

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

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Durham talks up Iowa



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Iowa Economic Development Authority Director Debi Durham spoke to a group of Lee County Economic Development Group stakeholders Wednesday morning at the Lee County Career Advantage Center. Durham said Iowa is positioning itself as a front-runner to attract not only business, but population.

WEDNESDAY VISIT: IEDA Director says Iowa is uniquely positioned for attraction

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A group gathered for breakfast at the Lee County Career Advantage Center Wednesday morning learned that Iowa is leaping over other states as a destination for people and industries looking to relocate around the country.

Iowa Economic Development Authority Director Debi Durham spoke for close to 30 minutes to about 50 people at the CAC in Montrose, highlighting the steps Governor Kim Reynolds and various Iowa agencies are taking to position the state strategically not

only for corporate investment, but also to attract the 20-40 year-old demographic to the state.

Lee County Economic Development Group President Dennis Fraise called Durham “a rock star” on the national landscape.

“There’s only one state economic development director that’s a rock star,” Fraise told the group. “And we have that person. Debi is hands down the very best economic development director in the country.”

Durham outlined how Iowa has positioned itself through data-driven analysis dating back to 2011 to become a go-to state in the

See **BREAKFAST**, page 6

OSA SPONSORSHIP

Silver Steppers step up for Old Settler’s summer music

FORT MADISON - Old Settlers Association President Jim Decker accepted a \$250 contribution from the Newberry Center Silver Steppers recently.

Members of the Silver Steppers took up a collection to become an official sponsor of OSA’s “Music in the Park” summer concert series.

“In our 23 years I don’t believe we have had a group donate out of their own pockets and “step up” to sponsor our summer concerts which are free to the public. We are so appreciative and look forward to the Silver Steppers dancing on our sidewalks again this summer” said Decker.

Concert sponsorships are now being solicited for Friday June 21 “LMNOP” Friday July 26- “Richie Lee and the Fabulous 50’s” and Sunday August 18 “Amarillo”. To sponsor please contact Sheryl Decker, Concert Chair by May 1 to be included in our publicity at 319-470-7813.

FM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library starts new early book program

Library joins 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

BY SARAH CLENDINENG
FM Public Library Director

The Fort Madison Public Library is excited to launch the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program on March 4. Libraries across the country have used this program to help increase the development of early literacy skills in young children.

It’s as simple as it sounds—make a goal to read 1,000 books to your child before Kindergarten. 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten is a fun, free way to start your child on the path to success. 1,000 books may seem like a lot, but if you read one book each night, you’ll reach your goal in less than 3 years. Also, you don’t have to read 1000 different books. If your child has a favorite book, you can count it as a book read each time you read it together.

Children from birth to 5 years old can participate. Stop by the library front desk to register and pick up a reading log to record your first 100 books with your child. When you register, you will also get a bag to hold your library books and a free board book. For each 100 books you read, come back to the library to let us know and pick up another reading log. You can also track your reading using the Beanstack app. As you reach different milestones in the program, your child’s name can be added to our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten progress chart and there are additional prizes for reaching the 250, 500 and 750 book milestones, including free books and a Rhythm and Songs kit. At 1,000 books, your child will get a washable tote bag and have their name put in the front of one of their favorite books at the library.

Every book counts! Happy reading.

The Most Popular Picture Books at the Library

- Trolls 5-minute stories (EF TRO)
- An Elephant & Piggie Biggie!, volume

See **LIBRARY**, page 2

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WEATHER

FRI 01 Mar.....Partly sunny and cool, 54° F/35° F
 SAT 02 Mar.....Clear and cool, 65° F/49° F
 SUN 03 Mar.....Clear and windy, 74° F/55° F

IOWA LOTTERY

DOUBLE PLAY 02/28.....14 38 41 47 67, Powerball: 7
 LOTTO AMERICA 02/28.....16 18 25 37 46, Star Ball: 7 All Star Bonus: 3
 LUCKY FOR LIFE 02/28.....2 9 19 28 34, Lucky Ball: 12
 PICK 3 MIDDAY 02/28.....9 8 7
 PICK 3 EVENING 02/28.....9 9 5
 PICK 4 MIDDAY 02/28.....10 8 3
 PICK 4 EVENING 02/28.....17 9 7
 POWERBALL 02/28.....16 26 29 38 50, Powerball: 6 Power Play: 2

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For the Record/From the Front

Library wants events to list in community calender

LIBRARY - Continued from Page 1

3 by Mo Willems (EF WIL)

• Marvel Spider-Man read-and-listen storybook (EF MAR)

PJ Masks 5-minute stories (EF PJM)

Trust me, Hansel and Gretel Are SWEET!: the story of Hansel and Gretel as told by the witch by Nancy Loewen (EF LOE)

Unicorns are the worst by Alex Willan (EF WIL)

Pig the stinker by Aaron Blabey (EF BLA)

The pigeon has to go to school by Mo Willems (EF WIL)

Dinosaur farm by Penny Dale (EF DAL)

Shark vs. train by Chris Barton (EF BAR)

“Rosie the Riveters of Iowa” by Linda McCann

Rosie the Riveter was a promotional campaign to encourage women to join the workforce during World War II. Men had left many important jobs vacant when they joined the military to fight in the war and women were needed to fill those jobs. During WWII, Iowa had 70 companies with military contracts. Linda McCann was able to speak with 35 women who worked during the war and collected their stories into her new book. Join us at the library at 6:30 pm on Thursday March 7 as Linda shares some of those memories and talks a

little about the development of her latest book. Linda is the author of non-fiction Iowa history, including “Prisoners of War in Iowa, “Prohibition in Iowa” and several books about the Civilian Conservation Corps in different areas of Iowa. Linda will have copies of the Rosie book, plus all her other books, available for purchase.

