

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Thursday, January 16, 2025 | 6 pages | Volume 9 • Issue 17



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Koch to continue tax, PILOT payments

FERTILIZER FACILITY: Koch exempt from gas consumption tax at Fort Dodge facility

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A question that’s been heating up of late around natural gas consumption at the fertilizer facility in Wever has been answered.

In a statement from Koch Fertilizer Wever Wednesday morning, the company said it is still required to make natural gas consumption tax payments to Lee County. The issue came up as part of several inquiries into whether or not an exemption to the tax carries over to the Wever facility. Koch has exemptions in place for another plant in the state.

“Koch Fertilizer Wever will continue to pay the utility replacement tax as previously paid by Iowa Fertilizer Company,” said Michelle Jones, a company spokesperson for Koch Industries.

“As the law is written, five specific facilities were granted a utility replacement tax exemption, including Koch Fertilizer Fort Dodge. We are glad to be part of Lee County and look forward to having a positive impact in the area communities in the years to come through both financial investments and volunteering.”

Koch completed a purchase of the facility in August

See **TAXES**, page 3

Gov. Reynolds wants bill to cut cellphones from classrooms

CONDITION OF THE STATE: Governor wants legislation focused on math and child care transitions

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds wants cellphones out of classrooms.

The governor gave that proposal as part of her Condition of the State address Tuesday night from the capitol building in Des Moines.

Reynolds cited a Pew Research Center study that showed more than 7 in 10 high school teachers say smart phones in the classroom is a major problem. Eighty percent of Gen Z spends over six hours per day on their phone.

“It’s unhealthy, and the results are as predictable as they are unacceptable: lost sleep, lower productivity, more distractions, and increased anxiety,” Reynolds said Tuesday night.

“That’s why I’m proposing legislation that requires schools keep instructional time free from digital distractions—at a minimum. Of course, there will be common-sense exceptions, like during an emergency. But the evidence is in, and it’s time to act.

“Let’s make sure the classroom is a place for learning, growth, and connection. Let’s pass this bill and give students their best possible chance at success.”

Central Lee Superintendent Dr. Andy Crozier said he commended the governor’s approach with cellphones.

“I commend the Governor’s effort to curb cell phone use in classrooms. I support this initiative and look forward to reviewing the specifics of the proposed legislation. While cell phones can provide convenience for students and parents, they often disrupt classroom focus and engagement.”

See **ADDRESS**, page 7



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

A gaggle of geese collected on the ice Wednesday morning near the turnaround at the Fort Madison Marina’s east side. Geese have been ever-present on Fort Madison’s riverfront, causing some issues for walkers and bikers using the trail and park.

IOWA NEWS

Grassley advocates for stronger whistleblower protections

WASHINGTON – Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and author of legislation that strengthened the False Claims Act, is urging the United States Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals to uphold the constitutionality of the law’s critical qui tam provision, which allows whistleblowers to bring lawsuits against fraudsters on behalf of the federal government and share in any recoveries.

“The False Claims Act is our nation’s single greatest tool to fight waste, fraud



GRASSLEY

and abuse,” Grassley said. “As the author of the 1986 amendments to the False Claims Act, I’m strongly urging the Eleventh Circuit to reverse the lower court’s flawed decision and uphold the constitutionally-sound qui tam provision. By protecting and empowering whistleblowers who shine a light on wrongdoing, the False Claims Act, with its qui tam provision, has recovered over \$78 billion

– a massive victory for taxpayers.” Grassley’s amicus brief specifically discusses the Zafirov v. Florida Medical Associations decision, which dismissed a qui tam action under the False Claims Act on the basis that the qui tam provision is unconstitutional.

In response, Grassley argues that:

Qui tam provisions were enacted during the First Congress by the Framers of the Constitution and are deeply embedded in the United States’ constitutional history;

“That’s why I’m proposing legislation that requires schools keep instructional time free from digital distractions—at a minimum. Of course, there will be common-sense exceptions, like during an emergency. But the evidence is in, and it’s time to act.

“Let’s make sure the classroom is a place for learning, growth, and connection. Let’s pass this bill and give students their best possible chance at success.”

