



Pen City Current

Tuesday, March 7, 2017 | 9 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 66

FM school district picks up 5-year support levy

**BY CHUCK
VANDENBERG**
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Weighted down by declining enrollment and reduced state funding, the Fort Madison Community School District will begin participating in an instructional support levy program for the next five years.

At Monday's regular meeting of the school district board of directors, the board voted unanimously to participate in the program which will generate approximately \$334,000 in increased revenue, however details of the final levy won't be known until the March 20 meeting as the board is also looking at a

Cash Reserve Levy.

Just keeping at status quo funding with declining enrollment would set the school's levy for the 2017-2018 school year at \$13.94/\$1,000 assessed valuation. With the ISL, which requires a property tax component, the levy is bumped to \$13.95. If the school were to consider a \$300,000 cash reserve levy addition, the new proposed levy would be \$14.45/\$1,000.

Sandy Elmore, the district's finance director said the board needs to make a decision on how to move forward by the March 20 meeting so she can publish the proposed budget and submit it to the state.

"This year the low supplemental

state aid of 1.1% would result in \$14.3 million for us so that means we qualify for the budget guarantee amount, which is based on last year's figures and we've lost so many students the state would have had to go over 4% for us to see any of what's called new money. So we're going to be at \$14.733 million on budget guarantee. That means \$500,000 in new money, but it shifts the burden to a levy and we would have to levy to get that \$500,000."

Elmore said then increasing the levy to accommodate the Cash Reserve Levy, which was recommended on the advice of the district's bond counselors would push the levy to \$14.45/\$1,000.

A look at other area schools still has

Fort Madison in the lower half of the other districts almost all of whom have ISLs in place already.

In other action,

- the board set June 27 as the next referendum date on a bond issue to construct a new elementary school. That date will require that all documentation and petitions be submitted prior to May 12 to get on the ballot.

- the board had an extended work session with Iowa Association of School Board's Harry Heilingenthal as part of Project Lighthouse, a continuing education program aimed at focusing goals and priorities of the school board to be in line with district staff and creating a common goal approach to the district.

Loeb sack talks tax policy, American jobs on Scotts facility tour

**BY CHUCK
VANDENBERG**
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Plant officials at the local Scotts Miracle-Gro facility in Fort Madison gave U.S. Rep. Dave Loeb sack an education into the world of weed control.

Loeb sack toured the facility's labeling and bottling areas as well as chemical mixing stations, labs, and storage areas with department heads in the afternoon and then talked briefly with the media following the tour.

He said he enjoyed the tour because he frankly didn't know a lot about the facility, but was impressed by the workforce, the American made products and the company's efforts for organic products.

Leslie Malinski, the plant's Director of Liquid Operations, gave Loeb sack a slide presentation that outlined the compa-

ny's commitment to its customers, communities and workforce.

"This is an important plant in the area," Loeb sack said. "They employ a lot of people and I've never been here before. I enjoy the learning process as I was a teacher for more than 20 years and I even enjoy it more now as a congressman," he said.

"I learned a lot about the workforce. They do a really great job of recruiting here. And although they have lot of seasonal employees that get called back the next year, they also have a lot of full time employees and retention is pretty high."

Malinski told Loeb sack the plant filled more than 62 million bottles in 2015 and spent about \$3.5 million in capital outlay in 2016. She also explained that the Fort Madison plant supplies most of the products for the northern half of the United States and into Canada.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

On-site

U.S. Rep. Dave Loeb sack tours the facility at Scotts Miracle-Gro in Fort Madison. Loeb sack discusses workers and production with Leslie Malinski, the plant's director of liquid operations.

Loeb sack said he likes to get out and visit area businesses and industries that focus on American products, and it's efforts like Scott's that America needs to be looking at going forward.

"I always try to go somewhere where the focus is on making things in America and we need to do more," Loeb sack said. "I think the American people are demanding that, and I think that's

what happened in the last election. People are tired of all the competition from abroad and companies going abroad and they wanted a change."

