

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Friday, October 23, 2020 | 9 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 193



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Loebsack stumps in FM



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

U.S. Representative Dave Loebsack (D-IA 2nd) talks with voters Thursday night at a campaign stop with the "I Voted Early" Democratic bus tour.

END OF TERM: Congressman says learning was the key to his success

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – With just three months left in his term in Congress, Rep. Dave Loebsack stopped to thank Democrats in Fort Madison Thursday as part of the "I Voted Early" bus tour.

The bus pulled up in the parking lot at the bottom of 10th Street just west of the North Lee County Historical Society at about 5 p.m.

Loebsack showed up at about 5:30 after a campaign stop and Burlington and started to speak when a BNSF train roared by about 30 feet behind the U.S. Representative.

Finishing his seventh term in the U.S. House of Representatives, Loebsack (D-Iowa 2nd), originally from Sioux City, said his time in service has been totally about learning.

"My wife was a school teacher for over 30 years and I was at Cornell for 24 years and we've always said we couldn't teach until we effectively learned," he said.

"So that's what I've enjoyed so much, getting around talking with people, going to businesses, going to schools and doing whatever I can to meet as many people as I can so I can understand what their concerns are and take them back

See **CAMPAIGN**, page 8

EARLY VOTING

Auditor's office to stay open next two Saturdays

LEE COUNTY – Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor and Commissioner of Elections announced that the Auditor's Office will be open on Saturday, October 24, 2020 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. and Saturday, October 31, 2020 from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. for the purpose of casting an absentee ballot

for the November 3, 2020 General Election.

Voters who wish to vote by absentee ballot for the General Election may cast a ballot in-person at either office or from your car in the alley behind the Auditor's Office at 933 Ave H. Fort Madison or in the parking lot behind

the Courthouse at 25 N. 7th St. Keokuk. They may also cast a ballot until 5:00 P.M. November 2nd.

The deadline to pre-register to vote for this election is 5:00 P.M. on Saturday, October 24, 2020. After that

See **VOTING**, page 3

UNEMPLOYMENT

Jobless rate falls to 4.7% in latest report

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 4.7 percent in September. This is a decline from August's rate of 6.0 percent. The U.S. unemployment rate dropped to 7.9 percent in September.

"September is the fifth consecutive month we have seen a drop in unemployment since the beginning of the pandemic and peak unemployment in April," said Director Beth Townsend, Iowa Workforce Development. "We have over 64,000 job openings across the state. Additionally, we have awarded over \$10 million in grants focused on helping those whose jobs have been affected get back into the workplace by completing short term training or starting a registered apprenticeship program. Details available at www.Future-

See **JOBS**, page 8

IWD GRANTS

Coronavirus Earn and Learn fund expanded

DES MOINES – Iowa Workforce Development has amended the Coronavirus Relief Fund Earn and Learn Grant that was released on October 19, 2020, to expand applicant eligibility. In addition to current eligible applicants, high schools and previous Coronavirus Relief Fund Employer Innovation Grant and Registered Apprenticeship Incentive Grant recipients may apply to receive additional grant funds in accordance with the terms of the Earn and Learn grant. The grant application deadline has been extended to 11:59 pm on October 27, 2020.

The purpose of the Coronavirus Relief Fund Earn and Learn Grant is to fund projects that support the creation and expansion of short-term training programs

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WEATHER

FRI 23 Oct.....Rainy, 69° F/ 37° F
SAT 24 Oct.....Cloudy, 47° F/ 32° F
SUN 25 Oct.....Rain showers, 42° F/ 39° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 10/21.....1 35 36 37 46, Star Ball: 9, All Star Bonus: 3
PICK 3 10/21 MIDDAY.....150
PICK 3 10/21 EVENING.....040
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PICK 4 10/21 EVENING.....9787
POWERBALL 10/21.....1 3 13 44 56, Powerball: 26, Power Play: 3

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OBITUARIES

CALVIN ELSCHLAGER

Calvin Elschlager, 91 of Keokuk, IA died Monday, October 19, 2020 at his home surrounded by his family.