Adopt an Author, or a Book

Is there an author you love that you want to make sure keeps getting included in the library collection? Alternatively, have you heard about a book that you want to read but don’t want to get stuck with it taking up space on your bookshelf? If you adopt the book, or author, the library will purchase the item (usually at a discounted price). After we have cataloged the item, the adoptee reimburses the library for the cost of the book and gets to be the first person to check-out that book. In 2023, eight people adopted \$655 worth of books total ranging from someone who adopted one book for \$17 to another patron adopting many books for about \$350. Contact Sarah Clendinning, 372-5721, sarahclen@fortmadison.lib.ia.us, if you are interested in adopting a book or an author or would like more information about this program.

Taxes

The library has received all of the Federal tax forms

we will be getting this year. This includes the 1040 forms and instruction booklets. The State of Iowa is no longer sending out forms to libraries but you can find forms to either print or fill out online at their website, tax.iowa.gov. The Iowa Department of Revenue also has a phone number you can call to ask them to mail tax forms to you, 1-800-532-1531. For federal tax questions, you can visit the IRS website, www.irs.gov or call 1-800-829-1040 (1-800-TAX-1040). Finally, United Way of the Great River Region is offering tax help by appointment only through their VITA program until April 13. While there are no more appointments available at their Fort Madison location, they are still taking appointments at their Keokuk location. Call (319) 520-6859 to make an appointment. For more information about this program or to learn about volunteer opportunities, contact Sue Prochazka at 319-524-4504 or vc@unitedwaygr.org.

Community Calendar

We have begun adding community events to the online library calendar at <https://fortmadison.library-calendar.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.

Upcoming Events at the Fort Madison Public Library

Pre-School/Toddler Story Hour -Wednesday morning at 10:30.

Hang Teen - Tuesday, 3:30-5:00 for ages 12-19.

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

Once Upon a Wednesday -Join us from 1:15-2:00 for a variety of adventures. March 6 is Bingo Day and we will have a craft on March 20.

Thursday Crafternoon -Thursday, 3:00-5:00, for ages 14-adult. This program is an opportunity to spend some time working on an in-depth project for the whole month.

All Booked Up! - The library’s book discussion group meets on the first Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m. On Thursday, March 7, we will be discussing “Beloved” by Toni Morrison.

Cook the Book -March 12 at 6:00 pm, we will be selecting recipes from “Magnolia Table, v.2” by Joanna Gaines

BACK PAIN?

Do You Have Hip Pain? Are You As Stiff As a Board When You Try to Get Up From a Chair? Have You Run Out of Hope?

How 5 Lies About Low BACK PAIN May Keep You Hurting, Frustrated & Exhausted...Forever!

NEW Scientific Breakthroughs Often Make Short Work of Low Back Pain...Just What Big Medical Centers and High Priced Clinics Are PRAYING You Never Figure Out On Your Own!

Hi, I'm Dr. Jason James, and if you've got any kind of back, hip or leg pain, your worries may be over in just a few minutes. Why? Because I'm the owner of James Healthcare & Assoc. clinic, and I've discovered what may be the best healing secrets for “bad backs”— EVER!



Dr. Jason James, D.C.

I'd be stupid to make such a claim if I couldn't back it up. But I am so confident we can help your back, I insist on giving you a 100% SATISFACTION PLEDGE at James Healthcare. I hate empty promises, and I also hate the lies most folks have been told about their backs. That's why it's important I expose these MYTHS about back pain.

MYTH #1: Sciatica (pain down your leg) is always caused by a herniated disc!

No way...even though most doctors will sell you a \$3,000 MRI at the first sign of leg pain. But they don't tell you about a 5-inch muscle in the hip that can squeeze the sciatic nerve. And it feels EXACTLY like you've got the worst slipped disc on earth. It's a major discovery and...

The good news is that it can be easy and inexpensive to correct! How? Just keep reading! But first, here's a picture to show you where the pain comes from:



MYTH #2: Stiffness from Arthritis means you're getting old...and it must be the reason for all your pain and stiffness!

Not true, because thousands of folks with arthritis in their backs have absolutely NO PAIN! Then why do YOU feel like your back will snap if you bend forward or twist too fast? Because the truth is:

Your stiffness may be caused by a hidden, even more dangerous problem than arthritis, and it can lead to a hip replacement!

You see, most folks believe that something mysterious (like maybe an “arthritis fairy”?) waved a wand over them, and they're cursed... doomed to suffer forever.

But did you know that many arthritis problems are CAUSED by a combination of unseen imbalances in the spine and surrounding muscles? It's the most common cause of hip replacements but not that hard to correct if we catch it in time. It's like the tires on your car...

