

Dems say state needs change to be truly be great

town park, several Dem-

ocratic legislators and

current candidates said

the state is far from head-

ing in the right direction.

Jeff Kurtz, a candidate

for state representative

Area Democrats say mental health, education, minimum wage woes hurting state

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

FRANKLIN - On the heels of the Lee County Republican annual banquet where area Republicans touted recent accolades dumped on the state by national media, local Democrats say things are far from perfect. At Sunday's Cops and Calhoun Picnic in Franklin's



KURTZ

for the 83rd district, said when the state rolls back efforts to raise the minimum wage and in some cases even rolled back the minimum wage, it's hard to tout jobs success, especially when it comes to families being able to take care of themselves.

Lee County Republican Chair Martin Graber said at Saturday's republican event, that Kurtz didn't want to talk about jobs, because the state has the lowest unemployment rate in recent history. Kurtz is up against Keokuk Republican Jeff Reichman for the seat.

"We've been talking economic development this whole campaign. If you go to our Facebook page you can see from our forum in Keokuk, it was a lot of economic development. I'm not sure what candidate they're talking about, but we certainly are talking jobs."

"Iowa is a low wage state, no doubt about that," Kurtz said. "We increased (the minimum wage) to \$8.20 and it lasted about two days before the Republicans put the preemptions clause in. I'm not sure why they think we're

See **PICNIC**, page 7

City seeing more water main breaks

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - In the past two weeks the City of Fort Madison has experienced at least 11 water main breaks and city officials are hoping some relief valves will take the pressure of the city's aged water lines.

Fort Madison Public Works director Larry Driscoll waded through some water rushing over the intersection of 20th Street and Avenue H Sunday at about 4 p.m. where another in the latest of water main breaks occurred. The first large break took place on Old Denmark Hill where a portion of the road had to be replaced.

trftgfrf There are many reasons the breaks are occurring, Driscoll said, the predominant reasons are the current rehab work that is going on top of Denmark Hill and the other is the distance from the lines to the new water treatment plant south of town.

"With that new water plant being seven miles south of town there's increased pressure there," Driscoll said Monday afternoon. "They wouldn't have had to worry about this added pressure in the past because the treatment plant was in town. But now we have one of those storage tanks on Denmark Hill down and that's making matters much worse."

Hohls bring Harvestville farm to tables

Event was scheduled for a street dinner on 7th Street

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

DONNELLSON - In what is becoming a tradition of sorts in North Lee County, about 70 diners experienced what is really meant by Farm to Table on Saturday night at Harvestville Farms.

The farming operation located just east of Donnellson has been putting on the dinners throughout the summer months showcasing a myriad of fresh produce and locally produced foods for their dinners.

However, Saturday's event was supposed to be more of a block party than a barn dinner. A 50% chance of rain and thunderstorms for the area Saturday morning prompted owners Adam and Julie Hohl, and Kathy Hohl to hold the event once again at their farm.

Harvestville co-owner Adam Hohl talks with a couple of the 70 diners that came out to the farm for a Farm-to-Table dining experience on Saturday night The event had to be moved back to the farm in Don-



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

nellson after forecasts of rain dashed original plans for a street dinner on 7th Street in downtown Fort Madison. Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The event was originally scheduled as a dinner on 7th Street between the Harvestville Mercantile Store in the Hesse Building and Simple Table, owned by Jimmy Wendorf and Hitomi Moritani Wendorf. Moritani Wendorf was the selected chef for the meal Saturday night.

"We had talked with Jimmy and Hitomi even before we had the store downtown and we thought, 'Oh my

Harvestville co-owner Adam Hohl talks with a couple of the 70 diners that came out to the farm for a Farm-to-Table dining experience on Saturday night. The event was the ninth of the year.

gosh we need to do one in the street in Fort Madison," Julie Hohl said. "We had attended one in Iowa City and one in Quincy and we just loved them."

See MEAL, page 6

To combat the problem, city crews put a relief valve on a fire hydrant at 8th and Avenue E. Driscoll said the city has invested in a couple more of those and may use them if pressure stays high.

He said the typical pressures in the lines are from 70 to 80 pounds per square inch, or psi, but he said it's not uncommon to see 90 or 100 with the storage tank

See WATER, page 3

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Obituaries/Area News

OBITUARIES

VERNA N. RICHARDS

Verna N. Richards, 72, of Ft. Madison passed away on Sunday, July 29, 2018 at 8:12 AM at the West Point Care Center.

