



DON'T FORGET:
Daylight Saving Time begins this weekend



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Iowa Lakes men to host Region XI Championship game Saturday
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Supervisors approve pipeline ordinance

By MICHAEL TIDEMANN

The Emmet County Board of Supervisors at their Tuesday, March 7 meeting held a public hearing and approved first reading of an ordinance amending portions of the county zoning ordinance to address land for transporting hazardous liquid through a pipeline.

Representatives from both Summit and Navigator CO2 pipelines were present, along with a group of pipeline opponents spilling from the board room.

As the meeting opened, Supervisor Jeff Quastad, chairing the meeting for Chair Todd Glasnapp who met telephonically along with Supervisor Lisa Hansen, asked for a show of hands of those favoring the ordinance and those opposed - 16 favored it while three, representing Green Plains Ethanol and Summit and Navigator pipelines - were opposed.

Landowner concerns focused on danger of the pipeline, the use of eminent domain, questions about the need for carbon sequestration and who would profit from the pipeline.

"We're not thinking about safety," said landowner Mike Mart who argued that ethanol plants themselves could store or use carbon for their own use.

"This pipeline is nothing but hazardous," said Doug Nelson, also favoring the ordinance.

Dan Torreson, grain merchandiser for Green Plains, said many ethanol plants can't compete without a lower carbon-intensity score. Torreson said the pipeline is critical to economic development for both Emmet County and Iowa.

Supervisor John Pluth dis-

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COMMUNITY CAN HELP SMALL TOWN GIRL WITH BIG DREAMS

Kaitlyn Hammond of Ringsted headed for the Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Boston

By AMY H. PETERSON
STAFF WRITER

Kaitlyn Hammond of Ringsted has been known for her science skills for a long time. The Estherville News featured Hammond as an eighth grader with another student nominated for a STEM conference by the then-middle-school science teacher Ms. Christen Foster-Thomas. Today Hammond is set to graduate from Estherville Lincoln Central High School with the class of 2023 - a year early. She has a year of credit toward a registered nursing (RN) degree from Iowa Lakes Community College, and works as a CNA at Good Samaritan Center in Estherville.

Hammond is the third Emmet County student to receive an invitation from the Congress of Medical Leaders. Nevaeah Koppman attended the virtual Congress last summer, and ELC senior Grace Lutat has also received an invitation. Hammond said she faces a challenge of raising her own funds to attend the Congress. While she's waiting on word of a scholarship application from the Future Doctors of America organization, she is required to put down \$1,645 tuition by mid-April, and needs money for a flight and additional expenses of \$660 for lodging. Hammond will still be a minor



Kaitlyn Hammond

Photo by Amy H. Peterson

in June and the additional cost is to lodge with other students through the program, have adults meet her at the airport and transport her to the site at University of Massachusetts - Lowell.

The Congress of Future Medical Leaders is a gathering of top students who have committed to a career as a physician or medical scientist. The activities of the Congress

last from 6-11 p.m. June 21 and 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. June 22 and 23. The Congress has not released its 2023 schedule, but past speakers and presenters have been Nobel Prize Winners, researchers at top universities, young prodigies who are lighting a path to the future of medical science, and patients whose lives have been changed by cutting-edge medical technology. Delegates

also have the opportunity to observe a surgical procedure, see other action in the lab, and hear from mentors about various areas of medical technology and research, and their successes, failures, and practical advice.

Hammond has already been accepted for work toward her bachelor's degree at University of Iowa and

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New budget tightens

Estherville residents may not see the cuts to the 2023-2024 city budget as many cuts are happening by attrition and eliminating vacant positions. At the state level, removal of LOSST funding and backfill may result in even more cuts

By AMY H. PETERSON
STAFF WRITER

At Monday evening's city council meeting, city finance director Beth Burton and city administrator Penny Clayton presented the proposed 2023-2024 budget. The council set a public hearing on the budget for its April 3, 2023 meeting. The new fiscal year begins July 1, 2023.

One item of concern is the state legislature's introduction of a bill that would replace the local option sales & service tax (LOSST) funds with a statewide tax.

This topic was also one of several discussed at Saturday's legislative town hall—a discussion that became spirited at times.

