

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Monday, March 1, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 50



www.pencitycurrent.com

Swed Equity



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Fort Madison's Chris Swed brews a fresh cup of home-roasted coffee for a customer Friday morning at the new Swed & Co. Coffee cafe at the corner of 7th and Avenue G in downtown Fort Madison.

NEW BUSINESS: New FM cafe opens with home-roasted brews, drinks, and food

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – This corner coffee shop is everything it should be. Chris Swed, has been tinkering with coffee since college and is now just hours away from a grand opening for his coffee shop and roasting business in downtown Fort Madison. The current manager of the Fox Theater has been not-so-qui-

etly roasting his way into the palates of coffee aficionados in Fort Madison and beyond for the past several years. It's not uncommon to see him pedaling brews in neighborhood parks, on sidewalks downtown and at citywide events.

All while popping popcorn and ushering in movies at the downtown theater.

He said the idea of having his own cafe and roasting business

See COFFEE, page 4

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Auge resigns after plea deal blunder

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Lee County Attorney Ross Braden confirmed Friday morning that Assistant County Attorney Kym Auge has resigned her position effective today.

In a short release from Braden on Friday, he wrote that Auge resigned from the Lee County Attorney's office at his request due to "professional differences regarding case management, including a plea agreement offered in State v. Boyd on January 25, 2021".

Auge's plea agreement inadvertently allowed Robert LeRoy Boyd to be sentenced on one count of OWI as a result of a 2019 crash that killed LaVerne and Michael Faulkner of Farmington on June 9th.

Auge sent a plea deal, that Braden described Thursday as a "poorly drafted email" to Boyd's attorney Curt Dial of Keokuk saying the state was willing to plead the case down to one count of the original trial information.

The trial information included two counts of vehicular homicide and one count of OWI. Dial jumped on the OWI-1st offense offer, got a signature from Boyd on the deal and forward it to the court before Auge or Braden could walk the offer back.

District Judge John Wright accepted the plea deal about 36 hours later. Braden said he wasn't made aware of the error until that day and wrote a motion to set aside the plea deal, but Wright overruled that motion last week and sentenced Boyd to one year in jail including work release and a \$1,250 fine, the maximum allowed for a serious misdemeanor.

Boyd was facing 50 years in prison on the two counts of vehicular homicide. Braden said Thursday the state's intention was to allow Boyd to plead guilty to one of those counts and dismiss the others, but Auge's plea deal left that distinction off in error.

Braden said he will be asking the Lee County Board of Supervisors to replace Auge at Monday's regular meeting.

OPINION

Tuesday school revenue vote should pass easily

Fort Madison school officials and community volunteers have jumped through just about every hoop they can to try and upgrade district facilities. The latest plan, after district officials went back to the drawing board for a fourth time to try and bring the district's facilities into the 21st century, impacts all Fort Madison School District students, not just the PreK-3rd grade students. But it all depends on a majority vote



of a Revenue Purpose Statement that will be in front of district voters on Tuesday.

The last three attempts to approve a

bond measure to build a new PreK-3rd grade building failed only due to the state's archaic supermajority rules that require 60% approval.

This RPS vote requires a 50%+1 simple majority – but this latest move should have a much bigger majority and this vote shouldn't even be close.

Polling is from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Fort Madison Public Library in Fort Madison, Grace Bible Church in Wev-

See RPS, page 8

INDEX

Business Directory.....P.7
BUSINESS NEWS.....Ps.3-4
CLASSIFIEDS.....Ps.6-7
Complete Rental.....P.5
CURRENT-LEE.....P.3
Fort Madison Community Hospital.....P.2
Fort Madison Community
Neighborhood Watch Groups.....P.6

FROM THE FRONT.....Ps.4,8
Fullenkamp Insurance.....P.3
Great River Regional Waste Authority.....P.5
HEALTH NEWS.....P.8
IOWA NEWS.....P.8
LOCAL NEWS.....Ps.3-4
Mobile Nursing Services.....P.6
OPINION.....Ps.5,8

Pen City Current.....Ps.2,5-7
Pilot Grove Savings Bank.....P.8
Pothitakis Dentistry.....P.3
Public Notices.....P.6
Quality Plus Feeds.....P.6
Rashid Pharmacy & Wellness.....P.4
SPORTS.....P.5
Test Kitchen Education Foundation.....P.4

