PEN CITY CURI

It's Black & White and Read all over

Wednesday, September 13, 2023 | 8 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 149









www.pencitycurrent.com

Fall art festival moves downtown

AVENUE G: Festival shifts from Central Park to downtown Fort Madison on Sept. 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The annual art fair organized by the Fort Madison Area Arts Association is moving out of the park and onto the avenue this year.

Art on the Avenue is Sunday, Sep 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the 800 block of Avenue G, where the FMAAA Art Center is located (next to the Fox The-

The street will be blocked to accommodate 30+ artists and artisans selling fine art, finely crafted items and maker ware of their own composition or design. In addition to Wilson Brothers and OHana's Ice food trucks, the Parthenon will be selling pizza, and Z's Boba Tea will be open for refreshments and

See **FESTIVAL**, page 2



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Alex Grabowksi works on fiber art during last year's Art in the Park that got moved indoors due to potential bad weather. The festival will take place downtown Sunday.

County joins IFA tax program

ASSISTANCE: Iowa Finance Authority helping those with COVID hardships

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

PCC FDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A program currently in front of Iowa homeowners could help with residents behind on their property taxes.

The program, administered through the Iowa Finance GAYLORD Authority, uses America Rescue Plan Act funds to help those financially impacted by COVID to help meet home-related costs such as mortgage assistance, contract rent payments, or property taxes.

The funds are available through 2026 and are issued on a one-time basis.



Lee County Supervisors passed a resolution at Monday's regular meeting to allow the county to accept the payments from the state on behalf of residents who apply for, and qualify for, the assistance.

Lee County Treasurer Becky Gaylord said she has run the program through County Attorney Ross Braden because the county

must sign a contract with the state to accept the payments on behalf of the residents.

"He was okay with the changes they did. We just had

See **TAXES**, page 7

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LCEDG, chambers relaunch Lee County Leadership program

LEE COUNTY - Lee County Economic Development Group, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach - Lee County, The Fort Madison Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Keokuk Area Chamber of Commerce are excited to announce the relaunch of the Lee County Leadership Program, designed to promote community engagement and increase capacity among community members for addressing common issues and problems.

Participants will benefit from

gaining a comprehensive understanding of community leadership and its significance, developing core competencies linked to resilience, and acquiring practical tools and

See **PROGRAM**, page 7

Pentagon move reaches into Iowa

Lowa is about as far removed from an ocean as you can get. But this state figures in recent news reports about the U.S. Navy — and not in a puff-up-ourchest-with-pride way.

One of the reports was a New York Times examination of the Navy's largest ship-building budget in history, \$32 billion this year alone, and the tug-of-war that pot of money has created inside the seagoing service.

On one side of the budgetary rope are those who favor building traditional warships, the submarines, destroyers and frigates that make up most of the Navy's hardware. On the rope's other end are those who want the Navy to invest more of its construction budget in a new breed of surface vessels, submersibles and drones that are unmanned and less expensive to build.

There is an urgency to this debate, because China's naval forces surpassed the U.S. Navy's vessel numbers several years ago.

So, what does this have to do with Iowa?

While the Times was writing about the Navy's construction budget debate, there was a ceremony on August 14 at the Mayport Naval Station in Jacksonville, Fla. The occasion for the pomp and circumstance was the official "decommissioning" of the USS Sioux City. In rural lingo, the Sioux City has been put out to pasture. It will be parked and mothballed, its crew of 75 sailors given new assignments.

What makes the decommissioning so remarkable are a couple of facts that should anger frugal people from Iowa and beyond: It cost \$360 million — one-

See **EVANS**, page 8

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMapSunny & cool, 73° F/ 49° F Sunny & cool, 74° F/50° F THU 14 Sep. Sunny & cool, 76° F/ 56° F FRI 15 Sep.

