



Pen City Current

Thursday, Jan. 10, 2018 | 14 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 22

FM group drops Main Street designation

Fort Madison Main Street reverts back to Riverfront Business District

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison has once again dropped its Main Street Iowa designation. According to Tim Gobble, executive director of Fort Madison Partners, the Main Street board decided



GOBBLE

in December that Riverfront Business District, doing business as Fort Madison Main Street, would be dropping the d.b.a. and reverting back to the Riverfront Business District.

Denicia Wright, who took over as director of the Main Street program in July, resigned from the position in December when the group made the decision. Gobble said it was important for the district and the community as a whole to know that efforts focusing on downtown Fort Madison will continue seamlessly and successful projects the Main Street board was involved

in will continue as well. "It's unfortunate that we are leaving the connection with Main Street Iowa, but then again, the entity is not dead. We are going to be moving forward, we're still going to be looking at doing projects and looking at beautification, revitalization, recruitment, and all that kind of stuff. We just won't have that Main Street Iowa attachment," Gobble said. Stephanie Knoch, who served as president of Main Street before dropping the designation, said the reality was that the Fort Madison Main Street program wasn't

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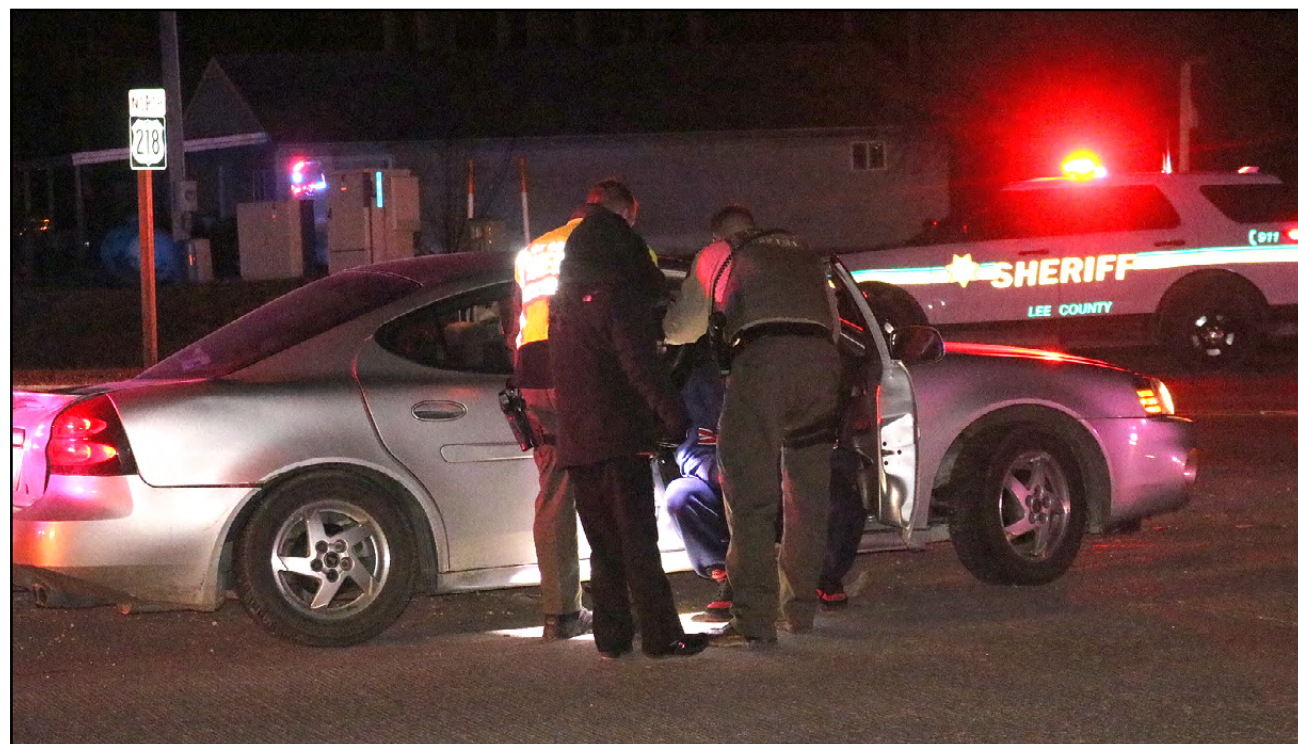


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Wednesday night crash

Deputies with the Lee County Sheriff's Department check on a passenger in a vehicle that was involved in a two-car collision on Hwy. 218 at the 255th Street intersection near Charleston. At least one passenger was transported by ambulance for injuries sustained in the accident.

