FM Chamber wants small business nods

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

FORT MADISON – Each May during National Small Business Week the Fort Madison Area Chamber of Commerce honors the greater Fort Madison small business community for their efforts and achievements during the previous calendar year. The Small Business of the Year and the Micro Business of the Year awards are presented and all nominees are acknowledged during the Annual Salute to Small Business Breakfast.

Eligible businesses will be based on the following criteria:

- Is independently owned and operated
- Is not dominant in its field on a national basis
- Made an impact on the community or economy over the past year (2017)
- Has changed and/or grown in the past year (2017)
- Made an impact on the community or economy
- Foots of county elected and economic development officials.
- "I don't know that we're effective there at all," Steffen said. "They're going to tout the fertilizer plant as a success, but we got stuck with that. I was against that facility just for the amount of money the state put in down here, which I think was close to $1.5 billion, for 163 jobs! That is having a huge effect on the state budget right now."

Steffen said Lee County was not the first choice of Orascom, but the other larger communities in Iowa, such as Davenport had enough money to drive them out.

He said the divide between Keokuk and Fort Madison also must be dealt with and remains one of the biggest hurdles to overcome.

Military vet running for Dist. 3 supervisor

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

KEOKUK - Putting the county back on solid economic footing and overcoming the delineation of county are top priorities for an ISP correctional officer currently seeking a seat on the Lee County Board of Supervisors.

James Steffen, a retired veteran of the United States Marine Corps, the United States Army, and the Iowa Army National Guard, is running for the District 3 seat being vacated by current supervisor Don Hunold, who said earlier this year that he would not be seeking re-election to the seat. Steffen said he's disheartened with economic conditions in the county, although he doesn't lay all the blame at the feet of county elected and economic development officials.

"I don't know that we're effective there at all," Steffen said. "They're going to tout the fertilizer plant as a success, but we got stuck with that. I was against that facility just for the amount of money the state put in down here, which I think was close to $1.5 billion, for 163 jobs! That is having a huge effect on the state budget right now."

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Get out and vote for school referendums

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

Well, the letters have been printed, and we’ll print any more up until Sunday at midnight, on the upcoming school referendums.

I’m in the bag and always have been on these new schools. I’ve said all of this stuff before and there’s little chance of changing people’s minds so the best way to get these referendums passed is to motivate people to get out and vote. Vote early at the Auditor’s office if you choose, I just like the idea of going on election day and getting my opinion registered with the others that have a commitment to our communities.

But I do have to offer some corrections...or clarifications, if you will, to the newest threads of misinformation I’ve been reading in our social media blogs.

You can talk about where it’s built. That doesn’t matter to me, and it shouldn’t matter to anyone else. I have very good friends who say it’s built in a swamp and they get my standard response. Walt Disney built an empire in a swamp. There are amusement parks built in water, hotels built in ice. We’re the greatest minds in history...yeah...we can do that.

I can see they built it on the side of bluff, but technology and great minds and contracts prevailed. I’ve been in that school 100 times and I never seen one leak, one foundation issue, nothing. If there was an issue, I...
City offices closed Friday
BY FPC STAFF
FORT MADISON - Fort Madison city offices will be closed on Friday in observance of Good Friday. City Hall and the Fort Madison Public Library will be closed on Friday and will reopen on Monday, April 2.
Trash service will also be suspended on Friday and Friday routes will be picked up on Monday.