He was born April 9, 1929 in Downing, MO the son of Olin and Cecil Farnsworth Elschlager.



ELSCHLAGER

Calvin graduated from Downing High School with the Class of 1947.

On October 30, 1949, Calvin was united in marriage to Donna Weirather in Kahoka, MO. They spent over 66 years together, sharing their love and raising their family.

He had been employed by several local businesses in Keokuk through the years, including Montgomery Ward, McLaughlin Firestone and lastly Linquist Furniture, until his retirement in 1985.

He is survived by one son, David (Tina) Elschlager of Hamilton, IL, one daughter, Linda (Paul) Welborn of Keokuk, six grandchildren, Leah (David) Zanolla of Carthage, IL, Seth (Megan) Elschlager of St. Louis, MO and Becca (Rob) McEneaney of Crystal Lake, IL, Emily (Jesse) Hill of Burlington, IA, Abby Welborn of Gilbert, AZ and Maria Welborn of Bosie, ID, seven great-grandchildren, Jacob, Jonah and Lydia Zanolla, Addie and Olivia Elschlager, Judah Calvin McEneaney, Kylee and Marlee Hill.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Donna on February 27, 2016, his parents, and one brother, Kenneth Elschlager.

He had been a faithful and active member of the First Christian Church Disciples of Christ in Keokuk since 1957. He served as a Sunday School teacher for twenty-three years. He generously donated his time by helping with the staining and varnishing of the woodwork in the new building at the church.

Calvin took pride in his cars and kept them spotless. He loved to mow and take care of his yard. He enjoyed tinkering with things and could build or fix just about anything.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, at the First Christian Church Disciples of Christ in Keokuk with Pastor David Turner officiating. Burial will be in the Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk.

Visitation will be held prior to the service from 10 – 11 a.m., Saturday, at the church with family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to the First Christian Church of Disciples of Christ Beds for Children Ministry or Lee County Hospice.

The funeral will be live-streamed on the First Christian Church Facebook page or the Vigen Memorial Home Facebook page at 11 a.m. Saturday. Masks will be required and social distancing will be in effect.

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

DIANNE L. MEINHARDT

Dianne (Dinah) Lee Meinhardt passed away Tuesday, October 20, 2020, at the age of 67.

She was born June 3, 1953, the Daughter of Joseph and Flossie O'Shea. She was united in marriage to Jim Meinhardt October 16, 1981, the two just celebrating together 39 years of love before her passing.



MEINHARDT

She is survived by her husband, Mother-in-law; Edna Meinhardt of Keokuk, her children; Dalyn (Manny) Huizar of Las Vegas, NV, Shawn Meinhardt, Steffanie (Ryan Toops) Meinhardt, both of Keokuk, IA, grandchildren; Kelsey Beloate of Las Vegas, Zoe Huizar of Cedar City, UT, Keegan Carter, Brodie Meinhardt, Jace, Jaren and Jolie Wade and Paige Toops, all of Keokuk, IA, numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews, and her fur babies; Bristol, Tito, Sammy, and Gimli.

Dinah graduated Western Illinois University in 1993 with a major in Social Work and a minor in Sociology. Her cumulative grade point average awarded her Cum Laude Honors. Shortly after graduation, Dinah accepted a position at Keokuk Housing Authority. She dedicated many years of her life helping families find and maintain homes with the assistance of The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Finishing her career and retiring as The Executive Director at Keokuk Housing Authority.

Family was Dinah's entire life. She found her greatest joy in watching her grandchildren grow and enjoy life. She loved to travel, exploring and sight seeing with her and Jim frequenting their favorite destinations; New Orleans and Las Vegas.