IOWA LOTTERY	
LOTTO AMERICA 09/11	13 34 35 36 49, Star Ball: 1 All Star Bonus: 4
LUCKY FOR LIFE 09/11	7 16 22 34 45, Lucky Ball: 1
PICK 3 MIDDAY 09/11	48
PICK 3 EVENING 09/11	19 (
PICK 4 MIDDAY 09/11	1136
PICK 4 EVENING 09/11	3084
POWERRALL 09/11	9 25 27 53 66 Powerhall: 5 Power Play: 3

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

FRANCES K. RODEFER

Frances Kay Rodefer, 72, formerly of Fort Madison, Iowa died Friday, September 8, 2023 at the West Point Care Center, West Point, Iowa. She was born January 10, 1951 in Fort Madison, Iowa, a daughter of Eugene J. and Emily O. (Patterson) Sto-

tlar. On June 10, 1972, she married Michael Paul Rodefer in Wever,

Iowa. He preceded her in death.



RODEFER

Frances was a 1969 graduate of Fort Madison High School. She worked several places over the years including Sheaffer Pen and State Central Bank. She was a past member of Order of the Eastern Star. She was a true garage saler and treasure hunter! She especially enjoyed collecting Fenton Hobnail glassware. A collection that started with her mother and was shared with other family members. She was always active and "out and about" every day.

She is survived by one daughter, Amy (Travis) Gelsthorpe of Fort Madison; one son, Bryan Rodefer of Fort Madison; three brothers: Raymond (Sharon) Stotlar of Wever; Roy (Karen) Stotlar of Burlington; and Robert (Martha) Stotlar of Burlington; one sister, Ruth (Grant) McDowell of Burlington; two grandchildren, Macayla Lambert and Daniel Rodefer; several nieces and nephews; and good friend, Geraldine Zumdome. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, one brother Gerald Anderson, and good friend Sue Walker.

Visitation will be held 9:30 - 10:30 am Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, where her funeral will follow and begin at 10:30 am Wednesday at the funeral home. Reverend Dean Graber will officiate. Burial will be at Claypoole Cemetery, Wever. A memorial has been established, contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Online condolences to the Rodefer Family may be made from the Barr Memorial Chapel, www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

Follow Us @pencitycurrent





Lunch Specials Sept 11-15 11am - 1pm

Monday, Sept II Minit Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans

Tuesday, Sept 12 Meatballs, Loaded Potatoes, Baked Beans

Wednesday, Sept 13 Pulled Pork Sandwich, Potato Salad, Slaw

THURSDAY, SEPT 14 FRIED CHICKEN DINNERS

Friday, September 15 Lunch on the Sidewalk

OBITUARIES

MICHELE DEARING YOUNG

Michele Dearing Young, 60, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 10:14 am Friday, September 8, 2023 at the Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House, West Burlington, Iowa. Michele was born November 1, 1962 at Kansas City, Missouri, a daughter of

Bill J and Martha Charlene (Hoover) Dearing.



In 1984, Michele earned a public relations degree from the University of Kansas, and was an active member of the Alpha Delta Pi sorority. During college she met Russell B "Skip" Young. They were married on June 1, 1985 at Prairie Village, Kansas. They moved to Fort Madison and for the past 39 years they ran Dana Bushong Jewelry Company, Inc. together. She quickly made friends and got busy, and she became known as the "downtown cheerleader." She

worked hard to keep Fort Madison growing, especially the downtown area. She was an active member of the Fort Madison United Methodist Church, North Lee County Historical Society, P.E.O. Chapter BS-KV, and she was Retail Chairman for many years. She loved, and was loved by her family and many friends!

Michele is survived by her husband, Skip Young, of Fort Madison; four children: Lauren (Bryan) Rodeffer, Natalie (Kyle) Steffensmeier, William Young (Paige VanFleet) and Katherine Young (Jordyn Gerdes), all of the Fort Madison area; her mother, Charlene Dearing of Overland Park, Kansas; one sister, Mimi Dearing and her son, Joe Dearing, both of Overland Park, Kansas; five grandchildren: Raleigh Rodeffer, Michael and Grayson Steffensmeier, Hudsyn and Brody Young; and many other family members and friends. She was preceded in death by her father.

A Celebration of Life is being planned and will be held at a later date. A memorial has been established for the Fort Madison United Methodist Church. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Young family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.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

Artists like moving event onto Avenue G

FESTIVAL - Continued from Page 1

light snacks.

"We are really excited by the response we received from artists," said Lori Illner Greene, Executive Director for the FMAAA.