County officials hear first round of budget requests

Crime fighters and roads combine for almost \$13M

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Lee County Department heads continue to throw out their first pitches for 2020 fiscal year budget requests this week. All the budgets presented were first-run preliminary budgets and are susceptible to cuts based on final revenue numbers for the county. Supervisors typically take all the budgets under advisement, balance them against projected revenues, and then ask department heads to refine budgets based on those projections. Highlights of the 2020 fiscal year budget, which goes into effect, July 1, 2019, include adding a sheriff's deputy to replace one who's been assigned for three-quarters of the year to Central Lee school district as a resource/DARE officer; increasing the salaries in the County Attorney's office to accommodate four full-time attorneys instead of two full-time and two-part time, and beefing up staff in the secondary roads/engineering department. The largest budget, in terms of expenses for the year, would belong to the Secondary Roads which is projecting expenses at \$8.48 million for 2020, an increase

See **BUDGETS**, page 6

Loebsack votes to partially reopen services

WASHINGTON D.C. - Congressman Dave Loebsack today voted to start reopening the government with his vote in favor of the Financial Services Appropriations Bill. This legislation will fund the Department of Treasury and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to ensure the 1.1 million hardworking Iowans who are issued a tax refund will be processed in a timely manner. This bill is virtually identical to the bill that passed the Senate last

year by a vote of 92-6. It now heads back to the Senate for its consideration. "We should not be in the position in the first place. There have been multiple bipartisan bills passed by both the House and Senate to reopen the government and passing this Financial Services Appropriations Bill is

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Local News/Obituaries



Courtesy photo

HTC Homecoming Court

The 2019 HTC Homecoming court from back row left to right are: Sam Avery, Adam Rauenbuehler, Kyle Bredemeyer, Carson Schroeder, and Brant Holtkamp, Connor Holvoet. From row from left to right are queen candidates: Hannah Torgler, Elyse Pothitakis, Emily Box, Eryn Anderson, Taylor Boeding, and Katie Scoville.

OBITUARIES

DANIEL J. HUNDT

Daniel J. Hundt, 61 of Ft. Madison passed away on Tuesday, January 1, 2019 at his brother's home.

He was born on October 23, 1957 in Ft. Madison to Jack and Delores Flach Hundt. On June 15, 1991 he married Debbie Abner. Dan enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. He served in the US Air Force.



HUNT

Survivors include his wife, Debbie Hundt of Cookville, TN; one daughter, Kendra Hundt of Henderson, TN; one step daughter, Lana Reagan of Rickman, TN; one grandson, Cade Reagan; two sisters, Pam (Sean) O'Donnell of Kansas City, MO and Julie (Vince Dye) Noll of Kearney, MO; two brothers, John (Ellen) Hundt of Niota, IL and Ron (Kim) Hundt of West Point; several nieces and nephews and a sister in law, Leasa Hundt of St. Charles, MO. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Mark.



Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A graveside service will be held at 11 AM on Thursday, January 3, 2019 at Soldiers Circle, Oakland Cemetery with military rites conducted by the Ft. Madison Veterans Honor Guard.

A memorial has been established for the American Cancer Society and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

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DuPont employees honored for service

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - In appreciation of their long commitment, the following employees at the DuPont Company were recognized in the 4th Quarter of 2018 for their service milestones.

Kelley Joe Clark, Jerry Merschman, and Joe Puga were honored for 40 years of service and Brett Workman was honored for 15 years of service.



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From the Front/Local News

Programs, incentives still part of business district plans

DOWNTOWN - Continued from Page 1

living up to the budget requirements that are in place under Main Street guidelines. She said Main Street officials came down in November and talked with the board about its progress.

“They said, ‘Hey, to survive, this is what you have to do and is your board willing to step up to the line. Our board wasn’t ready to put that effort into Main Street guidelines with the little benefit we were getting from Main Street,” Knoch said.

Gobble said Fort Madison has not received any grants, they were awarded grants but the money never came down. He said \$4.8 million in local investment has been made in downtown businesses and none of that was tied to Main Street funding. He said there are two grants available to Main Street Iowa communities and the downtown properties never received any grant money.

