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PEN CITY CURRENT

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Tuesday, March 9, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 56



www.pencitycurrent.com

SOUTH LEE COUNTY: Historical artifact could be part of Estes Park in Keokuk

Group wants dam turbine in park

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Representatives from the Keokuk-Hamilton Dam museum are asking the county to allow them to put an original dam powerhouse turbine on display in Estes Park in Keokuk.

At Monday's regular meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, the group said they were looking for support from the board to move forward with the project.

It was the first time all supervisors were present in the board room in more than a year due to the pandemic.

The turbine, being acquired from Ameren, is about 14 wide by 9 feet high

and would sit on a concrete foundation.

Dam board member Brian Carroll said the turbine is the first original turbine from the Keokuk-Hamilton Dam and is more than 108 years old.

Supervisor Chairman Matt Pflug asked if the committee had approached the county's maintenance department. He said he heard there may be some sink-holes in the area

Carroll said the committee had already planned to do some soil borings to make sure a spread foundation to hold the turbine would work.

"It won't just be setting on the ground. There will be concrete there," Carroll said.

"If the soil isn't good enough to put the

spread footing on, we'd drill some piers and then the foundation would sit on those piers."

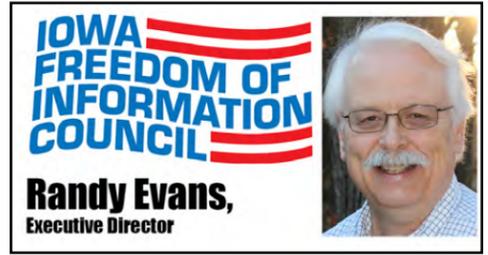
Carroll said there would be no cost to the county. Ameren would provide relocation of the turbine to the park and the dam museum would absorb the other costs, which would include some decorative fencing around the turbine to prevent people from climbing on the artifact.

The park is located at 5th and Main.

Supervisor Garry Seyb Jr. asked if there were any concerns with traffic visibility with the new turbine.

"I guess I'd like to go down to the site

See **SUPERVISORS**, page 8



More at stake than new Iowa Welcome signs

Tucked away among hundreds of bills being considered this year by the Iowa Legislature is one people might have quickly embraced in a different era.

But times have changed. It has been 38 years since Robert Ray left the governor's office. State government today is far messier than it was back then.

Compounding the reaction to Senate File 404 has been the social and political upheaval in Iowa in recent years — enough to bring out pundits with their potshots.

The seemingly innocuous piece of legislation appropriates \$350,000 for the Iowa Department of Transportation to replace the 68 "Welcome" signs along Iowa's borders. The bill also contains a requirement that the new signs incorporate what it calls a "different and distinct" design and message for travelers.

The current signs say, "The People of Iowa Welcome You," with the secondary message, "Iowa, Field of Opportunities."

The bill's sponsor, Sen. Carrie Koelker of Dyersville, told the Cedar Rapids Gazette, "This is something that I think is important, that we make sure as a state that we upgrade our image."

The "Field of Opportunities" slogan was adopted in 1999 when Tom Vilsack was governor. Iowa's current marketing slogan — "This is Iowa" — seems more like something intended for lost motorists.

The bill opened the spigot to a stream of creative juices at Raygun, the Des Moines company that sells smarty-pants T-shirts with a Midwest political and cultural flavor. Owner Mike Draper's Facebook post produced a flood of suggestions for slogans for those new "Welcome" signs.

Among them:

"Iowa. To the right of Nebraska. Far

See **EVANS**, page 8

Spring cleaning

Workers with Meller Excavation work on cleaning up the former Iowan site on the city's west end Monday afternoon.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

ONE YEAR WITH CORONAVIRUS

Iowa reaches one year since first COVID case reported

DES MOINES - March 8, marks the one-year anniversary of the state's first case of COVID-19. This week the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Department of Human Services (DHS) will mark the event by expressing appreciation to the teams at both agencies as well as our community partners and other state agencies who have worked in a sustained emergency response for more than a year.

"This has been a year of grief. We've lost so much in our everyday life, including so many little things we used to take

for granted. And for many Iowans, that loss may also include a loved one. This is a moment to pause and reflect on what we've endured together, and to focus on our resiliency. I am continually grateful to our teams at IDPH and DHS, as well as our partners throughout the state," said Director Kelly Garcia.

