

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Tuesday, October 3, 2023 | 8 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 163



www.pencitycurrent.com

CEO Chapter starts in Lee County



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Business leaders from Lee County met Friday to hear about the launching of the state's first Creating Entrepreneurship Opportunities chapter at Lee County Economic Development Group's offices.

STATE'S FIRST: New program to focus high school students on business experience

PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY - In an exciting milestone for the community, Lee County officially announced its status as the first Iowa chapter of the Creating Entrepreneurship Opportunities (CEO) Program. The announcement came during a community presentation held Friday, where residents and local leaders gathered to hear from key figures instrumental in bringing this transformative initiative to the area.

Chris Egelston, a representative from the Midland Institute for Entrepreneurship, provided a comprehensive overview of the CEO Program, highlighting its remarkable outcomes and the positive impact it has had on more than 70 communities



COLLIER

nationwide.

Kathy Dinger, Superintendent of Keokuk Community School District and Lee County CEO Board Chair, shared her firsthand experience with the program in McDonough County, Illinois. She described the program's profound effects, detailing the transformation she witnessed in students as they engaged with the entrepreneurial curriculum.

The launch of the Lee County CEO chapter marks a significant step toward empowering local youth and fostering the

See **LCEDG**, page 8

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



Fober book could be most important of 21st Century

I knew the book was good. We were on vacation in a seaside paradise, and all I wanted to do was return to the motel room and read (study) Karoleen Fober's manuscript that she had asked me to review: "Opening to Divine Intervention: Expand and Strengthen Your Intuitive Abilities and Spiritual Connection." Why? Her words were putting me in such close contact with God, it was like I could reach out and touch Him. In fact, in one story she relates, she knew God was present when rain started to gently fall. As I read this, I looked out the open patio door of the motel room, and it started to rain. Shivers ran up and down my spine.

Karoleen (Harryman) Fober grew up in Van Buren County. She has an identical twin sister. She and her twin sister were the youngest of five children. Her parents were farmers and hard workers. She went off to Iowa State, became a teacher, then a financial adviser. She married Gary Fober, also an Iowan, and became a Life Coach, and now an author.

She followed my Empty Nest column in the Van Buren County Register for years and felt she had a connection with me. After she wrote her book, she got up the nerve to call and ask if I would review it. (What if I didn't like her book?) We both felt a connection over the phone immediately, and I agreed to review her book, which was in manuscript form. I couldn't put it down. We were leaving for vacation the next day, so I took the manuscript with me. I still have it and asked her to sign it. I expect it to be quite valuable someday.

Karoleen Fober doesn't mince words. God

See **SWARM**, page 8

2023 RELAY

North County Relay for Life set for October 20

PCC Staff

FORT MADISON - The Relay For Life of North Lee County will be held on Friday, October 20, 2023 at the Fort Madison High School track. The event will run from 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

The schedule of events is as follows:

- 5-7 p.m. - Dinner served -nacho/taco bar provided by the Izaak Walton League of Fort Madison. Free will donation.
- 7 p.m. - Recognition Ceremony for our Survivors, teams, and corporate sponsors.
- 8 p.m. - Luminaria Ceremony will be held. These can be purchased the night

of the event, from a Relay For Life team member or by stopping by Assured Partners during normal business hours, located at 914 Avenue G.

- 9 p.m. - Closing Ceremony.

See **RELAY**, page 4

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap

TUE 03 Oct Mostly sunny & warm, 89° F/ 66° F
 WED 04 Oct Cool with strong chance of storms, 78° F/ 59° F
 THU 05 Oct Mostly sunny & cool, 75° F/ 49° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 10/01.....1113 24 29 47, Lucky Ball: 3
 PICK 3 MIDDAY 10/01.....246
 PICK 3 EVENING 10/01.....060
 PICK 4 MIDDAY 10/01.....2107
 PICK 4 EVENING 10/01.....1053

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Obituaries/Local News

OBITUARIES

LAWRENCE P. STRAYER

Lawrence "Larry" P. Strayer, 83, of River Hills Village in Keokuk formerly of Donnellson, passed away at 3:55 a.m. Saturday, September 30, 2023 at River Hills Village in Keokuk.



STRAYER

He was born on July 11, 1940 the son of Harry B. and Agnes E. (Pranger) Strayer. On February 29, 1964, he married Pauline Wittman in Kittery, Maine.