With the political climate as it is, Loeb sack

said efforts need to focus on growing jobs in America and things like the Border Adjustment Tax, which would tax products coming into America at

See **LOEB SACK**, page 9

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Local News

Jan Rockwell is FMAAAA March exhibit artist

Reception set
for March 10

BY BRIAN RIGGS
Fort Madison Area Arts Association

Just coming in from Portugal to hang at FMAAAA gallery March 8th, Jan Rockwell, from Macomb, Illinois, will show throughout the month with "Journey of the MIND". A reception will occur for Jan on March 10th from 5-7pm at 825 Ave G. E. I. Dupont is the sponsor for the exhibition. Many may know Jan under the Earth, Air, and Water artist slot found many years at Art-in-Central Park. She shares a booth with her husband Dean a potter. When it comes to painting, Jan is well versed in many styles including watercolor, oil, acrylic, and collage. Lately she has been gravitating toward encaustic and

palette knife painting. Jan will present at FMAAAA's Lunch-ala-Art program when it returns March 31st at noon. SubArena will be the food vendor. Call the gallery at 319-372-3996 to reserve a slot.

Jan received her BS and MS at Western Illinois University. She has been on a whirlwind tour of exhibitions of late showing in our tri-state area. She has had solo shows at Foster Gallery in Peoria, West Central Illinois Art Center in Macomb, WIU Student Gallery in Macomb, and Metro Center Community College in Omaha. She has been in juried group exhibitions at Wichita Art Center, Galesburg Civic Center, Buchanan Art Center, and Illinois Watercolor Society in Oak Park, IL.

"Journey of the MIND is an exhibit of recently completed work on paper, panels or canvas. Many of the pieces are collaged

with papers, encaustics (hot wax and pigment), and transfers (acrylic medium and image)," said Rockwell. "The work is an exploration of the elements of art, focusing on color and surface texture. Landscapes are suggested and abstracted through various techniques. Paint is mainly applied using palette knives creating thick, buttery, engaging contrasts.

"Often the initial paint or sub-surface collage directs the path and eventually dictates the subject in the painting. The placement of one stroke of color encourages the mixture and placement of another. As an atmosphere develops, the "mindscape" emerges and travels from the sub-conscious or memory into its own reality. The abstract



Courtesy photo

Rockwell at FMAAAA

A sample of Jan Rockwell's work that will be on display in March at FMAAAA.

image allows a viewer to bring to the painting a personal interpretation of time and place."

Her website is, www.earthairwater.com.

Rockwell is an innovative painter and has been a past cover artists for Expressions Art Auction. No foolin' Expressions Auction occurs on April 1st at Comfort Inn&-Suites. Ascend "Journey of the MIND" at FMAAAA gallery Tues-Sat from 10am-5pm.



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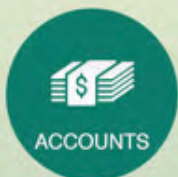
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Public Notices/Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICES

Lee County, Iowa Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Convening Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location:

Correctional Center, 2530 255th Street, Montrose, IA 52639

AGENDA

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approve Agenda
- 9:01 a.m. Public Hearing to Approve FY18 County Budget
- Consider Approval of Resolution Approving FY18 County Budget
- Approve Tuesday, February 28, 2017 Board Minutes
- Consider Approval of Claims
- Public Input
- Consider Approval of Contracts with Iowa Fertilizer Company for Security Services with Lee County Sheriffs Department
- Consider Approval of Resolution Setting Public Hearing to Enter into Installment Agreement with WatchGuard Video for Body Cameras and In-Car Systems for Sheriffs Office
- Consider Approval of

Class C Beer Permit for Tri State Outdoor Products, West Point

Consider Approval of Class C Liquor License for Archies 2, Wever

Consider Approval of Grant Application for CAMP Grant with the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy

