

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's **Black & White** and **Read** all over

Wednesday, May 5, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 85



www.pencitycurrent.com

ROAD TRIP!

LEAVING IOWA: New Old Fort Players production opens this Friday in Fort Madison



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

From left Amanda Greenhalge (mom), Sydney Amberger (sis), Mallory Troutman (young Don), and James Salisbury (Dad) panic as Dad punches it passed an RV during a summer road trip, during the Old Fort Players production of "Leaving Iowa" showing this weekend and next at the playhouse at 725 Avenue G in downtown Fort Madison.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Better late than never could be the mantra for the spring Old Fort Players production of Leaving Iowa.”

The two-act comedy takes a farcical look at a traditional Mid-western family vacation road trip with all the right turns...and left – that come with the provincial gassed up family vehicle and road map.

The performance opens Friday night with 7:30 p.m. shows at the playhouse at 725 Avenue G in historic downtown Fort Madison. The show has a two-weekend run with both Friday and Saturday

shows May 7-8th, and May 14-15th at 7 p.m. Sunday shows on May 9th and 16th are 2 p.m. matinees.

Adults are \$15; Seniors, Military veterans are just \$12 and students get in for \$10. For those wanting to pay cash or credit for tickets at the door, you can and should reserve your seat by phone or Facebook Messenger. Seating is limited due to COVID-19. Masks will be required.

Send a Facebook message or send an email to oldfortplayersfm@gmail.com, or call 319-372-9559 for more information. Like OFP on Facebook (Fb@oldfortplayers) or visit www.oldfortplayers.com

See **OPF**, page 8

COUNTY NEWS

One killed in motorcycle, SUV collision

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

HOUGHTON – An area man was killed this morning as a result of a collision at the intersection of Hwys. 218 and 16 east of Houghton.

Emergency crews responded to the intersection shortly after 7 a.m. where a motorcycle had collided broadside with a Chevrolet SUV that was crossing Hwy. 16 eastbound.

According to Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber, one male operator of the motorcycle was pronounced dead at the scene after life-saving efforts were performed. The driver of the SUV was injured and transported to Fort Madison Community Hospital.

See **DEATH**, page 3

SCHOOL BOARD

FMCS board awards contracts to DLR, Nelson

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison School Board voted 6-1 to go back to the same architectural firm that designed the Fort Madison Middle School in 2012 for the upcoming transitions of the middle school and high school.

At a special meeting held Monday night, the board voted to utilize DLR Group out of Des Moines for architectural services on the district's upcoming facilities upgrades at the Fort Madison Middle School and Fort Madison High School. The board also voted to award Carl A. Nelson Co. the contract for construction management for the project.

See **CONTRACTS**, page 4

VACCINATIONS

County only at 28% of residents fully vaccinated

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – The county continues to trail the state in percentage of people fully vaccinated, according to Lee County health officials.

Lee County Health Department Administrator Michele Ross told supervisors during Monday's regular meeting of Lee County Supervisors, that county had 10 new reported cases since Monday and has 45 active cases in the county. She also said 27.7% of Lee County

residents have been fully vaccinated with either the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine or the two-dose series from Pfizer or Moderna.

The state average is 33.4%

See **SHOTS**, page 8

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WEATHER

WED 05 May..... Sunny Skies, 62° F/ 42° F ☀️
 THU 06 May..... Light Rain, 59° F/ 46° F ☁️
 FRI 07 May..... Scattered Clouds, 61° F/ 42° F ☁️

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

PATRICIA S. LYNCH

Patricia Sylvia (Vass) Lynch died after a short illness in Lakewood, Colorado, on Saturday, February 6, 2021. She was 92 years old.



LYNCH

Patricia was born on October 5, 1928, in Burlington, Iowa. She was raised on a farm in Durham Township, located near Colusa, Illinois, by her parents, Jacob Clay and Corinne (Smith) Vass. She graduated from Dallas City High School in 1946 and attended college at Indiana Central College, now known as the University of Indianapolis.