WEATHER

MON 01 Mar.....Sunny and Warm, 46° F/ 26° F
TUE 02 Mar.....Sunny and Warm, 54° F/ 29° F
WED 03 Mar.....Sunny and Warm, 50° F/ 33° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 02/27.....10 27 30 44 47, Star Ball: 6, All Star Bonus: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE 02/25.....16 34 35 38 45, Lucky Ball: 1
MEGA MILLIONS 02/26.....11 15 37 62 64, Mega Ball: 5 Megaplier: 2
PICK 3 02/25, 02/26, 02/27 MIDDAY.....19 1, 6 3 3, 0 1 4
PICK 3 02/25, 02/26, 02/27 EVENING.....0 2 8, 3 5 9, 1 1 1
PICK 4 02/25, 02/26, 02/27 MIDDAY.....5 4 3 6, 6 6 1 7, 4 8 9 3
PICK 4 02/25, 02/26, 02/27 EVENING.....5 2 1 4, 8 4 4 2, 2 0 1 5
POWERBALL 02/27.....2 28 31 44 52, Powerball: 18, Power Play: 3

OpenWeatherMap

SUBSCRIBE

Scan the code to subscribe today
Paid & Free Options Available!



Be Prepared To Get Vaccinated



When you are given the opportunity to get the COVID vaccine, know if this is what you want to do or not – do your research. The opportunity will quickly pass as agencies move onto the next levels.

If you sign up to get vaccinated, be sure to show up during your scheduled time. Once a vial is open, 10 doses must be used within 6 hours – the goal is not to waste any vaccine.

Continue to follow all recommended public health guidelines. . .for all of us.

This public service announcement brought to you by



PEN CITY CURRENT
It's Black & White and Red all over

Current-Lee/Business News

CURRENT-LEE

HTC Kindergarten Information Night

WEST POINT – The Holy Trinity Catholic Kindergarten Information night will be held at 6 p.m. at the Elementary School in West Point. Parents will get to meet with teachers and learn about faith-based education and tour the school.

Lee County Conservation

FORT MADISON – The Lee County Conservation will offer a program on Garden Plants for Butterflies and Pollinators on March 4 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Fort Madison Public Library and online.

World Day of Prayer

FORT MADISON – The Salvation Army at 1415 Avenue M will be participating in a World Day of Prayer on March 5, beginning at 10:30 a.m. with a meeting at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served featuring Vanuatuan cuisine. RSVP is requested no later than noon on March 4.

Galentine's Day Surprises

FORT MADISON – The Kensington is showing a select number of seniors with some love. They are taking nominations for seniors age 65 and over in Fort Madison and within 10 miles. Submit nominations to by private message to The Kensington Facebook page @TheKensingtonFortMadisonIA with the senior's name, address and phone number; three things they enjoy; dislikes and food allergies; other special information.

Basic Estate Planning

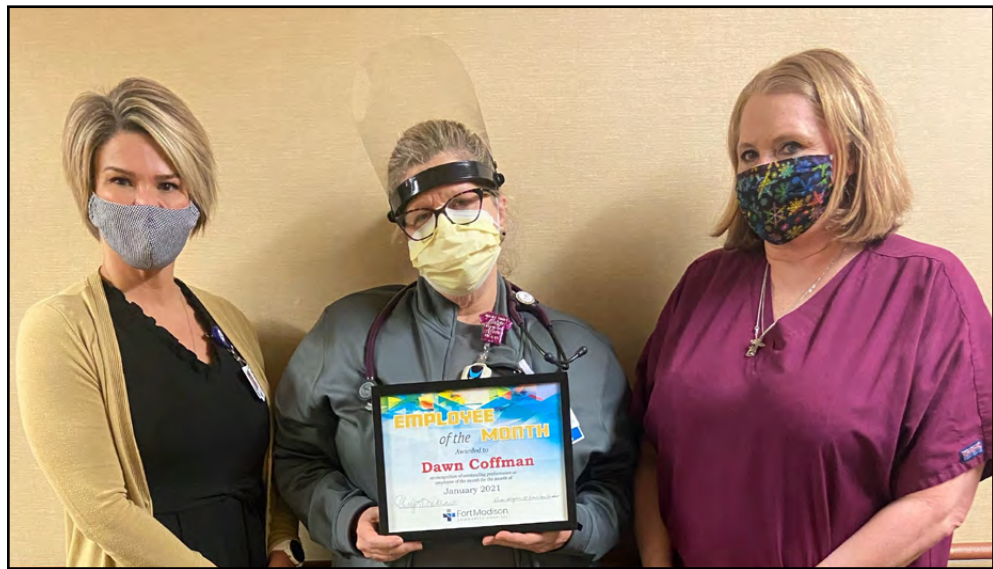
FORT MADISON – The Kensington will be holding a basic estate planning for seniors seminar on Tuesday March 9 via Zoom link. RSVP to Cindy Greer at 319-372-4233 or by email at cgreer@kensington-evergreen.com.