Survivors include his wife Pauline; one daughter Laura (Richard) Lee Gilkerson of Albuquerque, New Mexico; one son Elliott John (Chanteé) Strayer of Silverdale, Washington; four grandchildren: Elizabeth (Daniel) Parks, Kelly Gilkerson (John Craig), Alexander Strayer, and Zachary Strayer; one great grandson Damien Webber; one sister Rosanna (Gerald) Smith of Fort Madison, Iowa; two brothers: David (Andrea) Strayer of Donnellson and James (Sue) Strayer of Donnellson; two sisters-in-law Alice Strayer of Donnellson and Arlene Gray of Jerome, Idaho. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and one brother Robert.

Larry was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in West Point. He retired from Baltimore Gas and Electric after 25 years of service as a shift supervisor, then worked for Ship Interiors for 6 years, when he moved back to Donnellson he worked for Schlicher Well Company and Schmitz Funeral Home. He served in the United States Navy for eight years working on nuclear submarines. He was a member of West Point Knights of Columbus where he was a Grand Night, Gallitzin Assembly fourth Degree Nights of Columbus, Donnellson American Legion, was active with the Boy Scouts where he earned Scout Master of the year at National Capital Area Boy Scouts, and assisted Pauline with Tack and Hammer Upholstery Service. Larry enjoyed square dancing, camping, and wintering in the Arizona for thirteen years following retirement.



A visitation will begin at 12:00 noon, Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson, where the family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A Knights of Columbus Rosary will be recited at 6:30 p.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 p.m. Thursday, October 5, 2023 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in West Point with Father Dan Dorau as celebrant.

Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, West Point.

A memorial has been established in his memory for St. Mary's Catholic Church Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneral-homes.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.

OBITUARIES

WILLA LORING

It is with saddened hearts that we say goodbye to our loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grand mother, Willa. She passed away quietly on 30 September 2023 after suffering several months of illness. It will be difficult to imagine our world without her in it.



LORING

Willa was born 31 July 1929 to Lee Evans and Tillie Malinda (McIlmoil) Cameron in Elderville Illinois, the first daughter and fourth child of eleven. She attended Elvaston Grade School and graduated from Hamilton High School (1947).

On 15 December 1948, Willa married the one and only love of her life, George Eugene Loring. They lived in love together in Hamilton for nearly 62 years. Sadly George predeceased her by 13 years on 8 December 2010. Willa and George spent the last half of their lives together, 24/7, working for the Hamilton Police Department and later working together at the Loring Wood Workshop, refinishing wood furniture.

She was mother to Ginger Swank of Hamilton, IL, Edward Loring of Burlington, IA and Russell Loring of Cathedral City, CA. She was grandmother to Brandi Blunck (Andy) of Davenport, IA and Brandon Loring of Salem, IA. Her great-grandchildren are Devin Cellucci of Davenport, IA, Carter Blunck of Davenport, IA, Baily Kemp of Hiawatha, IA. Her great-great-grandchild is Eli Kemp of Hiawatha, IA.

Of 10 brothers and sisters, surviving her are Clarence Cameron of Carthage, IL, Marjorie Whitaker (Stanley) of Keokuk, IA and Larry Cameron (Carol) of Warsaw, IL.

Willa was preceded in death by her father and mother, Lee Cameron and Tilly Cameron. Brothers and sisters preceding Willa in death are Lyle Cameron, Albert Cameron, Lester Cameron, Lulabelle Shark Laffoon, Marlene Whitaker, Billie Mac Cameron and Donnie Cameron and daughter-in-law Cheryl Loring.

Funeral services will be held at 1 pm on Thursday, October 5, 2023, at Printy Funeral Home in Hamilton, with burial to follow at Oakwood Cemetery in Hamilton. Visitation will be held at the funeral home from 11 am to 1 pm on Thursday directly before the visitation.

Memorials may be directed to the Lee County Hospice or Keokuk Animal Shelter.

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

Printy Funeral Home of Hamilton is in charge of arrangements.

2024 pet licenses now available in FM

FORT MADISON - City of Fort Madison Pet Licenses for 2024 are now available for purchase at City Hall - 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison PAW Animal Shelter - 2031 48th Street, or Walljasper Veterinary Clinic - 2135 303rd Avenue. Current rabies vaccination certificate must be shown, along with proof of spay or neuter (if applicable). The annual

license fee is \$10.00 for every spayed or neutered cat or dog over the age of six (6) months and \$20.00 if unaltered. Beginning January 2, 2024, a \$10 late fee will be applied. A \$5 service fee may apply if purchased at PAW Animal Shelter or Walljasper Veterinary Clinic. For questions, please contact City Hall at (319) 372-7700.

