

# Muscatine Journal

## High school state track

DeWitt's Rheingans repeats in 400 **SPORTS, B1**



## New dispensary

Dispensary under construction in Milan **IOWA, A3**

Saturday, May 18, 2024

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# Council approves \$4.8M for bonding

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Muscatine City Council approved the sale and issuance of \$4.8 million in general obligation corporate purposes bonds and a tax levy to pay for the bonds.

Council approved the bonding at the Thursday, May 18 meeting.

Suzanne Gerlach of Public Finance Management, the city's financial advisor for bonds, said the city had received seven bids from 40 different banks. She said the interest offered ranged from 3.25% to 3.5%. She said the winning bid came from BOK of Dallas, Texas with 3.2536%.

"In today's world where prime is over 6%, that is a very good

rate," she said.

The projects and the proposed bond were reviewed with council members during the budget sessions in January and February. City Council approved the issuance of the bonds during a March council meeting.

The city's fiscal year 2024-2025 budget was based on this \$4.88 million bond issue and the estimated debt payments for 2024-2025 are included in the budget. Even with adding this bond issue, the city was able to reduce the debt service tax levy rate from \$2.04192 per \$1,000 of valuation to \$1.98512 per \$1,000 for 2024-2025.

Gerlach noted the city had recently being assigned an Aa2

rating from Moody's Investors Service based on the city's stable population trends, a growing tax base, stable financial operations and healthy reserves.

The Series 2024 bond issue will be used to fund a variety of city projects that have recently been completed, are currently underway or will be underway in calendar years 2024 and 2025. These projects will continue to add to the benefits of working in, living in and raising a family in Muscatine.

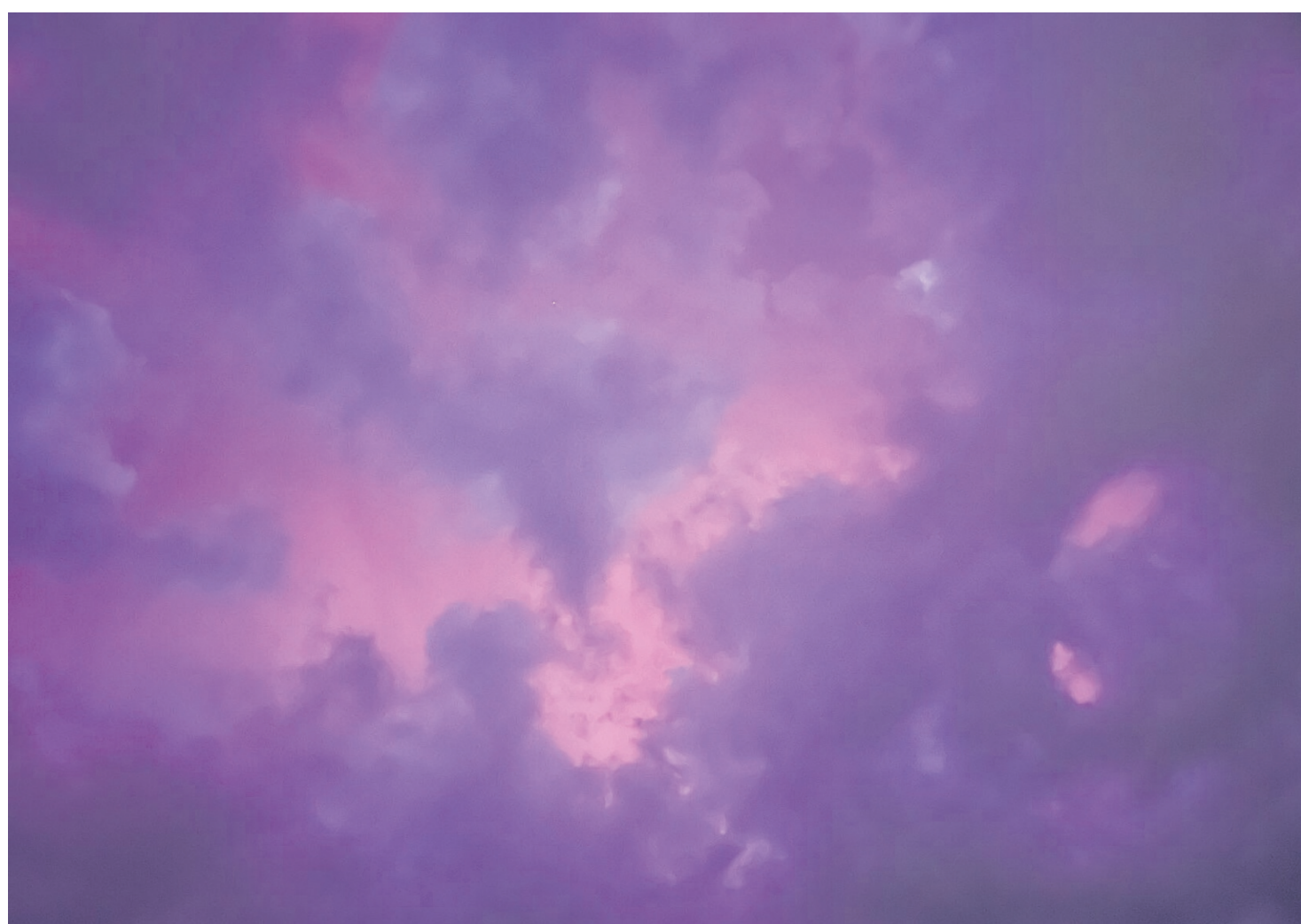
Also during the meeting, Mayor Brad Bark presented Muscatine Police Detective Britt Jameson with a Life Saving Award after he



