

FM District puts two on leave

NOT DISCIPLINARY: Two elementary administrators on leave for rest of year

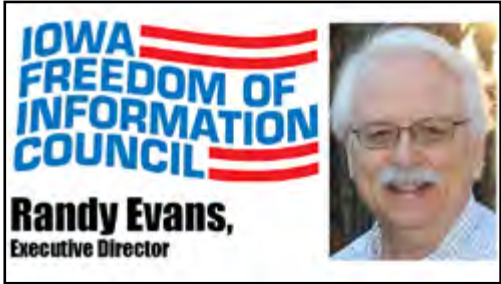
BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Two Fort Madison elementary principals have been placed on administrative leave. According to Fort Madison School Board president Josh Wykert, the two administrators had submitted their resignation from the district but were placed on leave Friday. Wykert said the move to place them on administrative leave was not a disciplinary measure. “The Fort Madison Elementary School is at a point of leadership transition following the resignation of two administrators. As part of this transition process, the two administrators

moved into an administrative leave status for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year. The administrative leave was not part of any disciplinary action. We thank these administrators for the work they performed for the district and wish them the best in their future endeavors,” Wykert wrote in an email to Pen City Current Tuesday. Sources close to the situation said the two administrators were called to the central office on Friday and were then placed on administrative leave. The current principal at the elementary is Dirk Troutman and the assistant is Logan Doty, however Wykert didn’t confirm those were the two placed on

See LEAVE, page 6

COMMENTARY



Governor can’t referee what’s secret

Give Governor Kim Reynolds credit for consistency. When it comes to wanting to hide details of possible misstatements or misdeeds, she treats Lutherans and atheists alike. Soon, Iowans may learn important lessons about “executive privilege” claims by the governor and whether they provide her any cover to keep staff documents in her office secret. These teachable moments arise from two lawsuits filed within hours of each other Friday. The first learning lesson may come from a lawsuit that Reynolds filed against The Des Moines Register over its attempts to obtain records about her blundered response while testifying in February before a congressional committee in Washington. The second stems from litigation the ACLU of Iowa, acting on behalf of the group Iowa Atheists and Freethinkers, brought against the governor over her refusal to provide records pertaining to state officials’ decision blocking the Satanic Temple of Iowa from holding a public event at the Capitol. Some legal scholars see that as a textbook example of impermissible viewpoint discrimination by government. Both cases encompass a legal doctrine known as executive privilege. The cases could lead Iowa courts to decide if and how far that privilege extends, or does not extend, to prevent the public and journalists from obtaining records from the governor. The rationale behind the executive privilege doctrine involves a desire of a president or governor to cloak decision-making in confidentiality. Presidents and governors

See EVANS, page 6



Photo courtesy of FMCSD

Volunteers work with some activities at the Fort Madison Elementary School Carnival held at the high school over the weekend. Students spent the day playing games as part of the annual fundraiser.

STATE NEWS

Reynolds sues Register over “intrusive records requests”

DES MOINES— Governor Kim Reynolds has filed a lawsuit against the Des Moines Register to protect the use of executive privilege for all Iowa governors past, present, and future. “It is in the public’s interest that

governors can receive candid advice from their closest advisors,” said Mason Mauro, spokesperson for Gov. Reynolds. “We are confident that the judicial branch will recognize that governors have a constitutional executive privilege in Iowa, just as

they recognized a legislative privilege last year, and have used a deliberative privilege to protect the communications of Iowa Supreme Court justices.” Executive privilege allows a chief