Fort Madison Police report
03/23/18 - 1:27 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2700 block of Avenue K.
03/24/18 - 5:16 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in progress in the 2100 block of Avenue C.
03/24/18 - 3:07 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 400 block of Avenue H.
03/24/18 - 3:36 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Jason Thomas Woelever, 45, of Fort Madison in the 2700 block of Avenue L, on charges of trespassing, harassment, and 2nd-degree attempted burglary. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
03/24/18 - 5:57 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1100 block of 24th Street.
03/24/18 - 6:08 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 300 block of Hwy. 61 bypass.
03/24/18 - 9:53 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Benjamin Joseph Winters, 29, of Keokuk at the sheriff’s office on charges of OWI-1st offense, driving while barred, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of controlled substance and child endangerment. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
03/24/18 - 9:56 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Matthew Lawrence Spring, 22, of Keokuk at the sheriff’s office, on a charge of domestic assault. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
03/24/18 - 10:34 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Vito Martinez Winters, 29, of Keokuk at the sheriff’s office on a court-ordered hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
03/25/18 - 5:16 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2700 block of Avenue K.
03/25/18 - 5:41 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1800 block of Avenue A.
03/25/18 - 12:52 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a vandalism in the 2700 block of Avenue K.
03/25/18 - 5:41 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 300 block of Hwy. 61 bypass.
03/25/18 - 7:25 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in progress in the 2100 block of Avenue L.
03/25/18 - 9:20 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jeannie Sue Breashears, 33, of Fort Madison in the Southeast Iowa Juvenile Detention Center, on a charge of assault. She was held in custody pending a court appearance. She was released on bond.
03/25/18 - 12:30 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hwy. 61. A vehicle driven by Dylan Scott Lefler, 19, of Keokuk was traveling southbound and made a left onto Belmont Road when the vehicle lost control and slid into a ditch striking a speed limit sign and a cable junction box. Lefler was cited for failure to maintain control. No injuries were reported. Those listed above are preliminary reports until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report
03/23/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls, one electrical breaker incident, and one car fire.
03/23/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hwy. 100 on charges of OWI-1st offense, driving while barred, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of controlled substance and child endangerment. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
03/23/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to five medical calls.
03/23/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hwy. 61.

ACS Breakfast Fundraiser
FORT MADISON - The American Cancer Society is hosting its annual breakfast fundraiser on Saturday, April 28th, at 7 a.m. at the Fort Madison Armory. The event will feature a delicious breakfast along with vendors, activities, and raffles. Tickets are $10 per person and can be purchased online at www.acs.org or from ACS volunteers. All proceeds go to support the American Cancer Society’s mission to create and power progress against cancer. For more information, contact ACC Southwest Iowa at 319-371-4125 or Lee County ACS at 319-520-8953.

RESURRECTION DAY SPECIALS
Dave’s Hickory Smoked HAMS $2.48
HALF HAMS $2.68
Fresh Homemade Amish Kope Sausage or Brats $3.99
Fresh Pork Steaks 5 lbs./$10
Dave’s Homemade Ham Loaf $3.99
Ribeye Steaks $6.99
New York Strip Steaks $8.99
Full New York $9.99
Homemade Ground Beef $3.98
Ground Round Beef $2.99
Aged Whole Boneless Prime Rib $9.98
Fresh Ground Pork $1.99
Fresh Unbreaded Pork Tenderloins $10.10

Lunch & Learn
Dedicated to learning about all dementia types
Held at noon the 4th Tuesday of each month
in our private dining room.
Call 319-372-4233 to RSVP or for more information.
Click to visit our website.
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 8:00am. The race begins at 9 a.m. Pre-registration before March 23rd is $20 & includes t-shirt. Registration 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.holytrinitytyschools.org. Click here to download & print your registration form.

Glo Crazy for Education run set for April 7

FORT MADISON - A 5K run/walk will be held on April 7 at Baxter Sports Complex beginning at 8 p.m. Proceeds from the event will go to the Elliott Test Kitchen in Fort Madison. The event is being put on by Fort Madison service clubs including Fort Madison Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary clubs as well as the Fort Madison High School key club. Registration can be done at www.pencitycurrent.com/glo-crazy/.

Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for $15. Add a photo for $5. Non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of $10 per 25 words and $3 per photo. To place your listing, click here or call Lee at (319)371.4125.

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game</th>
<th>Draw Days</th>
<th>Sales Cutoff Time</th>
<th>Approx. Drawing Time</th>
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<td>8:59 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
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<td>Lotto America®</td>
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<td>Pick 4 - Midday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pick 4 - Evening</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>9:40 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
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Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

Chamber sets May 10 for small business salute

NOMINATIONS - Continued from Page 1

Past Small Business of the Year Recipients
2003: Matt’s Greenhouse
2004: Floors, Décor, and More
2005: Industrial Tooling and Fabrication
2006: Heartland Harvest Winery
2007: Fit 24/7
2008: Independent Can Company
2009: Pendemonium
2010: Your Heat and Air Guy
2011: Mohrfield Electric
2012: Sheaffer Pen Museum
2013: The Flower Cottage
2014: Bix Basement Systems
2015: Sub Arena Sandwich Shop
2016: Group Benefit Partners
2017: Past Micro Business of the Year Recipients
2018: Feek's
2019: KLM Realty
2020: Rev Fitness
This event is sponsored by Huffman Welding & Machine and Huffman Farm & Home. The Salute to Small Business Breakfast will be held on Thursday, May 10th; doors open at 7:00am to browse the expo displays, and a buffet breakfast will be available starting at 7:30am ($10/person Fort Madison Area Chamber member employees, $15/person non-members).