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WEATHER

THU 16 Jan..... Mostly sunny, 37° F/ 24° F
FRI 17 Jan..... Sunny, 43° F/ 21° F
SAT 18 Jan..... Mostly sunny & cold, 23° F/ 4° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 01/14..... 3 6 17 26 39, Lucky Ball: 4
MEGA MILLIONS 01/14..... 4 14 35 49 62, Mega Ball: 6 Megaplier: 3
PICK 3 MIDDAY 01/14..... 6 0 0
PICK 3 EVENING 01/14..... 2 2 8
PICK 4 MIDDAY 01/14..... 5 1 5 8
PICK 4 EVENING 01/14..... 0 5 1 7

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

BETTY A. NELSON

Betty Arlene Nelson, 91, of Fort Madison, Iowa died unexpectedly Wednesday morning, January 15, 2025 at the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, Fort Madison. She was born July 16, 1933 to Howard Roy and Geneva Ortha (Swinderman) Marsh. On December 21, 1951, she married Richard Earl Nelson. After raising her sons, she went to work at Sheaffer Pen Company, and she worked there until her retirement. She enjoyed cooking, yard sales, flowers and gardening. She had many dogs over the years, but her Boston Terriers were her favorite. She loved and worshiped her family. She was a generous mother, grandmother, and great grandmother.

She is survived by her son, Dennis (Carla) Nelson; one daughter-in-law Elaine Nelson; three grandchildren: Travis Nelson (Susan), Lindsey (Lee) Fisher, and Nicole Nelson; four great grandchildren: Taylor, Carter, Olivia, and Aubree; several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, two brothers, Darrell Marsh and Roy Marsh, and her son Mark Nelson.

A Celebration of her Life and burial at Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison will be held at a later date. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Nelson family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.



NELSON

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.

MYRTLE B. McCALL

Myrtle Belle McCall, 97, of Macomb passed away at 4:35 a.m. Friday, January 10, 2025 at Wesley Village Healthcare Center in Macomb.

She was born on May 10, 1927 in Fort Madison, Iowa to Otis Lee and Juanita Sylvian Steeples. She married Duane McCall on August 21, 1946. He passed away on September 9, 2009.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; one son, Timothy Jay McCall and her brother and sister-in-law, Otis and Odetta Lee Steeples and brother, Danny Dean Steeples.

Myrtle is survived by her children, Pamela (Lyle) Keeran of Colchester, Michael (Jeanette) McCall of Macomb and Denise (Denise Makris) McCall of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; five grandchildren, Keena (Owen) Ashford, Karis (Charles Derry) Keeran, Kaleb Keeran, Joshua (Amber) McCall and Jessica McCall; four great-grandchildren, Hannah Belle Ashford, Hayleigh Mae Ashford,, Shannon Duane McCall and Finley Charles McCall and a sister, Judy (Bob) Durand of Pontoosuc.

She has lived in Macomb since 1991. She worked at Rashid Drug Store. She worked for the Navy as a secretary, the Schaefer Pen Company, Sears Company, was in personnel/payroll for National Starch in Meredosia for 32 years and also worked as a school secretary.

Myrtle was a great fan of puzzles, roller-skating, family gatherings and church activities. A skilled card player, Myrtle took great pleasure in playing games with her family and did not believe in losing no matter how badly her grandchildren wanted to win.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at Clugston-Tibbitts Funeral Home in Macomb with Pastor A. Lee Unger officiating. Visitation will be held one hour prior to services at the funeral home. Burial will be at Oakwood Cemetery in Macomb. Following the services all are invited to lunch at the Ritz.

Memorials may be made to the Macomb School District #185 Education Foundation in Macomb or Kitchen Band at Wesley.

You may leave condolences and sign the guest book online at clugston-tibbitts.com.



MCCALL

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 stuck 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?

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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
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- Chronic pain for over 5 years

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James Healthcare & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Dr. Jason James, DC
Dr. Mack Kohnke, DC
Ashley Neuweg, ARNP
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OBITUARIES

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Sports/From the Front

GoSolar may set up in Green Bay bottoms

TAXES - Continued from Page 1

for \$3.6 billion. The facility opened in 2017 and has the capacity to produce 3.5 million metric tons of nitrogen fertilizers and diesel exhaust fluid annually, complementing Koch's existing business.

The facility currently employs about 300 people, per Koch.