Coffman named January's top FMCE employee

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Community Hospital recognized Dawn Coffman as their January Employee of the Month. Dawn is a registered nurse and works the night shift on the Medical/Surgical Unit. She has been with FMCH since May of 2018. She was recognized with this nomination:

This nurse is committed to those that she serves. She is a true patient advocate in the most trying situations. Numerous times she has gone above and beyond for her COVID positive Comfort Care patients. She has had difficult conversations with family.

She has encouraged them to come in to see their loved ones. She truly listens to her patients and ensures that their wishes are met and that they are kept comfortable until their final moment. She has been a constant at the bedside when no family could be present to provide her patients peace and human touch. This nurse has been



Courtesy Photo

Shelby Burchett, FMCH CEO, and Nancy St. Clair, Nurse Supervisor, present Dawn Coffman, center, with the January FMCH Employee of the Month Award.

routinely recognized for her great teamwork and mentoring of the new team members. She comes to work with the go to – positive attitude which is really appreciated.

When asked if there was anyone Dawn wanted to recognize for making a difference in her career at FMCH, she responded, "There have been many that have made

a difference, one that stands out in my nursing career from the start as a CNA, and working at FMCH over 20 years ago would be Nancy St. Clair. I love working at FMCH and caring for patients. The team on Med/Surg is amazing and the environment is very welcoming and home-like."

When not at work, Dawn

enjoys spending time at home with her family, and Nico and her close friends.

The Employee of the Month is an initiative developed by the Reward & Recognition team. Each month a FMCH employee is honored for going above, and beyond for the good of the patient, their co-workers and the organization.

LET US DO THE MATH!

- 125 YEARS OF COMBINED EXPERIENCE
- 58 YEARS IN BUSINESS
- 7 LICENSED AGENTS
- OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK
- WRITING IN 3 STATES

FI Fullenkamp INSURANCE Trusted Choice
Est. 1963

307 5th Street West Point
319-837-6178 or 800-292-2208 | www.fullenkampins.com
Open M-F 7:30 - 5:00 & Saturday 8:30 - 11

The Tooth Is. . . We ♥ Our Patients!
Now Accepting New Patients

<p>Fort Madison Family Dentistry West 319-372-4882</p> <p>Dr. David Courtney Dr. Stephanie Heyland Dr. Mark Pothitakis</p>	<p>Fort Madison Family Dentistry East 319-372-3614</p> <p>Dr. Jonathan Dingeldein</p>
---	--

Pothitakis Dentistry
6 Convenient Locations to Serve You
www.DrMarkDDS.com

Charles Vandenberg, Editor

(319).371.1670
editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager

(319).371.4125
sales@pencitycurrent.com

Copyright © 2016 by Pen City Current

All published materials are property of Pen City Current and cannot be used without express written permission.

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Member LION Publishers

www.lionpublishers.com



Pen City Current and www.pencitycurrent.com are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

Founded in 2016
P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

From the Front

Socialization turns coffee hobby into new business

COFFEE - Continued from Page 1

came about quickly

“We were originally going to do just a cart and buy coffee from somewhere else and just prepare it. Because it’s the social aspect that I enjoy,” Swed said.

“After running the numbers, it was hard to make that work so we thought maybe we should just do all of it. Maybe we should roast and do coffee – and that was a really big change for me because there is nothing social about roasting coffee.

“It’s just me sitting in a room by myself for four, five, six hours sometimes doing the same over and over again – a lot of science, which I enjoy. But it’s not overly social.”

To that end is Swed & Co. Coffee, a business that has gone from the cart in the park to a full spectrum coffee house at the corner of 7th and G in Fort Madison.

Swed has launched a wide open space with WiFi and room for about 30 people to spread out. There’s also nook where he has a stainless steel roaster that pipes the warm tones of coffee roasting into the air above downtown Fort Madison.

The new location has been four months in the making with the past two months being the aesthetic parts. The building is owned by Barker Financial

Group, who Swed said “is catching on to the heartbeat of the town.”

“I think they’ve really bought into the idea that this is the opportunity for Fort Madison to really make some strides forward,” Swed said.

