

Letter to the Editor

Trump: Fed Should Cut Rates

President Donald Trump says the Federal Reserve would be better off cutting rates.” as U.S. tariffs start to transition (ease!) their way into the economy.”

The Newsmax article goes on to say that economic growth in America will require more consumer debt; however, a wise man will understand that history has clearly shown that more debt must lead to more inflation.

Read the article and note carefully what Trump said. In order to “ease!” the increase in cost to the consumers with the increased tariffs, he is urging the FED to lower interest rates so the consumers can easily borrow more to meet the higher cost of living. In other words, more consumer debt is a means to economic growth and prosperity. There was a song from years ago with

the line, “when will they ever learn?” Obviously, they, the economic gurus, will never learn because their faith tells them we can borrow our way to prosperity. However, we are told by the word of God that debt is slavery.

Proverbs 22:7 “The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant (slave) to the lender.”

In the original “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” movie, the dwarfs sang as they went to work, “Hi Ho, Hi Ho, it’s off to work we go.” (As a side note, notice that movie emphasized a joy in working.) The typical American theme song is “I Owe, I Owe, so it’s off to work I go.” Over the years, I don’t know how many men I have talked with who hate their job. When I asked them why they don’t change to something they like to do, they say that

their debt payments chain them to the job they dread.

Debt-slavery must catch up. The banks have purchased real property, cars, houses, &c., with their fiat money, and they will demand that real property in repayment for their fake paper “money.” When will the time come, and it must, that the consumer-slave to the bank will find that he is without a car and without a house in which to live?

Beware! The State must have good debt-slaves to finance economic growth numbers regardless of how many people those numbers will put in the poor house. The wise man will discern the times of his time in history, and will make every effort to free yourself from those chains of debt-slavery as soon as you can.

Rev. Ovid Need

Pella Corporation Awards Over \$2 Million

Pella Corporation is proud to announce that it contributed over \$2 million in grants and employee matching gifts in 2024, supporting meaningful organizations and causes that strengthen communities across the country. These grants were made possible through the Pella Rolscreen Foundation, the charitable arm of Pella Corporation. With a strategic focus on education, housing and community betterment, the company focused on addressing critical needs and advancing initiatives that align with Pella’s core values.

Key highlights of 2024 giving include:

- Friends of the Community Center (\$50,000), Pella, IA: Supporting vital renovation projects to enhance community spaces.
- United Way of Murray Calloway County (\$25,000), Murray, KY: Supporting a temporary/transitional housing option and programs to help families obtain stable housing.
- Free Geek: (\$15,000), Portland, OR: Providing digital literacy education

programs that help families achieve stable housing.

- Hull Bright Start Inc (\$25,000), Sioux Center, IA: Supporting the expansion of critical daycare and preschool facilities.
- Carroll Athletic Association (\$25,000) Carroll, IA: Making improvements at the historic Merchants Park baseball stadium including ADA access and seating, improved lighting and updated bleachers.
- Friends of Mahaska County Conservation (\$20,000), Pella/Oskaloosa, IA: Supporting an all-inclusive nature playscape and community area.
- United way of Murray Calloway County: (\$25,000), Murray, KY: Supporting a temporary/transitional housing option and programs to help families obtain stable housing.
- Free Geek: (\$15,000), Portland, OR: Providing digital literacy education

and technology access for vulnerable populations.

Matching Gifts Amplify Team Member Impact Through Pella’s matching gifts program, team members volunteered nearly 16,500 hours, equaling over \$82,000 in Volunteer Recognition Grants awarded to 107 nonprofits. Pella’s Matching Gifts program further amplified team member generosity, contributing \$325,000 to causes that mattered most to team members.

“We believe giving back is more than a responsibility – it’s part of who we are as a company. You see that in the generosity of our team members, paired with the Foundation’s grants and matching gifts program. Together, we’re making a meaningful difference in the communities we call home,” said Jessica Klyn de Novelo, Community Relations and Foundation Manager, Pella Corporation.

Front Row with Lisa Bluder and Harry Smith

Central College and Pella Corporation welcome Lisa Bluder, three-time Big Ten Coach of the Year and former head women’s basketball coach at the University of Iowa, for a conversation with Harry Smith, a 1973 Central graduate, award-winning broadcast journalist and internationally renowned storyteller.



The two industry legends will host a casual conversation at 7 p.m. Monday, April 14, in Douwstra Auditorium in Central Hall on the Central campus. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

“We are thrilled Harry Smith wanted to host an open conversation with Lisa Bluder,” says Central President Mark Putnam. “With Harry’s flair for interviewing and Lisa’s career stories, the evening is sure to be memorable. We

thank Pella Corporation for partnering with the college to bring Coach Bluder to campus.”