If the alignment is off just a teeny-weeny bit, at first you don't notice, but over a few thousand miles you start to see signs of wear...that is, if you're lucky enough to catch it before a flat on the freeway ruins your day. In your spine, you're lucky if you catch untreated imbalances before they ruin your spine! How to fix them? Just look at Myth #3.

MYTH #3: Your Back is “Out”!

Sure, that's exactly how it feels. But guess what, we found that's usually not the case. It sounds good, but we now know better. You see, there are 7 different reasons for that painful, locked-up and stuck feeling that causes so much misery:

- low-grade spasm
- pelvis torque and tension
- imbalance of hips

- fallen or dropped arches
- stiff vertebra joint
- adhesions in leg muscle
- pinched nerve

It's NOT just your spine, and it's NOT just your muscles. As a matter of fact, if one of the major muscles that stabilize the spine is partly spasmed, a “2nd stringer” will have to carry the load. But this is a serious problem...

It's like having your plumber doing all the dangerous electrical work!

Sure, he may get it done, and it may work at first, but how long until there's a fire? Or your back locks up? Which leads me to our next myth:

MYTH #4: “It's Only a Muscle!”

Boy, it's scary how many people think muscle problems are no big deal. Unfortunately, tight, bound-up, and spasmed or tight muscles can wear out joints faster than you can say, “Charley Horse”!

That's why it's important to examine the spine AT THE SAME TIME as the muscles that control it. It's also why we've had such outrageous success with even the worst backs at James Healthcare. Because we deal with BOTH the spine and muscles at the same time. We have spine doctors (chiropractors), pain doctors (nurse practitioners) and muscle professionals (therapists) and together they deliver an outstanding way to help “bad backs”. This ties in to Myth #5 and the diagram:



MYTH #5: “Muscle Relaxants” will help your muscles heal! Good grief, NO!

Your muscles tighten up for a reason, and muscle relaxants are like turning back the clock on a time bomb...you know it's still going to blow up! Sure, you may feel better now, but you'll pay later...and pay “in spades”! So don't fall for these lies about your low back. They'll keep you hurting, frustrated and exhausted forever!

WOULDN'T YOU RATHER:

Turn over in bed without pain waking you up?

Get up in the morning without being as stiff as a board?

Be able to stand for as long as you want without sitting down for relief?

Lean forward over the sink without that “stabbing” in your back or leg?

SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGH:

A hidden muscle may be causing your SCIATICA! Does Your Back Seem “Too Old” for Your Own Body? Not everyone qualifies for treatment, so help us see if you do. If you check off even one box, drop what you're doing and call James Healthcare NOW. And bring this coupon when you come in for your 39-Point “Back-Pain Track-Down Exam”. Now check off what describes you:

- Tension...always tight across the beltline
- Bent—crooked off to one side and can't stand up straight if your life depended on it
- Trigger Point...zinging pain to butt-cheek
- Stiff as a board...creak and groan when you first get out of bed in the morning
- Traitor...can't trust your back and what it's going to do—or when!
- Vice-like...constantly locked down tight!
- Shooting...vicious but short-lived
- Lumbago...hard to pin it down—just seems to hurt all the time, but it's hard to say where
- One-sided...right at that “bone” on one side
- Jack hammer...pounding off and on like a heartbeat or a toothache in your back
- Aching from 1-5 years
- Chronic pain for over 5 years

No one will try to sell you anything, and you make no commitment...you just find out what's wrong!

P.S. Why You MUST Not Wait! Because of appointment availability, we can only honor this \$27 offer or bringing in a new or gently used winter coat through October 31, 2022. So don't say, “Well, maybe I'll be better tomorrow.” Don't put your life on hold. Don't call in sick again. Live your life pain free! Tie your own shoes for a change.

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Dr. Mack Kohnke, DC
Ashley Neuweg, ARNP

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For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

02/28/24 - 1:47 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Devin Andrew Kay, 33, of Fort Madison in the 100 block of 29th Place on a charge of simple assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

02/28/24 - 2:39 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 2400 block of Avenue L.

02/28/24 - 6:17 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3000 block of Avenue L.

02/28/24 - 10:06 p.m.- Fort Madison Police arrested Jason Edward Ramlow, 49, of Fort Madison in the 1900 block of Avenue O, on a charge of domestic abuse assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

02/29/24 - 8:27 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2200 block of Avenue E.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

02/28/24 - No activity reported

Keokuk Police Report

02/28/24 - midnight - Keokuk Police cited Shinna Lachea Randolph, 46, of 1228

High Street, on a charge of allowing dog to attack.

02/28/24 - 10:50 a.m. - Keokuk Police arrested Jeffrey Lee McKay, 53, of Keokuk in the 3800 block of Main Street on a two charge of sexual abuse with a victim under 12 years of age stemming from two separate incidents. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

02/28/24 - 4:01 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1000 block of S. 5th Street.

02/28/24 - 4:02 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of personal injury accident in the 1400 block of Main Street.

02/28/24 - 4:02 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a two-vehicle accident in the 1400 block of Main Street.

According to the report, a vehicle driven by Arianna Diana Germann, 30, of Fort Madison was westbound on the inside lane with the right of way. Another vehicle driven by Huge Gage Price, 20, of Warsaw, was pulling out of the McDonalds parking lot and entered path of Germann's vehicle striking the colliding with Germann's vehicle. No citations or injuries were listed on the report.