While she was in college, Patricia met and married Jack R. Reeves. They had three children, Teresa, Denise, and Jeffrey. The couple divorced and Patricia married David W. Lynch.

Patricia is survived by her daughters, Teresa Roberts and Denise Simons, as well as four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her son Jeffrey, his father Jack, her husband David, as well as her parents and her sister, Genevieve Whitson.

All friends and family are welcome to attend a graveside services at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at the Byler Cemetery, rural Dallas City. Pastor David Poland will officiate.

Banks & Beals Funeral Home is assisting the family.

A memorial fund has been established for the American Red Cross or the Byler Cemetery. To leave a condolence for the family, please visit Patricia's obituary at banksandbeals.com.

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OBITUARIES

KATHRYN D. BRANSON

Kathryn D. "Kay" Branson, 85 of Keokuk, IA died Saturday, May 1, 2021 at her home.

She was born November 27, 1935 in Keokuk, IA the daughter of John Henry and Mildred Peterson McKay. Kathryn graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 1953.

On July 4, 1953 was united in marriage to Donald L. Kiser. He preceded her in death on April 2, 1998. She then married George Branson, Jr. on December 23, 2000. He survives.

Other survivors include two daughters, Carol Anderson (Pete) of Columbus, GA, Angela Kiser of Muscatine, IA and two step-sons, Gregory David Branson (Heather) and Jeffrey Scott Branson and one step-daughter, Gwyn Branson all of California. She is also survived by five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, seven step-grandchildren, one step-great-grandchild and one brother, S. Thomas "Tom" McKay (Sharon) of Keokuk.

Besides her first husband Donald, she was also preceded in death by one son, Kevin Lee Kiser and one brother, John A. McKay and one sister, Carolyn Ragar Dodson.

Kathryn was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church and a member of the United Methodist Women in her younger years. Then she became a member of The Community of Christ Church.

She enjoyed listening to music, especially piano and violin. Kathryn truly appreciated art. Throughout her life she delighted in oil painting portraits and leaves behind many beautiful paintings for her family and friends to cherish. She was a friend to many and loved spending time conversing with them. Kathryn was an enthusiastic fan of her children's events and was always very involved in all of their activities.

A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m., Tuesday, at the Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk, IA.

There will be no visitation. Memorials may be made to Hope Home Healthcare, PO Box 7, Ft. Madison, IA 52627.

The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

OBITUARIES

BETTY SEAVER

Betty Seaver, 75, of Keokuk joined her husband in heaven on Saturday, May 1, 2021.

She was born May 2, 1945 in Keokuk the daughter of William and Dorothy Clem Hyatt. Betty graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 1963.



SEAVER

On May 16, 1965, she was united in marriage to James L. "Jim" Seaver at First Christian Church in Keokuk. Their devoted and loving fifty-two year marriage was an inspiration to all who knew them. He preceded her in death on April 16, 2018.

She was employed with State Central Bank for over thirty years and was the branch manager on Boulevard Road from 1980 until her retirement in 2006.

Betty was a member of Keokuk Christian Church in Keokuk and Deer Run Golf Club in Hamilton.

Family was the most important aspect of her life. She was a devoted daughter, loving wife, attentive mother and proud grandmother. Her favorite pastimes were playing golf, canning, baking and reading Mary Higgins Clark and Debbie Macomber books. Betty cherished the time she spent playing Rummy, dominoes and board games with her family. She also enjoyed traveling after her retirement. Betty was an excellent cook and loved to make wonderful meals for her family. She enjoyed hosting family holiday gatherings and that always featured an abundance of great food and good times that filled the hearts of her loved ones with treasured memories.

She is survived by one daughter, Kristina Centers (Tim) of Lincoln, IL, one son, James W. Seaver (Becky) of Bradenton, Florida, two grandchildren, Laura A. Centers of Macomb, IL and Colin J. Centers of Lincoln, IL, one step-granddaughter, Tasia Kos of Cedar Rapids, IA, one step-great-granddaughter, Kiara Ware of Cedar Rapids, IA, one brother, Bill Hyatt of Plant City, FL, many nieces, nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews.