“With her exceptional leadership, Lisa built a championship-winning team, inspiring greatness on and off the court,” says Karmen Gardner, Pella Corporation vice president and executive director of the Pella Rolscreen Foundation. “Her unwavering dedication to academics and coaching

excellence promises an incredible and insightful discussion.”

Front Row with Lisa Bluder and Harry Smith ‘73 is open to the public. Tickets are free but required due to limited seating. Secure tickets at tickets.central.edu/specialevent. When you reserve your ticket, you may submit a question to Harry and Lisa for the conversation.

Pella Board sets budget hearing

The Pella School Board set its certified budget hearing for April 14 at 5:30 p.m.

A separate hearing was held Monday night, during which concerns were expressed about the proposed levy. Pella Schools’ is increasing its overall levy for the coming fiscal year. This is largely driven by an increase in the levy for the management fund.

salaries and benefits.

Two residents complained about the amount of property tax money going to the school district. One did not seem to understand that school property taxes are applied – even if only 2/3 of the households in Pella utilize the public schools.

“That’s our state mechanism,” Superintendent Greg Ebeling explained. He further explained that the board, over the past two years, has made “hard choices” to help reduce taxpayer costs. This includes action earlier this school year to cut over \$800,000 from next year’s budget.

“You guys have done an excellent job,” Joe Canfield told the board, in a positive

comment near the end of the hearing.

In other board action, resolutions were passed to approve “substantial completion” of the stadium and Jefferson/Middle School projects. There will be an Open House April 10 for the Jefferson/Middle School connection.

A pair of waivers were approved regarding legal representation. The City of Pella and the school district have both passed resolutions to allow joint representation by Ahlers and Cooney as the law firm drafts an agreement between the two for the City’s recreation center. The other waiver allows a mutual representative to draft an agreement between Pella and North Mahaska Schools.

Melcher-Dallas School Board Update

The Melcher-Dallas School Board met last week. Among the actions taken was the adoption of the district’s career academic plan. This multiple-page document spells out goals and procedures to help

students maximize their education.

A special board meeting will be held Monday, March 31, at 5 p.m. This is a required meeting for the district’s budget process and cannot have anything

else on the agenda.

This winter saw school canceled on five occasions. Make-up days are scheduled for March 31, April 7, 14 and 28; and May 5.

Sunset Acres subdivision planned

A new, 36-lot subdivision is planned for rural Marion County, outside of Pella.

Known as Sunset Acres, the Marion County Borad of Supervisors approved a preliminary plat for the subdivision.

“It’s been a blessing to have 14-plus of us working on it,” Mike Buchheit said. In a separate action, a waiver was passed that

specifically states that the County is not responsible for maintenance of any of the infrastructure. For instance, the four private roads planned in the subdivision will not meet County requirements for pavement surface.

“We’re not going to do anything. It’s a private road,” Engineer Tyler Christian said. He later

added that if the investors built the roads within the subdivision to County standards, it would be a multimillion-dollar road system. Buchheit expressed that, even if the roads do not meet County curb and gutter standards, the development is not cutting any corners.

Final Plat approved for Fix Ridge

The Pella City Council approved the final plat for a new, 12-lot subdivision known as Fox Ridge.

The development is located north of West 12th Street and is owned by Jeff Dingeman. Fox Ridge will cover around nine acres of land.

In other council action, a permit was approved for the annual Farmers’ Market. The market will again be

held on the north and east sides of Central Park every Thursday between April 24-Oct. 2. There will be no market May 1 due to Tulip Time, nor July 3, due to Independence Day.

The market is scheduled to operate from 4 p.m. to dusk, with setup beginning at 2:30 p.m. and take down and takedown completed by 9 p.m. There will be 14 parking spaces along the

north half block on the west side of Main Street, between Washington and Franklin that will be closed, as well as all parking spaces on the south side of Washington Street, between Broadway and Main.

A permit was also approved for the 45th annual Resurrected Tin Car Show on July 12 from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

County seeks new economic development director

Marion County Economic Development Director Carla Eysink has formally announced her retirement. Eysink is set to retire on April 29.

The Board of Supervisors intends to utilize a committee to lead the search for her replacement. Likely members of the committee include Supervisor Jim Mueller, Development Committee member Steffanie Bonstetter

and Human Resources Manager Lisa Seddon. Eysink recommended the committee include a professional economic developer, who has an understanding of what the daily duties of the position will be.

Eysink has worked in this position for 29 years. The new hire will be selected by the committee, but formally approved by the supervisors.



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