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# WEST LIBERTY INDEX



• Ashley & Miley Barchona sing for WLHS choir

## Open House PAGE 15

**Bend of the River BIZZZY BEE pages inside!**

**YOUR HOMETOWN NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1868**

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# Lady Liberty rededicated

**Tim Evans**  
Index Editor

The 71-year-old Lady Liberty statue, a miniature replica of the Statue of Liberty in New York City, was rededicated on a chilly night Sunday before about 50 attendees at the northeast corner of the remodeled Waldo C. Meyers municipal building on the corner of Fourth Street and North Calhoun Street.

Charles Newcomb, a member of the West Liberty Boy Scout Troop 141 that initially raised money to buy the statue, said he was "honored" to be able to rededicate Lady Liberty after he played a role in the initial dedication of the statue seven decades earlier as a young boy.

The statue's base had deteriorated due to harsh weather through the years and the 8.5-foot bronze replica was taken down in the summer of 2018 and was refurbished but stood in the corner of the city hall council chambers for months before it was placed back on a new platform with a base star around the monument about two years ago.

Mayor Robert Hartman explained the city was unable to rededicate the statue due to the COVID-19 pandemic, finally forcing the issue in the past few months at city council meetings in providing the idea of rededicating the statue as part of the West Liberty Chamber of Commerce Christmas Open House activities.

Newcomb, who said each one of the pack members were responsible to raise money toward the statue (without getting it from their parents), noting he found and collected hangers returning to the local dry cleaners at a penny each to raise his portion of the statue.

Newcomb said he was selected as one of the speakers at the initial ceremony because he won a Scout speaking contest, seating at the podium with some fellow Boy Scouts and about 20 community leaders including Mayor Harold O. Keele, who helped dedicate the statue initially on May 21, 1950.

The city said Newcomb stayed vigilant about the return of the statue. "He made sure that the statue was never forgotten while it was down," the city said in a statement, noting Newcomb was a valuable asset to the community through his life, involved in the West Liberty Fire and Ambulance department for four decades.

Each of the four sides of the new base contains one of the original four plaques that commemorate the City of West Lib-

erty, Boy Scouts of America, the West Liberty Volunteer Fire Department, the United Methodist Church, the Mansell L. Phillips Post 509 American Legion Auxiliary and Robert E. Lewis, a West Liberty native who served in the Korean War and went missing in action off the island of Japan.

Boy Scouts from Wilton and all over Muscatine County helped rededicate the statue, providing the color guard for the ceremony and leading the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance before speeches by Hartman, Newcomb and WeLead Economic Development Director Ken Brooks, who helped arrange the Scouts for the event.

The four-time mayor said the renovation project was estimated to cost \$18,000 and said financial contributions and in-kind labor donations aided the completion of the project. He said donations included the H. Filmore and Marjorie M. Melick Foundation's donation of \$5,000, a \$1,000 donation by the West Liberty Heritage Foundation in honor of Arlene

• See **REDEDICATION**, page 2



The Lady Liberty statue means more to West Liberty resident Chuck Newcomb than probably anyone else in the community because he helped raise money to buy the statue as a Boy Scout seven decades earlier. Newcomb got an opportunity to rededicate West Liberty's Statue of Liberty for a second time Sunday night, introduced by Mayor Robert Hartman, on right.

Index photo by Tim Evans



### Donating for a cause

About to place a donation in a box Sunday at the Muscatine County Fairgrounds for the West Liberty American Legion Auxiliary tree to benefit veterans at the VA hospital in Iowa City was Peggy Meyers of rural West Liberty. There were over a dozen 'Trees for a Cause.' Index photo by Tim Evans

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A Director of Scouting with Boy Scouts of America, West Liberty WeLead Economic Development Director Ken Brooks presented the Scouting version of the Lady Liberty rededication Sunday evening just outside of City Hall. It was West Liberty Boy Scout Troop 141 that originated the idea of buying the statue and placing it in the community in 1950. Over a dozen members and leaders of Muscatine County Boy Scout chapters gathered for this picture on the left with the statue, which has four plaques in its base. The 71-year-old statue was repainted and its base restored in a three-year project by the West Liberty City Council, getting help from volunteers and donations from throughout the community to make the \$18,000 project happen. The rededication was delayed for nearly two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Index photos by Tim Evans

• REDEDICATION, from page 1

Otto, concrete donated by Hahn Ready Mix and All-American Concrete of West

Liberty donated all the labor, including the stamped and stain color of the concrete surrounding the pedestal.

Ruess Masonry and Adam Ruess contributed the stonework labor on the

pedestal and Ken Wright of Ken's Welding in West Liberty contributed the work and labor of reviving Lady Liberty, which had damage over the years. Engineer and design work was donated by Dean Beranek of West Liberty along with Veenstra & Kimm of Rock Island, the city's engineers.

The city paid \$8,621 toward the project. City clerk Lee Geertz, who served as master of ceremonies, said the statue is exactly the same height as the original that was based in a planter. She said the star that surrounds it is exactly the width of the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor.

Mayor Hartman recognized and introduced Newcomb at the ceremony and also recognized the fundraising work of Denny Wachs on the project. "We are grateful for all that contributed fiscally and in kind for the Statue of Liberty Renovation Project," the mayor said. "This project is part of the continued efforts by the city to renovate, revitalize and continue the vision started any years ago with the city's Street Scape Vision plan."

Hartman said the city would continue to find creative ways to support the community's renovation projects, including the economic development grant to revitalize businesses in the downtown area as well as throughout the community.

In his speech, Newcomb said the initial statue was a combination of the city and the Scouts working together. He praised the current council for their work and dedication in reviving the statue and said it was an honor to be able to dedicate the statue for a second time.

He recited the Cub Scout motto: "I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout law, to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight."

"With that having been said, Scout Pack 141 presented this Statue of Liberty monument to the citizens of West Liberty," Newcomb said. "We now rededicate her to this community – may she stand proudly for many years to come. God bless America."

Brooks said about 200 of the statues were manufactured by Friedley-Voshardt Company of Chicago between 1949 and 1952, noting roughly half of those have been "lost to the sands of time."

He said the statue actually had a different name, "Strengthen the arm of Liberty," noting the statue was "originally dedicated to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, which in 1950 was a very visible organization. Patriotic sentiment was high after the conclusion of WW2, and the Boy Scouts were there leading the way, hosting flag ceremonies, like the one we saw today, leading parades, and performing community service."

Brooks said a lot has changed since the statue was originally cast, but noted, "Many of the important things have stayed the same. Cub Scouts are still taught to do their best, and older Scouts are taught to always be prepared, and to do a good turn daily. Scouting still continues to focus on leadership, service, and on exploring the world around us."

He talked about the benefits of Scouting in leadership and service to communities. "Scouting is all of these things, but most of all, Scouting is community. Scouting is OUR community – right here in West Liberty, in Muscatine County, across our country – right here, right now."

Brooks went on. "So while this statue was dedicated to commemorate the Boy Scouts, today, I think, it also commemorates you, a community that holds those 12 points of the Scout Law in reverence." (A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.)

Brooks pointed out that liberty is "the cornerstone that our democratic republic was founded on, and YOU, my friends, are the arm of that liberty, and Scouting is here, prepared to support our young people so that they can grow to strengthen our community – to strengthen that very arm of liberty."



Collecting coats

Rotary leader and community volunteer Bill Koellner shows some of the coats he collected Sunday during the Holiday Open House event for community distribution next month. The Rotary Club of West Liberty is also spearheading the Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign for the area with bell ringers at Giri BP and Jeff's Market every weekend.

Index photo by Tim Evans



## Obituaries

### Bonita 'Bonnie' King, 83

Bonita "Bonnie" Joan King was a caring wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, great great grandmother, sister, and friend. She died Nov. 5, 2021 at age 83, at McAllen Medical in Texas after an extended illness.

She was born to Bill and Velva (Dunlap) Keith on Dec. 6, 1937.

She was united in marriage to Wilbur "Bill" Goodale on July 3, 1954. After the loss of her husband, Bill, in 1993, she was united in marriage to Fred King on Oct. 13, 1995.

She is survived by her husband, Fred, and seven children including Peggy (Phil) McIntire, Barb (Russ) VanDusen, Bill (Tammy) Goodale, Sue Griffith, Bob (Sandy) Goodale, Dean (Vikki) Goodale, Casey (Christiana) King. Also surviving are two sisters, Lucille, and Barb, as well as 26 grandchildren, 47 great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter.



Over the years, she worked at Louis Rich, ran her own ceramic shop, had her own daycare, was secretary/bookkeeper for Goodale and Sons Construction and worked in housekeeping at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

She had an extended family of many friends in Iowa, and at Winter Haven Park in Pharr, Texas, where she was living at the time of her death.

Everyone that knew her also knew she had a zest for life, and her sayings, "Life is Good," "God Is Good." She always had a positive outlook on life and love. Her smile was contagious. She loved spending time with family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her first husband, Bill; a son-in-law, Russell; a grandson, Derek; and seven siblings including Bill, Stan, Hank, Vernon, Betty, Dorothy and Marcella.

A special service will be held on a later date.

### Jay Allen Statser, 59

Jay Allen Statser, 59, of West Liberty died Nov. 15, 2021 in Iowa City from injuries received in a single car automobile accident.

A gathering of family and friends will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 29, 2021 at the Henderson-Barker Funeral Home in West Liberty where a time of sharing will be held at 4 p.m.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.hendersonbarkerfuneralhome.com](http://www.hendersonbarkerfuneralhome.com).

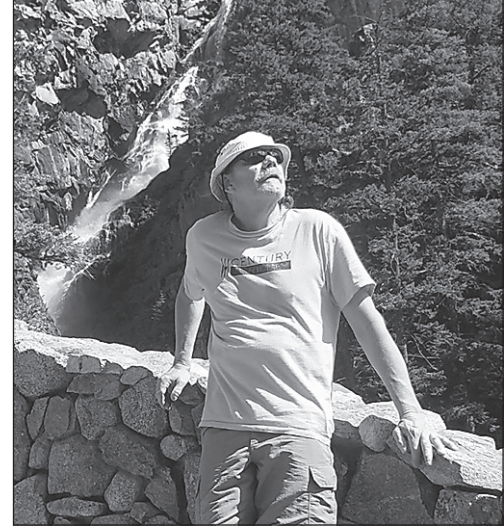
Jay was born March 6, 1962 in Mason City, Iowa, the son of Jackie Leonard Statser and Maralyn Kay Mitchell. He was a graduate of Eldridge High School and attended technical welding school. He had been married to Margaret Palmer and later Luz Gonzalez.

Jay had been employed with West Liberty Foods.

He enjoyed playing guitar, darts, arm wrestling and most recently growing a vegetable garden. He was a member of the West Liberty chapter of the Sons of the American Legion.

He is survived by his daughter, Jaydee Hull, as well as his mother, Maralyn Waline; a stepbrother, Ronald Waline; a nephew, Sean Statser and a niece, Shea, as well as friends Allen Lilly, Karla Ross and many others.

He was preceded in death by his father, Jackie Statser, and a brother, Joe Statser.



### Council updates Christmas distribution plans in community

The Voluntary Action Council is busy preparing for the annual community Christmas distribution to be held Friday and Saturday, Dec. 17-18, for underprivileged residents in the communities of the West Liberty Community School District.

Applications are available at the West Liberty Community Schools, West Liberty City Hall, West Liberty Public Library, food pantry at First Church United, New York Dollar Store in West Liberty, Casey's General Store in Nichols and the post office in Atalissa. Completed applications must be mailed or delivered to First Church United, 1100 North Calhoun, by Tuesday, Nov. 30.

Because the COVID-19 pandemic is still present, procedures will be similar to last year with no entry into the church and much of the distribution delivered to homes.

The Aquarius Club of West Liberty now have the toy donation Star Trees at both MidwestOne Bank and the West Liberty State Bank locations. People can choose a star with a child's gender and age and donate toys for children ages 12 and under who might not otherwise have a gift to open Christmas morning. All toy donations must be received by Saturday, Dec. 11. They will be sorted and bagged by Aquarius organization members at First Church United in West Liberty on Tuesday, Dec. 14 for delivery to specific families.

Toys, food, and hygiene items will be distributed via a drive up or delivery appointment on Friday, Dec. 17, from 4:30-7 p.m. or Saturday, Dec. 18, from 9-11 a.m. at the First Church United parking lot in West Liberty.

