PSAP board discusses director’s job

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The LeeComm PSAP Control Board held a closed session to discuss the performance of director Diana Finch-Smith Thursday as part of their regular meeting which was held today at Fort Madison City Hall.

Finch-Smith is the current Administrator of LeeComm E-911 services and was not in attendance at the meeting for the closed session or to give a report. Administrative Dispatcher Marla Hemmie gave the monthly report to the board. Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber was absent from the meeting.

Other board members include Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren, Keokuk Police Chief Dave Hinton, Fort Madison Police Chief Tim Sittig, Jason Dimwiddie of the West Point Volunteer Fire Department and Gabe Rose, Keokuk Fire Chief.

According to the board’s notice of public meeting, the closed session was called to "Discuss the performance of the director in closed session as allowed in Iowa Code 21.5 (1)(i) - "To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation, and that individual requests a closed session.""

Hinton, who serves as chairman of the board, declined to comment on the situation due to it being a personnel request.

See LEECOMM, page 3

Small Business of the Year

Jerry Koering, center, Justin Pieper, back, and staff of Group Benefit Partners were honored with the Small Business of the Year award at the 2017 annual Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce Small Business Breakfast and Expo.

Port Authority buzzing again in Lee County

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - The wheels are starting to turn again on an economic vehicle in Lee County called the Southeast Iowa Regional Economic and Port Authority. The State of Iowa approved Code 21 in 2005 authorizing the creation of port authorities within the state of Iowa and Lee County jumped on the new law in 2006 and formed the first port authority in the state of Iowa.

Mike Norris, executive director of the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission, which provides administration for the organization, said past changes in Foreign Trade Zone rules have led port authority board members to evaluate new areas of impact for the organization. Establishing a site with pre-authorization for FTZ status was once a focus for the organization.

Cerro Gordo County in north central Iowa near Mason City is also considering forming a port authority, but currently the Southeast Iowa entity is the only one in the state.

"The Quad Cities Point Port of Entry eased the process of forming foreign trade zones through an alternative site framework which makes the application process easier. A while ago the FTZs were a hotter commodity because it was tough to get one, but that designation is easier to get now."

He said custom duties, or taxes, on goods being imported to the country to create a finished product that is then exported, can be reduced or eliminated by companies operating in or through a Free Trade Zone, which is part of the attraction of port authorities.

See NORRIS, page 8
5th annual glo run
5k fun run/walk

Sat., June 3

Registration is 8-9pm
Race begins at dark &
Starts at 4th Street in West Point
Proceeds benefit the 2017 HTC Volleyball Team

Pre-registration $25 • Deadline May 15
(includes tie-dye, glow-in-the-dark t-shirt & glow necklace)

Registration forms at www.holytrinityschools.org
or click this ad
Thursday rollover injures one

BY PCC STAFF

WEVER - A Thursday evening rollover accident has sent one person to a local hospital.

Lee County Sheriff, Wever Fire & Rescue and Lee County EMS were called to a one-vehicle truck rollover in the 33rd block of 175th Street west of Wever Thursday evening at about 8:45 p.m. A white pickup, driver unknown at this time, rolled over into the northbound ditch and came to rest on its wheels.

The driver was able to extricate himself from the vehicle, but was transported to Fort Madison Community Hospital for reportedly minor injuries.

Hemmie briefs board on E911 April activity

LEE.COMM - Continued from Page 1

personnel matter. After a brief 15-minute closed session the board reconvened and no action was taken as a result of the session.

The board also approved a five-year wage increase for Katy Blindt from $18.73 to $18.86 per hour in accordance with the group's current collective bargaining agreement that went into effect May 16, 2017. During the regular meeting, Hemmie told the board she attended the Lee County Emergen- cy Management meeting and said spring emergency management exercises are set for May 24th at the Ivor Fowler Center in Montrose. Hemmie said she attended a CrimeStoppers meeting where fundrais- ing and additional public- ity was needed, including using their Facebook page to publicize some of the groups successes.

Hemmie also reported that in April LeeComm handled 8,676 calls of which 1,571 were 911 calls.

