



WEST LIBERTY INDEX



Master Gardener PAGE 4A

BEND OF THE RIVER BIZZZZY BEE PAGES INSIDE!

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1868

Thursday, March 28, 2024

Volume 162 Issue 13 - Stay informed for \$1 newsstand

Come and use the library!

West Liberty Public Library holds annual meeting, discusses the past and future



The West Liberty Public Library located at 400 N. Spencer St. in West Liberty is open Sunday, 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Photo by Jacob Lane

By Stephanie Vallez

Index Contributor

The West Liberty Public Library Board met on Wednesday, March 20, for their big annual meeting. The meeting was open to the public and many community members attended.

The agenda included the year in review and a report on the space utilization assessment. The meeting was very efficient and accomplished quite a lot in under 45 minutes.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by interim president Ken Brooks.

Allie Paarsmith gave the director's report, which began with an introduction of all the staff at the library and an explanation of their duties. It takes a surprisingly large number of people to run a library.

Paarsmith then introduced the library board members, including the youth board members and the city council liaison.

Paarsmith's review of the year included numerous fundraising activities and grant opportunities. The WLPL has also developed a partnership with the school district called Celebrity Storytime.

"The entire first grade marches

LIBRARY, continued on page 6A

New life given to old home

Anderson family renovates historical women's nursing home

By Stephanie Vallez

Index Contributor

The big, white house located on N. Calhoun Street was once the women's nursing home.

My own mother, Deborah Tedrow, known hereabouts as Jim and Bonnie's eldest daughter, Deborah Keith (WLHS class of '68), remembers visiting her great-grandmother there.

"She seemed to like it there," Tedrow said, "I remember her looking out that big window and smiling."

That big window is now the living room window of Ethan and Bethany Anderson. Ethan is the owner of Big Imprint and a former mayor of West Liberty.

Bethany is the founder and operator of the Anderson Language Center, an educational resource for Spanish speakers who want to learn English. The Andersons have three children in the West Liberty Schools.

The Anderson family moved in about a year and a half ago after spending quite some time updating and renovating the house.

On Friday, March 22, they held an open house and invited the whole town in to see what had become of the historic structure. Plenty of snacks and drinks were provided and everyone found something delicious to munch on.

"A lot of people have asked us to see the inside," Ethan said of planning the open house. "It motivated us to get a lot of projects done."

"It will never be this clean again," Bethany said.

Ethan and Bethany Anderson bought the home from its previous owners, Chuck and Louise Newcomb.

HOUSE, continued on page 8A

School board gets On-Track Report

Since 2020, there has been a yearly increase in the numbers of students who will graduate on time

By Stephanie Vallez

Index Contributor

The school board met again on Monday, March 18. The regular meeting of the West Liberty Community School District Board of Education was held as usual in the Boardroom on Elm Street.

The agenda included the On-Track Report, a budget discussion, and the Guid-

ing Principles Resolution.

All five board members were present, including Director Vargas who attended online, as well as Superintendent Shaun Kruger, Secretary Abby Ortiz, Dawn Kruse, Brenda Arthur-Miller, Stephanie Ramsey and Sara Schnepfer.

Brenda Arthur-Miller, high school principal, delivered the On-Track Re-

port. This report is a general assessment of whether West Liberty High School students are likely to graduate on time.

Since 2020, there has been a yearly increase in the numbers of students who will graduate on time. Arthur-Miller shared data that expresses a strong correlation between attendance and grades.

24 percent of students have had zero absences or tardies, and their average GPA is 3.48, as opposed to the 33 percent who had five or more absences, whose average GPA is only 2.69.

SCHOOL, continued on page 10A

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COMMUNITY

Local group makes difference one donation at a time

100+ Women Who Care donates \$9,200 to New Strand Theatre

100+ Women Who Care: Comet Chapter recently made a \$9200 donation towards the New Strand Theatre via the West Liberty Area Arts Council.

This group, while part of a national organization structure, is made up of local women of all ages who want to make a positive impact in the communities within our school district, with one thought in mind – TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

It is a SIMPLE Concept with a BIG Impact!!

SIMPLE Concept - No membership dues, four meetings a year. Members can nominate a LOCAL 501c3 non-profit by slip of paper.

Three nominations are randomly drawn. A brief "sales pitch" is given for each. A paper vote for one of the three is taken. Majority wins.

Members write a \$100 check to the chosen non-profit for which you receive a receipt for tax purposes.

If you can't attend, send your check to a named board member. (\$100 every quarter - which is \$33 a month or a little over \$1 a day) All money is given as one



large donation.

A large donation at one time can help start or finish a project, make a purchase, etc. That is - THE POWER OF GIVING AS ONE!

BIG Impact - After the Feb giving event, which marked the end of the ninth year, \$257,800 has been provided to various local 501c3 non-profits. (Friends of the Library, The Fine Arts Program, Dreamcatchers, The Food Pantry, Before and After School program, Atalissa Fire Dept to name a few.)

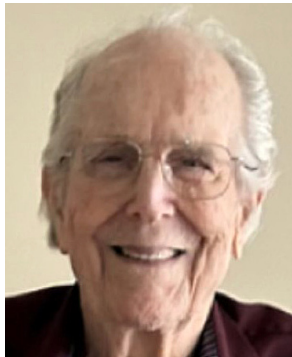
Look for and "Like" the Facebook page - 100+ Women Who Care: Comet Chapter for meeting notices.

If interested, just show up. Your contact information will be collected that night, and you can be part of this committed group of women. The next giving event will be sometime in May.

OBITUARY

Marion Ray Pierce, 93

Marion Ray Pierce, beloved husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather and friend died Feb. 21, 2024, in Tyler, Texas at the age of 93. Known for his infectious sense of humor, Marion's playful spirit left a mark on the hearts of all who had the pleasure of knowing him.



Marion was born on February 9, 1931 in West Liberty, Iowa, where he was raised by his parents, Floyd Pierce and Myrtle Collison Pierce. While attending school he played football and basketball. He married his high school sweetheart, Esther Branson, who was a baton twirler and drum majorette. They were married for 73 years.

He proudly served as an air traffic controller in the Air Force for 8 years, including deployments to Japan and Korea. After he was discharged, he worked for the FAA as an air traffic controller for 36 years in Des Moines, Iowa and Kansas City, Missouri. He eventually became a technician for computerized aviation radar systems. After he retired from the FAA, he worked at the air traffic control training facility in Oklahoma City for 7 years.

Marion and Esther moved to Indianola, Iowa in 1961. He enjoyed gardening, boating, antiquing, reading (especially about Space), and helping his neighbors and friends with their various projects. In 1975 he was the Training Camp

Chairman for the Iowa Shriners football games, which raised money for Shriners Hospitals for Children. He and Esther also travelled around the country in a motorhome for 19 years and then settled in an RV park in Pharr, Texas. They moved to Tyler, Texas in 2014 to be closer to family.

Marion was preceded in death by his parents, Floyd Pierce and Myrtle Collison Pierce, of West Liberty, Iowa; two brothers, Fred and wife Hope of West Liberty, Iowa; and Herb and wife Irene of Dubuque, Iowa; Also a grandson, Ray Maass of Sioux City, Iowa.

He is survived by his wife Esther; his daughters Sheila Bakker of Tyler, Texas; and Melia Huston and husband, Bill, of Johnson City, Texas. Also four grandchildren, Christopher Huston of Syracuse, New York; Daniel Huston and wife Rebecca, of Canberra, Australia; Carl Maass and wife Emily of Oakland, Iowa; and Gerritt Bakker and wife Bianca of Round Rock, Texas. Marion has four great grandchildren; Mason Maass, Sawyer Maass, and Eloise Maass of Oakland, Iowa; and Petra Huston of Canberra, Australia. A memorial service will be held from 2 to 4pm on April 11, at the Meadow Lake senior living apartment complex in Tyler, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children, in Marion's name.

Speedway Fire Rescue QC Annual Awards benefit

It was the Speedway Fire Rescue QC Annual Awards benefit Sunday at El Patio. A huge Thank You to El Patio for the wonderful door and drinks they gave to us. It was phenomenal!

We are grateful for Keele Law Office and Jim Keele for his dedication, hard work, and integrity helping Speedway Fire Rescue QC Inc.



Pic: Left, from front to back
Phyllis Ash, Volunteer
Deputy Chief/EMS Pam Huber- 5 Yrs
Deputy Chief/EMS Tim Huber- 5 Yrs
Fire Rescue/EMS Chris Rock - 1 Yr
Officer Holmes, WLPD
Dispatcher Chase Schiffke- 3 Yrs

Right, from front to back
Chief/EMS Craig Ash- 5 Yrs
Captain/EMS Mitchel Ash- 5 Yrs
Fire Rescue/EMS Nate Bell- 1 Yr
James Keele- Keele Law Offices
Jacinta- Keele Law Offices
Fire Rescue/EMS Dale Dick- 4 Yrs (NOT PICTURED)

4-H Liberty Clover Kids



Front row from left: Joey Woods, Makayla Vrchoticky, Makenzie Feldman, Wyatt Ortiz, Remington Jedlicka, Ila Juergens, Sophie Seele, Bastian Alexander.
Back row from left: Harper Johnson, Lauryn Larson, Rayleigh Reed, Oliver Lampe, Easton McKillip, Taylor Vrchoticky, Ethan Hochstetler, Eve Wertzbaugher.

The 4-H Liberty Clover Kids group met on March 21 at First Church United in West Liberty.

The members participated in activities related to the theme Epic Engineering, as they learned about the engineering design process.

Members had fun building tricky towers using pie plates, cups, and

popsicle sticks. They had quite a challenge creating tetragonal trapezohedron shapes out of paper shaped diamonds.

In the picture the clover kids are holding Bee-Bots. They are small robots that the members had the opportunity to program to follow a path, while learning sequencing and problem-solving skills.