The partnership that formed between Swed and Barkers resulted in moving the timeline up for the completion of the project.

Located just east of “The Bunker” which is another downtown endeavor underway by the Doherty Baseball Academy, under a Barker lease, Swed has created a comfortable, bright, and inviting cafe with roasts for every taste bud.

Swed is offering a full range of coffees brewed in-house, and an array of lattes and other different drinks. They will also have homemade pastries, gluten-free snacks, oatmeal, and a rotation of lunch menu items.

A grand opening will be held this Saturday Feb. 27, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. with lunch being served. He said the kitchen will close for a while after the grand opening to assess the needs and efficiencies of the opening. The cafe will remain opened.

Hours going forward will be Monday through Friday 8 to 2 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday will be 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Swed



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Swed & Co. Coffee founder Chris Swed stands by the roaster on display at a new corner cafe at 702 Avenue G in downtown Fort Madison. Swed roasts coffee beans for shipping and for drinks at the new location.

said those hours will be fluid and will react to business trends and demands.

“Our hope for this is we wanted people to realize

a place like this can be in Fort Madison, although most would say this seems like a feel of something you would get in bigger city,” he

said.

“We made this just as much for the town as we did for ourselves because we wanted to create a cool place to hang out.”

He said the timing is good considering the addition of riverboat excursions, the Amtrak depot moving back into Riverview Park, the addition of four or five new businesses downtown, and even the news of the new marina. All of this is creating renewed energy around the downtown area.

In the northeast corner of the cafe is a polished four foot coffee bean roaster that is vented through the ceiling. Swed said on the right

days with heavy roasting, the aroma can be waft up to four blocks away.

He said his roaster will do up to nine pounds per batch. He can do different temperatures and closely monitor to the process to allow for tweaking for taste and depth profiles.

Green coffee beans go into the top and burners in the bottom heat up the drum where the beans hang out and release gases and break down. After the prescribed amount of time, the beans are dropped into a cooling bin where they are then packed up and shipped to customers, or used at the cafe.

He said coffee beans come from different parts of the world with different prices based on processing. The roasting process is what fine tunes the flavor profile.

“We are trying to continue that on. We can only take what is in the coffee and just bring out certain flavors.

His passion for the beans came from a small cafe in Greenville, Illinois, where spent a lot of time and got to know the owners.

He then learned there was barista competition and saw that aspect of the trade.

“I’m really competitive and that really got me into it, but then my brother-in-law started a roasting company and cafe and I was helping him at a lot of his events,” he said.

“I fell in love with brewing coffee for people because of that social aspect. It wasn’t until I moved to Fort Madison when I decided to start my own company.”

In addition to the drinks, Swed also sells the beans packaged for individual sale.

More information on the new location can be found Swed’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/swedcoffee>.

Resolve to make healthcare easier in the new year!

onePAC

your medication made easy

RASHID PHARMACY & WELLNESS

free delivery or mailing

rashidrug.com

ACT PREP

For April Exam Classes begin Sunday, March 7 at 6 pm Elliott Test Kitchen - Dinner Served -

Test Kitchen Education Foundation

Test Kitchen STEM Lounge

Elliott Test Kitchen

Sponsored by: **Great River HEALTH**

To sign up, send us a message on facebook or email info@tkef.org visit www.tkef.org • 319-250-9052

Sports

Prep basketball season leaves much to look back on

It doesn't take long to start looking ahead after the prep basketball season ends.

There is always transition, of course, and that will be the case next year for the boys and girls teams at Fort Madison, Holy Trinity and Central Lee.

A look at some of the story lines heading into next season:

- Points lost. There is a lot of scoring that is going with the departing seniors.

Central Lee's Mya Merschman scored 607 points this season, second-best in the state. Central Lee's boys team loses five players that scored in triple digits. Holy Trinity's boys team loses 899 combined points in the departures of Jason and Vasin Thurman and Chandler Rung.

And it's not just within the local teams. The SEI Superconference South Division girls basketball race loses Van Buren's Isabel Manning, the state's leading scorer at 665 points. West Burlington loses three of its top five scorers. Notre Dame loses its top scorer in Karli Artman (263 points).

- But there's plenty coming back. Fort Madison's girls basketball team won the Southeast Conference title and finished 17-3 after a loss to Fairfield in the Class 4A regional semi-



final. The Bloodhounds will miss center Brandy Walker, but bring back Malarie Ross (405 points) and Camille Kruse (166 points, 109 rebounds), along with Irelynd Sargent (115 rebounds) and Molly Knipe (110 rebounds).