She was born on July 7, 1946 in Lawrence, KS to



Vernon and Pearl Branning Barton. On June 25, 2005 she married Michael Richards in Topeka, KS. Verna was a commercial liability insurance adjuster. She was a member of the Moose Lodge #671 and the Eagles Club #1278. Verna enjoyed gardening, fishing and spending time with her husband and family. Survivors include her husband,

RICHARDS

Michael Richards of Ft. Madison; one daughter, Jeannette Hendrix and one son, Raymond Lowery both of Topeka, KS; eight grandchildren; five great grandchildren; a step daughter, Lori Murphy of Salem, IA; a step son, McCain Richards of Plano, TX; two sisters, Esther and Rose. She was preceded in death by her parents; four brothers and one sister.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, August 11, 2018 beginning at 5 PM at the Moose Lodge #671 in Ft. Madison. Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory.

A memorial has been established in her memory and online condolences may be left at <u>www.kinglynk.com.</u>

Got a news tip? Call Chuck (319)371.1670

VERA I. HELLWEG

Vera I. Hellweg, 91, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 9:22 a.m. on Monday, July 30, 2018 at the Donnellson Health Center. She was born on February 25,



1927 in Fort Madison, IA to Dewey & Florence Sunden Wyrick. She married Ambrose F. Hellweg on April 12, 1947 at Sacred Heart Church in Fort Madison, IA. He preceded her in death on May 12, 2007. She worked at the Sheaffer Pen Company, Dana Bushong Jewelers and she specialized in making wedding & birthday cakes. She also made sugar eggs & mints for Andies

Candies at

Christmas & Easter. She later was a secretary at Fort Madison High School. She was a member of Sacred Heart Church and the Double 10 Circle of the King's Daughters. She enjoyed pottery and any kind of crafts.

Vera is survived by: 2-daughters: Peggy Dietsch of Austin, TX & Jane (Bruce) Krebill of Donnellson, IA; 5-grandchildren: Clayton Dietsch, Christian Dietsch, Ryan Anderson, Nicole Farrell & Brent Anderson; 6-great grandchildren: Alaina, John, Karly, Lila, Aaden & Paisley; several step grandchildren & great grandchildren; 2-sisters in law: Zita Wiebler & Shirley

Wyrick; several nieces & nephews. She was preceded in death by: her parents, husband, 3-children: Patrick & Jean in infancy & Carol Hellweg; 2-sisters: Lorraine Worden & Lois Thompson & 1-brother: Darrell Wyrick.

Cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The family will receive friends from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Friday, August 3, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church immediately followed by a memorial mass at 10:30 a.m. with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. Burial will be held at Sacred Heart Cemetery. A memorial has been established for The Kensington. Online condolences to Vera's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www. kinglynk.com.

Alliant taking non-profit grant applications

BY PCC STAFF CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa – July 30, 2018 – Know a nonprofit that focuses on families, education or the environment? Invite them to apply for a grant from the Alliant Energy Foundation.

The Foundation is accepting grant applications August 1 through September 1. Grants average about \$2,000 and winners will be notified by November 1.

Projects must share one of the Foundation's key focus areas: families, education or environment. Past projects to receive grants include

mentoring programs, meal and nutrition programs, reading and literacy initiatives, dairy and agriculture education, STEM camps and nature trail restoration projects, among others.

To see examples of groups that have received funding, check out Alli-

ant Energy Foundation's Facebook and Instagram pages: @Alliant Energy_Foundation. For more details about how to apply, visit <u>alliantenergy</u>. com/foundation.

The Alliant Energy Foundation is funded solely by Alliant Energy shareowners.



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OBITUARIES



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For the Record/From the Front

For the Record

Fort Madison **Police Report**

07/29/18 - 1:55 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Tyler Keith Jennings, 31, of Montrose, in the 4500 block of Avenue O, on warrants for probation violation, 5th-degree theft and possession of methamphetamine. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 07/29/18 - 12:23 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Nathan Allen Golianis, 29, of Fort Madison, in the 1000 block of Avenue D on a charge of 5th-degree theft. He was released on a promise to appear. 07/30/18 - 12:23 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Ty Richard Lematty, 18, of Montrose in the 1900 block of Avenue F, on a charge of eluding law enforcement and reckless driving. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 07/30/18 - 1:13 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Clayton Chauncey Brecount, 19, of Fort Madison at the police department, on a charge of eluding law enforcement and reckless driving. He was taken to Lee