"The feedback we received during booth registration was very positive. Many artists commented how they liked moving the event on to the street. It's way more convenient for set up and for us to host it right outside of our front door." The Art Center will be open and act as a hub during the event. The KidsZone with creative activities for kids will be in the studio classroom, known as Paula's Palette in memory of long-time member artist Paula How-

The Art Center is planning for good

weather and a good turnout for this year's event. Still, alternate plans must be considered when fragile items like art are involved.

Last year's threat of 30 to 40 mph winds forced the early morning set-up inside for what turned out to be a fabulous weather day. The fallback plan for inclement weather this year is for a few artists to set up in the Art Center if needed.

Brenda Derr has graciously offered for artists to set up across the street in the empty Shugs toy store building which could accommodate quite a few booths.

For more information contact admin@fortmadisonart.com or call the Art Center 319-372-3996.

Got a news tip? Call Chuck (319)371.1670

Charles Vandenberg, Editor

(319).371.1670 charles.v@pencitycurrent.com PEN CITY CU

Member LION Publishers www.lionpublishers.com

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(319).371.4125

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Obituaries/Health News

OBITUARIES

WAYNE L. HEIDBREDER

Wayne L. Heidbreder, 67, of Niota, IL, passed away at 1:38 a.m. on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City. He was born on August 12, 1956 in Keokuk, IA to George E. & Imogene E. Varner Heidbreder. He married Carol Elaine Howard



on July 10, 1976 in Dallas City, IL. He worked as a construction superintendent for Carl A. Nelson Company for many years. He enjoyed working with wood and building anything, but his greatest joy was spending time with his grandchildren.

Wayne is survived by: his wife: Carol Heidbreder of Niota, IL; 2-sons: Todd (Corrine Dail) Heidbreder of Fort Madison, IA & Tony (Shasta) Heidbreder of Niota, IL; 4-grandchildren: Connor, Neveda, Liam & Brielle; 3-brothers:

Albert (Theresa) Heidbreder of Fort Madison, IA, Dale (Gail) Heidbreder of Donnellson, IA & Daryl (June) Heidbreder of Des Moines, IA and numerous nieces & nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and per his wishes, no services are planned. The family will hold a celebration of life at a later date. Online condolences to Wayne's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

JAMAL T. ANDERSON

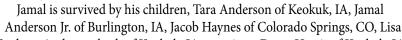
Jamal Terry Anderson, 51, of Keokuk, IA died Wednesday, August 23, 2023 at his home. He was born September 3, 1971 the son of Percy Burt and Candice Tate Anderson.

Jamal graduated from Ft. Madison High School. He was employed by Casey's where he worked in the kitchen.

He was a member of the Apostolic Holiness Church in Keokuk.

He enjoyed riding his bike and walking Jamel was always on the look

He enjoyed riding his bike and walking. Jamal was always on the lookout for things to fix up and resell. He was an avid Pittsburg Steelers and Iowa Hawkeye fan.



Anderson and Saphara Anderson both of Keokuk, IA, one sister, Dawn Harris of Keokuk, IA, one grandchild, one niece, Gaberial and one nephew, Jeffery.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Candice Anderson.

A memorial service will be held 10 a.m. Friday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk. After the service, there will be a gathering at Rand Park and those in attendance are welcome to bring a side dish. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.vigenmemorial-home.com.

OBITUARIES

GAIL N. LOVE

Gail Nadine Love, 79, of Keokuk, passed away on Sunday, September 10, 2023, at River Hills Village in Keokuk.

Gail was born on September 26, 1943, in Woodward, Oklahoma, the daughter of William and Bertha (McHaney) Holford. On June 28, 1988, she was united in marriage to William Love in Zephyr Cove, Nevada. He preceded her in death on November 16, 2009.

Gail was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and in her younger years, was employed as a nurse. Later on, she was self-employed in sales. She loved selling at yard sales and flea markets, and spent her free time candle-making and sitting in nature.

Gail is survived by her son James Love of Hamilton, Illinois; Joann (Brad) Davis of Wapakoneta, Ohio; Marie (John) Hatfield of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and six grand-children: Lori (Matt) Lacey, Edwin Lavonn, Alex Jockers, Allison (Zach) Malm, Jesse Johnson and Collette Love.

Gail is preceded in death by her parents and two brothers: Richard and James Holford. Private family services will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be directed to Southeastern Community College Nursing Program in Keokuk.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com. DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.