The company indicated it will also continue to pay the current PILOT (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes) payments under an incentive program negotiated with county officials prior to construction of the facility. That program runs for 20 years with incrementally increasing payment amounts ending with \$1.3 million for the final five years.

At a townhall meeting last Thursday, Gordon Baier, CEO of GoSolar announced that plans are fully underway to build a hydrogen solar facility on property near the Koch facility that would become a supply feeder of nitrogen and possibly other products to Koch.

"We want to support domestic needs as well as international supply," he said. "Particularly when it comes to green ammonia production from renewable energy sources."

Baier said there is a commitment to long-term employees of 100-200 employees.

"For this small town, these are good paying jobs. Not low grade, but good paying jobs," he said.

Those jobs would be around engineering, security, and safety under a company called Green Bay Go Solar Development.

"We have looked at Lee County specifically because of the infrastructure that is here, what existing industries are here, the resources in the county, and what guidelines are here," he said.

"No. 1. There were no guidelines here and so that's always good for us as a developer, but that doesn't mean we wouldn't follow new guidelines, and we want to protect the landowners."

Baier said he's developed more than 100 products since 2007 and has been in the energy business since the 1990s.

"In Europe, we have very hard and strict guidelines, and I would say it's good that you put them together," he said regarding the county's proposed solar and wind utility ordinances.

"We would like to be the first large-scale solar in combination with hydrogen production conversion into ammonia, as well as a data center conglomerate energy system in Green Bay-Wever," he said.

"We announced this more than five years ago and we reached out to landowners there already and there are (people) under land-lease contract in this room."

Baier said the project is a large-scale endeavor including a data center because of the fiber optics and water wells on the properties.

"These data centers need cooling. We have a lot of resources that can be combined together and put into additional production specifically for hydrogen. Hydrogen is massively needed for a co-located plant and that is one of the industries that came here to Wever and we can provide them with additional commodities, and with new access to the ammonia pipeline, we are capable to produce more commodities for farm use of ammonia for fertilizer productions."

Residents questioned Baier about additional use of water in the area, but Baier said the amount of water being used for hydrogen creation would be "way less" than water for irrigation and then that water can be reclaimed. He said water being used to cool the data centers would be circulated back where the elements would be split to create the hydrogen. The hydrogen element is split from the oxygen in water to create hydrogen.

Lee County Supervisor Chairman Tom Schulz said the county has no authority over water rights.

CL girls hang one on BND

DONNELLSON - The Central Lee girls got another SEI Superconference win Tuesday night, this time over Burlington Notre Dame.

The Lady Hawks rolled to a 58-29 win over the Nikes at home, setting up a big game Friday night at Danville. The Hawks (7-6) move to 6-3 in the SEISC tied with Holy Trinity Catholic who lost by a point at Danville (5-3, 7-6) late Tuesday.

Central Lee raced to a 19-4 first-quarter lead behind seven points from Kenna Sandoval. Notre Dame would make a late run in the second quarter to cut the lead to 10 at 25-15. But the Lady Hawks would put up 20 points in the 3rd quarter for a 47-27 lead and then the defense would hold the Nikes to just two points in the fourth quarter to secure the win.

Nora Lampe led the Hawks with 20 points, including four 3-pointers in the second half to help Central Lee pull away. Lizzy Mason and Sandoval each were in double figures with 10 points. Sandoval had six rebounds and a couple assists in the win. Mason led Central Lee with nine assists.

Kinsey Cameron had 10 for Notre Dame (3-5, 3-9).



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Pen City Current, www.PenCityCurrent.com, and Pen e-Saver are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Monday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

Founded in 2016
P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Sports/Classifieds

HTC girls fall by one to Danville

DANVILLE – The Holy Trinity girls' basketball team slipped into a tie for second place in the SEI Superconference south division after falling to Danville Tuesday night 43-42.

The Lady Crusaders faded in the fourth quarter spotting the Bears a 15-12 advantage, which turned out to be the difference in the game at Danville.

Holy Trinity held a slim one-point lead going into the half and the third quarter before Danville put up their biggest quarter of the night.

HTC (9-3, 6-3) has lost three of their last four entering the second half of the season. Central Lee downed Burlington Notre Dame Tuesday to improve to 6-3 and the two teams have split conference games this season.

The Crusaders didn't have anyone in double figures, but had four players with nine points each including Adalyn Kruse, Teagan Snaadt, and Olivia and Anna Bendlage.

