

PEN CITY CURRENT

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Friday, June 7, 2024 | 7 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 100



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Montrose road fix \$700K

OPTIONS: City still looking at options for road repair

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE – A bid to permanently fix the Mississippi River Road just south of Montrose has come in at \$700,000.

Montrose Mayor Matt Mullins said Thursday that he received the bid from Geo Stabilization International of Minneapolis/St. Paul and reviewed it on Monday.

Mullins said there are some things in the bid that he isn't familiar with and is having it reviewed.

He said one part of the bid allows the company to charge up to \$1,200/hour for down time in the event that something would halt work on the road.

"I reviewed it Monday and I'm not familiar with some of the language in there. If it was for a building or clinic or something I would understand it, but this is different. I've sent it to Garry Seyb at Lee County Supervisors to look at," Mullins said.

He said the issue will be put in front of the Montrose City Council for discussion but nothing is being voted on.

Seyb said the county is helping the city connect the dots to groups that could provide assistance.

Mullins said he's also working with local, state and federal officials to try and find funding sources, but the city has

See MONTROSE, page 2

CHILD CARE

Carousel to close doors to preschool

Director says declining enrollment and fewer teachers led to closure

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Another early childhood program in the area is closing its doors.

The Carousel Preschool located and run in conjunction with Union Presbyterian Church announced Wednesday it will be closing its doors after 31 years of providing preschool services to local children.

Director Starr Kistner said there will be a farewell open house at 2 p.m. on Saturday at the preschool 719 Avenue F in Fort Madison, to recognize the efforts of the organization for the past three decades.

The closure is just another hit to the child care services in Lee County with several closures over the past year including the YMCA child care services in Donnellson.

Kistner said enrollment is down at the preschool, which didn't offer day care services, just preschool for 3- and 4-year-old children.

"We've been a preschool and not a daycare service," Kistner said. "With the (Fort Madison) school district planning expanding PreK programs at the new elementary school, our enrollment is projected to be down again."

Kistner said church officials had discussed the idea of providing day care services several years ago but decided against it due to the extensive commitments involved in caring for infants and children between infant and three years of age.

The 4-year-old program was offered in the past, but was cut last year when the preschool lost the teacher and couldn't find a replacement.

See CAROUSEL, page 4

TUNNELS TO TOWERS

Donnellson opens registration for 4th of July event

PCC STAFF

DONNELLSON - The Tunnel to Towers Foundation, established in memory of a fallen 9/11 firefighter, Stephen Siller, whose mission is to honor and support first responders and the military, today announced plans to hold its 3rd Annual Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Walk in Donnellson, IA July 4th.

The event will honor and celebrate first responders—fire, police, EMTs, paramedics—as well as military service heroes who serve, sacrifice and protect us every day.

Registration for the 5K Run/Walk is now officially open and participants may register online at <https://runsignup.com/Race/Events/IA/Donnellson/DONNELLSONIA>.

Registered walkers and runners will have the opportunity to create their own profile pages that will feature their personal photos and individual stories. Additionally, participants can compete to raise the most funds and recruit the most friends to their team.

Donnellson, IA 5K Run & Walk will start at the Donnellson Fire Department 616 N. Main. Iowa State Patrol Colonel

See 5K, page 6

The annual Tunnel to Towers 4th of July 5K run walk registration is open. The Donnellson holiday event is the third annual run and features a breakfast at the fire station and speakers honoring law enforcement and military heroes.

INDEX

Business Directory.....P.5
BUSINESS NEWS.....P.4
CLASSIFIEDS.....P.5
 Complete Rental.....P.3
 Faeth's Cigar Store.....P.6
FROM THE FRONT.....Ps.2,4,6
 Fullenkamp Insurance.....P.2
HEALTH NEWS.....P.4
 Jim Baier, Inc.....P.4

Lee County
 Health Department Hospice.....P.4
LEE COUNTY NEWS.....Ps.2,4,6
LOCAL NEWS.....Ps.3-4
 Love Lee County Tour 2024.....P.7
OBITUARIES.....P.2
 • Rose M. DePew, 90
 • Irene Jacobsmeier, 94
 Pen City Current.....Ps.2,4-5