Children's Health Clinic set for Thursday

LEE COUNTY - Lee County Health Department will be holding a Children's Immunization Clinic Thursday, September 14th 2023 at Trinity United Methodist Church, 2330 Plank Road in Keokuk from 1:00 pm until 4:30pm. Please park on the south side of the building (the large parking lot) and enter in the door that states HANDICAPPED, there is a red awning over the door.

The clinic is open to children who have no insurance, are insured by Iowa Medicaid (MCO) or those who have private health insurance that does not cover the cost of vaccines. Written parental consent is required for minors to receive vaccinations when in the care of another adult. (Please visit our website for a consent form.)

Free lead testing is available for all children ages 6 months to 6 years who reside in Iowa. Please call for appointment.

Please call 1-319-372-5225 with questions or visit our website at <u>www.leecountyhd.</u>



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We have a limited number of open apartments in our new independent/assisted living and memory support.

CALL TODAY TO LEARN MORE! 319-316-3257



of Fort Madison

HOME. /hōm/n.

a dwelling place together with friends of family; an environment offering security and happiness

Classifieds/Public Notices

CIASSIII Eds

PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE AT <u>WWW.PENCITYCURRENT.COM</u> OR CALL (319)371.4125

HELP WANTED

ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY

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

REQUIREMENTS:

Graduation from an accredited law school and admission to practice law in the State of lowa with a law license in good standing and no history of discipline. Must be able to simultaneously handle multiple areas of responsibility with minimal supervision, properly prioritizing tasks and duties as dictated by changing demands. Must be able to simultaneously advance all assigned cases in a large trial caseload. Prior trial experience and prosecution experience is preferred but not required.

SALARY:

Salary range to start between \$68,000.00 and \$83,000.00 per year commensurate with experience, as well as a very competitive benefits package.

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

Ross J. Braden Lee County Attorney 25 N. 7th Street PO Box 824 Keokuk, Iowa 52632 rbraden@leecounty.org

Applications must be received by September 30, 2023 at 4:30 PM.

Lee County is an Equal Opportunity Employer



LEE COUNTY SECONDARY ROADS HELP WANTED

ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKER II or III

Lee County is taking applications for a Road Maintenance Worker II or 111, to work at the West Point Maintenance Shop or other shops as assigned. Duties will include the operation of light and heavy equipment and trucks to perform road maintenance and construction projects, occasionally plowing snow, and the performance of manual labor as required. Requires a high school graduate or G.E.D. equivalent and must possess a valid Class A commercial driver's license with air brake and tanker endorsements. The successful candidate will be classified as either Maintenance Worker II or III depending on their qualifications. The starting wage range is \$22.57 to \$23.47. Pay rates after 3 years of employment range from \$27.55 to \$28.65.

Lee County provides equal opportunity in employment to all persons regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion, or disability.

For job descriptions and to apply, download an application from our county website, www.leecounty.org/employmentaspx, or you can pick an application up at the Engineer's office and return your completed application along with a resume to Lee County Engineer, P.O. Box 158, Fort Madison, lowa 52627, or email it to engineer@leecounty.org Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

If you have any questions, please contact Lee County Engineer Office at (319) 372-2541 or email them at engineer@leecounty.org.



Place your ad online 24/7

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDINGS FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL 9/52023

HELP WANTED

PUBLIC WORKS GENERAL OPERATOR

GENERAL PURPOSE

Performs a variety of unskilled or semi-skilled maintenance work, operates a variety of equipment in the construction, operation, repair, maintenance and replacement of City street, sanitary and storm drainage facilities and systems.

DESIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Education and Experience:
 Graduation from high school education or GED equivalent and
- Two (2) years of experience relating to construction, maintenance, or repair,
- Any equivalent combination of education and experience.

Special Requirements:

Valid State Driver's license
Class B CDL or the ability to obtain one within six months of hire

Necessary knowledge, skills, and experience:

- Some knowledge of equipment, facilities, materials, methods and procedures used in maintenance, construction and repair activities;
- struction and repair activities;
 Skill in operation of some of the listed tools and equipment:
- Ability to perform heavy manual tasks for extended periods of time; ability to work safely; ability to communicate effectively verbally and in writing; ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with employees, other departments and the public; ability to understand and carry out written and oral instructions.