INDEX

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Owner
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The West Liberty Index continues a long tradition of service to West Liberty and the surrounding area. Established in 1868 as the West Liberty Enterprise, and later renamed the West Liberty Index, the Index is a continuing member of the Iowa Newspaper Association and the National Newspaper Association.



Advertising rates available upon request.

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Established in 1868

Brick Street Gallery Presents: West Liberty High School Art

The Brick Street Gallery, located at 104 W. 3rd St. in West Liberty is pleased to once again showcase artwork by the West Liberty High School students.

Opening night will be Friday, March 29, from 4-7 p.m. with light refreshments.

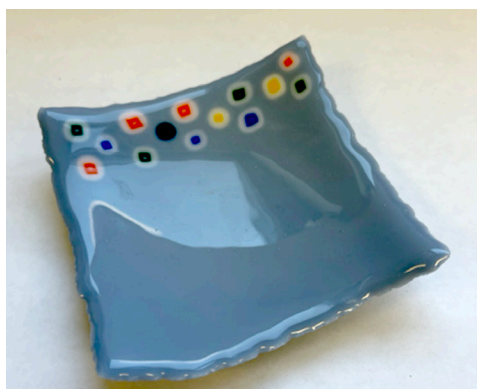
More than 30 students will be displaying works ranging from 3-d ceramics, fused glass, and origami to 2-d printmaking, pen and ink, acrylic on canvas, watercolors, colored pencil, etc.

Students are from all four grades at the high school. Their instructor is Ms. Morgan Forbes.

Works will be on display during most of the month of April and a few works are for sale. Regular hours at the gallery are Tuesday through Friday from 2:30-5 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.



Bowl by Vivian Cardona



Glass Bowl by Shelby Morgan



Painting by Tenley Nixt

Muscatine 4H and FFA rabbit and cavy workshop 2024

The 4H and FFA rabbit and cavy workshop about raising rabbits and cavies will be held at the Muscatine Agriculture Learning Center in Muscatine, Iowa on Sunday April 7, 2024 from 12:30 - 4pm.

This workshop is sponsored by Iowa State University Extension & Outreach 4H, Iowa State Rabbit Breeders, Mississippi Valley Rabbit Breeders, Fred's Feed at West Liberty, Veterinary and Poultry Supply at Blue Grass, Nutrena Nature Wise Feed, Mike Avesing, and Muscatine Agriculture Learning Center.

There is no need to preregister. There is no cost (except for those youth who purchase rabbits or cavies and/or build a carrier and/or purchase rabbit and cavy equipment). Youth from Iowa and other states are encouraged to attend. Youth not enrolled in 4H or FFA may attend.

Speakers will discuss rabbit breeds, cavy breeds, health, equipment, grooming, showing and fair information. Each family participating will receive a free packet of 4H and FFA rabbit and cavy information. Youth will receive free tickets for a huge drawing.

Youth are encouraged to bring their

rabbits and cavies (purebred guinea pigs) and consult with speakers. Examples of rabbit and cavies will be presented and discussed. Purebred rabbits and cavies may be for sale with cash the preferred payment.

A "build your rabbit or cavy carrier" session will be held by Wolfe's Animal Supply. Call to preorder for the correct carrier size by contacting Bill Wolfe at 515-556-5123 or Wolferabbit3@mediacombb.net.

Rabbits can be tattooed. Cavies can be tagged. Youth need to decide on a short name or numbers for each rabbit tattoo. Youth may show their rabbit or cavies in a free "practice" rabbit and cavy show.

All rabbits and cavies showing in the "practice" show are required to be earmarked with a tattoo for a rabbit or an ear tag for a cavy.

BRICK STREET gallery Check out our Facebook Event or website

WLHS Student Art Showcase

Reception with light refreshments
Friday, March 29th
from 4PM-7PM

Over 30 Students will have works on display!

104 W. Third St., West Liberty, IA 319-627-4429
www.brickstreetgallery.org

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UPCOMING EVENTS

High School Art Gallery

March 29, 4-7 p.m.

The Brick Street Gallery, located at 104 W. 3rd St., is pleased to once again showcase artwork by the West Liberty High School students with light refreshments.

More than 30 high school students will be displaying works ranging from 3-d ceramics, fused glass, and origami to 2-d printmaking, pen and ink, acrylic on canvas, watercolors, colored pencil and more.

Good Friday Service

March 29, 7 p.m.

The community is welcome to gather for the annual ecumenical worship service. This year it will be hosted by Our Redeemer Lutheran Church at 116 E Maxson in West Liberty.

Easter Egg Hunt

March 30, 10 a.m.

The West Liberty Sons of the American Legion will hold an Easter Egg Hunt in Kimberly Park for grades Pre-K through Second Grade. 100s of dozens of eggs to hunt with candy and prizes given to the winners.

Easter Service West Liberty

March 31, 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.

First Church United, located at 1100 North Calhoun Street, will offer two services. Between the two services is a time of Easter brunch and fellowship, including an Egg Hunt for the younger children which begins promptly at 9 a.m.

Easter Service Nichols

March 31, 8:45 a.m.

Nichols Christian Church will be holding a Good Friday Service March 29 at 6:30 p.m., then on Easter Sunday they will hold a special service at 8:45 a.m. with a children's service following with regular service. Afterwards a breakfast will be served.

Mental Health Classes

April 4-May 23, 6-8:30 p.m.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) will host a series of classes over eight consecutive Thursdays at First Church United. The free courses provide info, insight, understanding and hope for family members, caregivers and friends of adults with mental illness.

Register online at <https://bit.ly/3OwNgAb> or call 563-385-7447 ext. 266.

Can Drive

April 6, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

The Comet Baseball Club is holding a can drive at Fred's Feed, located at 110 W. Third St. Please no glass bottles.

History of West Liberty

April 7, 2 p.m.

The West Liberty Heritage Foundation presents local historian Bob Cline with Marilyn Henderson, Leta Mae Christensen and moderator Ken Donnelly. They'll be showing historical photos and movies of West Liberty at the WL Community Center. Refreshments served, free will donation.

Happy Birthday Hour

May 16, 4:30 p.m.

The Eulenspiegel Puppet Theater continues to celebrate its 50th anniversary. During its birthday year its offering free events to the community, showcasing Eulenspiegel history with recordings of old performances and sharing of special memories with friends. Happy Hour events are for all ages and will include free refreshments.

**Have an Ad/
Upcoming Event?
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Easter Egg Hunt

**March 30th 2024
10:00 A.M.**

Kimberly Park, West Liberty

**Pre-K • Kindergarten
1st & 2nd Grade**

100's of DOZENS of eggs to hunt with candy and prizes to be given to lucky winners!

Brought to you by the West Liberty Sons of the American Legion with donations from area businesses.

The Comet Baseball Club
is holding a
CAN DRIVE

**Saturday,
April 6th**
at **Fred's Feed**
110 W 3rd St, West Liberty
9am-11am
No Glass Bottles.

**For pick up please contact
Troy Wulf at 319-331-1050**

Reeb rewarded Master Gardener award

Former West Liberty school nurse receives Muscatine County Master Gardener of the Year

By Tim Evans
Index Contributor

Since 2000, the Iowa State University Extension Office has considered Bonnie Reeb a Master Gardener, but it wasn't until this year the 77-year-old nature enthusiast was awarded the first-ever Muscatine County Master Gardener of the Year award on March 16.

Instrumental in helping feed hundreds through the Muscatine Food Pantry annually, Reeb has utilized a unique gardening technique at her church's garden to grow countless fresh vegetables and fruits.

That garden – nearly a quarter acre in size – sits behind the Church of Christ on West Mulberry Street in Muscatine, started with the help of an Iowa State grant.

The retired registered nurse who once was a school nurse in West Liberty and also was a former hospice nurse believes in helping the less fortunate in any way she can.

"I'm a giver," she said. "It gives me pleasure to give to someone else."

But Reeb, who resides in Muscatine, isn't alone in her mission and says even husband Paul, a school bus driver, "does 75 percent of everything." Then there's John Kiwaia, who used to run a truck farm south of Muscatine and has been a kingpin in the gardening mission, in particular with advice, along with Lynn Pruitt of Nichols, who also plays a leadership role and is a firm believer in vertical gardening.

Tending to the garden became tedious for the few gardeners involved until the church started a "volunteer night," inviting anyone and everyone to help plant, weed and pick crops on Monday evenings, something Reeb says has made a lot of difference. "People put their heart and soul into it," she said.

Created about five years ago, the garden grows all types of vegetables and some fruit as well as a patch of flowers. The menu includes a variety of tomatoes, cabbage, green peppers, jalapeños,

rhubarb, green beans, asparagus, melons and more – all going to the food pantry at the MCSA building, where local residents gather twice a week.

The group has been instrumental in getting the most from their acreage by utilizing a rather new method called "vertical gardening," something Reeb discovered about eight years ago at an Iowa State Fair ISU Extension gardens visit and later in a Master Gardener visit in Newton.

The group utilizes trellises and 15-foot farm cattle panels, secured by a few steel poles, to grow things like cucumbers, squash, string beans and some tomatoes, although most are grown vertically anyway thanks to the standard wire cages.

The gardeners are working on creating more raised beds to "save our backs" and Reeb says the garden is "always changing" as they learn new tricks to farm more crops in the same amount of space.

She says there is an advantage of vertical gardening in the fact there are "less insects, less rot and it's simply easier to pick."

The leadership trio typically spends anywhere from two to six hours a week at the garden, depending on what needs to be done.

Reeb said she was "totally surprised" in getting the award, attending an annual all-day Master Gardeners conference at Muscatine Community College that was attended by MG's from at least 10 different counties.

"Oh, my goodness, yes," Reeb said of being surprised by the first-time honor, noting there are "so many others who qualify." Growing up in urban Chicago, where her mom planted a garden on a small patch of soil in the middle of a city block, Reeb said she fell in love with gardening and her mother would share her excess harvest with neighbors, teaching her daughter a valuable lesson in giving.

She said becoming a Master Gardener is a lifetime of learning new skills and



Bonnie Reeb and Connie Foster work inside a trellis growing vegetables vertically for the less fortunate in Muscatine County.