County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff's report

07/27/18 - 10:03 a .m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Chancey Lee Losey, 18, of Bonaparte at the Central Lee School parking lot, on a charge of simple assault and disorderly conduct. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on a promise to appear. 07/27/18 - 10:37 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested David Duane Burdette, 53, of Donnellson, at the Central Lee School parking lot on a charge of driving while license denied/revoked. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on a promise to appear. 07/27/18 - 12:56 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested David Eugene Pennington, 47, of Alexandria, Mo., at the Taylorville Correctional Center, on a charge of probation violation. He was held in custody. 07/27/18 - 1:16 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested James Howard Moberg, 42, of Montrose

on a warrant for a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held. 07/27/18 - 3:26 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Phillip Christopher Schulte, 31, of Keokuk at the sheriff's office on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond. 07/28/18 - 9:13 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Ninette Lynn Whippie, 49, of Keokuk, in the 2600 block of Iowa Road, on a charge of dog running at large. She was released upon citation. 07/28/18 - 1:05 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Miguel Angel Alvarez, 25, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a two warrants for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on bond. 07/29/18 - 11:31 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Michael Jacob Cain, 41, of Montrose, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for failure to pay fine/costs. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held. 07/30/18 - midnight - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Danielle Lynn Smith, 30, of Fort Madison, in the 2600 block of Avenue L on a warrant for violation of probation. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 07/30/18 - 2:15 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kristen Lynn Atterberg, 35, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a charge of possession of contraband in a correctional facility. She was held in custody. 07/30/18 - 6:42 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jesse James McCabe, 28, of Middletown, at mile marker 19 on Hwy. 61 on a temporary hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on a transfer to another county. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven quilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report

07/28/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls, one false alarm and one burn complaint 07/29/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls and one false alarm.

Tank rehab work will go into the fall

WATER - Continued from Page 1

rehabilitation project underway. He said that project will continue for at least two more months.

That won't be completed until September or early October, so we hope these relief valves help and we don't continue to see these breaks," he said. "The system's just not used to seeing that kind of pressure."

Crews were on the scene Monday at the intersection of 20th Street and Avenue H and had about 1/4 of the intersection dug up working on the repairs. Crews worked on the break on Old Denmark Hill and Avenue C for several days repairing the break and replacing part of the road.

Driscoll said it costs the city about \$3,500 per break and that's including in-house labor. He said the city did contract one repair out on Friday and that will probably cost the city a little more.



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Pen City Current

Founded in 2016



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Pen City Current and www.pencitycurrent.com are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE **Fort Madison Community School** District 1930 Avenue M Minutes of the **Special Meeting** July 24, 2018

I. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Young at 6:01 p.m. Directors Troxel, Young, Ross and DiPrima were present. Directors Wondra, Hotop and Hope participated through

telephone conference. Also present was Superintendent Slater.

II. Recognition of guests. Vice President Young welcomed members of the audience in attendance and explained the procedures for the meeting.

III. Approve the agenda. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Wondra to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

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IV. Consider approval of personnel resignations a. Brent Zirkel, Assistant

Principal, Fort Madison Middle School. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Wondra to approve the resignation of Brent Zirkel as assistant principal at the Fort Madison Middle School. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

b. Chris Schelich, Fort Madison Community School District Teaching contract. It was moved by Troxel and seconded by Wondra to approve the resignation of Chris Schelich as a teacher in the Fort Madison Community School District. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

V. Consider approval of employment of personnel

a. Consider approval of the employment of Chris Schelich as Assistant Principal, Fort Madison Middle School. It was moved by Hotop and seconded by Hope to approve the employment of Chris Schelich as Assistant Principal at the Fort Madison Middle School. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

b. Consider approval of the modified TLC contract for Chris Schelich. It was moved by Troxel and seconded by Ross to approve the modified TLC contract for Chris Schelich as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

VI. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m. Tim Wondra, Board President

July 24, 2018

Sandra Elmore, Board Secretary



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From the Front/Lottery Numbers

Harvestville owners want to take Farm-to-Table out on the street

MEAL - Continued from Page 1

Hohl said with the opening of the Mercantile downtown two years ago there was just too much going on in transition to try and do the street dinner.

"It was just too much too quick, so we decided to do it this year. But then, unfortunately, with the threat of rain we brought it back out here. So next year...but it was a hard

decision. But what another unique opportunity for people that they may never have had."