Obituaries

OBITUARIES

CARL R. PROPER

Carl Richard Proper, 96, of the Kensington, formerly of Donnellson and Bonaparte, Iowa, passed away at 12:00 a.m. Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at the Kensington in Fort Madison.



PROPER

He was born on October 29, 1927, in Fremont, Nebraska, the son of Donald Harley and Clara H. (Johnson) Proper. On January 10, 1952, he married Barbara Jean Stevens in Farmington, Iowa. She preceded him in death on October 22, 1998.

He is survived by one daughter: Cheryl (Donald) Folker of Farmington, Iowa; one son: Steven Proper of Bonaparte, Iowa; four grandchildren: Steve Junior (Cara) Proper, Derek (Miranda) Proper, Amy Folker, Heather Folker; three great grandchildren; one great - great grandchild and one brother: Donald Proper.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife: Barbara; daughter: Ramona; four sisters: Dorothy, Virginia, Irene, Wannabelle and one brother: Worthy.

Carl served in the United States Navy as a signalman during WWII. He worked as a linotype operator for Wallaces Farmer Magazine and the Ottumwa Courier. He also had worked at Blue Bird in Mt. Pleasant. After retirement, he and his wife Barbara moved to Branson, Missouri where he worked at Silver Dollar City. Carl was a member of the Bonaparte American Legion Sargent - Osweiler Post #563. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, visiting and spending time with family and friends.

A visitation will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 1, 2024, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 1, 2024, at Schmitz Funeral Home with Reverend Mark Caston officiating.

Burial will be at the Bonaparte Cemetery with full military rites presented by the Bonaparte American Legion.

A memorial has been established in his memory for PAW Animal Shelter.

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



OBITUARIES

EDITH WALTE

Edith "Maxine" Walte, 87, of Keokuk, passed away on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at Keosauqua Health Care Center in Keosauqua, Iowa.

Maxine was born on December 2, 1936, in Keokuk, Iowa, the daughter of Pearl E. and Frances (Harrison) Randall. In 1975, she was united in marriage to Elwin Walte in Quincy, Illinois. He preceded her in death on September 12, 2016.

Maxine was a member of St Paul United Church of Christ in Keokuk and was employed as a clerk at County Market. Later she owned a daycare center in her home. Maxine was passionate about cooking, and her family fondly remembers family gatherings around her table, especially enjoying her homemade fudge and root beer floats. Her door was always open, and strangers and friends alike were welcome whenever they needed her compassionate help. Maxine never knew a stranger, and welcomed many foster children in to her home throughout the years.

Maxine is survived by six children: Richard (Linda) Gates of the Philippines, Steve Gates of Keokuk, Kim (Tim) Schilson of Basco, Tonya (Jon) Mulkey of Florida, Margaret Walte of Lomax and Patricia Jaeger of New York; her brother Robert (Claudia) Randall of Rapid City, South Dakota; her sister Janet Bode of Keokuk; her brother-in-law Donald Boeker of Keokuk; ten grandchildren: Sarah and Richard Gates, Matthew Gates, Danielle (Matthew) Finin, Christina (Mark) Bousset, Lindsey (Scott) Gooding, Tyler Schilson, Blake and Corynn Mulkey and Austin Korschgen; and many great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and foster children.

Maxine is preceded in death by her parents, her husband Elwin, her infant daughter Katrina Gates, her sister Karen Boecker and brother-in-law Dean Bode.

Funeral services will be held at 11 am on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk, with burial to follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Keokuk. Visitation will be held at the funeral home from 10 to 11 am on Thursday directly before the service.

Memorials may be directed to K-Play in Keokuk.

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

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



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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
DECEMBER 18, 2023**

The Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa, met on Monday, December 18, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at the County Administration Building, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison, Iowa.

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

All votes are unanimous unless indicated otherwise.

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

Fedler asked for the addition of the Argyle Ball Association to the

workshop items. Moved by Pflug, seconded by Holmes, to approve the agenda with the addition of the workshop item. Motion carried.

Public Input: Mary Jo Reisberg and Jeana Vradenberg both spoke in favor of Lee County Hospice.

Compensation Board Chairman Mel Sanders gave the Board the Compensation Board's recommendation for the Elected Officials' salaries for Fiscal Year 2025. The recommendation was 2 percent for the Sheriff, 3 percent for the Auditor, Treasurer, Recorder and Board of Supervisors and \$8,000 for the County Attorney.

Moved by Schulz, seconded by Pflug, to approve an amendment

to the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and set a Public Hearing for Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 10:01 a.m. at the County Administration Building in Fort Madison. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Holmes, to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with PPME Local #2003, amending Appendix A to say "Current employee transfers into an Administrative unit classification shall start at the step corresponding with their date of hire". Motion carried.

The Board held a discussion with County Engineer Ben Hull regarding implementation and adjustment of Secondary Roads permit fees.

Moved by Schulz, seconded by Fedler, to approve Resolution

#2023-129. Roll call: Schulz-aye, Fedler-aye, Pflug-aye, Holmes-aye and Seyb-aye.