See SUIT, page 2

INDEX

Ameriprise Financial – Sara HennigarP.6

BreakthroughTID.org.....P.3

Business Directory.....P.5

CLASSIFIEDS.....P.5

Denmark Heritage Days.....P.4

EDUCATION NEWS.....P.6

Fort Madison Family YMCA.....P.2

FROM THE FRONT.....Ps.2,6

Fullenkamp Insurance.....P.2

IOWA NEWS.....P.2

LOCAL NEWS.....P.6

Mohrfeld Solar.....P.2

National Association of Letter Carriers...P.7

OBITUARIES.....Ps.2,4

• Thomas J. Harvey, 65

• Pamela J. Moore, 70

• James L. Seitz, 88

OPINION.....P.6

Pen City Current.....P.5

Pothitakis Dental Group.....P.3

Public Notices.....P.5

Sonny’s Super Market.....P.6

SPORTS.....Ps.2,4

United Way of the Great River Region.....P.4

WEATHER

WED 30 Apr.....Showers, 64° F/ 58° F ☁☁

THU 01 May.....Showers, 68° F/ 50° F ☁☁

FRI 02 May.....Chance of showers, 65° F/ 43° F ☁☁

IOWA LOTTERY

DOUBLE PLAY 04/28.....11 13 39 48 61, Powerball: 3

LOTTO AMERICA 04/28.....18 19 32 44 50, Star Ball: 10 All Star Bonus: 5

LUCKY FOR LIFE 04/28.....16 19 20 33 40, Lucky Ball: 11

PICK 3 MIDDAY 04/28.....4 2 4

PICK 3 EVENING 04/28.....3 7 7

PICK 4 MIDDAY 04/28.....8 5 8 3

PICK 4 EVENING 04/28.....2 7 3 7

POWERBALL 04/28.....26 43 51 56 60, Powerball: 24 Power Play: 4

SUBSCRIBE

Scan the code to subscribe today

Paid & Free Options Available!

Sports/From the Front

Reynolds files suit in Polk County Court Friday

SUIT - Continued from Page 1

executive to receive confidential communications and work product from their closest advisors. This is a constitutional privilege that has been recognized by the United States Supreme Court and numerous state supreme courts across the country. Executive privilege has been used by every president, including George Washington. Following the adoption of Iowa’s public record laws, it has been used by both republican and democrat governors alike, making it a nonpartisan issue that is well recognized. It is unfortunate that state resources must be used to defend against the Register’s aggressive threats, but it is in the broader public interest to preserve the powers reserved in our constitution for the effective operation of government.

Reynolds filed the suit on Friday in Polk County District court after the Register had requested documents over what she claims are “overly intrusive records requests”.

Iowa’s open records laws don’t specifically provide for executive privilege for the governor.

The Register wanted copies of emails from senior advisers with respect to the Lutheran Family Services. During Washington D.C. testimony on Feb. 5 regarding the services agency. Reynolds was questioned on whether she believed the agency was involved in illegal money laundering services, but declined to answer. The Register then sought records relating to emails shared by senior officials in Reynolds administration.

LET US DO THE MATH!

- 145 YEARS OF COMBINED EXPERIENCE
- LOCAL FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESS FOR 61 YEARS
- 7 LICENSED AGENTS
- WRITING IN 3 STATES

FI

Fullenkamp INSURANCE

Est. 1963

307 5th Street West Point
319-837-6178 or 800-292-2208 | www.FullenkampIns.com
Open M-F 7:30 - 5:00

Trusted Choice

Fullenkamp

INSURANCE

Est. 1963

307 5th Street West Point
319-837-6178 or 800-292-2208 | www.FullenkampIns.com
Open M-F 7:30 - 5:00

TUESDAY SPORTS BRIEFS

Lumino’s 43 leads way for Lady Hounds

PCC Staff

BURLINGTON – The Fort Madison girls’ golf team worked their way to one of its best finishes of the season Monday at a Southeast Conference meet at Flint Hills in Burlington.

The Lady Hounds put all four scoring golfers in the top 10 to finish with a team best 191, eight strokes ahead of Keokuk’s 198.

Kylie Lumino shot a 43 followed by Jacy Fullenkamp and Natalie Wright each with a 49, and Ava Taylor with a 50. Lumino had the top individual score at the meet. Fullenkamp and Wright tied for 4th best score.

HTC boys down New London

FORT MADISON – The Holy Trinity Catholic boys downed New London on a windy Monday on the back nine at Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course.

Brock Sheetz and Luke Hellige both shot 45s to lead the Crusaders. Blake Mohrfeld carded a 47, including a 5 on the par 5 18th. Jameson Denning had a 49 to round out the HTC scoring golfers for a 186. Max Kruse shot a 51 and Nathan Box had a 53. New London finished with a 213 and was led by Izzy Lemley with a 47.

In the girls’ meet, Holy Trinity was led by Elizabeth Griffin’s 51. Emma Mohrfeld came in with a 57, followed by Cali Kruse’s 62 and Eva Denning’s 63 for a 233. New London won the dual with 208 led by Emma Busby’s 51.

