

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Monday, January 13, 2025 | 8 pages | Volume 9 • Issue 14



www.pencitycurrent.com

Hounds win intracounty tilt

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The word of the day for the Fort Madison/Central Lee intracounty boys' basketball game was simple - Flush.

Central Lee Head Coach Jonny Swanson just wanted to flush his Hawks' 81-53 loss to a very athletic Bloodhound basketball game.

And the Hounds' Kenden Bowie wanted to flush everything else.

Bowie had two dunks - one off an assist from Nolan Guzman who looked back on a fast break in the fourth quarter and saw Bowie in the trail. Guzman tossed the ball up off the left side of the glass and Bowie flew in for the slam to punctuate the Hounds' play all night long.

"We worked a lot in the summer and got to know each other," Bowie said. "We're playing really well together right now."

Fort Madison head Coach Ryan Wilson said it's nice having the skill set the Hounds have, but it's also a matter of making it work.

"It allows you to do some different things. It allows you to play some different defenses and different philosophies, offensively and defensively. On top of that, it makes it a little more fun," Wilson said. "It gives us some different looks, and I like it."

The Hounds trailed just once at 8-7 when Central Lee's Will Hayes hit a jumper just outside of the lane. Senior Brayden Wyrick would hit a 3-ball after the Hawks got a defensive stop in transition at about the 3:50 mark of the 1st quarter. But Dayton Lamar would score inside and then Jackson Guzman would bury a 3-pointer from the right wing after Lamar shot a behind-the-back pass out of the lane all the way to the perimeter to give Fort Madison a 12-11 lead they wouldn't surrender the rest of the afternoon.

Fort Madison would push that lead to a 20-16 margin at the end of the first quarter.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison's Julian Dear rams home a dunk on a fast break Saturday as the Bloodhounds rolled Central Lee 81-54 at the Hound Dome.

Bowie opened the second with a 3 pointer and then Nolan Guzman stole the inbound pass and converted for a 7 point lead. Fort Madison's press would cause Central Lee some problems up the floor, and another

steal resulted in Dear trying to slash through the lane for 7-0 run. Dear's shot went off the back of the rim and Bowie

See HOUNDS, page 5

COMMENTARY



A throw-your-hands-up moment

Today we're going to take a look at something near and dear to my heart.

Newspapers.

What the heck is going on with people's impressions of newspapers? And, if you were sitting next to me at Turnwater or the Cabaret, you would have just heard the inflection in my voice go waaaay high.

We learned this week that another news outlet has eliminated their sports editor's position. That outlet is The Hawkeye. We don't need to stand on some age-old PR tactic of never mentioning companies who do the same thing we do.

The Hawkeye used to be my go-to read every day. Even as a child I'd read the sports section and then, out of sheer curiosity, I would read the news. I'm sure that's where my passion for writing began.

I've written about this before, but it's where my love of sports began. Reading baseball stats and standings, NFL standings and briefs and stories about my teams.

When I got into high school, I read about the other teams so I knew who the kids were that I was going to have to go up against on a Friday night or during the week in the winter.

It framed who I am.

After hearing of that decision to eliminate that position, I began to really dig deep into where the local news industry is going. I've been thinking all week about what Pen City Current is, and what it will look like a year from now, five years...ten years.

I've had conversations with family, friends, coworkers, and peers in the field over the past several days and I'm just at a

See NEWS, page 8

Local Elks open up scholarship window for vocational awards

LEE COUNTY - Applications are now being accepted for the 2025 Elks Vocational Scholarship.

Twenty scholarships for \$1500 each will be awarded to Iowans pursuing vocational (2 years or less) training. It is not intended for students pursuing a 4-year course of study or attending a community college with the intent of continuing on to a four-year degree program.

Please have applications returned to the Fort Madison Elks

Lodge #374 at 719 Avenue H, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627 c/o Lin Cramer. The DEADLINE for receipt is on or before Monday, March 3, 2025..

The application form can be found online on the Iowa State Elks Association website (iowaelks.org) in both a fillable format or one they can download and fill out. Contact Lin Cramer through the Elks Lodge at 319-372-3724 if you have any questions.