This week, Iowans are encouraged to take a picture and share on social media what this year has meant to them using the hashtag and sign (click on the hashtag for a printable sign): #IowaStrong. The teams at IDPH and DHS are encouraged

to share their stories with the following hashtags and holding the following signs (click the hashtags for links to printable versions of the signs): #IAMIDPH and #IAMDHS.

Over 800,000 Iowans have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at this time. We anticipate vaccine production increasing, by the end of May, there should be enough vaccine available for anyone who wants one. Still, it remains important for Iowans to continue practicing the mitigation measures that can slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

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WEATHER

TUE 09 Mar..... Scattered Clouds, 65° F / 47° F
WED 10 Mar..... Light Rain, 62° F / 57° F
THU 11 Mar..... Rain, 59° F / 43° F

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PICK 3 03/07 MIDDAY.....920
PICK 3 03/07 EVENING.....274
PICK 4 03/07 MIDDAY.....1115
PICK 4 03/07 EVENING.....1830

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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

03/04/21 – 7:06 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Avenue H. 03/04/21 – 8:43 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 200 block of 12th Street. 03/04/21 – 9:51 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 5000 block of Avenue O. 03/04/21 – 11:53 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2000 block of Avenue B. 03/04/21 – 1:19 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2000 block of Avenue B. 03/04/21 – 3:22 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2000 block of Avenue B. 03/04/21 – 7:47 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2000 block of Avenue B. 03/04/21 – 7:49 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Matthew Alan Harvey, 38, of Fort Madison, in the 1500 block of Avenue D, on a charge of dissemination and exhibition of obscene material to a minor. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 03/05/21 – 8:20 a.m. – Fort

Madison Police arrested Alan Edward Snyder, 46, of Burlington, in the 5100 block of Avenue O, on a charge of carrying weapons, and 3rd-degree harassment. 03/05/21 – 8:34 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2000 block of Avenue B. 03/05/21 – 9:21 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Cameron Dean Richardson, 22, of Fort Madison in the 600 block of 16th Street on a charge of driving under suspension. 03/05/21 – 12:54 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2700 block of Avenue N. 03/05/21 – 1:08 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2000 block of Avenue B. 03/05/21 – 3:47 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue L. 03/05/21 – 5:40 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Shaqwanza Aviance Trotter, 29, of Fort Madison, in the 2100 block of Avenue H., on a charge of driving under suspension. 03/05/21 – 8:40 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the

2900 block of Avenue M. 03/06/21 – 10:52 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 5600 block of Avenue O. 03/06/21 – 2:04 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Theresa Lynn Reiter, 54, of Fort Madison, in the 1200 block of 25th Street on a warrant for failure to appear, and a charge of driving under suspension. She was taken to Lee County Jail. 03/06/21 – 9:07 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Anthony Beasley, 46, of Niota, in the 3000 block of Avenue L, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 03/06/21 – 10:25 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1900 block of 48th Street. 03/07/21 – 9:59 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3000 block of Avenue O. 03/07/21 – 2:44 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Michael Jacob Cain, 44, of West Point, in the 1100 block of 29th Street on a charge of driving while barred. 03/07/21 – 3:51 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in 1700 block of Avenue H.

03/07/21 – 7:34 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1300 block of Avenue G. 03/08/21 – 8:08 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 3900 block of Bluff Road.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

03/04/21 – 9:51 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited a 17-year-old male juvenile from Argyle, on charges of disorderly conduct and 2nd-degree harassment. 03/05/21 – 7:59 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Julie Marie Drenner, 35, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's dept. on a warrant failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail. 03/05/21 – 8:32 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Donald Austin Ullrich, 70, of Donnellson, at the sheriff's dept. on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released for time served. 03/05/21 – 12:27 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Tyler Jordan Hillery, 35, of Donnellson, at the sheriff's dept. on warrants for 1st-degree fraudulent practice and tampering with records. He was

taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond. 03/05/21 – 2:14 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Austin Lee Smith, 30, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's dept., on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 03/05/21 – 3:20 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Stephanie Nicole Devitt, 29, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's dept. on a judgment hold. She was taken to Lee County Jail. 03/05/21 – 3:30 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Tommy Dwayne Ross, 43, of Burlington, at the sheriff's dept., on warrants for carrying weapons, reckless use of a firearm, and a felon on control of a firearm. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond. 03/05/21 – 5:06 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Ashley Jessica Ann McGowan, 28, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's dept., on a judgment hold. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released for serving weekends. 03/06/21 – 4:18 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jessica Ramiraz Toribio, 21, of Decator, Ala., in the 2600 block of Hwy. 27, on a charge of possession of a controlled substance. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released on a promise to appear. 03/06/21 – 2:81 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Alicia Deshell Banks, 40, of Decator, Ala., on a charge of possession of a controlled substance. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released on a promise to appear. 03/06/21 – 2:08 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies

arrested Melissa Ann Mortimer, 36, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's dept. on a judgment hold. She was taken to Lee County Jail. 03/06/21 – 8:00 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Taj Michael Kite, 31, of Sandusky, at the sheriff's dept. on a charge of failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released after paying a fine. 03/07/21 – 1:53 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Margery Dawn Kirchner, 55, of Fort Madison, at the Des Moines County Line on a warrant for contempt. She was taken to Lee County Jail. 03/07/21 – 9:22 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited John Edward Mecum, 57, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's dept. on a charge of trespassing. 03/07/21 – 10:08 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Timothy George Brockman 57, of Fort Madison, in the 1400 block of Avenue E, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond. 03/07/21 – 10:19 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Eric Eugene Fortune, Sr., 54 of Fort Madison, in the 2000 block of Hwy. 2, on a charge of possession of a controlled substance. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 03/08/21 – 12:45 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Sierra Katelyn Smith, 24, of Fort Madison, in the 3400 block of Hwy. 16 in Wever on charges of operating while intoxicated, carrying a weapon while intoxicated, and having an open container. She was taken to the Lee County Jail.

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For the Record

For the Record

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

03/01/21 – Travis L Watkins, age 41, of West Point, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Littering. Watkins was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 03/01/21 – William E Watkins, age 53, of Hamilton, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of a Controlled Substance, and Illegal Transportation of Cannabis. Watkins was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 03/02/21 – Jerry L Blackwell, age 28, of Warsaw, IL was arrested and charged with Criminal Sexual Abuse. Blackwell remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance.
 03/02/21 – Meghan S Plowman, age 28, of Hamilton, IL was arrested on Lee County, IA Warrants charging her with Theft, Eluding, Driving While License Suspended, and Turning at an Intersection Violation. Plowman was released to Lee County, IA authorities.
 03/03/21 – Isaac A DeShong, age 23, of Carthage, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear

for Drug Court. DeShong remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance.
 03/03/21 – Trenton G Skees, age 24, of Hamilton, IL was arrested and charged with Violation of an Order of Protection. Skees was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 03/03/21 – Jordan T Whitford, age 20, of Augusta, IL was arrested and charged with Zero Tolerance. Whitford was released after given a notice to appear on a future court date.
 03/03/21 – Patrick W King, age 34, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine. King was released on his own recognizance and given a future court date.
 03/04/21 – Karley R Schmitz, age 27, of Keokuk, IA was arrested on a Probation Violation for a failed drug test. Schmitz remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting her next court appearance.
 03/04/21 – Samson K Padilla, age 33, of Keokuk, IA was arrested on a Probation Violation for a failed drug test. Padilla remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance.
 03/04/21 – IC F Christy, age 33, Argyle, IA was arrested and charged with Driving While License Suspended. Christy remains lodged in

the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bond awaiting his next court appearance.
 03/05/21 – Ricky D Glasgow Jr, age 38, of Hamilton, IL was arrested on Lee County, IA Warrants charging him with Driving While License Suspended and a Controlled Substance Violation. Glasgow remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail waiting for Lee County, IA authorities.
 03/07/21 – Joe B Cleveland III, age 36, of Keokuk, IA was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine. Cleveland remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance.
 03/07/21 – Mersadys E Dickens, age 24, of Warsaw, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine. Dickens remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance.
Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

03/05/21 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls and issued one burn permit.
 03/06/21 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to four medical calls
 03/07/21 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call.

