Bridges program
gets $10K funding kick

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - In a symbolic gesture from economic groups in Fort Madison and Keokuk, the Bridges out of Poverty program got an infusion of seed money to kick off Lee County fundraising.

At the site of the Lee County Economic Development Group’s efforts to bridge the north and south parts of the county with a world record of most people planting flowers simultaneously with 1,463 on Oct. 18, 2016, LCEDG Chief Operating Officer Dennis Fraise announced two $5,000 funding donations to the Bridges program Wednesday from the Lee County Conservation Center.

Fraise, who’s also a member of the Bridge’s Steering Committee said the donations, which will serve as seed money to get fundraising locally off the ground, came from Keokuk Economic Development Corp. and the Fort Madison Economic Development Corp.

The initiative started in December with a meeting of 70 to 80 people and launched the idea for Bridges in Lee County.

“It’s gonna take some money to fund the program,” Fraise told the group. “We thought this would be good place to kick off what we were planning. If you remember, 18 months ago we came down here and planted a bunch of tulips and if you look out in the field they are started to come up again. Bridges has become that event.

Bridges is one of the first things we’ve done since then and we sent out emails that something was happening with Bridges here and look what happens - we get people involved from all over the county.”

Fraise said it will cost between $65,000 and $90,000 to get the program going and a $10,000 donation is a great start. We couldn’t be happier to see these two economic development groups step forward and say “We believe in this program and there is a need.”

Tim Gobble, executive director of Fort Madison Partners, the umbrella group overseeing FMEDC was on hand for the joint check presentation.

See BRIDGES, page 8
RHONDA SUE HUFF

Rhonda Sue Huff, 68, of Farmington, Iowa passed away at 6:15 a.m. Monday, March 19, 2018 at the Fort Madison Community Hospital in Fort Madison, Iowa. Born April 15, 1949 in Fort Madison, Iowa the daughter of Roger and Sylvia (Reid) Naplin. On April 19, 1985 she married Michael Huff in Kahoka, Missouri. They made their home near Croton where they lived a long and wonderful life.

Survivors include her husband Michael of Farmington, Iowa; four children: Roger (Maria) Naplin of Rochester, New Hampshire, April (Channeon) Davis of Burlington, Iowa, Summer Martin of Fort Madison, Iowa and Dana (Chris) Petersen of Mediapolis, Iowa; eight grandchildren: Romen Martin, Johni Martin, Eathan Martin, Krissy Davis-John, Shawn Strode, Stephae Naplin, Devin Stark and Bailey Payne; two great grandchildren: Kya and Liam John; three sisters: LaVona Seth of Farmington, Iowa, Edna Still of Minneapolis, Minnesota and Deborah Woodward of Farmington, Iowa; two brothers: John Naplin of Cedar Rapids and Nathan Naplin of Hooper, Nebraska. Several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, parents and one brother: James Naplin. Rhonda was a 1968 graduate of Central Lee High School. She was a member of Embury United Methodist Church. She worked as a cook at the Farmington Senior Center and cleaned Embury Church for fifteen years. She enjoyed traveling, cooking and being with family.

Friends may call after 1:00 p.m. Friday, March 23, 2018 at Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington where the family will receive friends from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 24, 2018 at Embury United Methodist Church rural Donnellson, Iowa with Pastor Peg Ellingson officiating. Burial will be at Greenlodge Cemetery in Farmington, Iowa. Following burial a time of food and fellowship will be held at Embury Church. A memorial has been established for Embury Church.

Schmitz Funeral Home Farmington is assisting the family with the arrangements. Online Condolences may be sent to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

DEREK MATHEW BONAR

Derek Mathew Bonar, 29, of Wever, IA, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at his home. He was born on August 14, 1988 in Fort Madison, IA to Brian & Debra Sophie Bonar. He married Kayla Rae Eid on June 8, 2013 in Fort Madison, IA. He was an avid hunter and was a member of the Wever Fire Department. He enjoyed family get-togethers, farming and spending time with his kids.