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WEATHER

MON 13 Jan.....Cold, chance of overnight snow, 21° F/ 8° F
TUE 14 Jan.....Mostly sunny & cold, 17° F/6° F
WED 15 Jan.....Mostly sunny & cold, 25° F/ 21° F

IOWA LOTTERY

DOUBLE PLAY 01/11.....22 24 25 44 53, Powerball: 20
LOTTO AMERICA 01/11.....7 10 16 47 52, Star Ball: 1 All Star Bonus: 5
LUCKY FOR LIFE 01/11.....21 22 26 27 48, Lucky Ball: 12
MEGA MILLIONS 01/10.....9 23 39 65 66, Mega Ball: 22 Megaplier: 3
PICK 3 MIDDAY 01/09, 01/10, 01/11.....0 14, 5 3 8, 2 4 9
PICK 3 EVENING 01/09, 01/10, 01/11.....5 9 7, 2 2 4, 8 6 5
PICK 4 MIDDAY 01/09, 01/10, 01/11.....8 1 4 9, 7 3 5 3, 3 9 6 5
PICK 4 EVENING 01/09, 01/10, 01/11.....9 5 0 1, 0 5 7 5, 3 9 2 8
POWERBALL 01/11.....3 6 32 37 65, Powerball: 4 Power Play: 3

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

TIMOTHY M. ZUMDOME

Timothy M. Zumdome, 65, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Saturday, January 11, 2025 at his home. He was born on September 16, 1959 in Fort Madison, IA to Vincent & Jeneale McIntosh Zumdome. He graduated from Fort Madison High School and married Patricia A. Schrepfer on May 17, 1985 in Fort Madison, IA. He was a loader operator for Brockman Ready Mix in their sand pit and also dairy farmed with his dad. He was a Past President of Izaak Walton and enjoyed hunting & fishing with his grandchildren and riding his motorcycle.



ZUMDOME

Tim is survived by: his wife: Patricia Zumdome of Fort Madison, IA; 1-daughter: Chasta (James) Ross of West Point, IA; 2-grandsons: Kalib (Ran) Heidbreder of Fort Madison, IA and Keelynd Ross of West Point, IA; 1-great granddaughter: Penelope Heidbreder of Fort Madison, IA; 5-brothers: Jody (Darla) Zumdome of Montrose, IA, Mark (Carol) Zumdome of Nauvoo, IL, Walter (Geraldine) Zumdome of Fort Madison, IA, John (Dianne) Zumdome of Fort Madison, IA & Robert Zumdome of Estes Park, CO. He was preceded in death by: his parents & 1-brother: Greg Zumdome.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory.

A visitation will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A memorial service will immediately follow at 10:30 a.m. with Pastor Jeff Metcalf officiating. A memorial has been established in Tim's memory. Online condolences to the Zumdome family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

OBITUARIES

LARRY L. SPIKER

Larry L. Spiker, 85, of Lomax, Illinois, passed away Thursday, January 9, 2025 at his home. Larry was born August 25, 1939 in Lomax, Illinois, the son of Floyd and Helen (Bowlyou) Spiker. He was married to Sydney Pence. They later divorced. On November 8, 1975 he married Lois M. Peasley. She preceded him in death on December 5, 2014.



SPIKER

Larry was raised, educated and spent all of his life in the Lomax area. In earlier year, he worked for several local farmers. He was employed for a short time at IAAP. He spent most of his life working for JI Case in Burlington, retiring after 29 years. Following his retirement, he enjoyed being able to work for local farmers again. He also enjoyed spending time with his family, especially the memories made hunting and fishing with them. He was always ready to share a beer with any and everyone. He was a longtime member of the former Lomax Saddle Club.

Survivors include two daughters: Lari Jo (Jeff) Smith of Media, Illinois and Traci (Shawn) McKoon of Mediapolis, Iowa; three step-children: Steve (Tyne) McIntire of Moline, Illinois, Vickie (Randy) McWhorter of Geneseo and Christine (Richard) Hanson of Morton, Illinois; five grandchildren: Ryan (Megan) Smith, Adam (Jenny) Smith, Colton (Jodi) Smith, Raychel (Curtis) Messer and Seth McKoon; numerous great-grandchildren and one sister: Sandie Dumse of Danville, Iowa. Besides his wife, he was preceded in death by one step-daughter: Peggy and four siblings: John, Donald, Vivian and one in infancy.

Cremation has been entrusted to Banks & Beals Funeral Home.

A Celebration of Larry's Life will be held on February 9, 2025 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Lomax Community Center. A memorial fund has been established Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice or Henderson County Hospice. To leave an online condolence for the family, please visit Larry's obituary at banksandbeals.com.

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PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

KATHRYN RUSSELL

Kathryn Russell, 82, of Lomax, Illinois died January 9, 2025 at her daughter's home in LaHarpe, Illinois. She was born May 11, 1942 in Chicago, Illinois to Dalton and Annie (Johnson) Harris.



RUSSELL

Kathryn was always surrounded by family and friends. When she was younger, she enjoyed live country music and line dancing. She loved to cook and bake with her daughters and granddaughters. She would spend her summers outside in her yard, tending to her garden and planting flowers, having bonfires or camping in her RV. She worked at several jobs including the Lomax Canning Factory and The Pink Tavern in Lomax. She also owned and operated Country Café and Russell's Jewelry Store in LaHarpe with Robert Russell.

