LCEDG takes another public funding hit

Lee County joins cities in further funding reductions for group

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

Lee County – Economic Development efforts in the county suffered another paper cut Thursday when Lee County Supervisors nixed the budget of the Lee County Economic Development Group by $10,000. Supervisors have been hinting for several years now that the board should scale back its contribution to the LCEDG.

Supervisor Chairman Gary Folluo said he’d like to see the county’s contribution cut to $100,000 annually. With the $10,000 reduction, the county is allocating $200,000 to the LCEDG in the next budget year beginning July 1, 2019.

“I think Lee County needs to always be involved in economic development, but I would be comfortable getting the contribution of taxpayers down to $100,000 over time, certainly not all at this time,” he said.

The county originally committed $400,000 per year and that was eventually whittled down to $210,000 last year.

“This has been kicked around and proposed by several different people over time. With the way the state is moving through the legislature, the backfill is in jeopardy every year. That fund will probably be around $180,000 for us.” Support local journalism. Make your Pen City Current subscription donation here.

Folluo originally proposed cutting the funding $25,000 on Thursday. He said he knows next year the state funding level to the county will drop, as well as other bills in front of the legislature that could hurt rural and general basic county funding.

Folluo said the LCEDG is getting more participation from industries and businesses in Lee County, which was the goal when they set the program up. The fund-

Winter squeezing city, county snow removal budgets

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

Fort Madison – With chances of snow around 30% each day for Sunday through Thursday, according to the National Weather Service, city and county officials are hoping for the lighter end to ease the squeezing of snow removal budgets.

County Engineer Ben Hull said this year has been hard on his snow and ice control budget, and on staff.

“Generally, we had budgeted for snow and ice control at $221,000 this year and so far this year we’ve spent $300,000 and that doesn’t include the snow we had this weekend,” Hull said Thursday afternoon.

He said the secondary roads budget is in line but that specific line item is taking a hit. Hull said they started the winter with just under 200 tons of salt and contracted for 1,450 tons more. To date, county crews have used right at 1,600 tons of salt on county roads, when over the past 10 years the county has averaged around 950 tons. Hull put in an order for more salt last week.

“This is historical salt usage. This year is the most we’ve used in 10 years, with the next highest being last year when we put down 1,250,” he said.

“With the frequency and varying types of precipitation and temperatures, we’ve had a bigger impact on

Pancakes, pedals, and pubs on the slate for March 16th

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison YMCA will host their second annual “Shamrocked” Breakfast, Bike & Brew event on Saturday, March 16th starting at 8:00am at the Fort Madison Elks Lodge and ending at 4:00pm at Kinnick South with awards following. The Pancake Breakfast will kick off the event at the Fort Madison Elks Lodge from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The breakfast is open to the public and is offered at a

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Advertiser Index

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YMCA Sailfish sending ten swimmers to state meet in March.

Don’t forget Social Media!
OBITUARIES

DAVID W. CAMPBELL


Born January 12, 1966, in Los Angeles, California, the son of Neal and Nancy (Tomer) Campbell. Survivors include his wife: Roberta Damon; son: Chancellor Campbell; his parents: Neal and Nancy of Nauvoo, Illinois; sister: Christian Campbell – Cluff of Fischers, Indiana. David was an avid animal lover. A Celebration of his Life will be held for friends and family at 6:00 p.m. Friday, February 22, 2019 at his sister's home, 185 Robinson Street, Nauvoo, Illinois.

In memory of David's love of animals a memorial has been established to Villalobos, a pitbull rescue. Schmitz – Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.sbbfuneral-home.com.

ALICE I. GABEL

Alice I. Gabel, 80, of Donnellson, passed away on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 10:35 AM at the Great River Medical Center.

She was born on May 27, 1938 in Lewistown, MO to Hugo and Naomi Cain LaVelle. On June 27, 1959 she married Everett J. Gabel at Sacred Heart Church in Ft. Madison. Alice and her husband farmed together for numerous years. She also was a bus driver and cook for Central Lee School and also worked at Hy-Vee, Ajax and Sheaffer Pen. Co. She was a member of Sacred Heart Church and enjoyed needlework, sewing and country music. Her great love was being on the farm and spending time with her family.