Pen City Current obituary policy
The Current runs obituaries at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for $15. Add a photo for $5. Non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of $10 per 25 words and $3 per photo. To place your listing, click here or call Lee at (319)371.4125.

Spring Travel Show

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2018
RIVerview PARK PAVILLION // FT. MADISON, IA

DOORS OPEN: 4:30PM // PRESENTATION: 5PM

Join us the evening of Wednesday, April 4 for our Spring Travel Show! We’ve been diligently working on putting some new and exciting tours together for all of our travelers and we’re eager to share them with you!

Featured Tours:
- THE ROAD TO THE GREAT PACIFIC NORTHWEST
  July 10-29 // 10 states
- “NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE”
  July 10-11 // Waterloo, IA
- OHIO’S AMISH COUNTRY
  June 4-9 // Holmes County, OH
- GALENA SPRINGTIME GETAWAY
  May 31-June 1 // Galena, IL
- WONDERS OF WILDLIFE
  July 27-29 // Springfield, IL
- HENRY FORD & ROUGE FACTORY TOUR
  August 21-23 // Dearborn, MI

RSVP TO 319-753-2864 x162

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Celebrations/Opinion

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

FM Partners supports Central Lee school bond

Letter to the Editor:

Fort Madison Partner Affiliates: Fort Madison Area Chamber of Commerce; Main Street; Fort Madison Economic Development; and Fort Madison-Southeast Iowa Regional Riverboat Commission, recognize the value that quality educational opportunities bring to our area and offer our support for the passing of the $13.3 million Central Lee Community School District Bond Referendum.

Primarily, it is important to be able to offer our youth a strong educational foundation to compete in our global economy. We have a unique opportunity in our area to be able to offer choices when it comes to quality education and we use it as a selling point for the community every chance we get. This selling point will become even stronger with new/updated facilities at both the high school as well as elementary building. The proposed upgrades will have an everlasting impact on our children and future generations. It will take all of us, whether you are a parent, grandparent or just care about the future of our county, showing your support for a safe, accessible learning environment to make the new additions and renovations become a reality. The proposed development not only affords our children the opportunity to attend an improved facility but also provides new space for high school athletics, fine art programs, culinary art space, new Early Childhood Center at the Elementary building, as well as safe and secure entrances for both buildings.

Safety is a key factor in these building initiatives. As times change, what was adequate for one generation is no longer adequate now. It is our responsibility to ensure everyone at school feels safe- teachers, students and administrative staff. While basic security measures are in place, the current layout of the main entrances present challenges when it comes to safety.

In summation, our support for the Central Lee Community School District Bond Referendum addresses these key points: economic development and recruitment of professionals and businesses; investing in the future success of our youth; the recruitment of quality educators; and the safety of our children.

We hope citizens will vote in favor of the Central Lee Community School District Bond Referendum. With your support, we can create new learning environments to accommodate advanced programs and provide quality educational opportunities- preparing our youth for their future tomorrow!

Sincerely,

Tim Gobble,
Executive Director,
Fort Madison Partners
PUBLIC NOTICE
The Great River Regional Waste Authority is accepting bids for the mowing of its properties located at 2002 303rd Ave in Fort Madison and 111 Carbine 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 (Unless not recommended by GRRWA) and also spraying weeds if needed.

Bids need to be sent to: Great River Regional Waste Authority, 2002 303rd Ave, Fort Madison Iowa 52627 and to the Attention of: Wade Hamm.

PUBLIC NOTICE
CONVENING TIME:
LOCATION:
9:00 A.M.
2530 255th Street, Montrose, IA

AGENDA
Pledge of Allegiance
Approve Agenda
Public Hearing to Enter into Non Current Debt to Purchase Pictometry GIS Photography, Software and Services
Consider Approval of Resolution to Enter into Non Current Debt to Purchase Pictometry GIS Photography, Software and Services
Consider Approval of Tuesday, March 20, 2018 Board Minutes
Consider Approval of Claims
Public Input
Consider Approval to Replace Full-time Correctional Officer
Consider Approval of Resolution Naming Road as Woodland Heights Court
Consider Approval of Tax Suspension Notice
Consider Approval of Class C Liquor License for Fat Jimmy’s Smoke House, Montrose
Consider Approval of Tax Abatement Resolution
Personnel Actions: A. Step Increase-Conversation
Commission or Committee Reports
Adjourn

PUBLIC MEETING -
DIGITAL

HELP WANTED
FULL-TIME DAYCARE ASSOCIATE

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

We are looking for safe, dependable drivers to join our fleet of regional freight haulers.