Kathryn is survived by her siblings, Beatrice Blacksmith and Leon Harris, her ex-husband and friend, Robert Russell, five children, Ronald (Beth) Covert of LaHarpe, David (Brenda) Covert of Dallas City, Illinois, Shirley (Darrin) Johnson of LaHarpe, Henry Worley of Lomax and Rebecca (Christopher) Burgdorf of LaHarpe, nine grandchildren, Joshua (Nicole) Covert, Kaela Yelton, Krista Covert, Brian Covert, Matthew (Amber) Covert, Lorrie (Logan) Harl, Jessica (Dawson) Ryner, Kane Burgdorf, Tegan Burgdorf and several great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Dalton and Annie Harris, brother Carl Harris, sister Margaret Shepherd and long-time partner Donald "Doc" Tomlinson. Kathryn's family would like to thank Beacon of Hope Hospice of Galesburg, Illinois for caring for their mother in her time of need.

As per Kathryn's wishes, no visitation or services are planned. Cremation has been entrusted to Banks & Beals Funeral Home in LaHarpe.

A memorial fund has been established for Beacon of Hope Hospice. Contributions may be mailed to; Kathryn Russell Memorial, c/o Banks & Beals Funeral Home, PO Box 503, LaHarpe, IL 61450.

To leave an online condolence for the family, please visit Kathryn's obituary at banksandbeals.com.

OBITUARIES

RONALD K. LEFFLER

Ronald "Ronnie" Keith Leffler, 77, of Keokuk, passed away on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, Illinois.

Ronnie was born on July 1, 1947, in Keokuk, Iowa, the son of Calvin C. and Darlene (Tripp) Leffler. He attended Warsaw High School, and on August 3, 1971, he was united in marriage to Margaret Yvonne Stevens in Sutter, Illinois. She preceded him in death on November 2, 2023.

Ronnie farmed until 1986 and went on to work at J.M. Huber in Quincy from 1987 to 2011 until his retirement. He was a member of The Church of New Beginnings in Keokuk. He enjoyed collecting BB guns, doing bodywork, working on cars, and general tinkering. He could often be found singing around the house or simply sitting on his swing outside "watching the grass grow". His family will always remember the way he always spoke his mind and the love and protection he showed them. His grandchildren will always remember his unforgettable pancakes and his dipping eggs (no "snotty" eggs allowed).

Ronnie is survived by four daughters: Jennifer (Michael) Bell, Lucy (David Bell) Leffler, Chris (Andy) Leffler, and Sheila Henson, all of Keokuk; grandchildren: Dalton Bell, Allison Bell (Evan), Alexis Bell (Hunter), Felicity Bell (David), Chloe Bell, Brianna Bell; his brother Brian Leffler of Hamilton; two sisters: Alice (Mike) McGinnis and Janet Weirather, both of Hamilton; two sisters-in-law: Linda Leffler of Nauvoo and Donna Leffler of Warsaw; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Ronnie is preceded in death by his parents; his wife Margaret; his daughter April; four brothers: Gary, David, Carroll and Alan Leffler; and his sister-in-law Donna.

A memorial service will be held at 4 pm on Friday, January 17, 2025, at the Church of New Beginnings, 2244 McKinley Avenue, Keokuk, Iowa, with Pastors Donnie Skinner and Michael Bell officiating. A private family burial will be held at Oakland Cemetery in Warsaw at a later date.

Memorials may be directed to the family.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.printyfuneralhome.com.

Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.



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Sports

Hawk boys knock off No. 6 HTC Friday night at home

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC Sports

DONNELSON — Every first-year coach looks for that win, that victory that shows that the effort, the transition to something new, is working.

Jonny Swanson got that win on Friday night.

Central Lee's 55-52 victory over No. 6 (Class 1A) Holy Trinity was a "statement win," Swanson said.

Taking down a team that was in second place in the Southeast Iowa Super Conference South Division and was being considered one of the best teams in the state in its class certainly qualifies for the honor.

"I've been talking about it all year," Swanson said. "That's the position we want to put ourselves in against the Holy Trinities, the Notre Dames, the West Burlingtons. We want to be in those games at the end.

"It was a gritty, tough win."

Central Lee (5-5 overall, 4-4 South Division) scored just nine points in the fourth quarter, but six of those came in the final two minutes to clinch the win.

Will Hayes' layup with 19 seconds left put the Hawks up 53-52, then Owen Swan's two free throws with 1.2 seconds remaining provided the final margin.

Holy Trinity (7-2, 6-2), which

had a nine-game winning streak in the series and had won 12 of the last 13 games against the Hawks, had a chance to tie the game, but Luke Hellige's 3-pointer from mid-court missed.

Swanson had a sense that this kind of game was coming from his team.

