County Republicans showcase candidates at annual banquet

Reichman says Lee County is “Open for Business”

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Three candidates up for election on Nov. 6, told Republicans Saturday night that the state is headed in the right direction.

At Saturday’s annual Lee County Republican banquet, candidates Jeff Reichman, James Steffan, and Joe Mitchell talked about how President Donald Trump has brought back jobs to America and how governors Terry Branstad and Kim Reynolds have brought the state back from disaster.

Reichman, of Keokuk, said Lee County is open for business. He’s seeking to fill the District 84 State Senate seat currently being held by Jerry Kearns, a seat that Republicans haven’t had for three decades.

Lee County Republican Chairman Martin Graber talks to fellow Republicans Saturday night as part of the annual banquet. Several speakers including candidates Jeff Reichman, James Steffan, and Joe Mitchell spoke at the event.

Reichman said the August recess is time Congress needs to focus on issues:

“Today, I am again calling on House Republicans to follow the lead of their Senate counterparts and cancel this August recess. Today marks the 207th day of session through August to work on the important issues facing Iowans. In fact, the House of Representatives has only been in session for a total of 82 days. It is beyond unacceptable that the House has only been in session for a total of 82 days this year and is now taking off for nearly 40 more days. The people of Iowa want Congress working on issues that affect their lives and being in session less than 40 percent of the time is no way to get anything accomplished,” said Loebsack.

Today, I am again calling on House Republicans to follow the Senate and cancel its planned August recess. Congress cannot afford to close up shop for over five weeks, leaving behind manufacturing jobs that the last president said were gone and weren’t coming back. They are coming back.”

Reichman, who’s a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corp, said he had to have his arm twisted a little to run. He grew up in Ke-

Loebsack says Congress should stay in session

WASHINGTON D.C. – As the House gavled out of session for its August recess, Congressman Dave Loebsack reiterated his call for the House to remain in session through August to work on the important issues facing Iowans. Loebsack called on House Speaker Paul Ryan and Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy to follow the lead of their Senate counterparts and cancel this August recess. Today marks the 207th day of the year and the House has only been in session for a total of 82 days. “It is beyond unacceptable that the House has only been in session for a total of 82 days this year and is now taking off for nearly 40 more days. The people of Iowa want Congress working on issues that affect their lives and being in session less than 40 percent of the time is no way to get anything accomplished,” said Loebsack.

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Gehle takes five golds at junior nationals

FMHS grad just eight days away from Barcelona in Cerebral Palsy World Games

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT WAYNE, Ind., - A Fort Madison man has wrapped up two more gold medals in a series of junior national paralympic games in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Caleb Gehle, 18, was coming off two gold medals and two silver medals Wednesday and Thursday and then wrapped up the Adaptive USA Junior Nationals with wins in the 100- and 400-meter wheel chair races Friday.

The event finished just eight days before Gehle and his family head to Barcelona, Spain to compete in the Cerebral Palsy World Games Aug. 5-12 with TeamUSA.

Gehle said the competitions at these events are broken down into specific categories and the classifications allow people with similar disabilities to compete against each other instead of being lumped into one group.

“The nice thing about these competitions is that they’re separated into different classes including spina bifida, cerebral palsy and amputees,” he said. “We’re not all lumped together, like a state where someone may have an unfair advantage over someone else.”

At the Iowa State Track meet, where Gehle competed during his years at Fort Madison High School, all athletes with disabilities compete in the same events with boys and girls being the only classifications used.

“I like the competition here. It’s a very friendly environment, where as in Des Moines everyone’s kind out for themselves.”

On Wednesday, Gehle heaved the shot 17’-5.75” which was about two and half feet further than Matthew Tomiano who through 14’-9”. Tomiano then beat Gehle in the javelin and discus events. Gehle threw the discus 29’-9” to Tomiano’s 34’-10” and then took silver in the javelin with a throw of 25’ compared to

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Sterzings former owner thinks newest chips “have got it.”

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See GEHLE, page 14

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AILEEN LOUISE JINKENS

Aileen Louise Jinkens, 85, of Keokuk died Thursday, July 26, 2018 at the Klein Center in West Burlington.

She was born June 20, 1933 near Kahoka, MO the daughter of Ralph Lincoln and Edna Opal Ingram McNally. She was raised by her aunt and uncle, Gladys and Walter Bertram in Oakland, CA until the age of 15. On May 20, 1951 she was united in marriage to Robert E. Jinkens near Wayland, MO. He preceded her in death on May 15, 1967.