Courtesy Photo

the nearly 30 sessions that day, highlighted by the award presentation, was rewarding. In particular, she liked a segment on how gardening is good for your "body and soul" and is good therapy for the mind.

Reeb says she continually learns from other master gardeners and has friends all over the county and eastern Iowa. She said one thing she learned was that produce at the local grocery stores isn't

nearly the same as home-grown fruits and vegetables, losing nutrition and taste aspects because of shipping and storage time – the reason fresh produce tastes so much better and is better for you.

"Getting outside in the fresh air and working in the soil – there's nothing like it," she said. "And there's nothing like eating your own vegetables."



Bonnie Reeb with Chair Brandy Olsen shortly after receiving her reward. Courtesy Photo



Paul Reeb and Lynn Pruitt show some of last year's harvest from the church garden.

Courtesy Photo

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Holy Week Services

On Good Friday, March 29 at 7 p.m., the community is welcome to gather for the annual ecumenical worship service. This year it will be hosted by Our Redeemer Lutheran Church at 116 E Maxson in West Liberty.

On Easter Sunday, March 31, First Church United will offer two services, one beginning at 8 a.m. and the other at 10 a.m. Between the two services is a time of Easter brunch and fellowship, including an Egg Hunt for the younger children which begins promptly at 9 a.m.

First Church United is located at 1100 North Calhoun Street in West Liberty and offers a relaxed, blended style of worship service. We welcome you and your family to join us for these special services.

Nichols Christian Church will be holding a Good Friday Service March 29 at 6:30 p.m. Meanwhile, an Easter service will be held on March 31 will start at 8:45 a.m. with a children's service following with regular service. Afterwards a breakfast will be served.

COLUMN

Your Capitol Voice

By Bobby Kaufmann

State Representative for District 82, which includes West Liberty, Wilton and Durant



Representative Bobby Kaufmann

This week we took action on two major pieces of legislation – combating illegal immigration and fighting against eminent domain abuse.

Eminent Domain – As a reminder I have floor-managed or had a major role in every eminent domain bill that has either become

law or passed the Iowa House in the last decade. We started nine years ago with a private lake down in Clarke County attempting to condemn dozens of family farms exclusively to line developers' pockets. I managed legislation to stop that.

After that there was the Rock Island Clean Line. It took me four long years, but we finally were able to successfully stop that project from happening. Fast forward to current times and for two years I have been trying to pass legislation fighting the carbon capture pipeline. Each year I have got a bill out of the House only to die in the Senate!

This year we were up against a timeline so I ran the bill out of my Ways and Means committee – giving us an option for passage for rest of Session. I think the bill is excellent public policy for future projects regarding eminent domain. Right now, landowners have to wait for months and years for a determination of public good. A determination of public good by the IUB is the trigger for a company obtaining eminent domain. This expensive process is not fair and causes much stress.

My bill puts the determination of public good at the front end. It gives landowners the absolute right to get that determination on the FRONT end, saving years of heartache and legal fee expenditures. This will would change the fu-

ture of eminent domain cases for the better and give landowners the rights they deserve.

I am fundamentally troubled by pipeline companies, clearly for profit and propped up by a federal tax credit scheme, having rights to force their way onto privately owned land. In eastern Iowa, the pipeline has NOT applied for eminent domain authority yet so the obvious recourse is NOT TO SELL.

Illegal Immigration – The federal government has failed to control our southern border. Illegal immigrants are pouring across the border at a record rate and innocent lives are being taken by fentanyl which is trafficked across an open southern border.

Immigration issues are largely a federal issue but since the problem has grown so large and out-of-control, many states are invoking their 10th Amendment rights and addressing it themselves. I am happy to report that Iowa has joined that list. SF 2340 would allow Iowa law enforcement to arrest illegal immigrants who are in Iowa after previously being denied entry into the United States.

The bill also creates a new crime of illegal reentry into Iowa. This would apply to any undocumented immigrant who has previously been deported or denied admission into Iowa. In most cases this crime would be an aggravated misdemeanor, though it would rise to a felony in certain circumstances and the person must return to the country they came from.

I understand that there are many people who are in the country illegally who came here just to find a better life, but it is indisputable that there are also many gang members, drug dealers, and terrorists coming across our border endangering United States citizens. The bill passed the House with a bipartisan vote and awaits the Governor's signature.

Contact Representative Kaufmann:
E-Mail: Bobby.Kaufmann@legis.iowa.gov
Phone: 563-260-3355
Mail: 1527 330th Street, Wilton IA 52778

COMMUNITY

Dub and Cindy Massey give \$5,000 for Landscaping Infrastructure at the Musc. County Fair Event Center



Dub and Cindy Massey, residents of Nichols and long-time fair supporters, have given \$5,000 for landscaping infrastructure at the new Event Center at the Muscatine County Fair.

There are several landscaping projects that individuals can sponsor and Fair Manager, Kelsey Meyers, said the Masseys' gift is the first step in developing the plan for the outdoor area.

"Beautiful landscaping will tie the building to the rest of our grounds and provide spaces for photo opportunities," said Meyers. "Landscaping is critical in creating inviting outdoor spaces including a large patio, impressive entrance, and outdoor covered bar. We appreciate the gift from Dub and Cindy and their support of landscaping at the event center and around the grounds."

The fair has been a huge part of Dub and Cindy's life. One of six children born to Clarence and Frances Daufeldt, Cindy grew up on a farm south of West Liberty and looked forward to and attended the fair every year.

"We planned for it," said Cindy. "We considered it our family vacation growing up. That tradition continued with our own families when we left home. My brother served on the fair board, I have a daughter and nephew on the fair board, and many of my siblings, nieces, and nephews have donated time and money to the fair. We love it."

Cindy participated in 4-H and the Massey's feel 4-H and FFA are important because they teach lifelong skills. The fair also provides kids and adults with the opportunity to meet people and build friendships from around the county. It's

those friendships that drive the Masseys to attend each day of the fair every July, but also what keeps them involved.

Dub and Cindy are active volunteers, along with many of Cindy's family members. Cindy and her sister, Gloria, are volunteer gardeners for the Floral Hall and Ryan Building area. Cindy is a former Muscatine County Master Gardener, and they have enhanced the landscaping, poured concrete sidewalks, added picnic tables, and more.

Several of the Masseys' children and grandchildren are active in the fair. One daughter, Kelsie Lampe, is a Fair Board member and manages the volunteer staff at the midway pavilion during fair. Their grandchildren also participate by showing livestock and by entering static projects in the 4-H building. Once completed, these projects will be showcased in the new Event Center.

Dub and Cindy feel that landscaping is important at the new event center. The Muscatine County fairgrounds campus is unique in its historic architecture and extensive landscaping. They want to make sure that is continued to the new Event Center.


Dub and Cindy have six children between the two of them, Kelsie Lampe (Aeneas Schmitz), Dustin (Shonna) Lampe, and Maggie (Brian) Arnold, Melissa (Jason) Verplaetse, Nicole (Brandon) Lafever, and Kayla (Lance) Bull. The couple also have 15 grandchildren.

If you are interesting in sponsoring an area of the project, please contact Kelsey Meyers at the Muscatine County Fair Office at muscatinecountyfair@gmail.com or at 319-627-2414.




Upcoming Special Sections

March 28	Country Connection	
April 11	Spring Car Care	
April 11	Spring Car Care	
April 25	Spring Home Improvement	




NAMI
National Alliance on Mental Illness



NREPP
National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices

Family-to-Family

A Free Peer Education Program




NAMI Family-to-Family is free course for family members, caregivers and friends of an adult loved one living with a mental health condition.

This education program provides information, insight, understanding and hope.

April 4 through May 23
(8 Consecutive Thursdays)
6 to 8:30 p.m.

First Church United
1100 North Calhoun St, West Liberty, IA.

Register Today!
Online: <https://bit.ly/30wNgAb>
Or Call NAMI 563-386-7477 ext. 266



LIBRARY: Make sure you have a library card today!

Continued from page 1A

on over to the library with their teachers and sits for a story read by a local celebrity," Paarsmith explained. Local celebrities include people like City Manager Geertz, Police Chief Houser and Mayor Smith.

"I think the biggest hit was probably Adam from the Public Works Department," Paarsmith said, "Because he brought all of the large equipment. It was very popular."

The WLPL has also been participating in a program that brings social workers into the library. Several area libraries were chosen to participate in training activities and assessments.

"It was determined that our library wouldn't necessarily benefit directly from having a social worker present on staff," Paarsmith said, "However, our community does need

more social work presence in general."

The Book and Bake sales have raised a couple thousand dollars during the last year, and other fundraisers included the Picnic in the Park and RAGBRAI.

Library funding is always a concern,

One concern she has is the fact that staff must assume that something ornery is happening when they can't see, and this leads to trust and communication problems.

Removing blind spots will help foster a healthier environment for everyone.

Our historic public library is a valuable resource, and the most important thing locals can do to support the library is to get a library card and then, maybe use it.

and several bills have been introduced into the Iowa legislature that may impact library funding and board organization. Additionally, the price of books and other materials are going up.

The WLPL has also conducted an assessment of space utilization. A close look at the physical organization of the library revealed a number of problem areas where improvement is needed.

"There are a lot of blind corners in the library that leads to a certain amount of shenanigans happening," explained Director Paarsmith.

"It creates a kind of tension that's not very conducive to being an open and welcoming space," Paarsmith said.

The new floor plans include very few changes to the exterior of the structure itself, but the interior changes will be fairly dramatic.

The main desk will move to the center, spaces will be opened up throughout the building, and offices will be moved to more practical locations.

More study room spaces will be added, and the south stairs will be opened to the public. The library is working

with architect Tara Goldsberry to complete the renovations.

The library board elected new officers. The new president of the library board will be Sam Morel. Vice president will be Hannah Chesemore-Potts. The new secretary will be Brianna Harvey.

The library's biggest obstacle might just be public awareness.