That Friday evening, Dec. 17, members of the Rotary Club of West Liberty as well as the West Liberty Lions Club will be delivering food boxes to residents who do not receive toys - mainly individuals and older couples in the community.

Fruit sacks will be distributed to specified senior citizens on Saturday morning, with distribution by the members of the area communities.

Coats purchased by the Rotary Club of West Liberty or donated through churches and at the Community Holiday Open House event on Sunday, Nov. 21, will be distributed by appointment at St. Joseph's Catholic Church Parish Life Center on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 4-5, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 641-799-1303 to make an appointment.

Local churches within the school district are also collecting mittens, gloves, hats, socks and underwear, which are needed no later than Dec. 3 for distribution among families during the coat distribution, with any leftover items to be given to the West Liberty School District nurses.

### Barbara Grapengeter, 82

Barbara A. Grapengeter, 82, died Thursday Nov. 11, 2021 at the Simpson Memorial Home in West Liberty.

A celebration of life was held Saturday, Nov. 13.

Barbara was born Sept. 15, 1939 in Madison, Wisconsin, the daughter of Rudolph Willy and Mary Allis (Ball) Frank. She was united in marriage to Jim Sherlock. Following his death, she married Harry Grapengeter and they later divorced.

Barbara had been employed with Eagle Signal in Davenport and as a banquet waitress at the Plantation in Moline. She had also sold Tupperware for many years.

Barbara was active in the Whole Truth Tabernacle Church in Silvis, enjoyed music, dancing, had raced stock cars and served as an extra in a couple "Lone Ranger" movies. She dedicated her life to her children, was a fantastic mother, grandmother and was an awesome cook.

She is survived by her five daughters including Julie Sherlock of Lone Tree, Dee Walker of Nichols, Rhonda Russo of Lone Tree, Barbie Walker of Scottsdale, Arizona and Andrea Walker of Muscatine. Also surviving are 13 grandchildren, 19 great grandchildren, a sister, Dianne Heinzl of Prescott Valley, Arizona and a nephew, Jim White.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Jim Sherlock and a daughter, Lisa.



### Vittetoe inducted into Wartburg Kappa Delta Pi honor society

Molly Vittetoe of West Liberty, was inducted into the Iota Chapter of the Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education at Wartburg College on Nov. 8.

Kappa Delta Pi was founded by William Bagley, Truman Kelly and Thomas Edgar Musselman in 1911 at the University of Illinois to foster excellence in education and promote fellowship among those dedicated to teaching. The founders chose the name from the Greek words knowledge, duty and power.

Albert Einstein, George Washington Carver, Eleanor Roosevelt and Margaret Mead are just a few of the 1.2 million initiated members KDP members who have made outstanding contributions to the development of professional education.

The mission of Kappa Delta Pi is to sustain an honored community of diverse educators by promoting excellence and advancing scholarship, leadership and service.

Wartburg, a four-year liberal arts college internationally recognized for community engagement, enrolls 1,543 students. Wartburg is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and named after the castle in Germany where Martin Luther took refuge disguised as a knight during the stormy days of the Reformation while translating the Bible from Greek into German.

### Senior Mealsite

Operates Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the West Liberty Community Center. Serving begins at 11:15 a.m. although all meals are being delivered at this time because of the virus. Anyone over 60 years of age are welcome. Home delivery ONLY! No dine-in! Suggested donation of \$5 For information call 319-627-6848

**Menu**  
**Friday, Nov. 26**  
Meal site closed.

**Monday, Nov. 29**  
Garden quiche, pimento cheese sandwich, roasted zucchini & mandarin oranges.

**Wednesday, Dec. 1**  
Herbed chicken breast, scalloped potatoes, green peas, wheat roll & peach crisp.

**For cancellations, call 563-260-9921**

## WEST LIBERTY INDEX

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Guest Column — WeLead Economic Development organization

# Heaps of thanks for welcoming new guy to town

**Ken Brooks**

Index Contributing Columnist

As the days grow shorter and the nights grow longer, my sentimentality grows accordingly.

As we begin this holiday season, it seems only appropriate that I give my thanks to you here on Thanksgiving. While I have only been able to call WeLead my home for two months now, the people here in West Liberty already feel like family.

Thank you for making time to meet me, and for helping make introductions. Thank you for sharing your dreams with me, as we brainstorm how to make this city grow. Thank you for helping me understand our history, so we can plan for our future. Thank you for your

patience and understanding as I come up to speed.

There is so much for which to be thankful.

I am thankful for WeLead's board of directors that not only point me in the right direction, but actively support me at every turn. I simply couldn't ask

for a better group of community leaders. (Thanks Dana, Santos, Melody, Jason, Jerry, Tom, Jeff and David(s) D.H. & S.)

I am thankful for everyone that came out to our West Liberty Business Association Meeting at the Community Center on Nov. 12. This was a great chance to come together to share information about how we can best collaborate to grow in mutual success. (Everyone is invited to the next meeting at noon on Feb. 11.)

I am thankful for fantastic community organizations like the Chamber of Commerce that hosted a wonderful holiday Open House this past weekend, which not only provided great opportunities for our local businesses, but was a tremendous avenue to bring visitors into West Liberty.

I am thankful for our new Downtown District group that has developed an engaging marketing strategy to bring in shoppers to support local businesses. This excellent example of coordination is a model for the industry.

I am thankful for our service organizations like Rotary and Lions Club that are quick to identify needs in our community and respond with solutions backed with resources.

I am thankful for our school district and our educators that provide outstanding opportunities for our young people day in and day out.

I am thankful for a city administration that understands the importance of economic development and is committed to sustainability and growth.

I am thankful for our elected leaders that keep pushing forward in the name of progress, leaders that prioritize the needs and well-being of the community over their own self-interest.

I am thankful for businesses in our community like West Liberty Foods, that understand that their success is greatly affected by their workforce and the community in which they operate, and accordingly invest an incredible amount of resources here locally.

I am thankful for this wonderful community, a community comprised of diverse, caring, hard working, and friendly people.

Finally, I am thankful for my family. My wife and our two children have been very supportive over the past two months, and I am grateful for their support, understanding, patience, and love.

The holiday season is about putting differences aside and coming together to celebrate what we have in common, to share what we love. If you have heard me speak, my messaging has remained consistent in this matter: if we are to

grow, we have to grow together. We have to move forward together.

West Liberty is on the cusp of some tremendous growth, and I am excited for the journey. On this Thanksgiving, I am thankful that I get to be a part of this, and that I have all of you here by my side. So, it is with heaps of thanks, that I wish you, my newest friends and family members, the happiest of Thanksgivings.

*About Ken:*

*Kenneth Brooks is the Executive Director of the WeLead Economic Development organization which works to bring a better life to the West Liberty area. Brooks can be contacted at his office at 119 East Third Street in downtown West Liberty or by phone at 319-627-4045 or by e-mail at kbrooks@weleadiowa.org. More information on the organization can be obtained at WeLeadIowa.org*

## Pastor's Column - Table of Good

# Can opener, oven can be taken for granted

**Rev. Don Timmermann**

Index Contributing Columnist

The end of the year is drawing near, and this year many of us will be able to enjoy it with family. There seems to be great joy in the air this year, even with the supply problems and inflation.

I see good signs of people helping people. Twice I have heard of neighbors raking leaves for neighbors who were unable to do so themselves. I see more smiles at the stores. There just seems to be a general cheerfulness that I haven't seen in years.

This is also a time when generous people donate holiday food for the people who can't afford special traditional foods. I see in our food cart at my church

– all kinds of canned goods that will be delivered to a mission to be distributed. And I've seen where companies have donated frozen turkeys to be distributed.

All of this is great and in the spirit of the season, but sometimes in the kindness of our hearts we make matters worse. I remember when I first got out of school and was trying to get a start on a \$8,750 salary per year, and some organization gave me a frozen turkey. I was overjoyed until I realized I didn't have a pan, or for that matter, even an oven to cook it in. Unfortunately, it went to waste.

My neighbor got one as well. It also went to waste as he didn't have any teeth to chew it.

I just heard on the news that 80 per-

cent of the baskets that were given went to people who didn't have a can opener. We give them a good variety of canned goods and other foods, but we forget that they might not have everything needed to prepare the food.

Giving is good, but we need to understand that everyone does not have all of the comforts and conveniences that we take for granted. This year, let's make a real effort to make the season truly full of joy for all.

Merry Christmas a little early.

*Don Timmermann is the Pastor at Cedar Valley and Nichols United Methodist Churches in the area. He can be contacted at 319-723-4585 or by e-mail at mtimmermannclm@aol.com*

# Community foundations have important roles

Iowa community foundations joined a nationwide celebration from Nov. 12-18, to recognize the increasingly important role the philanthropic organizations play in fostering local collaboration and innovation to address persistent civic and economic challenges.

During the week, community foundations – including the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine County – come together to share and reflect on stories of impact of their recent work. Iowa community foundations continue to play an important role in responding to critical needs and leading collaborative efforts to support their communities.

Community foundations are independent, public entities that steward philanthropic resources from individual and institutional donors to local non-profit organizations that are the heart of strong, vibrant communities. "The work of community foundations reaches beyond the practice of giving and touches the lives of individuals, revealing a path to a brighter future. There is a tangible, positive impact for individuals and communities as a result of these organizations in each of Iowa's 99 counties," said Kari McCann Boutell, president of the Iowa Council of Foundations.

Iowa Community Foundations Continue Pandemic Response and Long-Term Disaster Recovery

Despite the many challenges facing our communities, Iowa community foundations are more determined than ever to bring their partners together to

find innovative and effective solutions for the most pressing social problems facing Iowa residents. As community foundations find solutions for communities large and small, urban and rural, it is the collective work of these organizations that has the most profound impact. This has been illuminated by the field's continued response to COVID-19 related challenges and needs, as well as the long-term derecho and disaster recovery work being conducted across the state.

What makes this work unique in Iowa is that each of Iowa's 99 counties is home to at least one community foundation. This means local leaders with deep knowledge of their communities are making decisions about how best to support those in need. The Pottawattamie County Community Foundation (PCCF) identified needs for women and children in Southwest Iowa and launched their Women's Fund in 2020. Over the past 18 months the fund has awarded over \$125,000, in addition to the PCCF's other grantmaking programs. At the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine (CFGM), local leaders identified needs to support organizations led by and serving communities of color. Since 2020, over \$160,000 has been awarded from CFGM's Racial Justice Fund. There are countless examples of these tailored and responsive ways community foundations are serving their regions throughout Iowa.

In addition to their leadership work, community foundations are designed

to have a lasting impact in their communities through philanthropy and the generosity of their donors. In the state of Iowa, the Endow Iowa Tax Credit program was launched in 2003 and has leveraged over \$335 million in endowment gifts to support Iowa communities and charitable causes. This program has made nearly \$78 million in tax credits available to Iowans who contribute to an endowed fund at an accredited community foundation in the state. For the past eight years, the annual tax credit limit has been \$6 million per calendar year and each year every tax credit has been distributed. In fact, the 2021 and 2022 tax credits have all be allocated via a waitlist and the 2023 waitlist is already growing.

### Blue Christmas Service

at First Church United on Sunday, Nov 28 at 4:00 pm for all those in the community who are struggling with grief and loss.

First Church United  
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## School district installs new board members

**Tim Evans**  
Index Editor

The West Liberty Community School Board of Education reorganized Monday, Nov. 15 with two meetings, the first saying thanks to two outgoing board members while the latter session welcomed two newcomers.

Board president Emily Geertz and board member Stephanie Dangler were honored for their respective eight and four years of service to the board before Rebecca Vargas and Ed Moreno were sworn in as new four-year members of the board, promising to do their best for the school district.

"This may sound crazy, but I actually had fun," said Geertz, pointing out she made a lot of good friends with district personnel and learned a lot about the school system as she worked through hiring three different superintendents during her tenure.



**REBECCA VARGAS**

They both were presented special plaques for their service to the district from Superintendent Shaun Kruger, who pointed out the pair devoted a lot of time and energy to the volunteer position. Their work included the development of a district building plan that is still in the works - starting with moving the bus and maintenance facilities to Liberty Park into a \$1.2 million facility that extended to a \$2.5 million classroom addition to the West Liberty Middle School that opened just a week earlier to fifth grade students moved from the Elementary School. The district is in the planning stages of an expansion at the Elementary School, where the district is considering building a new Early Learning Center to the north end of the building and moving all preschool and kindergarten students to the buildings.

Moreno, a retired civil engineer and promoter of his family's West Liberty business, Gentle Family Dentistry, is highly involved in the West Liberty Youth Dream Catchers organization as well as the local chapter of the League of Latin American Citizens.