Aileen graduated from the Wayland High School with the Class of 1951. She had been a member of the Wayland Methodist Church in Wayland, MO and the Kahoka Methodist Church in Kahoka, MO. Most recently she had been attending the United Presbyterian Church in Keokuk. She had also been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Aileen had been an Air Force bride and a devoted farmer’s wife who enjoyed taking care of her family. She cared for her husband, who suffered with Multiple Sclerosis for many years. She made her house a loving home and always welcomed the neighborhood kids in. Aileen enjoyed sewing. She was a Nascar fan and especially liked Jeff Gordon. Aileen liked to keep her mind busy by reading the Bible and mystery books and working crossword puzzles. Aileen loved all animals, particularly cats and enjoyed watching horse racing. She loved to sing and go dancing. She was a dedicated Red Cross donor, donating 13 gallons of blood over the years.

She is survived by five daughters, Karen Hickey (Mike) of Keokuk, Brenda Coursey (Steve) of Monmouth, IL, Bonnie Underwood (Steve) of Keokuk, Cynthia Ames (Roy) of Keokuk and Julie McNitt (Tim) of Osage Beach, MO, two sons, Dennis Jinkens of Keokuk and Jerry (Martha) Jinkens of Keokuk, eighteen grandchildren, twenty-four great grandchildren, two step-grandchildren and two step-great-grandchildren, two sisters-in-law, Anna Jean Jinkens of Keokuk and JoAnn Jinkens of Eldorado Springs, MO and numerous nieces and nephews. Besides her husband, she was also preceded in death by her parents, step-mother, Myra McNally, and brothers and sisters, Wilma McNally, James McNally, Opal Irene Fleming, Lola Eder, Waneta Smith, cousins who were like brothers, Hillis and Forest Bertram.

A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m., Monday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with Pastor Cathie Courtois officiating. Burial will be held in the Fairview Cemetery in rural Ft. Madison, IA.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

BILLY DEAN “BILL” WALKER

Billy Dean “Bill” Walker, 81 of Montrose, IA died Thursday, July 26, 2018 at his home.

He was born May 20, 1937 in St. Louis, MO the son of Clyde and Lelia Fox Walker. On December 16, 1978 he was united in marriage to Betty E. Ireland Schrader in Ft. Madison, IA. She survives.

Bill had been employed by the Dial Corporation in Montrose, IA for twenty-eight years until his retirement. He was a member of First Christian Church of Disciples of God in Keokuk.

Bill enjoyed spending time outdoors golfing and working in his yard. He was also an avid NASCAR fan. A gifted woodworker, Bill enjoyed countless hours in his workshop and created gifts for his family and friends and also made decorations for all the holidays.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m., Monday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with Pastor Cathie Courtois officiating. Burial will be held in the Fairview Cemetery in rural Ft. Madison, IA.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Sunday at the funeral home, with family meeting with friends from 4-6 p.m.

Memorials may be made to HCI Hospice or First Christian Church. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

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.

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For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

Lee County Sheriff's Report
7/26/2018 - 3:34 p.m - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jessica Ann Hanwood, 35, of Fort Madison, at the Court House, on a judgment hold. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report
7/26/2018 - 3:34 p.m - Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls and one false alarm. 07/27/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls, two lifts assist, one grass fire, and two medical calls, two lifts assist, one grass fire, and one gas smell investigation.

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7/26/2018 - 9:09 p.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1500 block of Ave. E. 7/26/2018 - 11:15 p.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 300 block of Ave. F.

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The Fort Madison Bloodhound Youth Camp wrapped up this week. Above, Jamiah Williams, 13, makes a tackle from behind on a new tackling roll used at the camp Wednesday evening. Sophomore Quentin Schneider sets the roll in motion as high school players helped demonstrate the drills. At left top, about 65 campers in grades 1st-8th worked out together on Thursday. At left side Brandt Booten gets in a tackle and at left middle, Nolan Lamb, 10, works the tomahawk drill with assistant coach Mike Hayes.
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Former Sterzings owners think newest chips “have got it’’

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

BURLINGTON - It’s been a long summer for Craig Smith and the iconic Sterzings’ brand potato chip.

After the Food and Drug Administration implemented a phasing out of oils containing trans fats in 2015, the writing was on the wall and changes were coming.

There rarely is a potluck, picnic or party in the region that won’t showcase the familiar red-and-pale yellow bags with the salty and snappy chip that lowens and beyond have been snacking on for almost eight decades.