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

LILA C. GITTINGS

Lila C. Gittings, 78, of Dallas City, Illinois passed away at 1:54 p.m. Sunday, March 7, 2021 at her home. She was born, a twin, in Lomax, Illinois on December 31, 1942, the daughter of Clyde and Verda (Scott) Gittings. After high school she worked as an aide at the Stronghurst School District. Following that she went to work at Sheaffer Pen, Ft. Madison. She also worked over the years at Casey's, IAAP, mowed cemeteries and yards and delivered the Burlington Hawk Eye. Her real calling was as a bus driver. She drove for 42 years and also served as a school aide and coach. Lila loved all sports and enjoyed playing on a bowling league and softball league. She was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan. She never missed a game of her nieces and nephews and later her great-nieces and nephews. While Lila never had any children of her own, she was always willing to lend a helping hand to any child, whether or not they were family. She is survived by her twin brother, Lyle Gittings of Dallas City, brothers, Ronnie (Shelly) Gittings of Stronghurst, Illinois and Rodney (Drena) Gittings of Rock Island, Illinois; five sisters, Rosie (Gerald) Postle of Carman, Illinois, Sandra Hewitt of rural Dallas City, Ellen (Randy) May of Lomax, Illinois, Nancy (Carey) McDonald of Denver, Colorado and Peg (Randy) Nelson of Mt. Union, Iowa. Also surviving are special friends, Melinda Olson and Brett Pence and many nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; one brother, Randy; two nephews, Gary Gittingas and J.R. Hewitt and one great-nephew, Cale Hartrick. A funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City with Rev. Maxine Dennison officiating. Burial will follow in Crane Cemetery, near Lomax. Friends may call after 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 9th at Banks & Beals, where the family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. Mask and social distancing are recommended. A memorial fund has been established for the Dallas City Sports Boosters. To leave a condolence for the family, please visit Lila's obituary at banksandbeals.com.

GITTINGS



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.

OBITUARIES

VERNON K. STEFFENSMEIER

Vernon K. Steffensmeier, 90, of West Point, Iowa, passed away at 4:45 a.m. Monday, March 8, 2021, at his home in West Point.

He was born on October 26, 1930, in West Point, Iowa, the son of Leonard and Caroline (Rippenkroeger) Steffensmeier. On October 13, 1957, he married Phyllis Schierbrock at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point. She preceded him in death on December 6, 1987.



He is survived by two sons: David J. (Carrie) Steffensmeier of Nauvoo, Illinois and Michael G. Steffensmeier of Duluth, Georgia; three grandchildren: Holly (Jonathon) Thompson, Kara Tweedy and Morgan (Jason) Gonzalez; eight great grandchildren: Chase, Noah, Zac and Quinn Thompson, Charlotte Tweedy, STEFFENSMEIER Lonzo, Siena Gonzalez and Bryant Steffensmeier; two sisters-in-law: Rita Steffensmeier and Betty Frey. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife: Phyllis; daughter-in-law: Jeanne; grandson: Adam; brothers: Elmer, John and Carl and one sister: Mary in infancy.

Vernon served in the United States Army during the Korean War. He worked as a pipe fitter at J.I. Case. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in West Point, the Knights of Columbus and the West Point American Legion Holtz - Geers Post #668. He served on the West Point City Council and was in the West Point Bowling Hall of Fame. Vernon enjoyed bowling, gardening and making wine. He was an avid Chicago Cubs and Iowa Hawkeye fan.

Friends may call after 12:00 noon Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point where the family will meet with friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. that evening. A Knights of Columbus rosary will be recited at 6:30 p.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in West Point with Father Dennis Hoffman as celebrant. Mass will be lived streamed on the church Facebook page and following the service, will be posted to his "Tribute Wall" on his obituary page at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery in West Point with full military rites presented by the West Point American Legion Holtz - Geers Post #668.

Memorials have been established in his memory for Holy Trinity Catholic Schools or St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.



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If you sign up to get vaccinated, be sure to show up during your scheduled time. Once a vial is open, 10 doses must be used within 6 hours – the goal is not to waste any vaccine.