RESOLUTION 2023-129

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors, hereafter referred to as "the Board", believes M2024-1, hereafter referred to as "the project" is in the best interest of Lee County, Iowa, and the residents thereof. The project is defined as Pavement markings throughout Lee County Secondary Road System; and

WHEREAS, the Board has sought appropriate professional guidance for the concept and planning for the project and followed the steps as required by the Code of Iowa for notifications,

hearings, and bidding/letting; and

WHEREAS, The Board finds this resolution appropriate and necessary to protect, preserve, and improve the rights, privileges, property, peace, safety, health, welfare, comfort, and convenience of Lee County and its citizens, all as provided for in and permitted by section 331.301 of the Code of Iowa; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by board to accept the bid from Vogel Traffic Services in the amount of \$238,297.80 and awards the associated contract(s) to the same;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all other resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with this resolution are hereby

repealed. If any part of this resolution is adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the resolution or action of The Board as a whole or any part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its approval as provided by law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa, that after receiving the necessary contract documents, including but not limited to, the contractor's bond and certificate of insurance, Benjamin J. Hull, P.E., the County Engineer for Lee County, Iowa, be and is hereby designated, authorized, and empowered on

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Patrick Profeta
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PUBLIC NOTICES

behalf of the Board of Supervisors of said County to execute the contracts in connection with the afore awarded construction project let through the DOT for this county.

Dated at Lee County, Iowa, this 18th day of December, 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron

HELP WANTED

Come join our team! Now hiring

BUILDING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE TECH

Lee County Facilities Department is seeking a qualified applicant for the position of Building and Grounds Maintenance Tech. Applicants must have good mechanical skills and be willing to perform labor indoors and outdoors in all weather elements. Basic understanding and work experience in mechanical and electrical systems, HVAC, plumbing, painting, grounds keeping (including mowing and snow/ice removal), power equipment operation and maintenance, and best safety and construction practices.

Must be capable of performing duties inside the Lee County Correctional Facility Complex, working with and around inmates. Must hold a valid driver's license and be insurable on the County's insurance.

Starting salary will be \$21.74/ hour. Excellent benefit package including health, dental, vision, and life insurance and IPERS retirement.

Please call Lee County Deputy Auditor Sherri Yasenchok at 319-372-3705 with any questions or for more information. Application and full position description may be found online at www.leecounty.org Please submit cover letter, resume, and completed County application to:

Lee County Auditor's Office
Attn: Sherri Yasenchok
933 Avenue H, PO Box 190
Fort Madison IA 52627
Or email to syasenchok@leecounty.org

Applications will be accepted through Monday, March 11, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. Complete background check and post-offer physical required.

Lee County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the County will provide reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities and encourages both prospective and current employees to discuss accommodations with the employer.

Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried. One other bid was submitted by Iowa Plains Signing, Inc., in the amount of \$302,926.00.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Fedler, to approve Resolution #2023-134. Roll call: Pflug-aye, Fedler-aye, Schulz-aye, Holmes-aye and Seyb-aye.

RESOLUTION # 2023 - 134

INTERFUND TRANSFER FROM RURAL BASIC TO SECONDARY ROADS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024

Whereas, it is desired to authorize the County Auditor to transfer sums from the Rural Basic Fund to the Secondary Roads

HELP WANTED



BURLINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
Deadline- March 29, 2024

- Why should I apply?**
- No experience required
 - Starting pay range \$50,767 - \$65,587
 - \$10,000 Paramedic sign-on bonus
 - Lateral transfers for experienced firefighters
 - \$4,550 annual Paramedic cert pay
 - Pension with retirement at age 55
 - 24-hour shifts (48 hours off between shifts)
 - 15 days (7 weeks) paid time off
 - Newer apparatus and equipment
 - Coming soon – New Fire Station #3

- Application Process**
- Applications open January 1, 2024
 - Applications close March 29, 2024
 - Written exam April 4-5, 2024 (online)
 - Interviews April 11-12, 2024
 - Qualifications
 - High School Diploma or GED
 - Driver's License

Scan the QR code, click here, or go to <https://www.burlingtoniowa.org/2634/Recruitment> to apply online.



Fund during the 2023-2024 budget year, and Whereas, said transfers must be in accordance with Chapter 331.432 of the Code of Iowa.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, by the Lee County Board of Supervisors as follows:

Section 1. The total amount to be transferred for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 is \$2,811,051.

Section 2. Within seven working days of being notified of the current amount in said Fund, the County Auditor shall order a transfer from said funds.

Section 3. Notwithstanding the provision of Section 2, of this Resolution, total transfers shall not exceed the amount in Section 1.

Section 4. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 2, the amount of any transfer shall not exceed available fund balances in the transfer-

HELP WANTED

LEE COUNTY SECONDARY ROADS ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKER II

Lee County is taking applications for a South Road Maintenance Worker II. Duties will include the operation of light and heavy equipment and trucks used 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 starting wage range is \$23.47 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 a job description 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, Iowa 52627, or email it to engineer@leecounty.org Applications will be accepted until 4 p.m. on Friday, March 8, 2024.

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



ring of funds.

Section 5. At the discretion of the County Auditor, fund transfers can be allocated periodically during the fiscal year depending on fund balances.

The County Auditor has determined the amount to transfer on December 18, 2023 is as follows:

Rural Basic Fund to Secondary Roads Fund \$702,762.75.

Section 6. The County Auditor is directed to correct her books when said operating transfers are made and to notify the Treasurer of the amounts transferred.

