

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Wednesday, August 31, 2022 | 7 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 150



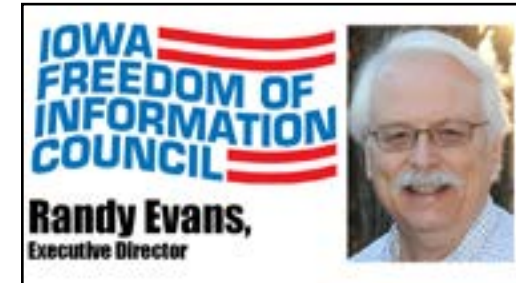
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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

McKenna Cashman (10) pushes a ball over a couple Keokuk defenders Tuesday night at the Hound Dome. The Bloodhounds lost to the Chiefs 1-3 with a win in the second set.

OPINION



Hypocrisy on full display in opposition to debt relief

President Joe Biden's decision to cancel up to \$10,000 in federal student loans for many borrowers is fair game for vigorous debate — and disagreement.

Americans have been debating and disagreeing for 246 years. What jumps out in this latest dispute is how some politicians are blind to the inconsistencies in their arguments against this economic shot in the arm when, through the years, they have supported other government incentives to various groups.

To hear the comments of Iowans in Washington, you might think they have long been strong advocates for government butting out of the personal financial decisions Americans make. But you would be wrong.

Representative Ashley Hinson of Marion said waiving repayment of \$10,000 of federal student loans would be a “handout to the wealthy and a total slap in the face” of people who did not go to college or who already repaid their loans.

Senator Joni Ernst of Red Oak asked why Iowans who go straight from high school into the workforce or pay for their own education should foot the bill for other people having \$10,000 of their student loans forgiven. She said Biden is “passing the buck to hardworking Americans.”

One flaw in such thinking is that the beneficiaries will be ordinary Iowans who are neither wealthy nor elites. They will be nurses, teachers, bookkeepers, cops, farmers and store managers who graduated from Iowa colleges and universities and then went out and found jobs — in some cases, jobs employers have struggled to fill.

Yes, these graduates will personally benefit from a smaller debt. The typical Iowa college loan borrower owes about \$30,000.

See **EVANS**, page 3

Election absentee request now open

GENERAL ELECTION: Ballots will be mailed out starting Oct. 19

PCC Staff

LEE COUNTY - Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise announces that the Lee County Auditor's Office is now accepting absentee ballot requests for the November 8, 2022 General Election.

Request forms can be obtained on the County website- www.leecounty.org – under the heading “I want to ... Get... Absentee Ballot” Click on “Absentee Ballot Request Form” to download a request form. You must include the date the request is signed. Requests should be delivered or mailed to the Lee County Auditor, 933 Avenue H Fort Madison IA 52627.

Absentee ballots will be available on Wednesday,

October 19, 2022. This is the first day that absentee ballots may be mailed to voters. It is also the first day to vote absentee in person at the County Auditor's Office, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or the Courthouse in Keokuk, from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eligible voters may vote in person until November 7th at 4:30 p.m. These offices will also be open on Saturday, November 5th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for absentee voting.

All absentee ballots must be received by the County Auditor by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 8th. Postmarks or bar codes printed on ballot envelopes will

See **VOTE**, page 6

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

FM library launches Hispanic Heritage month in Sept.

BY SARAH CLENDINENG
FM LIBRARY DIRECTOR

FORT MADISON - National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated each year from Sep. 15 to Oct. 15. This year, the theme is “Unidos: Inclusivity

for a Stronger Nation.” We want to help you honor diverse voices, unique perspectives, and rich cultural traditions through activities and book recommendations. The library has a new reading challenge in Beanstack from August 22-September 30. Log

your reading and complete activities to earn badges throughout the challenge. Activities include reading books by Hispanic authors, learning about Hispanic leaders and exploring His-