Besides her husband, she was also preceded in death by her parents, and one sister, Rose Mary Hyatt Boyd.

A memorial service will be held at 11:30 a.m., Friday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Cathy Courtois officiating. Burial will be in the Sandusky Cemetery. Social distancing requirements will be in place and masks are required at the funeral home. The service will be live streamed on Betty's tribute wall on the Vigen Memorial Home webpage.

Visitation will be held prior to the service from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m., Friday, at the funeral home with family meeting with friends at that time. Betty was a cancer survivor and was appreciative of the support provided to her and Jim by the American Cancer Society. So, in lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

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W-2319024 11/11

For the Record/From the Front



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

A semi passes southbound on Hwy. 218 at the intersection of Hwy. 16 Tuesday morning where a motorcyclist was killed after a collision with a Chevrolet SUV. The driver of the SUV was also transported to an area hospital.

Names withheld in Tuesday morning accident near Houghton

DEATH - Continued from Page 1

The motorcyclist, who's name has not been released pending notification of family, was headed southbound on Hwy. 218 and collided with the SUV as it crossed the intersection.

AirEvac was dispatched to the accident.

Houghton Cedar Township Fire & Rescue, along with Lee County EMS Ambulance, Iowa State Patrol and Iowa Department of Transportation all assisted at the scene.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

04/28/21 – 3:22 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1800 block of Avenue E.

04/28/21 – 5:09 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1400 block of 38th Street.

04/28/21 – 10:49 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Chandra Leigh Reynolds, 42, of Fort Madison, in the 600 block of 8th Street on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

04/29/21 – 1:31 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Anton Robert Kempker, 43, of Fort Madison, in the 2300 block of Avenue I, on a charge of driving while barred. He was released on a promise to appear.

04/29/21 – 5:29 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 2000 block of Avenue L.

04/29/21 – 7:33 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 600 block of 8th Street.

04/29/21 – 10:31 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Lacey Raye Jenkins, 39, of Fort

Madison, in the 2200 block of Avenue D, on a charge of driving under suspension.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

04/28/21 – 9:27 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Isaiah Oe Zenz, 22, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released after paying a fine.

04/28/21 – 12:54 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 2700 block of Hwy. 61. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Madalyn Marie Giesler, 23, of Keokuk, lost control after the vehicle she was driving began to hydroplane and slid into the median. No injuries or citations were reported.

04/28/21 – 10:00 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Sarah Danielle Rose, 25, of Kahoka, Mo., at the Clark County Jail in Kahoka, on a warrant for violation of probation. He was held in custody.

04/29/21 – 1:17 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Johnny Earl Crocitti, 45, of Kirksville, Mo., at the sheriff's office

on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

04/29/21 – 2:53 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at the southeast ramp of Hwy. 61 onto Hwy. 2. According to reports, a vehicle driven by Linda Kay Benjamin, 63, of Montrose struck the back end of a vehicle driven by John William DiSanto, 37, of Farmington, who was stopped waiting to turn eastbound onto Hwy. 2 from the northbound off ramp. No injuries or citations were reported.

04/29/21 – 3:46 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Carl Desmond Jones, 38, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office, on warrants for voluntary absence from custody, and a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

04/30/21 – 6:33 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Charles Zachariah Bittner, 42, of Keokuk, in the 3300 block of 243rd Avenue, on a charge of 4th-degree criminal mischief. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

In need of a few cleaning supplies, spray paint, weed killer, etc? Come check out what is available at our Swap Shop in our Household Hazardous Waste facility. Our Swap Shop is open Monday-Friday during regular business hours at our main facility in Fort Madison. Stop in the Scale house to let them know you want to look through the swap shop, and they will get someone to help you!!

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Sports/From the Front

No. 12 Bloodhounds get sweep of Fairfield with road win

BY PCC STAFF

FAIRFIELD – The 12th-ranked Fort Madison Bloodhounds remained perfect in Southeast Conference boys soccer Monday night with a critical win over No. 15 Fairfield on the road.