Dated at Fort Madison, Iowa on the 18th day of December, 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 Schulz, seconded by Holmes, to approve giving \$5,000 out of the Opioid Recovery Funds, to the Talbot Sober Living Home, pending acceptable documentation of expenditures. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Fedler, to approve Resolution #2023-130 through 133. Roll call: Pflug-Aye, Fedler-Aye, Schulz-Aye, Holmes-aye and Seyb-Aye.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-130

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lee County has by Ordinance Number VI-11 adopted a plan for a County-wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District in Lee County, Iowa; and,

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 404.4 provides for prior approval of eligibility for a tax exemption by the governing body of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: Mark and Mary Ann Philp Rev Liv. Trust, 121 270th Street, Donnellson, IA 52625

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 18th day of December, 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-131

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lee County has by Ordinance Number VI-11 adopted a plan for a County-wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District in Lee County, Iowa; and,

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 404.4 provides for prior approval of eligibility for a tax exemption by the governing body of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: Top Notch Customs, 1765 Lost Creek Road, Wever, IA 52658

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review

pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 18th day of December, 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-132

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lee County has by Ordinance Number VI-11 adopted a plan for a County-wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District in Lee County, Iowa; and,

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 404.4 provides for prior approval of eligibility for a tax exemption by the governing body of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: Brandon and Kristine Vogel, 1635 245th Street, Donnellson, IA 52625

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 18th day of December, 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.

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**maybe even faster than this car gets to 60, just sayin'!*



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**RESOLUTION
NO. 2023-133**

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lee County has by Ordinance Number VI-11 adopted a plan for a County-wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District in Lee County, Iowa; and,

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 404.4 provides for prior approval of eligibility for a tax exemption by the governing body of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: Carolyn Chandler, 1116 130th Avenue, Salem, IA 52649

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 18th day of December, 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 the Consent Agenda that included the December 11, 2023 Board minutes, the claims for payment and a change in officers for a Class B Beer Permit for the Izaak Walton League. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Schulz, to approve a wage increase for Nikki Sugars, VA Administrator, from \$46,200.00/annually to \$50,820.00/annually, effective 1/1/24; a wage increase for Joshua Weeks, VA Assistant, from \$15.53/hr. to \$17.08/hr., effective 1/1/24; a new hire for the Treasurer's Office, Brittany Scott, Records Clerk, \$17.62/hr., effective 12/18/23; a new hire for Secondary

Roads, Debra Wiseman, Engineering Records Manager, \$21.74/hr., effective 12/18/23; a step increase for Avery Jacobs, Conservation Tech, from \$25.26/hr. to \$26.01/hr., effective 1/1/24 and a promotion for Secondary Roads employee Ted Menke, from Maintenance \$30.31/hr. to Maintenance Foreman \$32.90/hr., effective 12/18/23. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Fedler reported on an Iowa Crime Commission meeting, a Juvenile Detention Board meeting and a RUSS Board meeting. Holmes reported on a Conservation Board meeting. Schulz reported on a Landfill Commission meeting. Seyb reported on an Economic Development Board breakfast.

At 11:45 a.m. it was moved by Pflug, seconded by Fedler, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the Administration Building in Fort Madison.

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

**Claims paid
December 18, 2023**

Access Systms, svcs 576.97
Ace Hardware, splys 19.99
R Acton, svcs..... 120.00
Airgas USA, splys 124.26
All Seasons Music, svcs 174.02
Alliant Energy, svcs 7494.90
Amazon, splys 105.28
E Andries, exps..... 6.00
J Baier, svcs 182.95
Ball Volvo, splys.... 510.58
E Biddenstadt, exps 10.50
Blessing Hlth, svcs 235.00
J Booth, exps..... 367.50
Bnd Tree Med, splys 4780.91
Brightree Home, splys 3621.82
Brozene Hydraulic, svcs 135.27
Cntrl IA Juv Dtnn, svcs 3771.91
Commerce Bank 1password, svcs..... 19.95
Adobe, sftwr..... 183.82
Aldis, splys..... 124.05

Amazon, splys ... 4,374.62
Apco, dues..... 375.00
Arby's, meal..... 13.77
Autel.us, sftwr 1,145.00
Best Western, Idg, 1,266.80
BP, fuel 94.88
Brazil Terra Grill, meals 212.93
Bricks Kitchen & Pub, meal..... 35.05
Buffalo Wild Wings, meal 23.23
Burger King, meal... 13.13
Cardboard Box, splys 32.05
Carrollton Inn, Idg 268.80
Caseys, fuel..... 357.50
Centurylink, svcs 1,080.00
Cheesecake Factory, meal..... 89.09
Chewy.com, splys 127.95
Chipotle, meal 10.02
Circle K, fuel 73.07
Claim MD, sbscrp 100.00
Club House Bar, meal 30.46
Comfort Inn, Idg.... 598.16
Conn Comm, splys 105.34
Crisp & Green, meal 22.76
Culvers, meal..... 42.00
DC Checks, checks 198.72
Donnellson Lumber, splys 83.16
Embassy Suites, Idg 462.82
Dollar General, splys 57.85
Dominos, meal..... 7.94
Des Moines Parking, fees 12.00
Elite K9, fees 921.86
Fareway, food 264.52
Five Guys, meal..... 23.43
Flying J, fuel 57.76
Forestry Supplies, splys 10.03
Galls, unif..... 2,564.28
Gilbertos, meal..... 21.57
Goodyear, svcs..... 117.48
Govconnect, fees.. 164.47
Hancock Journal, publ 1,730.23
Hilton, Idg..... 1,576.08
Holiday Inn, Idg.... 256.52
Holiday Stations, fuel 51.50
Huffman's, splys 1,147.07
Huhot, meal 21.71
Hulu, svcs..... 19.25
Humburd Auto, tires 1,123.20
HyVee, splys..... 97.26
IA Dept Ag, svcs 105.00
IA Dept Public Safety, svcs 15.00
IA Events Center, fees

