Prepping for dinner

Families and volunteers work to shred up bread to be used in the stuffing for Thursday's annual Fort Madison Thanksgiving Dinner at the Fort Madison High School. Volunteers made dinner rolls, prepped turkeys, made jello desserts, and prepped the stuffing on Tuesday night. The dinner takes place on Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Delivered meals start at 10:30 a.m.

New group shutsters 2019 Steamboat Days

Festival groups merge to look at year-round opportunities along the Mississippi riverfront

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

BURLINGTON – Burlington officials announced this morning that the annual Steamboat Days music festival on the riverfront in downtown Burlington is being postponed for 2019 and whether the festival will be brought back at a future date is in question.

The announcement was made as part of a larger decision to merge Burlington Steamboat Days and the American Music Festival, the non-profit arm of Steamboat Days, beginning Jan. 1, 2019.

Steamboat Days 2018 Board President Amy Burkhart said Tuesday that the entire Steamboat Days festival is being postponed including the carnival portion of the event.

"The whole thing has been canceled. There are a handful of events already in the works for next summer, but it's too soon to say what a festival may look like in the future," Burkhart said.

She said a lot of the planning for how the riverfront, depot and auditorium can be used on a year-round basis has been underway for the past 11 months.

"We've got a handful of events already in the works for next summer, so don't think we're going away - we're just going to look a little different," Burkhart wrote in a release this morning.

At its November meeting, the Burlington Steamboat Days Board of Directors voted to join forces with the American Music Festival to develop entertainment programming starting in January. Collectively, the organizations will see FESTIVAL, page 8
Supervisors OK county attorney staff changes

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - Lee County will start working on transitioning two part-time county attorney spots into full-time positions beginning in 2019.

At Tuesday's regular Board of Supervisor's meeting, the board voted unanimously to move from a staff of two full-time and two part-time attorneys to four full-time attorneys.

The move had been put on the agenda last week, but supervisors wanted more information on how the move would impact future budgets.

Tuesday, Lee County Attorney Ross Braden told the board that he believed he could convert the two part-time positions to full-time positions at the current salaries of the two part-time staffs.

Currently Fort Madison attorney Mio Santiago and Keokuk attorney Bruce McDonald are both the part-time attorneys in the county attorney's office. Santiago was making about $65,000/year and McDonald received a bump in 2017 to $81,000.

"I think I can find two very good full-time attorneys for what we are paying these two," Braden told the board.

He said if there were any additional funding request next year it would not exceed $5,000 and the money would be for token raises for the staff to show that Lee County is a good place to work.

Braden said he would start an application process for converting Santiago's position on July 31 and Braden said he has several candidates he's considering to replace McDonald and would like to have them on staff on July 1.

In an unrelated matter, the board also approved a second reading on a proposed ordinance to make excessive jake braking illegal in certain areas of the county.

Local truck driver Chris Sorrentino, who approached

Lee County Health Department would like to invite you to a series of gatherings that will take place in LCHD's lobby along with our annual Tree of Love which will be making it's first debut in it's new home.

These sessions are being offered to help bring people together during the holidays & to support those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. You are welcome to join any or all gatherings. Light refreshments will be provided.

If you have any questions, please contact

Lee County Health Department.
3 John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison (319) 372.5225

The Silgan lighted float is pulled in the 2017 parade. This year’s Annual Lighted Christmas parade will take place beginning at 5:30 p.m. Friday on Avenue G. PCC File photo.

City readies for 2019 lighted downtown Christmas parade

LEE COUNTY BANK

LEE COUNTY BANK

FORT MADISON - As the streets of Fort Madison's Main Street District get ready to kick off the 2018 holiday season, many families, friends and visitors will line Avenue G on November 23rd at 6:30 p.m. the day after Thanksgiving, to witness the magnificent sight of the Annual Parade of Lights.

More than 40 completely lit floats will once again flow through downtown creating a magical Christmas experience for everyone young and old in the anticipation of Santa's arrival.

Spectators enjoying the parade will get to see many of their favorite floats that make this parade truly a one of a kind experience in our area. Floats include a rocking horse, a merry-go-round, a fireplace with real fire, an American Flag shooting fireworks, a snowman being built, a giant snow globe, and, of course, the Lighted Parade train are just a few of the many lighted floats.

