Dems say state needs change to be truly be great

Area Democrats say mental health, education, minimum wage woes hurting state

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FRANKLIN - On the heels of the Lee County Republican annual banquet where area Republicans touted recent accolades dumped on the state by national media, local Democrats say things are far from perfect. At Sunday’s Cops and Calhoun picnic in Franklin’s town park, several Democratic legislators and current candidates said the state is far from heading in the right direction.

Jeff Kurtz, a candidate for state representative for the 83rd district, said when the state rolls back efforts to raise the minimum wage and in some cases even rolled back the minimum wage, it’s hard to tout jobs success, especially when it comes to families being able to take care of themselves.

Lee County Republican Chair Martin Graber said at Saturday’s republican event, that Kurtz didn’t want to talk about jobs, because the state has the lowest unemployment rate in recent history. Kurtz is up against Keokuk Republican Jeff Reichman for the seat.

“We’ve been talking economic development this whole campaign. If you go to our Facebook page you can see from our forum in Keokuk, it was a lot of economic development. I’m not sure what candidate they’re talking about, but we certainly are talking jobs,” Kurtz said. “We increased (the minimum wage) to $8.20 and it lasted about two days before the Republicans put the preemption clause in. I’m not sure why they think we’re

City seeing more water main breaks

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - In the past two weeks the City of Fort Madison has experienced at least 11 water main breaks and city officials are hoping some relief valves will take the pressure of the city’s aged water lines.

Fort Madison Public Works director Larry Driscoll waded through some water rushing over the intersection of 20th Street and Avenue H Sunday at about 4 p.m. where another in the latest of water main breaks occurred. The first large break took place on Old Denmark Hill where a portion of the road had to be replaced.

There are many reasons the breaks are occurring, Driscoll said, the predominant reasons are the current rehab work that is going on top of Denmark Hill and the other is the distance from the lines to the new water treatment plant south of town.

“With that new water plant being seven miles south of town there’s increased pressure there,” Driscoll said Monday afternoon. “They wouldn’t have had to worry about this added pressure in the past because the treatment plant was in town. But now we have one of those storage tanks on Denmark Hill down and that’s making matters much worse.”

To combat the problem, city crews put a relief valve on a fire hydrant at 8th and Avenue E. Driscoll said the city has invested in a couple more of those and may use them if pressure stays high.

He said the typical pressures in the lines are from 70 to 80 pounds per square inch, or psi, but he said it’s not uncommon to see 90 or 100 with the storage tank

Advertisement Index

Classifieds Ps.4-5 Mobile Nursing Services, LTD P.4
Fort Madison Community Hospital P.6 Professional Services P.5
Great River Regional Waste Authority P.2 Public Notices P.4
Griffin Muffler & Brake Center P.4 Tony Fullenkamp Edward Jones P.3
Hope Associates Real Estate P.4 Trailways Travel P.7
KLM Realty P.4 Your Heat & Air guy P.3

Weather

Scan the code to Subscribe today
Paid & Free Options Available!
VERNA N. RICHARDS

Verna N. Richards, 72, of Ft. Madison passed away on Sunday, July 29, 2018 at 8:12 AM at the West Point Care Center.

She was born on July 7, 1946 in Lawrence, KS to Vernon and Pearl Branning Barton. On June 25, 2005 she married Michael Richards in Topeka, KS. Verna was a commercial liability insurance adjuster. She was a member of the Moose Lodge #671 in Ft. Madison. Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory.

Survivors include her husband, Michael Richards of Ft. Madison; one daughter, Jeannette Hendrix and one son, Raymond Lowery both of Topeka, KS; eight grandchildren; five great grandchildren; a step daughter, Lori Murphy of Salem, IA; a step son, McCain Richards of Plano, TX; two sisters, Esther and Rose. She was preceded in death by her parents; four brothers and one sister.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, August 11, 2018 beginning at 5 PM at the Moose Lodge #671 and the Eagles Club #1278. Verna enjoyed gardening, fishing and spending time with her husband and family.