Great River Regional Waste Authority
reminds you to use the 3 Rs!

*Reduce the amount of waste produced in society
- The best way to manage waste is to not produce it. This can be done by shopping carefully and being aware of a few guidelines:
  - Buy durable goods & products in bulk
  - Avoid over-packaged & disposable goods
  - Use cloth napkins/towels instead of paper napkins/towels
  - Make 2-sided copies whenever possible
  - Maintain central files for multiple individuals
  - Use electronic mail/communications or a central bulletin board

*Reuse products for the same purpose or for a different purpose
- It makes economic & environmental sense to reuse products. Sometimes it takes a creative mind to do so.
  - Sell or Donate old clothes, appliances, toys & furniture
  - Reuse recyclable containers rather than plastic wrap
  - Reuse grocery bags or bring your own cloth bags to the store

*Recycle/convert common waste into reusable material
- Recycling is a series of steps that takes a used material and processes, re-manufactures and sells it as a new product. Begin recycling at home and work.
  - Recycle all acceptable products at our recycling bins, stations & trailers (see www.grrwa.com for a complete list of locations)
  - Check for curbside recycling acceptable items & schedules on your local city websites
  - Purchase and use recycled materials for the home & office
  - Implement a composting process for your lawn & garden

Household Hazardous Waste

We accept household hazardous waste and electronic waste at the Fort Madison location. Appointments are encouraged to ensure a proper procedure is in place for disposal. Please call 319-372-6140 to schedule your appointment. For a full list of acceptable items please call or visit us online.

Electronic Waste

Please place all electronic waste in their appropriate bins, some elec- tronic items are free to dispose. Please call for fees on TV’s, Monitors, Laptops & Tablets.
Conference Track

At left, FMHS's Elijah Barnes heaves the shot in the final round of the boys Southeast Conference Track meet in Mt. Pleasant. Below, Alex Gully blasts from the blocks in the boys Distance Medley relay. The Hounds finished second in Gully's race with a strong finish on the last leg by Aaron Steffensmeier. Full results will be posted in Sunday's edition.

At top, FMHS's Belle Baier motors to her heat finish of the women's 400-meter dash in a neck-and-neck dash to the line with a Keokuk runner. At left, the Hounds' Brittiney Harris shows her form in tossing the shot put.

GREAT OUTDOORS SALE

21 in. 3-in-1 Push Lawn Mower

$219 MS
-$20

FINAL PRICE
$199

Click Here for More Great Lawn Mower Deals!

SAVE 40% NeverKink® 50' Heavy Duty Garden Hose

SALE $14.99

Heavy Duty Hose Truck - Holds up to 200 ft. of hose

SALE $69.99

22-1/2” Charcoal Kettle Grill Includes basket

SAVE 30% $39.99

YOUR CHOICE $18.99

25LB. BAG BARBECUE PELLETS Hickory, Apple, Mesquite

Click here for Traeger Accessories when you purchase this grill!

SALE DATE: MAY 3 - MAY 14 - Click this ad now for more great deals!
FMHS drops all singles matches at Macomb

MACOMB, Ill. - For the first time all year, the Fort Madison Bloodhound boys tennis team dropped every match in singles competition in the same meet. The Hounds fell 3-6 to hosts Macomb on Thursday night and didn't see a win until the doubles action. However, the Hounds came back to take all three doubles matches and three of the singles matches had to go to a two-set tiebreaker.

At No. 1 singles Dante Seaney fell to Ben Williams 2-6, 2-6. Then Johnny Hernandez dropped two straight sets to Jared Rhoads at the No. 2 singles level with a 2-6, 4-6 loss.

Sam Avery took Sam Sellen to a tiebreaker after splitting the first two sets 5-7, 7-6 and then fell 8-10 to lose the No. 3 singles match. Austin Krueger also forced a tiebreaker before winning the first set at No. 4 singles over Alai Stone. But Stone got the best of Krueger in the second set 3-6 and then fell 4-10 in the tiebreaker.

At No. 5 singles, Conrad Hellman lost the first set in a tie breaker 6-7 (5-7), then came back to win the second set 7-5, 6-1. The Hounds duo of Terence Miller and Dylan Collins defeated Rhoads and Collins 7-5, 6-1.