“We have converted almost all the existing floats over to LED the last couple years which has helped with maintenance needs," stated Thomas Older, 2018 Parade Chairman. “Although we may not have a new float this year, we were able to offer new sponsorships opportunities to a few existing floats with the goal to look at getting those businesses interested and planning early for the 2019 parade and a new float idea.” Volunteers are always needed. Those interested in participating, please contact the Partners office - maybe you have design ideas for a new float, welding skills to offer or the willingness to help light the floats to keep the parade going forward are always welcome.

As in the past, there will be no parking along Avenue G between 11th - 13th streets all day Friday the 23rd and starting at 5 p.m. along Avenue G between 5th-11th streets. Also, every evening following the Parade of Lights, the floats will be lit and on display in Riverview Park for drive-by viewing until the first week in January.
OBITUARIES

CONNIE CONRAD

Connie Conrad, 73 years, formerly of West Point, Iowa died at 3:06 am Saturday, November 17, 2018 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, Iowa. She was born August 25, 1945 in Iowa, a daughter of Joseph and Louise (Mohrfeld) Menke. On June 19, 1965, she married Carl Conrad in St. Paul, Iowa. Connie was a graduate of St. James High School, St. Paul. She worked several places including Menke's Lounge, Salem Stub, and the Fort Madison Community Hospital. She was a member of St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Nauvoo, Illinois. She enjoyed baking and was known for her famous fudge. She loved her family, especially her grandkids.

She is survived by two sons, Scott (Tammy) Conrad of Davenport, Iowa and Nick (Maribeth) Conrad of Mechanicville, Virginia; one brother, Mark (Helen) Menke of Fort Madison, Iowa; five sisters: Vera Evans of Sumner, Iowa; Betty (Marvin) Merschman of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa; JoAnn Landers of Las Vegas, Nevada; Cathy (Larry) Holtkamp of St. Paul, Iowa; and Mary Jo (Jim) Koller of Donnellson, Iowa; four grand-children: Garrett (Tara) Conrad, Riley Conrad, Maxwell Conrad, and Cooper Conrad; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins; and special friend, Tom Wilken, and their dog, Benny. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, three brothers: Carl Menke, Robert “Peanuts” Menke, and David Menke; five sisters: Marcella Kempker, Doris Kempker, Floreen Fuerman, Delores Bohnenkamp, and Miriam Holtkamp.

Her family will greet friends from 4:00 - 6:00 pm Sunday, November 25, 2018 at St. James Catholic Church, St. Paul, Iowa, where a Christian Wake Service will begin at 6:00 pm Sunday evening. Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 am Monday, November 26, 2018 at the church, with Reverends Apo Mpanda, Tom Szydlik and Bruce DeRammelaere as Concelebrants. Burial will be at St. James Cemetery, St. Paul, Iowa. A memorial has been established for the Elliot Test Kitchen, contributions may be left at the church or mailed to the Barr-Holtkamp Funeral Home, P.O. Box 247, West Point, Iowa 52656. Online condolences to the Conrad Family may be made at the Barr-Holtkamp Funeral Home website, www.barrholtkampfuneralhome.com.

WAYNE EDWARD WHITMORE

Wayne Edward Whitmore, 75 of Montrose, IA died Sunday, November 18, 2018 at the Montrose Health Center in Montrose, IA. He was born July 10, 1943 in Keokuk, IA the son of Robert E. Lee and Vera Elizabeth Henn Whitmore.

Wayne graduated from Montrose High School with the Class of 1961. He had been employed by Huffman Small Engine Repair in Ft. Madison, IA as a small engine mechanic prior to his retirement. He was a member of the Montrose United Methodist Church and the NRA. Wayne was an outdoors man who loved nature. He enjoyed spending time taking walks in the woods and the animals, especially the rabbits. He liked to ride his motorcycle to various places of interest every chance he could get. Wayne also enjoyed antique tractors and steam engines at Old Threshers. Most of all, Wayne liked to visit with friends while drinking coffee at local coffee shops.