"We had a really good couple days of practice leading up to this," Swanson said. "The energy when we have a team like that in practice is a little bit different. Like, they sense the magnitude of the game, and they bring it every day, and they want to win those games, right? And so I knew they were going to be locked in. I knew they were going to be focused. I knew they're going to bring energy and intensity, and, you know, the rest just kind of takes care of itself."

Holy Trinity coach John Hellige got an opposite sense from his team.

"When you play teams like Central Lee, teams that are really up and coming, really looking for that signature victory, you've got to be laser focused," Hellige said. "You've got to be sharp. And when you're not sharp in practice, and you go through the motions when you get to a game like this, when you try to play at their speed and their physicality, you know you're

going to have mistakes, not going to finish things. And I think it's a good lesson for this team."

Other than two ties in the first 90 seconds of the game, Central Lee led until the 5:29 mark of the fourth quarter, when a 3-point play by Luke Hellige gave Holy Trinity a 49-46 lead. But Central Lee's Caden Swan tied the game with a 3-pointer on the next possession, just another answer on a night when the Hawks handled everything from the Crusaders.

"I thought we would get going," John Hellige said of his team taking the lead. "We had some uncharacteristic turnovers and breakdowns there at the end that really bit us."

"We were close at their place early on in the year (a 53-47 Holy Trinity win on December 3)," Swanson said. "And we kind of been talking all year like, hey, once we see some of these teams at home, with our atmosphere, we shoot the ball a little bit better, they shoot it a little bit worse, maybe things will really start to come together. This back half of the season we play eight or nine more games at home. We have a really good stretch at home."

Swan led the Hawks with 19 points. Hayes had 13.

Luke Hellige led Holy Trinity with 27 points. Koby Jones added 12.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

HTC's Layne Rung goes up for a block of Central Lee's Will Hayes in the second quarter of the SEI Superconference South matchup Friday in Central Lee. The Hawks upset the No. 6 Crusaders 55-52. Below, Owen Swan (3) faces up HTC's Adam Sobczak.



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Sports/From the Front

FM boys playing with energy

HOUNDS - Continued from Page 1

came flying in from the right side and slammed the rebound for a 27-18 lead.

Central Lee wouldn't get a bucket until Ward Fraise buried a 3-ball from the left baseline down 29-20. The Hounds would finish the half on a 10-4 run for a 40-27 lead at the break.

Central Lee would miss five of their next six shots out of the locker room while Fort Madison heated up, going 5 of 8 from the field for a 50-35 lead that they would never relinquish.

Wilson said Bowie is starting to round into form in his first full varsity year.

"He's worked hard in the off season. As a junior, he wasn't able to play a lot but he worked hard in the gym with a personal trainer and honed his craft," Wilson said.

"He got a lot of shots up and, when you got a kid like that that can use either hand and go to the right just as easy as the left, he can be pretty dangerous. But when he's hitting from the outside, we're a whole different team."

Darius Foy had 12 points in just his third varsity game and made an impression.

"When you put a 6'8" kid in the middle to rebound and finish . . . you saw some of the Central Lee kids having to pull up and, when you have him and Dayton in the lane protecting, it changes things."

Bowie said he regrets not being able to get on the floor last year, but he's worked hard over the summer to fine tune his game.

"Obviously, I still want to get in the gym and work on the form, and then everything else kind of comes naturally," he said.

"This feels a lot better than sitting out," he said. "I wish I would have this time last year because I feel like I could've made the same impact. But everything happens for a reason, and this may be my time to break through."

Central Lee Head Coach Jonny Swanson said it's been a rough 24 hours with two games.

"The amount of size they have is hard to match up with. Even their guards are two or three inches taller than us. We played a lot of zone and kind of forced them to shoot well and they did that in the first half."

But Swanson said he was happy with the output of the Hawks and said they have to keep the emotion of Friday's win over Class 1A No. 6 HTC in mind.

"We can't let this take away from the feeling we had last night," Swanson said. "All in all, it was a good weekend. We've still got some stuff to work on, we got beat pretty good tonight."

He said the Hawks have been scoring 50-60 points per game so the offensive output was strong, but Central Lee just couldn't match up very well with the Hounds' height and athleticism.

Will Hayes had 18 to lead Central Lee (4-4, 5-6). Wyrick and Owen Swan each had a dozen. Julian Dear was in double figures with 10 points for Fort Madison (4-3, 2-1 Southeast Conference).



Kendan Bowie works in the lane Saturday at the Hound Dome against Central Lee's Brayden Wyrick (25). Bowie finished with 20 points to lead Fort Madison in the 81-53 Hounds' win.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Lady Hawks break 5-game skid against HTC

HOME WIN: Central Lee girls down Crusaders 37-23

DONNELSON — Taylor Hickey wrote a message to her players on how they were going to beat Holy Trinity on Friday night.

