

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Monday, August 2, 2021 | 6 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 146



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Dems meet 2022 candidates



Photo by Elizabeth Meyer

U.S. Senate candidate Abby Finkenauer talks with potential voters Sunday in Montrose. Finkenauer, a former U.S. Representative, is running for the seat currently held by Republican Charles Grassley.

MEET AND GREET: Ivor Fowler Center site for Lee County Dems' Ice Cream social

BY ELIZABETH MEYER
For Pen City Current

MONTROSE — It isn't an election year for state or federal candidates, but that didn't keep Lee County Democrats from gathering Sunday to hear from Iowans seeking the U.S. Senate and governorship.

Mary Jo Riesberg, chair of the Lee County Democratic Party, organized an ice cream social for the second time at Ivor Fowler Community Center in Montrose. The local party's first summertime ice cream social was held in 2019. There was no such event in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

With about 15 months to go until the 2022 mid-term elections, three Democratic candidates got a jump start on meeting local voters: U.S. Senate candidates Abby Finkenauer and Dave Muhlbauer, and potential gubernatorial candidate Deidre DeJear.

Finkenauer, who represented Iowa's 1st Congressional District from 2019-2021, was introduced Sunday by her former Iowa House colleague Jerry Kearns.

"There was no greater advocate for working people in the Iowa Legislature than Abby Finkenauer," said Kearns, who

See CANDIDATES, page 6



Summer heat to blame for everything

The summer is flyin' by. It's flyin' by so fast I'm three hours late with my submission this week.

We've had too much heat and too much rain. Great for the corn, not for the physiologically challenged. Or those who like a couple beers on a warm day.

As I get towards the top of "the hill", the heat seems to be bugging me a bit more than in the past.

I played in a sluggish golf event last week and actually had a thought of stepping off the last two holes because of the heat.

Now it was 112 out there, but my focus was shot and anyone who's golfed with me knows I need all the focus I can get. It's too much fun to get serious and my game shows it. But I can hit that one good shot every now and then. All worth it.

But the heat seems to be taking the fun out of my summer. My baseball tickets are in the shade when I go to Great American Ballpark to watch Joey Vott-OHHHH!

I'm going again for my birthday next week. My wife offered to take me there for a couple days. We used my credit card...?

Oh, and a big shout out to Ron Walker and the boys team on another great season. That program, like most others at FMHS, is on the rise. The softball team is full of talented underclassman and Jared Rehm has them dialed in as well.

But I'm a little miffed at the not-so-Big Red Machine.

I'm disappointed that retribution

See BASEBALL, page 4

FMAAA

Quilt Guild to take over FM Art Studio for month of August

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Tri State Quilt Guild will be displaying their crafted quilts and fabric art at Fort Madison Area Arts Association during the month of August. The Opening Reception with light refreshments provided is Friday,

August 6th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at FMAAA's Art Center located at 825 Ave G in Fort Madison. Two Rivers Insurance is the generous sponsor for this month's exhibit.

There will be almost fifty items in the exhibit comprising the work of Guild members Sharon Pillard, Connie Hobart,

Joyce Taylor, Sandy Seabold, Linda Apple, Cathy Guess, Marilyn Holmes, Linda Waldren, Rita Hickey, Kathy Routh, Barb Clark, and Sue Dowell. This will be a fine display of the skilled handiwork of this region's fabric artisans. Many of these

See QUILTS, page 5

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WEATHER

MON 02 Aug.....Clear Skies, 75° F/ 56° F
TUE 03 Aug.....Light Rain, 77° F/ 57° F
WED 04 Aug.....Clear Skies, 78° F/ 59° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 07/31.....14 19 34 35 38, Star Ball: 9, All Star Bonus: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE 07/31.....7 26 29 36 42, Lucky Ball: 6
MEGA MILLIONS 07/30.....19 26 31 52 68, Mega Ball: 10 Megaplier: 3
PICK 3 07/29, 07/30, 07/31 MIDDAY.....161, 230, 038
PICK 3 07/29, 07/30, 07/31 EVENING.....587, 219, 480
PICK 4 07/29, 07/30, 07/31 MIDDAY.....8132, 0344, 3939
PICK 4 07/29, 07/30, 07/31 EVENING.....2520, 9385, 1636
POWERBALL 07/31.....1 21 22 34 47, Powerball: 4, Power Play: 2