Vargas is an academic advisor at Muscatine Community College and has worked in West Liberty schools in the head-start and as a community liaison working for United Action for Youth. She has students in the school system.

Vargas had the most votes according to official documents from Muscatine County Auditor Tibe Vander Linden, collecting 387 of the 1,367 votes cast. Moreno had a total of 256 votes while late-entry write-in candidates Emily Daufeldt and Jaime Parizek had 319 and 289 votes respectively. There were also 16 votes certified as "scrambled," meaning the ballot was ruled invalid due to an error by the voter.

In that same Nov. 2 election, district voters approved a resolution to continue a public tax measure to fund district improvements, passing 470 to 247.

Jake Burroughs was named the new board president while Carla Shields was named to the vice president position. The board decided to keep their first and

third Monday meeting dates at 6 p.m. at the district board meeting room at the District office of the Superintendent of Schools.

The *West Liberty Index* was renamed the official newspaper of the district and district attorneys, Jim Sweeney & Associates, were renewed as well as depositories West Liberty State Bank and MidWestOne Bank, each given limitations on deposits.



**ED MORENO**

There were several appointments of board committees including Moreno and Laughlin on the Buildings and Grounds committee, Carla Shield and Jake Burroughs on the transportation committee, Burroughs and Vargas on the negotiations committee, and Jeff Laughlin and Vargas on the foundation committee.

The wellness committee will be composed of Ed Moreno and Carla Shield while Moreno was appointed to the Muscatine County Conference Board and Superintendent Kruger to the West Liberty Chamber of Commerce. Appointment of District 504 Coordinator was given to Middle School principal Vicki Vernon and the appointment of District Equity Coordinator was given to high school assistant principal Kyle Steffen.

Appointment of Level 1 Investigators was awarded to Stephanie Paulsen and Russ Hughes and Level 2 Investigators would include district attorney Jim Sweeney & Associates. Appointed as Title IX Coordinator was activities director Adam Loria while Ed Moreno was named as an Iowa Association of School Boards delegate.

Reconsideration committee included Stefanie McNamer, Kelly Butcher, Vicki Vernon, Jeni Laughlin, and Gabrielle Bugenhagen). Named to the local School Improvement Advisory Council/LSIAC was Brenda Arthur-Miller, Jacob Burroughs, Juan Cardona, Kelly Daufeldt, Kelsie Garcia, Hector Garrido, Randy Guerra, Priscilla Haessig, Bobbi Jenks, Shawn Kivi, Kara Kruse, Jeni Laughlin, Ed Moreno, Melody Russell, Lynne Sasmazer, Christian Torres, Vicki Vernon and Megan Zalzal.

### Other business

The district approved a change order for late work in the new Middle School addition for \$3,121 to Peak Construction of North Liberty who subcontracted some drywall finish work and nearly \$1,000 in materials to River Valley Construction of Bettendorf.

The district also approved, again in a second reading, new policy code changes for employee expression and student organizations.

The board also approved an overnight trip for the girls' varsity basketball team on Dec. 3-4, taking part in an tournament in Johnston near Des Moines.

Concerning personnel issues, the district approved the hiring of Jaceon Bornsen as a student food service worker and Ninushk Roman Santiago as a food service worker.

The district set their next board meeting for Monday Dec. 6, beginning at 6 p.m. at the District Office of Education when the superintendent will provide a report and high school principal Brenda



### First vaccines for 5-11-year-olds issued

Sisu Kivi grimaces as he receives his COVID-19 vaccination from Michelle Garvin with Wester Drug of Wilton at West Liberty's Elementary School last Thursday, Nov. 18. The Children's Vaccine Clinic, put together in cooperation with the school district, Wester Drug and the Muscatine County Health Department administered 135 total vaccines including 131 pediatric vaccines for 5 to 11-year-old students while four others age 12 and older also received vaccines. United Way partnered with the schools to provide treats for the youngsters. The students will return to the elementary school gym on Dec. 9 between 3:30-6 p.m. to get their second dose.

Photo courtesy Kara Kruse, WLCSO

Arther-Miller will give an update on students "on track" for graduation in 2022.

There was also a presentation by Kelly Butcher at the meeting on the Gay

Straight Alliance youth organization at the West Liberty High School. Please read more on what Butcher had to say about the group in next week's *Index*.

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# Conoce a Omar Martínez, nuevo consejero municipal

Mark Plum

Index Latino Culture Columnist

Toda carrera política tiene su propio cuento de origen. Para Omar Martínez, recién elegido para el Consejo Municipal de West Liberty, aquella historia comienza meses atrás, un martes en la noche, durante una reunión típica del Cuerpo de Bomberos voluntarios del pueblo.

“Estuvimos platicando de que iban a haber dos vacancias,” dice Omar, sonriendo con el recuerdo, “y un compañero dijo, ‘Omar, ¿por qué no lo haces tú?’”. Al principio fue como una broma liviana, pero más lo pensábamos, más lo hablábamos, más me pareció la idea. Y fui y me apunté y estuve en la papeleta.”

“Sin ellos, ni modo. Nunca se me hubiera ocurrido hacer semejante cosa. Han sido mis ‘fans’ más importantes,” dice Omar sobre sus compañeros en el Cuerpo de Bomberos.

Cuando Omar haga el juramento en diciembre, formará parte de un consejo que consiste en cuatro latinos: él, José Zacarías, Cara McFerren y Dana Domínguez. Se cree que es el primer Consejo Municipal mayormente latino en la historia del estado de Iowa.

El camino de Omar para este presente es muy de West Liberty. Los padres de Omar son del pueblito Ignacio Allende, en el estado de Durango, México. Cuando su mamá, Aurelia, era joven, se trasladó hasta la ciudad de Mexicali para cuidar niños en una casa cómoda, mientras su papá, José, iba y venía de los Estados Unidos haciendo trabajos de construcción. Omar nació en Mexicali, una ciudad fronteriza justo al otro lado de Calexico, California, en 1990.



Los padres de Omar, José y Aurelia Martínez  
Omar's parents, José and Aurelia Martínez.

Photo contributed

Poco después, Aurelia volvió a Durango, donde Omar pasaría los primeros tres años y medio de su vida. Tras hacerse ciudadano estadounidense en 1991, su papá, José, convenció a Aurelia a cruzar la frontera e ir a los Estados Unidos en búsqueda de una vida mejor. Pasarían tres años en Dallas, Texas, antes de que la pequeña familia se asentara en West Liberty.

“Un amigo de mi papá le había dicho que aquí abundaba el trabajo,” recuerda Omar. “Cuando llegamos aquí, yo



La familia de Omar en el bautizo de su sobrina hace un par de años  
Omar's family at his niece's baptism a couple years ago.

Photo contributed

empecé la escuela. No sabía ni una palabra del inglés, y no tenían el programa bilingüe como hoy en día. Pero aprendí rápido. Ya estaba hablando bien para los finales de primer grado.”

Mientras tanto, su familia no sería pequeña por mucho más tiempo. La primera hermana de Omar, Evelyn, nació en 1997; la segunda, Leslie, en 2001; y por último, su hermano, Gabriel, nació en 2003. La familia estuvo ya enraizada en West Liberty, aunque regresaban (y siguen regresando) cada junio para visi-



Omar en la sepultura de su papá el año pasado. José se murió por el COVID-19

Omar at his dad's grave last year. José died from COVID-19.

Photo contributed

tar a Allende.

“Unos de mis recuerdos más bonitos son cuando la gente que ya conocíamos en Allende decidían mudarse para West Liberty. Era como traer Durango a la misma Iowa,” dice Omar.

Durante la secundaria, Omar jugaba al fútbol americano y al básquetbol. “Muchas veces, yo era el único latino que jugaba. Pero con el tiempo, los latinos y los anglos íbamos mezclándonos y aprendíamos el uno del otro. Eso era muy bonito.”

Tras graduarse de West Liberty High School en 2008, Omar estudió negocios en Iowa Central Community College por un año antes de regresar a West Liberty. Hizo varios trabajos antes de conseguir su empleo actual, trabajando en Muscatine en un taller de reparaciones. Estuvo a punto de comprarse una casa un par de años atrás cuando su papá le avisó que esperaba un poco tiempo más para hacer grandes cambios en su vida.

Unos meses después, en abril de 2020, su papá fue uno de las primeras personas en West Liberty para fallecer del COVID. “Fue casi como él supiera...” dice Omar, quien decidió volver a la casa a ayudar a su mamá. “Le faltaba un año para jubilarse. Siempre soñaba con regresar a vivir en Durango cuando se jubilara.”

Con respecto a su nuevo cargo, Omar está ansioso para empeñar y devolver a la comunidad que hay sido suya desde que vino aquí a los seis años. “No hice campaña por ningún tema en particular...sólo quiero aprovechar de esta oportunidad para servir al pueblo.”

“La verdad, me sorprendí un poco cuando gané. Me hizo dar cuenta que la gente me conocía más de lo que yo pensaba. Vieron algo en mí que ni siquiera yo vi en mí mismo.”

Seguro que José Martínez también lo veía.

Mark Plum es un nuevo escritor contribuyente del Index quien escribirá artículos sobre la cultura latina en el área de West Liberty. Plum dice que está abierto a casi cualquier idea en cuanto a sus historias; se puede ponerse en contacto con él marcándole al 319-471-0768 o escribiéndole a [mplum@wl.k12.ia.us](mailto:mplum@wl.k12.ia.us)

## Meet Omar Martínez, new city councilor

Every political career has its own story of origin. For Omar Martínez, newly elected to the West Liberty City Council, that story begins months ago, on a Tuesday night, during a typical meeting of the town's volunteer Fire Department.

“We were talking about how there were going to be two vacancies,” says Omar, smiling at the memory, “and a colleague said, ‘Omar, why don't you do it?’ At first it was like a light joke, but the more we thought about it, the more we talked about it, the more it seemed like a good idea to me. And I went and signed up and I was on the ballot.”

“Without them, no way. It would never have occurred to me to do such a thing. They have been my most important fans,” says Omar about his teammates in the Fire Department.

When Omar takes the oath in December, he will be part of a council that consists of four Latinos: him, José Zacarías, Cara McFerren and Dana Domínguez. It is believed to be the first predominantly Latino City Council in the history of the state of Iowa.

Omar's path to this present is very typical of West Liberty. Omar's parents are from the small town of Ignacio Allende, in the state of Durango, Mexico. When his mother, Aurelia, was young, she moved to the city of Mexicali to be a nanny in an upper-class home, while his father, José, came and went from the United States doing construction work. Omar was born in Mexicali, a border town just across from Calexico, Califor-

nia, in 1990.

Shortly after, Aurelia returned to Durango, where Omar would spend the first three and a half years of his life. After becoming a US citizen in 1991, his father, José, convinced Aurelia to cross the border and go to the United States in search of a better life. It would be three years in Dallas, Texas, before the little family settled in West Liberty.

“A friend of my dad had told him that work was plentiful here,” recalls Omar. “When we got here, I started school. I didn't know a word of English, and they didn't have the bilingual program like today. But I learned fast. I was already speaking well by the end of first grade.”

Meanwhile, his family wouldn't be small for much longer. Omar's first sister, Evelyn, was born in 1997; the second, Leslie, in 2001; and finally, his brother, Gabriel, was born in 2003. The family was already rooted in West Liberty, although they returned (and continue to return) every June to visit Allende.

“Some of my fondest memories are when the people we already knew in Allende decided to move to West Liberty. It was like bringing Durango to Iowa itself,” says Omar.

During high school, Omar played football and basketball. “Many times, I was the only Latino who played. But over time, Latinos and Anglos were mingling and we learned from each other. That was very nice.”

After graduating from West Liberty High School in 2008, Omar studied busi-

ness at Iowa Central Community College for a year before returning to West Liberty. He did several jobs before landing his current job, working in Muscatine in a repair shop. He was about to buy a house a couple of years ago when his dad told him to wait a little longer to make any big changes in his life.

A few months later, in April 2020, his dad was one of the first people in West Liberty to pass away from COVID. “It was almost as if he knew...” says Omar, who decided to return home to help his mother. “He was a year away from retirement. He always dreamed of going back to live in Durango when he retired.”

Regarding his new position, Omar is eager to get to work and give back to the community that has been his since he came here at the age of six. “I did not campaign for any particular issue ... I just want to take this opportunity to serve the people.”