Fort Madison's boys team has everyone back. The Bloodhounds went 8-12, but that record should improve behind a team that has been together for a long time. Forward Dayton Davis and guard Miles Dear make a good inside-outside combination.

Central Lee's girls team loses Merschman, but has a solid group coming back, led by Makayla Morrison (197 points).

The interesting team may be the Holy Trinity girls. The Crusaders were 5-17, but bring back their top five scorers, and it's a group that will be around for a while. Raquel Schneider (126 points) and Kassi Randolph (119 points) will be seniors, but Mary Kate Bendlage (148 points) and Natalie Randolph (106 points) will be sophomores, and Brooke Mueller (131

points) and Kayla Box (46 points, 84 rebounds) will be juniors.

- A normal season? Holy Trinity girls coach Tony Johnson was talking about his team that is coming back after the loss to Winfield-Mount Union in the Class 1A regional tournament.

But he also mentioned something that he hopes won't be coming back next season.

"Get the shot, and then get rid of these," Johnson said, pointing to his face mask.

This season was played during the COVID-19 pandemic. Masks for spectators were the rule (which wasn't always followed), and players and coaches were wearing them on the bench. Attendance at many gyms was limited.

The COVID-19 vaccine is being distributed now, and the number of cases around the state is falling. It's a good sign that next season might have a semblance of normalcy again. *John Bohnenkamp is an award-winning sports reporter and editor, and is a contributor to Pen City Current.*

Follow Us
@pencitycurrent



Complete Rental Price Beat Guarantee

Show us an advertised price or quote
We'll beat it by

15%

5636 Avenue O, Fort Madison, IA

319-372-8105

Located right across the road from Jim Baier in Fort Madison

**Not valid with any other discounts*

DO YOUR PART

CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS



Great River Regional Waste Authority urges you to wear gloves when moving bins or residential trash pick-up. Workers can touch over 2000 bins a day before even touching yours. Don't forget to wash your hands after bringing in your bin!

for your community



WWW.GRRWA.COM

Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

Mobile Nursing Services

Now Hiring

Burlington & Ft. Madison Areas

RN Case Manager

LPNs

Home Health Aides

Occupational Therapist

We are now hiring additional staff to meet the needs of our increased client base.

Apply at:
705 Ave. G, Fort Madison
Or email:

mobnurse@mobilenursingservices.com

EOE

Tired of the same old results from your advertising?

**Call Lee Today!
(319)371.4125**

PEN CITY CURRENT
It's Black & White and Read all over

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
FORT MADISON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WORK SESSION
March 1, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

AGENDA

- I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum
- II. Recognition of guests
- III. Approve the agenda
- IV. Certified Budget Discussion – Sandy Elmore
- V. Discussion of Superintendent Evaluation Timeline
- VI. Announcements
March 15, 2021, 6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting, Board Room, Central Office
- VII. Adjourn

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County Board of Supervisors Meeting
Mon, March 1, 2021
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
(CST)
AGENDA**

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/540345365>

You can also dial in using your phone.
United States: +1 (646) 749-3122
Access Code: 540-345-365

If you would like to pose a question to the Board, please use the Chat feature and wait for the Chairman to address you. If you are participating by phone, please wait until everyone is done speaking before addressing the Board. Please keep your microphone muted to cut down on background noise. If you are participating by phone, press #6, this will mute your phone.

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approve Agenda
- 9:01 a.m. Public Hearing for Maximum Levy on General and Rural Funds
- Consider Approval of Resolution Approving Maximum Levy on General and Rural Funds
- Public Input
- Consider Approval to Replace Assistant County Attorney
- Consider Approval of Chairman's Signature on Iowa's Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Grant Application Towards Purchase of Two Single Axle Dump Trucks
- Consider Approval of Addendum to Pandemic Policy
- Discussion of Reopening Senior Centers
- Consider Approval of Family Farm Credits for 2020
- Consider Approval of February 22, 2021 Board

- Minutes
- Consider Approval of Claims Personnel Actions:
- A. Promotion-Recorder's Office Reports:
 - A. Manure Management Annual Update for Lost Creek LLLP in Marion Township
 - B. Recorder's Report of Fees Collected Commission or Committee Reports
 - Adjourn

Workshop to Follow

**PUBLIC MEETING
CITIZENS WELCOME**

Vision and hearing assistance available upon request

Contact Title VI Administrator
319-372-3705 County Website:
www.leecounty.org

Follow Us

@pencitycurrent



#ShopLocal
Support your local business community!