But then the chip maker ran out of inventory of the original oil used to make the chips and had to transition into the new trans-fat free cooking agent.

According to Sterzings Food Co. President, Craig Smith, that’s where trouble began. But...better news became.

Food Co. President, Craig Smith, that's where trouble began. But...better news became.

Smith said the company’s food scientists have been tinkering with the formula for a good portion of the year trying to find ways to abide by the new regs, but get close to the original flavor and texture that loyal customers were accustomed to.

“We started out with this new formula and it appealed to a lot of people, but didn’t resonate with our loyal fan base,” Smith said Friday morning. “Our focus was on the taste and texture that loyal customers were accustomed to.”

But he said Friday the newest tweaks have resulted in a chip that just may be worthy of the original Sterzing chip.

“I had a bag in the hands of the previous owners and they said, ‘We think you got it’. That’s as high a regard as I can ask for,” Smith said.

“I had a bag in the hands of the previous owners and they said, ‘We think you got it’. That’s as high a regard as I can ask for,” Smith said.

That family included the daughters of Dutch Duttweiler, who bought the business in 1959 from Barney Sterzing. Sterzing started the company in 1933 as an off-shoot from his candy business and, when sugar rationing took place during WWII, Smith said Sterzing dumped the candy portion of the business and turned his focus to making a chip that has been in high demand regionally and regularly shipped across the nation.

After an inter-family sale in 2011.

In May, the company held a chip-tasting at Community Field in Burlington and got mixed reactions and went back to the drawing board. The chip at that time had a feel and texture that would be considered a “kettle” chip, with a heavier crunch.

Smith said a lot of people liked the new offering, but it was, and still is, the company’s goal to do everything possible to get back to the original taste and composition of a Sterzing potato chip.

He said it’s difficult to just implement change because the production process requires a lot of inventory of potatoes, oil, and salt and you have to work through those inventories, while making minor adjustments to the recipe based on what customers are saying.

“We’re happy with the results,” Smith said Friday.

“For the most part people are saying it. We’re happy with the results,” Smith said Friday.

“I had a bag in the hands of the previous owners and they said, ‘We think you got it’,” Smith said. “That’s as high a regard as I can ask for.”

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Randy Jordan unloads boxes of Sterzings Friday in Fort Madison. Jordan has been with Sterzings for close to 33 years. The company has been tinkering with the recipe of the iconic potato chip since transitioning to a trans fat free oil earlier this year.

FMCH Welcomes
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FMCH Welcomes

See CHIPS, page 13
GONE FISHING!

Pen City Current will not publish an e–Edition Sunday, August 12 through Monday, August 20 so our team can enjoy some time this summer. Breaking news will be published online when possible. Our free e–Edition will be back Tuesday, August 21.

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Fri., Sept. 7
PRCA Rodeo Action
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Country Singer Songwriter

Sat., Sept. 8
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Commercial & Craft Open: 4pm - 7pm
Beer Pong Open Play: 4pm - 6pm
Food Vendors Open: 4pm - Close
Entertainment Area Open: 4:00pm - Close
Beer Pong Tournament: 6pm - 10pm

Friday:
Volleyball Practice: 3pm - 6pm
Dragon Boat Practice: 3pm - 7pm
Commercial & Craft Open: 4pm - 7pm
Food Vendors Open: 4pm - Close
Entertainment Area Open: 4pm - Close
Motorcycle Stunt Show: 5pm - 5:15pm
TEEN STREET DANCE (Live DJ) 9:30pm - 11pm

Saturday:
5k Fun Run/Walk: 6:30am - 8:30am
Commercial & Craft Open: 8am - 5pm
Food Vendors Open: 11am - Close
Dragon Boat Races: 9am - Close
Can-Jam Tournament: 10am - 2pm
Pickelball Tournament: 10am - 2pm
Volleyball Tournament: 10am - 2pm
Motorcycle Stunt Show: 12pm - 12:15pm
Entertainment Area Open: 3:00pm - Close
Motorcycle Stunt Show: 4:45pm - 3pm

Sunday:
Legion Charity Breakfast (benefiting area veterans): 8am - Noon
Motorcycle Stunt Show: 8am - Noon
Commercial & Craft Open: 8am - 3pm
Food Vendors Open: 11am - 7pm
RiverFest Float Trip (Kayak, Canoe, SUP Float): 9am - Noon
Harmony Sunday Services: 10:30am - Noon
Captives Set Free (Christian Rock Band): Noon - 1pm
Bags Tournament: 2pm - 6pm
Entertainment Area Open: 3:00pm - Close