“The truth is, I was a bit surprised when I won. It made me realize that people knew me more than I thought. They saw something in me that even I didn't see in myself.”

Surely José Martínez saw it too.

Mark Plum is an Index contributing writer who is producing stories on Latino culture in the West Liberty area. Plum is open to almost any ideas for stories and can be contacted by calling him at 219-471-0748 or by e-mail at [mplum@wk.k12.ia.us](mailto:mplum@wk.k12.ia.us), or by writing to the Index office at [indexnews@lcom.net](mailto:indexnews@lcom.net)



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# City infrastructure project could run \$2 million

## North end work will set up new subdivision

**Tim Evans**  
Index Editor

An infrastructure improvement project on the north end of West Liberty will cost an estimated \$2 million, city engineer Leo Foley told members of the West Liberty City Council Tuesday, Nov. 16, at their regular session, held at their temporary council chambers at the West Liberty Public Library.

Foley, who represents Veenstra and Kimm of Rock Island, said tentative estimates for work on Rainbow Drive and Maxson Street will include four different alternatives for the board, costs he said were all below the Capital Improvement Plan estimates.

The below ground and street work is necessary to allow for development of properties on the north end of the city, including a 43-unit single family and multiple family development on the corner of Rainbow and Garfield, a 13 acre site to be known as the Buysse Subdivision, with entrances off Rainbow Drive. The infrastructure work will also aid the possible future development of the Dutton Sports Complex area, where there once were plans for a subdivision north of the ball-park/recreation complex.

Foley said he would present the four alternatives at the first meeting in December to give the council options.

In related developments, the council

authorized a resolution obligating funds from the Urban Renewal Tax Revenue Fund for appropriation to the payment of annual appropriation TIF (tax increment financing) obligations due in the 2021-22 fiscal year to include about \$37,500 for a rental housing project on the southwest corner of the community by Giri LLC, owned by developer Deepak Giri of West Liberty.

The funding also includes \$53,750 for membership in the WeLead Economic Development organization, \$160,000 for professional and administrative costs and urban renewal revitalization grant program to the tune of \$100,000.

In other business, the city approved work by Wertzbaugher Services in West Liberty to create and install an ADA compliant aluminum railing on the west side main entrance to the remodeled city hall building at a cost of \$1,600.

The city also approved a request for event assistance by the West Liberty Police Department from Fr. Guillermo Trevino of St. Joseph Catholic Church on Sunday, Dec. 12, to host a Guadalupe procession, dance and parade that would start on Third Street in downtown West Liberty, turn north on Calhoun Street and end at the church on East Sixth Street.

Put together by City Clerk Lee Geertz, the city also approved a resolution authorizing the clerk to file a 2020-21 fiscal year street finance report with the Iowa Department of Transportation. The report included \$1.24 million in expenses, nearly \$1.48 million in revenues

and reports on balances of a pair of bonds and loans that opened as long ago as 2016 to the tune of \$480,000, now having a balance of \$210,000 together. The report also included a list of 20 pieces of city equipment, from trucks to stump grinders.

In summary, the clerk reported to the DOT an ending balance of \$2.24 million from various street accounts.

The city also set a public hearing on their regular meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. to dispose of Automated External Defibrillator (AED) equipment not being used by the police department. In a letter to the council from officer Kim Halpain, she explained becoming aware of a non-profit organization known as the John D. Gomke Charity, Inc., started by Steve and Jessica Gomke, after their 33-day-old baby, John, stopped breathing unexpectedly on a car ride home from the store.

Thanks to rapid CPR response by the father, the family was able to keep the child alive for three more days before he died. Since then, the couple has devoted their lives to education and equipping families and schools to deal with rapid coding of youths.

The department has two Reviver AED units, which were set aside when the police upgraded to new models. Halpain proposed donating the units, as well as accessories and pads, to the Gomke program, pointing out rapid defibrillation increases the chance of survival by 30 percent when a patient is coding.

The council also set a special work

session for their Tuesday, Dec. 21 meeting to begin at 6:30 p.m. to inform the new mayor Katie McCullough and city council members Dana Gonzalez and Omar Martinez on litigations the city has pending before they take office in January.

The city engineer also gave an update on the Well #2 revitalization project, noting, "Things are starting to click, click, click."

Foley also reported on working on an Emergency Management Plan for the city that needs to be completed by the end of the year, noting a contract for the work would be presented at the Dec. 7 meeting.

City manager David Haugland Foley said he has reviewed plans for the Buysse housing with developers and said the city should move forward to create housing next spring, filling a huge need in the community for places to live.

There was also a lot of talk at the meeting about the rededication of the Lady Liberty statue at the northeast corner of the remodeled city hall which took place Sunday, as well as other activities surrounding the West Liberty Chamber of Commerce Holiday Open House event.

Geertz reported a request to utilize golf carts to shuttle residents from activities at the Muscatine County Fairgrounds to the downtown area would require a special one-day permit. She also reported the Chamber has umbrella

• See CITY COUNCIL, page 14

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# Girls hopeful this is the year for state run

Short on numbers, girls team filled with talented players

Tim Evans  
Index Editor

Facing his third season and bringing back the most experience the Comets have had after two successful seasons, West Liberty High School girls basketball coach Matt Hoepfner believes his team has the makeup to make a run at the Iowa 3A state tournament.

Ranked ninth in the state (the highest of any River Valley Conference team) after boasting a 16-6 season a year ago and going 19-5 in 2019, the Comets return their three top players, all varsity letter winners from a year ago in seniors Sailor Hall, Macy Daufeldt and junior Finley Hall. Add in another Hall sister, Pearson, a freshman, and the team has quite the nucleus to build around.

"We are taking this season day by day and working to learn and improve every day," Hoepfner said, noting the strength of the team is their experience, "coupled with the seamless transition of the freshmen girls that have joined the team."

The Comets opened their season Saturday in a "Hall of Pride Scrimmage" against Davenport North, winning 54-46. The team hosts their first game against Mid-Prairie in RVC play beginning at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 30, before going to Durant that Friday, Dec. 3 for a 6:15 clash.

The team has a 21-game regular season schedule excluding a Saturday, Jan. 8 "IHMVCU shootout" at Augustana College in Rock Island and a two-day overnight Dec. 3-4 tournament in Johnson near Des Moines, both of which Hoepfner said will bring new challenges and competition for the team, something they will need to prepare the Comets for state tournament play.

The coach says the success of the volleyball program this year in taking second at state may also help. "Any time another program in our school does well it helps the other programs. With girls playing multiple sports they learn different things that can help in others."

The coach said one thing the team should have learned from last year's success is "staying patient when times get rough." He said the team will compete at a high level to always allow the Comets an opportunity to win the game, possibly looking to reset a school record win mark set two years ago at 19.

Hoepfner says his Comets should be a favorite in the conference because of the experience returning, but says you can't count out Mid-Prairie, Iowa City Regina and Wilton in the south division while Cascade should be a standout in the north division.

Rounding out the roster for the Comets is sophomore Paige Werling as well as freshman Sophie Buysse.

The team lost in the Regional last year to West Burlington, a 20-1 team, after the game was tied going into the fourth quarter. The team also just missed going to state the previous year, losing in the Regional final.

A sophomore, Finley Hall, was the Comet's top offensive player in 2020 with 326 points to her credit after leading the team her freshman year with 12.7 points per game. She hit nearly 40 percent of her field goals (109 of 276) and nearly 30 percent of her three-point shots (44 of 149) while courting the second-best free throw percentage at 73.6 percent (64 of 87) and finishing second on the team in rebound with 118.

Daufeldt, a 6-0 center, scored 316 points last season for the Comets, hitting over 45 percent of her field goals (124 of 274) while leading the team in rebounds with 173.

Junior Sailor Hall was the third leading scorer for the Comets last year with 287 points to her credit while leading the team in assists and steals with 107 and 81



In a scrimmage game Saturday with Davenport North, freshman Pearson Hall drives around a defender as she helps the Comets to a 54-46 win. One of three Hall sisters on the team, Pearson will be playing point guard. The girls open their season Tuesday against visiting Mid-Prairie in River Valley Conference play beginning at 6 p.m.

Index photo by Kohiton Kober

respectively. She hit over 40 percent of her field goals (97 of 240) and just under 29 percent from three-point range (28 of

97) while also leading the team from the free throw line, hitting on 75.6 percent (65 of 86).

# Comet boys team lacks scorers; open season Tuesday

Tim Evans  
Index Editor

With three returning starters, the West Liberty High School boys basketball team is hoping to play off some "valuable experience" of a year ago.

The Comets had a dismal 4-16 record a year ago including a 2-14 showing in the talented River Valley Conference for coach James Laughlin, now in his 16th season, totaling a 135-264 career win-loss mark.

With South Division All-Conference talent Caleb Wulf, a senior, returning as well as junior Ty Jones and sophomore Jayce McHugh, the young Comets hope to build a team that will compete.

Wulf, who averaged 13.8 points per game a year ago at guard is the only offensive player who boasts double figures while Jones, another guard, averaged 6.0 points per game a year ago. McHugh, a forward, averaged 2.0 points per game. Wulf was also the team's leading rebounder last year, averaging 7.4 a game.

Eion Bardell, a senior forward is also a returning letter winner for the Comets while Diego Hernandez is the tallest player on the team as a junior forward, standing 6-2.

Other players on the team including junior guard Mason Young, senior guard Josh Perex-Echevarria and sophomore guard Ryan Noble.

Laughlin says scoring will be a concern for his team, noting he will be looking for more consistency on the offensive end of the floor and hopes to develop more offensive players beside Wulf to guide his squad. "We need to develop some depth so we can play an up-tempo



West Liberty's Trenten Vileta works on a defensive drill for the Comets last week in a practice session. The team opens their season Tuesday, against visiting Mid-Prairie in a River Valley Conference game to begin at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Index photo by Tim Evans

style," the coach said.

The team lost Hector Adames to graduation a year ago. He was averaging 6.9 points per game while Chance Thrasher also graduated with his 6.5 points per game. Jahsiah Galvan, who scored at a 5.5 clip last year as a junior, decided not to play basketball this season, moving to the wrestling mats.

The Comets hit just 31 percent of their field goals a year ago including just under 31 percent from the three-point range.

The team also hit just 45.1 percent of their free throws last year.

Laughlin knows Mid-Prairie, Wilton and West Branch will be the teams to beat in the South Division of the confer-

ence and says Monticello and Camanche should battle for the north division title.

That may mean a tough opener for the Comets, who will play against Mid-Prairie High School on Tuesday, Nov. 30, in their home opener at 7:45 p.m. before visiting Durant in another RVC contest at 7:35 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 3, the second outing of a 21-game schedule.



# Wrestlers seek 10th RVC title

## Comets open season with triangular

Tim Evans  
Index Editor

Fourth year head West Liberty High School wrestling coach Ian Alke knows quite well his Comets are the team to beat in the River Valley Conference.

After all, West Liberty's proud program has claimed the conference championship ever since the league was formed nine years ago – going for its 10th straight crown this year when the teams clash on the mats in Monticello on Jan. 29.

Winning that title while getting a number of his wrestlers back to state, including qualifying for state dual competition, are among the goals this year for the veteran coach – something he says is little different than any other year.

“The tradition here is to be excellent,” Alke said. “That’s no different this year. We want to deliver some of the same kind of results we’ve had in the past.”

That work of excellence included an Iowa State heavyweight championship showing a year ago from senior Kobe Simon, who joined a flurry of Comets who have gone to the state tournament finals – many coming home champions.

With two returning district mat qualifiers back this year including one state qualifier – Drake Collins – the coach has reason to be optimistic as the team approaches their season opener on Tuesday, Nov. 30, at New London in a triangular with the hosts and North Mahaska beginning at 5 p.m.

Besides Collins, a junior who wrestled at 160 pounds last year, the Comets return senior Joshua Zeman to the mats, who wrestled at 132 pounds. Other key wrestlers for the Comets include senior Felipe Molina, who had a 27-9 record a year ago at 195 pounds, as well as sophomore Diego Gonzales, who was 16-9 last season, along with Joe Barten, a senior this year who wrestled at 152 pounds and junior Colin Cassady, who qualified for district last year at 106 pounds. Quintan Rocha, a sophomore who wrestled at 285 last year, is also returning.

Other members of the squad include seniors Jahsiah Galvan, Bryan Martinez-Zavala and Asael Negrete along with juniors Sergio Breceda Rodriguez, Preseton Daufeldt, and Jacob Seering.