Personnel Actions:

- A. Step Increases-Recorder's Office (3)
- B. Part-time New Hire-Treasurer's Office
- C. Step Increases-Health Department (2) Reports:
 - A. Recorder's Report of Fees Collected
 - B. Manure Management Annual Update-Fullenkamp Farms-Marion Township
 - C. Manure Management Annual Update-Kruse Bros. Inc.-Marion Township
 - D. Treasurer's Report of Fees Collected
- Commission or Committee Reports
- 9:30 a.m. Argyle Sanitary District FY18 Budget Hearing Consider Approval of Argyle Sanitary District FY18 Budget Adjourn

PUBLIC MEETING

-CITIZENS WELCOME

Vision and hearing assistance available upon request

Contact Title VI Administrator 319-372-3705

County Website: www.leecounty.org

AGENDA FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Date: TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2017
Time: 5:30 P.M.

Place: City Council Chambers, City Hall INVOCATION ROLL CALL

VISITORS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS
 At this time individuals may address the City Council on any matters of City business.

Please go to the podium and state your name and address for the record. PLEASE NOTE: This is not an opportunity to discuss issues with the Council or to get information. In accordance with Open Meetings

law, the Council cannot take action on any complaint or suggestion or respond to any allegations.

AGENDA

1. MOVED and SECONDED to approve the agenda, as written.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 2. MOVED and SECONDED to approve:
 - Minutes of February 21, 2017;
 - February Financial Report; and
 - Payment of Claims.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Concerning the Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget

3a. MOVED and SECONDED to close the public hearing.

3b. MOVED and SECONDED to approve a resolution adopting the Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget, and directing the appropriate filings be made as required by law.

Concerning Public Improvement Project 2017-01, Reconstruction of 15th Street from Avenue B to Ridgewood Road (SEE COUNCIL REPORT NO. 2017-12)

4a. MOVED and SECONDED to close the public hearing.

4b. MOVED and SECONDED to approve a resolution adopting plans, specifications and form of contract for the project.

4c. MOVED and SECONDED to adopt a resolution awarding construction contract for the project to Jones Contracting Corp., of West Point, Iowa, in the amount of \$593,757.00, and approving contract and bonds of Jones Contracting Corp., pending receipt of the documents.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

5. MOVED and SECONDED to approve the third reading of an ordinance amending Title 10, Zoning, Chapter 19, 3(A) Additional Parking Regulations and certain sections of Title 9, Traffic, Chapters 1, 7 and 11, to update definitions of commercial vehicles, provide an exception for recreational vehicles to be driven on residential streets and amend parking regulations for commercial vehicles, trailers and food trucks.

6. MOVED and SECONDED to approve the first reading of an ordinance vacating 15th Place and 16th, 17th and 19th Streets south

of Avenue P.

OTHER

7. MOVED and SECONDED to approve the request of Horan's Cabaret to paint Avenue G in front of 1337 Avenue G for St. Patrick's Day.

8. MOVED and SECONDED to approve the Mayor's signature on an Iowa Economic Development Authority Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Multi-Family Unit Production Rental Disaster Recovery Fund Contract for the Cattermole and old Lee County Bank buildings. (SEE COUNCIL REPORT NO. 2017-13)

DISCUSSION ITEMS - None

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

PRESENTATIONS BY LIAISONS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

ADJOURNMENT

9. MOVED and SECONDED to adjourn until Tuesday, March 21, 2017, at 5:30 P.M.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Fort Madison Airport Commission will not meet in March.



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Holy Trinity Catholic Early Childhood Center has preschool/pre-kindergarten openings

The Holy Trinity Catholic Early Childhood Center has openings available for preschool/pre-kindergarten substitute teachers. The following qualifications are required:

- College degree in Early Childhood or Elementary Education
- Other college degree accepted with completion of the Substitute Authorization Program
- At least 21 years of age
- Able to pass background check
- Ability to have a flexible schedule, on call
- Able to complete training as required by DHS.