The Crusaders host West Burlington (3-10) Friday night on the Athletic Department's annual Cake Auction night.

Hellige scores 34 in Crusaders rout at Danville

DANVILLE – Holy Trinity's boys' basketball team had an easier second half than the first as they rolled Danville 72-39 Tuesday night on the road in SEI Superconference action.

Luke Hellige again led HTC with 34 points, 22 in the second half, to lead the Crusaders. Hellige is now 11th in the state (7th in Class 1A) in scoring with 283 points, averaging just under 26 points per outing. He's 8th in the state (4th in 1A) in 3-balls with 40 on the year.

The Crusaders held a slim 24-21 lead at the end of the first half. But the defense clamped down in the second

half allowing just 18 points, while on the offensive side of the court, HTC exploded for 48 points in the half.

Layne Rung had a dozen and Koby Jones put in 10 to help the cause. Kessler Whaley had 10 points to lead Danville.

The Crusaders face a stiff test Friday night when the undefeated West Burlington Falcons come to Shotenkirk Gym. The state's second leading scorer, Mason Watkins, leads the Falcons (12-0, 10-0) who come in ranked 6th in the state in Class 2A. Holy Trinity dropped out of the rankings this week after falling to Central Lee on Friday.

Central Lee boys hang with Burlington Notre Dame

DONNELSON – The Central Lee boys fell short in a SEI Superconference matchup Tuesday night at Central Lee in a 52-45 loss.

A slow start doomed the Hawks as they managed just two points in the first quarter while the Nikes (9-2, 7-2) built a quick 11-2 lead. However, Central Lee came flying back in the second quarter behind Chase Johnson's seven points, outscoring Notre Dame 17-11 for a 22-19 Notre Dame lead.

The Hawks would lead by as many as four points in the third quarter at 27-23 but Notre Dame would battle to a 32-32 tie at the start of the fourth period.

Central Lee would get a 35-34 lead two minutes into the quarter but would get stuck at 35 in the middle of a 6-2 run by the Nikes.

A 3-ball by Jack Drew put Notre Dame up 41-38 and Shay Stephens went 7 of 7 from the freethrow line down the stretch to give the Nikes the win.

The Hawks fall to 4-5 in the SEISC and 5-7 overall.

Kaden Swan led Central Lee with 13 points followed by Will Hayes with nine and Carson Morrison added six.

Central Lee travels to Danville (1-8, 5-9) Friday night in a boys'/girls' doubleheader.

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDINGS FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL 12/17/2024

The Fort Madison City Council held a special meeting at 4:30 P.M. on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at City Hall, 811 Avenue E. Mayor Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Thele, Roller, Gray, Yager, Andrews and Rink present. Sparrow was absent.

The Fort Madison Mission Statement, Visioning, Goals and the Find Your Fort Madison Community-Wide Strategic Plan was outlined for 2025-2035. The Special Event Application process was discussed, including Ordinance D-102, the application form and financials.

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 P.M.

/s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Justina M. Cullen, City Clerk

PROCEEDINGS FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL 12/17/2024

At 5:35 P.M., Council met in adjourned session on Tuesday, December 17, 2024. Mayor Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Thele, Roller, Gray, Yager, Rink and Andrews present. Sparrow was absent.

On motion, Council approved the Consent Agen-

da: Minutes of 12/3/2024; Liquor License Renewals: Garner Foods, Pen City Aerie 1287, Dollar General #15777; Liquor License Amendments: Dollar General #15777; Claims dated 12/11/2024, November Manual Claims, November Financial Report; and Payroll of 12/13/2024.

Karl Judd, Community Officer, presented the new nuisance reporting system, iWorQ, now available on the city website.

On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2024-74 setting dates of a consultation and a public hearing on a proposed Amendment No. 4 to the Urban Renewal Plan for the Urban Renewal Area #3 in the City of Fort Madison, State of Iowa. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2024-75 authorizing the submittal of the FY2026 Airport Capital Improvement Program for possible FY2026-2030 Federal Aviation Administration Grants. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2024-76 approving the following application for a Three-Year Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption: Larry Keester, 1701 Avenue B. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2024-77 approving the "Schedule of Fines" for various infractions enforced by the Fort Madison Police Department. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2024-78 directing the City

Clerk to publish notice of the City Council's intent to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Kevin Rink, At-Large Council Member, by appointment.