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

SHIRLEY A. BALL

Shirley Ann Ball, 58, of Keokuk, passed away on Monday, September 25, 2023, at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, Illinois.

Shirley was born on October 19, 1964, in Keosauqua, Iowa, the daughter of Jim Hardman and Jackie (Smith) Hardman Bronstine. She worked in food service for several years, finding employment with 14 Pit Grill, Two Rivers, Churches Chicken, Burger Chef, Duck Shed and Shrimp Boat. She would finish out her working career at Walmart in Keokuk. Shirley enjoyed doing cross stitch, shooting pool and playing Bingo. She collected angels and shot glasses, and enjoyed listening to country music and drinking Pepsi. She loved her dog Sydney, but most of all, she loved her grandchildren.

Shirley is survived by her mother Jackie Bronstine of Wayland, Missouri; two daughters: Crystal (Cole) Ball-Newlan of Keokuk, and Lisa Ball of Montrose, Iowa; two beautiful granddaughters: Calliope and Guinevere Newlan; her handsome grandson Orion Ball; two brothers: Jeff Hardman of Washington, Iowa, and Gary (Rechilda) Hardman of Semmes, Alabama; her sister Sherry Dags of Donnellson, Iowa; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Shirley is preceded in death by her father Jim, two brothers: Jamie and Mike Hardman, her life partner Sylvester John "Bud" Runge, and her step-father Bobbi Bronstine.

A celebration of Shirley's life will be held from 12 pm (Noon) to 2 pm on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk. A graveside service will be held at 3 pm on Thursday, October 19, at the Kahoka Cemetery following the celebration of life.

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

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



BALL

OBITUARIES

DELMAR C. HOLTZ

Delmar Clemens Holtz, 92, of St. Joseph, Missouri, formerly of West Point, passed away at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, September 28, 2023, at the Carriage Square Rehab and Healthcare Center in St. Joseph.

He was born on December 21, 1930, in West Point, Iowa, the son of Dr. S.P. and Elinor Catherine (Winnike) Holtz.



HOLTZ

Delmar graduated in 1949 from St. Mary's High School in West Point. He married Vera Coyle. They later divorced. Delmar was a barber in Salem for more than sixty years. When he was in his fifties, he took up running and ran in many 5Ks and 10Ks. He also ran in five marathons and a 50K (31.07 miles). In his seventies, he took up triathlons and entered in his last one at the age of eighty. He had many medals, ribbons, trophies and t-shirts from his competitions. Delmar walked almost every day, even in his nineties, and his doctor said he was a testament to the health benefits of exercise. Many people said he was an inspiration for them to start running.

Delmar loved to fish and hunt, and he especially loved to fish with his grandchildren, nieces and nephews and friends. Most people would describe him as one of the nicest people they ever met. His family can say they never heard him say an unkind word about anyone and never heard anyone say an unkind word about him.

Delmar was a member of St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point, Cathedral of St. Joseph Church in St. Joseph, the West Point American Legion Holtz - Geers Post #668 and the Knights of Columbus Council #8250. He was the grand marshal in the Sweet Corn Festival parade one year, as well. In 2015, he moved from West Point to St. Joseph to be near his son and his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents; five siblings: Lester Holtz, Rozella Freitag, Imelda Groene, Carl Holtz and Lucy Vonderhaar; brothers-in-law: Alve Freitag, Jim Groene and Don Vonderhaar.

He is survived by his children: Jo Ann (Bill) Neilson of Davenport; John (Diane) Holtz of St. Joseph; Becky Holtz of Cedar Rapids; and Karen (Glenn) Simons of Anderson, South Carolina. Also surviving are his grandchildren: Kevin Neilson, Kim (Dave) Sonnenberg, Brandon (Emily) Holtz, Garrett (Maureen) Holtz, Cass (Tami Davis) Holtz, Morgan Holtz, Alyssa (Michael) Krebs, Alex Holverson, Blake Simmons, Corry Simmons and Jacob Simmons; seventeen great grandchildren; several nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews; and sister-in-law: Rita Holtz. He is also survived by his longtime, loving companion: Dolores "Dot" Cassidy and her family.

A visitation will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, October 8, 2023, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point, where a parish rosary will be recited at 2:00 p.m.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 9:30 a.m. Monday, October 9, 2023, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in West Point with Father Dan Dorau as celebrant.

Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, West Point.

A memorial has been established in his memory for Holy Trinity Catholic Schools.

Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

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Luminaries for sale at Relay event

RELAY - Continued from Page 1

The event will once again be a time to celebrate our survivors, remember those we have lost to cancer and fight back by raising funds for the American Cancer Society. This is a community event, and everyone is invited to come out to the high school track to participate in the evening's activities.

Teams will encircle the track with fundraising activities, while Dan-

the-Man will provide the musical entertainment for the evening. Luminarias can be purchased in memory or in honor of a loved one. Speer's Sweet Treats will be onsite from 5-7 p.m. with a percentage of proceeds benefiting the American Cancer Society.

Survivors can register for the evening by calling Missy at 319-376-4768. Teams are also encouraged to sign up online at <https://relayforlife.org/northleecountyia> or by calling 800-227-2345.

Many individual and corporate sponsors have joined in the fight against cancer with all monies raised going towards the fundraising goal of \$40,000 for the American Cancer Society. Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center-Fort Madison is the Presenting Sponsor.

More information about the event can be found on the Relay For Life of North Lee County Facebook page.

WARNING SIGNS OF T1D

- Headaches
- Weight Loss
- Blurry Vision
- Extreme Thirst
- Frequent Urination
- Increased Appetite
- Fruity Breath Odor
- Fatigue and Weakness
- Rapid Deep Breathing



Sports

Lee County Speedway honors Brian Hetrick with Trophy Dash

BY JOYCE KUNTZ-HETRICK
Lee County Speedway

DONNELSON - Brian Hetrick was a young vibrant man from Stronghurst, Illinois who had been involved in sprint car racing for ten years prior to his untimely death. On August 18, 2008 at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics Hetrick succumbed to head injuries as a result of a motorcycle accident the night before near Dallas City, Illinois.

Hetrick had earned enough points to win the 2008 points championship at 34 Raceway. Basically, all he had to do was show up and start his car. Due to his death though, the sprint car family of racers at the track joined together and decided they would race the last night, but not for points.

Hetrick was declared the 2008 Sebastian Sandblasting 305 Sprint Car Track Champion in a fitting tribute.

On Friday night, September 22, 2023 at the Lee County Speedway in Donnellson, Iowa, Hetrick was honored by a trophy dash in his memory with teal and checkered ribbons adorned on the sprint cars representing Hetrick's colors of his fame #35 winged sprinter.

Kevin Hetrick, CEO of Big River Garage Doors, in memory of his brother, provided the dash winner with the trophy. North Carolina native Tim Estenson won the dash with the trophy presented by Kevin's 12 year old daughter Kaylee in victory lane.

While in victory lane, the Hetrick family presented the Oquawka, Illinois family of Vernon and Vicki Spiker with Hetrick's 360 sprint car dash winner trophy from 34 Raceway on August 16, 2008. At the time, the two young Spiker sons were enthusiast diehard fans of Hetrick and now are adults who also engage in the sport of racing as a hobby.

The receptiveness of promoter Brian Gaylord along with the compassion of fans and racers was evident throughout the evening. Over \$300 in proceeds were raised from the selling of Lee County Hetrick memorial shirts along with many other Hetrick Brothers' reduced racing apparel.

The sprint car feature event commenced by making their first lap appearance in a missing man formation to honor Hetrick.

Hetrick will always be remembered "A True Track Champion" by racing fans and in the hearts of those who knew him best.

The 25-lap sprint car feature was won by young Indiana native Zane DeVault piloting the #6Z which earned him \$3000. DeVault started second and inherited the lead less than a few circuits remaining.

Pole sitter Tim Estenson led early on but flipped later in turn two and that's when DeVault garnered the lead and finished out with the checkers.

A stout field of 32 sprinters included several out of state heavy hitters.

A jubilant DeVault said, "Me and Hunter did a heck of a job tonight....that kid busts his ass all the time and keeps every-



Photo courtesy Donny Howk

The Brian Hetrick Memorial Trophy Dash was held at Lee County Speedway in Donnellson on Friday night, Sept 22. Pictured are Jim Hetrick, Kaylee Hetrick, Sprint Car winner Tim Estenson, Joyce Hetrick, Kevin Hetrick, Megan and Shane Johnson.

thing rolling. Jeremy Scadden gives me a heck of a car and lets us be able to come out here and do this deal even though he was absent tonight.

Ran for another team earlier this season but split ways. Threw this deal together two weeks ago and trying to run as much as we can."

DeVault thanked J and J Sprint Car Chassis along with Don Ott Racing Engines who DeVault stated makes killer power. The Ivy Family were also present to help out for the night.