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Saturday - Noon to 9pm & 5pm to Close
Sunday - Noon to Close

Carnival Wristbands: $18 (advance) $20 [During Festival]
Wristband Hours: Thursday 5-8pm, Friday 6-9pm & Saturday (Kids Day) Noon-3pm
Meet Rocky the Recycler during Kids Day!
Carnival Tickets: $1.00 each

For a complete schedule of events visit www.riverfestfm.com

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Avid customers still craving original flavor profile

CHIPS - Continued from Page 1

What about the Kettle-style?
Smith said the company has discussed keeping it as an option because many did enjoy the chip. It just wasn’t the original Sterzing and that is ultimately the product they are looking for. He said the company has the equipment to continue to make that product as well as do some flavorings, but all that is on the back burner until people respond positively to the regular Sterzings. “We’re slow at making change. It took us 80 years to learn how to make popcorn,” he said. “But it’s always been fun making chips,” he said. He asked customers to hold on and keep trying the product as that is the best way for the company to know how the chips taste. “Be patient with us and understand it is our goal to continually move to our original product,” he said.

BTW... it was always gluten free
Smith said the company made an “interesting” marketing decision when they started labeling the bags “Gluten-Free”. “What people didn’t realize is that it was always gluten free. We were getting dozens of calls each week asking us if we had gluten in them. We put that on our bags to make it very clear, but there’s never been gluten in our chips. After people started seeing things change, we had lots of calls from people telling us to put the gluten back in,” he said with a laugh.

In what is probably the clearest picture of the demand for the original Sterzing, Smith said customers desperate for that one-of-a-kind flavor were suggesting tongue-in-cheek, that the company get their oil on the black market and sell the chips that way. Short of that, Smith said customer reaction to the most recent recipe blend that is in production now has been favorable and that blend is in production and hitting stores currently. He’s waiting for responses to how they set up in the bag and then if things are still on the right track a promotional period may begin. “We’re gonna load the market up and hopefully start hearing some better comments,” he said “We’re not responding publicly or through social media because there are so many comments and I just don’t like to address naysayers. When we’re there we’re gonna talk about it.”

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

SUN 29 Jul
Light Rain
High– 78.4º F | Low – 62.8º F

MON 30 Jul
Heavy Intensity Rain
High– 72.1º F | Low – 66.0º F

TUE 31 Jul
Moderate Rain
High– 76.5º F | Low – 67.4º F

WED 01 Aug
Light Rain
High– 79.3º F | Low – 67.6º F

THU 02 Aug
Light Rain
High– 81.0º F | Low – 71.6º F

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Pen City Current - Sunday, July 29, 2018 - 13
Mitchell says state is going in the right direction

GOP - Continued from Page 1

okuk and graduated from Southeastern Community College before joining the Marines. He moved back into the area five years ago and said he was concerned by what he saw on Keokuk’s Main Street. “I was driving down Main Street with mom and wondered if I had been asleep with rose-colored glasses on, or if things had gone down hill that fast,” Reichman said. “You can get $300 million per year in Lee County’s economy,” Reichman said. “We need to start building this county back up and take advantage of this turn we’re having right now with bringing some of these manufacturing jobs back.”

Lee County Republican Chairman Martin Graber said Kearns probably did a favor for the Republicans by not running again, but he endorsed Fort Madison’s Jeff Kurtz for the seat.

“Kerry Kearns probably didn’t do this by accident. He’s endorsed his successor, but if you have been to any debates and listened to what he thinks and his positions and what his issues are - he doesn’t talk about jobs too soon and he doesn’t talk about making the state better,” Graber said.

Joe Mitchell, fresh off a graduation this spring from Drake University, is trying to win Dave Heinot’s 84th district State Rep. seat. Both Heaton and Kearns have said they will not seek re-election in the fall.

Mitchell said Iowa is ranked No. 1 in the country, has the lowest unemployment rates in the Midwest, has the highest graduation rate in the country and attributes all those recognitions to the work of governors Terry Branstad and Kim Reynolds.

Mitchell said this year it will be important for those in the Republican party to get out and talk to those fringe voters and not spend time on die-hard liberals who won’t change their minds. He said the state is going in the right direction, but that won’t continue if the Republicans don’t fight back what he called the “Blue Wave.”

“Democrats are trying to mobilize right now. And they’re trying to get many people out to take over the legislatures,” he said. “I’m sure you’ve all heard of the Blue Wave movement they’re trying to do. They think they’re going to take over all the state legislatures and they think they’re going to take over Congress and I’m sorry to tell them but I think that’s a false notion,” Mitchell said.