All online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

VERA I. HELLWEG

Vera I. Hellweg, 91, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 9:22 a.m. on Monday, July 30, 2018 at the Donnellson Health Center. She was born on February 25, 1927 in Fort Madison, IA to Dewey & Florence Sunden Wyrick. She married Ambrose F. Hellweg on April 12, 1947 at Sacred Heart Church in Fort Madison, IA. He preceded her in death on May 12, 2007. She worked at the Sheaffer Pen Company, Dana Bushong Jewelers and she specialized in making wedding & birthday cakes. She also made sugar eggs & mints for Andies Candies at Christmas & Easter. She later was a secretary at Fort Madison High School. She was a member of Sacred Heart Church and the Double 10 Circle of the King’s Daughters. She enjoyed pottery and any kind of crafts. Vera is survived by: 2-daughters: Peggy Dietsch of Austin, TX & Jane (Bruce) Krebill of Donnellson, IA; 5-grandchildren: Clayton Dietsch, Christian Dietsch, Ryan Anderson, Nick Farrell & Brent Anderson; 6-great grandchildren: Alaina, John, Karly, Lila, Aaden & Paisley; several step grandchildren & great grandchildren; 2-sisters in law: Zita Wiebler & Shirley Wyrick; several nieces & nephews.

She was preceded in death by: her parents, husband, 3-children: Patrick & Jean in infancy & Carol Hellweg; 2-sisters: Lorraine Worden & Lois Thompson & 1-brother: Darrell Wyrick.

Cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The family will receive friends from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Friday, August 3, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church immediately followed by a memorial mass at 10:30 a.m. with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. Burial will be held at Sacred Heart Cemetery. A memorial has been established for The Kensington.

All online condolences to Vera’s family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

Alliant taking non-profit grant applications

BY PCC STAFF

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa – July 30, 2018 – Know a nonprofit that focuses on families, education or the environment? Invite them to apply for a grant from the Alliant Energy Foundation. The Foundation is accepting grant applications August 1 through September 1. Grants average about $2,000 and winners will be notified by November 1. Projects must share one of the Foundation’s key focus areas: families, education or environment. Past projects to receive grants include mentoring programs, meal and nutrition programs, reading and literacy initiatives, dairy and agriculture education, STEM camps and nature trail restoration projects, among others. To see examples of groups that have received funding, check out Alliant Energy Foundation’s Facebook and Instagram pages: @Alliant_Energy_Foundation. For more details about how to apply, visit alliantenergy.com/foundation.

The Alliant Energy Foundation is funded solely by Alliant Energy shareholders.
Lee County Sheriff’s report
07/27/18 - 10:03 a.m.
- Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Chancey Lee Losey, 18, of Bona parte at the Central Lee School parking lot, on a charge of simple assault and disorderly conduct. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on a promise to appear.
- Lee County Sheriff’s deputies cited Ninette Lynn Whispie, 49, of Keokuk, in the 2600 block of Iowa Road, on a charge of dog running at large. She was released upon citation.
- Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Miguel Alvarez, 25, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff’s office on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on bond.
- Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Michael Jacob Cain, 41, of Montrose, at the sheriff’s office on a warrant for failure to pay fines/costs. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
- Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Danielle Lynn Smith, 30, of Fort Madison, in the 2600 block of Avenue L, on a warrant for violation of probation. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Jail and held.
- Lee County Sheriff’s deputies cited Ninette Lynn Whispie, 49, of Keokuk, in the 2600 block of Iowa Road, on a charge of dog running at large. She was released upon citation.
- Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Miguel Alvarez, 25, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff’s office on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on bond.
- Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Michael Jacob Cain, 41, of Montrose, at the sheriff’s office on a warrant for failure to pay fines/costs. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
- Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Danielle Lynn Smith, 30, of Fort Madison, in the 2600 block of Avenue L, on a warrant for violation of probation. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Jail and held.
- Lee County Sheriff’s deputies cited Ninette Lynn Whispie, 49, of Keokuk, in the 2600 block of Iowa Road, on a charge of dog running at large. She was released upon citation.
- Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Miguel Alvarez, 25, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff’s office on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on bond.
- Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Michael Jacob Cain, 41, of Montrose, at the sheriff’s office on a warrant for failure to pay fines/costs. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
- Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Danielle Lynn Smith, 30, of Fort Madison, in the 2600 block of Avenue L, on a warrant for violation of probation. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Jail and held.
- Lee County Sheriff’s deputies cited Ninette Lynn Whispie, 49, of Keokuk, in the 2600 block of Iowa Road, on a charge of dog running at large. She was released upon citation.
- Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Miguel Alvarez, 25, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff’s office on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on bond.
- Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Michael Jacob Cain, 41, of Montrose, at the sheriff’s office on a warrant for failure to pay fines/costs. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
- Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Danielle Lynn Smith, 30, of Fort Madison, in the 2600 block of Avenue L, on a warrant for violation of probation. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Jail and held.
- Lee County Sheriff’s deputies cited Ninette Lynn Whispie, 49, of Keokuk, in the 2600 block of Iowa Road, on a charge of dog running at large. She was released upon citation.
- Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Miguel Alvarez, 25, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff’s office on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on bond.
- Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Michael Jacob Cain, 41, of Montrose, at the sheriff’s office on a warrant for failure to pay fines/costs. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
- Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Danielle Lynn Smith, 30, of Fort Madison, in the 2600 block of Avenue L, on a warrant for violation of probation. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
**Public Notice**

