

# The short-term engineer

## Tama, Grundy counties to share services on temporary basis

MICHAEL D. DAVIS  
CORRESPONDENT

The March 27 Tama County Board of Supervisors meeting included the official hiring of interim County Engineer Gary J. Mauer to replace Lyle

Brehm, who announced his resignation earlier this month. Mauer is the current Grundy County Engineer and will be splitting his time between the two counties for the time being.

The start date for Mauer is March 28, and he will be contracted to work for Tama County through June 30. Tama County will pay Mauer a rate of \$2,000 per week plus benefits. Mauer will work up to four hours per week at the Tama County Engineer's Office and will provide services as needed by email or other electronic communication. Tama County also will reimburse Grundy County \$0.50/mile

for the use of a vehicle on business conducted for Tama County.

### In other business,

- The supervisors passed a resolution to vacate a partial road in the unincorporated town of Haven, also known as Eureka.
- Jesse Ward, the assistant to the Tama County Engineer, reported that contract rock hauling started on March 22 in the north part of the county.
- Backyard Vines south of Traer was approved for a liquor license.
- Claims totaling \$2,990.89 were approved.

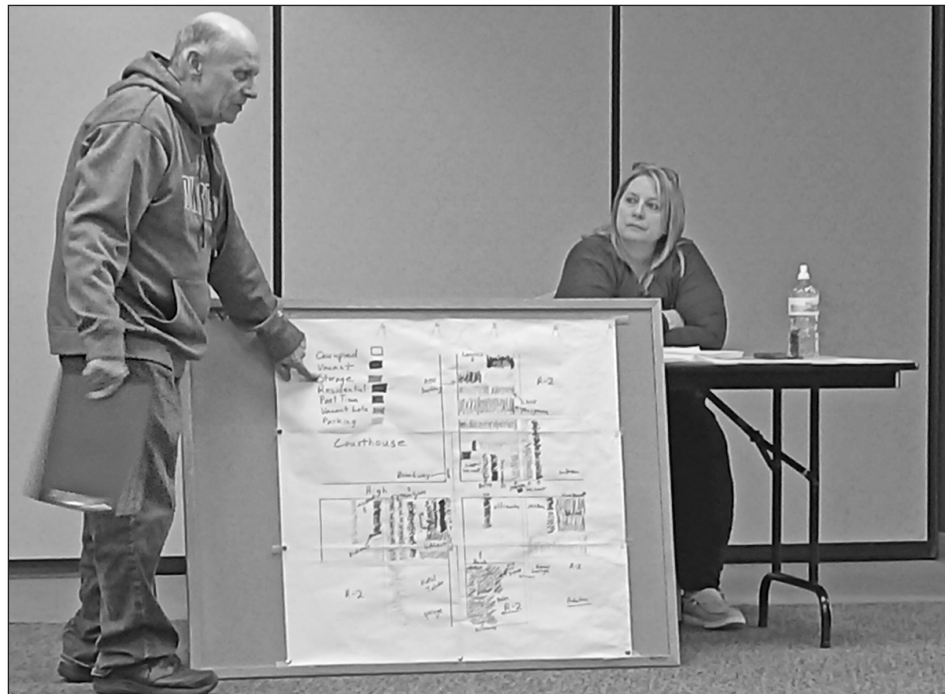
## HOUSING

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and Sergeant Kyle Howe completed field training officer certification, making them new primary field training officers for the department.

Officer Nick Ryan will be graduating from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy on April 21 and then starting his 12 weeks of field training. Reserve Officer DeLayne Henle has completed five out of six modules for the Reserve Officer certification.

The council approved participation in the Water in Progress internship program, where a high school student would come aboard to learn the ins and outs of the Toledo water/wastewater job. The program lasts 12 weeks, and the city would be reimbursed for the student's pay up to \$5,000 by the



Byron Witt shows a map of downtown Toledo during Monday night's meeting.

state. Toledo Public Works Director Kendall Jordan told of the soon selling of old equipment, a '97 F-250, a John Deer

mower, and an old street sweeper. The public works have been working on extending the culverts on B Street and street patching around town.