Continue to follow all recommended public health guidelines. . .for all of us.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County
Conservation Board
Agenda
March 9, 2021

Heron Bend Shop
Located NE of
Conservation Center
2652 Hwy 61
Montrose, IA 52639
4:00 p.m.

3. Public Input
This is the time of the meeting that a citizen may address the Board on any matters pertaining to the Lee County Conservation Board. The Board cannot take formal action at the meeting on matters not included on the regular agenda, but may ask the staff to research the matter or have the matter placed on a subsequent agenda.

Next regular meeting will be April 12, 2021

Hearing and vision assistance available upon request

Citizens are welcome to all LCCB meetings

You may obtain further information or express your views concerning this issue either in person or through an authorized representative at the public hearing, or prior to the meeting by fax at (319) 372-8661, by telephone at (319) 372-7700 ext. 206, by E-mail at mblind@fortmadison-ia.com or in writing to the Fort Madison City Clerk, P.O. Box 240, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 no later than 4:30 PM on

March 16, 2021.

Melinda L. Blind
City Clerk

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4. Approval of Bills
5. Approval of Financial Report
6. Resolution on Acquisition or Development For Outdoor Recreation (LWCF Grant for Pollmillier Trail)
7. Lee County Pheasants Forever Banquet Sponsorship
8. Spring/Summer Goals
9. Clark Property Update
10. Staff Reports
11. Board Members and Director Reports
12. Adjournment

-WORKSHOP TO FOLLOW-

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Fort Madison City Council at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at the Council Chambers of Fort Madison City Hall at 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison concerning the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget. Copies of the detailed proposed budget may be obtained or viewed at the offices of the Mayor, City Clerk and at the Library. Persons may also participate through Zoom Meeting at 1 (312) 626-6799. Meeting ID #870 3861 9171

HELP WANTED

Ready to Help, but not sure where to start?

AmeriCorps Seniors (formerly known as RSVP 55+ Initiative) at United Way of the Great River Region is seeking volunteers over the age of 55 who are looking to make a difference in their community.

We can help you find a volunteer opportunity in Lee County, Iowa that suits your interests and your time.

Contact Tammy Hudson, AmeriCorps Seniors Director at 319-372-8043 or rsvp@unitedwaygr.org to set up a time to talk.

Get started now with a new opportunity!



REAL ESTATE LOAN AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Lee County Bank, a progressive, locally owned bank, is seeking a qualified individual for a Real Estate Loan and Compliance Officer. This person should possess strong computer and customer relations skills, the ability to work in a team environment, and a commitment to community involvement. Job responsibilities include loan origination and overseeing compliance aspects in the Loan Department.

Competitive compensation with excellent benefits package. Lee County Bank is an equal opportunity employer. Please submit resume to:

Lee County Bank
ATTN: Chad Ward
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cward@leecountybank.com



JOB DESCRIPTION:
The Lee County Attorney is accepting applications for a full-time Assistant County Attorney. Primary duties involve all aspects of trial work including daily court appearances, assistance with investigations; charging of criminal cases; interaction and training with law enforcement, victim and witness contact, representing the State at hearings, trials, and in other legal proceedings; and other duties as assigned. The duties of this position may change as determined by the County Attorney.

REQUIREMENTS:
Graduation from an accredited law school and admission to practice law in the State of Iowa with a law license in good standing and no history of discipline.

Must be able to simultaneously handle multiple areas of responsibility with minimal supervision, properly prioritizing tasks and duties as dictated by changing demands. Must be able to simultaneously advance all assigned cases in a large trial caseload.

Prior trial experience and prosecution experience is preferred but not required.

SALARY:
Salary range to start at \$71,300.00 per year commensurate with experience, as well as a competitive benefits package.

Applicants should submit, by email or mail, a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and three references to:

Ross J. Braden
Lee County Attorney
710 Avenue F
Fort Madison, Iowa 52627
rbraden@leecounty.org

Applications must be received by March 19, 2021 at 4:30 PM.