Hellman and Feuerhammer had to go deep into the match to seal the doubles sweep. The Fort Madison duo of Eddie Foss, Michael DiPrima, and Brody Rhoads defeated Rhoads and Collins 6-2, 6-4.

The Hounds fell 3-6 to hosts Macomb on Thursday night and didn't see a win until the doubles action. However, the Hounds came back to take all three doubles matches and three of the singles matches had to go to a two-set tiebreaker.

MT. PLEASANT - Fort Madison boys' soccer team played a lot of defense on Thursday night, but the bend didn't break the first half didn't carry into the second as they fell 2-0 to Mt. Pleasant on the road in high school action.

With a score knotted at 0-0 for the entire first half and just about halfway through the 2nd half, Mt. Pleasant was finally able to get the ball in the net after having the Bloodhounds backed up against their own goal. Javier Trejo made 10 saves in the game. AJ Nolt- ing, Chase Rogers, and Brody Rung all had shots for the Hounds.

The Hounds fell 3-8 overall and 0-7 in the Southeast Conference.

In the junior varsity game, Trejo had six saves and Danen Settles made four in one half of action. The Hounds travel to Davenport Assumption on Saturday.

Thorton leads Holy Trinity at SEISC golf meet

Collin Thornton led the Holy Trinity Crusaders to a 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd-place finish for the Crusaders at the conference meet against Mt. Pleasant and Washington.

Collin Thornton took 1st in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:22.25 and Schneider matched his first with her 200-meter dash with a time of 27.30. Schneider placed 2nd in the 400-meter dash with a time of 59.78 and Thornton led the Crusaders to three wins in the doubles matches and three of the singles matches had to go to a two-set tiebreaker.

At No. 1 singles Dante Seaney fell to Ben Williams 2-6, 2-6. Then Johnny Hernandez dropped two straight sets to Jared Rhoads at the No. 2 singles level with a 2-6, 4-6 loss.

Sam Avery took Sam Sellen to a tiebreaker after splitting the first two sets 5-7, 7-6 and then fell 8-10 to lose the No. 3 singles match. Austin Krueger also forced a tiebreaker before winning the first set at No. 4 singles over Alai Stone. But Stone got the best of Krueger in the second set 3-6 and then fell 4-10 in the tiebreaker.

At No. 5 singles, Conrad Hellman lost the first set in a tie breaker 6-7 (5-7), then came back to win the second set 7-5, 6-1. The Hounds duo of Terence Miller and Dylan Collins defeated Rhoads and Collins 7-5, 6-1.

Hellman and Feuerhammer had to go deep into the match to seal the doubles sweep. The Fort Madison duo of Eddie Foss, Michael DiPrima, and Brody Rhoads defeated Rhoads and Collins 6-2, 6-4.

The Hounds fell 3-6 to hosts Macomb on Thursday night and didn't see a win until the doubles action. However, the Hounds came back to take all three doubles matches and three of the singles matches had to go to a two-set tiebreaker.

At No. 1 singles Dante Seaney fell to Ben Williams 2-6, 2-6. Then Johnny Hernandez dropped two straight sets to Jared Rhoads at the No. 2 singles level with a 2-6, 4-6 loss.

Sam Avery took Sam Sellen to a tiebreaker after splitting the first two sets 5-7, 7-6 and then fell 8-10 to lose the No. 3 singles match. Austin Krueger also forced a tiebreaker before winning the first set at No. 4 singles over Alai Stone. But Stone got the best of Krueger in the second set 3-6 and then fell 4-10 in the tiebreaker.

At No. 5 singles, Conrad Hellman lost the first set in a tie breaker 6-7 (5-7), then came back to win the second set 7-5, 6-1. The Hounds duo of Terence Miller and Dylan Collins defeated Rhoads and Collins 7-5, 6-1.

Hellman and Feuerhammer had to go deep into the match to seal the doubles sweep. The Fort Madison duo of Eddie Foss, Michael DiPrima, and Brody Rhoads defeated Rhoads and Collins 6-2, 6-4.