SUBMITTED PHOTO

During Thursday's Muscatine City Council meeting, Mayor Brad Bark and police chief Tony Kies awarded detective Britt Jameson the lifesaving award.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

## NORTHERN LIGHTS

The northern lights were in full view last weekend in Cedar County and in range of naturalist Sarah Subbert's camera as a solar storm and atmospheric storm collided. The powerful solar storm Saturday, May 11, caused the northern lights to be seen as far south as Alabama.

## Collins concerned with Muscatine-China student trip

He called on MCHS to cancel student exchange

**ANDREA GRUBAUGH**  
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Another Iowa representative has expressed concerns over the Muscatine Community School District's (MCSD) newfound connections with China.

A day after Iowa Congresswoman Mariannette Miller-Meeks released a statement speaking about MCSD's student trips to China, which first occurred in January 2024, State Rep. Taylor Collins gave his own statement.

Collins

After reading the Daily Mail UK article that was originally cited by Miller-Meeks, Collins stated that "The Chinese Communist Party is not our friend, and they should not be treated with kid gloves. As a Representative for Muscatine County, I am appalled to see students and staff from Muscatine High School being used as political propaganda for the CCP (Chinese Communist Party)".

Collins continued, saying that he was calling on the MCSD to "publicly cancel the upcoming student exchange for this October, and any future trips to China paid for by the Chinese Communist Party."

He concluded his statement by sharing his plans to introduce

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# Deere & Company reports quarterly income

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Deere & Company reported net income of \$2.37 billion for the second quarter, slightly down from a reported \$2.86 billion income in the same time frame last year.

Deere's quarter ended April 28. For the first six months of

the fiscal year, net income attributable to Deere & Company was \$4.121 billion, or \$14.74 per share, compared with \$4.819 billion, or \$16.18 per share, for the same period last year.

"John Deere's second-quarter results were noteworthy in light of continued changes across the global agricultural sector," John

C. May, chairman and CEO, said in a news release. "Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our team, we continue to demonstrate structurally higher performance levels across business cycles and are benefitting from stability in construction end markets amid declining agricultural and turf demand."

Worldwide net sales and revenues decreased 12%, to \$15.235 billion, for the second quarter of 2024 and decreased 9%, to \$27.420 billion, for six months. Net sales were \$13.610 billion for the quarter and \$24.097 billion for six months, compared with \$16.079 billion and \$27.481 billion last year.



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL

Jena Moeckl, of West Des Moines, Iowa, fills out her ballot with her three-year old daughter Alaina, Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022, in West Des Moines, Iowa.

## ELECTION 2024

# Early voting begins in Iowa primary

**CALEB MCCULLOUGH AND TOM BARTON**  
LEE-GAZETTE DES MOINES BUREAU

Iowa's June 4 primary election is right around the corner, and early voting began on Wednesday. Here's everything you need to know about voting in the primary election.

Iowa has a closed primary election, which means voters must be registered with the Democratic or Republican Party to participate. Voters can change their party affiliation anytime before election day or at the polling place on election day.

The primary election deter-

mines which candidates will be on the Nov. 5 ballot for Democrats and Republicans in federal, legislative and local races.

### How do I register to vote in the June primary?

The deadline to register to vote ahead of the June 4 primary is May 20.

You can check whether you're registered to vote at the Iowa Secretary of State's website.

If you are not registered or need to update your information, you can register online at the Iowa

DOT website or print a voter registration form and bring it to your local county auditor.

If you miss the deadline, you can still register to vote on Election Day. You must bring a valid photo ID and a proof of residence, if your photo ID does not contain your current address.

### How do I request an absentee ballot for the Iowa primary election?

If you would like to mail your

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**Weather**  
Mostly sunny, warm  
High 87 • Low 63  
FORECAST • B8

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