Submit applications to Justina Cullen at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, IA 52627 or via email at jcullen@fortmadison-ia.com by 4:30pm on Friday, September 29, 2023.



PUBLIC NOTICES

At 5:30 P.M., Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 5, 2023. Mayor Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Gray, Yager, Amandus, Roller, Bowker

HELP WANTED

LEE COUNTY SECONDARY ROADS HELP WANTED

ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS CLASS IE, IIE OR IIIE

Lee County is taking applications for Engineering Technician Class IE, IIE or IIIE, to work out of our Fort Madison Office. Duties will include surveying, inspection and testing of materials, computer aided drafting, and ability to become IDOT certified in inspection and other related work duties. The successful candidate will be classified as an Engineering Technician IE, IIE or IIIE depending on their qualifications. The starting wage range is \$25.63 to \$27 .68. Pay rates after 3 years of employment range from \$31.08 to \$33.88.

Lee County provides equal opportunity in employment to all persons regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion, or disability.

For job descriptions and to apply, download an application from our county website, www.leecounty.org/employment.aspx, or you can pick an application up at the Engineer's office and return your completed application along with a resume to Lee County Engineer, P.O. Box 158, Fort Madison, lowa 52627, or email it to engineer@leecounty.org Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

If you have any questions, please contact Lee County Engineer Office at (319) 372-2541 or email them at engi-neer@leecounty.org.

Secondary Roads

and Rink present. Council Member Andrews was absent.

On motion, Council approved the Consent Agenda: Minutes of 8/15/2023; Liquor License Renewal: Vel's Amigos, 1226 - 37th Street; Setting public hearing for 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 9/19/2023, concerning rezoning property generally described as east of Reve Court and between Highway 61 and Business Highway 61, from R-1, One Family Residential, to B-3, Wholesale **Business District**; Claims dated 8/31/2023; August

HELP WANTED

WASTEWATER
TREATMENT PLANT
FULL-TIME OPERATOR/
LAB TECHNICIAN

GENERAL PURPOSE

Assist in the operation and monitoring of the water reclamation facility. Additional duties performed include collecting routine water samples and performing laboratory test; cleaning clarifiers, wet wells and elevated tanks; maintenance of pumps, valves and meters; property maintenance to the building and grounds; and completing daily documentation.

DESIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education and Experience:
1. Graduation from high school diploma or GED equivalent

- 2. Valid Iowa driver's license 3. Obtain a Grade II Wastewater Certification in the State of Iowa.
- 4. Knowledge of electrical and mechanical equipment5. Ability to operate computer programs

Apply at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, IA or email applications to jcullen@fortmadison-ia.com by Friday, September 29th.

Applications can be found on the city website at www.fortmadison-ia.com



Library Claims; and Payroll of 8/25/2023.

At 5:31 P.M., Mohrfeld opened the public hearing concerning the Voluntary Annexation of property generally described as east of Reve Court and between Highway 61 and Business Highway 61. With no oral or written comments, Mohrfeld closed the public hearing at 5:32 P.M. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-61, approving the voluntary annexation of property generally described as east of Reve Court and between Highway 61 and Business Highway 61.

On motion, Council approved the second reading of an ordinance amending Title 1, Administration, Chapter 4, General Penalty; and Title 7, Police, Chapter 2, Misdemeanors. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-62, setting public hearing on a Petition for Voluntary Annexation by Protectors of Animal Welfare, Inc., (PAW) for property north of 2205 - 48th Street (PAW Animal Shelter).

On motion, Council approved the bid of W. L. Miller Company, of Hamilton, Illinois, of \$0.60 per square foot for a single layer of sealcoat and \$1.17 a square foot for a double layer of sealcoat for the 2023 Yearly Sealcoat Program. On motion, Council approved the position profile, job description and search schedule created by Hinson Consulting, LLC, for the City Manager Search Process. With one nay, on motion, Council approved an additional \$2,000 contribution to the Fiesta Committee to be paid from the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 P.M.