She was an amazing friend and confidant. Often you could find her on the patio enjoying the sounds of children playing in the neighborhood, watching her pets play and just enjoying life's beautiful peaceful moments

Dinah was preceded in death by her parents, father-in-law; Ed Meinhardt, sisters; Patty Moore, Mary Mortimer and Sally O'Shea, brothers; Jim Mortimer and Michael O'Shea, Andy O'Shea and Joseph O'Shea, and her sweet four legged best friend; Aggie.

There will be a Celebration of Dinah's life at a later date.

On-line condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

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For the Record/Iowa News

Iowa judge cracks down on fraudulent telemarketers

DES MOINES — A Scott County judge has ordered a Quad Cities-based telemarketing operation to pay a judgment of more than \$820,000 for defrauding small business owners in at least 13 states.

District Judge Mark Fowler found in the ruling that Misty Barnes, Paul Michael Barnes and their businesses had committed 19 violations of the Iowa Consumer Fraud Act.

In February 2020, Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller sued the Barneses and their companies, PM Specialties and Milestone Consulting. The allegations included a range of violations, including cold-calling consumers and falsely saying they had past-due bills that needed immediate payment; selling non-existent services; and making unauthorized charges to customers' credit-card accounts.

Fowler ordered the couple to pay the maximum civil penalties of \$40,000 per violation, or \$760,000, to the state.

In addition, the Barneses must pay restitution of \$60,144 to 15 consumers who provided affidavits and assisted the Iowa Attorney General's Office in the investigation. The consumers live in Wisconsin, Idaho, North Dakota, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Utah, Indiana, Illinois, Texas, Tennessee, Arizona and Minnesota.

One consumer, the owner of a fabric store in Ohio, reported that she lost at least \$23,044 to PM Specialties and Milestone Consulting.

Fowler also issued a permanent injunction against the Barneses and their businesses, ordering they cease engaging in a long list of activities, including telemarketing; selling internet, search engine or marketing boosting services; consulting services involving marketing and telemarketing; and the sale of advertising or promotional items.

The Barneses, who have lived and conducted operations in Davenport and Bettendorf, are believed to have moved their operations to Illinois after Miller sued them in Iowa. PM Specialties continues to operate an active website. Fowler's ruling said the site contains multiple false statements.

Keokuk, FM voting offices open on Saturday

VOTING - Continued from Page 1

day, a person may register to vote at the auditor's office and vote an absentee ballot. The process is the same as for registering on Election Day. A new registrant must provide acceptable proof of identity and current residence in the precinct. Voters choosing this option should plan to take a few extra minutes for the transaction.

Anyone with questions about the General Election is encouraged to call the Auditor's office at 319-372-3705.

Regular office hours for the Auditor's Office are Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. The hours at the South Lee County Courthouse at 25 N. 7th St. Keokuk are from 8:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. until 4:30 P.M.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report
10/20/20 – 5:03 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1200 block of Avenue F.
10/20/20 – 10:25 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2100 block of Avenue G.
10/20/20 – 11:33 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 800 block of Avenue G.
10/20/20 -11:41 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3400 block of Avenue L.

10/20/20 12:28 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 3300 block of Avenue G.
10/20/20 – 10:11 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Athena Phoenix Holder, 19, in the 2500 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving under suspension.
10/21/20 – 8:27 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Jared Alan Strunk, 20, of Donnellson, in the 1700 block of Avenue H, on a charge of driving under suspension.

Lee County Sheriff's Report
10/20/20 – 7:41 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies

arrested Dyllan Jeffrey Grow, 20, of Hamilton, Ill., on a warrant for 3rd-degree sexual abuse. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
10/21/20 – no arrests/accidents to report.
Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report
10/20/20 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to one medical call, CO detector check, and one call for assistance.
10/21/20 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls

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Sports

Hounds stingy defense faces tough test Friday

BY CHUCK
VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Bloodhounds have shown their B game a couple times this year, but at 7-1 with the only loss coming to No. 5 Washington six weeks ago, the A-game has regularly been on display.