Mitchell Pothitakis scored all three goals for the Hounds, the first coming early with just six minutes gone and a set from Xander Wellman and Phillip Goldie.

Rankings posted by the Iowa High School Soccer Coaches Association have the Hounds still at 12th in Class 2A. The Trojans are also in Class 2A. Cedar Rapids Xavier holds the top spot with a 6-3 record. Fort Madison's only loss is to Class 1A top-ranked Burlington Notre Dame (11-0), in overtime.

The win over Fairfield, who's only losses on the year have come at the hands of the Bloodhounds, could vault Fort Madison into the top 10.

Pothitakis is now tops in the state in scoring with 68 points and assists with 22. He's 4th in the state in goals with 23.

The junior midfielder converted a penalty kick, his 8th of the season, also a state best, with 18 minutes left in the first half. He would complete the hat trick and round out the scoring for Fort Madison (10-1, 8-0) with an unassisted shot 22 minutes into the second half.

Fairfield would get on the board with nine minutes left after Reiburn Turnbull let one of nine shots on goal get by to preserve the win.

Sophomores Jacob Pothitakis and Wellman are both in the top 10 in the state in assists with 12 and 11 respectively. Pothitakis is 4th in scoring with 52 points.

The Bloodhounds lost the junior varsity contest 3-1. Jamarkus Kline had the lone goal for Fort Madison in the 2nd half to tie things up at 1, but the Trojan would tack two more on down the stretch for the win.

Tate Settles and Connor Gehling combined for five saves in the loss.

School board takes higher bid for construction management

CONTRACTS - Continued from Page 1

The vote was 6-1 for DLR Group with Board President Dianne Hope opposing the move. The vote to award the contract to Carl A. Nelson was 5-1 with Hope again voting against the move. Board member Carol Ross abstained.

Prior to the vote, Hope gave a 10-minute presentation outlining the history of the district's uphill battle to get facility upgrades specifically for PreK-3rd grade instruction, and pointed to a recommendation from the Fort Madison Community School District Director of Operations Nic Chiri to use Estes Construction and BLDD Architects for construction management and design.

"Do we side-step that recommendation," Hope asked during her presentation.

Carl A. Nelson has the highest fee associated with the construction management bids at \$666,000 compared to Estes' bid of \$450,500 and a bid from Schickedanz Construction of \$570,000.

For the architectural services, BLDD had a bid of \$1,655,000, while DLR came in at \$1,562,500.

BLDD, out of Davenport, ushered in a new look through the leadership of an ad-hoc committee assembled by the district to review all the district facilities after four failed attempts to pass a bond to build a new PreK-3rd grade facility on the campus near the middle schools.

The firm was also contracted to evaluate all the district's current facilities in 2020.

With state legislators extending the Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (SAVE) last year, district voters approved a required Revenue Purpose Statement in March, that will allow the district to leverage the one-cent sales tax through 2050.

Those funds combined with Physical Plant and Equipment Levy funds and other funds will pay for the estimated \$25 million Phase 1 that will accommodate moving all 7th-12th grade students into the high school with added new construction, and the remaining PreK-6th grade students being moved into the Fort Madison Middle School campus with new construction.

The new construction on the middle school campus will include \$15 million for a PreK-1st grade addition, a multi-purpose addition and a new commons space, along with additional transportation for ease of drop-off and pick-up. The high school work will include \$10 million in initial improvement at the high school to allow for the additional two grades of students.

The board tabled Chiri's recommendation for Estes and BLDD in April, and on Monday instead approved DLR citing the company's past history in overseeing the construction of the middle school on a short-time frame, and already knowing the district's facilities.

Mark Schickedanz, of Schickedanz Construction, who also bid on the work said most of his staff came up through the Fort Madison school system and also know the facilities very well.

In a related matter, the board also voted to approve contracts with Seither and Cherry for secure entry renovations at Lincoln and Richardson elementary schools at a combined cost of \$186,500. The two buildings are planned to be retired at the start of the 2023 school year.