Sophomores on the mats for the Comets this year include Evan Beal-Henderson, Morgan Lehman and Andre Puentes-Bueno while freshmen Comet wrestlers include Jonathan Cardona, Ryker Dengler, Bryso Garcia, Tytan Griffith and Hunter Kleier.

The meet is just one of six triangular and quadrangular battles through the end of January that are caked in between a variety of five challenging tournaments and a dual match at Cedar Rapids Xavier before the conference tournament and followed by Sectional, District and State tournaments at the end of the season, all coming in February.

The coach says Wilton will be the biggest concern in defending the conference title with a number of returning state qualifiers, but says you can't count out Iowa City Regina or Cascade. He says every one of his Comet teams have been “built a little different,” being unique in their own way as he fine-tunes his Comet machine since the start of practices on Nov. 15.

He says many of his wrestlers are “multi sport athletes” that don't concentrate year-round on wrestling and said

there's nothing wrong with that – noting about 90 percent of his team is composed of guys who played football in the fall.

The coach says he is preparing his team with some outstanding competition throughout the season including a two-day tournament in Independence on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 3-4, when the Comets will face some of the best competition from four states including Missouri, Illinois and Wisconsin, noting

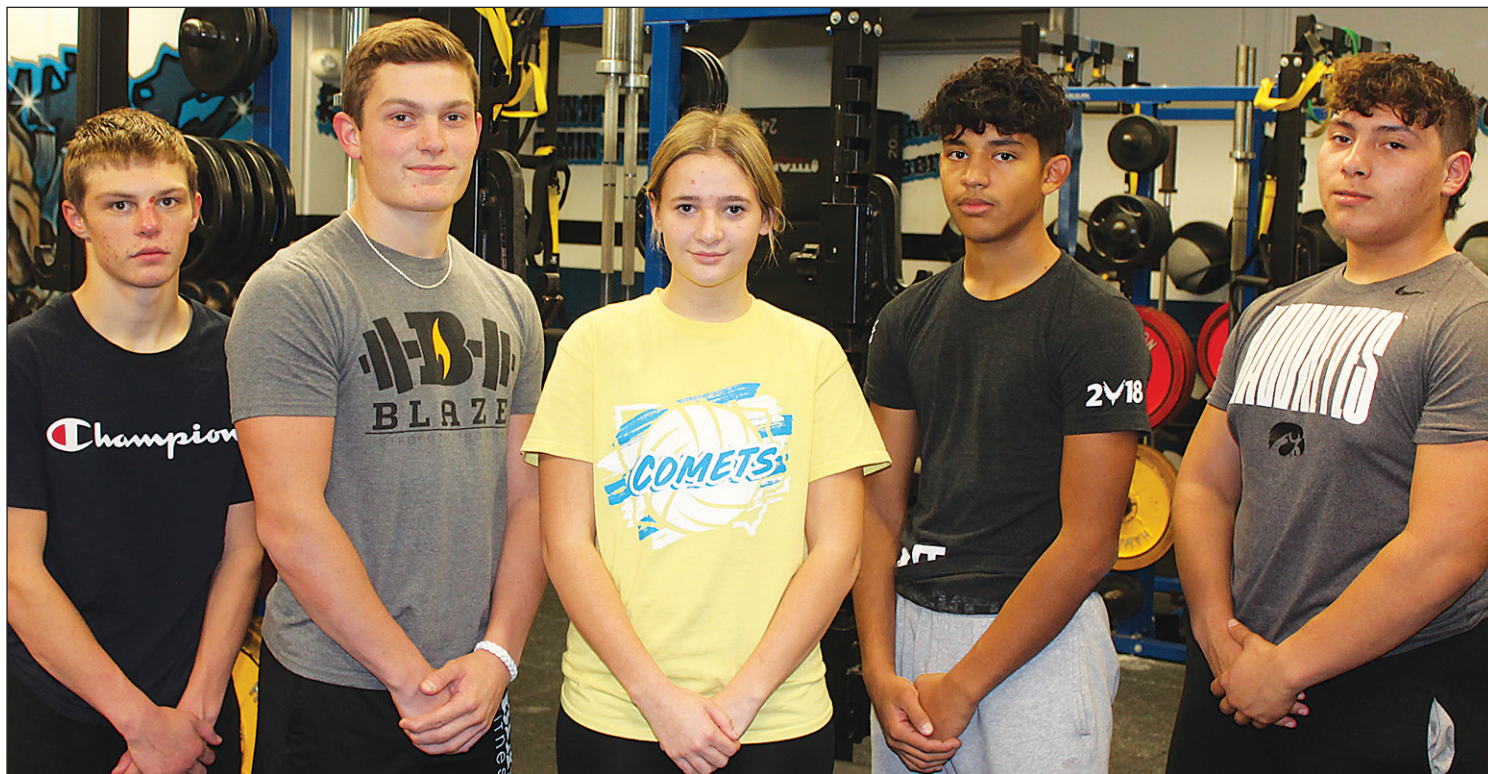
each of his wrestlers will get to compete in at least five matches during the two days of wrestling. He said there will be more than 30 teams in the tournament, giving his Comets a look at some new competition.

Iske said he doesn't look at the Independence Tournament as a “test” for his Comets, noting it's simply an opportunity for his team to “try to get better.”

The coach said the success of his

program is thanks to the local wrestling club and a strong junior high program, taken over this year by long time Comet coach Curt Diemer.

A total of nine teams will come together this Sunday on the West Liberty mats to battle in competition ranging in age from pre-schoolers to sixth graders. Iske said over 300 youths are anticipated to participate in the tournament that will take place on six mats.



Meet some of the top wrestlers who will be returning this season for the Comet boys and girls teams. From left is Colin Cassady, Drake Collins, Laney Esmoil, Diego Sanchez and Quintyn Rocha.

Evans

Index photo by Tim

## Girls wrestling program explodes

Tim Evans  
Index Editor

A new head West Liberty High School girls wrestling coach brings a whole new perspective to a program that continues to grow year after year.

Samantha Sebolt comes from a wrestling family – saying her younger brother, T.J., operates the number one wrestling club in the nation, the Sebolt Wrestling Academy in Jefferson, Iowa.

“I grew up in a wrestling family,” the new coach said. “It's what we did then, like it or not.”

Sebolt has grown her team from five participants a year ago to 15 this year and says her star from a year ago, Mylei Henderson, has decided to concentrate on the sport of volleyball in the off season following the success of the girls volleyball team this year. She was the Comet's top finisher at state last year.

The coach says she hopes to build her team around returning letter winners Grace Evans, a senior, and sophomore Lacey Esmoil, but has some promising other talent developing.

The coach is proud of Henderson making that decision, but is more proud of the girls who came out this year to work hard – many trying the sport for the first time and the program on the verge of getting sanctioned officially in the state – something many feel will happen in 2022 or 2023 by the Iowa High School Girls Athletic Union. It's something West Liberty's school board and administration leadership has already signed up for – getting approved last month. It simply adds to the flavor of West Liberty's high class wrestling program that already exists for the boys – the girls just getting going the past three years.

“It's the fastest growing sport in the nation,” said Sebolt, a paraprofessional in the West Liberty High School. “The more girls go out for it, the better,” she

said, noting the sport is great for “building confidence and everything a woman may need in this day and age.”

She said goals don't have anything to do with getting on the mats and winning matches. “We want to make sure one way or another, they have fun – learn to enjoy it.”

“I want them to grow as a woman, grow in confidence and comeback next year,” the coach said. “I hope they continue to work as they have – they're not afraid to get in there and get sweaty. They're amazing.”

Sebolt said numbers were down in the program last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but says the girls are “hitting it hard” this year and will take to the mats beginning in the first week of December through the end of January, hoping to “grow and learn and, hopefully, being successful.”

The coach said the team's first meet will be Tuesday, Dec. 7 at Waverly-Shellrock beginning at 6 p.m. The girls don't wrestle as a team like the boys, some battling in the same weight classes if there are opponents. Sebolt says there may be a few holes in filling weight classes, but she said building experience is what the program is about and said the girls will gain a lot of experience in round robin tournaments where they will compete more as individuals than a team.

Other members of the team include

senior Cora Reed, juniors Vayda Bryant, Crystal Ledzma, Angela Lozano and Sheyla Madrigal. Sophomores on the squad include Amerie Alvarado, Dionni Garcia-Vasquez, Alissa Sanchez and Nellie Stagg, while the freshman class is represented by Addison Beaver, Silvia Garcia-Vasquez and Ava Morrison.

“It all depends on what the other teams have to offer,” she said, noting the Comets have a lot of girls who want to get on the mats.

This year's schedule consists of a number of triangular matches starting with a Tuesday, Nov. 30 match with North Mahaska and hosting New London beginning at 5 p.m. Two days later, the Comets host their first meet of the season, a 5:30 p.m. quadrangular clash with Bellevue, Cascade and Iowa City Regina.

The team goes to the first of eight tournaments this year when they travel to Waverly on Tuesday, Dec. 7.

The Comets will host their own tournament on Monday, Jan. 10, beginning at 4:30 p.m. and tangle in two other quadrangulars through a season that ends with the Junior varsity River Valley Conference tournament at Northeast on Monday, Jan. 24.

The team will be working toward returning wrestlers to the state finals on Jan. 21-22 at the Xtreme Arena in Coralville.



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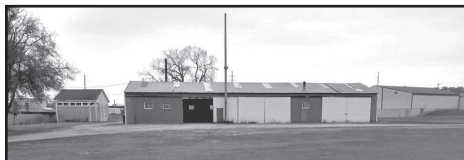
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Includes 2.68 Acres more or less with 120' x 38' building with LP & wood heated shop with electric overhead door, water, sewer & 2 big storage bays - 32'x38' & 40'x38' with single & 3 phase electric service. Also includes 36' x 24' out building.

Legal Description: Out lot 56 South of Railroad & out Lot 57 South Of Railroad Except The East 244.7 Feet. Parcel # 821819101010000 ( Search on Beacon ) Real Estate Terms 10% Down On Sale Day Balance Due At Closing!

## OPEN HOUSE

WED., DEC. 1 & THURS. DEC. 2 • 2-4PM

- Shop Equipment, Tools & More:**
- Toro Z Master Commercial DIESEL Zero Turn Mower with Turbo Force 72" Deck
  - Quincy QE-15 Big Horizontal Air Compressor
  - 5hp Single Phase Big Horizontal Air Compressor 3 Phase
  - Gas Generator
  - Transmission Jack
  - Black Hawk Engine Jack
  - Power Max 1000 G3 series Plasma Cutter
  - Lincoln Power Mig 255 Mig Welder With Tank
  - Commercial Floor Model Drill Press
  - Cutting Torch With Cart & Tanks Complete
  - Kwik-Way Wheel Line Model 317 Car Hoist
  - Half Ton Overhead Crane With Swing Boom & 110v Chain Hoist
  - Onan 6.5 RV Generator

### SPECIAL MENTION:



1994 Ford F Super Duty Roll Back Hauler Diesel

- Onan Emerald I Generator
- Speed Aire Gas Powered Air Compressor
- Big Diesel/Fuel Tank With Electric Pump
- Portable Truck Bed Fuel Tank
- Steel Barge Box With Hoist
- 2 Haul Type Truck Boxes For Storage
- 8'x 3' Roll Around Steel Work Bench
- 48" x 33" Steel Work Bench
- w/Shelves
- 84 Compartment Wooden Bolt Bin (fairly full)
- Big Heavy Duty Bench Vise
- 2 Bench Grinders
- Metal Chop Saw
- 6'x 4' Steel Work Bench
- Napa 22 Drawer roll around tool box
- Big Selection Of Hand Tools Including Screw Drivers, Sockets & Ratchets, Pliers,

- Wrenches, Drill Bits, Taps & Reamers, Air Tools & More!
- Big Assortment of log chains
- Chain Binders
- Grease Guns
- 20 Ton Press
- Heavy Duty Steel Shelving
- Ratchet Straps
- Renfro Half Ton Sheet Metal Grab x 2
- Porta Power Kit
- Electric Grinders
- Heavy Duty Pry Bars
- Misc Car & Tractor Parts
- Parts Washer
- Battery Charger
- Fork Truck Fuel Tanks
- Misc Tires
- Selection Of Electric Motors Large To Small
- Step Ladders
- Hydraulic Wood Splitter
- On Cart Gas Powered Misc Scrap Iron
- Many More Items Too Numerous To Mention!

Terms: Cash, Credit Card or GOOD Check. Everything Is sold as is where is nothing to be removed until settled for. Not Responsible for accidents or theft. Statements on sale day take precedence over printed material.