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

ARLETTA A. MENKE

Arletta "Rocky" Ann Roxlau Menke, 84, of Fort Madison IA, passed away on Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 5:47 p.m. at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Fort Madison. Rocky was born in Waukegan, IL on February 19, 1937 to Carl J. and B. Pauline (Stump) Roxlau. She married Leroy "Pete" Menke April 19, 1958 and was a lifelong resident of Fort Madison. She was of the Catholic faith. Rocky retired from the Sheaffer Pen Company. Rocky's passions were her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, the Democratic Party and the UAW. She rarely missed any of their activities. She was a member of the Lee County Democrats and played an active role every election cycle. Rocky volunteered at the Sheaffer Pen Museum.



MENKE

Those left to cherish her memory include: Daughters Julie (Mark) Kramer of West Point, IA and Janice (M. Steven) Verstrat of Burlington, IA; Granddaughters Melissa (Scott) Gillespie, Heather Kramer, Kimberly (Brent) Fraise and Brittany (Gabe Frantz) Gilpin; Great-grandchildren Nolan Gillespie, Layla Fraise, and Baby Fraise; sister-in-law, Patricia "Patty" Weckbach; Nieces and Nephews, Steve (Jenny) Schlicher, Carl (Jeannie) Schlicher, Sherri (Jay) Fullenkamp), and Dennis (Kimberly) Kirchner, Gary Scharpman, Terry (Linda) Scharpman, Rick Scharpman, Becky (Dave) Biegler, Dr. Robert "Bob" (Cris) Weckbach, Cindy (Randy) Poulter, and Mary (Marvin) Boeding, and several grandnieces, grandnephews, great-grandnieces and great-grand nephews. Brother, John Roxlau and Brother in law, Roger Kirchner. She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband of 61 years, Leroy "Pete" Menke, sisters Carlene "Connie" Schlicher and Judy Kirchner, sisters and brothers in law, Laura (Maurice) Scharpman, Edward (Elizabeth) Menke, Margaret (Dr. William) Weckbach, Walter (Bea) Menke and Edward Weckbach, nephews Scott Kirchner and William "Billy" Weckbach, and niece Cathy Reed.

A visitation will be held on Monday, August 2, 2021 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. with a funeral service to immediately follow at 11:00 a.m. at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A memorial has been established for St. Jude's Children's Hospital or P.A.W. Animal Shelter. She will be buried along with her husband on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at Sacred Heart Cemetery. Online condolences to Rocky's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

We are thankful that she spent her final years at the Kensington where she got to be taken care of and enjoy herself. She was always ready to hop on the bus and go on an adventure or set up a game of euchre. Thank you to the very special staff at "The K". She would want us to remind everyone to get their absentee ballots in the mail timely.

CAROLYN L. TRIPP

Carolyn Louise Tripp, 65, of Keokuk, passed away on Wednesday, July 7, 2021, at Blessing Hospital in Keokuk, Iowa.

Carolyn was born on February 23, 1956, in Keokuk, Iowa, the daughter of George and Shirley (Hammel) Bell. She enjoyed spending her time sewing, writing recipes, reading cookbooks and enjoying the company of her grandchildren. She was an active member of her community, socializing with everyone and assisting law enforcement in keeping Keokuk safe. Carolyn was an avid swimmer and loud music enthusiast, her favorites being Lil Wayne and Eminem. She attended God's Way Christian Center for many years.

Carolyn is survived by two daughters: Tasha and Heather Tripp of Keokuk; three grandchildren: Shonta Sherrill, Luke Burgess and Aerial Irvin; four sisters: Penny Corbin of Knox City, Missouri, Mary Starr of La Belle, Missouri, Lori (Scott) Chartalian of Kirksville, Missouri, and Sherry Morton of Texas; three brothers: Robert Tripp of Keokuk, Charles (Brenda) Bell of Dallas, Georgia, and Stacy (Nancy) Bell of Keokuk; sister-in-law Alice Tripp of Keokuk; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Carolyn is preceded in death by her parents and her brothers Kevin Tripp and William "Marvin" Tripp, Jr., and her beloved companion "boyfriend, her pug.