Please contact Stefanie Drollinger at 319-372-6428 or stop by the ECC at 2213 Ave. J to complete an application



Holy Trinity Catholic Early Childhood Center has positions available

The Holy Trinity Catholic Early Childhood Center has 2 part-time positions available for our Child Care Programs. We are also seeking child care substitutes to fill in as needed. The following qualifications are required:

- Able to pass background check
- At least 16 years of age
- Excellent communication skills with children and adults
- Promote the social and emotional well being of children using patience and care
- Work collaboratively as a team with program staff
- Able to complete training as required by DHS.

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Listing #20163103 • \$39,999



3 BR • 2 BA • 2 car garage
1,168 sq. ft. • 0.54 acres
Lovely family home comfortably situated at the end of a cul de sac, where you can enjoy the woods and the privacy! There is an inviting deck off the back of the home overlooking the woods and beautiful vinyl fencing. There are newer mechanicals and a newer roof, 2 fireplaces and lots of storage!! Don't miss out on this beauty.
Listing #20163951 • \$139,000



5BR • 2.50BA • 2 car garage
2,834 sq. ft.
14,868 sq. ft. lot
Amazing family home on a large corner lot in Farmington, IA. 2 fireplaces, beautiful woodwork, a beautiful open front porch, a large yard and an oversized garage!!
Listing #20164117 • \$127,500



2BR • 1BA • 1 car garage
1,224 sq. ft.
7,250 sq. ft. lot
A house with character! Wrap-around porch, original hardwood in formal dining room/living room combo, main floor laundry, nice size eat-in kitchen including appliances, dining room has original fireplace, basement and 1 car garage.
Listing #20162543 • \$53,000



5BR • 1.75BA • 1 car garage
1,904 sq. ft. • 1,903 sq. ft. lot
Great family home on large corner lot in the middle of Ft. Madison. Large living / dining area with original craftsman woodwork and built-ins, 14 x 22 garage on the alley with 2 additional storage sheds. Nice front porch, rear deck, and a great sunroom on the East.
Listing #20162346
\$86,950



2BR • 1BA • 2 car garage
930 sq. ft. • 7,280 sq. ft. lot
This 2 bedroom home in Montrose has been a rental property and sells as is. Priced way below assessed value to sell quickly!
Listing #20164279 • \$38,500



3BR • 1.50BA
1,460 sq. ft.
3,625 sq. ft. lot
Reasonably priced home has had new doors installed, new bathroom fixtures, and freshly painted. With its vinyl siding and fenced rear yard, its ready for your family!!
Listing #20162025 • \$25,500



4BR • 3BA • 2 car garage
1,349 sq. ft.
9,160 sq. ft. lot
From the inviting entrance to the serene back yard, you will enjoy it ALL and everything in between!!!! This very well maintained 4 bedroom, 3 bath home has everything your family will need to call this Home. There is a beautiful screened porch and a deck off the back of the house, all overlooking a meticulously landscaped large yard. Call today on this amazing home situated on a quiet, safe cul de sac!!!
Listing #20163339 • \$164,900



2BR • 1.25BA
1,119 sq. ft. • 0.17 acres
Brick rancher on Ave E close to Old Settlers Park, has full basement mostly finished, picket fence, newer windows, roof, etc.
Listing #20162502 • \$88,900



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**5BR • 3BA
3,119 sq. ft.
14,500 sq. ft. lot**

From the period wrought iron fencing to the amazing stained oak staircase...from the impressive arches to the large wrap porch, this beautiful turn of the century (20th) home offers all the beauty and elegance of that era. This is a beautifully appointed home with all the modern conveniences. There is an extra large lot for your family to enjoy!!

Listing #20162159 • \$164,000



PENDING

**2BR • 1.50BA • 2 car garage
1,366 sq. ft. • 3,300 sq. ft. lot**
Immaculate, well-kept ranch has family room with fireplace on the main floor, finished Rec Room, 2nd laundry room, 1/2 bath, and storage room with shelving all in the basement. All windows are vinyl replacement.