For more info & pictures, visit [www.circlemauctions.com](http://www.circlemauctions.com)

Or Contact Steve Morehead 563 652 9780; Executor Lori Feuss 563 219 2859; Brad Boffeli Attorney

## Office Manager - Board Secretary

Durant Municipal Electric Plant has an immediate opening for an energetic professional who does not mind wearing multiple hats. Experienced in managing a wide range of administrative and executive support related tasks and able to work independently with little or no supervision. Well organized, flexible and enjoy the administrative challenges of supporting an office of diverse people in Durant Iowa.

This position will organize and coordinate office administration and procedures, to ensure organizational effectiveness, efficiency, and safety. Other responsibilities include but not limited to maintaining accurate and adequate financial and payroll records, member billing and account information and implementing office policies and procedures. This position also performs various routine clerical functions and other duties and responsibilities as assigned.

### POSITION REQUIREMENTS

Must be high school graduate or equivalent. Associates degree in a related field is preferred. Work experience with an electric utility is desirable. Must possess good communications and able to work effectively with others in a diplomatic and professional manner. Experience with Microsoft Office products and accounting principles is desired. Confidentiality is required.

Background and pre-employment physical and illegal substance test is required.

If interested in this position, please send your application and resume to P.O. Box 138, Durant, Iowa 52747.

Applications accepted until filled.

Durant Municipal Electric is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



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Probate

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR MUSCATINE COUNTY CASE NO: ESPR012418 NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Haluk Sasmazer, Deceased.

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Haluk Sasmazer, Deceased, who died on or about July 27, 2021: You are hereby notified that on November 5, 2021, the undersigned was appointed administrator of the estate.

Notice is hereby given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of the mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated on November 12, 2021.

Lynn M. Sasmazer Administrator of the Estate 1771 Highway 6 West Liberty, IA 52776-9062

Alison Werner Smith, ICIS#:AT0007390 Attorney for the Administrator Hayek, Moreland, Smith & Bergus, LLP 120 E. Washington St. Iowa City, IA 52240-3924 Date of second publication 25th day of November, 2021

West Liberty School District Board of Education November 15, 2021

Reports and documents or policies considered by the Board at this meeting are on file in the Board Secretary's office, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Minutes for the annual board meeting of the West Liberty Community School District Board of Education in the Boardroom - 1103 N Elm Street, November 15, 2021, 5:00 p.m.

President Geertz called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Members present were Jacob Burroughs, Stephanie Dengler, and Carla Shield. Others present were Superintendent Shaun Kruger, Secretary Abby Ortiz, Kelly Butler, Chris Martin, Jose Zacharias, Melia Larson, Tom Strumpel, Brenda Arthur-Miller, and Tim Evans from the West Liberty Index.

Motioned by Burroughs, seconded by Shield to move the second readings of board policy 400.8 and 503.2 to the December 6th meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Motioned by Dengler, seconded by Shield to approve the amended Agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

No one approached during Communications and Visitors (Open Forum).

GSA Club Sponsor, Kelly Butler, presented information about the GSA Club noting what they do, stand for, participation, and positive impact on students.

Motioned by Dengler, seconded by Shield to approve Middle School Project Change Order #11 in the amount of \$3,121.96 to add additional corridor fire proofing as required by the Iowa State Fire Marshal Inspector. Motion carried 4-0.

Motioned by Shield, seconded by Burroughs to accept the Abstract of Elections from the November 2, 2021 School Board Election and Voter PPEL renewal. Motion carried 4-0.

Motioned by Burroughs, seconded by Shield to approve the excess costs of \$168,045.66 to provide a Limited English Proficient program beyond the weightings. Motion carried 4-0.

Motioned by Burroughs, seconded by Shield to approve the SBRC Request for Modified Supplemental Amount for: Open Enrollment not in Fall 2020 (\$98,672) and LEP Beyond Five Years (\$183,854). Motion carried 4-0.

Motioned by Burroughs, seconded by Shield to accept the Consent Agenda. Personnel includes New Hires: Jaceon Bornsen - Student Food Service Worker; Ninushk Roman Santiago - Food Service Worker, \$12/hour, 2.5 hours/day. Motion carried 4-0.

Superintendent Kruger recognized Retiring Board Members, Stephanie Dengler and Emily Geertz.

Motioned by Dengler, seconded by Shield to adjourn at 5:22 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Please refer to the District's YouTube channel for a full broadcast of the Board meeting.

Expenses and Services Excluding Payroll for the West Liberty Community School District - November 2021

Table listing expenses and services for West Liberty Community School District for November 2021, including items like 95% Group Inc, AED Superstore, Ahlers & Cooney, P.C., etc.

Table listing various vendors and their amounts, including Iowa State University, Ironside Apparel & Promotions, J&M Roofing & Maintenance Inc, etc.

West Liberty Community School District Board of Education November 15, 2021

Reports and documents or policies considered by the Board at this meeting are on file in the Board Secretary's office, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Minutes for the Organizational Board Meeting of the West Liberty Community School District Board of Education in the Boardroom - 1103 N Elm Street, November 15, 2021 following the Annual Board Meeting.

Board Secretary Ortiz called the organizational meeting to order at 5:55 p.m. and determined a quorum. Secretary Ortiz swore in newly elected directors, Ed Moreno and Becky Vargas. Secretary Ortiz entertained motions from the floor for the office of President. Motioned by Moreno for Jacob Burroughs for President. Motioned by Shield and seconded by Laughlin to cease nominations. Motion carried 5-0.

Secretary Ortiz entertained motions from the floor for the office of Vice-President. Motioned by Vargas for Ed Moreno for Vice-President. Motioned by Burroughs and seconded by Shield to cease nominations. Motion carried 5-0.

Secretary Ortiz swore in President Burroughs and Vice-President Moreno. President Burroughs assumed the role of president. President Burroughs swore in Board Secretary & Treasurer Abby Ortiz. Motioned by Shield, seconded by Laughlin to approve the agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

Motioned by Laughlin, seconded by Shield to approve the following: Set Board meeting dates, time and places for the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 6:00 p.m. in the school boardroom; no meetings on Labor Day, January 3rd, and July 4th; official newspaper the West Liberty Index; school attorneys Lynch Dallas for student and personal matters, Steven Kundel for local issues; Depository Resolution West Liberty State Bank up to \$13 million, MidwestOne Bank up to \$1.75 million, ISJIT up to \$1.5 million; Board appointed committees: Buildings and Grounds (Moreno & Laughlin), Transportation (Shield & Burroughs), Negotiations (Burroughs & Vargas), Foundation (Laughlin & Vargas), Wellness (Moreno & Shield), Muscatine County Conference Board (Moreno), Chamber of Commerce (Kruger); Appointment of District 504 Coordinator Vicki Vernon; Appointment of District Equity Coordinator Kyle Steffen; Appointment of Level 1 Investigators Stephanie Paulsen and Russ Hughes and Level 2 Investigators Jim Sweeney & Associates; Appointment of Title IX Coordinator Adam Loria; name Ed Moreno as IASB delegate; Reconsideration committee (Stefanie McNamer, Kelly Butler, Vicki Vernon, Jeni Laughlin, and Gabrielle Bughnagen); Local School Improvement Advisory Council/LSIAC (Brenda Arthur-Miller, Jacob Burroughs, Juan Cardona, Kelly Daufeldt, Kelsie Garcia, Hector Garrido, Randy Guerra, Priscilla Haessig, Bobbi Jenks, Shawn Kivi, Kara Kruse, Jeni Laughlin, Ed Moreno, Melody Russell, Lynne Sasmazer, Christian Torres, Vicki Vernon, Megan Zalzal). Motion carried 5-0.

No fundraising requests to approve. One overnight trip was presented. Please refer to the District's YouTube channel for a full broadcast of the Board meeting. Next Regular Board Meeting is Monday, December 6

at 6:00 p.m. Agenda items include: Superintendent Report; Students "On-Track"; Review board policies 204 - 216.2; Second reading board policy 400.8 and 503.2.

Motioned by Vargas, seconded by Shield to adjourn the Organizational Meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Muscatine County October 2021 Claims Register

Table listing claims for Muscatine County October 2021, including 5th District Recorders Assoc, district dues, A-1 Marketing Prods, notary stamps, etc.

Table listing various vendors and their amounts, including loway-Record Printing Co, 6,000 printed envelopes, ISAC Grp Unemployment Fund, qtrly unemployment, etc.



• LEGALS, from page 13

.....	444.50
Spratt Oil Sales Inc, diesel dist 2 .....	6,902.35
Super Wash of Muscatine, squad washer-sept 2021 .....	108.00
.....	1,510.50
Supreme Radio Comms, radio prgrmg-dtf isics .....	166,434.89
Swanson Construction Co, jail booking expansion .....	26.50
Sweetland Trailer Sales LLC, hubcap ez lube .....	105.00
Swett, Donald A, dragline repair maint/oversee ...	493.95
Sycamore Printing, envelopes .....	673.67
Tallgrass Bsn Resources, office supplies .....	1,228.20
Team Staffing Solutions Inc, temp help .....	1,228.20
Temp Associates, temp med clerk wk end 10/1/21 .....	1,747.80
.....	170.76
The Home Depot, cleaning spls .....	400.00
The Ohio National Life Ins, dc-ohio nat'l .....	2,320.80
The Pride Group Inc, residential care facility .....	28,647.17
Thoms Proestler Co, food/non food .....	15,748.98
TKC Telecom LLC, phone card sales .....	752.00
Trane, seal leak repair .....	220.00
Treasurer of State, unclaimed prpty .....	29,689.10
Tri City Equip Co, combi oven .....	1,000.00
Trimble Funeral Hm/Crematory, prof srvc .....	15,735.78
Trinity Muscatine, local public health srvc grant .....	130.00
TSS, bs dot .....	22,703.16
Turnkey Corrections, commissary items for resale .....	2,734.76
.....	804.39
Twin Bridges Truck City Inc, abd kits .....	3,582.00
US Cellular Corp, monthly srvc .....	412.50
UIDL, prof srvc .....	367.75
Underground Vaults/Storage, storage rental lease; cf vault .....	205.40
.....	109.00
Uniform Den Inc, uniform .....	575.63
United Way of Muscatine, united way .....	2,150.18
Unitypoint Health-Trinity Musc, dtf-employee chest x-ray .....	681.25
US Bank Equip Finance, copy machine (2) lease .....	2,547.46
Van Daele Law LLC, legal srvc .....	160.00
Van Diest Supply Co, jlb oil .....	2,300.00
Van Meter Inc, lumark led wallpack .....	2,129.06
Vander Linden, Tibe, reimb mileage-5th dist fall mtg .....	282.82
Vanguard Appraisals Inc, spec appraisal serv: comm/indust .....	10,439.86
Verizon, monthly srvc .....	5,060.00
Verschoore, Jason P, squad maint .....	32.23
Visa, misc dept expenses .....	49.56
Voya Institutional Trust Co, dc-ing .....	420.00
Wapello Republican, regular mtg 08/20/21 .....	12.69
Washington Co Sheriff, srvc of subpoena .....	33,320.38
Watchguard Video, antenna, cable, antenna mount .....	21,728.34
.....	980.46
Weiss, Curtis, meal-isac .....	55.10
Wellmark BCBS of IA, sept'21 med/dental ins claims .....	21.50
.....	7,750.00
Wending Quarries Inc, rock .....	332.58
West Liberty Index, notices/publications .....	1,018.02
West Reporting, depositions .....	113.25
Wheeler, Tashia, me mileage .....	8.19
Wilton Public Library, 1st half fy 21/22 allocation .....	2,433.24
.....	\$3,160,795.78
Wilton Telephone Comm, monthly srvc (september) .....	
Wilton-Durant Advocate News, notices/publications .....	
.....	
Windstream, monthly srvc .....	
Windstream Comms, toll-free access .....	
Zones Inc, wireless access points .....	
Total .....	

**Muscatine County Board of Supervisors**  
Monday, November 15, 2021

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. with Holliday, Sauer and Saucedo. Mather electronically attended the meeting. Sorensen was absent. Chairperson Saucedo presiding. On a motion by Sauer, second by Holliday, the agenda was approved as presented. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Mather, claims dated November 15, 2021 were approved in the amount of \$869,262.19. Ayes: All.