See **BOOKS**, page 6

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WEATHER

WED 31 Aug.....Sunny and warm, 85° F/ 61° F
THU 01 Sep.....Sunny and warm, 87° F/ 64° F
FRI 02 Sep.....Mostly sunny and warm, 87° F/ 65° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 08/29.....4 16 17 22 43, Star Ball: 5 All Star Bonus: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE 08/29.....2 6 24 32 39, Lucky Ball: 11
PICK 3 08/29 MIDDAY.....998
PICK 3 08/29 EVENING.....160
PICK 4 08/29 MIDDAY.....7587
PICK 4 08/29 EVENING.....5538
POWERBALL 08/29.....13 36 43 61 69, Powerball: 18 Power Play: 3

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

MARJORIE L. SMITH

Marjorie L. Smith, 91, of Galesburg, IL and formerly of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 26, 2022 at ProMedica Nursing & Rehabilitation in Galesburg, IL. She was born on October 5, 1930 in Vinita,



SMITH

OK to William Mahlon & Edith Nancy Herman Warren. She married Wilber Dean Smith on August 28, 1952 in Bentonville, AR. She worked for the Fort Madison HyVee Food Store and was a homemaker most of her life.

Marjorie is survived by: 1-son: Mahlon (Marty) Smith of Galesburg, IL; 1-grandson: Derek (Penny) Smith of Victoria, IL; 1-step grandson: Anthony (Staci) Ward of Knoxville, IL; 7-great grandchildren and 2-great great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by: her parents, husband, 1-granddaughter: Karla Benson and 11-siblings.

A graveside service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 31, 2022 at Soldiers' Circle in Oakland Cemetery with Rev. Les Featheringill officiating. Online condolences to the Smith family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City 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. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

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OBITUARIES

JAMES E. BROCKMAN

James Edward Brockman, 86, Fort Madison, Iowa died Saturday, August 27, 2022 at the Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House, West Burlington, Iowa. He was born February 14, 1936 at Fort Madison, Iowa, a son of Edward and Rose (Freitag) Brockman.



BROCKMAN

Jim was a lifelong resident of the Fort Madison area. He was a veteran of the United States Army, serving during the Korean War. He worked 43 years at Burrows Paper Company, retiring as a press operator in 2000. He was of the Catholic Faith and a member of the Moose Lodge. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, camping, and playing pool and was considered a pool shark. His humor and jokes will be missed by many who had known him.

He is survived by his special friend of more than 40 years, Mary Barnett of Fort Madison; four sons: Dale (Dee) Brockman of Palmview, Texas; Darrell (Sandy) Brockman of Burlington, Iowa; Curtis Brockman, and Timothy Brockman, both of Fort Madison; four grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, eight great great grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and Mary's daughter Barbara Janssen and granddaughter Heather. He was preceded in death by his parents, one sister Betty Kuhljuergen, and Mary's daughter Cindy Funk.



Visitation will be 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Monday, August 29, 2022 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. His Funeral Service will be at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, August 30, 2022 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison, with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. Burial with military rites will be at Soldiers Circle, Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison. A memorial has been established, contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to server the Brockman Family, and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

DONALD A. EASON

Donald Allen Eason, 54, of Hamilton, Illinois, passed away at 10:13 p.m. Friday, August 26, 2022, at the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Fort Madison, Iowa.

Mr. Eason was born February 21, 1968, in Harvey, Illinois, the son of Ronald and Sandra (Vaderdoncer) Eason.

Survivors include two brothers: Allen and Randy Eason and two sisters: Amy Gronewold and Jolee Buckner.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Donald was raised and educated in the Monee, Illinois, area. He was a free spirited man who lived and worked many places throughout his life.

No services are planned. Cremation has been entrusted to Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home of Nauvoo.

To leave a tribute for the family, please visit Donald's obituary at sbbfuneralhome.com.