Derek is survived by: his wife: Kayla Bonar of Wever, IA; 1-daughter: Brenna Bonar of Wever, IA; 2-sons: Dayton & Bentley Bonar both of Wever, IA; his father: Brian (Kelly) Bonar of Wever, IA; his mother: Debbie Bonar of Fort Madison, IA; his father and mother in law: Walt & Marsha Eid of Fort Madison, IA; 1-brother: Brent Bonar of Fort Madison, IA; 1-sister: Sara Bonar of Wever, IA; his paternal grandparents: Harold & Nadine Bonar of Wever, IA, whom he adored; a brother and sister in law: Darren (Kate) Eid of Donnellson, IA; 2-sister in laws: Tammi Eid of Fort Madison, IA & Mary Eid of Georgia and 1-brother in law: Gregg Eid of Revere, MO. He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents and 1-uncle: Rick Bonar.

He was born on February 27, 1949 in Gedern Germany to Adolph and Anna Behr. She was preceded in death by her parents, Husband, three brothers and two sisters.

Survivors include six children, Connie (Tom) Dunroe of Ken-duskeag, ME, Karina Kent of Montrose, James (Tammy) Kent of Ft. Madison, Thomas (Elizabeth) Kent of Pass Christian, Mississippi, Kevin (Robin) Kent of Montrose, Tish (Veronica Forrett) Petry of Ft. Madison; fifteen grandchildren; six great grandchildren and a sister-in-law, Letticia (Tom) Hauck of Ft. Madison and special friends, Evelyn and Harold Husted of Montrose. She was preceded in death by her parents, Husband, three brothers and two sisters.

Pet her wishes, cremation was been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. There will be a private graveside service held in Soldier’s Circle, Oakland Cemetery. A memorial has been established for King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.
For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

03/16/18 - 10:07 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2700 block of Avenue O. 03/16/18 - 9:40 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Hamilton E. Parker, 31, of Fort Madison at the Lee County Jail on a charge of 4th degree theft. He was held in custody. 03/16/18 - 1:52 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2500 block of Avenue L. 03/16/18 - 10:15 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Kaylee Nicole Alvarez, 21, of Fort Madison, in the 1100 block of 24th Street on a charge of driving under suspension. She was released upon citation. 03/16/18 - 11:52 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 6100 block of Reiv Court. 03/17/18 - 9:28 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2700 block of Avenue O. 03/17/18 - 7:37 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Timothy Daniel Selfridge, 31, of Pennsylvania, in the 700 block of Eighth Street on a charge of OWI-1st offense. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

03/17/18 - 9:38 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 900 block of 2nd Street. 03/17/18 - 10:27 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Melinda Ann Polmeier, 30, of West Point, in the 5000 block of River Valley Road, on charges of driving while revoked, possession of drug paraphernalia and expired registration. She was released upon citation. 03/18/18 - 12:24 a.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Jason James, 34, of Burlington in the 1200 block of 25th Street on charge of driving under suspension. He was released upon citation. 03/18/18 - 1:09 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Joshua N. Kimmann, 31, of Dallas City, II, in the 5400 block of Avenue O, on a charge of OWI-1st offense, excessive speed, and failure to obey traffic control device. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

03/18/18 - 9:07 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit-and-run in the 3400 block of Avenue D. 03/18/18 - 11:43 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1300 block of 23rd Street. 03/18/18 - 1:31 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1100 block of 34th Street. 03/18/18 - 1:37 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit-and-run in the 500 block of Avenue E. 03/18/18 - 1:44 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1600 block of Avenue I. 03/18/18 - 4:08 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 3500 block of Avenue D. 03/18/18 - 4:26 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1500 block of Avenue D. 03/18/18 - 5:45 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2200 block of Avenue G. 03/18/18 - 7:16 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 3200 block of Avenue H. 3/19/18 - 12:44 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Steve Raynor Londt, 27, of Fort Madison at the intersection of 15th Street and Avenue H on a warrant for failure to appear, driving while suspended and charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and methamphetamine. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

03/19/18 - 9:02 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3200 block of Avenue D. 03/19/18 - 9:21 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2400 block of Avenue H. 03/20/18 - 2:44 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Adam James Huss, 29, of Fort Madison, near the intersection of 167th Street and 345th Avenue on charges of eluding police, driving while suspended, reckless driving, no insurance, felon in possession of offensive weapons and/or ammunition, failure to have required number of headlamps, dark windows and speed. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

