Utility wants to increase revenues $176M annually

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Officials from Alliant Energy’s Interstate Power & Light Company and members of the Iowa Utilities Board held a public hearing on Thursday in Fort Madison to discuss a proposed 12.5% rate increase on residential usage, as well as other rate increases for other sectors.

The meeting, held at McAleer Hall, was attended by about 25 people and about seven of those spoke with the two organizations about the increase. Attorneys from the Office of Consumer Advocacy representing the citizens of Iowa in these types of rate increases were also on hand.

Alliant filed the rate increase, its first in six years, on April 3 with the IUB and is asking customers to pay a refund plus interest to customers if the board deems the rate increase is higher than what is ultimately approved by the board, the utility would be subject to pay a refund plus interest to customers.

The Pen City Current originally wrote an article about the increase. Attorneys for both organizations about the case spoke with the people and about seven were accepting the contribution check from Climax from Human Resource Manager, Mike Brewer.

Lee County Supervisor Rick Larkin, far right, talks with IUB board member Geri Huser, left of Larkin, Nick Wagner, and Richard Lozier after the public hearing Thursday night.

Fareway to hold open interviews

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fareway Grocery that is rapidly taking shape outside is now focusing on filling the inside - with employees.

The grocery that was set to open in late summer or early fall has set a date for open interviews at the Comfort Inn & Suites on June 27.

The open interviews will take place from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. for Grocery and Market positions. Fareway Grocery outlets are closed on Sunday and holidays and are accepting applications from people ages 14 and up.

The grocery poured the east side parking lot over the past several weeks and is now working on the landscaping surrounding the building while continuing to work on the electrical and plumbing fixtures on the inside of the building.

Officials have said they are hoping to have the 19,000 square-foot building open prior to rodeo but said that would obviously depend on construction progress.

The first Fareway Store opened for business at 624 Story Street in Boone, Iowa, on May 12, 1938.

The name Fareway was originally chosen to convey a “wide range of stock of foods,” with the word “fare” meaning food. “Bill of fare” was also the commonly used phrase for “grocery list.”

Fareway outlets are closed on Sunday and holidays and are accepting applications from people ages 14 and up.

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OBITUARIES

MARIE L. DITTMER

Marie L. Dittmer, 95, of Wever, Iowa passed away at 9:59 a.m. Thursday, June 8, 2017 at the Great River Hospice House in West Burlington, Iowa.


She was preceded by her parents, husband Bill, three brothers: Herman, Austin, and John Schroeder. Marie was a member of the Holy Family Parish in Fort Madison. She was a rural school teacher and taught at Brush College in Wever. She later worked as an ASCP Medical Technologist. She enjoyed gardening, flowers, canning, quilting and sewing.

Friends may call and meet with the family from 9:00 a.m. Saturday, June 10, 2017 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Fort Madison.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, June 10, 2017 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Fort Madison.

The family will receive friends from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. on Monday, June 12, 2017 at Ss. Mary & Joseph Church with Rev. Mark P. Spring officiating. Burial will be at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Fort Madison.

In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established to Wever Fire & Rescue.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

The Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements.

ROBERT H. “BOB” KEMPKER

Robert H. “Bob” Kempker, 84, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 11:20 a.m. on Wednesday, June 7, 2017 at Fort Madison Community Hospital. He was born on June 14, 1932 in St. Paul, IA to Henry & Ida Overberg Kempker. He married Barbara J. Hunzaker on August 1, 1953 in Fort Madison, IA. He and his wife Barb founded Kempker Hardware, which they owned and operated for 40 plus years. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was a member of Holy Family Parish, Knights of Columbus, Kuwanz and the Fort Madison Elks Lodge. He enjoyed working in his yard, but his greatest love was spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

Bob is survived by: his wife, Barb Kempker of Fort Madison, IA; 1-son: Chuck (Dawn) Kempker of Fort Madison, IA; 4-daughters: Sharom (Steve) Thomas of Nevada, IA, Debra (James) Conaway of Raleigh, NC, Sandra (Dave) Holtkamp of Fort Madison, IA & Peggy Garlow of Phoenix, AZ; 12-grandchildren; 18-great-grandchildren; 3-sisters: Ann (Richard) Helling of New Hampton, IA, Bernice (Jerome) Sokolik of Davenport, IA & Dorothy (Mark) Pollpeter of West Point, IA. He was preceded in death by: his parents; 1-granddaughter: Dallas Hnat & 1-brother: Dennis Kempker.

The family will receive friends from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. with a wake service to be held at 5:30 p.m. all on Sunday, June 11, 2017 at Sts. Mary & Joseph Church with Rev. Mark P. Spring officiating. Burial will be held at Sacred Heart Cemetery. In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established in his memory.