Pilot Grove Savings Bank.....P.3
 Pothitakis Dental Group.....P.6
 Public Notices.....P.5
SPORTS.....Ps.3,6

WEATHER

FRI 07 Jun Increasing clouds, 79° F/ 61° F
 SAT 08 Jun Chance of showers, 80° F/ 57° F
 SUN 09 Jun Sunny, 79° F/ 55° F

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DOUBLE PLAY 06/05..... 41120 45 49, Powerball: 21
 LOTTO AMERICA 06/05..... 3 15 17 43 49, Star Ball: 7 All Star Bonus: 3
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 PICK 3 MIDDAY 06/05..... 114
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Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

IRENE JACOBSMEIER

Irene Jacobsmeier, 94, of Salem, Iowa, formerly of Mt. Hamill. Passed away peacefully Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at the Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House in West Burlington, with her family by her side.



JACOBSMEIER

She was born on February 7, 1930, in Mt. Hamill, Iowa, the daughter of Frank and Eleanor (Hunold) Joachim. On October 1, 1949, she married Joseph J. Jacobsmeier at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Houghton. He preceded her in death on September 17, 2000.

She is survived by her three daughters: Pat (Richard) Hatfield of Houghton, Iowa, Jane (Randy) Morrow of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, Angie Kruse (Al Waterman) of Burlington, Iowa; eight grandchildren; Zach Jacobsmeier, Kayla Scott, Chris Hatfield, Ryan Hatfield, Jacob Morrow, Jesse Morrow, Ashley Lemke, Max Jacobsmeier; eleven great grandchildren; two sisters-in-law: Gretchen Joachim and Laverne Jacobsmeier. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband: Joe; two sons: Mike and Tony; grandson: Isaac Jacobsmeier; two brothers: Lester and Jerry Joachim; sister: Joanne Jacobsmeier; daughter-in-law: Linda Jacobsmeier and son-in-law: Don Kruse.

Irene was a ninety year resident of Mt. Hamill. She drove a school bus for over thirty-five years. She was a member of St. John's Catholic Church, the West Point American Legion Auxiliary and the Mt. Hamill Sunshine Girls. Irene enjoyed socializing with others and most of all, she loved spending time with her family.

A visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Saturday, July 13, 2024, at St. John's Catholic Church in Houghton, Iowa.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at at St. John's Catholic Church at 12:00 noon, Saturday, July 13, 2024, at St. John's Catholic Church with Father Dan Dorau as celebrant.

Burial will be at St. John's Cemetery, Houghton, Iowa.

Memorials have been established in her memory for Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House, Houghton Fire and Rescue or St. John's Cemetery.

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

Montrose still looking for answers to collapsed road

MONTROSE - Continued from Page 1

other issues at hand as well.

For the past dozen years or so heavy rains have caused, at different times, a portion of the Mississippi River Road to collapse towards the Mississippi River.

The city is in a fact-finding stage with regard to the road, but is also having to deal with very pressing concerns at the sewer plant.

Mullins said in a recent story, there are several broken pieces of equipment at the sewer plant but it's still meeting Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Agency benchmarks for water discharge into the river.

However, the repairs needed at the sewer treatment plant were estimated at \$3 million back in 2019 and Mullins fears those are 25% to 50% higher now.

The most recent collapse of the road occurred April 28, the same night as Central Lee's and Keokuk's high school proms. Mullins said after speaking with past mayors and city officials the collapses are becoming less and less severe.

"When it first collapsed it fell about 15 feet, but this last one was only two feet, so at least it seems to be getting better," he said.

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OBITUARIES

ROSE M. DEPEW

Rose Marie DePew, 90 of Carthage, MO formerly of Keokuk, IA passed away Monday, June 3, 2024.

She was born December 3, 1933 in Sweet Home, OR the daughter of Anthony G. and Addie Eva King Mork. Rose graduated from Ukiah High School in Ukiah, CA with the class of 1951. Rose was united in marriage to Claude Ambrose Leggett in 1952. To this union five children were born. They later divorced. On December 23, 1983 Rose was united in marriage to Scott DePew in Sioux City, IA. He survives.