He said Community Development Block Grants, upper story redevelopment, and other incentives are still on the table for current and prospective business owners in downtown.

Knoch said Main Street was willing to work with the board, but the board had to be willing on our end to do that as

well, and the board decided to move in a different direction.

“We have business owners on the board, they didn’t have time to put that commitment in. It was going to require a few extra meetings and they didn’t want to not show up and be a part of that, so we went in this direction,” she said.

The board will still have the same set up, but there just won’t be a single coordinator at this point. Gobble said it’s not out of the question that a director will be looked at. Day-to-day assistance will come from Partners staff.

Funding for the business district will come from the same sources.

“Even though the name is changing, the structure and the idea behind that name is not,” Gobble said.

Knoch said a meeting is being planned in the very near future among the business community to come together and help determine what the district will look like and what the goals will be.

She said information on that meeting will be coming very soon.

Fort Madison was reinstated as a Main Street Iowa community in the summer of 2009.



Courtesy photo

Iowa Fertilizer Company employees collected and organized winter coats and snow pants before donating the items to Richardson and Lincoln Elementary Schools in Fort Madison

Iowa Fertilizer Co., gathers winter gear for area students

PCC STAFF

WEVER – Earlier this week, Iowa Fertilizer Company and its employees donated winter coats and other winter clothing items to students attending Richardson Elementary School and Lincoln Elementary School in Fort Madison.

Through employee donations and the company’s matching contribution, a wide range of coats and snow pants were purchased or donated to the two schools to help students stay safe and active in the winter months.

“Every year, Iowa Fertilizer Company and our employees look for new ways to invest in the southeast Iowa community and meet some of the ongoing needs of our neighbors,” said Darrell Allman, Iowa Fertilizer Company’s Managing Director. “Our team is pleased to donate winter coats to Richardson Elementary School and Lincoln Elementary School in Fort Madison. We hope the students enjoy the coats and are able to continue participating in all the outdoor activities they can even in the cold winter months.”

Over the past several weeks, Iowa Fertilizer Company employees donated coats and other clothing items or provided direct financial contributions. The company matched those donations dollar-for-dollar.

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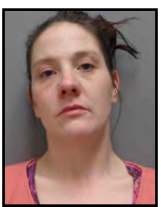


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FM woman nabbed on meth charge

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Fort Madison, Iowa woman on a felony drug charge.



BOE

Kristina Nicole Boe, 32, of Fort Madison, Iowa was arrested on Jan. 2nd, 2018 on a felony drug charge. Boe is charged with delivery of more than 5 grams of methamphetamine, a class B felony. If convicted, Boe faces up to 25 years in a state correctional facility.

The arrest of Boe stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that she was involved in the distribution of illegal drugs in the Lee County area.



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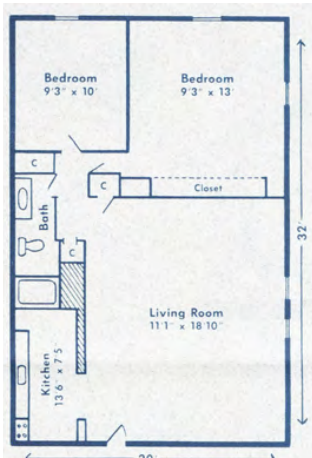
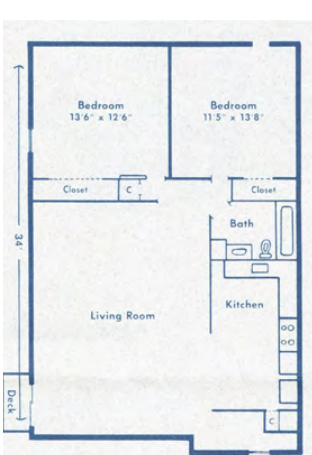
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Sports/Weather

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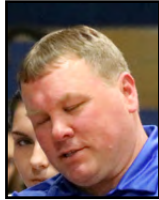
BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Senior Emily Box was held scoreless for three and a half quarters Tuesday night, but the Holy Trinity girls basketball team rallied for a 29-26 win over visiting Danville in Southeast Iowa Super-conference action.

Danville led the wild and physical game the entire way until Box got an inlet pass from Ashlynn Haas on the left side of the offense and forced up a jumper under the basket and was hacked in the act by the Bears' Ashley Pfadenhauer. The two battled all night for inside position in the lane. It was Box's first points of the game with 2:23 remaining. She converted the free-throw and HTC had its first lead 25-23, in a low-scoring affair.