"We wanted a memorable experience, but a pop up shower in the middle of dinner is not what we wanted to make it memorable," Adam said with a chuckle.

Nestled among a cornucopia of farm fresh produce and foliage, was



Julie Hohl talks with diners as she brings around meals prepared with locally produced and grown ingredients as part of a farm-to-table experience.

a table filled with silent auctions items. Julie said all the proceeds from the silent auction would go to the Fort Madison Food Pantry as well as a portion of the proceeds from the \$65/person ticket sales.

Moritani Wendorf fares included a fresh tomato gazpacho soup with cocktail shrimp as well as locally produced lamb, vegetables for a ratatouille, and new potatoes. Locally produced bread and a locally made dessert was also on hand as part of the five-course meal.

Moritani said all the vegetables were grown at the Harvestville Farms and she made the breads. The lamb was obtained from a producer in Kalona and the desserts were prepared locally.

The Hohls have been putting on the shows since 2012 and were selling out in less than five days so they added events to help with a more steady pace.

"Adam and I are really big foodies," Julie said. "I'm originally from St. Louis and I was blessed with my parents being foodies, too, and I learned from them. We heard of this farm-to-table concept becoming big around the nation. We have a business here on the farm and we thought it could work so we took a big leap of faith."

The first farm-to-table was done as a fundraiser for the Buy Fresh, Buy Local campaign and Julie said it was a big success.

"It was our first go at it and we had about 50 people come out to that one," she said. "Even at that early stage we knew we wanted a local chef and we wanted everything possible to come from the farm and, if it didn't come from the farm, it had to be locally produced. It went over really well."

She said the event creates an authentic and unique dining experience that many people in the area haven't had the opportunity to enjoy.

The events were smash hits and sold out quickly through 2012 and 2013. Adam said the cooking was being done in the



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Hitomi Moritani Wendorf prepares the main entree of roasted lamb, new potatoes, and ratatouille with fresh vegetables picked at the farm.

farm kitchen, but with the popularity and number of people eating at the event, the farm had to incorporate a commercial kitchen and so they had to take a break from the events while the commercial kitchen was constructed.

"We really had to work at it at first, but now since we've been doing it for so many years, it's getting easier to attract chefs to come to southeast Iowa. We've met some wonderful, talented chefs who put out some really neat food," Julie said.

"Every meal is fivecourse meal. It's making a connection with your

food, and the people at your table, and just having a nice slow-paced evening."

This year featured 10 of the events with nine being sell outs. Chefs from as far away as Columbia, Mo., make the trek to prepare the offerings. Chefs have included Shawn Foehring, a Burlington private chef, Martha Wolf of Ivy Bake Shoppe fame, Kumar Wickramasingha of Elliott Test Kitchen, Chris Grebner of Iowa City's Provender, and several others.

The last event of the year is August 11th with Wickramasingha as the chef. That event ... sold out.

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7/29 EVENING

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7/29 EVENING

2223

From the Front

Kurtz says state lagging in GDP, mental health care

PICNIC - Continued from Page 1

going to get prosperity when we've got all these low wage jobs. This isn't the way it works."

Kurtz said the county and state need to continue to look at economic development. He said the county is well-positioned with Siemens, the railroads, Henniges, Griffin Wheel, and others and it needs to capitalize on the fact that climate change is here. Kurtz said he's also deeply concerned at the shuttering of the labor center at the University of Iowa.

"We've seen in the past two weeks the damage they've done at the University," he said. "I'm going to meet with the dean of the law school to try and get them to reverse their position on the labor center. That's only one part of the educational scheme they've really damaged. You have teachers that don't have a say in their jobs because how they've gutted Chapter 20. Those things we're going to feel for a long long time."

Jason Moats of Winfield is the Democratic challenger for the 84th district State Representative slot opposing Republican Joe Mitchell of Wayland. Moats ran unopposed in the June primary, while Mitchell beat a field of four with 38% of the vote.

Jason Moats said he decided to run after going to the Legislature in Des Moines as a representative with AFSCME and wanted us. When they decided to leave, that kind of upset me. I told my wife I think I could do a better job and she agreed. She pushed me into running and September we announced publicly that we were running."

Moats said the state has a long way to go in repairing what's been done over the past few years to education and mental health in the state.

"Education is big one to me," Moats said. "Our children are going to be the ones in the futre that will be running this state and country so why not give them the best education possible? We used to rank right up there close to No. 1 in the country and we've fallen behind in education."