The council also authorized certification of liens for delinquent utility accounts on two Toledo properties.

## SAFE TRACK

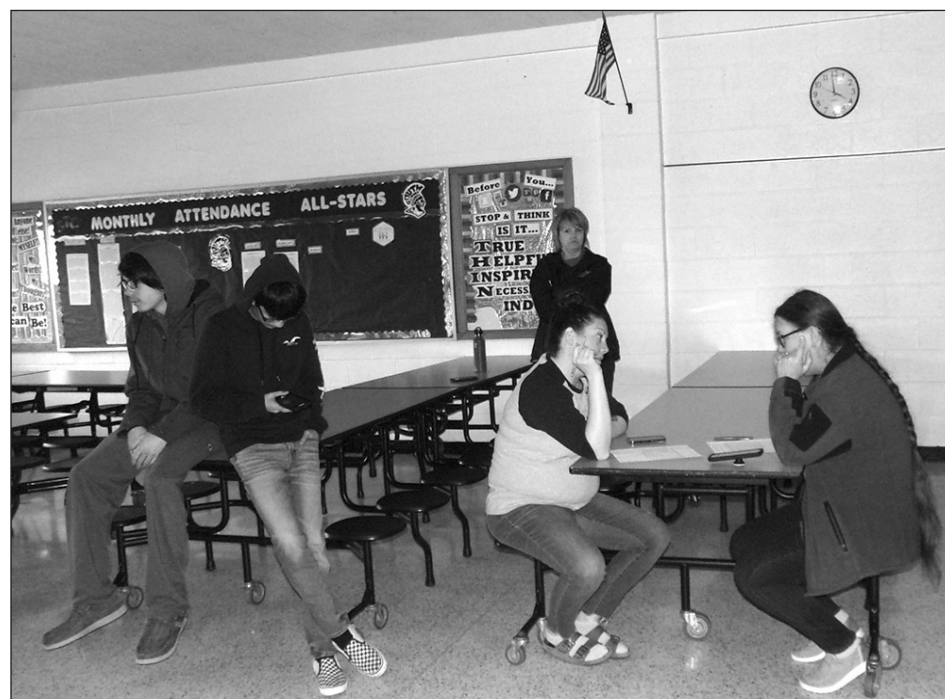
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able to communicate with those in charge.

"We hope that no one will have to use this app, but if they do, they will know ahead of time how it works and how to get out of the school safely," Niederman said.

Gun violence related events in schools are sadly more common today than ever. The K-12 School Shooting Database reports that there were more than 300 school shooting incidents in 2022 alone in the United States. Just in Iowa, there have been 19 school shootings that resulted in nine victims wounded, six victims killed, and 10 total deaths. The latest occurred on Jan. 23 at an alternative education program in Des Moines, which ended in two teenagers dead and the program's founder being critically wounded.

On March 15, four of the six Safe Track founders — Niederman, Scott Bolen, Ben Adams, and Joe Miller — met at the STC Middle School to run a test on the app. Standing in front of a group of STC students and faculty,



Middle School students and staff participate in The Safe Track app tests from the school lunchroom.

Adams, the middle school principal, explained how it worked before starting the tests.

Adams pushed the emergency button on the app for the first test, which led to the group sitting on the bleacher's phones to buzz and light up. After that, Toledo Police Chief Dan Quigley walked into the gymnasium, having gotten an alert on his phone as well, and Tama

Police Officer Tyler Ayala-Pagan was also on hand.

"It's better to be prepared for (the worst) and not need it than not be prepared when tragedy strikes," Quigley said.

For the last test of the day, students and staff split into groups spreading out all around the middle school. Once in their places, a trial of the walkie-talkie feature was done to show that no matter

where a student or staff member is in the school, they would be able to communicate successfully.