"I find that our community doesn't know what we have to offer," Paarsmith said, "And we're not the first thing on people's minds when they think of an information need."

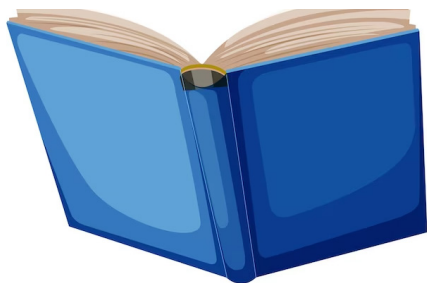
Our historic public library is a valuable resource, and the most important thing locals can do to support the library is to get a library card and then, maybe use it.

If your child often visits the library after school, sign them up for a card. A parent's signature is required for a child to get a library card, so make sure your kid has theirs.

The West Liberty Public Library is open Sunday through Friday, closed on Saturdays. Donations are always welcome, either in the form of money or donations of good, used books for their book sales.

And for those who really want to be helpful, Director Allie Paarsmith has one very important request.

"Come in," Paarsmith asks, "And use the library."



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New report sparks questions and controversy over possible causes for Iowa 'cancer crisis'

By Keith Schneider
Iowa Capital Dispatch

Amid increasing scrutiny of a potential link between Iowa farm chemicals and cancer, a new report is generating controversy as it blames rising cancer rates not on the toxins used widely throughout the state, but on something else entirely: binge alcohol consumption.

The Iowa Cancer Registry, a health research group housed at the University of Iowa, reported on Feb. 20 that Iowa has the second-highest and fastest-rising incidence of cancer among all states. An estimated 21,000 new cancer cases are expected to develop this year and 6,100 Iowans will die from cancer, Iowa Cancer Registry Director Mary Charlton said in announcing the new report.

Iowa, she said, has the highest rate of binge drinking in the Midwest with 22% of residents reporting binge drinking, more than the national average of 17%. Overall, Iowa has the 4th highest incidence of alcohol-related cancers in the U.S., according to the report.

"Alcohol is a known carcinogen and a risk factor for several cancers including oral cavity, pharynx, larynx, esophagus, rectum, liver, and female breast cancers," Charlton said in a news conference.

The assessment has drawn questions and sparked doubts, however, from state leaders and health and environment researchers who have been calling for a probe into just how much the state's agricultural industry may be contributing to the spread of disease.

"Is alcohol responsible for the increase in cancer incidence here since 2014? I personally doubt that," said James Merchant, a retired professor of occupational and environmental health, and former dean of the University of Iowa College of Public Health.

"What needs to be looked at are things that are probable or possible carcinogens that have increased beginning about 1990, because of the well-recognized latency of environmental cancers," Merchant said. "Those carcinogens associated with industrial agriculture are the ones that really need to be looked at very closely."

Pesticides and fertilizers

Iowa is the leading U.S. corn and soybean growing state, with millions of acres devoted to the crops. Corn and soybean farmers typically make heavy use of pesticides and fertilizers on their fields. Iowa farms use more weed

killers (237 million pounds) and apply more commercial fertilizer (11.6 billion pounds) every year than any other state, according to state and federal data. The chemicals are known to contaminate both soil and water and leave pesticide residue in the harvested grains.

Researchers have long suspected that exposure to a number of the most popular pesticides, particularly glyphosate

brain, and prostate cancer.

Iowa's sprawling livestock and poultry sector is also a concern. The Iowa operations produce more animal manure (54.5 million tons) every year than any other state, according to federal and state data. Since 1992, for instance, the state's hog population has grown to 24 million hogs, up more than 70%.

Iowa's manure production in total

and rivers, contaminating water sources.

Babies can suffer severe health problems when consuming nitrates in drinking water, and a growing body of literature indicates potential associations that include an increased risk of cancer. And exposure to elevated levels of nitrates in drinking water from commercial fertilizer and manure has been linked by numerous researchers to cancers of the blood, brain, breast, bladder and ovaries.

David Cwiertny, professor of civil and environmental engineering and director of the Center for Health Effects of Environmental Contamination at the University of Iowa, recently started working with the Cancer Registry to explore potential environmental factors contributing to Iowa's cancer rates. He noted that multiple risk factors could be contributing to the problem in Iowa, including nitrate exposure. Research studies show that's especially the case with colorectal cancer — ranked 8th in incidence among all states — and breast cancer, ranked 9th.

"We're unique in terms of our production system here. Unrivaled anywhere in the world, right?" said Cwiertny. "We're proud to boast about that. But we shouldn't be so foolish as to think that the unrivaled scale of production doesn't

The Iowa Cancer Registry, a health research group housed at the University of Iowa, reported on Feb. 20 that Iowa has the second-highest and fastest-rising incidence of cancer among all states.

(the active ingredient in the Roundup brand of herbicide), may cause human cancers. In 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified glyphosate as "probably carcinogenic" to humans. Other studies have found that exposure to other common pesticides are associated with cases of non-Hodgkin lymphoma, leukemia,

has increased almost 80% since 2002, according to the latest U.S. Agriculture Census. The manure from the animals contributes to the creation of nitrates, which form when nitrogen from fertilizer and manure combine with oxygen. The waste streams routinely drain from farm fields into groundwater, streams,

CANCER, continued on page 10A

West Liberty Heritage Foundation Presents

Local Historian Bob Cline with special guests Marilyn Henderson and Leta Mae Christensen Moderator Ken Donnelly

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING -- PROPOSED BUDGET
Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

City of: NICHOLS

The City Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Budget at: Nichols City Hall Meeting Date: 4/10/2024 Meeting Time: 07:00 PM
At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of revenues and expenditures on file with the City Clerk and County Auditor.
City budgets are subject to protest. If protest petition requirements are met, the State Appeal Board will hold a local hearing. For more information, consult <https://dom.iowa.gov/local-budget-appeals>.

The Budget Estimate Summary of proposed receipts and expenditures is shown below. Copies of the the detailed proposed Budget may be obtained or viewed at the offices of the Mayor, City Clerk, and at the Library.

The estimated Total tax levy rate per \$1000 valuation on regular property				8.10000
The estimated tax levy rate per \$1000 valuation on Agricultural land is				3.00375
At the public hearing, any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget.				
Phone Number (319) 723-4424				City Clerk/Finance Officer's NAME Aeneas Schmitz
		Budget FY 2025	Re-estimated FY 2024	Actual FY 2023
Revenues & Other Financing Sources				
Taxes Levied on Property	1	66,569	80,021	71,598
Less: Uncollected Property Taxes-Levy Year	2	0	0	0
Net Current Property Taxes	3	66,569	80,021	71,598
Delinquent Property Taxes	4	0	0	0
TIF Revenues	5	0	0	0
Other City Taxes	6	46,821	45,000	51,186
Licenses & Permits	7	400	400	458
Use of Money and Property	8	20,000	20,000	15,719
Intergovernmental	9	62,500	62,500	101,662
Charges for Fees & Service	10	80,000	80,000	105,047
Special Assessments	11	0	0	3,874
Miscellaneous	12	0	0	143
Other Financing Sources	13	0	0	0
Transfers In	14	45,000	45,000	91,559
Total Revenues and Other Sources	15	321,290	332,921	441,246
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses				
Public Safety	16	68,500	68,500	51,565
Public Works	17	97,000	91,000	84,133
Health and Social Services	18	1,500	1,500	1,500
Culture and Recreation	19	8,960	8,000	8,128
Community and Economic Development	20	0	0	0
General Government	21	56,600	51,600	56,784
Debt Service	22	0	0	0
Capital Projects	23	0	0	79,749
Total Government Activities Expenditures	24	232,560	220,600	281,859
Business Type / Enterprises	25	40,000	40,000	16,882
Total ALL Expenditures	26	272,560	260,600	298,741
Transfers Out	27	45,000	45,000	91,559
Total ALL Expenditures/Transfers Out	28	317,560	305,600	390,300
Excess Revenues & Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures/Transfers Out	29	3,730	27,321	50,946
Beginning Fund Balance July 1	30	1,225,582	1,198,261	1,147,315
Ending Fund Balance June 30	31	1,229,312	1,225,582	1,198,261

HOUSE: Nursing home to family home

Continued from page 1A

“The Newcombs took such good care of it,” Ethan Anderson said, “and we feel privileged to be the next owners.”

They made a number of updates, the most extensive of which was rewiring the entire house.

“It was a treat,” Ethan Anderson said, “because it did get totally rewired, so we got to say ‘here’s what we want.’”

Much of the original woodwork remains, and the art deco style of the home, built in 1915, has been mimicked in the new wallpaper in the foyer, a complicated geometric pattern installed by Davella Santiago of Muscatine.

The wooden floors and built-in cabinetry have been lovingly maintained over the last 100-plus years.

The kitchen is the area that saw the most modernization, and yet the style fits in well with the flow of the house.

The herringbone pattern of the white wall tiles suits the art deco theme of the entryway and the wood and glass cabinets of the dining room. The backsplash

behind the kitchen sink is very special and traveled a long way to get there.

“This, we brought it back in our carry-on bag from Morocco,” Bethany Anderson said, gesturing toward the colorful ceramic tiles, “so it’s really special.”

The bag was so heavy with dozens of tiles that Bethany couldn’t lift it to stuff it into the overhead compartment.

“Ethan had to lift it,” she said with a laugh. They were in Morocco just before the pandemic began in 2020, and at that time they did not know what they were going to do with the tiles, they only knew that someday they would be glad to have them.

Renovations to the upstairs and basement have been minimal and were mainly limited to rewiring and painting. The paint colors are bright and fun but also cozy and sweet, and the art on the walls tells the story of a happy family growing together in a loving home.

And what better backyard for a growing family than a view of Kimberly Park? Real estate is all about location, location, location, and this home has it!

The Anderson home is adjacent to the park and half a block from West Liberty Middle School, where their oldest, Lilliana, is a star student and musician.