..... 12.00
IAWomensFndtin, reg 98.32
In-N-Out Burger, meal 10.16
Int. Svs Fee, fee 7.77
lowacountiesit.org, mbrshp..... 100.00
ISAC, reg..... 650.00
Ittakestwo, splys ... 120.65
Jet Stop, fuel..... 36.75
Jiffy Lube, fuel 65.25
Jim's Lock & Key, keys 7.00
Joann's, splys 108.00
Josh's Frogs, splys 16.71
Kempker's, splys .. 143.43
Kim's Confections, meals 285.00
Kum & Go, fuel 111.83
Kwik Stop, fuel..... 58.42
Kwik Trip, fuel 364.36
Lowe's, splys 34.98
Lucky Wok, meal 10.74
McDonald's, meal... 49.05
McFarland Swan, splys 1,199.76
Mediacom, svcs... 4,300.00
Medpro Waste, svcs 91.51
Menards, splys 812.20
MMIC, ins 2,119.00
Murphy, fuel 52.00
Netflix, svcs 21.39
Office Depot, splys 615.56
O'Reilly Auto, parts 104.93
Panera, meal 116.81
Parts4heating, parts 217.42
Pilot, fuel..... 114.93
Quadient, pstg ... 1,401.51
Quill, toner 369.98
Rathbun, water 293.75
Shell Oil, fuel 33.36
Shottenkirk, svcs 1,535.72
Sillworks, equip 756.85
Sirchie, splys 38.10
Swed, meals 59.50
Staples Inc, splys.... 44.51
Starbucks, meal..... 5.62
Steak-n-Shake, meal 9.53
Subway, meal 29.15
Taco Johns, meal.... 11.11
Tmobile, svcs 1,480.38
Trail's TA Travel, fuel 17.28
The Topsy Steer, meal 35.14
Turbo Wash, veh 10.00
U Iowa, cards..... 25.50
Umi Sushi, meal 63.84
USPS, pstg 421.06
Verizon, svcs 1,103.65
Wal Mart, splys 562.10
Wiss & Wiss, svcs .. 212.26
W-Tao Sushi, meals 137.50
Yard House, meal... 62.47
A Cook, exps 257.00
M Cook, exps..... 175.50
D Coovert, svcs 252.33

CSW Services, svcs 50000.00
Cullen Pest, svcs.... 191.00
Culligan, water..... 42.95
Democrat Co, publ 540.80
Darkside Tint, splys 195.00
L DeFord, exps 182.50
DM Co Hlth Dpt, svcs 5709.36
LDettmers, exps 49.50
Discount Tire, svcs... 91.95
Donnellson Tire, svcs 322.00
Douds Stone, mtrl 13004.20
EMSLRC, edu..... 86.00
Enderle Htg&A/C, svcs 353.92
ESO Sol, svcs 14316.94
B Fader, exps 276.50
Floyds EZ Way, svcs 70.00
FM Chmbr, edu..... 600.00
Garner FdMart, fuel 1003.52
B Gaylord, exps 40.00
GRRWA, svcs..... 13382.00
J Hall, exps 170.00
Hancock Co Hlth, svcs 645.00
Hartricks Lmbr, parts 11.94
A Hayes, exps..... 19.00
Hlthcarefirst, svcs.. 1112.56
Hellige Lawn, svcs... 70.00
Henderson Prod, splys 15935.13
hibu Inc, publ 153.00
Home Thrpy Sol, svcs 1154.20
J Hudson, exps..... 20.00
Huffman Wlding, equip 237.54
ICONNECTYOU, svcs 160.00
Ideal Rdy Mix, mtrl 842.64
IMWCA, ins..... 37363.00
Industrial Motors, splys 199.00
IA Prison Ind, splys 62.50
S Jeffries, exps 212.50
Jet Gas, fuel 8274.57
J Deere Financial, exps 5.92
T Johnson, rent.... 300.00
JW Medical, equip 2968.00
Keo Med Equip, splys 700.75
Rvrfrnt Brdctg, publ 250.00
Keo Hsing Auth, svcs 8981.63
P Knustrom, exps 252.00
Kohlmorgan Hlg, svcs 1212.50
B Krmr Rsbgr, exps 84.50
LeeCo Auditor, Ctrl Pur 1045.06
LeeCo Econ Dvlpt, contr