While plenty of work remains to be done, Niederman is optimistic about the app's potential to make a difference in a potential life or death situation.

"I think everything we wanted to work works," he said.

## ARREST REPORT

Saturday, March 18

- Cedrick Mumbata Pululu (36) of Tama was arrested for driving under suspension by the Toledo Police Department in Toledo. He pled guilty and was released the same day.
- Jesaias Vasquez Lopez (22) of Tama was arrested for OWI — first offense, open container — driver 21 years or older, improper use of lanes and no valid driver's license by the Meskwaki Tribal Police on Highway 30. He was shipped out on March 20.

Sunday, March 19

- Matthew Martin Kestl (59) of Tama was arrested for public intoxication by the Tama Police Department in Tama. He was released the same day after pleading guilty.
- Nicole Martina Blake (37) of Tama was arrested for public intoxication and interference with official acts by the Tama Police Department in Tama. She pled guilty the same day and was released.
- Aaron Joseph Frederickson (31) of Des Moines was arrested for driving under suspension by the Meskwaki Tribal Police on Highway 30. He pled guilty and was released the same day.
- James Levi Coughenour (33) of Marshalltown was arrested on two counts of possession of a controlled substance — third, OWI — first offense, possession of drug paraphernalia, stopping on a traveled portion of unpaved highway, operation without registration/plate, open container — driver 21 years or older, provide proof of financial liability and keep vehicle or premise for controlled substances by the Meskwaki Tribal Police in Toledo. He was released on bond March 25.
- Falon Taris Kapayou (23) of Tama was arrested for two counts of violation of probation by the Tama County Sheriff's Department in Toledo.

Monday, March 20

- Happy Allen Friestad (49) of Traer was arrested for driving while license denied/revoked — OWI by the Tama County Sheriff's Department on Highway 63/96 in Gladbrook. He was released the same day on a promise to appear.
- Travis Lamont Webber (33) of Montour was arrested for violation of probation by the Tama County Sheriff's Department in Toledo. He was bonded and released the same day.
- A juvenile was arrested for going armed with intent by the Tama County Sheriff's Department.
- Yusuany Chienea (33) of Marshalltown was arrested for failure to provide proof of financial liability, no valid driver's license and operating a non-registered vehicle by the Toledo Police Department in Toledo.

Tuesday, March 21

- A juvenile was arrested on multiple warrants.
- Brian Eugene Casebolt (58) of Garwin was arrested for criminal mischief boundary monument by the Tama County Sheriff's Department in Garwin.
- Keaton Anthony Zielstorf (19) of Gladbrook was arrested for reckless driving, possession of drug paraphernalia, driving under suspension, driving while license suspended, failure to maintain control, eluding — speed 25 over limit second, failure to maintain control, six counts of failure to obey stop sign/yield right of way and stop/stand/park prohibited by the Tama County Sheriff's Office in Gladbrook.
- Robert Daniel Needs (46) of Gladbrook was arrested for domestic assault — bodily injury first and child endangerment by the Tama County Sheriff's Department in Gladbrook.
- Cung Lian Thang (45) of Toledo was arrested for public intoxication. He was released the next day after pleading guilty.

Wednesday, March 22

- Cody Allan Hand (29) of Atkins was arrested for violation of probation by Highway Patrol in Toledo.
- Louisa Mary Lopez (59) of Tama was arrested on a warrant for failure to appear by the Meskwaki Tribal Police in Toledo.
- A juvenile was arrested for second degree harassment.
- Allenia Marie Boots (44) of Toledo was arrested on a warrant and additionally charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and theft third degree — \$750 to \$1,500 by the Toledo Police Department in Toledo.
- Rafael Samperio (31) of Marshalltown was arrested for operation without registration/plate, failure to provide proof of financial liability insurance and driving under suspension by the Tama Police Department in Toledo. He was released the same day after pleading guilty.

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