Listing #20162507 • \$109,900



**2BR • 1BA • 2 car garage
868 sq. ft. • 7,000 sq. ft. lot**
PRICE REDUCED! Rare opportunity to own a renovated home at a great price!! Large, shaded yard and a 2 car garage. Located in a nice neighborhood on a corner lot. Seller is motivated and offering a 1 year AHS Home Warranty!

Listing #20163035 • \$52,000



**3BR • 1BA • 1 car garage
928 sq. ft. • 1,087 sq. ft. lot**
Very nice maintenancefree home by Lincoln School with a 75 X 145 fenced yard, nice patio, fire pit and child's play set! Some very nice built-ins, some original hardwood flooring, full basement including laundry area. Also find extra parking, garage and carport area on the paved alley.

Listing #20164148 • \$72,500



SOLD

**2BR • 1BA • 2 car garage
1,330 sq. ft.
7,250 sq. ft. lot**

REDUCED BY \$13,100! Affordable with lots of potential!!! Nice size kitchen with breakfast bar plus dining area, spacious living room w/fireplace. Sits on a corner lot.

Listing #20160368 • \$59,900



REDUCED

**2BR • 1BA
1,144 sq. ft.
3,625 sq. ft. lot**

Move-in ready with many updates including kitchen WITH appliances, fresh paint, newer electrical (100 AMP breaker), new water lines at street and more! The home is clean as a whistle and ready to move in!

Listing #20161431 • \$42,500



REDUCED

**3BR • 3BA
2,754 sq. ft.
3,550 sq. ft. lot**

Gorgeous, turn-key home with large patio minimum maintenance. **UPDATES GALORE!!!** Practically perfect in every way, this 1841 home includes the latest improvements while keeping its Victorian charm.

Listing #23006122 • \$99,999



**3BR • 3.50BA • 3 car garage
3,723 sq. ft.**

Splendor in the woods...with privacy...AND a view...AND an **AMAZING** home. Call today on this brick beauty perched atop a hill overlooking Ft. Madison with a view of the Mississippi River and almost 6 acres of ground. Offered are 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, a formal living & dining room, a large great room/kitchen/breakfast room combo and a study/den with beautiful cherry cabinetry & bookshelves lining the walls. All of this with **STUNNING** hardwood floors. This beautiful home offering top-of-the-line features throughout.

Listing #20160805 • \$460,000



**2BR • 1.75BA • 2 car garage
679 sq. ft. • 6,500 sq. ft. lot**
Nice, small home. Seller has purchased and remodeled. Excellent condition.

Listing #20164161 • \$62,500



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PENDING

3BR • 3BA • 3 car garage
1,635 sq. ft. • 4.3 acres

Amazing cedar log sided home in a quiet and private setting, a well-appointed guest house, and 26x32 metal building. The main home offers beautiful hardwood flooring with a awesome open floor plan. Enjoy summer evenings on the nice walk-out patio area. This is a dream home!!!

Listing #20161863 • \$299,000



PENDING

3BR • 2.50 BA
2 car garage • 2,400 sq. ft.
10,150 sq. ft. lot

Lovely tri-level home on a quiet cul de sac offering numerous upgrades. There are 3 bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths, a large living room, dining room and open kitchen with newer stainless steel appliances and a breakfast bar. Newer windows, HVAC, new floor coverings on main and lower level and freshly painted throughout. The large backyard is completely fenced and has a 24 x 16 patterned concrete patio. Don't miss out on this wonderful family home.

Listing #20163404 • \$167,500



3BR • 1.75BA • 1 car garage
888 sq. ft. • 9,450 sq. ft. lot
RARE RANCH with large fenced back yard and attached garage! Updated windows and kitchen, newer HVAC and water heater. Family Room in the basement. Just waiting for your own personal touch!