/s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk

Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

TERIES..... 247.20

IOWA MUNICIPAL

EXPENDITURES		PAYROLL	8/25/2023
General	\$ 56,271.05	General	202,560.64
Special Revenue	15,029.01	Old Fort	1,947.93
Road Use	77,164.79	Emp Vol Bnft	7,646.55
Capital	25,079.02	Road Use	26,274.02
Water	67,917.44	Water	35,455.46
Sewer	37,326.61	Sewer	32,020.19
Sld Waste, IWC	11,859.36	Solid Waste	16,639.49
SW Utility	1,279.65	Airport	312.77
	\$291,926.93	Storm Water	3,066.74
			\$325,923.79
REVENUES			
General	\$60,092.74		
Special Revenue	365,356.78		
Road Use	140.00		
Debt	1,474.23		
Capital	10,132.63		
Water	430,315.47		
Sewer	371,232.05		
Sld Wst & IWC	78,665.29		
Sewer	31.261.71		

\$1,348,670.90 **CLAIMS 9/5/2023** ABC FIRE EXTINGUISH-ER, ANNUAL FIRE EXT INSPECT. 58.60 ACCESS SYSTEMS, SERVER...... 23,233.13 ALLIANT ENERGY, ELECTRIC...... 1,310.03 ALTORFER INC., SEAL 8,304.53 AMI PIPE & SUPPLY, **BACKFLOW TESTING**170.00 AMSOIL, INC, OIL137.09 ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES, UNIFORM/ SHOP SUPPLIES 898.79 ASKEW SCIENTIFIC CONSULTING, PRE-TREATMENT STUDY AT-SCENE LLC, SOFT-WARE RENEWAL 5,300.00 AUTOZONE, PARTS 61.39 **BAGSPOT PET WASTE** SOLUTION, DOG WASTE BAGS 364.75 **BARCO MUNICIPAL** PRODUCTS, SURVEY FLAGS...... 257.87 **BATES SANITATION &** ASPHALT, PORTA-POT-TIE RENTAL 75.00 BEN CORY BROWN, SAFETY BOOTS .. 106.90 BERGANKDV, 2022/23 AUDIT...... 25,000.00 **BROZENES HYDRAULIC** SERVICE, RECEIVERS 863.72 **BURLINGTON MUNI** WATER, BACTERIA SAMPLE......238.00 CALHOUN-BURNS AND ASSOCIATION, PROF FEE - BROS SWAP7,276.40 CENTURY LANDRY DIS-TRIBUTING, MACHINE

INSTALLATION 742.01

CHARGE 2,088.53

PARTS......10,088.20

TROL, SPRAY AROUND

THE FORT..... 500.00

SERVICE, GENERATOR

CITY OF FORT MADI-

SON, LEACHATE DIS-

CODY POTTHAST, TRAINING 132.22

CORE & MAIN LP,

CULLEN PEST CON-

CUMMINS SALES &

REPAIR 2,281.51 DAILY DEMOCRAT, JOB POSTING 384.00 DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP, ADAPTERS/ GRATE 3,014.26 DATA POWER TECH-NOLOGY GROUP, REPAIRED MACHING/ FLOW SWITCH2,140.00 DIGITAL ALLY, VIDEO MIGRATION TOOL300.00 DODD PRINTING & STA-TIONERY, OLD FORT BOOKLETS 3,852.12 DOUDS STONE, LLC, ROADSTONE.... 2,344.48 DUNKIN GARAGE & TOWING, PATCH TIRE 90.00 EASTERN IOWA TIRE, INC., INSTALL NEW TIRE 751.58 **EUROFINS ENVIRON-**MENT TESTING, WEEK-LY SLUDGE SAMPLE308.16 FARM & HOME SUPPLY, **CLOTHING & MISC**608.07 FORT MADISON LIONS CLUB, MEMBERSHIP78.00 FORT MADISON WATER DEPT, WATER @ AIR-PORT..... 19.30 FRENCH-RENEKER-AS-SOC., PROF FEE - 48TH ST CONNECT ... 6,421.45 **GREAT WESTERN SUP-**PLY CO, PAPER PROD-UCTS......207.60 GREENWOOD CLEAN-ING SYSTEM, CLEANER 1,378.49 HACH COMPANY, TEST-ING SUPPLIES..... 177.19 HOENIG TREE SERVICE INC, TREE REMOVAL (EMERGENCY)2,925.00 HOWARD R GREEN COMPANY, PROF FEE -AVE H 10-18.... 20,302.62 HUFFMAN WELDING & MACHINE, TIRE/BOLT 852.54 IDEAL READY MIX COM-PANY, BLOCK ... 3,162.63 INSURANCE STRATE-GIES CONSULTANTS, 509A STUDY SELF INS