Morrison medals as Hawks take down Danville

DANVILLE – Central Lee’s Carson Morrison carded a one-under 35 on Monday to medal at a Danville/Central Lee dual SEI Super Conference golf meet.

Teammate Caleb Larson and Mylan Lowenberg were runners up with 37s. Larson birdied the 310-yard par 4 hole No. 7. Morrison birdied the par 5 No. 8 at 530 yards. The Hawks won 148-188. Danville was led by Alex Holtkamp’s 42 and Mattix Furnal’s 43.

In the girls’ meet, Danville won 235-246. The Hawks got a 57 from Marie Young, while Reegyn Scott (60), Sydney Gram (64), and Lily Smith (65) were the other scoring golfers for the Lady Hawks. Danville got a 52 from medalist Eastin Chapman.

Lady Hounds run at Washington Relays

WASHINGTON – McKayla Schinstock won the open 800 Thursday at the Demon Relays in Washington as the Lady Hounds took three of the top five spots to help lead Fort Madison.

Schinstock ran a 2:30.69 and teammate Jordyn Mar-

shall ran a 2:32.91 for third place. Addison Rump was fourth with a 2:33.81.

Marshall also won the 1500 with a 5:16.47. The Hounds won the 4x800 with a 10:21.46 and the distance medley at 4:30.67. Avery Rump won another 3000 with a 10:57.74, 28 seconds ahead of the pack.

Hounds tie for 2nd at SEC meet in Washington

WASHINGTON – Fort Madison shot a 176 to tie with Mt. Pleasant at a revisit to Washington in SEC boys’ golf action Monday night.

Brady White shot a six-over 41 to go with Cole Quittem’s 42 and Rowan Benda’s 43 to lead Fort Madison. Colton Boyer was the final Bloodhound scoring golfer with a 50. Graeme Meredith shot a 52 and Conner Cale came in with a 64.

Washington’s Drew Conrad shot a 35 for medalist honors. Washington’s Carson Brown was runner up with a 38.

Fort Madison is currently 3rd in the conference series with 1052 behind Washington’s 953 and Mt. Pleasant’s 1014. Fairfield is just 10 strokes behind the Bloodhounds with 1062 and Keokuk is 5th with 1187.

Unions collaborate to ease officials’ registration.

BOONE - The Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (IGHSAU) and Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) have collaborated to streamline the officials’ registration process in the 2025-26 school year.

When officials register through DragonFly ahead of their 2025-26 sports seasons, they will now be able to select IGHSAU and IHSAA shared sports for one registration fee. Sports that no longer require separate boys’ and girls’ sports fees include: Basketball, Cross Country, Soccer, Swimming, Track & Field, and Wrestling.

“We are excited to roll out this new officials’ registration fee structure that takes into consideration the many individuals who officiate both boys’ and girls’ contests in the same sport,” said IHSAA executive director Tom Keating. “We hope this incentivizes others who want to do the same.”

When registration for the 2025-26 season opens on June 18 via DragonFly’s Center for Officials Services, it will cost \$60 for one sport, then \$15 for each additional sport.

Previously, officials paid to register for each sport offered by IGHSAU and IHSAA, such as girls’ basketball (IGHSAU) and boys’ basketball (IHSAA). Registration fees provide officials access to NFHS insurance and rules books and the ability to work through IGHSAU and IHSAA member schools and postseason events.

2025 STEAK FRY FUNDRAISER

May 15th 2025 | 5:00pm

Bad Light Stockyard | Tri-State Rodeo Grounds
Doors Opens at 5pm | Dinner Served 5:30pm-7:30pm

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Adult Tickets: \$25 | Kid Tickets: \$10
Purchase Your Tickets Online: fortmadisonny.org
Music by: NOISY NEIGHBORS BAND

the Y

All proceeds benefit the Fort Madison Family YMCA & Fort Madison Rotary Club

Are you ready to lower your electric bills?

MOHRFELD Solar

- Energy Audit
- Solar System Design
- Solar System Installation
- System Monitoring

P: 319-372-5536
E: mohrfeldelectric.com

Obituaries

OBITUARIES

JAMES L. SEITZ

James L. Seitz, 88, of Ft. Madison, IA, passed away on Monday, April 28, 2025 at 9:45 AM at the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in West Burlington.