Online condolences to Bob’s family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com. King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family with the arrangements.
For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report
06/07/17 - 5:30 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Robert Duane Dorothy II, 47, unknown address for trespass in the 2300 block of Avenue H. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
06/07/17 - 9:30 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2100 block of Avenue F.
06/07/17 - 10:42 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a vandalism in the 800 block of Avenue E.
06/07/17 - 3:22 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a vandalism in the 5200 block of River Valley Road.
06/07/17 - 4:12 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1400 block of Avenue F.
06/07/17 - 6:54 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny theft in the 5400 block of Avenue O.
06/07/17 - 7:26 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny theft in the 2400 block of Avenue G.

Lee County Sheriff’s Report
06/07/17 - 9:50 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies responded to a report of personal injury accident in the 2100 block of Avenue F.
06/07/17 - 10:42 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1400 block of Avenue F.

Lee County Sheriff’s Report
06/07/17 - 12:45 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 3300 block of Hwy 77. A vehicle driven by Aly N Becker, 17, was heading northbound when she lost control of the vehicle and went into the ditch and hit an embankment damaging the vehicle. She was cited for failure to maintain control. No injuries were reported at the scene.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report
06/07/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to an overheated vehicle.
06/07/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to a one-vehicle accident, one motor vehicle accident, one medical call, two false alarms and one burn complaint.

Download our app today in the Google Play store! Apple/ iTunes coming soon!

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

Lotto Drawings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game</th>
<th>Draw Days</th>
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<th>Approx. Drawing Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mega Millions</td>
<td>Tues &amp; Fri</td>
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<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
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<td>Daily</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pick 4 - Midday</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
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6/8 MID-DAY
2 4 2
6/8 EVENING
8 0 0

2210 Avenue H • Fort Madison • 319.372.2243

Senior Community BINGO
2nd Wednesday of every month
at 2pm in our dining room

All Seniors Welcome
Cash Prizes

PHOTO: Senior Community Center

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Don’t let the summer heat creep up on you.
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- Kaiden

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Pay: $16.67 per hour plus $0.30 shift differential
Pay: $17.17 per hour plus $0.30 shift differential

2nd Shift – General Production

Positive attitude and excellent attendance demonstrated by a solid work history

Pay: $11.50 per hour plus $0.30 shift differential
Pay: $11.85 per hour plus $0.30 shift differential

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**TRI-STATE RODEO PARADE**

September 5, 2017 at 9:30 AM

Theme: "Memories, Country, and Cowgirls"

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"I keep coming back! The beds are amazing and the staff is fabulous!" - Mark M.

We are expanding! 78 Rooms with choices to fit all your needs! Now taking reservations for Fishing Tournaments, Sporting Events and the Annual Tri-State Rodeo!

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**HELP WANTED**

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Leadership AND maintenance and/or machine operator experience

Pay: $16.67 per hour plus $0.30 shift differential
Pay: $17.17 per hour plus $0.30 shift differential

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**2nd Shift – General Production**

Positive attitude and excellent attendance demonstrated by a solid work history

Pay: $11.50 per hour plus $0.30 shift differential
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**Farmstore Full-Time Department Managers**

One located in Fort Madison & one located in West Burlington

Apply at Huffman’s Farm & Home at any of our locations, or send resume to kseals@huffmanwelding.com

Job Requirements include:
- Good communication and customer service skills
- Keep inventory organized & stocked in your department
- Ability to drive fork trucks safely
- Ability to work outside helping customers load merchandise, and stock store products, etc.
- Ability to lift 50 pounds

Competitive benefits package includes health, vision, life, and dental insurance, employee discounts, matching 401k. Plus paid holidays and vacation effective first day of employment.

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2323 & 2327 Avenue C
3BR • 3BA • 1 car garage
2 well-maintained homes for the price of 1! Owners gutted both homes & re-modeled. Live in the bigger home and rent the other out. Fantastic opportunity! Listing #20165268, $124,900.

631 Avenue D
4BR • 2BA • 2 car garage
Beautiful victorian home on a quiet street with an amazing wrap-around porch. All the modern conveniences. Quite a charmer! Listing #20165372, $124,900.

620 34th Street
2BR • 2BA • 3 car garage
Motivated seller has reduced their asking price! Completely renovated home. This beautiful home won’t be on the market long! Listing #20165503, $138,500.

2160 Grand Venture Avenue
3BR • 4BA • 3 car garage
Amazing home in a private, wooded 7.5 acre setting just minutes from Fort Madison. Approximately 6 acres are timber and ravine woods. Listing #20165295, $309,900.

939 Avenue G
Turn Key Office Space
Freshly finished office space in historic downtown Fort Madison with private offices, kitchen area, and phone system in place and ready to use! Listing #20165675, $79,500.