Then Central Lee went out and followed those instructions perfectly.

The Hawks shut down the Crusaders, taking a 37-23 win in a Southeast Iowa Super Conference South Division game.

"I'm going to go back to our defense," Hickey said. "I mean, truly, that was written on the board tonight. If we play all out defense, we'll win this game. I thought tonight, what totally did it for us was our defense."

The Hawks (6-5 overall, 5-3 division) held the Crusaders (8-2, 6-2) to 10 second-half points, and eight of those came in the final four minutes.

Central Lee was playing the exact defense Holy Trinity wanted, yet the Crusaders couldn't capitalize.

"We hoped they would play us in a (man-to-man defense)," Holy Trinity coach Shawn Hopper said. "You want players that want to fight, and tonight our girls didn't seem to want to do that at all. They didn't want to get the ball down the court."

"Pretty disappointed in our effort. But definitely some of the blame has to be on me, too. I obviously didn't have them ready."

The Crusaders were coming off a 69-42 loss to Mediapolis on Tuesday in a battle for the division lead. Hopper was curious how his team would respond.

"We get our first loss at Mepo," he said. "And I figured this was going to go one of two ways. We're going to come out ready to thump somebody, or we were going to be licking our wounds a little bit, and apparently we're still licking our wounds."

Central Lee hit the Crusaders with six consecutive points to open the game, and it took Holy Trinity almost four minutes before it got its first points.

The Crusaders were within 12-9 with 5:43 left in the second quarter, then Central Lee went on a 25-8 run that lasted until late in the fourth quarter.

Kenna Sandoval led Central Lee with 10 points. Sydnie Larson and Lizzy Mason each had eight points.

Teagan Snaadt led Holy Trinity with eight points.

Central Lee snapped a five-game losing streak to Holy Trinity.

"Finally, right?" Hickey said. "I mean, I'm truly proud of them. I've had games where I reflect after, and I just hurt for the girls, because we don't show the two hours basically every day that we're putting in practice out in some of our games, and a lot of that is confidence."

"Tonight the girls, they were all flat out playing as hard as they could. Whoever was on the court, they were truly giving it all. There was no rest time. You can see it in their faces. They were gassed, but, but they weren't going to fold."



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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE CIVIL SERVICE TESTING

DATE: February 15, 2025
 TIME: 9:00am
 LOCATION: Central Lee High School
 2642 US-218
 Donnellson IA 52625
 The physical test begins at 9:00am. Upon completion, the written examination will be held at the Lee County Sheriff's Office, 2530 255th Street, Montrose, IA 52639.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
MEETING NOTICE
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
MONDAY
January 13, 2025
MEETING CONVENING
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
933 AVE H**

-----AGENDA-----

Lee County Budget Workshops
 Jan 13, 2025, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM (America/Chicago)
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 Please keep your microphone muted to cut down on background noise. If you are participating by phone, press *6, this will mute your phone.
 Pledge of Allegiance

Budget Workshops (Times are Tentative)
 Monday, January 13, 2025
 09:00 a.m. – Pioneer Cemetery
 09:15 a.m. – Lee County Fair Board
 09:30 a.m. – Health Department
 10:30 a.m – Sheriff
 12:00 p.m. Exchange of Proposals for Sheriff Union Contract {Open session) Bargaining Exempt under Iowa Code Section 20.17(3)
 2:00 p.m. Exchange of Proposals for Administrative Union Contract (Open session) Bargaining Exempt Under Iowa Code Section 20.17(3)

****MONDAY**
January 13, 2025
MEETING CONVENING
TIME: 4:00 9.M.
933 AVE H**

-----AGENDA-----

Lee County Board of Supervisors
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 Pledge of Allegiance
 Approve Agenda
 Public Input
 FORT MADISON IA
 Discussion and Possible Action on Changing the Allowable Tips for County Employees from 15% to 18%
 Approval of Resolution Naming Candidate to SEIRPC Board of Directors
 Consider Approval of 911 Service Board Request to Name Private Road as Mud Creek Ln

Consider Approval of Resolution to Increased Credit Card Limit for Robert Juarez and Joe Hambleton
 Discussion and Possible Action on Compensation Board
 Discussion and Possible Action on Committees for the Board of Supervisors

Reports:
 • Auditor's Report of Fees Collected
 • Treasurer's Report of Fees Collected
 • Treasurer's Semi-Annual Report
 • Sheriff's Report of Fees Collected
 Consent Agenda
 • Monday, January 2, 2025, Board Minutes
 • Claims for Payment
 • Tax Abatement Resolutions (18)
 Personnel Actions
 • Step Increase - Sheriff's Office
 • Promotion - Sheriff's Office (2)
 • Promotion- Auditor's Office
 • Reclassification- Auditor's Office
 • Step Increase - EMS (2)
 • Position Changes - BOS (2)
 • New Hire - BOS (2)
 • Position Transfer - Auditor's Office
 Adjourn