Fort Madison travels to Grinnell (6-2) Friday for the title game of Pod 11 after downing Knoxville 45-7 in the first week of Class 3A post season football. The Tigers knocked off Newton 44-23 last week.

Grinnell features one of the state's top running backs in senior Wyatt Hunter. Hunter is closing in on 2,000 yards and has 28 touchdowns for the year, and makes up the majority of the Tigers offense.

"He's obviously a sturdy kid and I'm sure he's put in a ton of work," said Hounds defensive coordinator Jason Crooks. "But as Coach (Ryan) Smith

says, 'don't put anyone on a pedestal.'"

The Hounds are allowing 145 yards rushing per game this year on average, but are only giving up 12 points per game. Washington has scored the most points against the Hounds defense in week 3 with 29. The rest of the schedule has been held under two touchdowns.

Head Coach Derek Doherty said it's no secret Grinnell's a solid football team. The Tigers only losses have come to Class 3A's top-ranked Cedar Rapids Xavier and a top-5 team in Harlan.

"They've been tested. Xavier and Harlan, those are two really good games. But we've seen Washington, so we feel like we've been battle-tested and we obviously have our regrets how that went and how we played against them," Doherty said.

"That was more mental than anything. But lesson learned and a lot of epiphanies by our guys. We flushed it and moved on."

Doherty said the

Hounds were up against some adversity last week in the first quarter but regrouped. He said that adversity will serve them well as the post-season continues.

"We learned that the thing this coaching staff has been preaching is we're not good enough to show up with our B+ game. They got caught on their heels and they realized at halftime we needed to bring our A game."

Junior quarterback Landes Williams came on strong after the first quarter throwing for a couple touchdowns and running for another. He has combined for 21 TDs after moving in as QB in week 4.

Fort Madison has looked to senior Calem Maclearn out of the backfield, while Williams moves in the pocket and will throw to just about anyone. His 12 TD passes have gone to three wide-outs, led by classmate Tate Johnson who has seven on the year.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison's Calem Maclearn (24) slips behind the block of Tate Johnson (13) last week against Knoxville. The Hounds play Friday in Grinnell in the Pod 11 title game.

The game will be restricted attendance due to COVID, but Doherty said he's not concerned about the environment on the road.

"At the end of the day it's high school football. The field doesn't change in length or width and the game is still played the same," he said. "You can't let that stuff get to you... That's what I love about these guys and this staff, they don't care, let's just go play football."

Offensive coordinator Justin Menke went a step further and called it a business trip.

"We've been really focused all year long. It helps we're senior and junior driven and these kids have been in here three and four years now and they know what it's about. And it's a business trip."

The Hounds could again be facing a larger front offensively and defensively. The Tigers are anchored on the line by seniors Dodge Sauser and Michael Norenberg. Sauser

is one of two sons of Head Coach Brian Sauser. His other son Dallas is the Tiger's starting quarterback.

But the size dynamic is something the Hounds have faced all year long.

"I feel like every Friday we've walked out there and you line up our kids across from the other kids and were never the bigger team," Menke said. "But I'd argue that most of the time were the faster, stronger, and more disciplined team and at this level of football that's more important."

Crooks said the past few years have been all about technique and passion on the lines.

"Teams are usually bigger than us, but going on two years now Coach Doherty has been teaching fundamentals and being the better football player, and that's what were focusing on this week in practice," he said.

Sauser has thrown TDs to five different receivers, including 6'8". Owen Coffman who has three

scores and averages 13 yards per catch. But his favorite target may be Kyle Dillon who can be a game breaker averaging 28.2 yards per reception and has five TDs, the longest from 72 yards out.

The Hounds will match up well there however, with a secondary that's picked off 12 passes and returned three for touchdowns. Fort Madison has given up only four TD passes this season, two to Fairfield two weeks ago.

Crooks said Grinnell will try some trick plays and do some different things with 2 point conversions, but at this point in the year they've seen a lot of that.