On motion, Council approved the City Goals for 2025. On motion, Council accepted the Civil Service Commission's Police Captain Eligibility List. On motion, Council approved the Mayor's signature on an agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc. for the purchase of 21 body-worn cameras and seven in-car video systems, in the amount of \$126,132. On

motion, Council approved the reappointment of Dianna Holmes to the Historic Preservation Commission, term expiring December 31, 2027. On motion, Council approved the 2025 City Council Meeting Dates.

The meeting adjourned at 6:39 P.M.
/s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor
ATTEST: /s/ Justina M. Cullen, City Clerk

EXPENDITURES	
General	\$53,044.26
Special Rev.	228,312.67
Road Use	32,888.87
Debt	242,016.25
Capital	75,650.00
Water	74,018.11
Sewer	38,997.48
Slid Waste, IWC	22,775.92
SW Utility	58.00
	<u>\$767,761.56</u>

REVENUES	
General	\$54,911.58
Special Rev.	54,040.02
Road Use	2,144.40
Debt	19,218.33
Capital	415,851.12
Water	2,630.16
Sewer	4,371.80
Slid Waste, IWC	78.49
SW Utility	9.60
	<u>\$553,255.50</u>

PAYROLL 12/13/2024

GENERAL	\$ 244,283.95
ROAD USE	\$ 25,582.97
WATER	\$ 32,985.77
SEWER	\$ 34,425.07
SOLID WASTE	\$ 17,171.61
AIRPORT	\$ 295.40
STORM WATER	\$ 2,697.98
	<u>\$ 357,442.75</u>

CLAIMS 12/17/2024

ALL AMERICAN SANITATION, PORTA-POTTIE	125.00
RENTAL (DEC).....	4,575.24
ALTORFER INC., TRIP CHARGE	23.95
AMAZON CAPITAL SER-	

VICES, FILE CABINETS/ BATTERIES..... 252.33
AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING, ORDINANCE EDITING..... 512.87
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BERGANKDV, AUDIT 10,900.00
BLUE TOP EXCAVATING LLC, PAY EST 93,878.59
BUILDING MATERIALS INC, BUILDING SUPPLIES 609.64
BURLINGTON MUNI WATER, BACTERIA SAMPLING..... 85.00
CAYLER CONSULTING, LLC, TESTING SUPPLIES 155.00
CESSFORD CONSTRUCTION CO., COLD MIX 1,701.12
COMPANY NURSE LLC, TRIAGE SERVICES 86.00
CONSOLIDATED ELECTRICAL, CIRCUIT BREAKER 792.53
CULLEN PEST CONTROL, QUARTERLY PEST CONTROL.. 239.00
DOUDS STONE, LLC, ROADSTONE..... 795.21
DUNKIN GARAGE & TOWING, REPLACE MUFFLER..... 160.90
EAGLE ENGRAVING, TAGS 23.95
EASTERN IOWA TIRE,

INC., REPLACE TIRE 597.30
EUROFINS ENVIRONMENT TESTING, WEEKLY SLUDGE SAMPLE 941.60
FARM & HOME SUPPLY, SAFETY AND CLOTHING ALLOW..... 788.89
FLOYD'S EZ WAY, RUBBISH REMOVAL 1,903.50
FORT MADISON FIRE ASSOC, CABLE MACHINE/ACCESSORIES 669.83
FRANK MILLARD & CO. INC, REPAIR BOILER 275.94
FRENCH-RENEKER-ASSOC., PROF FEE 1,118.75
G&B CONSTRUCTION LLC, REMOVAL OF ASBESTOS 10,650.00
GALL'S, AN ARAMARK COMPANY, UNIFORM 603.19
GREAT RIVER REGIONAL WASTE, LANDFILL FEES 22,500.07
GREGORY WAROSH, TIE OUT RUNNER 35.94
HACH COMPANY, TESTING SUPPLIES.. 6,199.75
HOLT SUPPLY COMPANY, CUTTING WHEELS 647.19
HOWARD R GREEN COMPANY, PROF FEE 2,500.00
HUFFMAN WELDING & MACHINE, THERMOMETER 958.92
HUMBURD AUTO SERVICE, TIRE REPLACEMENT 280.87
HYDROVAC SUPPLY, REDUCER..... 163.75
IA PUBLIC AIRPORTS

Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

ASSOC, 2025 MEMBER-SHIP 125.00
 ICONNECTYOU, INTERNET 5.00
 IDEAL READY MIX COMPANY, I CONCRETE @ 26TH..... 3,044.73
 INDUSTRIAL ELECTRIC MOTORS, REPAIR PUMP MOTOR.. 3,250.00
 IOWA MUNICIPAL WORKERS, WORKMAN'S COMP (6) 4,403.00
 JIM BAIER INC., REPLACED ALTERNATOR 348.09
 KEMPKERS TRUE VALUE, NUTS/BOLTS/POSTAGE/BITS 1,412.83
 LEE COUNTY AUDITOR, FIRE STATION ELECTION COST 134.30
 LEGACY FIRE APPARATUS, FIRE TRUCK REPAIRS 4,999.02
 LEXIPOL LLC, ANNUAL FEES 2,270.73
 LISCO, PHONE/INTERNET 1,960.29
 LUKE GRUENING, TRAINING EXP 215.04
 LYNCH DALLAS, P.C., PROFESSIONAL FEES 2,824.50
 MACQUEEN EQUIP-

MENT, SWEEPER SHOES 321.87
 MARTIN EQUIPMENT, REPAIR 636.82
 MASTERCARD, ZOOM 4,074.82
 MCFARLAND, LINERS/TOWELS 68.98
 MICROBAC LABORATORIES LLC, DAILY SAMPLING 492.63
 MIDWEST SAFETY COUNSELORS, CALIBRATE & REPLACE SENSOR 902.00
 MIGUEL LANDEROS, NUISANCE 700.00
 MOTOR PARTS & EQUIPMENT CO, TUNE-UP/ANTIFREEZE ... 48.91
 MOWEN CLEANING SERVICE LLC, JANITORIAL SERVICE...1,311.50
 MUNICIPAL SUPPLY INC., MULLER VALVE 9,127.54
 NATHAN KOSER, BOOT ALLOWANCE 720.02
 O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE, INC., ANITFREEZE/TREATMENT/FLUIDS 882.45
 POEPPING STONE & BACH, CODE REVIEW 579.22
 PROFESSIONAL

HEALTH SERVIC, FITNESS EVALUATION 631.26
 UMB BANK, N.A., BOND INITIATION FEES 21,815.75
 UNITED RENTALS, SCISSOR LIFT RENTAL 538.75
 UNITY POINT CLINIC, SCREENINGS..... 126.00
 UPS, SHIPPING... 133.99
 USA BLUE BOOK, LAB SUPPLIES 865.06
 VESTIS, UNIFORM/SHOP SUPPLIES... 90.86
 WALLJASPER VETERINARY CLINIC, OCTOBER MONTHLY FEE 1,850.00
 WARNER ENGINEERING ASSOC, PROF FEE 15,000.00
 WATER SOLUTIONS UNLIMITED, CHEMICALS 5,293.10
 WINDSTREAM, PHONE/INTERNET..... 366.32
 TOTAL 330,634.39
 GENERAL 46,734.04
 SPECIAL REVENUES 101,132.57
 ROAD USE..... 16,395.53
 DEBT SERV 185.00
 CAPITAL PROJECTS 75,650.00
 WATER..... 34,615.32
 WASTEWATER

..... 33,674.47
 SOLID WASTE 21,815.75
 AIRPORT..... 373.71
 STORM WATER..... 58.00
 TOTAL 330,634.39

..... 644.87
 TONY AND CINDY BAXTER, INTEREST PYMT 3,525.00
 TWO RIVERS BANK, INTEREST PYMT 22,700.69
 ULINE, GLASS..... 147.34
 UMB BANK, N.A., INTEREST PYMTS .. 238,306.25
 USA BLUE BOOK, TESTING SUPPLIES..... 554.94
 WELLMARK BC/BS, HEALTH INS PREMIUM 112,094.47
 WEX BANK, FUEL USAGE 12,869.24
 TOTAL 437,127.17
 GENERAL 6,310.22
 SPECIAL REVENUES 130,247.96
 ROAD USE..... 16,493.34
 DEBT SERVICE 238,306.25
 WATER 39,402.79
 WASTEWATER 5,323.01
 SOLID WASTE 960.17
 AIRPORT..... 83.43
 TOTAL 437,127.17