All up and down the street are neighbors who are glad to see the old homes on their street restored and enjoyed for all their beauty.

“It’s really nice to see people taking care of their old homes when they can,” said neighbor Chris Martin, who attended the open house on Friday night. Martin also owns an older home on Calhoun and has been gradually updating as well.

As a final touch, the Andersons recently installed a landline and an old-fashioned phone chair with an attached table for their rotary phone.

If the power goes out and the cell towers fall, as happened during Derecho 2020, the phone in the Andersons’ foyer will still ring.

And the number is very special to them, because



715 N. Calhoun used to be a nursing home and now houses a family.

Photo by Stephanie Vallez

the last four digits mean a lot to them both. Ethan explained his thought process when choosing their new phone number, which is similar to Bethany’s childhood number.

“Bethany will be happy because that was her phone number,” Ethan said, “and I’ll be happy because that’s the number I used to call to talk to my best friend.”



Ethan and Bethany Anderson held an open house to share their renovations.

Photo by Stephanie Vallez



Moroccan tiles adorn the backsplash in the remodeled kitchen.

Photo by Stephanie Vallez



Lilliana Anderson, 7th Grade, enjoys the view from her living room window.

Photo by Stephanie Vallez

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CANCER: Alcohol known risk factor for certain cancers

Continued from page 7A

come with very unique consequences or challenges for our state, right?”

The new registry findings focusing on alcohol consumption and not agricultural chemicals come as public interest in cancer has swelled across the Corn Belt. Legislation to invest more state funds in research that identifies environmental sources of cancer has been introduced in Iowa, as well as Nebraska.

In Minnesota, legislators are proposing to introduce a sales tax on commercial fertilizer to pay for closing drinking wells contaminated with nitrates and supplying thousands of southeast Minnesota residents with clean sources of water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ordered Minnesota to halt nitrate contamination in groundwater last November.

Drinking and disease

Alcohol consumption is a known risk factor for certain cancers. Nearly 4% of cancers diagnosed worldwide in 2020 can be attributed to alcohol consumption, according to the World Health Organization. In the United States alone, about 75,000 cancer cases and 19,000 cancer deaths are estimated to be linked to alcohol each year. Alcoholic drinks contain ethanol, which is a known carcinogen, according to the National Cancer Institute.

And yet, linking alcohol to rising cancer rates in Iowa seems questionable given some of the data points. Iowa's per capita consumption of alcohol ranks 24th in the nation, according to Statista, a data research service. Drinking habits in Iowa do not appear to have changed dramatically in the last few decades. Though about a fifth of those who drink alcohol in Iowa identify as binge drinkers — five drinks at a sitting for men, four for women — Iowa's binge drinkers don't appear to be drinking more heavily now than years ago. On average, Iowa's binge drinkers consumed 586 drinks a

year in 2017, the latest year for data, six more than in 2011. Iowa was one of the 39 states where binge drinking “did not change significantly during that period,” according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Nationally, rates of alcohol consumption and cancer have diverged. Per capita consumption of alcohol in the U.S. increased to 2.51 gallons annually in 2021, 17% more than in 1999, according to federal figures. But the national rate of cancer incidence declined 16% during that period, according to the CDC.

Iowa's increase in cancer incidence appears to have started around 2012, according to the CDC and the Iowa Cancer Registry. That rise in incidence occurs about 20 years — the scientifically accepted cancer latency period — after the start of Iowa's rapid industrialization in farming.

“Having a high cancer rate doesn't immediately translate to its being caused by industrial agriculture. Although I think there is just a strong reason to look very hard in that direction,” said Merchant. “They want to be very, very sure of the ground they stand on given the power politics in this state. Everybody understands that. My view is that shouldn't keep you from asking the question. And those questions need to be asked.”

A 'cancer crisis'

Public confirmation last year of Iowa's high cancer incidence also converged with what most adult Iowans already knew in private. Cancer is everywhere in Iowa. Among the 25 counties in the U.S. with the highest incidence of cancer, Iowa's Palo Alto County ranks second. Roughly 21,000 Iowans now develop cancer in Iowa annually, according to the Iowa Cancer Registry. That's more than twice as many cancers as occurred in 1973 in a state where the current population — 3.2 million — is a mere 11% higher than it was 50 years ago.

Democrats in the state House and Sen-

ate proposed legislation this year to increase funding for health studies aimed at definitively identifying the sources of malignancies.

“We need to make this statement, given the rising cancer rates here and our number two rate in the country,” said state Sen. Janice Weiner, who proposed a bill in January to invest \$5.25 million for research on pediatric and other can-

cers to stem what she called “Iowa's cancer crisis.”

“I have colleagues on the House side who have filed similar legislation that has bipartisan support,” she said. “So I'm hoping it will move forward. We have a serious problem in Iowa. We owe it to Iowans not to whitewash anything — but to approach it scientifically and get to the bottom of this, wherever research and clinical tests lead us.”

Charlton did not respond to an interview request for this article.

SCHOOL: Bridging the gap between high school and college

Continued from page 1A

Arthur-Miller uses this data as a tool for “talking to them about the importance of being here, the importance of being on time, and this is the result of that.”

During the first trimester, 97 percent of students were passing all their classes. That number increased to 98 percent during the second trimester.

Across the entire high school, the 372 students are earning an average GPA of 3.2, which is pretty impressive.

First period is still an area where growth should occur, and students have a hard time being on time for school at 8:15. Arthur-Miller says this is pretty common among American high schools.

Arthur-Miller then talked about Teacher Education for Equity through Partnerships, or TEEP.

“The University of Iowa is partnering with us and some other schools in this TEEP grant,” Arthur-Miller said. “It's a federal grant for five years, and the idea behind it is really to build our own future workforce.”

One part is to create a club for potential future educators in our schools. The high school is currently looking at beginning that club.

There may be opportunities to spend time in an elementary classroom learning from a real teacher. The students would also have a chance to visit the University and sit in on an education class.

Concurrent Enrollment Offerings were also reviewed. Stephanie Ramsey, one of the high school counselors, and Sara Schnepper, shared how they advise students to plan for their futures through dual enrollment with MCC, college application assistance and connecting students with scholarships.

Students also have several ways to earn college credit through their high school classes.

The board discussed the new position of Director of Teaching and Learning.

Superintendent Kruger explained:

“Melody Russell is an Instructional Coach at the middle school,” Kruger began, “she's retiring.”

Kruger then examined Russell's many duties and the many programs she leads and resources she lines up. The district has decided to enhance that role, since Russell is already performing most of the usual duties of a Director of Teaching and Learning.

Not to mention that there would be no point trying to replace the instructional coach, as Russell is clearly irreplaceable.

Business manager Abby Ortiz presented the FY 2025 budget discussion. The percentage of Supplemental State Aid is unknown, but Ortiz used 3 percent as her baseline and also ran the numbers for 2.5 percent.

When the SSA is known, adjustments will be made. Public hearings are scheduled for April 1 and April 15.

Director Ed Moreno talked about the WLCSD Board Guiding Principles Resolution.

“I'd like to propose that the WLCSD board look at this resolution,” Moreno said. He then looked at the WLCSD Mission Statement and the Vision Statement before adding a new declaration.

“I'd like to assert that we acknowledge and promote the positive contributions and value of our uniquely diverse community, and that we pledge to continue to empower our students and their families through our policies and practices, along with the West Liberty community. And our commitment is to better communicate with our state legislators to understand and recognize the value of our school district in their deliberation for the State of Iowa through sharing a positive and accurate narrative,” Moreno read.

The board intends to share this statement with the Communication Committee to help get the attention of Iowa's political leaders.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on Monday, April 1 at 6 p.m. in the Boardroom.



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POLICE REPORT

March 18

01:27 am Suspect on 1009 N Elm Street
 01:58 am Parking Problem E 14th Street and Crees Street
 01:13 pm Traffic Stop Garfield Avenue and E Rainbow
 06:56 pm Animal on 409 N Calhoun Street

March 19

02:40 am Parking Problem 100 E 7th Street
 04:47 am Traffic stop 200 Block of E 1st Street
 10:10 am Vehicle fire on W 7th Street and N Elm Street
 01:36 pm Welfare check 815 N Columbus Street
 03:13 pm Domestic at 504 E 3rd Street
 03:30 pm Medical call at 1107 N Miller Street
 06:58 pm Noise disturbance 1006 N Columbus Street
 07:15 pm assisted a motorist in the 1000 block of N Calhoun Street
 09:03 pm Threats made 306 N Miller Street

11:32 pm Reckless driving 150th Street and Hwy 38

March 20

02:22 am Extra patrol 500 block of E 5th Street
 08:10 am Vehicle inspection 409 N Calhoun Street
 10:02 am Traffic stop W 5th Street and N Elm Street
 05:57 pm Follow up at 409 N Calhoun Street
 06:18 pm Traffic stop at 137th Street and Pen Avenue
 09:10 pm Suspect at 305 W Rainbow Drive
 09:28 pm Traffic stop at W 3rd Street W Prairie Street

March 21

08:19 am Vehicle inspection at 409 N Calhoun Street
 09:55 am Vehicle unlock at 202 W Maxson Avenue
 10:03 am Vehicle inspection at 409 N Calhoun Street
 10:24 am Vehicle inspection at 409 N

Calhoun Street

11:22 am Child Abuse 1051 Dean Avenue
 03:58 pm Traffic stop at 1051 Garfield Avenue
 04:17 pm Traffic stop at Garfield Avenue and Gregg Lane
 04:22 pm Accident 507 East Street
 09:32 pm Traffic stop at E 3rd Street and N Calhoun Street
 10:48 pm Suspect at 1207 N Columbus Street

March 22

11:11 pm Parking Problem at 100 block of N Spencer Street
 11:55 am Traffic stop E 3rd Street and N Miller Street
 03:09 pm Extra Patrol 203 E 7th Street
 03:31 pm Accident 1000 block of N Columbus Street
 05:02 pm Pursuit on 520th East Bound Johnson
 06:30 pm Gas Drive off 1006 N Columbus Street
 07:05 pm Vehicle unlock 402 W 15th Street

08:14 pm Parking Problem 100 block of E Maxson Avenue

March 23

11:00 am Road Hazard Hwy 6 and Kelly Avenue
 12:55 am Property found 208 E 6th Street WLPD
 08:54 pm Traffic stop E 2nd Street and N Columbus Street
 10:19 pm Business check 1009 N Elm Street
 10:22 pm Intoxicated Driver N Columbus Street and Garfield
 11:53 pm Business check 1009 N Elm Street

March 24

02:17 pm Assisted motorist E 3rd Street and N Columbus Street
 04:25 pm Traffic stop 100 block E 3rd Street
 07:04 pm Welfare check N Short Street and N Walnut Street
 March 25
 08:02 am Vehicle inspection 409 N Calhoun Street

Iowa House passes child care bills regarding teen workers, aid for caregivers

By Robin Opsahl

Iowa Capital Dispatch

The Iowa House passed legislation Monday that would allow 16- and 17-year-old child care employees to work unsupervised during certain periods.