The Seither and Cherry bids were slightly higher than bids submitted by Schickedanz by about \$2,100 combined. But Chiri recommended the Seither and Cherry bid due to time constraints on the project and wanting the work done prior to the start of school in August.

"Considering relevant factors besides cost, such as timeline, I recommend Seither and Cherry Company to perform work to be completed summer 2021 on the secure entry project at Richardson Elementary," Chiri wrote in a memo to the board. He wrote the same memo regarding the Lincoln Elementary work.

"This is a crucial element with timeline of turnkey by school starting in August of 2021."

The board then entered a closed session to evaluate Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater as well as held an exempt session to review a tentative agreement from last week's negotiations with the Fort Madison Education Association.

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Sports

FM girls get first win on courts

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Lady Hounds could take advantage of a split in singles competition falling to Keokuk 6-3 Thursday night in Fort Madison.

Molly Knipe got an 8-4 win over Keokuk's Emma Evans at No. 1 singles. Sky Lawson won 8-2 at No. 4, and Lauren Otte won by injury default at No. 5 to help Fort Madison to a 3-3 split before the double action.

But Evans and Kaleigh Hall downed Knipe and Kayla Kruse 8-2 at the top doubles spot. While the Chiefs' Jasmine Saunders and Julia de Gala had the same score in a win over Elizabeth Stuekerjuergen and Lawson. Abby Thompson and Olivia Rule knocked off Otte and Naudia Ruston in a close 9-7 match at No. 3 doubles.

"Our girls played well tonight all things considered," Head Coach Jeremy Swink said.

"We had a few last minute substitutions, and adjusted fairly well given the circumstances. Had a few similar matchups that we saw earlier in the season with Keokuk and we saw some growth in those matches which is exciting and shows us we are moving in the right direction."

The girls were hoping to build on the momentum from Tuesday's 7-2 win over Mt. Pleasant, the first win of the year for the Lady Hounds.

Fort Madison dropped a singles match at No. 2 to when Maggie Fitzpatrick scored a close 8-6 win over Rachel Hellman, and Melanie Olivas shut out Stuekerjuergen at No. 4 singles.

But the Lady Hounds got wins from Knipe at No. 1, Kayla Kruse at No. 3 in a 7-5 tiebreaker, Lawson and Otte.

All three doubles teams of Knipe/Hellman, Kruse/Stuekerjuergen, and Otte Lawson recorded wins.

"It was nice to get our first team win. Still have some things to work on, but we are moving in the right direction," Swink said.



Thurman suffers first loss at Keokuk

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK – Vasin Thurman remained perfect on the year with a win at No. 2 singles over Keokuk's Callum Tackes 6-4, 7-6 with a 7-2 tiebreaker in the second set, but Fort Madison lost their first match of the year 3-6 on the road.

Vasin and twin brother Jason Thurman had been perfect through the season, but Jason suffered his first loss when he fell 2-6, 3-6 to Abbott Haner at No. 1 singles.

The Hounds lost the next two singles matches with Ivan Lopez knocking off Levi Sissell 6-3, 6-3 and Kaiden Stoneking downing Bryce Workman 6-1, 6-3 at No. 4 singles.

Kaden Medland got Fort Madison back on the board at No. 5 with a 6-0, 7-5 win over Luke Thompson, but Brendan Worster gave the Chiefs a 4-2 lead going into doubles action with a 6-3, 6-0 win over the Hounds' Tyler Horn.

Thurman and Thurman stayed perfect at No. 1 doubles when they beat Tackes/Stoneking 6-0, 6-0 to get Fort Madison to 4-3, but Keokuk split up their No. 1 and No. 2 singles players into different doubles brackets and the move paid off as Haner/Lopez beat Sissell/Workman 6-1, 6-0 to seal the win.

Thompson and Worster padded the lead with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Medland and Horn.

The Hounds travel to Muscatine Friday night.

FMMS eighth graders win home track meet

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison eighth grade boys track team won a home meet on Monday night led by Aiden Mitchell's first-place finish in the 800-meter run. Mitchell also took second in the 1600 meter run just 1.2 seconds off the pace of Washington's Tyler Alderton at 5:57.72.