A private graveside service will be held on Wednesday at Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk.

Memorials may be directed to the family in care of Tasha Tripp. DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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Opinion

Villages of Van Buren County Saved From Havoc

I saved the Villages of Van Buren County from havoc, and I did it while jogging. Yep.

It was my birthday. 73 for me—yip-pee! Growing old is a privilege. As we did last year for Ginnie on her birthday, we rented a cottage in Bentonsport

(Bent-on-sport) and spent a tranquil two days in peace and quiet, fresh air, and the pleasant sound of dropping walnuts. “Is this heaven? No, it’s Iowa.”

Any stay in the Villages of Van Buren requires at least one meal at the Bonaparte Retreat. Whenever I’m there I can’t get the tune, “Waterloo” by Stonewall Jackson (this really dates me) out of my head. “Little General, Napoleon of France, tried to conquer the world but lost his pants. Met defeat, known as Bonaparte’s Retreat, and that’s where Napoleon met his Waterloo.”

In order to work off that excellent meal, I was up early the next morning, while Ginnie slept in, for a Van Buren County jog. I crossed over the Des Moines River on the now foot bridge between Bentonsport and Vernon. Ducks rose in the misty morning as I slipped across. Then it was up the Vernon Hill to County Road J-40, down the hill, to again cross the Des Moines River, this time raising a doe and her fawn, and back to our little cottage. Only in Van Buren County can you cross a major river twice in the short course of maybe three miles.

Then it was off for a day of running around the Villages of Van Buren. The big stop was the Dutchman’s Store in Cantril. Ginnie loves stocking up on stock. We know the owner, Clair Zimmerman, and always seek him out in the back storerooms. He was full of the big news that he was building a new Dutchman’s Store out on the highway, a facility that would double the size of the existing Dutchman’s Store. He showed us a picture of a John Deere tractor his boys had built out of hay bales for the upcoming Van Buren County Bale Trail tour.

Back at the cottage it was time to open presents. Instead of a birthday cake, Ginnie had made my favorite strawberry pie. We invited Rick and Nancy

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



Alexander, owners of the cottage, over to join us. All were in agreement that strawberry pie, especially in this heat, is a grand substitute for birthday cake any day.

For birthday entertainment that night, after grilling ribeyes, Ginnie and I went to see an all female group, the Awful Purdies, in Fairfield. Because of the heat, the event was moved indoors to the air-conditioned comfort of the Arts and Convention Center. Surprising us both, the Awful Purdies, from Iowa City, were quite good. And it was free.

The next morning, I was up early again for my post-birthday jog, this time heading east, with the intention of running up the Bentonsport hill toward Bonaparte. I hadn’t made it out of town when I noticed something in the middle of County Road J-40. I stopped and looked and, lo-and-behold, it was a box full of two-inch framing nails, along with a strip of staple-gun staples. Holy Moly Guacamole! The box of nails must have fallen out of the back end of a pick-up or maybe an Amish buggy. If that box of nails had gotten run over, and those nails spread over J-40, the whole county could have been plagued with a rash of flat tires. I set the box of nails and strip of staples over on the curb and picked them up when I returned to town after I ran “The Hill.” And that’s how I saved the Villages of Van Buren from a whole lot of havoc and grief—just a little token of my gratitude for all the pleasure Van Buren County has given us.

Returning home, there was a raccoon in the live animal trap I had placed in our sweetcorn. All-in-all, it was an extraordinary birthday, not agreed to by Rocky Raccoon. He or she didn’t appreciate its new accommodations.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, find him on Facebook, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com, or visit his website at www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com.