He was born on October 5, 1936 on a farm in McDonough County, IL to Ray and Ethel Mae Dorothy Seitz. James went to school at "Frog Pond" a one room schoolhouse near the family farm. When the school closed, he attended schools in Adair and Macomb Senior High School where he graduated in 1954. He attended Gem City Business School before entering the US Army in 1959. He served as Commanding Chief with the 10th Engineering Battalion on Germany during the Berlin Crisis and was honorably discharged in 1962. On May 26, 1962 he married Judy Runkle in Industry, IL and she passed away on August 19, 2021.

He worked several jobs after high school and also played in a country music band. In 1966 he began in the office at JI Case, then Gleason Corp in Ft. Madison and in 1972 began at Exide Corp as a personnel officer where he retired from in January of 2002. Jim attended the First Baptist Church. He and Judy enjoyed traveling and going to gospel and bluegrass shows throughout the Midwest and south. He enjoyed golfing and was a Chicago Cubs and Los Angeles Rams fan.

Survivors include one son, Jim Seitz of Ft. Madison; sisters in law, Pat Runkle of Sturgeon, MO and Donna (Bob) Roads of Jacksonville, IL; brother-in-law, Steve (Shelley) Runkle of Peyton, CO; nieces and nephews, Allison, Craig, Melissa, Jennifer, Daniel, and Mark. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, sister, Ruth Sharon, brother in law, Bennie, nieces Michelle and Marilyn and a nephew, Mike.

Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The family will meet with friends from 10AM-11 AM Thursday, May 1, 2025 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with a memorial service to follow at 11 AM with Pastor Steve Scott officiating. Burial will follow in Soldiers' Circle, Oakland Cemetery with military rites.

A memorial has been established in his memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.



SEITZ



THOMAS J. HARVEY

Thomas Joseph "Tom" Harvey, 65, of West Point passed away at 4:06 p.m. Monday, April 28, 2025, at his home.

He was born on November 19, 1959 in Fort Madison, Iowa, the son of Francis M. "Frank" and Elizabeth L. "Betty" (Buckert) Harvey.

Survivors include four brothers: Jim (Margie) Harvey of Neenah, Wisconsin, Don (Patty) Harvey of Montrose, Iowa, Jerry Harvey of West Point, Iowa, Pat Harvey of West Point, Iowa; one sister: Pam (Chad) Kesselring of Montrose, Iowa; uncle and aunt: Larry and Cheryl Buckert and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters-in-law: Karla and Kara Harvey; several aunts and uncles.

Tom was a 1978 graduate of Marquette High School. He enjoyed sports and was an avid St. Louis Cardinals and Iowa State Cyclone fan. Tom especially enjoyed playing softball, reading books and history. He looked forward to holidays.

A visitation will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Friday, May 2, 2025, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point.

A memorial has been established in his memory.

Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.



HARVEY

OBITUARIES

PAMELA J. MOORE

Pamela Jo Moore, 70, of Burlington, died Monday, April 21, 2025, at the Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House in West Burlington.

Born December 1, 1954, in Burlington, she was the daughter of Harry Francis and Mary Jo Brenneke Thompson. On January 4, 1974, she married Michael Dean Moore in Burlington. He passed on April 8, 2004.

She was a graduate of Burlington High School and later attended Southeastern Community College where she received a degree in graphic design.

Pam worked as an Executive Administrative Assistant for Joe Merschman at Mershman Seed in West Point until her retirement.



MOORE

She loved springtime, so she could visit greenhouses and plant sales. Pam was a crafter, she would create many items from sewing clothes to making holiday decorations. She liked to read, play pool, travel to visit her family and attend music festivals and concerts. She enjoyed her exercise class at the West Point Library, when she was able.

Survivors include her children, Sarah (Justin) Schultz of Silverdale, WA, and Joshua (Jeni) Moore of Nebraska City, NE; eight grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; mother, Mary Jo Snowden of Burlington; brother, Jeffrey (Deanna) Thompson of Wever; sister, Rebecca Thompson of Burlington; sister-in-law, Linda Snowden of Burlington and niece and nephews, Sam, Tim and Derek Thompson.

Besides her husband, she was preceded in death by her father, step-father, Robert Snowden, and step-siblings, Steven Snowden and Debra Ayers.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of Prugh Crematory.

The Celebration of Life for Pam will be Saturday, May 17, 2025 from 2:00 PM until 6:00 PM at Wever Fire & Rescue/Town Hall.

Prugh Funeral Service is in care of the arrangements.