Julian Dear capture first in the 200-meter hurdles with a 27.99 and second in the 100-meter dash at 11.60.

The boys "A" team of Caden Barnes, Tristan Marshall, Dayton Lamar and Jesus Oronia won the 4x100 meter relay with a 52.62 mark. The 4x800 team ran unopposed for another first-place tally.

Other first place finishes included Lamar in the high jump at 5-2". Barnes won the shot put easily with a throw of 44-5". The Little Hounds' Marshall was 2nd with a 34-6". Barnes was second in the discuss throw

with a 100-6" spin.

The Hounds finished first with 153 points, ahead of Washington (109) and Mt. Pleasant (100.5) in the six team field.

The Fort Madison 7th graders finished in fourth place with 73 points. Mt. Pleasant won that meet with 150.

Mason McLey took first in the 800 with 2:34.00 and Nolan Guzman scored a top finish in the 1600 with a time of 5:55.79. The 4x800 relay team of McLey, Jake and Jackson Haessig and Guzman took first with a time of 10:40.79.

Jackson Haessig, Karson Dixon, Jake Haessig and McLey teamed up in the distance medley for a 4:56.00 win just two seconds in front of Mt. Pleasant's "A" squad.

Guzman won the high jump at 5-0", for other first place finish for Fort Madison.



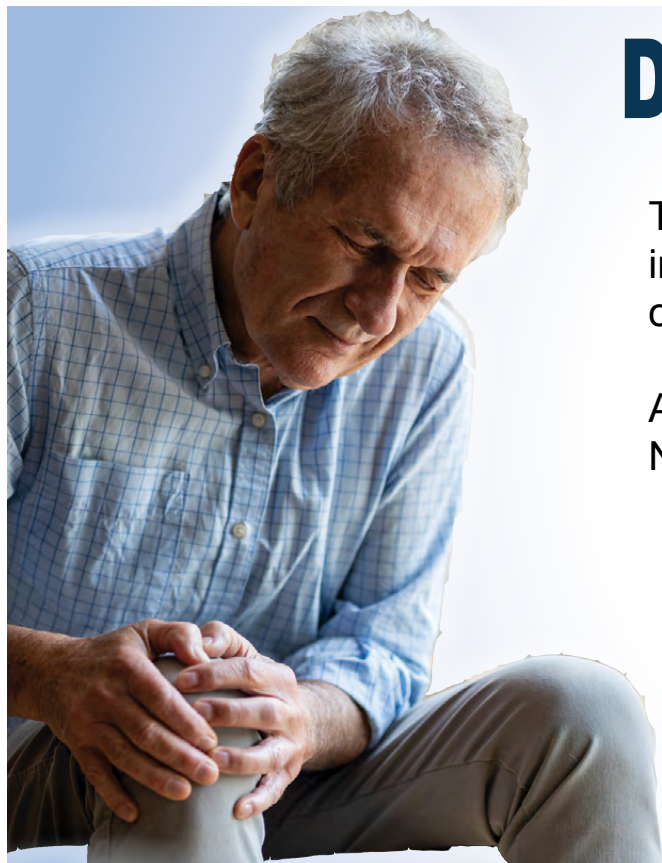
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To apply, download an application from our county website, www.leecounty.org or request one from the Engineer office, and return your completed application, along with a resume to: Lee County Engineer, P.O. Box 158, Fort Madison, IA 52627, or email it to engineer@leecounty.org. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

If you have any questions please contact Lee County Engineer, Ben Hull, at (319) 372-2541 or email him at engineer@leecounty.org.



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From the Front

Young actors take center stage at OFP

OFP - Continued from Page 1

to keep up with everything that's going on at the theater.

Executive producer for the spring production is Pen City Current and the production is co-directed by Ty Clute and Angela Sanford.

Leaving Iowa harkens memories of the family road trip, and the memories become even more vivid as Don Browning, a middle aged journalist returns home to spread his father's ashes at the man's childhood home.