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......37,326.61 SHELF MATERIAL SOLID WASTE11,859.36 AIRPORT..... 53.30 STORM STORM1,279.65 TOTAL 281,823.44 001 GENERAL FUND 47,658.20 016 OLD FORT OPERA-TION 4,523.01 110 ROAD USE77,164.79 168 PARK & RECRE-ATION GIFTS 1,287.04 169 FIRE GIFT FUND 1,253.21 170 FRIENDS OF PORT 6,421.45 323 \$7.5 MILL HWY 61 PROJ...... 17,802.62 351 2020 SWAP BRIDG-ES......7,276.40 600 WATER OPERATING FUND...... 67,917.44 610 WASTEWATER OP-ERATING FUND31,931.61 617 WASTEWATER CAPITAL PROJEC 5,395.00 670 SOLID WASTE11,859.36 720 AIRPORT..... 53.3 740 STORM WATER UTILITY 1,279.65 GRAND TOTAL281,823.08 LIBRARY CLAIMS LIBRARY AMAZON CAPITAL SER-VICES, MISC ITEMS 27.89

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From the Front

Residents could get help paying their county property taxes

TAXES - Continued from Page 1

a few questions back and forth about why we had to sign a four-page contract to accept a check. That sort of thing. Residents are still responsible for any taxes incurred before 2020 but otherwise everything looks okay," Gaylord said.

Supervisor Chairman Garry Seyb said the program allows county residents to apply and, if they are accepted, their taxes from 2020 on can potentially be picked up by the program.

The IFA program pre-check and application can be found at: https://www.iowafinance.com/ihaf-precheck-form/.

- Applicant must own the property
- Applicant must be behind at least 30 days on payments for mortgage, contract sale, manufactured home, or property taxes
- Applicant household income does not exceed the greater of 150% of the area median income or 100% of the U.S. median income
- Property is in Iowa and is the applicant's primary residence
- Applicant experienced and/or can demonstrate a COVID-related financial hardship
- Applicant's income must reflect the ability to resume future mortgage payments after IHAF assistance is received.

Gaylord said the pandemic-related financial hardship is the key to the application.

"From what I understand, it's that you have to have lost your job because of a COVID event. So it's government assistance to pay your taxes because of that. They take the application and do everything on their end. We just have to sign to be able to accept the check," she said.

Supervisor Matt Pflug asked how long the program lasts and Supervisor Chuck Holmes said it runs through 2026. All of the ,America Rescue Plan Act funding, according to the federal statute that created it, must be expended by the end of 2026.

Supervisor Tom Schulz said it's a program that the county has no control over other than to agree to the language that allows the county to accept payment on behalf of residents.

Seyb said the county wanted to get something done as soon as possible so residents knew the program was available.

Gaylord said the program shouldn't take any additional time on the part of county staff after the contract is signed.

"Basically I just accept the check," she said.

She said they only have had two people inquire about the program in the county so far.

Seyb said he hopes that media attention to the issue will help others realize that the program is in place.

#HyperLocalSuperFresh



Leadership course runs from October through May

PROGRAM - Continued from Page 1

techniques to address pertinent community issues and harness potential opportunities.

The program is designed to be accessible and inclusive. No prerequisites are required for participation, making it open to anyone with an interest in community leadership. Sessions are monthly and will be held on the second Thursday of each month, commencing from October 12, 2023, to May 9, 2024. Each session will feature facilitated discussions and engaging community visits, fostering an immersive learning experience.

The Lee County Leadership Program will cover a spectrum of core competencies, including:

- Understanding Your Community: Developing insights into the dynamics and fabric of the community.
- Identifying Local Issues and Opportunities: Recognizing key challenges and prospects for growth.
- Making Community Decisions: Acquiring the skills to make informed and impactful decisions.
- Building Social Capital for Community Development: Establishing valuable networks and connections.
- Working Together Effectively: Navigating collaborations and partnerships for community progress.
- •Mobilizing Resources for Community Action: Transforming ideas into tangible initiatives.