Survivors include her husband, Everett Gabel of Donnellson; two daughters, Barb (Flavian) Boeding of West Point and Janet (Craig Fedler) Hellweg of West Point; one grandson, Justin Knight of Jacksonville, IL; nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a son in law, Marty Hellweg; two brothers, Tommy and Jerry LaVelle and a sister, Jean Schneider.

The family will meet with friends on Sunday, February 24, 2019 from 2-4 PM at the Great River Medical Center. A memorial has been established for Everhart Cemetery and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

WP Library hosting WWI display

The West Point Public Library will host the World War I Honor Roll traveling display March 7 – April 4 during regular hours. This display features thousands of names and corresponding photos the State Historical Society collected from Iowa families who lost loved ones during the war.

The society sent out an initial call in 1920, and again in 2017 to shore up the families who lost loved ones during the war.

The West Point Public Library will host the World War I Honor Roll traveling display March 7 – April 4 during regular hours. This display features thousands of names and corresponding photos the State Historical Society collected from Iowa families who lost loved ones during the war.

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Fort Madison Police Report
02/19/19 – 9:12 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Howard Green Burgess II, in the 1900 block of Avenue E, on a warrant for probation violation and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
02/19/19 – 10:05 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Kelsey Jane Bunker, 27, of Galesburg, Ill., in the 4900 block of River Valley Road. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
02/19/19 – 6:34 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 3100 block of Avenue E.
02/20/19 – 3:40 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Jessica Kay Allen, 38, of Fort Madison, in the 1500 block of Avenue G. She was released upon citation.
02/20/19 – 3:16 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a shoplifter in the 1800 block of Avenue H.

Lee County Sheriff’s Report
02/19/19 – 11:05 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 1900 block of 235th Avenue. A vehicle driven by Perry Thomas Schneider, 19, of Fort Madison, slid on slippery road conditions and struck a 911 sign, a mailbox, and county traffic sign. No injuries or citations were reported at the scene.
02/19/19 – no time listed – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Vincent Edward Crayton, 49, of Fort Madison, at Wever Junction, on a warrant for fraudulent practice between $1,000 and $10,000. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

For the Record

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City, county both had to order more salt

supplies, staff, and funds.”

Fort Madison Public Works director Larry Driscoll said he’s at about 81% of his budget for snow and ice removal.

“The city did buy about $25,000 worth of salt this year, Driscoll said. “We did have 700 tons of salt on hand before the winter season and we are down to 100 tons of salt or about three more snow events.”

Driscoll said snow storms with 1 inch of snow typically cost the city about $7,500. Each storm that is over two inches costs the city about $11,500, and anything over three inches is about $15,000.

“The cost to clean the downtown area is $4,500 and that is completed when we have 3” or more. My snow budget is $100,000 and that will be for salt, sand, fuel, manpower, and when we hire someone to help haul the snow away” Driscoll said.

Hull said county snow removers have worked a lot of overtime keeping the county’s roads clear. At one point he said staff worked 25 out of 26 days and some of those days were 14 hour days. Crews will come into work at 4:30 a.m. and sometimes be on the road until 6 p.m.

Hull said staff has been battling the snow for about seven weeks in a row, even on days when there is no snow to remove.

“Until this past week, it’s been seven weeks solid battling this,” he said. “The other days from not having to push snow and ice, we’ve been hauling salt and sand for replenishment.”

The county also had a snow plow tip on its side after sliding on icy conditions, but Hull said that didn’t affect the budget too heavily. He said the truck had light body damage but had to have some fluids and things checked from the spill. He said the overall roads budget is still in line.

“It doesn’t mean the overall budget is blown,” Hull said. “We budget across several categories across several years and pro-rating salaries. Some of that salary we used on snow removal would have been spent elsewhere. But overtime from the storms that occurred over the weekend added to our salary line.”

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

FOR THE RECORD

Pen City Current - Friday, February 22, 2019 - 3
Fort Madison YMCA Sailfish State Qualifiers will be heading to Marshalltown, Iowa to compete March 2nd and 3rd. 10 qualifiers with 21 individual events and 1 relay between them. Pictured left to right: Max Dixon; Rowan Benda; Karon Dixon; Will Hayes; Kadence Gobble; Abby Steffensmeier; Olivia Kraus; Isabella Patton, and Brynlee Dixon. Not pictured: Jacob Mohrfeld.