Lunch Specials
Aug 29 - Sept 2
11am - 1pm

Monday, August 29

Smoked Ham, Cheese Potatoes, Baked Beans

Tuesday, August 30

Tater Tot Casserole, Green Beans

Wednesday, August 31

Sloppy Does, Potato Salad, Blueberry Fluff

Thursday, September 1

Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, September 2

Grilling on the Sidewalk

Obituaries / From the Front

PPP, ag subsidies were unforgivable

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

But the rest of us without college debt will benefit, too. The money borrowers would have used for interest and principal on their loans will be used, instead, to buy goods and services at retailers and restaurants — all things that will create more jobs and more demand for the products and services that keep Iowa's economy ticking.

The Biden directive applies to student borrowers who earn less than \$125,000 per year or couples whose annual income is not more than \$250,000. Students from low-income families would be eligible to have an additional \$10,000 forgiven.

Those six-figure income ceilings have been criticized, and rightfully so, as too high — especially when the average household income in Iowa is about \$60,000. "It's bad policy, as well as bad politics," national Democratic strategist Paul Begala said on CNN.

Here's the inescapable reality about the reaction: Republican critics who think debt cancellation or six-figure income ceilings are unfair have voiced nary a peep of opposition in the past when there are proposals that benefit certain groups but not others.

Like it or not, government has long favored some of us with special programs and policies, while the rest of us have to fend for ourselves. In the last half of the 1800s, the government encouraged settlers to move West by giving them up

to 160 acres if they lived on the land and farmed it — even though millions of other people wanted land but were left out of the dirt-cheap deal.

During the Great Depression, about 3 million unemployed men were hired to work in the Civilian Conservation Corps — although there were not nearly enough jobs to satisfy the demand.

More recently, two federal government programs have been immensely popular with large groups of Iowans: the federal farm assistance programs and the \$800 billion Paycheck Protection Program.

The government-backed PPP loans went to many employers who agreed to keep employees on the payroll in the early months of the Covid outbreak and use the loan proceeds for business expenses. The loans did not have to be repaid if businesses used the money as promised.

Of course, countless small businesses were left out of the Paycheck Protection Program. But those owners' taxes were used to help cover the cost of the loans that far bigger, and much wealthier, businesses did not have to repay.

Forgiving the PPP loans was carried out, in the current student-loan-forgiveness terminology, on the backs of hardworking small-business owners.

The federal government's farm programs have been a lucrative source of revenue for farmers for the past quarter

century. Look at the federal crop insurance program. Hardworking taxpayers with no ag holdings are having their taxes pay for nearly half of the premiums, with farmers taking care of the other half.

The cost of this crop insurance subsidy is not pocket change. The Congressional Budget Office says it will be \$9.5 billion this year.

Supporters are quick to remind us crop insurance is important to everyone, because we are talking about food. Most of the insurance covers just three crops, corn, soybeans and wheat. Most of the fruits and vegetables we eat are not covered by the federal insurance.

But crop insurance is far broader than buying just-in-case protection against an unexpected weather calamity. Seventy percent of the crop insurance policies taxpayers subsidize actually provides guaranteed revenue from each acre covered by the policy. If market prices at harvest time are below that target, the policy makes up the difference. If market prices at harvest time are higher than the target, the farmer gets the higher price.

No other merchant in Iowa has the luxury of having the taxpayers cover half the cost of a guaranteed revenue policy like crop insurance — a guarantee that effectively transfers the risk of crop prices onto the backs of working Americans.

OBITUARIES

CLIFFORD E. CLARK

Clifford E. Clark, 77, of Keokuk, passed away on Friday, August 26, 2022, at his home in Keokuk.

Clifford was born on September 19, 1944, in Montrose, Iowa, the son of James A. and Clara (Crowson) Clark. On January 21, 1985, he was united in marriage to Peggy Redinbo in Keokuk, Iowa. She survives.