Fort Madison Community School District

1930 Avenue M

Minutes of the Special Meeting

July 24, 2018

I. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Young at 6:01 p.m. Directors Troxel, Young, Ross and DiPrima were present. Directors Wondra, Hotop and Hope participated through telephone conference. Also present was Superintendent Slater.

II. Recognition of guests. Vice President Young welcomed members of the audience in attendance and explained the procedures for the meeting.

III. Approve the agenda. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Wondra to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

IV. Consider approval of personnel resignations.
   a. Brent Zirkel, Assistant Principal, Fort Madison Middle School. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Wondra to approve the resignation of Brent Zirkel as assistant principal at the Fort Madison Middle School. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.
   b. Chris Schelich, Fort Madison Community School District Teaching contract. It was moved by Troxel and seconded by Wondra to approve the resignation of Chris Schelich as a teacher in the Fort Madison Community School District. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

V. Consider approval of employment of personnel.
   a. Consider approval of the employment of Chris Schelich as Assistant Principal, Fort Madison Middle School. It was moved by Hotop and seconded by Hope to approve the employment of Chris Schelich as Assistant Principal at the Fort Madison Middle School. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.
   b. Consider approval of the modified TLC contract for Chris Schelich. It was moved by Troxel and seconded by Ross to approve the modified TLC contract for Chris Schelich as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

VI. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Tim Wondra, Board President
July 24, 2018

Sandra Elmore, Board Secretary
If someone is hurt on your property, is your business protected?

Umbrella coverage can help reduce the risk of paying claim costs beyond where your business insurance liability limits stop. Schedule a SuperCheck® today.

If someone is hurt on your property, is your business protected?

Umbrella coverage can help reduce the risk of paying claim costs beyond where your business insurance liability limits stop. Schedule a SuperCheck® today.

If someone is hurt on your property, is your business protected?

Umbrella coverage can help reduce the risk of paying claim costs beyond where your business insurance liability limits stop. Schedule a SuperCheck® today.

If someone is hurt on your property, is your business protected?

Umbrella coverage can help reduce the risk of paying claim costs beyond where your business insurance liability limits stop. Schedule a SuperCheck® today.

If someone is hurt on your property, is your business protected?

Umbrella coverage can help reduce the risk of paying claim costs beyond where your business insurance liability limits stop. Schedule a SuperCheck® today.

If someone is hurt on your property, is your business protected?

Umbrella coverage can help reduce the risk of paying claim costs beyond where your business insurance liability limits stop. Schedule a SuperCheck® today.

If someone is hurt on your property, is your business protected?