YMCA’s Shamrocked registration ends March 1

FORT MADISON – The following is a list of events and happenings going on in Fort Madison as submitted to en City Current.

State Farm – Thomas Klann Agency announces February “Quotes for Good”
State Farm – Thomas Klann Agency is excited to help out another Non-Profit Organization in our community. In February 2019 we will be giving back to Lee County K-9 Association by donating $5 for every new Auto Insurance Quote in the month of February 2019. So tell all your non-State Farm family/friends/coworkers to reach out to us for a quote and share this event to spread the word! If you are a current State Farm auto insurance customer, reach out to us for a Life Insurance or Disability Income conversation and we will donate $5 for that also. Contact Jess or Sam at 319-372-5982, 2623 Ave L, Fort Madison, or email: jess@fortmadisoninsurance.com or samantha@fortmadisoninsurance.com.

YMCA - Continued from Page 1

free will donation. Proceeds from the breakfast will assist in the upkeep and maintenance of the Fort Madison YMCA facility.

Bikers participating in the Bike & Brew will meet at the Fort Madison Elks Lodge at 10:30am and bike to the Cabaret to participate in the St. Paddy’s Day Parade. From there, participants will ride to a number of locations in Fort Madison where they will complete challenges such as fun tasks or answer trivia questions. Ultimately ending the ride at Kinnick South where prizes will be awarded to the winning teams.

Cost to participate in the Shamrocked Bike & Brew is $50 for teams of 5 or $15 per person.

Early registration is open now through March 1st, forms are available at the YMCA or online at www.fortmadisonymca.org. Registration will remain open through 10:30 a.m. on the day of the event.

Call Noah Dean, Program Director, at 319-372-2403 or visit the Fort Madison YMCA’s website or Facebook page for more information.
**FUNDING - Continued from Page 1**

part of our ability to reach and do what we can to do to represent Lee County in a lot of different facets. So I guess, if minimize is the right word, we'd like to go forward with as much of our budget as we can,” Schwartz said.

He said the uptick in participation from private sources is attributable to the work being done and cited the Iowa Fertilizer Co. as a product of that.

Board member Jenny Steffenmeier cautioned the board on not pulling back on the momentum that LCEDG and the county is seeing in terms of economic development.

“My two cents is that we have momentum going right now. It feels like we have traction and buy-in and some really important work that’s being done,” she said. “And I haven’t been around all these years, but who was doing this before. If we’re not doing it, who’s doing it?”

Fraise also said LCEDG has great momentum right now.

“I guess my charge would be if there’s ever a time to keep your foot on the gas, I think this is it from a workforce standpoint, and from a traction standpoint,” he said. “We have great momentum right now. Our public/private partnership is outstanding and a real model for the state and I would like to see us continue that momentum.”

Supervisor Ron Fedler recommended a compromise and suggested the $10,000 cut instead of a $25,000 cut.

Supervisor Rick Larkin, who ended up voting for the cut, said he didn’t think the time was right to be adding additional cuts to the board, especially in light of the work being done and the other cuts from public groups.

“You know the governor doesn’t come down here once or twice a year just because we’re doing economic development, but because we’re doing the best economic development in the state,” Larkin said.

“Just thinking economic development from public and private sources, I think that’s a good combination and sends a positive message. And I don’t think we should be cutting their budget right now.”

In another action, the board reduced the Department of Veterans’ Affairs budget by reducing some travel expenses that Folluo said were a little inflated, amounting to about $2,000.

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- Place all recyclables loose in bins
- Don’t recycle wrapping paper
- Properly dispose of all electronics and household hazardous waste

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Pen City Current - Friday, February 22, 2019 - 5
HELP WANTED

COMMUNITY GARDEN COORDINATOR NEEDED

RSPV: United Way of the Great River Region is seeking a Community Garden Coordinator

Do you like to garden and work outdoors? Do you like to plan, plant and harvest food?

We are seeking an individual this Spring who will plan, plant, cultivate, harvest and lead other volunteers in our Community Garden (garden is located at 2606 Avenue L, Fort Madison, Iowa behind Hy-Vee).