DEPEW

Other survivors include two daughters, Linda Marie Parrish of Iowa City, IA and Claudia Joan Warren of Ohio, one son, Carl Leggett of Spencer, IA, twelve grandchildren, Tori Kenel, Angela Merriss, Logan Parrish, Michael Wuan, Kyle Wuan, Heather Oswald, Ashley Leggett, Amy Leggett, Josh Leggett, Andrea Leggett, Angela Leggett and Melissa Fields and twenty-nine great-grandchildren. She is also survived by two brothers, Ralph Mork (Janet) of Phoenix, AZ and Larry Mork of Round Mount, CA.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one son, James Leggett, one daughter, Marla Leggett Fields, one sister, Eva Mork and one granddaughter, Beth McGregor.

In her younger years, Rose had been employed by L.J. Denmire as a contract farmer and surveyor. She later was the manager at Joann Fabrics and then worked in Human Resources at Kmart. She had worked for Heartland Fundraisers and organized fundraisers for schools. Lastly, Rose was employed by the Keokuk Community School District as a bus driver, a position she held until her retirement.

Rose was a member of First Baptist Church in Keokuk and had served as a Deaconess. She was also a member of Eastern Star E.C. Blackman Chapter #306 for over sixty years and had served as a Grand Representative of the Grand Chapter.

She was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan and was one of their biggest supporters. She enjoyed going for motorcycle rides and had her own 1945 Harley Davidson. Rose loved airplanes and flying and attended air shows and museums every chance she got. She liked all types of music, square dancing, and lighthouses. She was athletic and competitive and played on several softball teams. Additionally, she was a talented bowler and her team won the state championship. Rose also coached many Little League Teams through the years.

A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m., Sunday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Reverend John Simpson and Reverend Amy Jewel officiating. Burial will be in the Hickory Grove Cemetery.

Visitation will be held from 1-3 p.m., Saturday, at the funeral home with family meeting with friends at that time. An Eastern Star Service will be held at 1 p.m. at the start of visitation.

Memorials may be made to the Autism Foundation.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

06/05/24 - 8:24 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Zachary Jay Krueger, 21, of Fort Madison, in the 3900 block of Bluff Road, on a charge of possession of a controlled substance. He was held at Lee County Jail.

06/05/24 - 8:24 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Zachariah Justice Raines, 22, of Fort Madison, in the 3900 block of Bluff Road on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. He was held at Lee County Jail.

06/05/24 - 8:38 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 500 block of 10th Street.

06/05/24 - 1:08 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 3500 block of Bluff Road.

06/05/24 - 3:00 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Jenica Ann Steward, 42, of Fort Madison, in the 4000 block of Avenue O, on a warrant for dog running at large. She was released on bond.

06/05/24 - 5:43 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Jeramy Francis Skelton, 33, of Fort Madison in the 2700 block of Avenue O., on a warrant for voluntary absence from custody. He was held at Lee County Jail.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

06/05/24 - 12:42 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Logan Alexander Occhi, 21, of West Point at the sheriff's office on a warrant for a hold. He was held at Lee County Jail.

06/05/24 - 2:57 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jessica Mae

Dittmers, 36, of Fort Madison, in the 3600 block of Avenue O, in Fort Madison on warrants for possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.

06/06/24 - 12:19 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Matthew Jay Wells, 23, of Fort Madison in the 1500 block of Avenue H in Fort Madison, on charges of public intoxication and interference with official acts. He was held at Lee County Jail.

06/06/24 - 1:00 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested James Lee Alberts, 26, of Keokuk, in the 100 block of N. 7th Street in Keokuk, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.



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Local News/Sports

FM's Atlee killed at Normandy on D-Day scout mission

The following was provided by Shalisse Johnstun from Fort Madison High School in honor of D-Day.

"William H Atlee was an accountant from Iowa. He enlisted in the US Army on September 24, 1942, and joined the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, nicknamed the "Screaming Eagles."

As a paratrooper on D-Day, Atlee's group was scattered over a wide area. An officer ordered Atlee and another man to scout ahead. As they left the field and started to cross a sunken road, they were hit by crossfire from a group of Germans. Atlee was killed instantly." (honorstates.org)

From Find A Grave:

T/5 William H. Atlee's helmet.