03/20/18 - 9:04 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit-and-run in the 2700 block of Avenue M. 03/20/18 - 9:45 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 600 block of 5th Street. 03/20/18 - 9:46 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Paul Hileman, 47, of Fort Madison in the 2700 block of Avenue M on a warrant for attempted burglary-3rd degree. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff’s Report

03/16/18 - 3:43 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Jeri Jean Duncan, 41, of Monrovia in the 2800 block of River Road, on charges of driving under the influence and being a fugitive from justice. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

03/16/18 - 12:17 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Russell Allen Young, 42, of Fort Madison at the North Lee County Court-house on court ordered hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

03/17/18 - 7:13 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies responded to a hit-and-run in the 2900 block of Hwy. 27. A vehicle driven by Jacqueline Linn of Buckeye, Az.,...
Parade can still be streamed on television

BAND - Continued from Page 1

The Fort Madison Bloodhound Marching Band took to the streets of Chicago on St. Patrick’s Day Saturday as part of the Chicago holiday parade. The parade can still be seen streamed on ABC7chicago.com.

Reader submits review of two letters

Dear Editor;

I am a parent of two kids in the Fort Madison Community School District and an active member of the KIDS Committee. To keep Fort Madison moving forward I believe the residents of the Fort Madison Community School District should vote in favor of the proposed bond referendum.

In both elementary schools, the gym serves as a physical education space, as well as a lunch room. As my kindergartner says “we have to eat lunch in the same room where the sweaty kids just had PE.” It’s a bit dramatic, but he’s right.

More importantly, neither elementary building is completely handicapped accessible. Richardson has three levels and no elevator. Students in 2nd and 3rd grade attend class on the upper levels, and every way to those classrooms requires the use of stairs. An elevator cannot be added because of the Americans With Disabilities Act. Though the buildings are grandfathered in, any future changes to the schools would require the entire building to be ADA compliant. This is where the $40 million price tag comes in. Unfortunately, the school cannot simply make small additions at this point, and we need our community’s support to make these changes possible.

If you’re opposed to the bond, I encourage you to visit one of the schools and take a look around before you vote no. Something will have to be done eventually, and so voting against this bond is only delaying the inevitable.

Schools are different today than they were when we, the voters, grew up. Technology has changed and space needs have changed. The school district needs to change as well. Please vote yes on April 3rd.

Kim Shacklett, Fort Madison

For the Record

More than 400 visit Lincoln Wednesday

SUNFLOWERS - Continued from Page 1

grandparents were walking up to the school and had taken up almost every parking spot on the street, in front of the school, and on the school parking area south of the playground.

The school encouraged the families to take pictures of the sunflower planting and transplanting process and share the pictures with school teachers. The pictures can then be shared on the school’s Facebook page.

In addition to the gardening projects, the school also held a book fair in the gymnasium at the same time.

Principal Tracy King said the event was a shocking success.

“We had an RSVP of 403. We’ve just had an enormous turnout, it’s been a great day,” she said.

Grandparents Day used to be held at Denmark, King said. But since that school was closed this is the first year it’s been done at Lincoln. Grandparents at Richard-ardson were treated to a luncheon on Wednesday as well.

“Parents and grandparents like to be involved,” King said. “Grandparents don’t get to come to school much and this was their special day. It was just a time to share with their grandchild. We just wanted to get people in the buildings and try to get more family involvement in the school,” King said.

She said the book fair was kind of a misfortune of scheduling.

“The book fair is usually during parent teacher conferences and for some reason we didn’t align with that this year, so we moved it to coincide with this event and it’s just been a tremendous hit with everyone. It’s been very successful,” King said.

Grandparents were also able to go into the classroom and meet the teachers, see what projects are being worked on prior to the regularly scheduled Wednesday early out.
COMMERCIAL SPACE

FOR RENT

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410 Avenue E.
West Point, IA 52656
paulsphc@gmail.com

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PUBLIC NOTICES

HELP WANTED

FULL-TIME DAYCARE ASSOCIATE

Holy Trinity Early Child- hood Center has a full-time daycare associate position available immediately. This a year round, benefits eligible position. Candidates must be able to complete DHS re- quired trainings and pass a background check.