Condolences can be sent to the family by visiting Pamela's obituary at www.prughfuneral.com.

Become a
Breakthrough T1D
Advocate today!

BreakthroughT1D.org/join



Make Your Oral Health
a Priority in the New Year

POTHITAKIS DENTAL GROUP



5 convenient locations
to serve you.

Ft. Madison West
(319) 372-4882

Burlington
(319) 752-8142

West Burlington
(319) 753-2515

New London
(319) 367-2311

Mediapolis
(319) 394-3255

www.DrMarkDDS.com



Sports

Lady Hounds stay perfect with win over Mediapolis

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC Sports

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison's shutout streak ended in the first half of Tuesday's match against Mediapolis, but what coach Carrie Burken wanted to see out of her players was how they would respond.

The response was a second-half three-goal outburst in the 4-1 win. Hadley Wolfe scored twice in the opening minutes of the second half, and Teagan Snaadt scored her second goal of the day with 19:49 to play, as the Bloodhounds (7-0-2) extended their winning streak to three.

Fort Madison, which hadn't allowed a goal all season, led 1-0 off Snaadt's first goal of the match with 29 minutes left. But Mediapolis' Amelia Grier, whose penalty kick moments earlier had been stopped by Fort Madison goalkeeper Ellie Hellman, scored when her shot bounced off Hellman and rolled into the net with 24:05 left in the first half to tie the match.

"What I said at halftime is, obviously, it's not ideal, but it was actually a very good situation for us to be in," Burken said. "It's important to be able to see as a team, when you give up a goal, what sort of reaction do we have? What's the mentality when a team comes back on us? And so a lot of what we talked at halftime was just what mentality are we going to have in the second half?"

"The body language was not great at halftime. There was a lot of frustration, I think, after giving up that goal. And so the question was to our leaders, how are you going to lead on the field? What's our energy going to be? How are we going to respond to this?"

"I think everything happens for a reason, and I think it was a good thing that

we got scored on in this game so we know how to bounce back from these things later in the season," Wolfe said.

Wolfe, one of the Bloodhounds' three captains, then delivered two quick goals to put Fort Madison in command.

Wolfe, who also had an assist in the match, has six goals this season. Four have come in the last two nights — she had two in Monday's 5-0 win at Keokuk.

"It's finally happening," said Wolfe, who admitted to some frustration at not making shots earlier this season. "At the start of the season, I wasn't able to find spots in the back of the net, but it seems like they're coming at the right part of the season."

"It's really good seeing her get those," Burken said. "I mean, she's had some goals this season, but it was just different in this game. She took a lot of shots, and to me, that shows she's building confidence. She's had some great runs and she's getting good shots. That's really important for her, and it's important for the team that she has the confidence to take those shots."

Halle Menke had two assists for the Bloodhounds, and Reilynn Turnbull had one. Fort Madison had 16 shots on goal.

It's a good start for the Bloodhounds in a three-match week — they play host to Fairfield on Thursday.

"I'm very happy with that," Burken said. "I was very happy with how we played yesterday, and I'm very happy with how we played today. We were able to possess the ball well in both games, connect passes, but we struggled with finishing at times in both games. Still, I'm happy with how we've played, and happy with how we responded tonight."



Offense, defense

Above, Fort Madison senior Halle Menke fires a free kick at the goal in the 1st half Tuesday night at Baxter Sports Complex. The Hounds downed Mediapolis 4-1 and remain undefeated on the season. Fort Madison did surrender their first goal of the season to the Bulldogs. At left, the Hounds' Ellie Hellman leaps to the top bar to keep a high ball out of the net.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