Danville would call a timeout with 1:55 left in the game, but couldn't get a shot off out of the time out. With HTC in a 3/4 court press, Box stole a pass at midcourt and fed Haas on the left side who missed from about 15 feet and, after a scrum for the ball that ended up tied up, HTC Head Coach Tony Johnson called a time out, with HTC in possession.

The Crusaders set up the half-court offense after getting the ball in and swung the offense to the left where Boeding found Box inside again. Box pulled up and hit a five-foot floater in the lane for a 27-23 lead. Johnson



JOHNSON

son then used another full timeout to set up a press and call a defense. Danville would commit a turnover and Boeding would run the other way and get fouled on a missed layup attempt, but would convert both free throws for a 29-23 lead.

Danville would get the ball in and get through the press down the right side of the court where Isabella Smith hit a 22-footer from the right wing to pull Danville within three 26-29 with just :27 seconds left in the game.

With Holy Trinity inbounding, Boeding took the inbound pass and fed the ball ahead just out of the reach of Eryn Anderson and Danville picked up the turnover and headed the other direction where Danville's Bailey Morris missed on a 3-ball from the right side.

On Holy Trinity's next possession, Claire Pothitakis got loose behind the Bears' press and was fouled heading to the basket. She missed the front end of the one and one with just six seconds remaining. Danville fed the ball up to Alyssa Pfadenhauer who pulled up for an open look at a three-pointer, but Box adjusted quickly to the outlet pass and blocked the shot with no time on the clock, her third block of the night.

"I'll be honest, they played a tight 2-3. If they even thought she was going to get the ball, they had three girls on her," Johnson said of Box's night.

"It was just one of those games that you just have to tell people the opposite of what you want to do," he said. "It's just one of those nights, it was a back-to-back night and Danville - it's always a great game with them. They've always been aggressive and play great defense. The Pfadenhauer girl is very physical out on the end and it was a grinder."

Johnson said he got on the girls throughout the night about boxing out. He said Box was having trouble getting to her spots inside and it was clear that the

girls were frustrated.

Boeding opened the game with a 3-ball and finished with 11 points to lead Holy Trinity. The senior has hit at least three 3-pointers in the past three games and has 14 in that span.

The two teams chugged along in the physical contest finding scoring tough. Danville held an 18-11 first half lead capped by a long baseline jumper from the Bears' Smith as time expired. The two teams combined for four turnovers in the final two minutes with no one getting a shot until the buzzer beater. On the play, the ball changed possession several times and scooted between players legs with girls diving all over the floor trying to get possession. Danville finally scooped it up and pitched it over to Smith who just missed a three pointer on the play.

Holy Trinity got a 3-pointer from Haas to open the scoring in the third and then went on a 9-3 run in the period where the only points were scored on 3-balls, two from Haas, one from Boeding and one from Smith at the other end. The Crusaders closed the gap to 20-22 at the end of the period.

Haas finished with nine points on the night to go with Boeding's 11. Box finished with five points, all in the final 2:23, and Eryn Anderson scored four to round out the scoring.

The Crusaders (8-5) are off until Saturday when they play host to cross-town rival Fort Madison in a four-game Saturday set with both girls/boys junior varsity playing before the girls/boys varsity double header. It's also cake auction night and cakes will be auctioned starting at halftime of the girls varsity contest.

Danville snaps HTC's 3-game streak

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Crusaders struggled to get anything going on the perimeter Tuesday against Danville in a 65-46 loss that snapped a three-game winning streak that started before the holiday.

In Southeast Iowa Superconference boys basketball action, the Bears' physical style of play kept the Crusader's with few shots off the perimeter and turned the game inside to junior Matt Hellige who scored in double figures again with 19.

Head Coach John Hellige said it was the Crusaders game plan to get some more open looks for junior Reed Fehseke outside, but the Bears were able to push through screens being set at the top of the freethrow line forcing HTC to play their offense in the paint.

"There were keyed in on Reed and it just didn't seem we could get him open running off any screens," Hellige said. "We would have liked to see him get some more shots."

Fehseke is averaging close to 11 points per outing, was held to just seven on the night including two three-pointers.