We are looking for someone who is reliable, responsible, and punctual. Drivers will be required to maintain a Class A CDL and a minimum age of 23 years.

We offer:
• Perfect fit for your new career. Must be able to work rotating 12 hour shifts
• Quality training provided for those willing to learn but must pass a written and practical test
• Competitive benefits package includes 401(k), company match, multiple healthcare plan options, dental, vision, educational assistance and much more

If you are interested in more information about this exciting opportunity please call or stop by our office for additional information.

Pen City Current - Tuesday, March 27, 2018 - 5


In motion, Council approved Resolution No. 2018-23, approving and authorizing a form of loan agreement and authorizing and providing for the issuance and securing the payment of $1,700,000 Water Revenue Capital Loan Notes, Series 2018, of the City of Fort Madison, State of Iowa, under the provisions of the City Code of Iowa, and providing for a method of payment of the notes and approving tax exemption certificate. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No.2018-24, ratifying a settlement agreement with the Teamster Local 238, Water Department. On motion, Council received and filed the City’s audit for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2017. On motion, Council approved the proposal of Rehrig Pacific Company and Municipal Connection, not to exceed $267,000 for the implementation of roll away garbage containers.

At 6:45 P.M. on motion, Council adjourned until March 31, 2018 at 5:30 P.M. 3/6/2018

APPENDICES REVENUES

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Overall growth in the county.

"Whatever it is behind the scenes that is keeping us from getting industry and technological jobs has to be dealt with," he said. "There's that friction between Fort Madison and Keokuk that hasn't been resolved and we've lost numerous companies from coming. I think it's got to be settled one way or another. I hear the state's looking at it, too, and at some point, it may be that no one gets to decide because they may not get a chance."

A Keokuk High School graduate, Steffen pointed to the lost effort with Winnebag after Freuchte left the area and before Siemens came into the area.

He said with the county putting $200,000 annually into the Lee County Economic Development Group budget, we should be attracting more businesses.

"We have to attract manufacturing and newer technology," he said. "Our employment rate is 5.4% and it wasn't that long ago that we had the highest unemployment rate in the state. It's getting better, but it can get a lot better. We've got to get better paying jobs in the area. Most of the people here are underemployed and they just aren't making enough money. We've got people off the rolls that don't count in that unemployment percent, and then we've got people that are never going to work but you'll have that problem everywhere."

Steffen ran for the Iowa House of Representatives in 2012, which was his first attempt at running for office, but said he broke a break after that run, and this is the first time since then that he's put his name on a ballot.

He's a firm believer that education should be out of federal hands, although he admits he won't have a lot of pull there as a supervisor.

"I don't think the federal government should be involved in curriculum. What they are teaching in other areas of the country may not be the best thing to teach here. Right now they have these standardized tests and they are teaching to pass those tests at the expense of other curriculum and that isn't right."

He said education should be an endeavor where parents and teachers get together and have a say in how things should be taught.

"They don't have a say now. We need to get the federal government out of it and give control back to local communities and the state." Steffen and his wife Diana have four children, James, Darian, Jared, and Tamara and are lifelong residents of Lee County. After graduating from Keokuk High School in 1983, he went straight into the U.S. Marine Corp and Active Army before going back to school at Southeastern Community College and completing his degree at SCC in 2008.

He shared his graduation party with his oldest son, James, who graduated from Central Lee the same year. He's also a veteran of the United States Army and the Iowa National Guard.

Steffen has always taken his oath to the country and state as one of his highest responsibilities and is one of his proudest accomplishments. He's also been actively involved with the Salvation Army and is a founding member of the committee to bring RiverFest back to Fort Madison and has worked at the festival since its return.

He's a member of the Republican Party and is a member of the Des Moines Township Fire Department and the Cow- boy Country Church in Wayland, Missouri. Steffen, his daughter Darian, and grandchildren enjoy riding, showing, and working their American Quarter Horses.

Steffen said in a press release for his candidacy, he's always maintained duty to his country and state, but now, his county is of the highest importance and he will bring that conviction to the office of County Supervisor. He believes that the government should be more limited in scope, transparent, and more responsive to the people and that Lee County can become a better place to raise our children and grandchildren by improving economic opportunities and bettering our education system.

CANDIDATE - Continued from Page 1