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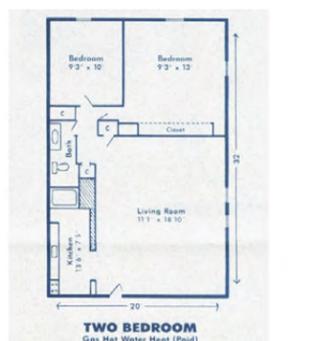
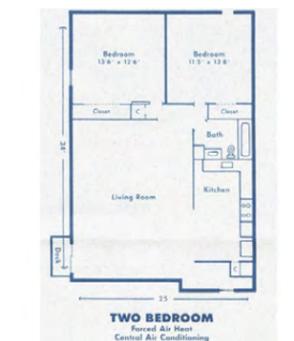


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From the Front

Pilot Grove awarded county's bond business

SUPERVISORS - Continued from Page 1

and see what that looks like," Seyb said. "I'm curious to the height and wonder what that will do to traffic. It will be close to the intersection and I'm just trying to visualize that."

Pflug said he would like to see a conceptual drawing of the addition to the park. Carroll said that was next on the committee's list of things to do on the project.

Carroll said the turbine will actually sit on its side so visitors can get a profile view of the turbine, so it won't be 14 feet high, but nine feet high when on display.

Committee member Kirk Brandenberger said the committee was looking for a nod of approval from supervisors.

Pflug said he didn't have a problem with project conceptually.

"I don't have a problem with it, but I can't speak for the full board. I think they

want to see, and again we talked about a drawing, but if we can get something like that. I just don't know we can give you an exact answer," he said.

Brandenberger said originally plans were to put the turbine on the riverfront, but he said the group changed it to the park to make it more visible.

In other action, supervisors:

- approved a motion to sell general obligation bonds to Pilot Grove Savings Bank to consolidate previous debt with current, maintenance projects and communication upgrades for a total of \$6.2 million at 1.15% interest.

- approved the hiring of an assistant for the County Engineer and an Engineer Technician Supervisor.

- approved an overlay project on W55 from Hwy. 16 to Henry County Line.

Legislative proposals could paint a bad picture

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

right."

"Iowa. It's a work in progress. Just not too much progress."

"Iowa. It used to be a place to grow."

"Iowa. It's not too late to turn around."

And my snarky favorite: "Iowa. Be thankful we don't wear our pants the way a lot of us wear our masks."

Joking aside, the suggestions from Raygun's fans reflect a serious aspect of the Senate bill and the actions lawmakers have taken in recent years.

Yes, legislative leaders are concerned about the image the highway signs present to motorists. But those same leaders fail to recognize there is a con-

nection between Iowa's national reputation and some of the corrosive legislative proposals under consideration.

Those proposals send a troubling signal about the kind of a state Iowa is becoming.

Whether we like that signal or not, a clear message is being received by many young people looking for a place to settle. The signal is being received by top quality teachers, by business executives looking for places for new plants and offices, and by doctors, surgeons and nurses whose skills are always in demand across the United States.

What some in the

Legislature see as simply enacting laws many of their constituents want, or what they see as bills that stick it to "libs," many of the professionals that communities are eager to recruit or retain view these legislative proposals, at best, as narrow minded, intolerant and divisive.

Those proposals are wide ranging — from requiring the state universities to report the political affiliation of each faculty member, to requiring which bathrooms in public schools transgender people can use, to ending tenure for state university professors.

There are more.

Other proposals would reduce unemployment benefits for Iowans, cut the amount of time for voting, restrict what teachers can teach about slavery and the role of blacks in our nation. The proposals would make it more difficult for third parties to get their candidates on ballots and allow businesses to deny services based on customers' sexual orientation or gender identity.

Legislative leaders refuse to consider proposals to prohibit the use of racial profiling by police officers. Leaders also refuse to consider ways to ease the runoff of manure and fertilizer into Iowa rivers and lakes or to further limit where large livestock feeding facilities can be built.

Rural Iowa has long suffered from what is called a "brain drain" — the loss of some of the best and brightest young people to larger cities where jobs are more plentiful.

These proposals gaining traction in the Legislature have many people worried that more Iowans will seek their futures in other states.

That's not a trend state officials will want to brag about on "Welcome to Iowa" signs.

Randy Evans is executive director of Iowa Freedom of Information Council and can be reached at DMRevans2810@gmail.com. Pen City Current is a member of the IFOIC.

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