

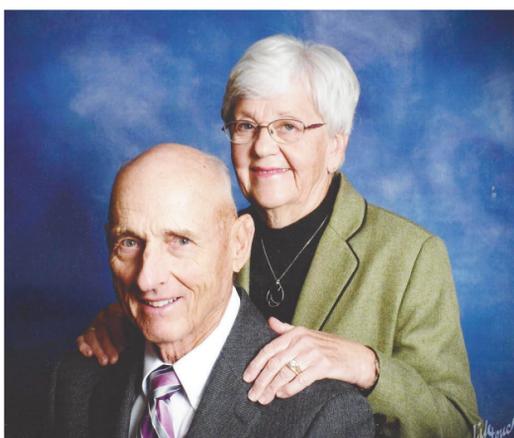


Don and Donna Williams Wapello Youth Fund

The Community Foundation of Louisa County is pleased to announce the establishment of the Don & Donna Williams Wapello Youth Fund, a permanent endowment created through the generosity of Don & Donna Williams to support youth sports and STEM activities in Wapello.

The fund is designed to ensure that children in eighth grade and younger have meaningful opportunities to participate in organized activities. By supporting both athletic and STEM-based programs, the fund aims to remove barriers to participation and help every child in the Wapello community explore their interests, build confidence, and develop lifelong skills.

Through this endowment, the Williams family has created a lasting legacy that will strengthen opportunities for children and young people in the Wapello community for generations to come.



“For us, this fund is about giving every kid a fair chance,” said Don and Donna Williams. “We believe that youth sports and STEM activities teach important lessons about perseverance, problem-solving, and belonging. Our hope is that this fund helps ensure all children in Wapello can participate, learn, and thrive.”

We are deeply grateful to Don and Donna Williams for their thoughtful investment in our youth and in the future of Wapello.

Community members who wish to support the Don and Donna Williams Wapello Youth Fund may make a contribution at www.growinglouisacounty.org or contact Kelse Truitt at cflc@givinggreater.org.

Advancing Community Healthcare Scholarship Endowment Fund

Community Healthcare of Wapello was formed in 2002 after the community faced the potential loss of the University of Iowa Medical Clinic in Wapello.

Under the leadership of June Hardin, local residents organized and launched a major fundraising effort, raising more than \$250,000 to purchase the clinic building and ensure continued access to healthcare. The community-owned clinic remained in operation for more than a decade, serving Wapello and surrounding areas with strong local support.

Its sudden closure in 2012 marked the end of a 14-year chapter in community-driven healthcare and was deeply felt by residents who had worked tirelessly to preserve this vital service.

We give thanks to all those that worked so hard and gave so much to their community.

Carrying forward that legacy, Community Healthcare of Wapello Board members have chosen to use the organization’s remaining funds to establish an endowed scholarship within the Community Foundation of Louisa County.

This fund will provide scholarship awards to support healthcare professionals living or working in Louisa County who are pursuing further education to strengthen patient care in their community, with preference for those working toward becoming nurse practitioners.

The scholarship application will be available to March 16. Applications can be submitted online at www.givinggreater.org/scholarships.

Ann Thompson stated, “I am so happy to see the money going to something good and useful”.

The Community Foundation of Louisa County is looking forward to the impact the new scholarship fund will have on healthcare for years to come.

The Community Foundation of Louisa County is a county-wide organization that supports quality of life initiatives in our communities by connecting people who care with causes that matter.

For more information about the Community Foundation, visit www.growinglouisacounty.org or call 563-264-3863.



Pictured: Ann Thompson, Roger Huddle, and Pat Murphy.

Clinic to mark five-year anniversary

Washington County Hospital and Clinics

will celebrate the fifth anniversary of its Columbus Junction Clinic with a community open house Tuesday, March 10, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 109 Walnut St., Columbus Junction.

Arrests & Citations

Feb. 19 through Feb. 25

- Zachary Dwaine Adcock, 30, of Muscatine was arrested at 5:01 p.m. on Feb. 20 for mittimus.
- Rogelio Alexander Rodriguez, 19, of Columbus Junction was arrested at 5:04 a.m. on Feb. 21 for driving under suspension, failure to obey stop sign/

- yield row, failure to provide proof financial liability, and careless driving.
- Matthew James Jacobs, 25, of Columbus Junction was arrested at 11:26 a.m. on Feb. 21 for domestic assault (choking/bodily injury) and domestic abuse assault (third).
- Candace Lynne Steel, 63, of Wapello was arrested at 6:07 p.m. on Feb. 22

- for OWI (first offense) and speeding.
- Ryan Lee Schrader, 36, of Wapello was arrested at 9:35 p.m. on Feb. 23 for theft (fifth degree) less than \$300.
- Juvenile was arrested for reckless driving.
- Tracy Lee Milford, 49, of Signourney was arrested at 7:08 p.m. on Feb. 25 for violation of parole.