The Hounds fell 3-6 to hosts Macomb on Thursday night and didn't see a win until the doubles action. However, the Hounds came back to take all three doubles matches and three of the singles matches had to go to a two-set tiebreaker.

At No. 1 singles Dante Seaney fell to Ben Williams 2-6, 2-6. Then Johnny Hernandez dropped two straight sets to Jared Rhoads at the No. 2 singles level with a 2-6, 4-6 loss.

Sam Avery took Sam Sellen to a tiebreaker after splitting the first two sets 5-7, 7-6 and then fell 8-10 to lose the No. 3 singles match. Austin Krueger also forced a tiebreaker before winning the first set at No. 4 singles over Alai Stone. But Stone got the best of Krueger in the second set 3-6 and then fell 4-10 in the tiebreaker.

At No. 5 singles, Conrad Hellman lost the first set in a tie breaker 6-7 (5-7), then came back to win the second set 7-5, 6-1. The Hounds duo of Terence Miller and Dylan Collins defeated Rhoads and Collins 7-5, 6-1.

Hellman and Feuerhammer had to go deep into the match to seal the doubles sweep. The Fort Madison duo of Eddie Foss, Michael DiPrima, and Brody Rhoads defeated Rhoads and Collins 6-2, 6-4.

The Hounds fell 3-6 to hosts Macomb on Thursday night and didn't see a win until the doubles action. However, the Hounds came back to take all three doubles matches and three of the singles matches had to go to a two-set tiebreaker.

At No. 1 singles Dante Seaney fell to Ben Williams 2-6, 2-6. Then Johnny Hernandez dropped two straight sets to Jared Rhoads at the No. 2 singles level with a 2-6, 4-6 loss.

Sam Avery took Sam Sellen to a tiebreaker after splitting the first two sets 5-7, 7-6 and then fell 8-10 to lose the No. 3 singles match. Austin Krueger also forced a tiebreaker before winning the first set at No. 4 singles over Alai Stone. But Stone got the best of Krueger in the second set 3-6 and then fell 4-10 in the tiebreaker.
HELP WANTED

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Elevated Comfort

"Keep coming back! The beds are amazing and the staff's fabulous!"  - Mark M.

We are expanding! 78 Rooms with choices to fit all your needs!

NEW CONSTRUCTION

25 Green Oak Court, Fort Madison Iowa
New Construction Built in 2017

• Spacious Lot and a Half Yard
• 3 Car Garage
• Granite Counter Tops
• 4 Bedrooms w/ Master Suite
• 3 Full Baths
• 9 ft. Finished Basement
• Modern Open Floor Plan
• New Family Friendly Neighborhood
• Great Central Location
• Upgraded Kitchen with Upper Glass Cabinetry

All Green Oak Homes come with warranties and low utility bills!

Contact Jill at 319-470-2540 to view!

http://www.greenoakdevelopment-ia.com/

NOW HIRING

Fort Madison Community School District is accepting applications for the following positions:

One Year Middle School Math Instructor (2017-2018 school year)
Applicant must have a K-8 or 5-12 certification and successful teaching experience teaching math at the Middle School level. This opening is due to a one year leave of absence.

7/8 Language Arts Instructor (Anticipated)

Various coaching opportunities at both the Middle School and High School

We are also accepting applications for:
• Substitute Teachers
• Food Service
• Associates
• Substitute Teachers

call 1-800-584-3364

for an interview

ServiceMaster Cleaning & Restoration is looking to fill a position within our residential disaster division as well as our reconstruction division.

Candidates must have strong customer service skills and pass background and drug screening. This position is fast paced and at times very demanding. Basic computer skills are preferred

Our team has men and women so don’t be afraid to apply!

Call 1-800-584-3364

Now hiring

ServiceMaster Restorations

We are expanding! 78 Rooms with choices to fit all your needs!

Selling classic cars in a modern way

Call us

for all your real estate needs.

Keeping Lives Moving

It’s what we do

Email your ad to

classifieds@ pencitycurrent.com

Email: info@bouldersinnfortmadison.com

Contact Jill at 319-470-2540 to view!