He is survived by three daughters, Julie (Brent) Dochterman of Houghton, IA and her children, Darcy Grobstich (Tony), Christine Dochterman, Kaitlynn Dochterman. Lesia Wellman of Fowler, IL and her children Amber Riley (Cody), Brooke Stratton (Nick), Cole Wellman and Kaela Wellman. Cindy (Kenneth) Matlock of Hattiesburg, MS and her son, Alex Bailey. Two great-grandchildren, Leila Riley and Raylan Riley, his brother, James Whitmore (Joann) of Montrose, IA, and one brother-in-law, Bob Arpino of Keokuk, numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one sister, Mary Arpino and one brother, Harold Whitmore.

A Gathering of Remembrance will be for family and friends from 2-4 p.m., Friday at the Montrose United Methodist Church in Montrose, IA. A private family burial will be held at the Montrose Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenemorialhome.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.

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

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Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.
Now is the Time to Start Preparing Our World for a Better Future

JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

Implement these simple steps to create a healthy footprint!

Create Space
Create an indoor space for all your recyclables. Recycling bins available at our Fort Madison & Keokuk facilities.

Go Paperless
Decrease your need for paper products. Choose paperless statements, use digital shopping lists & other documents.

Reusable
Install new life into items you would normally throw away.

Compost
Build or purchase a composting bin for food & yard waste. Use your composted goods to build a healthy garden in the spring.

Buy Recyclables
Only purchase what’s made to be recycled. Look for the recycling symbol on the packaging.

Backyard composting improves soil quality & makes for healthier plants!

For more information, visit www.grrwa.com

Fort Madison Lighted Parade
The annual Fort Madison downtown lighted parade will take place on Nov. 23 beginning at 6:30 p.m. along Avenue G.

Enchanted Forest
The forest is back and will feature locally created Christmas trees sponsored by area businesses. The forest will be held at the old Lee County Bank building on Avenue G on Nov. 23 following the parade, Nov. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with Santa on hand from 10 a.m. to noon and Dec. 1, 8, 25 and 22nd from 1 to 4 p.m.

Mistletoe on Main Street
The annual holiday downtown celebration will be held on Nov. 24 in downtown Fort Madison.

Customer Appreciation Party
Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course will be holding a Customer Appreciation event on Dec. 1, 2018 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with complimentary food, keg beer, and soda. HUGE SAVINGS on annual passes and punch cards for the 2019 season and great offers for first-time pass holders and cart lessees! Visit them online.

Community Blood Drives
The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center will be holding a blood drive on Dec. 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic’s Shottenkirk Gymnasium.

Senior Community BINGO
Each month on the second Wednesday of the month, The Kensington hosts Senior Community BINGO at 2:00 p.m. in their dining room at 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. All seniors are welcome and cash prizes are awarded.

Great River Regional Waste Authority

Current-Lee
Chateau Apartments Extra Clean & Quiet Apartments for Rent


Drivers Wanted

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

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Holy Trinity Catholic Early Childhood Center has an opening for a Preschool Associate. This is a full time position during the school year, benefits eligible; background check required. Stop by the office from 7:30 am - 3:30 pm to complete an application, 2213 Ave J Fort Madison IA. 319-372-6428.

Holy Trinity Early Childhood Center

2015 Honda Accord EX-14. $11,500. Mileage: 72,970. SOLD AS IS, NO WARRANTY. Call DuPont Employees Credit Union 319-376-5237. Office Hours: Monday – Friday 7:30 am – 10:00 am; Tuesday & Thursday 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Got a news tip? Call Chuck (319)371.1670

By giving just a few hours of my day I help children prepare for a lifetime of learning because I don’t just wear the shirt, I live it. Advocate. Volunteer. Live United.

Ruth Rusie is part of United Way’s ongoing work to improve the education, income, and health of our communities. To find out how you can help create opportunities for a better life for all, visit LIVEUNITED.ORG.

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APARTMENTS FOR RENT

HELP WANTED

PRESCHOOL ASSOCIATE

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. LIVE UNITED

Ruth Rusie is part of United Way’s ongoing work to improve the education, income, and health of our communities. To find out how you can help create opportunities for a better life for all, visit LIVEUNITED.ORG.

BY GIVING JUST A FEW HOURS OF MY DAY I HELP CHILDREN PREPARE FOR A LIFETIME OF LEARNING

We wish you a very warm & wonderful Thanksgiving.

From our #PCC family to yours.

In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, we will not publish an e-Edition Thursday, November 22 through Sunday, November 25. We’ll resume publication on Monday, November 26. Breaking news will continue to be published on our website 24/7.
There’s a cornucopia of reasons
to choose Griffins!