Community News

Port City Coin Club to host annual coin show

264-8148.

The Port City Coin Club of Muscatine will host its annual coin show Sunday, March 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Rendezvous, 3127 Lucas St., Muscatine. Coins, currency, bullion and collector supplies will be available. Admission is free and open to the public. The event will feature free hourly prizes, gifts for children and a raffle for a \$5 U.S. gold coin. For more information, call 563-

Camp registration now open

Registration for Louisa County Conservation’s Summer Nature Camp 2026 opened March 2 at 6 a.m. Camp details are available on the organization’s Events page. Louisa County Conservation manages 18 parks, natural areas, historic sites and water recreation accesses totaling approximately 2,589 acres across the county, including the Odessa and Iowa River Water Trails.

Funds From page 3A

that would result. Even worse, joint investment trusts paid kickbacks of nearly \$2 million to private associations in Iowa in 2025 to incentivize the removal of these deposits from community banks and the communities they serve.

The good news is, there are relatively simple solutions to this issue. The Iowa Legislature should place explicit limitations on the amount of local government funds that can be invested outside their community. This will help ensure these taxpayer dollars are available to support lending by local institutions, further strengthening our small-town economies.

I also encourage school board members, city councilors and county supervisors to

consider the broader impact of their decisions. Let’s keep taxpayer money local and give our communities a better chance to thrive!

Through action on this issue, our elected officials can put Iowa first – keeping funds local and fueling our economy.

Tubbs is CEO and chairman of the board at Ohnward Bank & Trust in Monticello and Co-CEO of the parent company, Ohnward Bancshares in Maquoketa. He is also the current chairman of the Iowa Bankers Association.

Schnedler is a loan officer at Mediapolis Savings Bank in Mediapolis, Iowa.

Whitaker is the Sr. Vice President and Head of Deposit Operations at Mediapolis Savings Bank in Mediapolis, Iowa.

Budget From page 1A

The approved draft calls for a tax levy of \$0.42027 per \$1,000 valuation, which will be a nearly 11¢ increase over the current levy but about 15¢ below the average levy over the FY 21-FY 25 period, according to information provided by county assessor Tim Coleman.

Coleman said the levy dropped last year because a staff opening the prior year was not filled due to a county hiring freeze. The conference board did not include funding for that unfilled position in its FY 26 budget, resulting in a drop in the levy rate.

A unanimous conference board eventually agreed to the final draft after discussing several provisions in the initial proposal submitted by Coleman, including an 8% increase in his salary, the restoration of the office clerk position to the current three-member staff, and increased funding for outside legal assistance.

With salary and benefits, the office clerk position was projected to add around \$86,594 to the office’s expenditures and was eventually dropped. Coleman had pointed out that when the two-member team leaves the office to conduct on-site assessments and inspections, the staff member remaining in the office cannot handle all the additional office work, resulting in a backlog that

continues to build.

Although board members agreed that a two-person field team was necessary to ensure staff safety and address other concerns, they balked at restoring the clerk’s position because of the budget impact and some doubt about the additional workload.

After agreeing not to reinstate the clerk’s position, the board was more receptive to the proposed 8% salary increase for Coleman, raising his salary from \$80,087 to \$86,490.

According to figures from the Iowa Association of Counties (ISAC), Louisa County is currently 69th in population among Iowa counties. When the board of supervisors tentatively set FY 27 salaries for elected officials a few weeks ago, they used that ranking to agree to provide 11% increases for courthouse office officials.

Coleman said the conference board has traditionally followed what the supervisors provide for the other courthouse department heads, but if he were given an 11% increase, it would have moved him past the 69th percentile statewide.

The other change the conference board approved from Coleman’s initial proposal involved higher expenditures for outside legal help. Coleman had initially proposed \$50,000 for that category, noting that one

legal case last year had exceeded the \$20,000 line item in the FY 26 budget.

Although the county attorney’s office helps with some legal matters, Coleman said outside counsel is often needed because of the time and expertise required to defend assessment cases.

Board members agreed but opted to reduce the proposed expenditures to \$30,000 because of the uncertainty of whether it would actually be needed and the option for Coleman to seek a budget amendment if necessary.

According to the budget proposal, the anticipated ending balance for FY 27 is \$122,371. Coleman noted this balance must cover his office’s operating expenses for July, August, and September—when no new property tax revenue is received—until the county is replenished by the payment of the first half of annual property taxes at the end of September.

The board will hold a public hearing on March 17 at 4:30 p.m. in the assessor’s office for comments on the spending plan.

In a related action to the budget discussion on outside legal assistance, the board approved a motion allowing Coleman to use outside counsel when needed for cases before the Property Assessment Appeal Board (PAAB) or district courts.

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