Listing #20163423 • \$74,900



REDUCED

4 BR • 1.75 BA
3 car garage • 2,052 sq. ft.
8,700 sq. ft. lot

Beautiful 4 bedroom home with large rooms, recently redecorated and ready to move into. This home features stainless steel appliances, main floor laundry, eat in kitchen and formal dining room, main floor office or bedroom, open staircase, large living room and big bedrooms. Newer roof, siding and gutters on house. 24' X 36' insulated garage and workshop, plus carport. Large wrap porch great location near Old Settlers Park.

Listing #20163776 • \$129,500



PENDING

Multi-family Duplex
2,672 sq. ft.
7,250 sq. ft. lot

Income property. Potential for \$875/month income or more. Side-by-side duplex with 2 - 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartments. West side has a long term renter and east side is vacant.

Listing #20162154 • \$49,500



3 BR • 1 BA • 1 car garage
1,248 sq. ft. • 0.37 acres

Well-kept ranch on a beautiful, large corner lot in West Point, IA. New wooden privacy fence surrounding the entire back yard. There is also an attached garage and storage shed. A large wooden deck leads to the front door where you can sit and enjoy those beautiful Iowa summer sunsets! PLUS a covered deck in the back for those rainy days. This house is a rare find.

Listing #20164234 • \$119,900



2 car garage • 2,527 sq. ft.
UNIQUELY beautiful 9.38 river bluff acreage. This home boasts many updates including complete master suite, heat and A/C, Septic system, deck, roof & gutters, flooring, and the list goes on. This private property includes fenced in barn area for animal lovers, mature fruit trees plus trees have been dropped for a beautiful panoramic river view that will last for years! Owner also plans to leave a John Deer mower and new snow blower!!

Listing #20162733 • \$269,000



NEW

4BR • 2.50BA • 1 car garage
2,056 sq. ft.
39,640 sq. ft. lot

Beautiful 2 story home located just off Highway 61 north of Fort Madison. Formal living and dining room, nice kitchen with breakfast room all open to a main floor family room, relaxing, private screened porch that opens onto the large deck that spans the back of the home. Basement boasts recently finished family room and tons of storage.

Listing #20164530 • \$175,000



Land
50.82 acres
2,213,719 sq. ft.

Ideal 50 acre m/l parcel to develop. Close to new 4-8 Middle School and Baxter Rec Plex. **TREMENDOUS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY.**

Listing #20162779 • \$559,020



Land
14.65 acres • 638,514 sq. ft.
 Just outside city limits, perfect for housing development or small farm for horses or small livestock, over half tillable. City water is available. 30' X 60' building is totally insulated, heated and air conditioned with 200 amp service.

Listing #20162574 • \$249,000



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From the Front/Local News



Courtesy photo

Moving on

FORT MADISON – On February 28, 2017, Cub Scout Pack 7 of Fort Madison held their annual Blue & Gold banquet. During the ceremony five WEBELOS scouts earned the highest honor that can be achieved in Cub scouting – the Arrow of Light, and officially became members of Boy Scout Troop 7 of Fort Madison.

Loebsack says border tax is risky for U.S. firms

LOEBSACK - Continued from Page 1

almost 20%, could be detrimental to the economy and American jobs.

“Whatever tax policy changes we adopt, we have to make sure it creates jobs. We’ve been hearing a lot from the Republican’s Border Adoption Tax, that’s basically a 20 percent tax on anything imported. There’s other things we can do. I think we need to change laws to remove incentives from taking companies overseas. But I have a hard time increasing the costs of goods for Americans and that’s what would happen if we tax those products coming in,” he said.

“I hope we can get past the three tweets a day and start focusing on helping people.”