Technician 5thClass William H. Atlee was an accountant from Iowa, born in 1914. He enlisted in the U.S. Army on September 24, 1942, and joined the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, nicknamed the "Screaming Eagles." Atlee had the distinction of being the nephew of Clement Attlee (the American side of the family spelled the surname differently), the deputy prime minister of Winston Churchill's wartime coalition government and later Prime Minister of Great Britain. Clement Attlee was known to William as "Uncle Kermit" and while in England, the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Robert L. Wolverton, often gave William additional leave passes so that he could visit his uncle.

Atlee along with the rest of Lt. Col. Robert L. Wolverton's stick two days before the invasion.

On the evening of June 5, 1944, Atlee climbs on board C-47 'Stoy Hora' bound for Normandy.

The 506th Parachute Infantry Division. Atlee is the first man seen on the right (holding cigarette in mouth).

Like many parachute units on D-Day, Atlee and the 506th Parachute Regiment were dropped off-target. Atlee's 3rd Battalion was



ATLEE

scattered over a wide area. Just after the drop, Atlee and Technician 4thClass Joseph Gorenc ambushed several German soldiers on a horse and cart. In the firefight, the two troopers managed to kill the enemy unit. The two paratroopers

eventually met up with a group from the 501st led by an officer. The officer ordered Atlee and Gorenc to scout ahead. As they left the field and started to cross a sunken road in Chemins de Campagne, they were hit by crossfire from a group of German paratroopers. Atlee was killed instantly.

On the night of June 5/6, Joseph Gorenc loads onto "Stoy Hora" for his last jump in Normandy. Atlee was also a crew member on "Stoy Hora" that night.

As they flew toward France on the night of June 5/6, 1944 every member of Wolverton's stick signed war correspondent Ward Smith's notebook. Atlee was among them.

Charles Destres, a local farmer, discovered Atlee's body a day later. Destres covered the body with a blanket and took Atlee's helmet to a U.S. Army graves registration unit. The unit prepared Atlee's body for burial with other troopers who had been killed in action. Atlee, SSgt. Paul Simrell, and 1stSgt. Jim Shirley, three friends from the same battalion, lay together in the field where they had been killed.

Awards: Purple Heart

William was born on October 20, 1914 to John Cox and Marjorie Atlee. His father and his grandfather were the President of Lee County Savings Bank. They lived in the mansion on the corner of 9th and E. (903 E).

William was married twice, the second time to Eunice Spurgeon on Oct. 18, 1938, in Keokuk. They had a daughter named Penelope (Penny) Jane born on November 24, 1939.

William was killed in action on June 6, 1944 in Normandy, France. He is buried in the American Cemetery in France.



Courtesy image

Fort Madison senior Landon Leenerts won the Iowa SCTP Varsity Men's Handicap State Championship on Wednesday. Leenerts shot a 96/100 and is the FMHS first-ever state singles champion.

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Member LION Publishers

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Pen City Current, www.PenCityCurrent.com, and Pen e-Saver are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Monday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

Founded in 2016

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Health News/Lee County News

Carousel Preschool farewell open house Saturday

CAROUSEL - Continued from Page 1

She said the Fort Madison district took on the preschool and the YMCA as part of the state voluntary program as a free preschool for residents about nine years ago.

But now with the school opening the program on site, the preschool can't find any teachers and with the enrollment declining they decided to shutter the program.

She said she has kept up conversations with the area day care professionals to help in any way they can.

The Carousel started in September of 1993 when the Camp Fire Kid's Castle Day Care closed.

Union Presbyterian Church approved the preschool program as an outreach program and church members have been the administrators. The first church committee was Pat Lodwick, Helen Liddle, Dana Rheinschmidt, Jan Gill and Maxine Herold.

The organization offered preschool for 3- and 4-year-old children. The first teacher was Sandy Hunter. She was followed by Sharon Gerveler, Tiffany Shieffer, Candy Berquam, Kim Anderson, and Starr Kistner. The associates were Karen Martinez, Chris Wilson, Amy Bloomer, Becky Anderson and Brandi Hotop.

Kistner said the preschool feels it has fulfilled their vision by having students start a lifetime of learning patterns, testing social interaction, experimenting with the rewards of sharing, practicing honest choice, and being ready for the challenge of kindergarten.