"It's one of those deals where basically the first guy to get the jump probably win it. Estenson ended up getting the jump on us and we could run him down and race with him. But once we got to lapped traffic it was good racing in traffic.

I think we were a little better than he was, but in clean air we were so fast. It's such a big track and you can't keep momentum up that it's real hard to pass when you get clean air. You're so close in speed you gotta be able to break their momentum.

Just like a track tonight it was so top dominant for the top couple guys so it was pretty hard to pass," DeVault concluded.

SPRINT CAR FEATURE RESULTS (top 12):
DeVault 2) Jamie Ball, Knoxville (heat winner) 3) Kameron Key, Missouri 4) Cam Martin, Ankeny 5) Paul Nienhiser, Illinois 6) Carson McCarl, Altoona 7) Riley Goodno, Knoxville (heat winner) 8) Ryan

Bunton, Illinois 9) Bret Tripplett, Illinois 10) Dustin Selvage, Indianola 11) Colton Fisher, Mediapolis 12) Tyler Lee, Cedar Rapids

LIMITED MODIFIED FEATURE RESULTS (top 12):
Damian Kiefer, Missouri (heat winner) 2) Dan Wheeler, Minnesota 3) Donovan Lodge, Illinois 4) A.J. Cline, Missouri 5) Patrick Phillips, Illinois 6) James Hileman, Illinois 7) Brandon Lennox, Missouri 8) Blaise Lewis, Illinois 9) Cole Gillenwater, Keokuk 10) Chris Osborne, Jr., Illinois (heat winner) 11) Tom Bowling, Jr., Burlington 12) Sean Wyett, Danville

MINI HAULER TRUCK RESULTS:
1. Sheldon Bocket, Burlington 2. Jim Ruble, Burlington (heat winner). 3. Tim Wagner, Wapello. 4. Eric Dettelsen, Burlington. 5. Roger Brockett. 6. Don Wood, Wapello. 7. Grady Jones, Illinois. 8. Darin Ronner, Illinois

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 RESULTS 34 RACEWAY -
A three-car Hobby Stock feature was the first to run after a lengthy rain delay with track prep.

SPRINT CAR FEATURE (top12):
Zane DeVault, Indiana (heat winner) 2) Ryan Bunton, Illinois 3) Tim Estenson, North Dakota (heat winner) 4) Cameron Martin, Ankeny 5) Kelby Watt, Adel 6) Josh Schneiderman, West Burlington (heat winner) 7) Carson McCarl, Altoona 8) Riley Goodno, Knoxville (heat winner) 9) Josh Higday, Des Moines 10) Chris Martin, Ankeny 11) Dustin Selvage, Indianola 12) Dugan Thye, Burlington (B-Feature and heat winner)

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISOR
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023**

The Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa, met on September 5, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at the County Administration Building, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison, Iowa.

Present: Garry Seyb, Ron Fedler, Chuck Holmes, Tom Schulz, and Matt Pflug

All votes are unanimous unless indicated otherwise.

The Board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Fedler,

seconded by Holmes, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

There was no Public Input.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Schulz, to approve Resolution #2023-94. Roll call: Holmes-aye, Schulz-aye, Fedler-aye, Pflug-aye and Seyb-aye.

Resolution #2023-94

APPROVAL OF THE ABATEMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEE COUNTY TREASURER AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH IOWA CODE CHAPTER 445.63

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE LEE COUNTY BOARD OF

SUPERVISORS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Iowa Code Section 445.63 states that when taxes are owing against a parcel owned or claimed by the state or a political subdivision of this state and the taxes are owing before the parcel was acquired by the state or a political subdivision of this state, the County Treasurer shall give notice to the appropriate governing body which shall pay the amount of taxes due. If the governing body fails to immediately pay the taxes due, the Board of Supervisors shall abate all of the taxes.

Section 2. The City of Keokuk has requested

abatement and forgiveness for the following parcels:

Parcel:, Site Address:
..... Amount:
044521251830040, 30 S. 12th St., Keokuk \$1044.00
044521251830050, 26 S. 12th St., Keokuk \$620.00
044522301540100, 604 Grand Ave., Keokuk \$262.00
044521252570110, 1012 Blondeau St., Keokuk \$588.00
044521252620160, 120 N. 9th St., Keokuk \$1010.00
044521254120110, 116 N. 7th St., Keokuk \$1114.00
044521254270130, 118 N. 6th St., Keokuk

..... \$706.00
044521362070050, 516 S. 2nd St., Keokuk \$110.00
Total \$5454.00
Section 3. The County Treasurer is hereby directed to strike the amount of property taxes due on these City of Keokuk parcels in accordance with Iowa Code Section 445.63.