DENMARK HERITAGE DAYS

DENMARK, IOWA

1967 John Deere 4020

1967 Ford Mustang Coupe

1916 Fairbanks Morse 1 1/2 HP Style Z

JUNE 6,7,8, 2025

FRIDAY

TRACTOR/GAS ENGINE REGISTRATION 8 AM

TOWN WIDE YARD SALES 8 AM

FLEA MARKET/CRAFTS 8 AM

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM AT BANK 9AM-3PM

LIVE MUSIC IN SHELTER HOUSE 6 PM- 9 PM

BY JIVE RADIO

SATURDAY

BISCUITS & GRAVY IN FIRE STATION 7 AM

BY FIRE DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY

TOWN WIDE YARD SALES 8 AM

FLEA MARKET/CRAFTS 8 AM

FLAG RAISING BY BOY SCOUTS 8:30 AM

STATE HISTORICAL BUS 8:30 AM

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM AT BANK 9AM-12PM

PEDAL TRACTOR PULLS 9 AM

SIDEWALK CHALK DRAWING CONTEST 10 AM-12 PM

K9 DEMONSTRATIONS(SMALL DIAMOND) 10:30 AM

CUSTOM CARS & PICKUPS 10 AM - 3 PM

TRACTOR PARADE 1 PM

SILVER STEPPERS 1:30 PM

LIVE AUCTION IN SHELTER HOUSE 2:30 PM

LIVE MUSIC IN SHELTER HOUSE 3 PM - 9 PM

BY JEFFERSON CONNECTION

SUNDAY

BREAKFAST AT CHURCH 7:30 AM

FLEA MARKET/CRAFTS 8 AM

CHURCH IN THE PARK 10 AM

HAM BALL DINNER AT CHURCH 11 AM

TRACTOR PARADE 1 PM

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

DAILY ACTIVITIES

Homemade Ice Cream

Car Train Rides for kids

Book Sale

General Information

319-470-3805

319-371-6557

Vendor Information

319-470-8670

319-470-0050

Car Show Information

319-759-4331

Gas Engine Information

319-470-0706

Tractor Information

319-470-3007

WWW.DENMARKHERITAGEDAYS.COM

ANNUAL

GOLF

United Way

2025

Save The Date

MAY 2

2025

SHEAFFER MEMORIAL GOLF PARK

1760 308th Ave, Fort Madison, IA 52627

Website: <https://unitedwaygrr.org/>

Phone Number: 319-524-4504

Email: director@unitedwaygrr.org

Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Chief Justice Christensen has signed an order requesting public comment on recommendations from the Iowa Child Support Guidelines Review Committee concerning the Iowa child support guidelines in chapter 9 of the Iowa Court Rules. The deadline for submitting public comments is 12:00 p.m. on Monday, June 30, 2025.
<https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/supreme-court/orders>.

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDINGS FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL 4/8/2025

The Fort Madison City Council held a Special Meeting at 4:00 P.M. on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, via Zoom. Mayor Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Thele, Roller, Sparrow, Gray, Andrews and Emmett present. Council Member Yager was absent.
On motion, Council approved a Liquor License Renewal for Turnwater FM LLC. Emmett pro-

vided a statement and requested a policy be established.
The meeting adjourned at 4:11 P.M.
/s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor
ATTEST: /s/ Justina M. Cullen, City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE MINUTES OF THE BURLINGTON, IOWA CITY COUNCIL INFORMAL WORK SESSION March 31, 2025

The Burlington City Council met in an informal work session at 4:30 p.m. in the Thomas J. Smith Council Chambers, City Hall with Mayor Billups, Council Members Bailey, Graham-Murray, Scott and Weiss present.
Items discussed at the informal work session are listed on the work session agenda on file in the office of the City Clerk. No action was taken.
Adjournment: 6:32 p.m.
Approved: April 7, 2025
Chad Bird, City Manager
Jon D. Billups, Mayor

PUBLIC NOTICE MINUTES KEOKUK CITY COUNCIL MEETING April 3, 2025 501 Main Street 5:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Keokuk met in special session on April 3, 2025, at 501 Main Street. Mayor Mahoney called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. There were eight council members present, one absent, Carissa Crenshaw, Tyler Walker, Dorothy Cackley, Devon Dade (entered at 5:15) Steve Andrews, Dan Tillman, Roger Bryant, and Michael Greenwald were present. Jeffrey Mullin was absent. Staff in attendance: Interim City Administrator Dave Hinton, City Clerk Celeste El Anfaoui, Community Development Director

Pam Broomhall and Chief of Police Zeth Baum.
Mayor Mahoney opened the public hearing at 5:01 p.m. on the proposed Property Tax Levy. A public hearing notice was published in the Daily Gate City on March 20, 2025
COMMENTS: Hinton provided an overview of the proposed property tax levy, including examples of the increase in property taxes on three properties. Several citizens expressed concerns, including Terry Brackelsberg, Kathleen Belmonti, Candice Murrell-Cannon, Laysha Winter, Bonnie Evans, Zach Benedict, Stacey Jones, and Ginger Knisley.
• Terry Brackelsberg voiced concerns about the impact on individuals with fixed incomes, particularly the elderly.