**PUBLIC MEETING
CITIZENS WELCOME**

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Budget Workshop
 Lee County Library Board

**PUBLIC NOTICE
West Burlington
Regular City Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday,
December 18, 2024**

The West Burlington City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at West Burlington City Hall, 122 Broadway Street, West Burlington, Iowa, with Mayor Ron Teater presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
 Ron Teater, Ringo Covert, Andy Crouner, John Johnson, Therese Lees, and Melanie Young

MEMBERS ABSENT:
 ALSO PRESENT:
 Police Chief Jesse Logan, City Clerk Kelly Fry, Finance Manager Angela Moore, City Administrator Gregg Mandsager, and Interim Public Works Director Chase Williams

CALL TO ORDER
 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
 ROLL CALL
 PERFECTING & APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 Moved by Lees, seconded by Crouner, to approve the agenda as amended to remove consideration of a Resolution accepting a Warranty Deed for the donation of property from New Business. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crouner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

CONSENT AGENDA
 • Minutes from the Special City Council meeting on December 4, 2024

• Minutes from the Regular City Council meeting on December 4, 2024

• Payment to Bohnsack & Frommelt LLP for auditing services - \$22,000

• Liquor License Renewal for Broadway Bar and Grill, 111 Broadway Street

• Clerk's Monthly Financial Report for Nov 2024

• Payment of Claims as listed on the Expense Approval Report - \$228,723.33

Moved by Lees, seconded by Johnson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as present-

ed. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crouner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS

CITIZEN INQUIRIES
 No inquiries.

OLD BUSINESS

Consider a Resolution setting wages for swimming pool employees and authorize City Administrator to hire staff for the 2025 pool season

Council considered a resolution setting wages for swimming pool staff for the 2025 pool season and authorizing City Administrator Mandsager to hire staff for the season. Wages for the 2025 pool season were proposed as follows: Manager - \$20/hr, Assistant Manager - \$18,

Head Guard - \$16, Certified Lifeguard - \$14, BSI Certification - .50/hr, while teaching swim lessons, Admissions/Concessions \$12.

Moved by Lees, seconded by Crouner, to approve a Resolution setting wages as proposed and authorizing City Administrator Mandsager to hire swimming pool staff for the 2025 pool season. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crouner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

NEW BUSINESS

Consider approval of the Employee Wellness Program and Incentives for 2025 and contracting with Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center to coordinate the program

Tara McAlister, MS EP-C CYT, Wellness Specialist with the Occupational Health department at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, presented the attached 2024 Wellness Program Summary and a proposed program for 2025.

Johnson didn't see the benefit of offering the Wellness Program to employees and felt it could be eliminated from the

budget. Covert expressed his approval of the Employee Wellness Program and felt it benefited the employees. Crouner disagreed and felt it was beneficial to employees, and it had been proven to reduce the time employees were away from work due to illness and injuries.

The cost to continue the Wellness Program with Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center would be \$4,405.

Moved by Lees, seconded by Young, to approve the Employee Wellness Program and Incentives for 2025 and contract with Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center to coordinate the program. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crouner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Consider appointment of City representative to the Convention and Visitor's Bureau (CVB) Board

Moved by Crouner, seconded by Johnson, to approve John Johnson's appointment as the City's representative on the CVB Board. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crouner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Consider the final reading of an Ordinance granting Eastern Iowa Light and Power Cooperative a non-exclusive twenty-five year franchise to furnish and sell Electric Energy to the City of West Burlington and require Eastern Iowa Light and Power Cooperative to pay a franchise fee to the City

Council considered an Ordinance granting to Eastern Iowa Light and Power Cooperative the right and franchise to acquire, construct, erect, maintain and operate in the City of West Burlington, and the right to erect and maintain the necessary poles, lines, wires, conduits and other appliances for the

Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

distribution of electric current along, over, under and upon the streets, alleys and public places in the City of West Burlington, to supply the city with electrical services for the period of twenty-five (25) years. The Ordinance also establishes a franchise fee of three percent (3.0%) on the gross receipts from the sale of electricity to their

customers located within the city limits.

Moved by Lees, seconded by Johnson, to approve the first reading of an Ordinance granting Eastern Iowa Light and Power Cooperative a non-exclusive twenty-five year franchise to furnish and sell Electric Energy to the City of West Burlington and require Eastern Iowa Light and

Power Cooperative to pay a franchise fee to the City. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Nays: Crowner
Consider Property & Liability Insurance Renewal for 2025

Cody Vanfleet with World Insurance presented a quote from Provident Fire Plus to renew prop-

erty and liability insurance for \$167,501. The renewal cost increased by approximately 31% over last year. Council expressed their frustration with Provident and their lack of submitting the renewal information in a timely manner. City Administrator Mandsager will review the renewal in more detail with Cody and see if any modifications

can be made to lower the renewal cost. Coverage under the current contract will end on January 1, 2025.