Lawmakers also advanced a bill raising rates for child care providers under the state assistance program and making them eligible for aid to afford care for their own children.

House lawmakers amended House File 319, a bill originally dealing with physical examination requirements for child care workers, to include a measure allowing employees who are minors to work without adult supervision for “flex care” options.

Rep. Joel Fry, R-Osceola, said the measure would primarily allow workers under age 18 to assist without adult workers present “to assist during naptime and five minute breaks” for children younger than 5 — something currently not allowed in Iowa law.

The amendment incorporates language from a bill that failed to advance before the “funnel” deadline earlier this year. Supporters argue that the provision will help alleviate problems with staffing shortages at child care facilities.

Rep. Austin Baeth, D-Des Moines, said that as the parent of two young children, he does not believe “we should be patching that shortage with unsafe solutions.” He said “flex care” is not limited by the rules of the Department of Health and Human Services to only five-minute pe-

riods, and also said he was concerned about the “nap time” supervision allowances.

“What can happen during a nap time when you have a child watching four little infants? A lot,” Baeth said. “I had a kid get super sick in the middle of nap-time. I don’t know if I feel so safe with the 16-year-old unsupervised, trying to figure that out and then watching all the other kids.”

He called for the Legislature to instead consider options recommended by the governor’s child care task force, which recommended measures such as rehabilitating vacant schools as child care centers and having child care centers be taxed as residential rather than commercial properties. The property tax proposal was originally included in Gov. Kim Reynolds’ income tax bill, but was separated out as Senate Study Bill 3181. The bill has not yet received a sub-committee meeting.

Bill would increase child care rates, eligibility for providers

The House also passed House File 2658 Monday with a 92-1 vote.

The measure would require DHHS to increase half-day reimbursement rates for the state child care assistance program for providers from the 65th to 80th percentile, based on the 2023 market rate surveys of child care costs.

The bill also extends Iowa’s child care workforce pilot program to June 30, 2025, that allows for full-time child care work-

ers to be eligible for the child care assistance program even if they are above the program’s income threshold. Rep. Ann Meyer, R-Fort Dodge, said the reimbursement rate increase will cost \$15 million and the pilot program extension will cost \$10.2 million, both financed using the state’s Child Care Development Fund.

Meyer said the pilot program on extending child care assistance to workers in the field has been successful in retaining child care workers in the state.

“Just some interesting data on the pilot program: 92% of the participants in the pilot were already employed by child care, but 99% of those were retained — 37% in the pilot would leave child care if this was not available,” Meyer said. “So it’s proven to be a good retention tool.”

Rep. Tracy Ehlert, D-Cedar Rapids, also praised the pilot program, and asked lawmakers to consider further measures to help incentivize workers in the field.

“In my early childhood educator, professional capacity and talking to (providers), many are very appreciative of the pilot program,” Ehlert said. “But in some, they’re wanting to know well, what can we offer our providers that don’t need the child care? So maybe moving forward, we can think of how we can benefit the ones that no longer need child care, either maybe their children have aged out, or they don’t have children, and how we can retain those professionals as well.”

Both bills head to the Senate for further consideration.

Topsoil, stormwater rules sent to governor's desk

The Iowa Senate on Monday sent a bill to the governor’s desk restricting stormwater and topsoil regulations, a measure Democrats say unfairly limits local control.

The Senate approved Senate File 455 on a 29-18 vote. The bill would ban local regulations that are more restrictive than state and federal guidelines on stormwater runoff and topsoil preservation, compaction, placement or depth.

Runoff regulations would be required to be at or less restrictive than those based on flow rates calculated using return frequencies of five years, and topsoil rules would have to stay at or below requirements set by the Department of Natural Resources and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.

The House passed the bill earlier in March after an initial failed attempt, amending it to allow local governments to breach these regulatory limits if the city or county pays for any increased development costs that arise from the higher standards.

During the Senate floor debate, Sen. Mike Bousset, R-Ankeny, said the bill

addresses higher housing costs in Iowa and the need for affordable housing.

“We have an opportunity today to address an area that is a cost driver — a regulation, that drives up the cost on a per-house basis for working Iowans, Iowans who want to stay in small communities, who want to stay in Clear Lake, want to stay in Algona,” Bousset said.

But Sen. Janice Weiner, D-Iowa City, said the measure will hurt Iowa homeowners and community members — as the cost of higher restrictions would likely be financed through local taxes.

“I see this bill as not being about affordable housing, which some may talk about,” Weiner said. “I don’t think that the cost per lot ... to require more restrictions is that great. And if we want to figure out another way to pass along that cost, let’s leave that up to the communities to let them decide. What I care about is the fact that we, the Legislature, are going to be passing these costs on to ordinary citizens, homeowners, your friends and neighbors, because they’re the ones who will ultimately pay now.”

- Iowa Capital Dispatch



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LEGAL NOTICES

the amount of \$377,546.57. Ayes: All.

A Public Hearing was called to order by Chairperson Jeff Sorensen at 9:01 A.M. on the proposed amendments to the Fiscal Year 23/24 Muscatine County Budget. Budget Administrator Kala Naber stated the proposed amendments are to decrease expenditures and increase revenues with an overall net increase of \$1,501,434.00. Naber reviewed the larger budget proposed amendments by service area. Naber stated Service Area 1-Public Safety & Legal Services adjustments are to repurpose the budget for full-time salaried nurses (for the jail) with part-time contracted nurses, which allows for a reduction in benefits. Naber stated an increase in funds for Jail Food and Provisions and an increase in Court Services Juvenile Detention. Service Area 3-Physical Health & Social Services has received grant funding since the budget was finalized. Service Area 6-County Environment & Education has a close out of FEMA Buyout Program and CDBG Buyout Program and in addition the Conservation Department is requesting funds for an additional mower. Naber stated Outside Agencies and Libraries budget adjustments are for funds that were requested but not allocated. Naber stated the funds were returned to the State Economic Revolving Loan grant which were repurposed to the City of Muscatine for a Neighborhood Revitalization grant. Service Area 8-Government Services to Residents has adjustments for election workers with funds used from Area 9-Auditor salary budgeted funds. Service Area 9-Administration has an increase for liability insurance premiums as there is an anticipated 40% increase in renewal premiums. Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber stated in addition to the anticipated 40% premium increase, the liability insurance cycle renews on December 6th of each year, however the insurance renewal premium cycle has been changed for this fiscal year to December 6, 2023 through June 30, 2024, to align with the fiscal year. Schreiber stated the proposed budget amendment allows for the annual renewal cycle change to July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 (and for future renewals) to align with the fiscal year. Naber stated Capital Project amendments are for a grant to replace hot water heaters at the jail. Naber stated ARPA projects show reduced expenditures for secondary roads completed projects (that crossed over fiscal years); revenue interest revenue received and ARPA project reimbursements. Naber stated overall the amendments reduces expenditures by \$183,798 and increases revenue \$1,317,636. No one spoke for or against the proposed amendments.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Mather, the public hearing was closed at 9:05 A.M. Roll call vote. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, the Board approved Resolution #03-18-24-01 Amending the Fiscal Year 23/24 Budget. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: All.

RESOLUTION #03-18-24-01

AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2023/24 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has held a Public Hearing pursuant to Chapter 331, Code of Iowa, to amend the Fiscal Year 2023/24 County Budget; and

WHEREAS, the explanation is decreased expenditures and increased revenues during the current fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, after consideration of all comments at said hearing, the Board of Supervisors has determined that it will be necessary to amend the Fiscal Year 2023/24 budget; and

WHEREAS, the amendment does not increase the taxes to be collected in the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024;

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the following service area expenditures and revenues of the Fiscal Year 2023/24 County Budget be amended:

PUBLIC SAFETY & LEGAL SERVICES expenditures decreased by	(\$21,246)
PHYSICAL HLTH & SOCIAL SERVICES expenditures increased by	\$89,208
COUNTY ENVIRONMENT expenditures decreased by	(\$156,163)
ROADS & TRANSPORTATION expenditures increased by	\$0
GOV'T SERVICES TO RESIDENTS expenditures increased by	\$25,600
ADMINISTRATION expenditures increased by	\$477,600
NONPROGRAM expenditures increased by	\$0
CAPITAL PROJECTS expenditures decreased by	(\$600,542)
DEBT SERVICE expenditures increased by	\$1,745
	(\$183,798)
INTERGOVERNMENTAL revenues increased by	\$12,636
LICENSES & PERMITS revenues increased by	\$0
CHARGES FOR SERVICES revenues increased by	\$0
USE OF MONEY & PROPERTY revenues increased by	\$1,280,000
MISCELLANEOUS revenues increased by	\$25,000
LONG TERM DEBT PROCEEDS increased by	\$0
PROCEEDS OF FIXED ASSET SALES increased by	\$0
	\$1,317,636

PASSED AND APPROVED this 18th day of March, 2024.