"What I like about our kids is that they know what we do and we just let them run it. They just have to be mentally ready."

Doherty said his players have been wanting the bigger challenges all year

"We wanted a tough game and here we are. So let's go see where we're at."



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Sports/Current-Lee

CURRENT-LEE

The following is a list of upcoming events and gatherings in North Lee County.

2020 YMCA Trunk or Treat

The Fort Madison YMCA's annual Trunk or Treat will be held on Oct. 23 at Baxter Sports Complex. This year's event will be a drive through event to allow for social distancing. Business will have cars in the parking lot to hand out goodies to goblins from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Set up is from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Spots can be reserved by calling the Y at 319-372-2403 ext 1 or by email at ryan.wilson@fortmadison.org

CrimeStoppers No Tricks Just Treats

The Burlington Theater will be showcasing a series of online skits beginning on Sept. 24, with Mother Goose Interrupted: This Little Piggy. Future presentations will include a musical cabaret, a reader's theater, throwback tributes and a Christmas Show. For more information log onto the Facebook page or the PWT website at www.playersworkshoptheater.com.

Montrose Cemetery Cleanup

All plastic flowers that are in the ground must be picked up by Nov. 1. After that date they will be discarded. In addition Memorial Day flowers will now have to be picked up no later than two weeks after the holiday.

Halloween Dinner and Comedy

The Kingsley Inn will be featuring a Halloween Dinner and Comedy on Oct. 31 beginning at with a social hour at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m, with the show starting at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person and can be booked in advance by texting 309-221-9803

Hitchcock in Old Settler's Park

The Old Fort Players will be presenting three Hitchcock shorts plays in Old Settler's Park on Sunday, Oct. 11 (Rain date Oct. 18). Concessions will be available for sale. No tickets will be sold, but a free will offering will be collected. We ask that you generously support Old Fort Players as they work hard to keep paying the bills.

FM Beggar's Night

The traditional Beggar's Night will be held on Oct. 31 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Old Settler's Park and the citywide beggar's night will follow from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Vendors will be handing our candy with food and drink specials at the safe event.

Montrose Trick or Treat

The Montrose City Treak or Treat will be held on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Halloween guidance from the Iowa Department of Pub-

lic Health can be found at <https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus/Public>.

Lighted Parade Work Nights

Work nights for the Fort Madison Lighted Parade are on Monday nights beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Warehouse at 12th Street and Avenue I.

Drive Thru Job Fair

On Wednesday, Oct. 21st from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Baxter Sports Complex Parking Lot at 909 48th Street will be the site of a unique drive thru job fair experience where job seekers will be able to pick up packets of information about jobs hiring now and local resources in our communities. Register by contacting Dana at dmillard@leecountyedg.com or Deb at debra.fox@iwd.iowa.gov.

Conservation online auction

The Lee County Conservation Board is participating in an online auction. The items can be found at <https://www.govdeals.com/index.cfm?fa=Main.AdvSearchResults&myseller=11764>. Any questions can be directed to the Lee County Conservation Office at 319-463-7673.

Bridges out of Poverty - Staying Ahead

Getting Ahead provides the foundation for understanding the root causes of poverty and focuses on resources needed to rise above it. Staying Ahead is the next step to self sufficiency and is a program from the Bridges out of Poverty. Meetings are the first Monday of every month from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. For questions or to become a member contact Shayla at 319-371-7465 or by email at sblackburn@younghouse.org.

Witch's Walk

Wear your witch costume and come downtown for an evening of fun. This year's event is Oct. 30 from 5 to 8 p.m. presented by the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce. More details on this event will be released at a later date.