Moved by Lees, seconded by Crowner, to approve the renewal in an amount not to exceed \$167,501. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crowner, and Lees

Nays: Johnson and

Young
CITIZEN INQUIRIES
ADJOURN

Moved by Lees, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Approved Ron Teater, Mayor
Kelly D. Fry, City Clerk

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From the Front

Looking for input on the future of news delivery

NEWS - Continued from Page 1

loss.

I think the base of the conversation starts with reader habits. What are you reading?

Do you take social media as your most reliable source of local news? I don't think you can take it as the source of national news, because honestly, I see some of these news reels, even if they have the news organization's logo on them, and I don't know if its real or not.

We know foreign countries and evil-doers have cloned social media sites. How do you really, really know if that's real or not? And you're seeing more question marks in my writing this week than you ever have before. It really speaks to my state of mind right now.

I just don't know. And that's a little scary. Not that I don't know, I'm not a genius by any stretch of the imagination, but it's scary because we own a company and we don't know what the future holds.

Some of the conversations I've had centered on people choosing news sites on social media based on what they personally want to "hear" on a daily basis. Not necessarily what is actually happening on a daily basis.

Well, what the hell is the business model for that?

I thought about having a round table of sorts over some snacks and drinks in a business after hours format,

but I'm not sure people would value the conversation over the snacks.

I need information. I need input from our readership to help determine what we need to do as an organization to continue to bring you news that you can trust, while at the same time, keeping you engaged and even entertained.

But I even have stress about that. Is it too late for the community news organization? Are people so "tractor-beamed" to social media for information that they've forgotten that being in the know means being informed. This week has told me that maybe we don't want to be informed, and we want our news outlets to cater to us on a personal level. I think in simpler terms it means we need validation of our beliefs over consumption of what is actually happening.

I don't think that's "just fine" because validity of source and the trust of that source is critical to news gathering, i.e. we have to have your trust. You may not always like what we write, but we need to know you trust us to be fervent in our approach, and accurate in our information. No one is perfect, or as I like to say, no one operates on a plane of perfection. But the body of work has to be valued. So how do you mix that in with the propensity of people to migrate to news that impacts their lives where they live. We want to provide a mechanism where you

consume, and at the core, trust the content despite your political or emotional leanings.

And what about sports??

We're seeing people don't want to read long stories that take you into the game. That used to be why we read. We wanted to know the coaches' reactions, or players' insight, but are we in such a hurry "ain't nobody got no time for dat"? Do you just want us providing local high school sports, or are you interested in locally produced copy about SCC, the University of Iowa, or Western Illinois?

Is it just families and friends reading about kids playing locally and no one else? I'm looking for feedback, but I don't even know the best way to get that feedback. Maybe this week's offering will generate some comments and that would be fantastic. I'm really not looking for likes and dislikes. What I want to know is what you think the future of news is. How do you want it delivered, what are your reading habits, what do you think the future looks like for people who try to bring you news and sports, and information about people who provide you goods and services. I'd even be open to ideas on how to survey for this information. I don't like social media polls because we've seen they can be manipulated and not generate granular valuable information. This is a real throw-your-hands-up moment for me.

In other words, how do you access information about your community, whether it be newsmakers or product makers and sellers. What is the best way to engage, and in many cases, re-engage you in news consumption.

We're going to keep providing the information to you and we're going to keep looking for ways to bring it to you the way you want it. So let me have it - right here if you want. There are no bad ideas or suggestions. I'm interested in everything you have to say. I may re-engage with you and I may not, but the value is in hearing from you.

"Help me, help you. Help meee....help youuu!"

Man I've watched way too many movies - 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.

BACK PAIN?

Do You Have Hip Pain? Are You As Stiff As a Board When You Try to Get Up From a Chair? Have You Run Out of Hope?

How 5 Lies About Low BACK PAIN May Keep You Hurting, Frustrated & Exhausted...Forever!

NEW Scientific Breakthroughs Often Make Short Work of Low Back Pain...Just What Big Medical Centers and High Priced Clinics Are PRAYING You Never Figure Out On Your Own!

Hi, I'm Dr. Jason James, and if you've got any kind of back, hip or leg pain, your worries may be over in just a few minutes. Why? Because I'm the owner of James Healthcare & Assoc. clinic, and I've discovered what may be the best healing secrets for "bad backs" - EVER!



Dr. Jason James, D.C.