ATTEST:
/s/Tibe Vander Linden
Muscatine County Auditor

/s/Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson
Muscatine County Board of Supervisors

On a motion by Mather, second by Kirchner, the Board approved Resolution #03-18-24-02 Fiscal Year 23/24 Budget Appropriations. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

RESOLUTION # 03-18-24-02

FY 2023/24 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

WHEREAS, a public hearing has been held pursuant to Section 331.434(6), Code of Iowa, regarding proposed increases and decreases in expenditure amounts for Fiscal Year 2023/24; and

WHEREAS, the amendment does not increase the taxes to be collected in the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, all comments from the public have been heard;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following amounts be appropriated as follows:

01 Board/Administration	0
02 Auditor	(12,300)
03 Treasurer	0
04 Attorney	0
05 Sheriff	11,376
06 Jail	(80,900)
07 Recorder	0
20 Engineer	0
22 Conservation Board	37,309
24 DHS	0

25 Community Services	1,400
28 Medical Examiner	0
30 Court Services	65,000
31 Board of Health	67,808
51 General Services	6,000
52 Information Services	16,500
53 Zoning	(25,222)
60 Mental Health Administration	0
99 Nondepartmental with Transfers	(270,769)
	(\$183,798)

It is further resolved that all appropriations made pursuant to this RESOLUTION lapse at the close of business on June 30, 2024.

PASSED and approved this 18th day of March, 2024.

ATTEST:
/s/Tibe Vander Linden
Muscatine County Auditor

/s/Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson
Muscatine County Board of Supervisors

On a motion by Chick, second by Mather, the Board approved Resolution #03-18-24-03 Transferring Funds from the General Basic Fund to the Conservation Equipment Reserve Fund. Ayes: All.

RESOLUTION # 03-18-24-03
TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL BASIC FUND TO THE CONSERVATION EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND

WHEREAS, it is desired to authorize the Auditor to transfer additional funding from the General Basic Fund to the Conservation Equipment Reserve Fund for the purchase of a mower; and

WHEREAS, said transfers must be in accordance with Section 331.429 and 331.432 of the Code of Iowa.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors that the Auditor is authorized to transfer \$3,425 from the General Basic Fund to the Conservation Equipment Reserve Fund.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 18th day of March, 2024.

ATTEST:
/s/Tibe Vander Linden
Muscatine County Auditor

/s/Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson
Muscatine County Board of Supervisors

On a motion by Chick, second by Kirchner, the Board approved a Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau (GTSB) LE Highway Safety Grant application in the amount of \$63,644.00. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Kirchner, the Board approved the following utility permit: Eastern Iowa Light and Power, Wilton, Iowa - span 7,200V overhead electrical wire from an existing pole on the north to a new pole on the southside of the road at 3182 150th Street, Sweetland Township in Section 34, T78N-R1W. Ayes: All.

County Engineer Bryan Horesowsky stated he attended a Region 9 Transportation Technical Committee meeting last week. Horesowsky stated the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STGB) grant funding applications have been opened up for an additional round of grants for FY27/28 projects. Horesowsky stated the application review may take a several months.

On a motion by Chick, second by Kirchner, the Board approved the minutes of the March 11, 2024, regular meeting. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:
Mather had discussions with legislators regarding bills proposed for power generation and energy regulation.

Mather met with a group of citizens with their concern regarding nuclear power plants and concerns of increased electric rates.

Mather, Chick and Kirchner received a call from Diane Glenley stating her energy grid concerns.

All Supervisors received an email from Kayla Carlsten thanking the Board for a zoning change and questions on opioid settlement funds.

Sorensen received an email from Energy Champion regarding a public meeting to be held at Muscatine Community College with a speaker from Crawford Company regarding heat pumps.

Sorensen received a call from Dan Freeman stating his support for an additional staff employee in the Auditor's office.

Sorensen stated the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management held a Levee Safety Town Hall Meeting on March 14, 2024.

Chick received an email from Heather Stansel from Madison County stating concerns with Senate File 411 for wind and solar products in the county.

Chick reported citizens can attend a Muscatine County Comprehensive Plan Visioning Workshop on March 21, 2024 at the Environmental Learning Center in Discovery Park, 3300 Cedar Street from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Committee & Meeting Reports:
Sorensen attended a Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Advocacy meeting on March 12, 2024.

Mather participated in an e-vote for the Decategorization Board to shift money to continue funding a school navigator for a mental health program.

County Attorney Jim Barry stated the Fines Collection employee submitted her resignation on March 18, 2024. The Fines Collection position has been posted.

County Auditor Tibe Vander Linden presented a Sample Budget Statement mailing in regards to Iowa Code 24.2A, which requires a budget year statement be postmarked by March 20, 2024 to inform parcel owners of the upcoming School, County and City public hearings where proposed property taxation for the next fiscal year will be presented.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas announced there will be a Muscatine County Comprehensive Plan Visioning Workshop on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at the Environmental Learning Center in Discovery Park, 3300 Cedar Street from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. The workshop is to seek citizens' input for the development of the comprehensive land use plan update for the county. The plan provides the foundation for future growth and development in Muscatine County.

Furnas stated the email the Board received from Kayla Carlsten was regarding a special use permit which was granted by the Zoning Commission on March 15, 2024. Furnas stated the special use permit will be placed on the Board agenda for review for a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 A.M.

ATTEST:
Tibe Vander Linden Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson
County Auditor Board of Supervisors

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FOR RENT: 2 BR apt. Stove, refrig., D.W., coin-op laundry in hall. \$600/month, \$600 deposit plus utilities. 563-506-5775 35-AN-TFN

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADS

Help Wanted - Government

POLICE OFFICER: Indianola Police Department is taking applications for the positions of Police/Patrol Officer. Obtain applications by visiting https://indianolaiowa.applicantpro.com/jobs, choose Police Officer. Deadline 5/10/2024. EOE.

Miscellaneous

ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off entire purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-913-1560.

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-954-5087 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

WEST LIBERTY AREA ADS

Automotive

1971 VW KARMANN SUPER BEETLE convertible. Runs, needs work. Stored covered and enclosed. \$6,500 OBO. 319-325-0862. 13-3xf

Bicycles

FOR SALE: One tandem recumbent sun bicycle. It is like new. Phone 319-430-8121. 13-3xf

Employment

WEST LIBERTY INDEX: Like to shoot pictures? Have good equipment? We will pay to cover events for the West Liberty Index as a freelance photographer. Get your pictures in print. We're looking for someone who would go to an event and take good, creative people pictures. Send samples of your work to adnews@netwtc.net.

WEST LIBERTY INDEX: Can you write? Want to earn some extra money? Have you ever considered covering a meeting or writing a feature? The West Liberty Index needs you. Send any samples of your personal information to adnews@netwtc.net.

Heavy Equipment

FOR SALE: Bulldozers and heavy equipment. Call Crees Construction at 319-930-8027. 11-3x

EASTER TO-GO BOXES \$125
Ham or Turkey, Mashed & Gravy, Veggies, 12 Dinner Rolls, Choice of Fluff & Pie!
Feeds 6
Pick up Easter Sunday 9 - noon
Individual Dinners (Carry-out) for \$17.99

Lenten Specials Dinners: \$15.99
(choice of potato & salad bar)
• AYCE Fried Shrimp • AYCE Catfish Nuggets • AYCE Peel & Eat Shrimp
• Cod • Baked Fish • Boiled Shrimp

CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE | April 6

Exit 129 off Hwy 61 • 10 Grove Rd • Park View • 563.285.6262 • Fri.-Sat. 11-9 Dine in/carry-out

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We're seeking compassionate, caring individuals to join our amazing team!

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Now Hiring for:

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Treat each resident with respect, dignity, and understanding with which we expect to be treated; give to each resident the love and kindness which we hope to receive.

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www.wheatmanor.com

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40-word ad \$35 -
Run your vehicle ad in 3 Papers until it SELLS!

For private party car/truck sales only. Ad runs in North Scott Press, Wilton-Durant Advocate News, West Liberty Index until car sells. Ad must include price. Price may be reduced but not increased. Some restrictions apply. Call (563) 285-8111 or place at northscottpress.com/classifieds.

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\$ 1,000 SIGN ON BONUS!

NOW HIRING

Infant Lead Teacher

We are looking to employ a qualified Infant Teacher, who has a passion for instilling values in young children. The Infant Teacher should possess high energy and the ability to handle the demands of babies with different personalities and needs. To ensure success, the infant teacher should display a gentle and nurturing personality, and the patience to assist each infant or child to mature cognitively.

Qualifications: Previous experience in childcare, teaching, or other related fields. Passionate about working with children. Ability to build rapport with children. Positive and patient demeanor.

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West
Liberty
Schools



Honor Roll

23'-24' Second Trimester; 6th-12th Grade

JUNIOR HIGH

6th Grade

4.0 Soaring High

Eloise Achen, Paola Acosta Rivera, Madeline Cardona, Iver Dong, Adrian Elizondo, Jaxon Herlein, Bianca Jackson, Mariana Rivera, Kenley Leggins, Rowan Madsen, Celeste Medrano, Amelia Morrison, Natalie Morrison, Zoey Ortiz, Paula Sanchez Antonio, Penelope Shield.

Comet Pride

3.0 and above

Obed Aguilar Flores, Denis Alvarado, Barbara Aranday, Austin Avalos, Vida Avila Kouri, Gavin Baltisberger, Brody Bock, Daniel Brissey, Natalia Brockert, Ace Brown, Will Daufeldt, Callie Deahr, Dominic Dealejandro, Jocelyn Escobedo, Adan Estrada, Klarissa Fernandez, Avery Frantz, Andres Frausto, Bianca Guerrero, Abigail Hayes, Elizabeth Hernandez, Karol Rivera Hernandez, Addison Kuhre Holmquist, Jacqueline Jacobo, Xander Moran, Madelyn Neeld, Josiel Rivera, Gisselle Rocha, Rocio Sanchez Rosales, Matthew Sanchez Velez, Alex Simon, Turner Simon, William Vega Rosario, Kevin Velazquez Dias, Bo Wertzbaugher, Maquire Wulf, Blake Yoder, Maria Zamora, Janessa Zuniga.