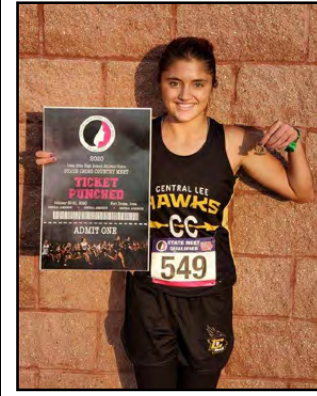
Sensational Chef

The Fort Madison Chamber's annual fundraiser is set for Nov. 21, at Harvestville Farm beginning at 6 p.m. with first course served at 6:30 p.m. This fine dining event will feature Amy Thacher preparing a 5-course meal. Tickets are \$65 per person and are limited, so call 319-372-5471 for information.

Tree Planting

Volunteers are still needed for Oct. 24 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Old Lion's Shelter House in Rodeo Park to help plant trees in the park and at Riverview Park. Bring shovels and gloves. Call 319-372-7700 for more information.

Gilpin, Pothitakis earn trips to state



GILPIN

BY PCC STAFF

PEKIN/WILLIAMSBURG – Central Lee senior Amanda Gilpin and Holy Trinity Catholic's Mitchell Pothitakis will make the trip to Kennedy Park in Fort Dodge on Halloween.

Gilpin placed 14th in the girls 5K qualifier at Williamsburg in Class 2A with a time of 21:20.3. Only the top 15 girls qualify to run at the state meet.

Pothitakis placed ninth at the Pekin Class 1A boys 5K. His time was still not available as of this posting, but Class 1A was broken into eight qualifying meets at each location earning a trip to the state meet.

Central Lee's girls took 7th place overall with 184 points. Mid-Prairie won the event with 21 points. Williamsburg



POTHITAKIS

and Danville-New London also advanced as teams.

Other scoring runners for the Lady Hawks were sophomore Addy Brumble and freshman Olivia Kraus. The two finished back-to-back with times of 24:56.3 and 24:57.6 for 39th and 40th place

Senior Brianna Gruntmeier was 43rd with a time of 25:38.2 and freshman Sidney Gruntmeier came in 48th place with a mark of 26:20.0.

Other runners competing for Central Lee were juniors Adrienne Britt (52nd) and Emmy Liu (53rd).

Details on Holy Trinity's boy's team will be published as soon as data is available.

Fort Madison's Austin Miller and Will Gager both qualified on Friday and will run on Oct. 30 at Lakeside Municipal Golf Course.

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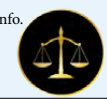
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Lee County government has an opening in the IT/GIS Department for an Information Technology / Geographic Information Systems Administrator.

Job functions include coordination and monitoring all IT functions, network, telephone systems, computer hardware, software and cabling, planning, developing and controlling the IT / GIS department, and maintenance & growth of the Geographic Information System.

Degree in GIS, computer science or related field or combination of related experience and education required. Knowledge and experience with Microsoft server and desktop software, IBM iSeries and ArcGIS software preferred.

Salary based on qualifications and experience. Excellent benefits package.

See LeeCounty.org website for employment application and job description. Submit application and resume to

Lee County IT Department
Attn: L.Schmitt
933 Avenue H
Fort Madison, IA 52627
or email to
lschmitt@leecounty.org

Deadline to apply is 4:00 pm on Friday, October 23, 2020.

Lee County is an Equal Opportunity Employer



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HELP WANTED

ASSISTANT IT ADMINISTRATOR

Lee County government has an opening in the IT/GIS Department for an Assistant Information Technology Administrator. Job functions include network, computer hardware and software, telephone systems, and Microsoft, IBM and third-party software support and troubleshooting.

Degree in computer science or related field or combination of related experience and education required.

Salary based on qualifications and experience. Excellent benefits package.

See LeeCounty.org website for employment application and job description. Submit application and resume to

Lee County IT Department
Attn: L.Schmitt
933 Avenue H
Fort Madison, IA 52627
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Deadline to apply is 4:00 pm on Friday, October 30, 2020.

