2017 Rodeo Parade

Frolic and fun

It was a full morning of colors, music, politicians, and candy. Adults and children once again lined both sides of Avenue G in Fort Madison Saturday morning on the final day of the Tri-State Rodeo. At top, Matt Hayes, center, owner of Dodd Printing & Stationery, holds up a 10 for the Fort Madison High School Marching Band. Above, the Hy-Vee grocery brigade rolled down a different aisle. At right a youngster dances to her own beat wearing beads and at bottom right, T-shirts get shot out from the UFCW Local 617 float.

By PCC Staff

SCC 6-cent levy on Tuesday ballot

WEST BURLINGTON – The Sept. 12 school election ballot will include Public Measure B from Southeastern Community College requesting voters to continue a 6-cent instructional equipment levy first passed in 2008. If approved, this levy will continue to provide $224,000 annually for modern teaching and learning technology, and classroom tools.

State legislation strictly mandates how funds may be used. Only equipment and technology directly related to teaching and instruction can be purchased. Examples include: visual and performing arts teaching tools like musical instruments, kilns and easels; health science simulators and monitors; hybrid automotive technology diagnostic tools; robotic and advanced welding stations; lab equipment for biology chemistry and anatomy labs; and computers and interactive classroom devices.

According to SCC officials, while the 6-cent levy generates over $224,000 per year, total technology and teaching resource requests exceed well over $1 million each year.

When voters first passed SCC’s levy in 2008, it was the only community college in the state to not have it in place. Area voters approved the 6-cent levy for a period of ten years, and now it is up for renewal for another ten years. The other 14 Iowa community colleges continue to have a 6-cent levy in place.

The owner of the home with an assessed value of $100,000 would continue to pay just $3.34 per year.

Southeastern Community College enrolls more than 4,000 students, including nearly 1,000 concurrently-enrolled high school students each year. Tuition at SCC is $176 per credit hour, making average tuition just over $2,100 per full-time student per semester – in the mid-range for the state’s 15 community colleges.

Over 80% of SCC students are eligible to receive some sort of financial assistance to help pay the cost of college.

Less than 3% of SCC’s operating budget comes from local property taxes. And, SCC’s total cost to local taxpayers is just over $1 per $1,000 assessed valuation.

In addition to offering transferable arts and science degrees, SCC offers career and technical degree programs in a variety of high-demand programs including accounting, agriculture, industrial technology, and welding.

In addition, SCC plays a vital role in the Great River Region by training the vast majority of healthcare workers including medical coders, medical assistants, respiratory care practitioners, paramedics, nurses, and...

See SCC, page 3

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Letters to the Editor/Local News

Letters to Voters – Gayla Young

Dear Editor
Thank you for this forum and the opportunity to let you get to know me on a personal, professional and community service level. For almost my entire life I have lived in the Denmark area and am a proud graduate of FMHS. I returned to college as a nontraditional student and graduated from Western Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science in Education Education. I am a third grade teacher for the Danville Community School District, a position I truly love! Family is very important to me and I am the proud mother of two children and five grandchildren ranging in age from nine to twenty-one.

Community service is an aspect of my life that I feel is very important. While my children were in school I was involved with their school functions and after they were in school I was in the classroom helping my grandchildren when possible. Volunteer organizations in the Denmark community that I am involved with include the Denmark Historical Society, Heritage Days, Denmark Community Betterment Organization and the Denmark Fire and Rescue. Previously I was a volunteer coach of youth softball, soccer and volleyball in both the Denmark and Danville communities.

I have been asked why I would like to be re-elected to the school board. It is because I am passionate about providing the best safe, secure, top-notched education and environment for our students and staff while being cognizant of the financial situation and taxable liabilities of the taxpayers of our district. The board and the district have made great gains in developing common goals, a vision for the future of FMCSD, having a growing partnership with community and business industries and establishing a positive academic culture that will prepare our students for the 21st century. Recently there were huge and sweeping changes to collective bargaining and I want to work to continue to make Ft. Madison a district that keeps and attracts talented, compassionate and extremely knowledgeable staff. There are still challenges and changes that need to be addressed for the FMCSD. My ability to listen, research, ask difficult questions and look for solutions that will be the most disruptive are qualities I possess that are important to be an effective board member and tackle upcoming issues. I feel my background in education, living in a rural area, community service, board experience and being a lifelong learner will allow me to be a perspective on the board that will serve the district well. Thank you for your consideration.

