that money back and it never comes to this county. That's why we need to move forward with this as a great project for Lee County."

Pflug said the county has to continue because of the condition of the LCHD at the former prison property.

"It's not a good situation where we're at," Pflug said. "We don't know what the future looks like on John Bennett, and the last thing we want to do is get caught short where we're scrambling. We've been working on this for decades."

Supervisor Tom Schulz reminded the board that the EMS facility is also a vast improvement to county services as part of the new construction.

"This is a very happy day," said Pflug who represents supervisors on the Lee County Health Board.

"This is an historic day," Seyb said.

Bird goes after 3rd party digital ticket scalpers

DES MOINES—Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird last week sued Live Nation and Ticketmaster to stop their monopoly that raises prices for ticket purchasers and stifles competition in the live entertainment industry.

Live Nation has been building a monopoly by entering into exclusive deals with the country's largest venues to ensure that all tickets sold are through the company's platform. The States and United States Department of Justice allege that Live Nation has exerted its monopoly power to manage more than 400 artists, control as much as 60% of concert promotions at major concert venues across the country, and control more than 265 concert venues in North America. Through Ticketmaster, Live Nation also controls at least 80% of primary ticketing at major concert venues. Live Nation's monopoly has squashed competition and devastated the live entertainment industry with reported poor customer service, inflated prices, and restrictions on ticket purchasing.

"When companies like Live Nation

and Ticketmaster form monopolies, Americans are left to pay the price," said Attorney General Bird. "I am suing to uphold the law and ensure that no American has to grapple with inflated prices or poor customer service because Live Nation and Ticketmaster have stifled competition."

The lawsuit makes the case that Live Nation and Ticketmaster violated Sections 1 and 2 of the Sherman Act, as well as state antitrust laws.

Iowa joined the U.S. Department of Justice-led lawsuit, along with Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and the District of Columbia.

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