Must enjoy working outside, gardening and harvesting. Will direct garden activities with other volunteers and may require some bending, stooping and lifting of 10 lbs. or less. Times: 1 hour, 2 times per week.

If interested and for more information, please call Tammy at 319-372-8043.

United Way of the Great River Region supports non-profit organizations and agencies that provide programs addressing needs in health, education and financial stability to residents in Clark, Hancock, and Lee Counties.

United Way of the Great River Region serves all of Lee, Hancock, and Clark Counties. All donations are tax-deductible.

UNITED WAY OF THE GREAT RIVER REGION

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The classifieds

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PEN CITY CURRENT - Friday, February 22, 2019

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About the classifieds

The classifieds are a space in Pen City Current where local businesses can place ads for their services. These ads are typically free and may include information about job openings, apartments for rent, professional services, and other community-related items. The classifieds are a valuable resource for readers looking to find local opportunities and services.

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About the newspaper

Pen City Current is a local newspaper that covers news, events, and community happenings in the Fort Madison area. The newspaper includes a section dedicated to classified ads, which are an important part of the publication’s content. These ads help readers find a variety of services and opportunities in their community.
SCC foundation offering $400K in scholarships

WEST BURLINGTON - The Southeastern Community College Foundation is accepting scholarship applications for students who plan to attend SCC in the fall of 2019. The deadline to apply is 4:30 p.m., March 1.

The Foundation has more than 500 scholarships totaling an estimated $400,000 available to students for the upcoming school year.

Anyone who plans to attend or is considering attending SCC in the fall is encouraged to apply by visiting SCC's homepage at www.scciowa.edu.

"About 60% of students who apply receive an award, which are much better odds than most scholarships," explains Becky Rump, Executive Director of Institutional Advancement. "Just one hour spent completing the application could get you an award."

Scholarships range in size from $500 to full tuition and books and are available to a wide variety of students. Awards are categorized by program of study, county of residence, academic accomplishment, financial need, minority group, career goal, and more.

Rump continues that the SCC Foundation's online application automatically matches qualifying students with funding opportunities.

"You don't have to sift through all 500 scholarships and fill out multiple forms. Just apply once, and you're matched with a scholarship. Maybe two!"

To be considered for funding, an applicant must, in addition to completing the online application: 1) provide at least one email address of a qualified individual who will write a reference letter; 2) submit a copy of their latest educational transcripts to the college's Enrollment Services office; and 3) complete the online Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Rump warns that the number one reason applications are rejected is because they are incomplete. Applicants ought to double-check their applications for complete information before submitting, and check in with the person selected to write a referral to make sure they complete the letter.

Questions about SCC Foundation scholarships can be directed at any time to Julie Glasgow at (319) 208-5062 or jglasgow@scciowa.edu.

For complete scholarship details and to find a link to the online application head to https://www.scciowa.edu/foundation/uccf_scholarships.aspx.

For more news or to learn about Southeastern Community College, visit: http://www.scciowa.edu/rss/news/index.html.

Alliant grant helps fund ISU digital lab

AMES – Many companies are hesitant to embrace new business methods and technologies that could improve and expand their business. The new ISU Digital Manufacturing Lab powered by Alliant Energy will provide Iowa manufacturers a place to experiment with new approaches in a risk-free setting.

A grant from Alliant Energy will fund the efforts conducted by Iowa State University's Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS). CIRAS will open the new lab this summer in the ISU Research Park. Alliant Energy will use the space to provide advice and counsel to businesses, while also collaborating with ISU faculty and students on research opportunities and internships.


"When our industrial and commercial customers are more successful, it gives us greater flexibility to control costs for all of our customers."

"The next new idea or machine could hold the key to success that a growing company needs," said Joel Schmidt, vice president of business development for Alliant Energy.

"This lab provides the perfect opportunity to refine a new approach before it is introduced into the workplace."

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

FRI 22 Feb
Clear
High – 31.0º F | Low – 27.3º F

SAT 23 Feb
Light Snow
High – 35.2º F | Low – 33.5º F

SUN 24 Feb
Light Snow
High – 27.8º F | Low – 13.9º F

MON 25 Feb
Clear
High – 13.1º F | Low – 11.8º F

TUE 26 Feb
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High – 36.9º F | Low – 25.4º F

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