Section 4. The County Treasurer is hereby directed to forgive the amount of property taxes due on these City of Keokuk parcels in accordance with Iowa Code Section 445.63.

Section 5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Dated this 5th day of

September, 2023

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

Moved By Fedler, seconded by Pflug, to approve Resolution #2023-95. Roll Call: Fedler-aye, Pflug-aye, Schulz-aye, Holmes-aye and Seyb-aye.

Resolution #2023-95

WHEREAS, the Lee County Treasurer has submitted notice and a request for the abatement

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

of the taxes of property acquired by the City of Fort Madison on November 29, 2022 and March 4, 2022 respectively; and WHEREAS, Section 445.63 provides in its material part:

When taxes are owing against a parcel owned or claimed by the state or a political subdivision of this state and the taxes were owing before the parcel

HELP WANTED

Lee County IT has two open IT Technician positions, one based in our Keokuk office and the other in Fort Madison.

Work involves the coordination and monitoring of the County's information technology functions including the support of in-house or third-party computer applications and management of County's LAN/WAN network; computer hardware including PCs, printers, cabling; operating systems including Windows 10, Windows 11, various versions of Windows Server, and IBM i; and the Vertical telephone system.

Successful applicants will have three or more years of relevant experience; be well organized; possess excellent communication skills; and be disciplined, ambitious, and self-motivated. The Keokuk position will be based in our South Lee County Courthouse office after appropriate amount of training in our Fort Madison office.

Competitive salary; IP-ERS retirement plan; health, vision, and dental insurance; and other benefits are offered.

The application form can be obtained online or at:

Lee County Auditor's Office
933 Avenue H
Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

Please submit cover letter, resume, and completed application to kharter@leecounty.org or:

Kevin Harter, IT Director
933 Avenue H
Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

Post-offer background check, physical, and Board of Supervisors approval are required.

Lee County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Learn more on our website at leecounty.org.



was acquired by the state or a political subdivision of this state, the county treasurer shall give notice to the appropriate governing body which shall pay the amount of the taxes due. If the governing body fails to immediately pay the taxes due, the board of supervisors shall abate all of the taxes.

Accordingly, NOW THEREFORE, based upon the notice and request by the Treasurer of Lee County pursuant to section 445.63 the Board of Supervisors hereby, through this Resolution, abates the amount due and directs the Treasurer to strike the amount due from the county system on the following properties:

City of Fort Madison, Iowa

Parcel Number: 024715032820150

Address: 215 Avenue G Lot 360, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

City of Fort Madison, Iowa

Parcel Number: 024715033260010

Address: 732 Avenue G Lots 219, 220, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

Dated and signed at Fort Madison, Iowa on this the 5th day of September, 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes,

seconded by Pflug, to approve the purchase of two flat bed tag trailers from Hawk Equipment Company, Davenport, in the amount of \$28,790.00. Motion carried. One other bid was submitted by Martin Equipment, Palmyra, Missouri, in the amount of \$30,600.00.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Pflug, to table approval of blue prints for the Keokuk Ambulance Base. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Holmes, to send a letter to the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee in support of the Mid-America Port Commission. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Pflug, to approve the Consent Agenda that included the August 28, 2023 Board minutes and the claims for payment for the week. After discussion about a claim for Drake Hardware, Fedler amended his motion to include removal of the claim. Pflug seconded the amended motion. The amended motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Holmes, to approve a new hire for the Auditor's Office, Carie Barnes, Election Administrator, \$21.74/hr., effective 9/11/23. Motion carried.

Received and filed a Manure Management Annual Update for Burr Oak Swine in Des Moines Township and the Lee County Commission of Veteran Affairs Minutes of Meeting from July 27, 2023.

Committee Reports:

Holmes reported on a Children First Board meeting. Seyb reported on a Health/EMS Building Committee meeting.

At 10:22 a.m. it was moved by Fedler, seconded by Holmes, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 11, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Administration Building in Fort Madison.