LeeCo Sheriff, svcs 692.16
LeeCo Treas, fees 318716.08
LeeCo Treas, costs 5565.44
Lynch Dallas, svcs.. 228.00
Madison Apts, rent 300.00
McFarlands, splys 468.82
McKesson Med, splys 104.38
Mediacom, svcs..... 491.12
Meek/OkInd Sand, svcs 600.00
MidAmer Enrgy, gas 126.27
Midway Frtltnr, svcs.. 118.22
MW Grp Bnfts, svcs 1205.25
O Miller, exps..... 392.50
Mohrfeld Elect, svcs 105.00
L Mullins, exps..... 484.50
Mutual Whl, parts.. 399.63
Ntnl Assoc of Cnts, dues 717.00
OMG Midwest, svcs 2835.56
Onmedia, adv 600.00
M Park, exps..... 166.00
R Pptrsn Rhn, exps ... 4.50
PCC Ambulance, svcs 6752.07
Pen City Current, publ 59.99
Postal Source, svcs.. 35.00
Red Lion Rnwbls, svcs 1507.37
RicohUSA, splys..... 82.80
M Ross, exps..... 66.00
Sandy Fire, unif 99.95
J Saunders, exps... 220.50
A Schiller, svcs 724.00
T Schroeder, exps 206.50
G Seyb, exps 81.00
Shottenkirk Inc, svcs 1272.78
SIADSA, svcs 7030.00
SIEDA, cntrb..... 2077.85
SEIRMC, svcs 600.00
Star Equip, equip.... 56.98
St Hygienic Lab, svcs 54.00
Stericycle, svcs..... 70.00
R Swainey, exps... 231.00
M Terhune, exps... 342.50
S Thompson, exps 180.00
Tri-St Sheetmetal, svcs 986.00
P Tripp, exps..... 276.50
US Cell, svcs 1971.18
A Wagenhauser, edu 40.00
Wilhite Auto, svcs ... 780.71
Windstream, svcs... 165.00
B Zinnert, exps 535.50
Zion Menn Cemtry, svcs 250.00

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From the Front

Durham: State pivoted during COVID pandemic

BREAKFAST - Continued from Page 1

in which our businesses can prosper," she said.

The culture is created around taxation, regulations, workforce development, infrastructure development, and a transportation grid.

But she said today it's just as important to focus on community development.

"It's about creating communities in which people want to live. Iowa's greatest challenge is we have a population problem. It was pre-COVID and it still is today."

She said placemaking, housing, and quality of life are now just as important as the economic factors, and policies and programs will create the vibrant communities.

She pointed to biosciences, advanced manufacturing, finance, and insurance, information technologies innovations, and other "mature platforms".

But she said the workforce participation is one of the key indicators that companies looking to come to Iowa stare at.

"This is everyone 18 years old to retirement that is, as able-bodied to work, working. We're at 67.7% today that was 70.3% pre-COVID – second highest in the country. So what happened and who's sitting on the sideline?" Durham asked.

COVID forced people close to retirement to exit the workforce because 401Ks were healthy. She said women also left in massive numbers to run the homes because kids were home and they had to make decisions to navigate the pandemic when 33% of day care and child care centers closed.

The most alarming, she said, was young men 25-34 who aren't working.

"Where are they? Well, some say they are back in their parents' basements. So I encourage any of you that have that, kick 'em out. Launch them. They got burnt out during COVID and they are out trying to find themselves. I don't know where the hell they are, but they need to get back to work."

According to data, she said Iowa is still trending better than most with the average unemployment claim at just 10 weeks. Changes include unemployed being assigned case workers who identify barriers to entry back into work. Those staff help move people to careers they are happier with.

She also said Iowans need to birth more children as a natural organic way to grow the pop-

union.

"It's all about creating a business climate or culture

ulation. Durham is a grandmother to four boys and another on the way.

"But we have to recruit people in. We have to focus as much on talent attraction as we do on industry attraction," she said.

The IEDA runs the state tourism office and she said data asked questions around why people live here and what was attractive to those who have moved in. During COVID, the state turned its message to asking people to visit and invest when no one was leaving "their bunkers".

The data showed that COVID changed the way people look at what they called home. Seven out of 10 respondents said it did, per IEDA data. Those demographics were 20-40 year-olds and that is the market the state is working to attract.

Early data showed that cost of living, economic vitality, outdoor recreation, connectivity, and arts and culture were the primary factors when people looked to move. The information has changed slightly since the pandemic has waned and safety is now the number two factor in where people choose to live.

"It's no wonder when you see what's happening in our iconic cities in the country. Whether it's Minneapolis, in our backyard, or Chicago. Policies matter. People do not feel safe."

Reynolds then decided to raise the profile of the state around those factors and contracted with a marketing firm to create a campaign around "where rolling hills meet small bills." The campaign ran nationally and through influencers and drone footage of state parks and Iowa's landscape.

Durham said the perception of Iowa's beauty went up dramatically when people started to see Iowa for what it was, and not for what they didn't know.

She said carbon sequestration and renewable hydrogen are new initiatives in the state.

Emily Benjamin, LCEDG Vice President of Economic Development, updated the group on the activities of the organization, including the launching of the first chapter of C.E.O in Iowa. The chapter of Creating Economic Opportunities, is built around high school students who will meet every day for a year at businesses and the CAC and will have mentors that challenge them to get involved in communities, as well as creating businesses that will actually produce and sell products and/or services.

She said LCEDG is still working diligently on business growth and expansion, and will continue to do so. They are also continuing to develop certified development sites in the county, so digging deeper on broadband, natural gas, marketing, and figuring out what's next.

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