Umbrella coverage can help reduce the risk of paying claim costs beyond where your business insurance liability limits stop. Schedule a SuperCheck® today.

If someone is hurt on your property, is your business protected?

Umbrella coverage can help reduce the risk of paying claim costs beyond where your business insurance liability limits stop. Schedule a SuperCheck® today.

If someone is hurt on your property, is your business protected?

Umbrella coverage can help reduce the risk of paying claim costs beyond where your business insurance liability limits stop. Schedule a SuperCheck® today.
Harvestville owners want to take Farm-to-Table out on the street

MEL - Continued from Page 1

Hohl said with the opening of the Mercantile downtown two years ago there was just too much going on in transition to try and do the street dinner. “It was just too much too quick, so we decided to do it this year. But then, unfortunately, with the threat of rain we brought it back out here. So next year...but it was a hard decision. But what another unique opportunity for people that they may never have had.”

“We wanted a memorable experience, but a pop up dinner in the middle of dinner is not what we wanted to make it memorable,” Adam said with a chuckle.

Nestled among a cornucopia of farm fresh produce and foliage, was a table filled with silent auctions items, Julie said all the proceeds from the silent auction would go to the Fort Madison Food Pantry as well as a portion of the proceeds from the $65/person ticket sales.

Moritani Wendorf fares included a fresh tomatillo gazpacho soup with cocktail shrimp as well as locally produced lamb, vegetables for a ratatouille, and new potatoes. Locally produced bread and a locally made dessert was also on hand as part of the five-course meal.

Moritani said all the vegetables were grown at the Harvestville Farms and she made the breads. The lamb was obtained from a producer in Kalona and the desserts were prepared locally.

The Hohls have been putting on the shows since 2012 and were selling out in less than five days so they added events to help with a more steady pace. “Adam and I are really big foodies,” Julie said. “I’m originally from St. Louis and I was blessed with my parents being foodies, too, and I learned from them. We heard of this farm-to-table concept becoming big around the nation. We have a business here on the farm and we thought it could work so we took a big leap of faith.”

The first farm-to-table was done as a fundraiser for the Buy Fresh, Buy Local campaign and Julie said it was a big success. “It was our first go at it and we had about 30 people come out to that one,” she said. “Even at that early stage we knew we wanted a local chef and we wanted everything possible to come from the farm and, if it didn’t come from the farm, it had to be locally produced. It went over really well.”

Hohl said the event creates an authentic and unique dining experience that many people in the area haven’t had the opportunity to enjoy. The events were smash hits and sold out quickly through 2012 and 2013. Adam said the cooking was being done in the farm kitchen, but with the popularity and number of people eating at the event, the farm had to incorporate a commercial kitchen and so they had to take a break from the events while the commercial kitchen was constructed. “We really had to work at it at first, but now since we’ve been doing it for so many years, it’s getting easier to attract chefs to come to southeast Iowa. We’ve met some wonderful, talented chefs who put out some really neat food,” Julie said.

“Every meal is five-course meal. It’s making a connection with your food, and the people at your table, and just having a nice slow-paced evening.”

This year featured 10 of the events with nine being sell outs. Chefs from as far away as Columbia, Mo., make the trek to prepare the offerings. Chefs have included Shawn Foehring, a Burlington private chef, Martha Wolf of Ivy Bake Shoppe fame, Kumar Wickramasingha of Elliott Test Kitchen, Chris Grebner of Iowa City’s Proven- der, and several others. The last event of the year is August 11th with Wickramasingha as the chef. That event... sold out.

Julie Hohl talks with diners as she brings around meals prepared with locally produced and grown ingredients as part of a farm-to-table experience.

Hitomi Moritani Wendorf prepares the main entree of roasted lamb, new potatoes, and ratatouille with fresh vegetables picked at the farm.
Kurtz says state lagging in GDP, mental health care

PICNIC - Continued from Page 1

going to get prosperity when we’ve got all these low wage jobs. This isn’t the way it works.”