“I would think that was going to happen if we weren’t the No. 1 state in the country, with the lowest unemployment rate in the Midwest. If we didn’t have the highest graduation rate in the country. If we haven’t delivered on historic tax cuts for working class families and small businesses.”

He said the state does hold all those recognitions and when voters go to the polls they’re going to see they are better off now than they were eight years ago under Governor Chet Culver.

“Eight years ago we spent every single penny we had, drained our reserve funds, had record high rather than record low unemployment, and our state was going down and I just thank God for Governor Branstad and Governor Reynolds for getting us out of that,” he said to applause from the 120 in attendance.

Graber said it was almost Mitchell’s race to lose when you look at demographics.

“He almost has to work real hard at losing that, but I always tell people don’t ever assume you’ve got a win because I guarantee you in politics it’s not always the best man or woman wins,” Graber said.

James Steffen is running for the Lee County Board of Supervisors to take the District 3 seat being vacated by Don Hunold at the end of his term.

Steffen said the county has been run by Democrats for too long and it’s time for more transparency and more accountability at the county level.

Steffen ran for the statehouse in 2012 losing to Kearns and said he stepped away from public office.

“I kind of stayed out of politics for a while, but I don’t like what is going on in Lee County. The focus on economic development doesn’t have to be just manufacturing. We’ve got 5G in Lee County now so we can have any type of technology jobs."

He also said he was disappointed that the supervisors took $400,000 out of the budget for law enforcement.

“I support law enforcement. They took $400,000 out of the budget for the sheriff, but he ended up getting back most of it. One party has been in control of the entire country and I think there needs to be more transparency and accountability and I think I can bring that,” he said.

He also said education should be a priority.

“They told me not to worry about education, but children are our future and if we don’t provide them with a quality education with more emphasis on the STEM program, if we don’t provide them with that, then we are failing them and failing our state and county.”

Steffen said the county needs to let the department heads do their jobs.

“We have department heads for our county and lots of decisions are made by the board and they don’t rely on those department heads. They need to utilize that better and rely on those people to do that job and if they can’t do that job they need replaced. Someone needs to hold those people accountable and it’s not being done now,” Steffen said.

Barcelona and TeamUSA up next for Gehle

GEHLE - Continued from Page 1

Tomazin’s gold medal throw of 29’6 “. Both Gehle’s discus and javelin throws were personal records for him.

Gehle took gold in his only Thursday event, the 200-meter wheelchair race, and then took gold in both races on Friday. In the 200, Gehle won with a time of 56.11 seconds. His gold time in the 100 was 28.67 and he raced to a 1:50.73 in the 400-meter race. He also won a gold medal in the 4x100 relay with a team that asked him to join when he got to the event.

He said he had good leads in most of wheelchair races with his closest competitor being about seven seconds behind. But he said the track was very spongy and none of the racers set personal bests during the games.

Now Gehle begins to prepare for the World Games in Spain. He leaves for Europe on Aug. 4 and said the next week will be full of training and prep work for the trip.

“It’s gonna be a lot more training within the next week,” he said, “I don’t know any times or anything I need to be at I just want to race the best I can and throw the best I can.”

In 2017, Gehle competed in the junior nationals and won one gold and two silvers. He said going in April for qualifying allowed him to compete in the javelin and discuss events, which were events he didn’t get to compete in last year. Now he says he has a better idea of what to expect in Europe.

“I feel confident going over there just with this week even. I’ve learned a lot of helpful tips from other paralympic athletes that have been on TeamUSA and traveled the world. I’m honestly just extremely honored to get this opportunity,” Gehle said without the support of his family and the community he wouldn’t be able to be a part of TeamUSA.

“I want to thank everyone for everything I’m able to do because this all probably wouldn’t be possible without their donations and support,” he said.

Farm Bill, opioids are still on Congressional-to-do list

LOEBSACK - Continued from Page 1

a seemingly endless list of issues to deal with. While I look forward to spending this time back in Iowa traveling across the state, Iowans deserve better. I stand ready to work with anyone to help move our state and nation forward.”

Among the issues that have not been dealt with include: Farm bill, Combating the Opioid Epidemic, Long-term infrastructure/highway bill, Increase RFS volume outputs, Annual appropriations, Prison sentencing reform, Comprehensive jobs package, Comprehensive mental health reform, Higher Education reauthorization, Campaign finance reform.

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