Lee County Health Department
Walk-in COVID Vaccine Clinic

Thursday, July 29, 2021
3:00pm-7:00pm
Trinity United Methodist Church, Keokuk
Pfizer vaccine only for those 12-18 years of age

Monday, August 2, 2021
8:00am-4:00pm
Central Lee K8 Building
Pfizer vaccine only for those 12-18 years of age

Thursday, August 5, 2021
8:00am - 4:30pm
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From the Front/Classifieds

The heat was to blame for a lot of last week

BASEBALL - Continued from Page 1

wasn't exacted to get the cocky Javy Baez, who was talking trash to Reds' relief pitcher Amir Garrett even before he got into the box on Monday night. (Many people suspected this was coming in my Beside the Point - Well...YEAH!)

Baez then hit a walk-off pinch hit game winner and pretended to either row or sweep with his bat walking down the line chirping again at Garrett who had thoughts of a meeting of the minds. Baez slammed his bat down, not in Garrett's direction per se, but not...not in his direction either, and then needed three teammates to escort and encourage him the rest of the way to first.

Baez sat the next two games with a sore heal. He legit seems to be hobbled, but he should've taken one off the butt.

What's happened to baseball?

Votto, who hit six homers in the series points to the name on his jersey after a homer, and the announcers can't let it go. Yet Baez' antics are swept under the carpet. Man I hate the heat.

The Cubs fans out there enjoyed the moment. I actually enjoyed the moment, too. Baez is a real talent. Probably the quickest tag ever in history.

The best feet, hands, arm and pure athleticism in the majors, and I love the color he brings to the game.

Still think he shoulda been plunked - and then let him and whomever go at it hockey style until they get in the clinch, and then break it up. Hopefully that's Garrett throwing. I think Garrett can throw hands, too and Baez would have his work cut out for him. The Pirates know first hand.... YouTube it.

But that's just the heat getting to me. I'm a baseball purist. My best day at a ball field would be a perfect game, if not that, a no-hitter. I watched Roger Clemens go 8 innings of no-hit ball at GABP and then for some reason, no one ever clarified, pulled himself from the game.

The heat got to me that game as well.

The summer is one of my favorite seasons. It's like my 3rd of 4th favorite of all the seasons. My conservative friends, and yes, I have a lot of them, say climate change is a figment of a collective imagination. But I'm melting here damnit.

My doctor said I should start with four glasses of water when I'm going outside because your body doesn't have a chance to keep up with the dehydration of the fireball in the sky.

I thought about bargaining with her - two Mod-

elos and two waters? But I had mentioned to her that I wasn't feeling too well after 10 holes that day and she was in no mood to play around.

She checked all the blood cell numbers and A1C and all that. It's all good. The roadwork, reduced beef intake and extra rabbit food are having good results. The half a bottle of Jameson I drank with Noah Jenkins in Wisconsin a couple weeks ago... not so much.

When are we going to get to that blue light they just wave over you that makes that reverberation noise that Bones used to wave over Captain Kirk? I don't mind getting blood drawn. I've got good veins, but the damn heat makes 'em shrink and roll.

Anyway, I'm gonna start with more water Dr. Huber. And cut down on the Modelos - and focus more on my driver - and not hate Javy Baez - he's hard to hate.

My wife said I've been grumpy, but I blame the heat.

She said, "you're inside in the air!" - well, that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is editor and co-owner of Pen City Current and can be reached at editor@pencity-current.com.

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Classifieds/Sports

Bass staying in 6 to 7 feet of water

The following is the Iowa Department of Natural Resources weekly fishing reports for area ponds, lakes and rivers.

Big Hollow Lake

Water temperature remains in the low 80's. The thermocline is set up at 5-7 feet deep. Don't try fishing much below that; there is little to no oxygen below 7 feet. Largemouth Bass - Slow: Find bass at the lower end of the lake around the flooded trees in 6 to 7 feet of water. Bluegill - Fair: Most anglers are finding bluegill back in the trees (in the shade) in 3 to 5 feet of water. Channel Catfish - Fair: Catfish don't mind the hot weather as much as the other fish do. Drift cut bait along the face of the dam.

Iowa River

(Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)

Iowa River water levels continue to drop very slowly. A few more sandbars are sticking up out of the water. Channel Catfish - Fair: The catfishing along the back edges of the sandbars is picking up after dark as they move in to feed on the baitfish hiding there. Use cut bait or live minnows.