CLARK

Clifford was a member of God's Way Christian Center and was employed at Goodyear in Keokuk for twenty-seven years, retiring in 2004. He enjoyed the great outdoors, including hunting, fishing and mushroom hunting. He was a very social person and could often be found having a few cold beers with friends or watching crime shows or the Price is Right. He was known for being helpful and dependable and would do anything for anyone.

Clifford is survived by his wife Peggy of Keokuk; his son Brandon (Jessie) Clark of Keokuk; his daughter Jessi Clark of Keokuk; five grandsons: Kendall (Tayla Scott), Oryan, Jaxon and Jalen Clark and Dravin Sutton; honorary grandson Dom Davis; two great-grandsons: Khyson and Krew Clark; two sisters: Wanda Cannon and Charlotte Bunton; two brothers: Jim (Sharon Sangster) and Elmer Clark; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Clifford is preceded in death by his parents and three siblings: Maxine Sims, Fern Coby and Clyde Clark.

Funeral services will be held 10:30 am on Thursday, September 1, 2022, at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk, with burial to follow at Keokuk National Cemetery. The funeral will be live-streamed at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com. Visitation will be held at the funeral home on Wednesday from 2 to 7 pm, with family meeting friends from 5 to 7 pm.

Memorials may be directed to the family in care of Peggy Clark.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com.

DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.

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Happy LABOR Day

Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Monday & Tuesday, September 5 & 6 due to the Labor Day holiday

Breaking news will continue to be published to our website www.PenCityCurrent.com and through our social media channels as it happens.

The e-Edition will resume publication on Wednesday, September 7.

Please celebrate safely.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Minutes for the Lee County Conservation Board Meeting
July 12, 2022
Lee County Conservation Center
2652 Hwy61
Montrose, IA 52639**

1. Called to Order at 4:00 p.m.
Roll Call: Altonx Pollpeterx Moore Patrickx VanPeltx
Staff Present: Huebner, Veihl, Oldfield, Steele, Risser, Davis, Pawling, Jacobs Supervisor:

Holmes
2. Approve Agenda Motion by VanPelt to approve the agenda
2nd: Alton Motion Carried
3. Approval of Minutes from June 14 and 17, 2022
Incorrect date and adjournment time on June 17 minutes
Motion by Patrick to approve the June 14 and 17 minutes with corrections
2nd: Alton Motion Carried
4. Public Input
None

5. Presentation from summer extern, Tonya Brooks
Brooks, a third grade teacher in the Keokuk Public School System for 33 years with a master's degree in curriculum instruction, presented what she has been working on during her 6 week externship through Climax Molybdenum. The goal of this program is to create lasting partnerships with teachers and our organizations and help teachers make connections to real jobs in the classroom for kids. Brook's main project was inputting all of the trails into the AllTrails App. She has completed 25 trails in total, and they are awaiting approval from the app administrators. The Board thanked Brooks for all of her work.

6. Approval of the Bills
Van Pelt asked about the tablecloths purchased from Totally Promotional. Huebner responded that 2 - 8ft tablecloths, 1 overlay, and 1 banner with the new LCC logo were purchased for various educational and promotional events LCC participates in throughout the year.
Pollpeter asked about the status of the new skid steer. Huebner responded that the delivered date is now predicted to be in March 2023.
Motion by Alton to approve the bills
2nd: VanPelt Motion Carried
7. Approval of the Financial Report
Huebner stated that LCC ended the Fiscal Year using 88% of what was budgeted, and

earning nearly 20% more in revenue than projected. Pollpeter stated that campground improvements were paying off.
Motion by VanPelt to approve the financial report
2nd: Patrick Motion Carried
8. Take Possible Action to Approve Admin & Outreach Coordinator Step Increase
Huebner recommended that Veihl receive her 1 year step increase and stated she was an asset to the team. Pollpeter thanked Veihl for her dedication to the LCCB.
Motion by Alton to approve the Admin & Outreach Coordinator step increase
2nd: VanPelt Motion Carried
9. Review and Discuss