NEW CONSTRUCTION

26 Green Oak Court, Fort Madison Iowa
New Construction Built in 2017

• Spacious Lot and a Half Yard
• 3 Car Garage
• Granite Counter Tops
• 4 Bedrooms w/ Master Suite
• 3 Full Baths
• 9 ft. Finished Basement
• Modern Open Floor Plan
• New Family Friendly Neighborhood
• Great Central Location
• Upgraded Kitchen with High End Cabinetry

All Green Oak Homes come with warranties and low utility bills!

Contact Jill at 319-470-2540 to view!

http://www.greenoakdevelopment-ia.com/

ADVERTISE YOUR SERVICE BUSINESS

90 days • Only $24.99

Up to 150 words & 1 photo

Place your ad online 24/7

www.pencitycurrent.com

Email your ad to classifieds@ pencitycurrent.com

Call (319)371-4125

Place your ad online 24/7

www.greenoakdevelopment.com

Call Jill at 319-470-2540 to view!

NEW CONSTRUCTION

26 Green Oak Court, Fort Madison Iowa
New Construction Built in 2017

• Spacious Lot and a Half Yard
• 3 Car Garage
• Fire Place
• Granite Counter Tops
• 4 Bedrooms w/ Master Suite
• 3 Full Baths
• 9 ft. Finished Basement
• Modern Open Floor Plan
• Covered Rear Porch
• New Family Friendly Neighborhood
• Great Central Location
• Upgraded Flooring
• Upgraded Kitchen with High End Cabinetry

All Green Oak Homes come with warranties and low utility bills!

Contact Jill at 319-470-2540 to view!

http://www.greenoakdevelopment-ia.com/
A time for new beginnings

When that includes a new home for you, let Hope help!

There are hundreds of great listings in the area and we can show all of them to you. Give us a call today or click here to search them!

3684 Argyle Road, Keokuk
Listing #20164982 • $191,500

4BR • 2BA • 2 car garage
1,260 sq. ft. • 4.59 acres
Custom Designed, Energy Efficient home with an open floor plan, cathedral ceilings, on a hard surface road. Includes large deck extends the entire back length of the house, master bedroom that opens up to the back deck, jack and jill master bath and second bedroom. The property also includes an oversized 2 car garage with a heated workshop attached.

1703 Avenue L
Listing #20165151 • $55,900

3BR • 1BA • 2 car garage
1,488 sq. ft. • 16,247 sq. ft. lot
Has been owned by this seller since 1960!!! Large eat-in kitchen with newly tiled floor includes stove, microwave, washer and dryer, main floor laundry (in bedroom), formal dining room with built-in hutch, and spacious living room. The house sits on a HUGE lot and has a nice 2 car garage in back. Home has Gas Heat and central air with maintenance-free siding on house and garage.

1712 Avenue E
Listing #20164725 • $92,000

4BR • 1.50BA
1,706 sq. ft. • 7,250 sq. ft. lot
This spacious home has it all, the character of a turn of the century home; beautiful woodwork, beamed ceilings, window seat, columns, and large covered front porch, yet also includes MANY updates. Call today for your private viewing!

4911 Bluff Road
Listing #20164861 • $157,500

3BR • 1.75BA • 2 car garage
1,772 sq. ft. • 0.57 acres
Great family home with LOTS OF NEW! New kitchen, bathroom, windows, most flooring, wrap around deck, ceiling fans, light fixtures, furnace and central air! Beautiful neutral decor and window treatments make this a must see! All this and a 2 car heated garage.

3098 County Road 103
Listing #20164991 • $129,900

2BR • 2BA • 3 car garage
1,404 sq. ft. • 1.42 acres
Upgrades, improvements, updates...call it what you like, this home has had MANY in the last 2 plus years. This seller has completely refurbished the hill to the north of the home with new landscaping finishes. This is a must see property! It has enough room for your family and then some!!!
SIREPA has been less active in recent months, but Norris said the group has gone through some normal cycles and circumstances since it was established and now new efforts are being made to educate people on the value of the designation.