The Crusaders trailed from the opening tip as Danville hit four 3-balls, three from senior Max Wilcox, before scoring anything inside the arc. HTC got a bucket from Adam Rauenbuehler and a three from Fehseke in the run, but the Bears opened up a quick 12-5 lead and would stretch it to 21-11 at the end of one. Wilcox put up 11 of the Bears first quarter points.

Holy Trinity would start the second quarter with a bucket by Vasin Thurman off a nifty inlet pass from junior Quentin Schneider. Then junior Blake Crabtree would take advantage of four personal fouls on the Bears and connect on three free throws. The Crusaders would also get buckets from Hellige underneath and a 12-foot jumper from senior Brant Holtkamp to cut the lead to five at 24-19.

Danville wouldn't convert on the next possession and Hellige scored on a one hander off the

dribble in the paint to bring the Crusaders within three 24-21, but that would be as close as they would get on the night. Danville seniors Taran Nelson and Reid Yaley both hit 3-balls to push the lead back to eight at 30-22. The Bears' Elijah Svoboda who score to end the first half at 33-24.

Hellige would score all the Crusaders third quarter points, but Danville would push the lead to 12 at 44-32 with Taylor Kennsett scoring six from the post in the lane.

The closest HTC would get in the fourth quarter would be 12 at 39-51 with Hellige scoring again inside with the Bears guarding heavy on the arc to keep any runs at bay.

John Hellige said the Bears got good performances from their bench with 10 players getting in on the scoring.

"They were super hot from the field tonight," Hellige said. "I didn't anticipate some of those roll players stepping up and hitting those shots. Wilcox was real hot in the first half so we kind of changed things up in the second half to key on him."






He said the physical play may have gotten into the Crusaders heads.

"There was a lot of contact early that caused us to miss shots we normally make, and that shook our confidence a bit, but I thought we had some good momentum in the second half, we just ran out of gas in the fourth quarter."

Matt Hellige led all scorers with 19 points to go with Fehseke's seven. Holtkamp had six points and Schneider added four. Crabtree and Kyle Brede-meyer each finished with three points, while Thurman and Rauenbuehler both had two. Schneider led the Crusaders in rebounds with six on the night. Wilcox led Danville with 16 points and Bryce Carr had 12.

The Crusaders fall to 3-9 on the year and Danville improves to 6-6 on the season and play Saturday against cross-town Fort Madison as part of four-game junior varsity/varsity double header. The Holy Trinity annual cake auction will also take place on Saturday with the first cakes being auctioned off during halftime of the girls varsity game.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| THU 10 Jan |  Sunny High- 23.7° F Low - 20.0° F |
| FRI 11 Jan |  Light Snow High- 30.5° F Low - 28.6° F |
| SAT 12 Jan |  Sunny High- 42.6° F Low - 27.5° F |
| SUN 13 Jan |  Sunny High- 41.3° F Low - 29.3° F |
| MON 14 Jan |  Sunny High- 42.6° F Low - 26.0° F |

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From the Front

First round of county budget talks almost complete

BUDGETS - Continued from Page 1

of \$1.15 million or 16% from the re-estimated budget numbers of 2019. The department is expected to bring in \$7.23 million in revenues, which is a projected increase of about \$800,000.

County Engineer Ben Hull said the department is currently advertising to replace the assistant engineer position, which he held before being promoted to county engineer after the retirement of Ernie Steffensmeier in December.

He said he is still trying to fill another position on the Engineering staff and wanted to increase salaries of those employees.

"I really want to emphasize the importance of those positions. These are the guys that work with contractors from sun up to sunset and we have about \$4 million in contract work scheduled this year. I've done some wage research on these guys and their positions with comparable counties in the state and I found and I believe that it would warrant a 10% wage increase."



BRADEN

In the Lee County Attorney's office, County Attorney Ross Braden and 1st Assistant Jonathan Stensvaag's salaries will remain the same as the previous year, but salaries of the two new full-time assistant attorneys will increase from a combined \$164,000 in 2019 to \$180,000 in 2020. Kim Auge came on as a full-time assistant attorney at the beginning of the year and Amy Beavers, the former Des Moines County Attorney, has been approved to start in March, both with \$90,000 salaries.