Please contact Stefanie Drollinger at stefanie.drollinger@holytrinitycenter.com for application information.

Follow Us @pencitycurrent

CALL (319)371.4125

Installation & Service Technician

Looking for highly motivated individual to join our team to provide installation and maintenance on plumbing, heating and air conditioning systems. Full-time open with benefits.

Skills and Qualifications:
• Great customer service with high integrity
• Valid driver’s license with clear driving record and criminal history
• Experience working in HVAC or plumbing field a plus
• Apprenticeship program available
• Necessary tools provided Weekends, Overtime & Evenings as needed

Benefits:
• Competitive pay with year round full-time employment
• Paid holidays and vacation
• Health insurance
• Retirement plan with company match

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Great River Regional Waste Authority is accepting bids for the mowing of its properties located at 2092 303rd Ave. and 111 Carbide lane in Keokuk.

Bids must be received by April 2nd by 4:00 p.m. It is recommended that all bidders look at the properties before submitting their bids.

Bids shall be for mowing services, weed eating every week and bid needs to be recommended by GRRWA) and also spraying weeds if needed.

Bids need to be sent to: Great River Regional Waste Authority, 2092 303rd Ave. Fort Madison Iowa 52627 and to the Attention of: Wade Hamm.

HELP WANTED

Marketing Director

We are in search of a candidate for a possible opening as Marketing Director for Holy Trinity Catholic Schools. This is a part-time position with full benefits, which may become full-time. Duties include all marketing for the school system including advertising, press releases, public relations, etc. Successful candidate will be responsible for installation and helping with recruitment social media, event planning, press releases, public relations, marketing for the school system.

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Send resume to: Marketing Director
2092 303rd Ave.
Fort Madison, IA 52627

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• Valid driver’s license with clear driving record and criminal history
• Experience working in HVAC or plumbing field a plus
• Apprenticeship program available
• Necessary tools provided Weekends, Overtime & Evenings as needed

Benefits:
• Competitive pay with year round full-time employment
• Paid holidays and vacation
• Health insurance
• Retirement plan with company match

Please call or stop by our office for additional information.

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Celebrities/Current-Lee

**CURRENT-LEE**

**HTC TAPS 8th Annual Bunny Hop Event – March 31st, 2018**

WEST POINT - HTC Bunny Hop 5K Run/Walk or 10K Run event. Saturday, March 31st beginning at the West Point Library. Registration begins at 8:00a.m. The race begins at 9 a.m. Pre-reg- istration before March 23rd is $20 & includes t-shirt. Regis- tration on or after March 23rd is $25. Drinks and light snacks will be provided for participants. Medals will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place finishers in each age group. Registration forms can be found here or www.holytrinity- texyschools.org. Click here to download & print your registration form.

**Spring Cleaning**

Keep it green!

This year, do your part to keep our environment clean, too! Here are just a few of the ways you can help:

- Properly dispose of your household hazardous waste materials, construction debris, & electronic waste
- Use environmentally-safe cleaning products
- Reduce • Reuse • Recycle
- Check our website for proper disposal methods, acceptable materials, & more

**Birth Announcements**

**FALLON ANN HUNOLD**

FORT MADISON - Katie and Brandon Hunold of West Point announce the birth of their daughter Fallon Ann Hunold on March 15, 2018 at Fort Madison Community Hospital. Fallon joins brother Marshall and sister Bailey at home. Grandparents are Mark and Judy Hunold of West Point, Dennis and Jill Pirri of Fort Madison and Mike Cochran (deceased). Great-grandparents are Ron and Rovene Cochran of Fort Madison, Nancy Gray of Fort Madison, and Viola Hunold of Houghton. The Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.

**DYLAN SCHMITZ**

IOWA CITY - Brian and Lyndsey Markey Schmitz announce the birth of their son Dylan Schmitz, on Feb. 12, 2018 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City. Dylan joins Nolan, 3, at home. Grandparents are Linda and Dave Dingman of Fort Madison, Tony Markey of Dallas City, Ill., and SueAnn Schmitz of Nauvoo, Ill. The Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.
A group made up of area economic development officials, educators, and Bridges of Lee County steering committee members were on hand for a $10,000 donation from Fort Madison and Keokuk economic development corporations.