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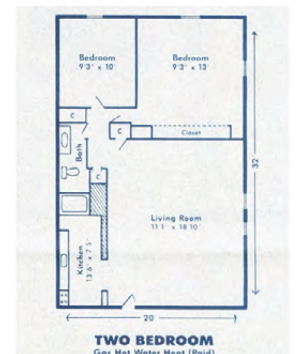
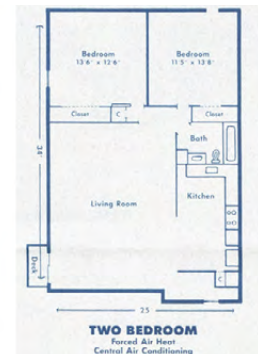
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Dental Hygienist

Lee County Health Department is seeking a full-time Iowa Licensed Dental Hygienist for oral health programs including I-Smile™. Applicant must be an Iowa licensed dental hygienist with at least one year of clinical experience. Responsibilities will include providing and documenting basic preventive oral health services for children, pregnant women, at-risk adults, and older lowans. Some travel to multi-county service areas. If interested, please send resume to Rachael Patterson-Rahn, Oral Health Program Manager, at LCHD, PO Box 1426, #3 John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison, IA 52627 or email rprahn@leecountyhd.org by October 31, 2020. LCHD is an equal opportunity employer.



LEE CHD

Dental Assistant

Lee County Health Department is seeking a contracted Dental Assistant, up to 40 hours per week, to provide chairside assistance to hygienists working within the agency's school-based dental sealant program in a multi-county service area. The position also includes office hours to help with follow up calls, care coordination, and data entry for all agency dental programs. Applicant must be an Iowa licensed dental assistant with at least one year of clinical experience. If interested, please send resume to Rachael Patterson-Rahn, Oral Health Program Manager, at LCHD, PO Box 1426, #3 John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison, IA 52627 or email rprahn@leecountyhd.org by October 31, 2020. LCHD is an equal opportunity employer.



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From the Front

Jobless report indicates employment rebounding

JOBS - Continued from Page 1

[ReadyIowa.gov](https://www.readyiowa.gov)”

The number of unemployed Iowans declined to 76,600 in September. The current estimate is 111,400 lower than the Covid-19 peak in April of 188,000 and 27,900 higher than the year ago level of 48,700.

The total number of working Iowans increased to 1,536,200 in September. This figure was 11,600 higher than April and 166,300 lower than one year ago.

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

Total nonfarm employment advanced by 7,300 jobs in September, lifting the total number of jobs to 1,499,500. The gain this month is the fifth-consecutive since April and more than expected following a much smaller increase of 4,500 in August. Service industries took another step towards recovery this month with gains in leisure and hospitality along with retail. Goods producing industries showed little overall movement with sluggishness in construction offsetting hiring in manufacturing industries. Government added 2,400 jobs due to local government education ramping up as students return to in-person classes. This monthly increase leaves government down just 2.3 percent versus last year. Total nonfarm employment overall is down 5.4 percent compared to one year ago.

Leisure and hospitality gained the most jobs in September (+4,100) and was predominantly filled by eating and drinking establishments. The gain was an improvement over the much smaller increase of 1,400 in August. Manufacturing added jobs for the fifth-consecutive month (+2,100) with hiring nearly even between durable and non-durable goods factories. Trade and transportation advanced by 1,600 due mostly to hiring in retail trade (+1,000). The increase was a nice recovery following a loss of 1,100 in August. Job losses in September were led by construction which shed 2,500 jobs and has only increased once in the last eight months. The only other significant loss was within professional and business services (-500). The loss this month was fueled by layoffs in administrative support and waste management services.

Over the past five months, 104,000 jobs have been added back by Iowa businesses, equating to a gain of 7.5 percent in total nonfarm employment. Leisure and hospitality still has some ground to make up, but has added the most jobs during that span (+47,200 or 66.1 percent). Government has gained 16,100 jobs due mostly to schools returning to in-person classes. Retail trade has been able to adapt and recover, particularly within grocery and general merchandise establishments and has added 15,600 jobs over the past five months. While most sectors have added jobs since April, those sectors not faring as well are construction (-3,500) and transportation and warehousing (-1,000).