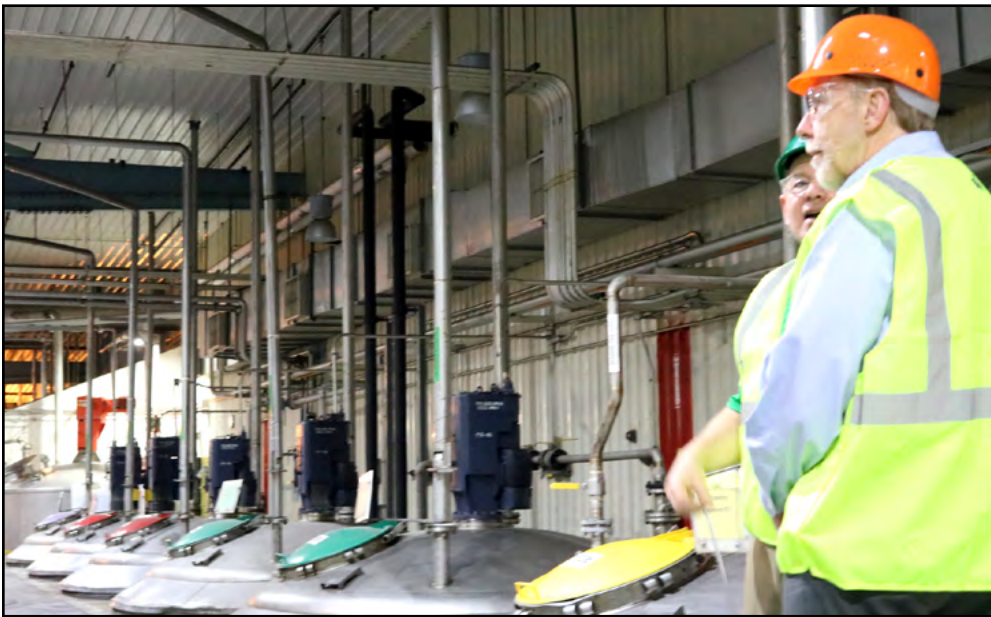


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Old tanks

U.S. Rep. Dave Loebsack and Dale Heidbreder, a member of Scotts’ leadership team, talk about storage tanks that were used back when the facility was a Breck hair product manufacturer. Loebsack was in the area touring Scotts and Griffin Wheel in Keokuk.

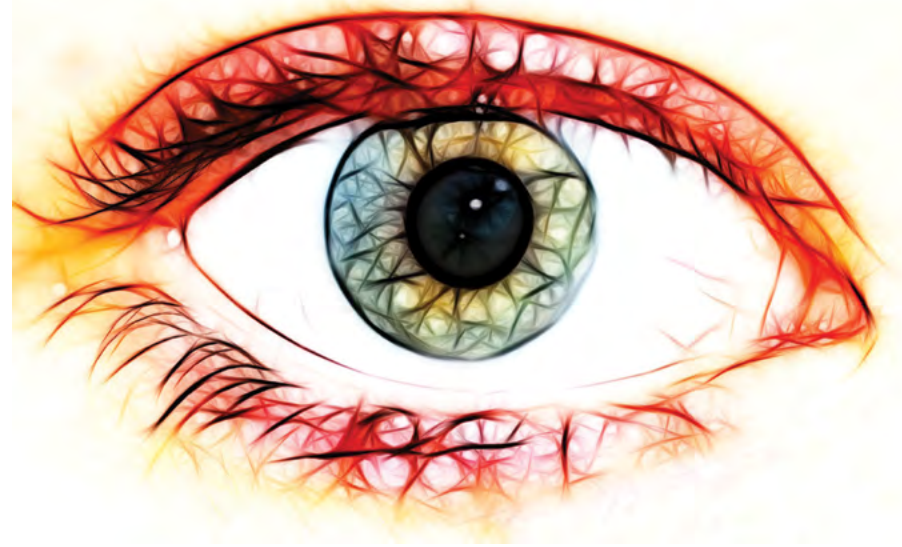
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