He said the cuts that the Republican leadership made last year has hurt districts across the state and the push for technology is good, but students are being left behind in the soft skills and social skills.

"Every day it's in the news that these kids are losing social skills. When they get older and go to get a job, they don't have the social skills. How are they going to get jobs?"

He also said Iowa's in a state of crisis when it comes to mental health care.

"Time is a crucial thing for someone in a mental crisis and to have to drive two hours away and back....and then factor in they don't have a way to fund that program... that just doesn't make any sense at all. We have to do better and we have to do he said. Retiring State Rep. Jerry Kearns said some good things are happening in the state, but he doesn't necessariliy think the

more to help those people,"



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison's Jeff Kurtz speaks with staff and guests at the Cops and Calhoun Picnic on Sunday evening in Franklin. Kurtz is seeking the 83rd District State Representative seat in the fall election.

state's in great shape.

"I don't think we're necessarily in great shape. We had to a lot of adjusting to the budget and a lot of things that should be funded like education, are really taking it in the hind end," Kearns said.

He also said Iowa's mental health care is ranked low in the country and privatizing medicaid is not proving to be the great idea Republicans thought it was.

"We lost insurers because they can't make it, we were supposed to save money and we haven't, although they'll claim we have. There are some good things no doubt about it, but what we've done is follow the national trend. We haven't followed through with good financial integrity and our state financially, regardless, of what Republicans say, is not that great."

He said the rollback of local efforts to raise minimum wages has had the biggest impact on jobs in the area.

the process but the Republicans came in and said vou can't do that and we're at the federal minimum. That doesn't make sense."

State Sen. Rich Taylor said it's tough for him to see the state as the top ranked in the country,

If they think that Medicare and Medicaid not working for the people of this state makes us the greatest in the nation ... ok," Taylor said.

Taylor said the state is now giving away \$600 million a year in corporate tax breaks compared to \$200 milliion when he took office.

"When you look at the money we give to corporations who don't need it and then you look at where we're at on wages, health care, mental health, education. How they get

that we're the No. 1 state, I just don't get it."

Taylor said Gov. Reynolds' rural empowerment initiative is campaigning as is the talk of the unfunded regionalized mental health efforts.

"It's like promising your kid a pony for their birthday but you can't afford the pony. The kid wakes up in the morning and there's no pony," Taylor said.



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JULY						
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7/27-29	Wonders of Wildlife	\$360 pp double				
7/28	Cardinals vs. Cubs at Busch Stadium	\$1 4 0 pp				
AUGUST						
8/1	Mamma Mia! at Circa '21	\$98 pp				
8/2	Chicago Museums	\$99 pp				
8/4	Cubs vs. Padres at Wrigley	\$155 pp				
8/7	Strolling Down Broadway	\$102 pp				
8/11	Cubs vs. Nationals at Wrigley	\$155 pp				
8/13-16	Quilter's Escape to Paducah, KY	\$495 pp double				
8/14	Iowa State Fair	\$65 pp				
8/15	Cubs vs. Brewers at Wrigley	\$128 pp				
8/21	The Henry Ford & Rouge Factory Tour	\$450 pp double				
8/29	Cubs vs. Mets at Wrigley	\$110 pp				
SEPTEMBER	R					
9/12	A Comedy of Tenors at Old Creamery	\$98 pp				
9/12-15	Legends of Louisville, KY	\$550 pp double				
9/15	Cubs vs. Reds at Wrigley	\$1 4 5 pp				
9/21-30	The Gold of Colorado Trains	\$2790 pp double				
9/26	Mama Won't Fly at Circa '21	\$98 pp				
9/27	Dinner on the Boone Scenic Valley RR	\$120 pp				
9/28	Cubs vs. Cardinals at Wrigley	\$1 4 5 pp				
9/29	Cubs vs. Cardinals at Wrigley	\$155 pp				
Trailways 319.753.2864 x162						

to meet with leadership Republicans.

"Every year we go to the state capitol and a year ago in March we went up and the Republicans knew we were coming and they all went to lunch," he said. "They didn't want to talk to us. These are the folks that you and I elect to work for

"A lot of our jobs are minimum wage, our rate is low," Kearns said. "You can get by, work extra hours, both spouses can work and get by. Unfortunately we decided to take away the right of counties and municipalities to raise the wage. Lee County was in