Updated Project Timeline
Huebner went over the updated 6 month project timeline that had been created the prior year at a strategic planning meeting. A new 5 year plan will be created at a Board and staff strategic planning meeting in September.
10. Staff and Director Reports
Steele gave his education report highlighting 814 contacts made through summer camps and public programs in June.
Oldfield gave his parks reports highlighting 549 camping nights, 47 cabin nights, 7 shelter rentals, and 2,600 beach admissions in June.
Huebner gave her director report highlighting better customer service with rentals through a cabin welcome packet and updated confirmation email, a new volunteer and foundation brochure, online donations available for the foundation, and a successful youth fishing clinic that morning.
11. Board Member Comments
Alton stated that Denning is looking better and asked about having a volunteer day to pick up rocks and various items from the structure removal.
12. Adjournment
Motion by Patrick to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 p.m. 2nd: Alton Motion Carried
Liza Alton
Lee County Conservation Board Vice President
Caroline Veihl
Lee County Conservation Board Secretary

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Fort Madison, IA Housing Authority (FMHA)

Executive Director (ED)

For more information please go to <http://fortmadison-ia.com/390/Fort-Madison-Housing-Authority>

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Candidates for this position must possess strong leadership qualities, strong communication and collaboration skills, program management experience, and excellent planning and organizational ability. In addition, aptitude with both financial management and community relations is must as the FMHA ED must effectively and efficiently direct operational budgets, improve revenue, develop and implement the FMHA strategic plan as well as enhance relations with the community, internal stakeholders and vendors.

Education or Work Experience Requirements: Bachelor's degree, Associate's Degree and two years experience, or four years of related work experience.

To Apply: The Fort Madison Housing Authority is an equal opportunity employer. Interested candidates must submit a writing sample and have the ability to discuss relevant experience during an interview. To submit resume and relevant writing sample, please email Rebecca Bowker, Chair Fort Madison Board of Commissioners, at Rejobo74@gmail.com.

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PEN CITY CURRENT
It's Black & White and Read all over

From the Front

Deadline to pre-register to vote is Oct. 24

VOTE - Continued from Page 1

no longer make a ballot received after Election Day valid except ballots from participants in the Safe at Home program received by the Secretary of State in time to be transmitted to the County Auditor by noon on the Monday following the election and ballots from uniformed and overseas citizens received by noon on the Monday following the election.

The only people who may return a voted absentee ballot to the County Auditor's Office other than the voter, are someone living in the voter's household, an immediate family member, the special precinct election officials who deliver a ballot to the resident of a health care facility, or a delivery agent if a voter is unable to return a ballot due to blindness or other disability.

The deadline to pre-register to vote in the General Election is Monday, October 24th at 5:00 p.m. If an eligible elector is not already registered to vote, he or she may do so in one of the following ways:

Register to vote by mail: Voter registration forms are available on the Lee County website – www.leecounty.org – under the heading “I want to Register... To Vote” Click on “Register to Vote” to download a voter registration form. The completed form should be mailed to the Lee County Auditor, 933 Avenue H Fort Madison IA.

Register to vote in person at the County Auditor's Office by October 24th at 5:00 p.m. After October 24th, you may register and vote in person until 4:30 p.m. November 7th. You must show proof of identity and proof of residency.

Register to vote online: Voters may go to <https://sos.iowa.gov/> and follow the online voter registration link. An Iowa driver's license or non-operator ID is required for online registration.

Eligible electors may also register to vote at their polling site on Election Day with both proof of identify and proof of residency. This “SAME DAY VOTER REGISTRATION” procedure may slow up the voting experience for voters choosing to wait until Election Day to register and vote at the polling site.

Polls will be open for the General Election on November 8, 2022, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Employers must allow employees two consecutive hours to vote on Election Day if the employee does not already have two consecutive hours off during the time the polls are open.