Gayla Young
Letters to the Editor/Area News

County Auditor updates new Iowa voter ID laws
Letter to the Editor

With the upcoming School and City Elections, I would like to take a minute to educate voters on new legislation passed this year on the topic of providing identification when you vote. Beginning July 1, 2017, voters who are not registered to vote in the precinct where they live, will need to provide proof of residence, as well as identification, when they vote at the polling place. Proof of residence must be current to within 45 days of the election. Driver’s license or non-operator ID must be current within 90 days. If you are attesting for another voter, you must provide identification. Voter ID will not be required until January 1, 2018. If you do not have an Iowa Driver’s License or a non-operator ID, you will be mailed a Voter ID card from the Iowa Secretary of State’s Office in early December. ONLY VOTERS WITHOUT AN IOWA DRIVER’S LICENSE OR NON-OPERATOR ID WILL BE SENT A VOTER ID CARD. Also, beginning January 1, 2018, voters requesting an absentee ballot will be required to include their driver’s license/non-operator ID number on their request form. Voters receiving the Voter ID card, will be required to include their card’s PIN number on the absentee request form.

This law does not affect Iowa’s registration process. There are still multiple ways to register to vote, including at the polls on Election Day. Voters registering on Election Day still need to bring a picture ID and proof of residency in the precinct.

If you have any questions on this matter, feel free to contact me at 319-372-3705 or dfraise@leecounty.org.

Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor

Instructional levy helps fund equipment, technology
SCC - Continued from Page 1

Persons interested in learning more about the 6-cent instructional levy for Southeastern Community College, or needing help determining voting locations and times, contact Becky Rump at (319) 208-5065 or brump@scciowa.edu. For more news or to learn about Southeastern Community College, visit: http://www.scciowa.edu/rss/news/index.html.

Pen City Current - Monday, September 11, 2017 - 3
Joanne Spiesz, 75 of rural Croton, Iowa, passed away at 3:06 a.m. Friday, September 8, 2017 at the Fort Madison Community Hospital in Fort Madison, Iowa.

Born December 31, 1941 in Cincinnati, Ohio, she was the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Sorrells) Wagner. On July 2, 1966, she married Eugene Spiesz near Croton, Iowa.

Survivors include her husband, Eugene; two daughters, Kathy Woodley of Keokuk, Iowa and Diane Holcomb of Isom, Kentucky; four grandchildren, Barry Combs, Elizabeth Miles, Brandon Holcomb, and Kevin Holcomb; five great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one half-sister, Bettie Davis.

Joanne was a member of the Embury United Methodist Church. She retired from Sheaffer Pen Company, where she worked as an inspector. Joanne enjoyed quilting, crocheting, cross stitching, watching movies, and collecting antiques. She was an avid Iowa Hawkeye Fan.

Friends may call from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 10, 2017 at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson, Iowa, where the family will meet with friends from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

A Funeral Service will be held at 10:00 a.m. Monday, September 11, 2017 at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson, Iowa with Pastor Peg Ellingson officiating. Burial will be in Embury Cemetery in rural Donnellson, Iowa.

Memorials may be made to Embury Cemetery. Schmitz Funeral Home Donnellson is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Online Condolences may be sent to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.
Bus Drivers Needed

We are currently in need of bus drivers for athletic events and occasional daytime trips. Pay is $16.00 an hour. Drivers will need to have all standard CDL licensing requirements for driving a school bus. If interested, please contact John Goetz at the Jr/Sr. High - john.goetz@holytrinityshools.org or 319-372-2486 x2.

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Calvin Dawson S-32

Ada M. Davis S-75

Niurka Davila N-66

Scott Matthew Davidson S-10

Michael D. D'Auria S-16

Elizabeth Ann Darling N-12

Jack L. D'Ambrosi, Jr. N-45

Vincent Gerard D'Amadeo N-32

Jason M. Dahl S-67

Carlos S. da Costa S-25

Gavin Cundy N-37

James M. Dahnke S-16

William D. Sauer S-64

Joseph G. Saly S-12

Joseph H. Saly S-13

Joseph Hayashi S-65

Evan T. Dabney S-9

G. W. Danner S-15

Robert DeAngelo S-35

Robert DeCristofaro S-5

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