MANUALS - NOV 2024

ALLIANT ENERGY, ELECTRIC..... 10,944.21
 CENTURY LINK, INTERNET 198.42
 CHASE CARD SERVICE, CREDIT CARD FEES 3,734.13
 HUFFMAN WELDING & MACHINE, DUMP TRUCK HOOK... 1,543.10
 HY-VEE ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE, LAUNDRY SUPPLIES/MEDICINE 85.81
 IOWA DEPT. OF REVENUE, WET & SALES TAX 14,908.06
 MIDWEST GROUP BENEFITS, FLEX BENEFIT ADMIN FEE..... 14,464.84
 PETERS HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, SERVICED FURNACES/FILTER 405.80
 POSTMASTER, FORT MADISON, LEAD/GALV NOTIFICATION 2024

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Lee County News/From the Front

Area school officials want state to focus on rural areas, too

ADDRESS - Continued from Page 1

Fort Madison Community School District Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater said students in Fort Madison are already prohibited from using their cellphones during class.

“Currently, students are not permitted to use their phones during instructional time. Our district is a 1:1 program where all students have a Chromebook to use for learning, research, homework, and projects,” she said.

The governor also asked for legislation that would increase penalties for using cellphones while driving.

“For the sake of all our loved ones on the road, let’s finally pass legislation that requires drivers to keep their eyes on the road, and away from their phones,” she said.

The governor also said it’s time to assist the transition from families with children in preschool who have to transition to child care during the school day. Reynolds said the problem stems from the increased access to four-year-old preschool in Iowa. The state ranks 5th in the nation in preschool access for 4-year-olds, she said.

“More than two-thirds of our 4-year-olds are enrolled in some form of preschool. That’s almost double the rest of the country. But this can create problems for some working parents who struggle to shuttle their kids between preschool and childcare during the workday,” she said.

Slater said she was happy to see the recognition of the problem.

“I’m encouraged that the Governor is recognizing the importance of early learning beyond a preschool day to continue important engagement with peers in socialization, play, and interaction,” she said.

Crozier said he wants to make sure rural Iowa isn’t left out of that effort.

“I appreciate the Governor’s focus on supporting preschools through a continuum of care,” he said.

“Access to affordable, high-quality daycare and preschool options has been a long-standing challenge for rural Iowa, and this proposal could make a big difference. I encourage the legislature to consider the unique needs of rural communities when allocating funding.”

Reynolds also wanted the state to refocus on math skills.

“I’m proposing a bill that will ensure children who are struggling in math are identified and receive the personalized help that they need,” she said.

“The bill will also strengthen math instruction by equipping our teachers with evidence-based professional development and providing high-quality teacher preparation training. It’s time we return to teaching math the way we know it works.”



Courtesy photo

Keokuk middle schoolers raised more than \$2,200 to purchase gifts for more than 44 children during the past holiday season.

Keokuk students fill stockings for area kids

KEOKUK, Iowa - Keokuk Middle School students, staff and community members exceeded expectations and raised \$2,207 to purchase gifts for 44 children in need this holiday season from the annual KMS Angel Tree.

On Dec. 9, KMS students met with members of the Salvation Army to use the funds to shop for the gifts at Walmart. The Salvation Army discussed the importance of the project with the students and provided guidance on how to make the most of the funds used to purchase the gifts based on each child’s wishlist.

The Angel Tree Project is used as a way for students to give back and understand empathy for others during the holiday season, according to KMS staff. The annual goal for the Angel Tree fundraiser is between \$1,500-\$2,000, to be able to pro-

vide toys and clothing for about 40 families. Each year around 20 students are nominated and selected by staff members to assist in shopping for the gifts at Walmart in Keokuk.

KMS students had incentive days where they could bring a dollar to participate in a hat day, purchase a napkin/donut, get tech time, and send candy cane grams to fellow students to raise money for the tree. This is the second year that there was also a Pie In The Face competition, where students and staff were able to pay one dollar per vote for a staff member to take a pie in the face on Dec. 20, which is the last day of school before break.

The KMS staff would like to thank the parents of the students for supporting the fundraising efforts and outside donors who also contributed to the fundraiser.

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