Applications for the Lee County Leadership Program are now being accepted until September 8. Prospective participants can find the link to apply online on the websites of the sponsoring entities: Lee County Economic Development Group, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach - Lee County, The Fort Madison Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Keokuk Area Chamber of Commerce. Successful applicants will be notified by September 15.

Join us in shaping a brighter future for Lee County through active community leadership. For further information, please contact Savanna Collier, scollier@fortmadison.com or 319-372-5471.



The Good, The Bad, and The Healthy

So, what exactly is cholesterol? Cholesterol is a waxy, fat-like substance in your blood.

High levels of "bad" LDL cholesterol can cause fatty deposits to build up in your blood vessels, leading to heart attack, stroke, or other health problems. High levels of "good" HDL cholesterol may actually lower your risk for health problems – carrying plaque buildup to the liver, where they are flushed out of the body.

Having regular blood tests to check your cholesterol levels is key to your good health. Your healthcare provider at Southeast lowa Regional Medical Center can help you manage your cholesterol - to keep you heart healthy.



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From the Front

Pentagon scrubbing LCS after as little as four years

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

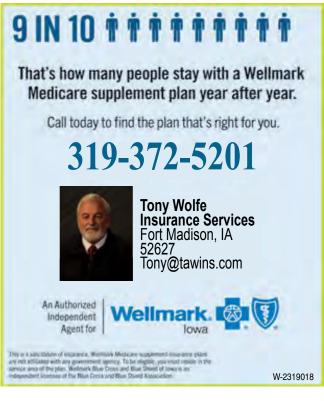
third of a billion dollars — to build the Sioux City. The ship set sail in 2018. Now it has been retired after four years and nine months of service — far short of its intended service life of 25 to 30 years.

Therein lies the problem.

The Pentagon and the Congress both seem averse to saying "no" to anything associated with more military spending. The Defense Department asked Congress this year for \$840 billion, almost half of the federal government's discretionary spending.

Once a new series of ships or airplanes or other weapons systems gets approved, lobbyists for military contractors and home-state members of Congress where those factories or military installations are located swing into action to keep the money





Those who protest often are labeled unpatriotic or against U.S. security interests.

That the Pentagon frittered away \$360 million on the USS Sioux City — and equal or larger sums on three sister ships that been mothballed, too — is especially aggravating at a time when some in Congress are questioning whether our nation can justify longstanding promises it made on Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid health benefits, and food assistance for low-income people.

The Sioux City is a littoral combat ship that was intended to be part of a fleet of 52 small, fast ships that could maneuver on the open seas or in shallow waters closer to shore than other Navy vessels. These littoral combat ships were intended to hunt submarines, locate mines and intercept suspicious boats, including smugglers and drug-runners.

But the LCS design has been beset by problems from its earliest days. It is called a "gas hog," because its fuel costs are comparable to larger ships. Sailors

ACT PREP

CLASSES BEGIN: Vednesday, September 27th **EXAM HELD:** Saturday, October 28th **REGISTRATION ACCEPTED:** September 8th - September 20th Classes held every Wednesday 6pm to 8pm from September 27th to October 25th REGISTER ONLINE: fortmadisony.org/ytk **YMCA Test Kitchen** 807 Ave G, Fort Madison, IA | 319-250-9052

complained they spent more time fixing the ships than sailing them.

Indeed, Navy insiders have taken to saying LCS stands for Little Crappy Ship.

A spokeswoman for the Sioux City's old squadron at Mayport Naval Station recently gave the Sioux City Journal with this clear-as-mud explanation for why the Navy is retiring the ship: "To maintain our strategic advantage, particularly under fiscal constraints, it is important for the Navy to carefully review our force structure regularly and divest of legacy capabilities that no longer bring sufficient lethality to maximize our effectiveness in deterring and defeating potential adversaries."

Americans like to parcel out blame for a government blunder by pointing fingers at one political party or the other. As often is the case with Pentagon spending, however, Republicans and Democrats in Congress, and in the White House, too, equally embraced the littoral combat ship design.

Lyle Goldstein, a former U.S. Naval War College professor who studies military costs, told reporters, "There is a lot of money flowing through this vast ecosystem, and somehow the only thing all these people can agree on is more, more, more."

Randy Evans can be reached at DMRevans2810@ gmail.com.

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