“Our intent is to be a uniquely valuable organization to Lee County,” he said. “Over time we’ve been through cycles of opportunity and we are investigating new opportunities now.”

The group is controlled by a board of directors including two members from Fort Madison, two from Keokuk, and two from Lee County. Currently, those members are Mike Dunn of Keokuk, Kim Auge and Roger Keller of Fort Madison, and Denise Boyer of Lee County. One open spot is still available from Keokuk and one from Lee County.

Lee County Supervisors Rick Larkin and Gary Folluo serve as liaisons to the board. The SIREPA board also works in close conjunction with the Lee County Economic Development Group.

“SIREPA is alive and well. We are positioned to respond quickly to any opportunity that uses our unique abilities in economic development, education, freight, ports or other areas benefitting Lee County,” said Mike Dunn, SIREPA board member.

** beste of Show**

FMAAA wraps up another quality Regional High School Competition. Claire Graham, 9th grade HTC, wins a $40 stipend for Best of Show. She also won in two other divisions. Sneak peek of May’s feature with Tri-States Modern Quilt Guild.

EXPÉRIENCE THE DIFFERENCE!

Griffins is more than just your local muffler and brake center, we service all makes and models, both domestic and imported, with the most advanced technology to solve and repair even the most challenging problems. Our highly trained staff continues to expand their education to better serve our customers. All our work is guaranteed and we take pride in our customer’s satisfaction.

Here are just a few reasons why people choose Griffins for their maintenance and repairs.

**Honest business dealings and high-quality work best describe my experience with Griffin Muffler. The text message reminders and rewards program are a wonderful convenience.**

- Linda K.

**Great customer service, extremely helpful, great care!!!! All around an excellent choice for a full service auto shop.**

- Clara W.

**Customer service was amazing! Despite being obviously busy, they took the time to answer all the questions I had and give me information about services I’ll need in the future. Definitely made me feel like a valued customer and that my time was just as important as theirs!**

- Alta S.

SIREPA another vital economic tool in the toolbox

**NORRIS - Continued from Page 1**

SIREPA has been less active in recent months, but Norris said the group has gone through some normal cycles and circumstances since it was established and now new efforts are being made to educate people on the value of the designation.

“Our intent is to be a uniquely valuable organization to Lee County,” he said. “Over time we’ve been through cycles of opportunity and we are investigating new opportunities now.”

The group is controlled by a board of directors including two members from Fort Madison, two from Keokuk, and two from Lee County. Currently, those members are Mike Dunn of Keokuk, Kim Auge and Roger Keller of Fort Madison, and Denise Boyer of Lee County. One open spot is still available from Keokuk and one from Lee County. Lee County Supervisors Rick Larkin and Gary Folluo serve as liaisons to the board. The SIREPA board also works in close conjunction with the Lee County Economic Development Group.

“SIREPA is alive and well. We are positioned to respond quickly to any opportunity that uses our unique abilities in economic development, education, freight, ports or other areas benefitting Lee County,” said Mike Dunn, SIREPA board member.

** beste of Show**

FMAAA wraps up another quality Regional High School Competition. Claire Graham, 9th grade HTC, wins a $40 stipend for Best of Show. She also won in two other divisions. Sneak peek of May’s feature with Tri-States Modern Quilt Guild.

EXPÉRIENCE THE DIFFERENCE!

Griffins is more than just your local muffler and brake center, we service all makes and models, both domestic and imported, with the most advanced technology to solve and repair even the most challenging problems. Our highly trained staff continues to expand their education to better serve our customers. All our work is guaranteed and we take pride in our customer’s satisfaction.

Here are just a few reasons why people choose Griffins for their maintenance and repairs.

**Honest business dealings and high-quality work best describe my experience with Griffin Muffler. The text message reminders and rewards program are a wonderful convenience.**

- Linda K.

**Great customer service, extremely helpful, great care!!!! All around an excellent choice for a full service auto shop.**

- Clara W.

**Customer service was amazing! Despite being obviously busy, they took the time to answer all the questions I had and give me information about services I’ll need in the future. Definitely made me feel like a valued customer and that my time was just as important as theirs!**

- Alta S.