• Kathleen Belmonti stated that her property taxes have tripled in the 12 years she has lived in Keokuk.
• Candice Murrell-Cannon expressed frustration that the cost of living in Keokuk continues to rise and noted that her property taxes are now higher than the principal and interest on her mortgage.
• Laysha Winter raised concerns about increasing property taxes and also mentioned a fallen tree on her property.
• Bonnie Evans shared concerns about rising taxes and insurance costs.
• Zach Benedict urged officials to reevaluate the increases to ensure they remain sustainable for all residents.
• Stacey Jones argued that her property's assessed value does not reflect its actual worth.

She also mentioned ongoing sewer issues at her residence, stating that she is paying taxes on a property that is overvalued.
• Ginger Knisley, a member of the Board of Supervisors, emphasized the need to ensure that citizens can afford to remain in their homes. She urged the city to carefully review its budget and assess how spending decisions impact property taxes.
No further comments were received, Mayor Mahoney closed the public hearing at 5:31 p.m.
Motion made by Tillman, second by Bryant to adjourn the meeting at 5:31 p.m.
K. A. Mahoney, Mayor
Attest: Celeste El Anfaoui, City Clerk

Advertise in a brand new way.
Reach thousands of potential customers each day & grow your business. Call today!
Lee (319)371.4125
Chuck (319)371.1670

PEN CITY CURRENT
It's Black & White and Red all over

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



209 7th Street, West Point • 319-214-0415

OPEN 24/7 by Access Control
Other times by appointment



Patrick Profeta
General Manager

Keokuk Auto Credit
We Tote the Note

No Credit Check Low Weekly Payments
www.keokukautocredit.com

1728 Main Keokuk, IA 52632 Office: 319-524-2334 Fax: 319-524-2373

Your Neighborhood Hardware and Rental Store!

KEMPKER'S
True Value  **RENTAL**


1904 Avenue H Fort Madison 608 S 9th St Burlington 1405 E Washington St Mt Pleasant

Visit us online: kempkerstruevalue.com

Chat, text or stop by. It's called service.

Get a quote today





Jess Sutcliffe LUTCF®
Agent

2623 Avenue L
Fort Madison, IA 52627-3840

Bus: 319-372-5982
fortmadisoninsurance.com

State Farm
Bloomington, IL



Sara Hennigar, APMA™
Financial Advisor
Joshua Denning & Associates
A private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC
319.372.8923
701 Avenue G, Fort Madison, IA 52627
sara.j.hennigar@ampf.com
ameripriseadvisors.com/sara.j.hennigar

Securities offered by Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. Member FINRA and SIPC. © 2025 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.

Ameriprise Financial

YOUR ONE-STOP SHOP FOR ALL THINGS PRINTING!



Advertising
Vinyl Banners
Office Supplies
Large Format Printing
Copy & Digital Services
Business Cards & Forms

Graphic Design
T-Shirt Printing
Promotional Products
Faxing & Email Service
Full Service Print Shop
Coffee Mugs & Gift Items

621 Ave G • Fort Madison, IA • 319.372.2721 • doddprinting.com
FREE DELIVERY TO FORT MADISON & SURROUNDING AREA

Complete Comfort. Affordable Price.





Full Service HVAC Company
Serving Fort Madison, Burlington, and surrounding areas with over 30 Years Experience!

Heat & Air Guy

Ft. Madison: 319-372-4328
Burlington: 319-752-4328
All Areas: 877-380-4328

24 Hour Service • FREE Estimates • Servicing All Makes

www.YourHeatAndAirGuy.com



Across the Nation, Letter Carriers are banding together to



**and we are asking YOU to help
join our Cause!**

on the second Saturday of May, we are collecting bags of donated non-perishable food items that you set next to your mailbox. Then we deliver the food to our local food banks to help families in need!

Non-perishable Foods include, but not limited to:

Canned/dry Packaged Soups
Beans (canned/dry)
Oils and Spices
Sweeteners (sugar/honey)
Canned Goods (fruit, veggies, meat)

Snacks (granola bars / Jerky)
Powdered Milk
Canned Juices
Beans (canned and dried)

Rice (Brown/white)
Crackers
Cereal (Ready to Eat)
Pasta
Bottled Water