• Ask Patty® Female Friendly Certified
• Free Pick Up & Delivery in Ft. Madison
  • ASE Certified Technicians
  • Honest & Reliable Service
  • Online Scheduling
  • Digital Inspection Reports
  • Customer Referral Program
  • Earn credit with every service
• AND SO MUCH MORE!!!

Griffin’s Diaper Drive

Did you know that November is National Diaper Drive Month and 1,200 infants to toddlers 3 years of age in Lee County are in need of diapers? 1 in 3 American families don’t have enough diapers to keep their babies (and toddlers) clean, dry, and healthy? That is a staggering number of struggling families. With your help and the help of our community, we can make a difference for our Lee County families today!

RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL $10 OFF any service at Griffins when you donate a package of diapers during the month of November!

Mention this coupon at time of service!

$25 OFF
Any Repair or Maintenance
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$75 OFF
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Excludes tires and batteries. Cannot combine with any other offers. One time use. Valid for a limited time only!

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be called Burlington Riverfront Entertainment. In addition, organizers voted to postpone the traditional multi-day music festival in 2019 so that the newly-combined partnership can focus on expanding live entertainment offerings on the Burlington riverfront.

Burkhart said the decision to postpone the 2019 festival was a strategic move. "The live entertainment business is undergoing a lot of big changes, and venues – regardless of size – are having to adapt," continues Burkhart. "The traditional Steamboat Days music festival model that people are having to adapt, " continues Burkhart. "The traditional Steamboat Days music festival model that people are having to adapt, " continues Burkhart. "The traditional Steamboat Days music festival model that people are having to adapt, " continues Burkhart. "The traditional Steamboat Days music festival model that people are having to adapt, " continues Burkhart. "The traditional Steamboat Days music festival model that people are having to adapt, " continues Burkhart.

Burkhart says the two organizations have been in talks since late summer looking for ways to leverage each other's strengths and focus on future entertainment offerings.

"After we got AMF up and running managing the Auditorium, Port of Burlington and the train depot, we saw a lot of overlap in our two organizations which help neither of us accomplish our mission to provide quality entertainment to the community," said Burkhart. "Combining the boards clears the way for us to streamline operations, use our funds more wisely, and focus our volunteer efforts more effectively."

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The rising cost of entertainment, industry consolidation, and competing entertainment options for consumers all mean that community festivals like Burlington Steamboat Days have to adapt.

Burkhart said that organizers will use the year off to "reorganize, research and reinvent" what entertainment on the Burlington riverfront looks like in the future. "We’re not in much a different position than many other small town festivals. However where we fare much better is having a strong partner organization that has access to year-round venues and a motivated and experienced staff. Burkhart pointed to the Haunted Auditorium and the Big Church Night Out as recent successful events hosted by AMF.

KC Fleming, Chair of the American Music Festival, echoed Burkhart. "With the improvements to the riverfront, and a focus on bringing the kind of entertainment the community wants to see in our downtown venues, this partnership will enable us to provide a variety of events beyond just music all year long," said Fleming. "Diversifying is good for everyone."

Burkhart added that in recent years organizations have made tweaks to the festival that showed a lot of promise. "Now instead of planning and hosting one big blow-out event every summer, we can look for ways to provide great entertainment all year long, whether that’s under the stars or under a roof."

Even though Steamboat Days attendance has gone down, sponsorship support for the festival has been on the upswing for a number of years.

"There is tremendous support for our two organizations among the business community, and the City of Burlington has been a great partner as well," said Burkhart. "People believe in us and want this venture to succeed. I know we’re on the right track."

Burkhart and Fleming both said that volunteers are the lifeblood of any civic organization. BSD and AMF are no different.

"It takes over 100 volunteers to host an event like Steamboat Days, and as AMF ramps up its offerings, their need for volunteers is increasing as well," said Burkhart. "Both organizations have some of the most talented and dedicated people you’ll ever meet but we’re always looking to bring people in to help move our organizations forward."

Burkhart invites anyone interested in volunteering to contact her at amyburkhart@titanburlington.com. While there will not be a multi-day concert in the middle of June, Burkhart said that doesn’t mean there won’t be fun things to do on the riverfront.