Lake Belva Deer

Water temperature is 83 degrees. The thermocline is set up at 6-7 feet. Water clarity has improved a little. Bluegill - Slow: Bluegills have moved out to deeper water

for the summer. Look for them in 6-7 feet of water as they adjust to the changing thermocline to stay cool with plenty of oxygen. Largemouth Bass - Slow: Bass are out in the thermocline trying to stay cool. Slow drift/troll crankbaits down 6 to 7 feet below the surface to find them. Channel Catfish - Fair: Catfishing is improving. Catfish don't mind the hot weather as much as the other fish do. Try chicken liver and cut bait in above 8 feet of water. Redear Sunfish - Slow: Work along the old creek channel running down through the lake where sunfish are hunting snails to eat.

Lake Darling

Water temperature is in the mid-80's. Water clarity is around two feet; improving slowly. The thermocline is set up at 5-7 feet. Largemouth Bass - Slow: Bass are taking it easy in the heat and don't seem to be very hungry. Most bass remain out in 6 to 7 feet of water. Bluegill - Slow: Try slip bobbers and worm or vertically jigging in the brush piles and rock piles in 5-7 feet of water. Black Crappie - Slow: Look for crappie to remain in deeper water around the brush piles and rock piles down about 6-7 feet. Channel Catfish - Good: Switch from the stream inlets to the culvert piles near the bank; where the catfish can avoid the heat in the shade. Chicken liver works best. Picked up with the flood waters bring in new food.

Quilts usually go to comfort children in foster care

QUILTS - Continued from Page 1

beautifully crafted pieces are designated for donation to Human Services for children in foster care.

We hope you can join us to celebrate the opening of this event. Or, stop by the Art Center during the month of August. We are generally open Tuesday - Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers will be staffing the Art Center during the last three weeks of the month while the Director, Lori Illner Greene, is away for school related obligations. It is recommended that you call 319-372-3996 to verify the Art Center will be open during your planned visit.

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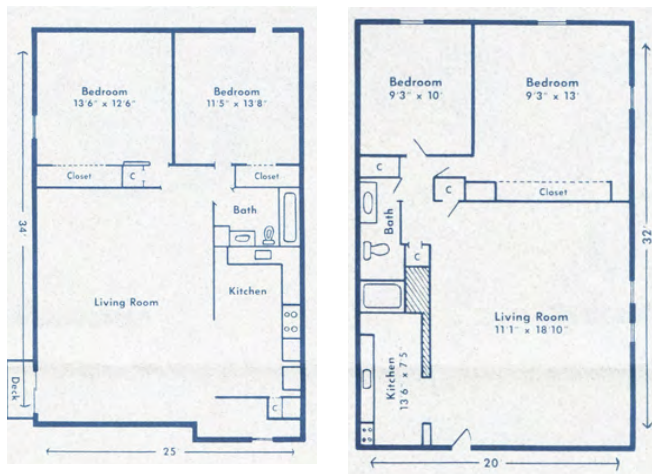


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Sports/From the Front

Central Lee inducts three new honorees into Athletic HOF

DONNELSON - The Central Lee Community School District has announced the 2021 inductees to its Athletic Hall of Fame.

This year, the Hall of Fame is honoring a former student-athlete, former coach and the 1966 girls' cross-country state championship team.

The Athletic Hall of Fame was created as a means of recognizing, preserving and promoting Central Lee's rich history and tradition of excellence in athletics. It emphasizes the importance of high-achieving graduates and former staff members who made a big impact on the school community during their time in Central Lee.

"Over the years, our student-athletes, coaches and teams have accomplished so much, and we are honored to recognize them through our Athletic Hall of Fame," said Dr. Andy Crozier, CLCSD Superintendent. "This year, we are celebrating the achievements of a multi-sport star, a legendary coach and administrator and a cross-country team that overcame the odds to win the state championship in just their first season competing. We look forward to seeing our alumni and honoring these achievements together."