I'd be stupid to make such a claim if I couldn't back it up. But I am so confident we can help your back, I insist on giving you a **100% SATISFACTION PLEDGE** at James Healthcare. I hate empty promises, and I also hate the lies most folks have been told about their backs. That's why it's important I expose these MYTHS about back pain.

MYTH #1: Sciatica (pain down your leg) is always caused by a herniated disc!

No way...even though most doctors will sell you a \$3,000 MRI at the first sign of leg pain. But they don't tell you about a 5-inch muscle in the hip that can squeeze the sciatic nerve. And it feels EXACTLY like you've got the worst slipped disc on earth. It's a major discovery and...



The good news is that it can be easy and inexpensive to correct! How? Just keep reading! But first, here's a picture to show you where the pain comes from:

MYTH #2: Stiffness from Arthritis means you're getting old...and it must be the reason for all your pain and stiffness!

Not true, because thousands of folks with arthritis in their backs have absolutely NO PAIN! Then why do YOU feel like your back will snap if you bend forward or twist too fast? Because the truth is:

Your stiffness may be caused by a hidden, even more dangerous problem than arthritis, and it can lead to a hip replacement!

You see, most folks believe that something mysterious (like maybe an "arthritis fairy") waved a wand over them, and they're cursed... doomed to suffer forever.

But did you know that many arthritis problems are CAUSED by a combination of unseen imbalances in the spine and surrounding muscles? It's the most common cause of hip replacements but not that hard to correct if we catch it in time. It's like the tires on your car...

If the alignment is off just a teeny-weeny bit, at first you don't notice, but over a few thousand miles you start to see signs of wear...that is, if you're lucky enough to catch it before a flat on the freeway ruins your day. In your spine, you're lucky if you catch untreated imbalances before they ruin your spine! How to fix them? Just look at Myth #3.

MYTH #3: Your Back is "Out"!

Sure, that's exactly how it feels. But guess what, we found that's usually not the case. It sounds good, but we now know better. You see, there are 7 different reasons for that painful, locked-up and stiff feeling that causes so much misery:

- low-grade spasm
- pelvis torque and tension
- imbalance of hips

- fallen or dropped arches
- stiff vertebra joint
- adhesions in leg muscle
- pinched nerve

It's NOT just your spine, and it's NOT just your muscles. As a matter of fact, if one of the major muscles that stabilize the spine is partly spasmed, a "2nd stringer" will have to carry the load. But this is a serious problem...

It's like having your plumber doing all the dangerous electrical work!

Sure, he may get it done, and it may work at first, but how long until there's a fire? Or your back locks up? Which leads me to our next myth:

MYTH #4: "It's Only a Muscle!"

Boy, it's scary how many people think muscle problems are no big deal. Unfortunately, tight, bound-up, and spasmed or tight muscles can wear out joints faster than you can say, "Charley Horse"!

That's why it's important to examine the spine AT THE SAME TIME as the muscles that control it. It's also why we've had such outrageous success with even the worst backs at James Healthcare. Because we deal with BOTH the spine and muscles at the same time. We have spine doctors (chiropractors), pain doctors (nurse practitioners) and muscle professionals (therapists) and together they deliver an outstanding way to help "bad backs". This ties in to Myth #5 and the diagram:



MYTH #5: "Muscle Relaxants" will help your muscles heal! Good grief, NO!

Your muscles tighten up for a reason, and muscle relaxants are like turning back the clock on a time bomb...you know it's still going to blow up! Sure, you may feel better now, but you'll pay later...and pay "in spades"! So don't fall for these lies about your low back. They'll keep you hurting, frustrated and exhausted forever!

WOULDN'T YOU RATHER: Turn over in bed without pain waking you up?

Get up in the morning without being as stiff as a board?

Be able to stand for as long as you want without sitting down for relief?

Lean forward over the sink without that "stabbing" in your back or leg?

SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGH:

A hidden muscle may be causing your SCIATICA! Does Your Back Seem "Too Old" for Your Own Body? Not everyone qualifies for treatment, so help us see if you do. If you check off even one box, drop what you're doing and call James Healthcare NOW. And bring this coupon when you come in for your 39-Point "Back-Pain Track-Down Exam". Now check off what describes you:

- Tension...always tight across the beltline
- Bent...crooked off to one side and can't stand up straight if your life depended on it
- Trigger Point...zinging pain to butt-cheek
- Stiff as a board...creak and groan when you first get out of bed in the morning
- Traitor...can't trust your back and what it's going to do—or when!
- Vice-like...constantly locked down tight!
- Shooting...vicious but short-lived
- Lumbago...hard to pin it down—just seems to hurt all the time, but it's hard to say where
- One-sided...right at that "bone" on one side
- Jack hammer...pounding off and on like a heartbeat or a toothache in your back
- Aching from 1-5 years
- Chronic pain for over 5 years

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