But when Browning realizes the home has been razed and replaced with a grocery store on a slope, he spirals and relives the frustration of the annual road trips to his grandparents' home.

It's all there - mom yelling to stop for directions, dad sleepy at the wheel, and the kids bored, hot, and hungry in the back seat. Every audience member will relate to this crew.

Browning, played by OFP youth veteran Sterling Barnes, insists on taking the ashes back to his father's home, but when the map shows a grocery store now stands on the homestead, he battles car trouble, a whacky cart chaser, and a flirtatious drunk while trying to find the perfect surrogate place to put his father to rest.

Isaiah Meek, an 8th grader from Bonaparte, punches above his weight class as an overaggressive chart chaser on the grocery store's seriously sloped parking lot. He's also quick witted as Jack Singer, sharing a drink with the despondent Browning, who opens Browning's eyes to the "damned adventure" he's found himself chasing.

Amanda Greenhalge is clean and accurate as "Mom". Greenhalge fits comfortably in the role as she regularly takes road trips with her husband and three children across the country from their Dallas City home. The real ringleader of the family not so calmly keeps a sense of balance and fair play, mixed with a little discipline whether in the car, or at the house organizing retirement parties and the passing of her husband.

James Salisbury steps on the stage as "Dad" and portrays



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Old Fort Players' "Leaving Iowa" goes curtain up this Friday starting at 7:30 p.m. Check out this perfect portrayal of the Midwestern summer road trip.

the nerdy patriarch with a penchant for anything historical - dominating the drive time, but ever willing to pull over and "give the kids something to cry about."

Kelly Shields and Jan Jud, both veteran playhouse actors fill in as grandma and grandpa.

Other cast members include Alexa Johnson, Juniper and Roselynn Strickland, Mallory Troutman, who's in her 7th community production in Fort Madison and Van Buren, Jodi Zioui, Richar and Xandra Abel, Sydney Amberger, Shelley Dowling and Kim Albers.

Albers portrayal of a pickled hotel guest brings more humor to the show and Amberger really is the whiny sister who works mom and dad to the chagrin of a young Don.

The show is produced by special arrangement with Dramatic Publishing Co. of Woodstock, Ill., and was originally written by Tim Clue and Spike Manton. It was critically acclaimed after its first run in 2004 on the west coast, where it was dubbed a "frighteningly realistic depiction of the summer family road trip".

The Players are planning for a full fall run with COVID vaccinations up and numbers going down and several other events and fundraisers planned leading up to the fall season.

LCHD setting up smaller vaccination clinics

SHOTS - Continued from Page 1

"Well that doesn't sound very good." said Supervisor Rich Harlow.

Ross said there is still a lot of work to do in the county.

"That's why we're moving to smaller pop-up or pockets of people who are having trouble accessing a clinic either due to transportation or being able to attend," Ross said.

"We're trying to make access as easy as possible, so that's one of the reasons for the smaller clinics."

Harlow asked Ross if those numbers were frustrating for her and the staff at LCHD.

"We'd like that to be higher or exceed the state average and we have tried to promote vaccinations," Ross said. "There's lots of hesitancy now, fear, or people choosing they don't want it. But anyone who wants to call and talk to us about concerns, we'd be happy to talk with them."

Ross also said at LCHD's last second-dose clinic about 15 people didn't return for their second vaccine. She said staff called to verify the appointments with those on the list and some said they didn't want the second shot and others had received it somewhere else.

"We want people to finish their series. You need to get that second shot for the vaccine to combat that virus the way it was intended," she said.

Ross said county health officials will be reaching out to libraries, food pantries and salvation army locations for assistance in holding smaller clinic locations and finding some of the people who haven't had access to a vaccination.

A small Johnson & Johnson clinic has been set for the Fort Madison Food Pantry on May 12 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. They are also looking into the Keokuk area to get something planned and other rural areas of the county.

LCHD is also holding in-house vaccination clinics by appointment. Individuals looking to get vaccinated can call the health department and make an appointment.

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