Kurtz said the county and state need to continue to look at economic development. He said the county is well-positioned with Siemens, the railroads, Memmig, Griffin Wharf, and others and it needs to capitalize on the fact that change is here.

“Kurtz said he’s also deeply concerned at the shuttering of the labor center at the University of Iowa.

“We’ve seen in the past two weeks the damage they’ve done at the University,” he said. “I’m going to meet with the dean of the law school to try and get them to reverse their position on the labor center. That’s only one part of the educational scheme they’ve really damaged.

“You’ve teachers that don’t have a say in their jobs because they’ve gutted Chapter 20. Those things we’re going to feel for a long long time.”

Jason Moats of Winfield is the Democratic challenger for the 84th district State Representative slot opposing Republican Joe Mitchell of Wayland.

Moats ran unopposed in the June primary, while Kearns said he’s also concerned with good financial integrity and our state financial, regardless, of what Republicans say, is not that great.

“Last insurers because they can’t make it, we were supposed to save money and we haven’t, although they’ll claim we have. There are some good things no doubt about it, but what we’ve done is follow the national trend. We haven’t followed through with good financial integrity and our state financial, regardless, of what Republicans say, is not that great.”

Taylor said the rollback of local efforts to raise minimum wages has had the biggest impact on jobs in the area.

“A lot of our jobs are minimum wage, our rate is low,” Kearns said. “You can get by, work extra hours, both spouses can work and get by. Unfortunately we decided to take away the right of counties and municipalities to raise the wage. Lee County was in the process but the Republicans came in and said you can’t do that and we’re at the federal minimum. That doesn’t make sense.”

State Sen. Rich Taylor said it’s tough for him to see the state as the top ranked in the country.

“If they think that Medicaid and Medicare are not working for the people of this state makes us the greatest in the nation... ok,” Taylor said.

Taylor said the state is now giving away $600 million a year in corporate tax breaks compared to $200 million when he took office.

“When you look at the money we give to corporations that don’t need it and then you look at where we’re at on wages, health care, mental health, education. How they get that we’re the No. 1 state, I just don’t get it.”

Taylor said Gov. Reynolds’ rural empowerment initiative is campaigning as is the talk of the unfunded regionalized mental health efforts.

“It’s like promising your kid a pony for their birthday but you can’t afford the pony. The kid wakes up in the morning and there’s no pony,” Taylor said.

UPCOMING TOURS

Visit us online at www.TrailwaysTravel.com for more info & full itineraries

JULY

7/25 Cubs vs. Diamondbacks at Wrigley $155 pp
7/26-29 Wonders of Wildlife $360 pp double
7/28 Cardinals vs. Cubs at Busch Stadium $140 pp

AUGUST

8/1 Mamma Mia! at Circa ’21 $98 pp
8/2 Chicago Museums $99 pp
8/4 Cubs vs. Padres at Wrigley $155 pp
8/5 Strolling Down Broadway $102 pp
8/11 Cubs vs. Nationals at Wrigley $155 pp
8/13-16 Quilter’s Escape to Paducah, KY $495 pp double
8/14 Iowa State Fair $65 pp
8/15 Cubs vs. Brewers at Wrigley $128 pp
8/21 The Henry Ford & Rouge Factory Tour $450 pp double
8/29 Cubs vs. Mets at Wrigley $110 pp

SEPTEMBER

9/12 A Comedy of Tenors at Old Creamery $99 pp
9/12-15 Legends of Louisville, KY $550 pp double
9/15 Cubs vs. Reds at Wrigley $145 pp
9/21-30 The Gold of Colorado Trains $2790 pp double
9/26 Mama Won’t Fly at Circa ’21 $98 pp
9/27 Dinner on the Boone Scenic Valley RR $120 pp
9/28 Cubs vs. Cardinals at Wrigley $145 pp
9/29 Cubs vs. Cardinals at Wrigley $155 pp

From the Front

Fort Madison’s Jeff Kurtz speaks with staff and guests at the Cops and Calhoun Picnic on Sunday evening in Franklin. Kurtz is seeking the 83rd District State Representative seat in the fall election.