Garry Seyb, Chairman
Attest: Denise Fraise,
Lee County Auditor

Claims paid September 5, 2023

Access Systems, splys	55.39
Ace Hardware, splys	284.93
R Acton, svs	360.00
Airgas USA, splys	41.01
Alliant Energy, svs	5890.32
Altorfer, equip	363434.00
Amazon, splys	24.78
Am Trust Rtrmnt, fees	961.50
AP FBO Wrksrc, svs	636.84
AutoZone, parts	257.97
Jim Baier, svs	297.25
J Boeding, svs	234.00
B Bonar, exps	200.00
Bnd Tree Med, splys	5627.13
Brozene Hydrcl, svs	175.05
Calhoun-Burns, svs	680.90
Cntrl IA Juv, svs	3699.93
City of Dnnlsl, wtr	132.38
CJ Cooper, svs	135.00
CSW Svs, svs	1800.00
Democrat Co, publ.	32.81
Darkside Tint, splys	126.00

DLT Solutions, svs	5847.16
Liberty Mtl Ins, ins	660.00
Liberty Util, gas	102.29
Lynch Dallas, svs	76.00
Mstrs Touch, svs	4142.14
Meller Excvtng, svs	33790.00
Menards, splys	139.12
MidAm Enrgy, gas	11.44
T Mueller, svs	300.00
S Nichols, svs	255.00
JJ Nitching Co, equip	39210.00
Prvnt Child Abuse, edu	1650.00
RJKool, equip	627.50
T Schulz, exps	667.24
Seither & Cherry, svs	2612.16
G Seyb, exps	85.00
SIADSA, svs	3420.00
K Spear, exps	16.50
T-Mobile, svs	445.51
Vet Info Srvs, pstg	65.00
M Walker, svs	200.00
Wemiga Waste, svs	225.00
Wex Bank, Fuels	10517.72
Wilhite Auto, svs	4259.80
Yarmouth Oil & LP, svs	13120.33

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Transitional Assistant to the City Clerk

Fort Madison, Iowa (Pop. 10,270) is seeking a Transitional Assistant to the City Clerk

Applicant will: assistance with preparation of agendas, packets and documents for City Council meetings, preparation of public notices, providing assistance to various City Boards and Commissions and other duties as may be designated.

Minimum Qualifications include: High School Graduate or equivalent required. Candidates must have four years of experience in an office environment. Valid driver's license required.

Salary to be determined. City employees are required to live within 10 miles of Fort Madison.

The City of Fort Madison is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Go to www.fortmadison-ia.com for more information & a downloadable application.

Applications are due no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 6, 2023.



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Opinion/Lee County News

A Commitment to Responsible Government Funding: Putting America First

BY MARIANNETTE
MILLER-MEEKS

I want to assure my constituents and fellow Americans that I remain steadfastly committed to representing our district in Congress and working tirelessly to ensure the responsible funding of our government. Responsible government funding is not just a political matter but a moral and practical obligation. As elected officials, we have a duty to put the interests of our constituents and the nation first. This means finding common ground and passing a budget that reflects the needs and priorities of the American people. It means working collaboratively to address the challenges facing our nation, whether it's supporting our federal workers, protecting benefits, funding our military, securing our borders and acknowledging the threat of our deficit and debt. It means making sure you don't wait hours to get through airport security or six months to get a passport renewed.

Responsible government funding is not just a matter of dollars and cents; it's about ensuring that our government operates efficiently and effectively, providing essential services upon which our citizens rely. A government shutdown disrupts the lives of countless Americans, hinders essential services, and creates uncertainty for federal



employees and their families. A federal government shutdown might seem like a great way to save money, but history shows us that closing the government actually costs more than keeping it open, and has significant costs to be recovered. Further, federal employees will eventually get their salaries for work they weren't allowed to perform but their bills are still due.

This is a lose-lose scenario that benefits no one.

A failure to fund our government also jeopardizes our national security. It is our solemn duty as public servants to ensure that our government is equipped with the resources it needs to protect our nation and its people. National security encompasses a broad range of critical elements, from the safety of our borders to the strength of our military, and the readiness of our intelligence agencies. It includes building our aircraft carriers for our naval fleet and replacement airplanes and fighter jets. All of these components are intertwined, forming a web of defense that ensures the security of our nation. Therefore, the funding of our government is not merely a financial matter; it is a matter

of national survival and resilience.

The ongoing crisis at our southern border must also be a priority, having reached a critical juncture, with record numbers of illegal crossings posing a substantial threat to our national security. The Biden Administration has neglected their duty to keep our borders safe, putting the lives of Americans around the country at risk. We can continue to work on appropriations bills while gaining some time to do so through regular order.

Since President Biden refuses to close our border and stop the deadly illicit drugs from pouring in, Republicans in Congress have acted to get our southern border under control and push this administration to enforce federal immigration law. It is abundantly clear that we should be shutting down our southern border, not the government, to address this pressing concern. I voted to do both.