Inductee Sara Newton (née Weirather) is a 2003 graduate who was one of the most prolific multi-sport athletes in Central Lee High School history, earning 18 varsity letters. She claimed all-state recognition in three sports and was named to the Academic All-State team in volleyball. Newton was also a five-year varsity starter in softball and was

instrumental in leading the Central Lee basketball team to a second-place finish at the 2000 state tournament as a freshman.

Also inducted this year is George F. Allen, who served as a teacher, athletic director and coach of multiple sports in Central Lee for 45 years. Over his career, he coached boys' and girls' basketball, baseball, softball, golf, and football. He played a critical role in starting many of the district's athletic programs, along with the Central Lee Athletic Booster Club.

The 1966 Central Lee girls' cross-country team won the state championship in just the first year of the program's existence. The team included Marg Winstead (née Benjamin), Sandy Schaff (née Boecker), Rose Crossan (née Rider), Barb McVeigh (née Millmier), Becky Reynolds (née Mullen) and Karen Sojka (née Reuther). Coach Bruce Knott led the team—and also transported them to meets in his side-paneled station wagon.

Families, staff, alumni and community members are encouraged to nominate individuals for Hall of Fame recognition. A committee then reviews all nominations and determines each year's inductees. Central Lee also has Academic and Fine Arts Halls of Fame.

For individuals to qualify for a nomination, they must have graduated from Central Lee schools or have been a staff member.

They also must be at least five years removed from their time in the district. The nomination form is available at <https://bit.ly/CL-HOFNomination>.

Muhlbauer says it's time for Democrats to step up

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retired in 2019 from his post representing Lee County.

Finkenauer lost her reelection bid last year by 2.6 percentage points to Republican Congresswoman Ashley Hinson. Earlier this month she launched her campaign for Sen. Chuck Grassley's seat.

"I know there are policies that move us forward and I know there are policies that hold us back, just like I know there are public servants that move us forward and there are politicians that hold us back," said Finkenauer. "Especially those politicians who have been in Washington, D.C., for decades and have lost sight of what public service is all about."

Grassley, 87, has served in the U.S. Senate since 1981. He has yet to announce whether he will seek an eighth term in 2022.

Finkenauer, 55 years his junior, criticized Grassley for his unwillingness to forcefully speak out against the Jan. 6 insurrection attempt carried out at the Capitol by supporters of former president Donald Trump.

"Sen. Chuck Grassley should have known better, but instead, he didn't stand up for our democracy. He didn't push back against the lies that led to that day, and in fact, months later, he was part of pushing that conspiracy forward," Finkenauer said, referring to Trump's false claim that President Joe Biden did not rightfully win the 2020 election. "I knew in that moment that it was time we spoke the truth."

In addition to Finkenauer, Crawford County's Muhlbauer and Glenn Hurst, a western Iowa physician, are running for Senate on the Democratic side.

Kearns also introduced Muhlbauer, noting that he served in the Iowa Legislature with his father, Daniel Muhlbauer.

A farmer and former Crawford County supervisor, Dave Muhlbauer is new to statewide politics but was the first Democratic candidate to announce his Senate campaign.

"I am running for U.S. Senate because it's time for Democrats to step up," said Muhlbauer, noting the warm reception he received from Democrats in conservative Crawford County. "They said, I'm so glad he stood up, now I feel like I can stand up and make change."

DeJear, a 2018 candidate for Iowa secretary of state and chair of Vice President Kamala Harris' caucus campaign, has formed an exploratory committee for governor, which allows her to fundraise. She hasn't formally entered the race to take on Gov. Kim Reynolds, who is expected to seek a second term.

To give the Democrats a sense of hope about their prospects in the governor's race next year, DeJear noted how Fred Hubbell, the Democratic candidate in 2018, won Lee County by 3.3 percentage points.

"We got to recognize where we made our wins and build upon that. Three percent, compared to what some of the other counties did, is something to brag about," DeJear said to applause. "It's something to brag about."



Potential gubernatorial candidate Diedre DeJear talks with a potential voter at the Ivor Fowler Center in Montrose on Sunday afternoon.

Photo by Elizabeth Meyer/PCC

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