Unemployment Insurance Claims

The total number of initial claims trended down in September by 503 (-2.2 percent) versus August and have now fallen 134,410 (-85 percent) versus the peak of 157,300 five months ago. For continued claims, most statistics have been reduced to approximately 40 percent of the April levels. The number of claimants dropped by 23.1 percent from last month and are down 109,921 over the prior five months. The weeks paid dropped to 257,231 in September, less than half of the 652,623 paid in April, while the total amount paid to claimants fell to \$84.5 million, less than half of the \$213.5 million paid five months ago.

Loebsack says America needs to get back to decency

CAMPAIGN - Continued from Page 1

to Washington D.C.”

Loebsack said his strongest memory was the 2008 presidential campaign.

“Politically, it was when we had three Democrats and Leonard Boswell went for Hillary Clinton, Bruce Braley went for John Edwards, and I went for Barack Obama and Obama won and served two terms. That has to be my highlight,” he said with a laugh.

Loebsack introduced Rich Taylor who’s in a fight with Republican Jeff Reichman for the 42nd District Iowa Senate Seat. Also on hand was Jeff Kurtz who’s running for the 8rd District State Representative in a race against Fort Madison Republican Martin Graber.

Loebsack said the people of Iowa won’t miss him because Rita Hart will make Iowans forget about him.

“Shes great. As I’ve told a lot of my colleagues in the U.S. House, it’ll take about two months and you’ll forget about me. You won’t miss me. I’m serious, if you don’t already, you’re gonna love Rita Hart,” he said.

Hart is locked in a race with Mariannette Miller-Meeks on the Republican side.

Loebsack also stumped for Theresa Greenfield who’s in a tight battle with incumbent Republican Joni Ernst, one of the highest profile and expensive senate races in the country.

He said the country needs to put Joe Biden in the White House. He said the mismanagement of the pandemic makes the Biden/Kamala Harris ticket critical to the country.

“Look, Joe Biden is going to win for a lot of reasons, folks,” he said.

“He’s all about making things in America again – that the United States comes back better than before.”

He also said America needs decency in the country again.

“We’ve gotta have someone who’s a role model. Someone who understands what it takes to get this pandemic under control”

Grant funds focus on high demand jobs

GRANTS - Continued from Page 1

and support services resulting in industry-recognized credentials. The projects must serve Iowans whose jobs have been affected by the pandemic. Applications are due no later than Oct. 27, 2020, and funds must be expended by Dec. 31, 2020.

Applicants can apply

for up to \$250,000 for the Coronavirus Relief Fund Earn and Learn Grant to support existing programs or develop new ones that provide training opportunities for Iowans to earn short-term credentials with a priority given to programs that are in high demand occupations.

Previous Coronavirus Relief Fund Employer Innovation Grant and Registered Apprenticeship Incentive Grant recipients may now apply to receive additional grant funds not to exceed a total of \$250,000 for all Coronavirus Relief Fund grants. Funds may be used toward tuition, books, tools, work-related supplies, wrap-around supports, and no more than 10% can be utilized for administrative costs, including

office supplies, personnel costs, or marketing.

Please join Iowa Workforce Development to learn more about this grant with a webinar we will be hosting Oct. 21 at noon https://iowaworks.zoom.us/join/register/WN_cm8rxGAMRfull-rIBdh7x_A

All applications must be submitted through www.IowaGrants.gov by October 27, 2020. For more information about the grant program, visit www.futurereadyiowa.gov/earn-learn-grants

Additionally, the list of the Coronavirus Relief Fund Registered Apprenticeship Expansion Grants is available on the Future Ready Iowa website: www.futureready-iowa.gov/ra-expansion-grant-awardees

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