A farewell open house to recognize the Carousel Preschool and its teachers Starr Kistner and Martha ZSpears is going to be held Saturday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Union Presbyterian Church.

Lee County Health Department sets Keokuk vaccination clinic

KEOKUK - Lee County Health Department will be holding a Children's Immunization Clinic Thursday, June 13th, 2024 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 www.leecountyhd.org.

At this time, we are giving childhood immunizations by appointment only. Please call 319-372-5225 to schedule an appointment.**

Fife-LaFrenz given Keokuk Friends of Hawthorne Award

KEOKUK, Iowa - Hawthorne Elementary honored Janet Fife-LaFrenz with a Friends of Hawthorne Award at an awards assembly with students on May 23 at Hawthorne.

"She is truly part of the Hawthorne team and we value and appreciate her dedication to serving our students," Diane Berner, teacher and member of the Hawthorne Facilities Committee. "Congratulations, Janet, and thank you, from all of us."

After a long and successful teaching

career, Fife-LaFrenz has continued as a substitute teacher in the Keokuk Community School District. Following a nomination period and voting by the Hawthorne Facilities Committee, Janet Fife-LaFrenz was named the 42nd recipient of the award.

The Friend of Hawthorne Award was created to recognize and thank volunteers, businesses and community members that have gone above and beyond to support Hawthorne students. The First award was presented for the 1999-2000 school year.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING MINUTES

City of Mount Pleasant Council Work Session Wednesday, February 28, 2024 4:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Steven K. Brimhall, Kent White, Jeff Batty, Terry McWilliams, Bob Griffith, Brent Schleisman

Absent: Steve Engberg
Council conducted interviews with three (3) candidates, William Bensmiller, Nick Ettinger, Anthony Blint for Fire Chief.

Steven K. Brimhall, Mayor
Brent Schleisman, City Administrator

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING MINUTES Mount Pleasant City Council, Iowa, March 27, 2024

The Mount Pleasant City Council met in adjourned session on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall, 307 East Monroe Street, second-floor meeting room. The meeting was called to order by the Mayor and the roll being called there were present Steven K. Brimhall in the Chair and the following named Councilmembers.

Present: Engberg, Crull, McWilliams, White, Griffith, Batty

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Absent: Councilmember Griffith moved and Councilmember White seconded that the Council approve the agenda as printed.

Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.

5:01 p.m. A Public Hearing was held as advertised on the City of Mount Pleasant 2024/2025 maximum property tax dollars. 5:13 p.m. Councilmember Batty moved and Councilmember Griffith seconded that the hearing close.

Roll call vote 6-0. Motion approved.

Councilmember White moved and Councilmem-

HELP WANTED

BECOME THE BRAVEST Fort Madison Fire Department is Hiring Firefighters

The Civil Service Commission of the City of Fort Madison, Iowa will be conducting examinations for the position of Firefighter on 09.28.2024

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Application packets must be returned to the City Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 240, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627 or emailed to cityclerk@fortmadison-ia.com no later than 4:30 p.m. on 06.14.2024.



ber Engberg seconded that the Council approve the 2024/2025 maximum property tax dollars. Motion carried, 6-0.

It was moved by Councilmember Batty and seconded by Councilmember Griffith that the Council adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m. to meet in regular session Wednesday, March 27, 2024.

Steven K Brimhall,

Mayor
ATTEST:
Lori Davis, City Clerk

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Sports/From the Front

Donnellson event is one of more than 70 TtoT events

5K - Continued from Page 1

Nathan Fulk will be our speaker this year. Opening remarks will begin at 7:30 am. Donnellson Fire Department will be serving pancakes that morning. We encourage everyone to stay after the run for the Donnellson 4th of July Parade that starts at 10:30 a.m.

The Donnellson, IA 5K Run & Walk is the latest of more than 70 events in a national series of 5K and tower climbs held all around the United States in support of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

For more information or questions, please contact us at Donnellson@t2t.org.