Calendar full for FM Library

BOOKS - Continued from Page 1

panic foods. Keep an eye on Beanstack for reading challenges all throughout the year, some may have prizes you can earn, in addition to the online badges. Create your account or log-in to an existing account to see challenges at FortMadison.beanstack.org.

Library Programs Return in September

September marks the return of many library programs. Many of our programs take the summer off while we enjoy summer reading activities but now they are back. Thursday Crafternoon leads off the month starting with a brand new month long project on September 1 at 3:30. Previous crafts have included seasonal wreaths, macramé and a solar chandelier. Minecraft will be back on Mondays starting September 12 for all ages from 3:30-5:00 pm. Enjoy creating, or surviving, in your own world, or join other players and explore worlds

together. Hang Teen will be Tuesdays from 3:30-5 starting September 13. This is a chance for anyone ages 12-19 to hang out in the library meeting room, play games, make art and have fun. Finally, we have two activities on Wednesdays. Wednesday morning from 10:30-11:30 is pre-school/toddler story hour beginning September 7. On Wednesday afternoons, when the Fort Madison Schools get out early, we have a variety of activities for school age children starting at 1:30. Depending on the week, we may have a craft, or a snack, or a crafty snack, or just set up a bunch of games in the meeting room for family playtime. Be sure to add these to your calendar. We are all going to have a really fun school year.

Community Calendar

We have begun adding community events to the online library calendar at <https://fortmadison.librarycalendar.com>. Events are added to the calendar as they are submitted by community organizations using the form found here <https://tinyurl.com/547jam3h>. Does your group have an upcoming community event? Let us know by submitting it through the form. Most community events open to the public are eligible for inclusion in the community calendar.

Hispanic Authors at the Library

Ages 0-4
“With Lots of Love” written by Jenny Torres Sanchez and illustrated by André Ceolin (EF

TOR)

“Let Me Fix You a Plate” written and illustrated by Elizabeth Lilly (EF LIL)

Ages 5-10

“Paola Santiago and the River of Tears” by Tehlor Kay Mejia (JF MEJ)

“Chato's Kitchen” by Gary Soto and Susan Guevara (E BKPK SOT)

Ages 11-13
“Falling Short” by Ernesto Cisneros (JF CIS)

“Witchlings” by Claribel A. Ortega (JF ORT)

“Mananaland” by Pam Munoz Ryan (JF RYA)

Ages 14-18

“Wild Tongues Can't Be Tamed: 15 Voices from the Latinx Diaspora” by Saraciea J. Fennell (YA F FEN)

“Partly Cloudy: Stories of Love and Longing” by Gary Soto (YA 811.54 SOT)

“Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: a Memoir” by Margarita Engle (J 811.54 ENG)

Ages 18+
“Trust” by Hernan Diaz (F DIA)

“Daughter of Fortune by Isabel Allende (F ALL)

“One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez (F GAR)

Upcoming Events at the Fort Madison Public Library –

Closed for Labor Day – The library will be closed on Monday, September 5 for the Labor Day holiday.

Pre-School/Toddler Story Hour – Wednesday morning at 10:30 beginning September 7.

Hang Teen – Tuesday, 3:30-5:00 for ages 12-19, beginning September 13.

Minecraft – 3:30-5:00, all ages on Mondays.

Touching the Community with Care

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Do you have time - to help stop crime?

Visit any of these Facebook pages to learn more about what the Neighborhood Watch Program is & how to start your own group or join an existing group!

Join us today to help keep our communities safer!

CAUTION

POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

HOSTED BY COSMIC PIZZA

AGES 5-12 EVENT STARTS AT 5:00PM

MAIN EVENT STARTS AT 6:30PM

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

RODEO PARK, FORT
MADISON, IOWA 52627 AT
THE MAIN PAVILION

SEPTEMBER
24TH 2022



FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT
2x4's FOR HOPE - LEE
COUNTY ON FACEBOOK

AFTER PARTY STARTS AT 9:00PM
FEATURING LIVE MUSIC FROM:

NOVA
GRATA