A Public Hearing was called to order by Chairperson Saucedo at 9:01 A.M. on a request to vacate and close a section of 41st Street in Fruitland Township. In discussion with the Board, John Kuhl, Attorney representing Grain Processing Corporation (GPC), stated GPC is appreciative of the support of this vacation project which will help to control access to property that was purchased by GPC. Kuhl stated the cottages on Maple Grove Road, located on the acquired property, were removed by September 2020. Kuhl stated the vacated road will be gated to block access. On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, the public hearing was closed at 9:05 A.M. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Holliday, second by Sauer, the Board approved Resolution #11-15-21-01 to vacate and close a section of a secondary road in Sections 15 and 22, T76N, R2W of the 5th Principal Meridian in Muscatine County. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: All.

**RESOLUTION #11-15-21-01**  
**RESOLUTION APPROVING A REQUEST TO VACATE AND CLOSE A SECTION OF A SECONDARY ROAD IN SECTIONS 15 AND 22, T76N, R2W OF THE 5TH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, MUSCATINE COUNTY, IOWA**  
WHEREAS, the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing at 9:00 a.m. on November 15, 2021, on the proposed vacation and closure of the following road in Sections 15 and 22, T76N, R2W of the 5th Principal Meridian, Muscatine County, Iowa:  
41st Street in Fruitland Township  
A portion of existing roadway easement, originally established Reeder's Road (now known as 41st Street), recorded in Establishment Record Book "PB", Page 260, in the Office of the Muscatine County Engineer, 60 feet wide over a parcel of land located in part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 15 and part of the Northeast Quarter of Section 22, all in Township 76 North, Range 2 West, of the 5th Principal Meridian, Muscatine County, Iowa, the centerline of which is described as follows:  
Beginning at a 5/8"Ø rebar with light blue cap, P.L.S. No. 23526 set at the Northeast Corner of Section 22, Township 76 North, Range 2 West, of the 5th Principal Meridian, Muscatine County, Iowa; thence North 89° 12' 17" West along the north line of said Section 22 and the centerline of originally established Reeder's Road (now known as 41st Street), recorded in Establishment Record Book "PB", Page 260, in the Office of the Muscatine County Engineer and basis of bearings for this survey being the Iowa Regional Coordinate System, Zone 14 Burlington, a distance of 1528.07 feet to the east line of a parcel owned by Northern Gravel Company located in the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of said Section 15, warranty deed for said parcel recorded in Book 84 of Lands, Pages 85

and 86, in the Office of the Muscatine County Recorder. The sidelines of said 60-foot easement to be extended or shortened to meet at angle points and to terminate at the east lines of said Section 15 and Section 22 and the east line of said parcel.

Said easement contains 2.10 acres, more or less, and is subject to all easements and other restrictions of record. And WHEREAS, information received at the hearing has been considered by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors that the request to vacate and close the above described road be approved.

Passed and approved this 15th day of November, 2021.  
**ATTEST:**  
**/s/Tibe Vander Linden**

**Muscatine County Auditor**  
**/s/Santos Saucedo, Chair**  
**Muscatine County Board of Supervisors**

A public hearing was called to order by Chairperson Saucedo at 9:08 A.M. on a request to vacate and close a section of Keokuk Avenue in Lake Township. In discussion with the Board, County Engineer Keith White stated the presented map indicates the temporary gate closures. John Miller of Lake Township asked if his property taxes will change. White stated the property owners will be taxed accordingly among landowners as a portion of the adjacent road will be acquired by each parcel owner. Miller asked if taxes will change since he is currently paying taxes on a maintained road. White stated the secondary road fund received through property taxes is approximately \$2.00 per \$1,000 to maintain secondary roads, which does not fully cover the cost. White stated a local option sales taxes and the gas tax fund also fund road maintenance. Miller asked if cleaning the road ditches is now his responsibility. Saucedo stated the landowners will own the vacated road and the ditches will be maintained by the property owners. Miller stated the Nature Conservatory owns property at the west border and questioned if they were notified. Saucedo stated the property owners were notified by certified letter of the request to vacate the road. White stated the road closed sign will remain and the gate may be moved if the landowners so choose. On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, the public hearing was closed at 9:20 A.M. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Holliday, the Board approved Resolution #11-15-21-02 to vacate and close a section of a secondary road in Sections 11 and 12, T77N, R3W of the 5th Principal Meridian in Muscatine County. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: All.

**RESOLUTION #11-15-21-02**  
**RESOLUTION APPROVING A REQUEST TO VACATE AND CLOSE A SECTION OF A SECONDARY ROAD IN SECTIONS 11 AND 12, T77N, R3W OF THE 5TH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, MUSCATINE COUNTY, IOWA**  
WHEREAS, the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing at 9:00 a.m. on November 15, 2021, on the proposed vacation and closure of the following road in Sections 11 and 12, T77N, R3W of the 5th Principal Meridian, Muscatine County, Iowa:  
Keokuk Avenue in Lake Township  
A portion of existing roadway easement, originally established Huber Road (now known as Keokuk Avenue), recorded in Establishment Record Book "B", Page 88, in the Office of the Muscatine County Engineer, varying width over a parcel of land located in part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 11 and part of the Southwest Quarter of Section 12, all in Township 77 North, Range 3 West, of the 5th Principal Meridian, Muscatine County, Iowa, the centerline of which is described as follows:  
Beginning at a 3/8"Ø landscape spike, said to be over a concrete monument, found at the East Quarter Corner of Section 11, Township 77 North, Range 3 West, of the 5th Principal Meridian, Muscatine County, Iowa; thence South 0° 51' 56" West along the east line of said Section 11 and the centerline of originally established Huber Road (now known as Keokuk Avenue), recorded in Establishment Record Book "B", Page 88, in the Office of the Muscatine County Engineer and basis of bearings for this survey being the Iowa Regional Coordinate System, Zone 14 Burlington, a distance of 1894.56 feet to a 1/2"Ø rebar with aluminum cap stamped "PLS 11309" found at the southeasterly corner of Auditor Parcel "E" where it intersects with said east line and centerline, said parcel survey recorded as Instrument Number 2019-05840, in the Office of the Muscatine County Recorder. The sidelines of said easement to be extended or shortened to meet at angle points and to terminate at the north lines of said Southeast Quarter and Southwest Quarter and the south line of said Auditor Parcel "E".

Said easement contains 3.82 acres, more or less, and is subject to all easements and other restrictions of record. And WHEREAS, information received at the hearing has been considered by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors that the request to vacate and close the above described road be approved.

Passed and approved this 15th day of November, 2021.  
**ATTEST:**  
**/s/Tibe Vander Linden**

**Muscatine County Auditor**  
**/s/Santos Saucedo, Chair**  
**Muscatine County Board of Supervisors**

On a motion by Sauer, second by Holliday, the Board approved the following utility permits: Muscatine Power and Water – install 2" orange HDPE pipe at 2579 Pettibone Avenue, Section 22-T76N-R02W; and Mid-America Energy Company of Davenport, Iowa – install transmission 69kV line, replacing exiting 3 pole structure with the same design in Section 24, T-78N, R-1W, along the west side of Vail Avenue. Ayes: All.

County Engineer Keith White presented a memo to the Board showing quotes from Krieger's of Muscatine to purchase two light duty trucks with government fleet rebates from the manufacturers under the GY2022 Capital Purchase Budget. White stated the quoted costs are for one 2022 GMC Sierra 1500 LTD 4 wheel-drive truck at \$37,985 and one 2022 Ford Super Duty F-250 XL 4 wheel-drive truck for \$33,139. White stated the final trades will be determined when vehicles are delivered. White reviewed with the Board the FY2022 Capital Expenditure Request report showing the projects, estimated costs for equipment, and a shed replacement. On a motion by Holliday, second by Sauer, the Board approved the purchase of light duty trucks when delivered to Krieger's of Muscatine. Ayes: All.

County Engineer Keith White updated the Board on secondary road projects. County Auditor Tibe Vander Linden reported the 2021 City and School Post-Election Audit of Ward 4 (Precincts 7 and 8) and Auditor Certification has been filed. Vander Linden stated the Post-Election Audit was held on November 8, 2021 with a Post-Election Audit Board of three appointed members, one observer, one Auditor staff member and Vander Linden present. Vander Linden reported the results of the audit reflected no change in the results reported on election night.

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met as a Board of Canvassers for the city and school elections held Tuesday, November 2, 2021. Vander Linden stated the 1st Tier Canvass held on November 8, 2021 was presented with accurate ballot counts however two uniformed military ballots and one provisional ballot were received timely by the November 8, 2021, 12:00 P.M. deadline. The amended 1st Tier Canvass presented is for Muscatine City Mayor, Councilmember At-Large and Councilmember 2nd Ward and Muscatine School Board Director At-Large with a change in ballot count but no change in election results. Vander Linden stated another amended 1st Canvass is for the Wilton City Mayor and Wilton Council At-Large. Vander Linden stated the Wilton City races should not have been

declared a winner as part of the 1st Tier Canvass. Vander Linden stated the ballot count remains the same for the Wilton City Mayor and Wilton Councilmember At-Large as Cedar County had no votes cast in the races. The Board of Canvassers certified the following amended 1st Tier Canvass results to be a true and correct abstract of the votes cast in the elections including the Wilton City Mayor and Wilton Councilmember At-Large races.

**CITY OF MUSCATINE**  
Mayor (two-year term) – there were 3409 votes cast: Brad Bark received 1,834 votes, Diana L. Broderson received 1,239 votes, James G. Edgmond received 258 votes, Chad T. Bishop received 76 votes and there was a scattering of 2 votes. Brad Bark was elected.  
Councilmember At-Large (four-year term) – there were 3,260 votes cast: Angela Lewis received 1,793 votes, Kelcey Brackett received 1,453 votes and there was a scattering of 14 votes. Angela Lewis was elected.  
Councilmember-2nd Ward (four-year term) – there were 465 votes cast: Jeff Osborne received 189 votes, Josiah Anderson received 143 votes, Alyson Glynn received 132 votes and there was a scattering of 1 vote. Jeff Osborne was elected.

**MUSCATINE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER** (four-year term, three positions) – there were 8,482 votes cast: Lindsey Phillips received 2,525 votes, Matt Conard received 2,154 votes, Ken LaRue received 1,907 votes, Toby McCarter received 1,797 votes and there was a scattering of 99 votes. Lindsey Phillips, Matt Conard and Ken LaRue were elected.

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met as a Board of Canvassers in order to canvass multiple county races for the city and school elections held Tuesday, November 2, 2021 for which Muscatine is the control county. The Board of Canvassers certified the following results to be a true and correct abstract of the votes cast in the elections:

**CITY OF WILTON**  
(Cedar County results have been included)  
Mayor (two-year term) – there were 198 votes cast: Keith W. Stanley received 183 votes and there was a scattering of 15 votes. Keith W. Stanley was elected.

Councilmember At-Large (four-year term, two positions) – there were 371 votes cast: Steve L. Owens received 181 votes, Allen W. (Bill) Voss received 116 votes, Michael Rohwer received 68 votes and there was a scattering of 6 votes. Steve L. Owens and Allen W. (Bill) Voss were elected.

**LOUISA-MUSCATINE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER** (four-year term, two positions)  
(Louisa County results have been included)  
There were 899 votes cast: Jeff Riggan received 268 votes, Scott Wilson received 276 votes, Jennifer Rader received 234 votes, Christine Kirk received 116 votes and there was a scattering of 5 votes. Jeff Riggan and Scott Wilson were elected.

**WEST LIBERTY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER** (four-year term, two positions)  
(Cedar County and Johnson County results have been included)  
There were 1,367 votes cast: Rebecca Vargas received 387 votes, Edward A. Moreno received 356 votes, Emily Daufeldt received 319 votes, Jaime Parizek received 289 votes, and there was a scattering of 16 votes. Rebecca Vargas and Edward A. Moreno were elected.

**WEST LIBERTY SCHOOL PUBLIC MEASURE QD**  
(Cedar County and Johnson County results have been included) – Shall the following public measure be adopted? To approve the question of continuing to levy and impose a voter approved physical plant and equipment, property tax and income surtax? There were 717 votes cast: 470 votes were cast "YES" in favor of the public measure and 247 votes were cast "NO" against the question. West Liberty School Public Measure QD was adopted.

**WILTON SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER** (four-year term, two positions)  
(Cedar County results have been included)  
There were 417 votes cast: Tara Oien received 215 votes, Robert Metzger received 194 votes and there was a scattering of 8 votes. Tara Oien and Robert Metzger were elected.