Tunnel to Towers is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing services for the nation's first responders and military. Through its Smart Home Program, dozens of customized high-tech "smart homes" have been built throughout the country for catastrophically injured service members. These homes, created primarily for those who are now triple- and quadruple-amputees as a result of IED explosions, have specialized features run off of iPads to allow these heroes to lead as independent a life as possible. Through its Fallen First Responder Home Program, the Foundation pays off the mortgages for the families of law enforcement officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty who leave behind young children. The Foundation's goal is to ensure stability and

security to these families facing sudden tragic loss. Through its Gold Star Family Home Program, the Foundation honors the legacy of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country by providing the surviving spouses and young children with mortgage-free homes.

Tunnel to Towers is dedicated to the memory of FDNY hero, and father of five, Stephen Siller, who lost his life on 9/11. Stephen, who was off-duty when the first plane hit, drove to his Brooklyn firehouse and retrieved over 60 pounds of his gear, then sought the quickest route to the World Trade Center. Finding the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel blocked, in a supreme act of heroism, Stephen ran about three miles with that gear, to the Twin Towers, where he perished.

Stephen's six much-older brothers and sisters, who had raised him after Stephen was orphaned at age 10, subsequently established the Tunnel to Towers Foundation in his honor. It's signature event is its Annual Tunnel to Towers 5K Run/Walk held in New York City the last September of the month. The event, which draws 25,000 participants from all over the world, follows in Stephen's heroic footsteps on 9/11.

For more information on DONNELLSON, IA 5K Run & Walk, please visit <http://www.T2Trun.org>.

Fishing picking up as waters start to recede from spring flooding

DES MOINES - The following is the fishing report from the Department of Natural Resources for southeast Iowa lakes, ponds and rivers.

Big Hollow Lake

Water temperature is in the upper 70s. Water is clear. Bluegill - Good: Work the shallow flats and around the jetties to find some of the last males on the nests. Then work the trees and brush in about 6 feet of water. Largemouth Bass - Good: Soft plastics rigged weedless and attached to a strong line work best in this lake with abundant flooded woody habitat.

Lake Belva Deer

Water temperature is in the mid 70s. Water clarity remains decent at just under 4 feet. Curly-leaf pondweed beds are still thick. Black Crappie - Fair: Found almost no crappies in shallow by the end of last week. Find crappies in 10 to 12 feet of water by vertically jigging or slow drift trolling. Bluegill - Good: Some bluegills are still on

beds; concentrate your efforts along the outer edges of the curly-leaf pondweed beds. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Mostly males running the edges of the weed beds and guarding nests. Most females were are t in deeper water or over the mounds recovering from the spawn. Redear Sunfish - Good: Some nice-sized redears are still on the beds. Try fishing near the bottom or bounce jigs just off the bottom to entice the bite.

Lake Darling

Water temperature is 75 degrees. Water clarity is good at 38 inches. Just a hint of green color. Black Crappie - Fair: Crappies have returned to the deeper (10-12 feet) habitat: the rock piles down by the dam, the big brush piles along the south side, etc. Anglers are vertical jigging for them. Bluegill - Good: Bluegills are still on the nest in some areas of the lake, but more and more are moving to the rock piles and other habitat in 5-8 feet of water. Largemouth Bass - Good: Find where the wind is blowing into the rocks and you should find the bass. Most, but not all spawning nests are finished. Mostly males being caught; females are still out deep for the post-spawn.

Lake Geode

Water temperature is 77 degrees. Water clarity is good at a little over 6 feet.

Water has a green hint to it. Black Crappie - Slow: A few crappies are still in shallow; look for them in the tree falls along the shoreline. Most have headed out to deeper water for the summer. Bluegill - Good: Still some active beds in the shallow bays. Most of the bigger bluegills are just under 8-inches. Largemouth Bass - Good: Bass are 15- to 16-inches. They are concentrated around the tree falls along the shore. While the water willows are coming back, they haven't established a weed line yet.

Lost Grove Lake

Water temperature was 75 degrees earlier this week. Water clarity is good at about 5 feet. Black Crappie - Slow: Find crappie in the trees in 14-16 feet of water. Vertical jigging and moving around is the best method to find them. Bluegill - Good: Still some active beds in the shallows; more and more anglers are starting to work deeper water by vertically jigging or drift-trolling. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Still a few males on the nest. It's time to start working the edges of the weed beds and the mid-depth (6 to 10 feet) rock piles and brush.