"The need for an initiative such as Bridges is significant. It’s encouraging that both the Fort Madison and Keokuk economic development groups recognize the need and have chosen to support it."

-Dennis Fraise, Bridges Steering Committee, LCEDG COO

**BRIDGES - Continued from Page 1**

"Obviously Bridges helps the workforce initiative and gets people qualified for quality jobs," Gobble said. "Fort Madison Economic Development Corp. and Lee County Economic Development Group have been working towards that and this is a great addition to their support and will ultimately benefit not only Fort Madison, but Lee County as a whole."

Gobble said the steering committee will be working on fundraising mechanisms that will include grants, different foundations and enterprises, and industries in and around Lee County.

"It’s going to be collaborative effort all the way around."

Mona Ash, Building Bridges Coordinator out of Burlington and the Des Moines County effort said Lee County is certainly getting off on the right foot.

"I’m so excited about this, first of all, seeing you all bring this together," she said. "You might need your own Mona, but it takes a village to make all these things work. This is an excellent start. Both of these groups have started so powerfully, it’s really an avalanche. Burlington was the same way, it’s very exciting."

Ash said the Burlington Bridges program started with seed money in the form of a grant from Great River Medical.

"I feel like this is coming together really well. You have such a diversity of people involved and you need that to make it a go." According to the LCEDG, the Bridges initiative seeks to provide education, build resources, and remove barriers to success for individuals and families living in generational poverty.

"Twenty-eight percent of children in Southeast Iowa live in poverty and Lee County’s unemployment rate has been the highest in the state for eight of the last twelve months," Praise said. "The need for an initiative such as Bridges is significant. It’s encouraging that both the Fort Madison and Keokuk economic development groups recognize the need and have chosen to support it."

The committee is working with Young House Family Services, a 501(c)3 social services organization, whose program in Des Moines County has seen considerable success.

The steering committee is hosting the next community-wide Bridges training in Keokuk on April 9th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the First Lutheran Church located at 1101 Blondeau Street. The training will look at the cyclical nature of poverty that can keep generations of a family in its grasp.

"Community members from all backgrounds will learn how to understand that framework and work within and around it to help our most vulnerable neighbors," said Kira Kruseynski, another steering committee member. "That’s essentially, the heart of the Bridges initiative."

Those interested in participating in the April 9th community training can RSVP to the Keokuk Area Chamber of Commerce at 319-524-5055.
FireHouse has been rocking for over a decade. Their music has become distinctly their own with heavy sounds and powerful vocals. In 1989, after releasing their third album, FireHouse recorded their first Top Ten hit. This was followed by Love of a Lifetime, which spent 11 weeks on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. The album also included the hit single Don’t Treat Me Bad, which became their first Top Ten hit. FireHouse found themselves on the Billboard chart with this album that Firehouse made their first trip to Southeast Asia for a promotional tour. Earlier American hits like Don’t Treat Me Bad, Love of a Lifetime and When I Look Into Your Eyes were all part of their performance. FireHouse’s 1990 album, My Religion, contained unplugged versions of the group’s greatest hits, as well as four new songs. This album produced foreign hits such as Your Perfect World and Love You More. In 1991, FireHouse played at the American Music Awards and international fans of the band were thrilled. Their second album, Category 5, was released in 1992 and contained four new songs. This album produced foreign hits such as Reach for the Sky and Sleeping with You. Another album, Hold Your Fire, was released in 1992. FireHouse continued touring through the remainder of 1992 and 1993, with their second single, Don’t Treat Me Bad, becoming their first Top Ten hit. The album also included the hit single Don’t Treat Me Bad, which became their first Top Ten hit. FireHouse found themselves standing before the nation accepting the award for Best New Hard Rock/Metal Band, accepting the award for Best New Hard Rock/Metal Band, Thank you to our 2018 Partners!

RiverFest 2018
FRIDAY NIGHT
Entertainment Line-Up!
August 3rd, 2018!

Decade of Decadence - 11:00 to 2:00
FireHouse - 9:30 to 11:00
Brandon Gibbs - 7:30 to 9:00
Chaz & the Channel Catz - 5:30 to 7:00
Brandi Gibbs
Pen City Current - Thursday, March 22, 2018 - 9

Thanks to our 2018 Partners!