I am glad my fellow legislators came together, set aside their political differences, and prioritized the responsible funding of our government. Let us protect essential services, support our Veterans, and ensure that payments reach those in need without interruption. The well-being of our nation and its people depends on our commitment to this fundamental responsibility.

LCEDG puts \$10K behind news county CEO program

LCEDG - Continued from Page 1

spirit of entrepreneurship within the community. To realize this vision, Lee County is actively seeking support from program "investors." These individuals and organizations are invited to contribute \$1,000 per year for the next three years, enabling the program's successful launch and sustainability.

The Lee County Economic Development Group (LCEDG) has demonstrated its commitment to this initiative through a founding investment of \$10,000. Climax Molybdenum and Pilot Grove Savings Bank have also generously contributed \$5,000 each, further bolstering the program's foundation.

"We are immensely grateful for the support from our community partners," said Savanna Collier, Executive Director at the Fort Madison Area Chamber of Commerce. Collier is also serving as the Lee County CEO Board Vice-Chair. "Their contributions are not just financial; they represent a shared belief in the potential of our young people and the power of entrepreneurship to transform lives."

The Lee County CEO program will be a unique educational experience that immerses high school students in real-life entrepreneurial activities, including business visits, guest speaker sessions, business plan development, and hands-on business operations. By fostering essential 21st-century skills such as critical thinking, teamwork, and leadership, the program equips students with the tools they need to succeed in an ever-changing world.

Local businesses, philanthropists, and community members interested in becoming program investors and supporting the Lee County CEO chapter are encouraged to contact Emily Benjamin ebenjamin@leecountyedg.com (319)470-4876.

About Lee County CEO: The Lee County CEO Program is a part of the national Creating Entrepreneurship Opportunities (CEO) initiative. It provides high school students with an immersive entrepreneurial experience, connecting them with local businesses and mentors while teaching essential skills vital for future success.

Endowment credits available

LEE COUNTY - As of September 2023, all 2023 Endow Iowa Tax Credits have been allocated. Endow Iowa added 6 million in additional credits for 2023, so over 13 million in Endow Iowa Tax Credits were awarded in 2023.

If you received an Endow Iowa Tax Credit Application from the Keokuk Area Community Foundation, North Lee Community Foundation or the Community Foundation of Des Moines County, stating that you were going to receive a 2024 Endow Iowa Tax Credit, you were "bumped up" and will most likely receive a 2023 Endow Iowa Tax Credit.

Endow Iowa has begun mailing out the first 1,500 tax credit certificates for 2023. They will begin mailing out the remaining 3,300 tax certificates next week. The goal is to have all 2023 tax credit certificates out to donors by the end of October.

Aha moments can be found in Fober book

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

told her to write the book and she obeyed. Wise decision. She has an acronym, ACUTE, for seeking spiritual guidance. Accept that spiritual communication is real. Claim it for yourself and start using it. Utilize the tools and strategies, such as praying, meditating, and appreciation to activate, expand, and strengthen your intuitive abilities. Trust your feelings and the messages and signs you are receiving. Enjoy the process and journey of Spiritual Communication.

Putting you in touch with your feelings and experiences, and prompting you to remember events out of your life where you have been divinely inspired, probably without knowing it, was for me, an Aha moment. The book's greatest asset is learning how to tap into the spiritual world.

"We co-create with God," Karoleen states, and I believe her, although I didn't realize it until she stated it. "The highest form of energy is love." "Souls, when they are in heaven, do their spiritual work, and they begin to grow and understand things they couldn't in their lifetime on earth." Then those souls of loved ones help us mortals here on earth. Wow!

At 75, I really appreciated what she had to say about

aging. "Highly sensitive people get more sensitive as they grow older." "...those who are highly sensitive have been found to be highly intuitive, and many are blessed with elevated abilities in Spiritual Communication."

Go to Amazon and buy her book. Write a review. Help Karoleen Fober's book go to number one in its category, if not over all. She has an impressive website at www.karoleenfober.com.

So why is Karoleen Fober's book, "Opening to Divine Intervention" the most important book of the 21st Century? It brings us closer to God. What's more important than that? Just yesterday, as I was picking tomatoes, "punkins" and Indian Corn in our garden on a beautiful fall day, I was talking to and thanking God the whole time for His bounty. Another reason I know Karoleen Fober's book is good is that she didn't heed my suggestions. Bully for her. I believe the Holy Spirit brought Karoleen Fober and me together.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com, or visit his website at www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com.



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