Braden's budget will exceed the \$1 million mark for the first time, showing a \$100,000 increase in expenses from 2019 re-estimated budget figures. Revenues for the county attorney's office spurred by a program showing success in collecting county fines, is also increasing with a projected \$132,000 vs. \$93,500 in 2019.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber turned in a budget with \$4.23 million in expenses and \$712,000 in revenues. Included in that is a Lee County Jail budget of \$1.38 million representing a \$140,000 increase over 2019 numbers. However, revenue figures from care of prisoners is projected to double from \$175,000 in 2019 to \$350,000 due to Lee County housing inmates from other counties.

Weber said he wanted to replace Deputy Tom Olberman, who was assigned to the Central Lee School district as a resource/DARE officer. The school district is paying a portion of the salary reflective of the school year, with the county picking up the rest of the tab.

"There's a couple things we'd like to do, First on our list would be to backfill the 18th deputy knowing that



WEBER

“
I really want to emphasize the importance of those positions. These are the guys that work with contractors from sun up to sunset and we have about \$4 million in contract work scheduled this year.”

-Ben Hull,
Lee County Engineer

we sent one out as a school resource officer. Keep in mind the revenue they paid the first year was \$40,000 and the second year will be \$45,000 and third year will be \$50,000, so they're picking up the majority of the salary for that deputy."

The agreement is a 3-year deal with the school district.

Other county departments with hefty budgets include the Lee County Health Department which is projecting expenditures of \$3.96 million vs. \$3.90 million in 2019. However, the LCHD is a revenue heavy department showing budgeted revenues of \$3.36 million and asked for the county to help with the balance of \$600,000.

LCHD director Michele Ross said participation from the county would be just 15% of her budget with 74% coming from 3rd party payors and state and federal grants.

One combined budget represents mental health expenditures along with court administration and county housing initiatives was projected with expenditures of \$2.1 million. No revenues were projected because of a state law that was passed that mandates a spend down of reserve funds by July 1, 2021. Lee County is part of Southeast Iowa Link, an eight-county consortium set up by the state to handle mental health programs on a regional basis. That group has about \$1 million to spend down for mental health and developmental disabilities programming by the targeted date.

County officials are concerned that the state could change directions after the spend down and then leave the fund balances at dangerously low levels.

The Lee County Conservation Department submitted expenses at \$1.22 million compared to \$1.17 re-estimated numbers for 2019. Revenues are expected to hold steady at \$133,000 vs \$132,000 re-estimated numbers.

The Lee County Auditor's office turned in a budget with \$875,000 in expenses vs. \$802,000 in 2019. Audi-



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tor Denise Fraise said she would like to have her staff at 40 hours a week instead of the 35 currently allowed. The Lee County Recorder and Treasurer's office also asked that staff be allowed to go to 40 hours as are other county department staffs. The Auditor also oversees county maintenance and Fraise asked to have a

\$2,500 stipend recently recommended by the County Compensation Board to go to the maintenance director to handle some of the duties Fraise was taking on.

The Building Repairs and Maintenance budget includes \$413,000 in repairs and upkeep for 2020, but that figure does not include the cost of refurbishing the North Lee County Courthouse including tuck pointing and other repairs. Those figures will be included in the final budget submission.

Lee County Treasurer Chris Spann submitted a budget with \$772,000 in expenses and \$440,000 in revenues. The expenses reflect a \$58,000 increase, mostly attributable to employees going from 35 to 40 hours.

The County Recorder, Nancy Booten, turned in a budget with \$560,000 in expenses compared to \$473,000 in re-estimated budget figures from 2019. Most of that increase is a \$50,000 record preservation upgrade that Booten voluntarily pulled from her budget last year. It also includes the hourly wage increases from 35 to 40 hours per week.

The Board of Supervisors' budget shows expenditures of \$1.56 million compared to \$1.57 million in 2019. The preliminary budget does still include a \$210,000 contribution to Lee County Economic Development group. Revenues on that budget drop from \$93,200 to \$89,900 mostly due to a projected \$3,000 reimbursement loss from the Southeast Iowa Area Crime Commission.

Many federal employees won't get paid Friday

SHUTDOWN - Continued from Page 1

another step in the right direction," Loeb sack said.

"It is time for Republicans and the President to stop their political games and ensure the 1.1 million Iowans who are expecting a refund will get them in a timely fashion. It is important that this legislation be passed immediately to reopen these important agencies, so folks can get back to work and guarantee the American people will not face delays getting their tax refund."

This coming Friday, January 11th, will mark the first missed paycheck for many of the federal employees who are part of the shutdown.

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