Local option sales and service tax comes with the tax individuals and businesses pay on goods and services. Iowa's sales tax rate is 6%. Iowans in jurisdictions that opted in to the LOSST program pay 7%, with the extra 1% going into the LOSST funds. Jurisdictions don't receive all of the 1% of LOSST collected. These funds are placed in a special fund based on a specific formula that includes population and property tax levies.

In a bill that passed through the first legislative funnel, the

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Sign of Spring?

City workers remove winter banners from city light posts on a sunny Friday afternoon. Temperatures reached the high 30s over the weekend. A gradual cool-off is predicted for this weekend.

Photo by Amy H. Peterson

Motor Inn to end Buick sales over EV mandate

Local GMC dealer would spend \$300,000 or more out of pocket to upgrade dealership for electric vehicle sales and service, more for extra service techs, and EV batteries have lower performance in the cold

By AMY H. PETERSON
STAFF WRITER

The push for all-electric vehicles has thrown many of Iowa and Emmet County's sectors into question: will the rural area have enough charging stations for the number of electric vehicles on the road? What effect will the increase in electric vehicles have on the ethanol industry, on corn growers, on gas stations, and more? Do Estherville and Emmet County have the electrical infrastructure to handle the capacity of EV battery charging?

Motor Inn in Estherville has chosen not to sell Buicks because of a mandate from GMC. Similarly to its action with Cadillac dealers in 2020, GMC issued this A/B choice to Buick dealers: pay \$300-\$400,000 to add infrastructure to its dealership to accommodate the sale and service of electric cars, or accept a payout to remove the license to sell Buicks.

Mark Heywood of Motor Inn said the cost to revamp the dealership is not the only obstacle. Working on electric



The EV charging station at Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative is available to electric vehicle drivers free of charge.

Photo by Amy H. Peterson

cars for GMC will require two certified EV technicians at any given time.

GMC has gone all in with its

Cadillac Lyriq, which rolled out in 2021. However, only 122 Lyriqs were sold across

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Rowley, Stone meet with constituents at RWC

Legislators host annual town hall meeting

By MICHAEL TIDEMANN

Dist. 5 Iowa Sen. Dave Rowley and Dist. 9 Rep. Henry Stone met with constituents Saturday afternoon, March 4 in a legislative town hall at the Regional Wellness Center in Estherville during the Farm, Home, and Living Show to discuss CO2 pipelines, educational choice and other issues.

Stone, now in his second term and majority whip, serves on the Ethics Board, Judicial Committee, Education Committee and Economic Development Subcommittee.

He discussed parental choice legislation and debate scheduled this week on legislation that would prohibit alternative gender identity or sex education in grades kindergarten through six. He said he wanted the legislation to go further, prohibiting it in kindergarten through grade 12. Rowley said

he also supports legislation limiting CO2 pipelines.

Rowley serves on the Commerce, Judicial and Ways and Means committees. He is now also in his second term.

Rowley discussed tort reform that would limit medical malpractice liability which he said could help attract more doctors and nurses to the state. He also discussed realignment from 37 to 16 state agencies which he said could save the state \$200 million over four years. He also discussed cross-county vehicle titling and parental bill of rights legislation.

Dave Seylar, City of Estherville councilmember, brought up the issues of school choice and the state taking over control of Local Option Sales and Services Tax. Seylar said 40 percent of L.O.S.S.T. funds in Estherville go for property tax relief.



Dist. 5 Sen Dave Rowley and Dist. 9 Rep. Henry Stone met with constituents at the Legislative Town Hall at the RWC in Estherville Saturday, March 4.

Photo by Michael Tidemann

Seylar also discussed the once-approved 3/8 cent tax for water quality improvement that never moved forward, a property tax cap and what he

viewed as inequality in tax rates between residential property and confined animal feeding operations.

Rowley said he is on the

study committee for Senate File 1124 relating to local government property taxes and Senate File 1125 that would make L.O.S.S.T. a statewide tax. "This isn't a finished product," said Rowley.

Rowley said SF 1124 would set maximum levies in certain categories and put a 2.5 percent cap on assessed values.

Stone said the House was working on its version of the same proposals. He said the House Speaker and Senate Majority Leader would reconcile the two bills.

Stone also discussed Universal School Choice legislation he had authored last session. Seylar said 73 percent of Iowans opposed the legislation. However, Stone said Gov. Kim Reynolds had run for office with the issue and won by a landslide. Stone said constituent emails favored school choice 1,400 to 800.

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