7th Grade

4.0 Soaring High

Liliana Anderson, Nevaeh Bueno Jacques, Braelynn Cassady, Georgia Clark, Olivia DeShazo, Ridhi Dhamija, Kaelyn Feldman, Molly Garcia, Melanie Garcia, Samuel Garcia, Tyler Martinez, Maddex Maurer, Anna Nollman, Pierre Shield, Rachel Tharp, Federick Vallez, Alora Yoder.

Comet Pride

3.0 to 3.99

Ariany Aleman, Salomon Aragon, Shaila Barrera, Amilton Beltran, Paxton Boles, Kaleb Brown, Candence Cardona, Edmundo Chairez, Lorelei Christensen, Aliannan Esquivel, Chloe Ferguson, Habib Fernandez, Kimberly Flores Castillo, Isaiah Galvan, Julie Garcia, Oscar

Garcia Lozano, Alec Alexander Goodale, Emmett Henderson, Ariadne Hernandez Gonzalez, Abigail Irvin, Carter Lampe, Ximena Leyva Martinez, Solauge Lopez, Ellioth Lopez Juarez, Hernan Lozano, Jacob Lugo, Joaquin Machado, Adriel Mata, Jonah Morrison, Veronica Mueller, Reese Ortiz, Becker Polito, Bristol Polito, Leslie Schaapveld, Maci Shepherd, Kinnick Sidaxoth, Ximena Rodriguez Silva, Aleika Silva Silva, Kylie Smith, Lucas Susie, Sofia Teel, Jocelyne Velasquez Diaz.

8th Grade

4.0 Soaring High

Andrea Aleman, Ethan Berry, Jaziel Castillo, Nathan Chown, Camden Crees, Kylee Daufeldt, Mikaela Escobedo, Hazam Garcia, Mar Garcia Blanes, Ethan Hayes, Elle Iske, Karlie Jenks, Keagan Merritts, Avalynn Miller, Tenley Murphy, Huxley Rock, Clara Simon, Alice Thrasher, Yareli Torres Bueno

Comet Pride

3.0 - 3.99

Mason Alke, Rosalinda Alvarado, Janelle Aranda Ibarra, Alyssa Arequin, Miley Barahoa, Jessie Becerra Benitez, Cutler Bell, Linken Benedict, Braden Bickford, Autumn Borges, Isaac Brown, Kayla Brown, Marcus Cardona, Brittany Castillo Ramirez, Joselyn Corona Machado, Britany DeLaCerde, Walter Evans, Dominic Falwell, Guillermo Fernandez Renteria, Leany Garcia, Noah Garcia, Sofia Garcia, Iker Garcia Rosas, Jose A. Guerrero Luna, Jose M. Guerrero Luna, Chris Hernandez Valdez, Daisy Jacobo, Auggie Kress, Grayson Levai Baird, Benjamin Linares, Juarez Marcos Pedro, Emily Mejia, Carlos Meraz, Angel Montelongo, Danika Murdock, Aaliyah Murguia, Kaylee Muguia, Eileen Nguyen Aragon, Andre Nicholson, Roberto Renteria, Jeidy Reyes Ortiz, Jessel Rios, Jacobo Sanchez, Giselle Sanchez Antonio, Aidan Sanchez, Jaylyn Silvar, Isabelle Stoppel, Tracie VanDusen, Ariana Velasco Vargas, Aislyn Velez Sanchez, Kace Wehmeyer

HIGH SCHOOL

Principal's Honor Roll

4.0+

Freshman: Madison Buysse, Madelyn Deahr, Shivangi Dhamija, Taylor Garcia, Alivia Garcia, Kamryn Gilmore, Tully Griffith, Addison Guerra, Sullivan Hall, Christopher Harding, Kenley Harned, Sophia Hayes, Sophia Lopez-Palma, Isabella Lugo, Miles McConnaha, Robert Schmidt, Theodore Solomon, Piper Stagg, Jayden Thamavongsa, Gable Underbakke, Cole Wagamon, Flynn Womachka, Rowan Womachka, Tucker Womachka, Emma Yoder. **Sophomores:** Aribeth Aleman, Summer Bardell, Katherine Barten, Hayden Berry, Mercedes Brockert, Jaime Chairez Jr., Cameron Elizondo, Wesley Heath, Ashley Hoang, Selina Lara, Emily Madrigal, Delaney Madsen, Brenden McMichael, Torsten Nixt, William Palma, Gavin Ryan, Cody Seiler, Benjamin Tharp, Mallory Wulf, Shanelle Zamores. **Juniors:** Ariana Aragon, Seth Axsom, Addison Beaver, Vanessa Burk, Sophie Buysse, Carolina Cantero, Cael Daufeldt, Cole Daufeldt, Ryker Dengler, Jan Diaz Ruiz, Silvia Garcia-Vasquez, Charli Gingerich, Pearson Hall, Eleden Jacobo, Daisy Kivi, Jessica Madrigal, Gabriella Morales, Ava Morrison, Kaylee Pelzer, Allison Toro Grove, Celeste Vargas, Eric Yao. **Seniors:** Lizbeth Aleman, Amerie Alvarado, Jesse Aranday, Evan Beal-Henderson, Betsy Bejarano, Jose Camarena, Noel Elizondo, Mya Elizondo, Laney Esmoil, Genna Evans, Dionni Garcia-Vasquez, Lila Guerra, Avigail Hernandez, Dominic Hernandez, Skylar Jackson, Catherine Lara, Addyson Lehman, Jayce McHugh, Panayiotis Mesa Ochoa, Catherine Norris, Margaret Purdy, Marcus Rocha-Stone, Paris Salais, Dustin Stagg, Nellie Stagg, Mary Tharp, Maelyn Wainwright, Paige Werling, Danahy Zamora Medina.

Blue Honor Roll

3.5 - 3.999

Freshman: Fatima Aranday, Jaylyn Burroughs, Brynn Cassady, Madeline Christensen, Rosemary Coreas, Stella Elder, Rebecca Fierro Perez, Mia Gallegos, Bricia Garcia-Vasquez, Chandler Gingerich, Abbagayle Goodale, Courtney Grandstaff, Vianney Hernandez, Addison Honts, Charlie Howard,

Owen Irvin, Gabriel Malagon, Tenley Nixt, Natalie Toro, Ximena Valenzuela, Camila Verdinez, Jude Woodburn, Hailey Yoder. **Sophomores:** Viviana Cardona, Kiley Collins, Owen Cook, Owen Daufeldt, Angelly Gonzalez, Dayana De Jesus Gonzalez, Beau Goulette, Tatum Hale, Hazel Hershberger, Oasis Ibarra, Jayleen Kivi, Perry Lehman, Alyssa Lenz, Oliver Lovell, Matthew Martinez, Payton Murphy, Maytte Olguin, Skyler Summerfield. **Juniors:** Adyson Bell, Lily Bock, Zair Calderon, Jonathan Cardona, Leticia Carreno, Angela Cobos Fernandez, Gabriel Corona, Isabella Gaona, Sophia Garcia, Bryson Garcia, Manuel Garcia Blanes, Olivia Gillespie, Mia Gingerich, Tytan Griffith, David Hernandez, Oscar Hernandez-Flores, Cameron Iske, Caden Laughlin, Romeo Lopez-Aragon, Margaret Mahoney, Grace Ortiz, Joseph Setser, Kane Shield, Jake Underbakke-Hennessy, Balian Vachier Torres, Marco Valencia Francisco, Francisco Venegas, Kaya West, Ella Womachka. **Seniors:** Joseph Akers, Andrea Espinosa, Isaac Hernandez, Jose Ibarra, Alicia Lopez, David Mahoney, Arza Martin-Thomas, Rafael Mendoza, Coven Morgan, Arely Murguia.

White Honor Roll

3.0-3.499

Freshman: Lincoln Daufeldt, Danielle Falwell, Miley Filerio, Melanie Garcia, Isela Garcia-Vargas, Rafael Jacobo Contreras, Andilyn Kress, Ryan Laughlin, Katerin Meza Murillo, Enrique Michel-Toribio, Aaliyah Montelongo, Maria Pedro-Juan, Hoyt Potts, Gracelin Pytel, Sofia Rocha, Danielle Tompkins, Encarnacion Tzip. **Sophomores:** Uriel Andrade-Martinez, Audrina Bryant, Isabella Chicaj Ortiz, John Daufeldt, Chelsea Escobar, Ashley Gallardo, Layla Garcia, Christofer Gomez-Velasquez, Belkis Guardado Perdomo, Payton Maas, Camila Medrano, Diego Munguia Mojica, Andres Ramirez Ramirez, Joslyn Varela-Ambriz. **Juniors:** Javier Andrade-Martinez, Jared Aragon-Jacques, Ayden Brown, Ryan Cassady, Crager David, Bayley Rivera, Roberto Salas, Alyssa Stagg. **Seniors:** Alexa Barretero, Madison Bixby, Victor De La Cruz-Martinez, Diego Gonzalez, Rilee Han, Jireh Lopez, Victoria Machado, Dulce Montelongo-Martinez, Ryan Noble, Andre Puentes-Bueno, Alissa Sanchez, Conner Skubal, Bruce Songa.



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School District and
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West Liberty State Bank would like to recognize the achievements of those local students who have earned a grade point high enough to be named to the West Liberty Community Middle/High School HONOR ROLL! To honor these these Comets who demonstrated an outstanding academic performance, the bank will donate \$1.00 each trimester for each student that earns a 3.0 or above GPA.

The dollars donated will be used to enrich academic programs in the West Liberty Community School District.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Second trimester honor roll students!

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Middle School \$184

ACADEMIC
TOTE BOARD

1st Tri-mester : 437
2nd Tri-mester : 410
3rd Tri-mester :

Proud to have contributed \$ 8,450 to recognize Honor Roll students!