2634 Avenue G
Very cute, well-maintained home in a great neighborhood! Perfect for a small family or retired couple. Come take a look as this one will sell quickly! Listing #20165688, $94,500.

Throw a fantastic backyard picnic at your new home this summer!
2 BR • 1 BA • 1 car garage
Quality and beauty! Many updates and upgrades including a new concrete patio/carport with surround sound and mood lighting, new kitchen, bath and lighting throughout. This is an AMAZING house that you MUST see to appreciate!!!
Listing #20164622 • $88,000

3 BR • 2 BA • 2 car garage
1,168 sq. ft. • 0.54 acres
Lovely family home comfortably situated at the end of a cul de sac, where you can enjoy the woods and the privacy! There is an inviting deck off the back of the home overlooking the woods and beautiful vinyl fencing. There are newer mechanicals and a newer roof. 2 fireplaces and lots of storage!! Don’t miss out on this beauty.
Listing #20163951 • $129,000

5BR • 2.50BA • 2 car garage
2,834 sq. ft.
14,868 sq. ft. lot
Amazing family home on a large corner lot in Farmington, IA. 2 fireplaces, beautiful woodwork, a beautiful open front porch, a large yard and an oversized garage!!
Listing #20164117 • $127,500

2BR • 1BA • 1 car garage
2,260 sq. ft.
6,784 sq. ft. lot
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, 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.
Listing #20164861 • $157,500.

3BR • 1BA • 2 car garage
930 sq. ft. • 7,250 sq. ft. lot
This 2 bedroom home in Montrose has been a rental property and sells as is. Priced way below assessed value to sell quickly!
Listing #20164279 • $38,500
RARE RANCH with large fenced back yard and attached garage! Updated windows and kitchen, newer HV AC and water heater. Family Room in the basement. Just waiting for your own personal touch!

Listing #20163423 • $74,900

Land
50.82 acres 2,213,719 sq. ft.
Ideal 50 acre m/l parcel to develop. Close to new 4-8 Middle School and Baxter Rec Plex. TREMENDOUS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY.
Listing #20162779 • $559,020
WEST POINT - The Wapello Indians scored quick and often on a banged up Holy Trinity Catholic squad Thursday night in high school baseball action. The 15-run mercy rule was implemented after four innings with Wapello up 18-0. The Indians jumped all over junior Aiden Alford, tagging him for eight runs in the top of the first. The Crusaders couldn't get an out until the fifth hitter of the inning. Cody Mangold hit into a fielder's choice ground out to short where Cole Thornton flipped to Jason Thurman at 2nd for the out. Logan Belzer came around to score on the play. Alford then walked Brentin Pallister to load the bases again and three consecutive singles by Jared Wiley, Bryce Bermeister, and Joseph Stewart scored a total of 6 runs. The Crusaders then committed back-to-back errors at third and short to allow the other two runs in before Alford got Trace Howard to fan on his second trip to the plate in the inning and Trenton Massner flew out to left field to end the inning. Reed Fehseke drew a walk to start the game for HTC, but Massner struck out Cameron Bahl. Head Coach Albert Schinstock called a hit-n-run and sent Fehseke and Alford laced a single up the middle to have two on with Fehseke in scoring position. Kyle Bedemeyer struck out and Vasin Thurman grounded out to second to end the threat. The Indians matched their first inning total with another eight runs in the top of the second. Alford walked the first two batters, prompting Schinstock to pull him for Jason Thurman. Thurman gave a two-run single to Wiley and then got Bermeister to fly out to left before the onslaught arrived. Two more run-scoring singles followed by a walk to Sam Short loaded the bases again and Tracy Howard hit another single to plate two more. Massner grounded out to short before two more hits and another error plated two more runs. Thurman got Burmeister to ground out to second to end the top half. In the bottom half Ben Tinguely popped out to right and Jason Thurman grounded out to short. Zander Schweiss drew a walk, but Quentin Schneider struck out to move the game to the third inning where freshman Garrett Hannum gave up a single to center and then got two Indians to pop out to Schneider in center and caught Stewart, who had singled to left on a force out at second, when Short's soft pop to right fell in between three Crusaders. Short held on the fly and didn't have time to advance before the throw. In the Crusaders’ bottom of the third, Fehseke reached on an error at third and advanced on a wild pitch, but the next three Crusaders struck out to end the inning. Wapello put two more up in the top of the 4th inning to stretch the lead to 18-0 and the Crusaders couldn't take advantage of two walks to try and get the four runs they needed to extend the game and Massner ended up striking out three to end the inning.

Above, HTC’s Jason Thurman is late with a tag on Wapello’s Cody Mangold in the first inning of Thursday’s 18-0 loss at South Park. Below Cameron Bahl is also late with tag at third base.
on this rate increase on March 13. At Thursday’s meeting Joel Schmidt, vice president of regulatory affairs reiterated that the main driver of the rate increase was to start to recoup on investments already made in Iowa totaling $2.5 billion since 2010, including a $700 million natural gas facility in Marshalltown.