Skunk River (Rose Hill to Coppock)

The Skunk River has spent most of this week getting back to about 2/3 bank full.

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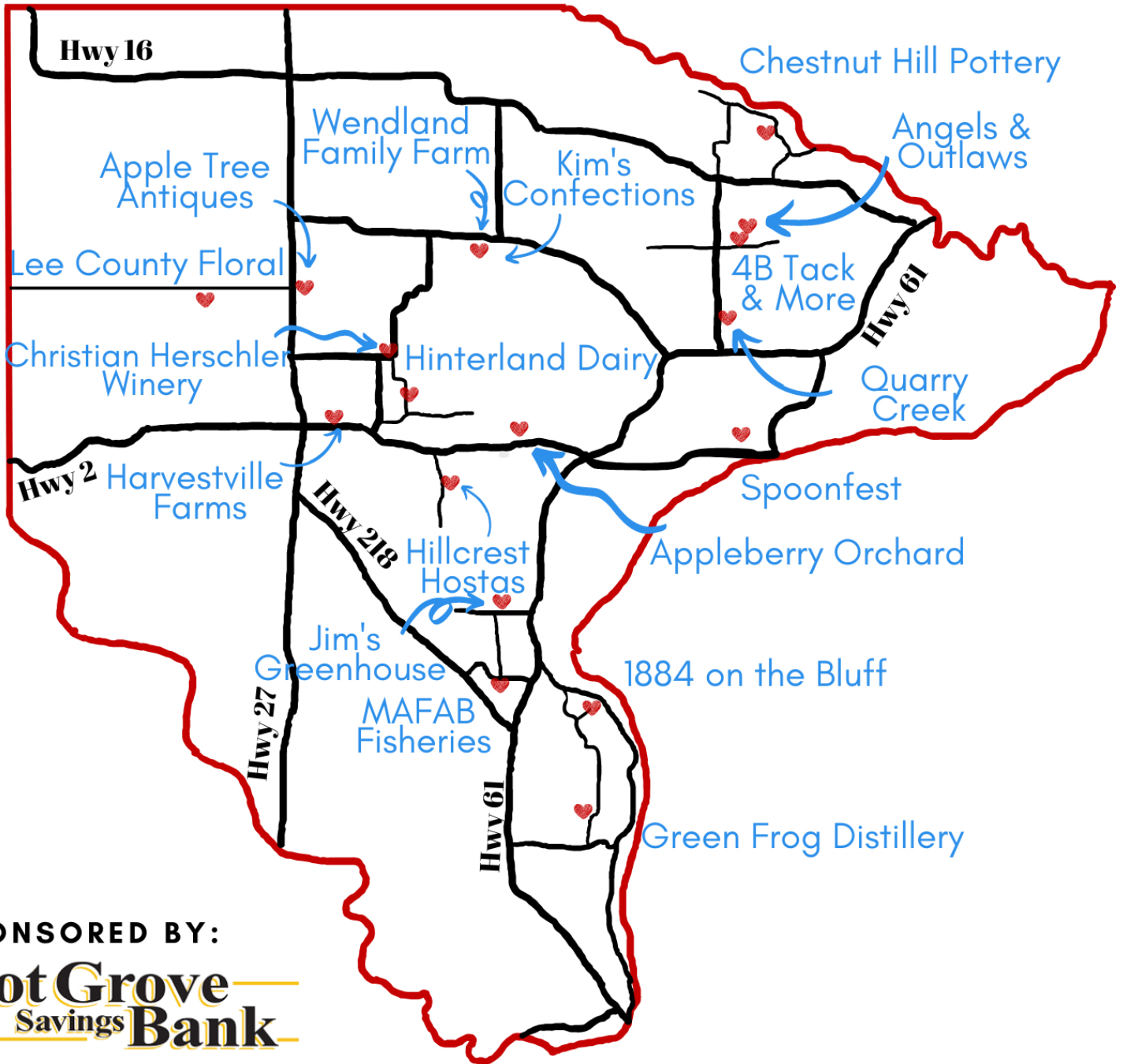
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