**WILTON SCHOOL PUBLIC MEASURE QE**  
(Cedar County results have been included)  
Shall the following public measure be adopted? To adopt a Revenue Purpose Statement specifying the use of revenues the Wilton Community School District will receive from the State of Iowa Secure an Advanced Vision for Education Fund? There were 238 votes cast: 190 votes were cast "YES" in favor of the public measure and 48 votes were cast "NO" against the question. Wilton School Public Measure QE was adopted.

Discussion was held with Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber regarding the change in ownership for Ardon Creek Vineyard & Winery, LLC dba Ardon Creek Vineyard & Winery stating the change is from 75% ownership held by Mike Furlong and 25% ownership held by Chad Furlong to 100% ownership to Chad Furlong. On a motion by Sauer, second by Holliday, the Board approved a change of ownership application for Ardon Creek Vineyard & Winery, LLC dba Ardon Creek Vineyard & Winery, 2391 Independence Avenue, Letts, Iowa. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Holliday, minutes of the November 8, 2021 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

**Correspondence:**  
All Supervisors received updates from Public Health Director Christy Roby-Williams with COVID updates.  
All Supervisors received an email from Mississippi Valley Workforce Development Board.  
Saucedo received an email from Muscatine City Administrator Carol Webb regarding the Transfer Station action items with costs and utilization from county residents.  
Saucedo received an email from Jim Thompson, Iowa Economic Development Association in regards to West Liberty housing downtown district. Saucedo connected Thompson with the Economic Director for West Liberty Economic Area Development (WELEAD).

Saucedo received an email from Josh Millard, U.S. District Representative for Iowa Congressman Miller-Meeks for potential discussions for items desired in Muscatine County.  
**Committee & Meeting Reports:**  
Saucedo attended a quarterly meeting with West Liberty Economic Improvement Board on November 12, 2021.  
Saucedo and Sorensen attended a meeting with Drainage District #13 on November 10, 2021. Saucedo stated County Attorney Jim Barry, Muscatine City Finance Director Nancy Leuck, two members from Iowa Homeland Security, Louisa County Board of Supervisor members and the Louisa County Engineer were in attendance. Saucedo stated the meeting discussions included potential legislation concerns.

In discussion with the Board, Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber and Sheriff Quinn Riess reviewed the prospect of eliminating two part-time Diversion Officer positions and authorize one full-time Diversion Officer position at the Muscatine County Jail. Schreiber stated the proposed salary to fill one full-time Diversion Officer with benefits is less at \$63,200 than the current budget for two part-time Diversion Officers at a cost of \$74,100. Schreiber stated the Diversion Officer positions are paid by the Commissary fund. On a motion by Sauer, second by Holliday, the Board approved to authorize one full-time Diversion Officer position and eliminate two part-time Diversion Officer positions at the Muscatine County Jail. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Holliday, the Board approved re-appointment of Brad Akers to the Muscatine County Zoning Committee for a five-year term ending November 7, 2026. Ayes: All. Sauer thanked Brad Akers for his continued service with the Muscatine County Zoning Committee.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, the Board set a public hearing for Monday, December 6, 2021 at 9:00

Community events

**Blood drive set Dec. 13**

A Community Blood drive is being scheduled for Monday, Dec. 13, from 2-7 p.m. to be held at the West Liberty Community Center according to the local blood center, Impact Life.

No local group is sponsoring the event. Anyone interested in scheduling a donation time should contact the organizers at bloodcenter.org/impactlife.

**Holiday market slated**

A first Ho-Ho-Holiday Market event is being organized by the West Liberty Chamber of Commerce and will be held Saturday, Dec. 4, at the West Liberty Community Center, promoting holiday shopping in the community.

Vendors that include Chamber members and non-Chamber members, including in-home businesses, are welcome to participate in the event, which will be held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The event will be free to the public and each participating vendor is expected to offer a door prize, with winners to be drawn beginning at about 2 p.m. that day. Profits from the drawing will go toward a scholarship fund for one or more West Liberty High School seniors along with aiding the Chamber in their various projects.

Anyone wishing more information should contact the Chamber at 319-627-4876 or chamber@westlibertyiowa.com

**Pantry needs items**

Although local schools and churches are collecting donated items, the West Liberty Food Pantry at First Church United is always in need of non-perishable items like flour, sugar, Jell-o, cake mixes and personal care items.

The pantry is open on Thursdays from 6-7 p.m. and Saturdays from 9-10 a.m. although the schedule has changed due to the holidays, so check first.

• CITY COUNCIL, from page 7

insurance coverage for activities during the day, including coverage for an estimated six fire pits to be scattered in the downtown area.

The council also authorized an independent accountant's report by Bowman and Miller PC of Marshalltown on applying agreed upon procedures for a period from June-15, 2018 to Oct. 15, 2020, performed solely for the purpose of determining the amount of under billing of the city's water and sewer utilities during that time.

The firm identified \$39,078.82 of water utility under billing and \$326,792.97 of sewer utility under billing, creating a total of \$365,821.79. The firm reported a monthly examination was made with the exemption of September 2018, reporting it was lost in the software and hard copy systems.

The firm confirmed in-town consumers of water were under billed by 46-cents per 1,000 gallons of usage during that time for a total of \$34,350 while out-of-city consumers were under billed by 71-cents per 1,000 gallons, totaling \$4,718.

The under billing on sewer rates was exclusively for West Liberty Foods, the city's largest industry, totaling \$326,792 from June, 2018 to July, 2020.

The firm also praised the help of city officials in helping with the investigation.

The council meets again on Dec. 7.

A.M. on a request from Bret and Briana Simon to rezone approximately 3.44 acres in Wapsie Township from A-1 Agricultural District to R-1 Residential District.

County Engineer Keith White stated in reference to today's road vacation hearings, according to the Iowa Code only landowners with a residence affected by a vacated road, can make a request. White stated landowner, Terry Holliday of Lake Township has been in contact with White and his requests are being reviewed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 A.M.  
**ATTEST:**  
**Tibe Vander Linden**      **Santos Saucedo, Chairperson**  
**County Auditor**                      **Board of Supervisors**





## A magical Sunday in West Liberty

Sunday's West Liberty Chamber of Commerce Community Holiday Open House event drew a lot of local residents and visitors to shop, enjoy treats and refreshments and have some fun. At top, Ruby Sedlacek, 7, tastes a roasted marshmallow hosted by the Aquarius Club while the West Liberty High School Jazz Band played at West Liberty State Bank under the direction of Ashley Smith. Below, Zoey and Zayden Ortiz try their hand at making puppets at the Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre while Santa Claus got a visit from 3-year-old Whitt Bowers, coached by his mom, Cassey. At bottom of the page is Brooks and Emily Reed, checking out the Brick Street Art Gallery while grandma Deb McHugh snaps a shot of her grandchildren, Mason, Alivia and Gavin Smith, in the reindeer sleigh near City Hall.



Index photos by Tim Evans



# Believe it or not!

## This article was written in 1998!

### “A Quad City Bed Time Story”

From the L & W Bedding sales floor you can't hear the seamstress guiding fabric through the two Singer sewing machines bought used, build in 1951 and 1933. You can't even hear Mr. Wheatley, the 37-year old owner, sneezing in the factory office from 30,000 disintegrating customer receipts dating back to the year 1989.

The sales floor seems, at first glance, to be another no-frills specialty store along 16th Avenue. Bare mattress with a variety of ticking stand all in rows. A salesperson sits in a small office at a wooden desk near the center of the store.

But beyond the showrooms' antique entry door, smoothed and faded as old velvet, lies a slice of Quad Cities past. When streets were lined with small factories run by families who worked 7 days a week and made deliveries themselves, when products were made one at a time by workers who stayed for decades.

A business initially operated out of his garage, for 12 years in this building John Wheatley and family and 1/2 dozen employees have produced, on average about 10 mattresses a day.

There are still no automated assembly lines or voice mail; a call to

L & W Bedding after hours will simply ring unanswered. Orders are still written up by hand, and the 4-digit telephone line has not changed since 1989. The mattresses are still being made primarily from John Wheatley himself.

Yet the company has become downright trendy.

For 6 years he would work a 12-hour shift at a Rock Island mattress manufacturer and then turning his evenings over to his Moline operation. “If your going to be somebody you have got to do a lot of hard work”, he say's. He doesn't see a of the profits, as he puts it right back in the business. You don't need a fancy place to sell beds or, need to spend high amounts of rent to sell the masterpieces we make.

The mattresses are something of an inside secret among chiropractors and orthopedics, decorators and socialities. Talk radio's Jim Fisher owns as does half of the Chicago visitors that have slept on one in a friend's guest room. As have families that are retrofitting heirloom beds.

L & W Bedding is the only local manufacturer in the Quad Cities still operating, and buyers line up to take whatever just-finished mattress slid off the finishing table.

John Wheatley came to the mattress business by the way of pillows. Born in Moline of local heritage, he moved on to make his fortune by using the scrapes of the bedding otherwise known as extra pieces with this he created top quality pillows and cushions for ease and comfort the body once again. He then sold them in area Flea markets and sporting events; the profits made were switched to mattress machinery.

**SHOP  
AND  
COMPARE!**

Buying and operation of the Factory began in 1990. The 10,000 square foot building for twenty years the Salvation Army thrift store operated, is now L & W Bedding.

“Word of mouth gets around & people are finding out that I've got the best mattress & best price” - right down to his approach. In fact, he encourages those who visit his showroom to shop and compare. (More than twelve years later the mattresses are still tailor-made.) No sales, no gimmicks just guaranteed.

One secret is low overhead, passing the savings, directly over to his customers. No short cuts assuring quality mattresses.

But, about 22 years ago, when Johns daughter was born his aunt Marcie King who was employed as a seamstress 40 years, though he count use the money. As dozens of mattresses were made by John, every time he walked by the Boss's office he started his own dream.

Growing up in the business and never considered any other avenue. He joined up with Craig Long a partner for about one year. John became full owner. He did it for about a month, but couldn't stand it and started coming in everyday again.

His brothers all younger never took after John and went on to separate vocations. One bookkeeper his only sister Sue has worked hard and unselfishly to put L & W Bedding first. We treat each other as human beings not just employees, not, as part of the machinery.

Over the years the number of mattresses manufactured steadily dwindled some driven out of business, some driven by rising rents and wages to other locations. “We've worked out little niche pretty good,”

Jon Wheatley says except for the first years, the company has never sold mattresses anywhere but its Moline sales floor, and the product was and is, unlike any other.

As his reputation continued to grow John began to envision, yet another expansion February 1, 1995 he made the plunge in the Iowa market crossing the Mississippi River opening his 2nd showroom in Davenport. “We've continued to grown every year since it opened the business.”

Entering the basement floor of the factory is like stepping into a black and white photograph of a bygone era. There's a simple and unhurried quality to the place, though cotton and foam is flying and hand are sewing and stapling. A visit is a reminder of a time when there was great value in simple doing ones jobs well day after week after week and year after year.

John Wheatley is a smallish, wiry man overseeing everyone's move at the factory. He makes sure the coils are hinged together properly to form a coil boxspring, which John considers the secret to a great mattress set. John Wheatley now with 20 years development and research in the industry, is anxious to teach all

knows to apprentice Keith Scruthers. Keith worked for John 4 years after high school hours on weekends when other guys are out playing. Side by side the various jobs in the factory are hand-crafted with pride of doing so.

Customer satisfaction letters pile in the mall thanking for custom build bedding with an at home feeling. A place where Goldilocks would sure love.

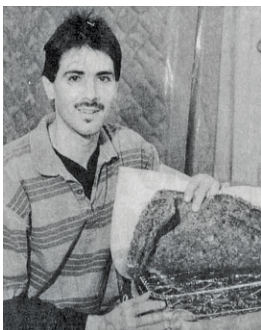
Customized goods go further than traditional mattresses. He features crib mattresses, boats, campers, prestige pillow tops, and waterbed fillers. I'll make any mattress to your specifications.

Plus there's the added bonus they are ALL made right here the Quad Cities. People like it that way. Customers are so loyal. When you start to recognize different generations of the same family coming in. That gets you involved. We care.

As city life whirls by with its disposable restaurants and management theories, L & W bedding stands in the Moline Uptown district like a gentleman in a dark suit and hat a bit old fashioned a bit plain, teaching by its mere presence that integrity and simplicity never go out of style.

**NOTHING HAS CHANGED.**

1998



2021



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
John Wheatley, owner of L&W Bedding, shows off the quality workmanship that goes into his mattresses.

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appointment

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2 - Sided Mattress

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