State Rep Jerry Kearns (D-Keokuk) was in attendance and spoke to the board asking them to proceed with caution and think about their action.

“I’m not in your service delivery area in Keokuk but I have received some comments from people that I represent in my district and you can probably imagine they’re not very positive,” Kearns said.

“They are not very positive, I think those would all be important to understand with this increase that’s being proposed,” Kearns asked the board. After the meeting Kea- 
sns said Alliant has been a very good company for Iowa.

“Well their last increase was six years ago and if you divide the increase over those six years it’s not so bad, but wages have been stagnant for that time and the bottom line is people hate any in- creases in costs,” Kearns said. “But we still have people on fixed incomes. That’s the concern. They are good company though, they really are.”

Lee County Supervisor Rick Larkin also addressed the board on raising the rates too high as Lee County has a high ratio of residents on fixed incomes.

“We have to understand the impact these increases will have on people with fixed in- comes and will they be able to absorb this increase. Some will and some may not. For commercial and industrial, this increase could cause some to look elsewhere.

We really need to remain competitive. So I ask the board when making their decision to please be fair.”

After the meeting, Lar- 
kins said he wasn’t there representing the board of supervisors but repre- senting his constituents. “I have to think about Ma and Pa here in Lee County and whether they can afford this,” Larkin said. “Most of the time with these types of requests the utilities come in asking for a rate, but the board settles on another.”

Fort Madison Partners Executive Director Tim Gobble also spoke to the board.

“As with any budget whether residential, commercial or industri- al, if there is an increase in line items, there is a negative effect in oth- ers,” Gobble said. “The proposed increase will touch everyone of these rate classes in some way. Our industry will feel it the most as they are our heaviest users and they will need to look at ways to absorb that increase.

The rate proposed will definitely have an impact as none are poised to pass that along to their customers which equates ultimately to job loss and business risk. We need to make sure we are looking out for their best inter- ests.”

Gobble also acknowl- edged the contributions and infrastructure in- vestment such as rebuilt power stations in three different locations in Fort Madison and recognized the partnership with Alli- ant has helped economic growth in the area.

“Infrastructure invest- ments such as these will deliver a more reliable service to residents and businesses in this area. More reliability means fewer outages. Alliant has always been there playing a critical role, especial- ly when prospects are looking to locate in our region.”

Dennis Fraise, also commended Alliant’s role in helping Lee County meet its growing demand for electricity including two substations at a price tag of about $5 million. Fraise said he wasn’t on hand to support or op- pose the rate increase.

“Alliant is one of our key partners when we try to work on expansion or bringing in another industry. It’s a real com- petitive advantage for us when we have a utility partner when we work on projects like this we get a comment such as “when we work with Alliant we don’t get a no, we get a yes!” Fraise said.

Schmidt reiterated to the group that Iowa has been graded the top elec- trical grid in the country.

“The American Soci- ety of Civil Engineers recently gave energy infrastructure in the US a D-, which is very bad.” Schmidt said in the March 13 article. “However, a recent article in the US News and World Report said Iowa has the number one power grid in the country. We’ve got great power here. We can harness wind and we can continue with that but we have to invest in it that can be expensive. Our reliability is very good by national stan- dards.”

“We want to continue to fund operations and provide excellent custom- er service and continue to provide the cleaner ener- gy they expect,” Schmidt said.

A PRNewswire report published Feb. 23, based on Alliant Energy’s 2016 financial report, indicated the utility had an increase in earnings per share in 2016 of .19 and the primary drivers of higher earnings were higher electric and gas margins. When asked how the utility explains an addi- tional need of revenue to families on fixed budgets, Schmidt said the utility usually seeks returns on investments after the in- vestments go into service.

“That’s one piece of it,” he said. “We do need that revenue going forward. We’ve made $2.5 billion in electric investments since 2010 so we want to bring that into earnings.”

He said the utility also wants to continue to manage and modernize the power grid so the company can be able to continue to take on different sources of power continuing the transition to cleaner energy.

FMHS girls get walk-off win again

FORT MADISON - The FMHS girls softball team seems to have turned a corner with three big wins in a row.

The Bloodhounds won again Wednesday night with a come-from-behind 12-11 win over Wapello at home.

Fort Madison scored four runs in the bottom of the 7th inning to erase an 8-run fifth inning where the red and black found themselves behind 10-5 with nine outs remaining.

The Hounds put up three runs in the bottom of the sixth after the Arrows put up another run in the top half of the inning. At the same time they are the most as they are our heaviest users and they will need to look at ways to absorb that increase.

The Hounds play in tournament action Friday and Saturday at the Davenport West tournament.