HELP WANTED

Iowa State Penitentiary is accepting applications for the following positions:

**Correctional Officer
Location:
Fort Madison Iowa**

JOB DESCRIPTION:
Correctional officers serve as the backbone to the correctional system. Their careers are both challenging and rewarding as they balance their security mission with the mission of helping those incarcerated reform themselves into a successful, law-abiding citizen upon their reentry. Once fully trained, Correctional Officers can make a lasting impact on an incarcerated person's life while also helping maintain safe and secure correctional facilities. New Correctional Officers earn a full time salary as they go through their training, and the State offers one of the most competitive benefits packages in the private or public sector.
Starting Salary:
(\$20.34/\$30.14 (Max))

Correctional Food Service Coordinator

Supervise incarcerated dietary workers in the performance of all assigned duties and responsibilities relating to food preparation, tray assembly, meal delivery and dietary sanitation. Teach food service techniques and procedures to incarcerated individuals. Demonstrate ability to prepare food items by frying, baking, roasting, etc as appropriate. Monitor food temperatures, ensure foods are served and stored at a safe temperature. Supervise tray line/main line; ensure proper assembly and portions of meals.

Demonstrate ability in performing stock inventories and purchasing requirements. Demonstrate knowledge of weights and measures used in determining proper amounts of food ingredients for mass food production.
Starting Salary:
(\$21.46 - \$31.56 (Max))

Apply online at
www.governmentjobs.com/careers/iowa

HELP WANTED

REAL ESTATE LOAN AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Lee County Bank, a progressive, locally owned bank, is seeking a qualified individual for a Real Estate Loan and Compliance Officer. This person should possess strong computer and customer relations skills, the ability to work in a team environment, and a commitment to community involvement. Job responsibilities include loan origination and overseeing compliance aspects in the Loan Department.

Competitive compensation with excellent benefits package. Lee County Bank is an equal opportunity employer. Please submit resume to:

Lee County Bank
ATTN: Chad Ward
PO Box 280
Fort Madison, IA 52627
OR
cward@leecountybank.com



Do you have time - to help stop crime?

Visit any of these Facebook pages to learn more about what the Neighborhood Watch Program is & how to start your own group or join an existing group!

Join us today to help keep our communities safer!



CAUTION

POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

Subscribe to #PCC today
Free and Paid Options Available.



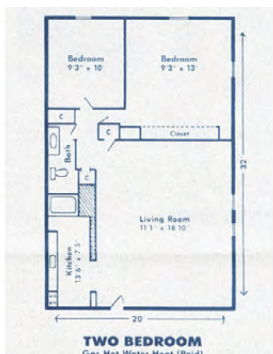
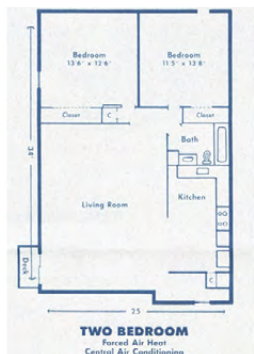
PEN CITY CURRENT
It's Black & White and Read all over

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Chateau Apartments Extra Clean & Quiet Apartments for Rent



Extra clean & quiet with free YMCA membership included. 2 bedrooms, some with decks/patio. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, built-in microwave. Non-smoking, no pets. Very affordable security deposit \$300. Must pass background & credit checks (no felonies). Large backyard with picnic tables & glider swing in very nice, quiet neighborhood. Rents range from \$585-\$635. Lease required. 850 sq. ft. units. All electric. Water, sewer, trash furnished. 650 sq. ft. units. Water, heat, sewer, gas, trash furnished. Laundry rooms have new coin-operated washers & dryers (located in all buildings). On-site manager. Call 319-372-9409 or 319-750-3115 for appointment to view. Owned by Alliance Realty Co.



**HELP WANTED
FULL-TIME SHORT HAUL TRUCK DRIVER
HOME EVERY NIGHT**

Local daily trips • Capable of lifting 50lbs and climbing
Ag background preferred
Pre-Employment Drug Screen
Pre-Employment Registration with the FMCSA Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse

Benefits Include:

Health-Dental-Vision-Disability Insurance, Retirement Program, PTO Time, Annual Bonus, Paid Vacation
Apply In Person: Quality Plus Feeds Inc.
2033 Locust Street • St. Paul, IA 52657
Contact Sherri at (319)469-3167

QUALITY PLUS FEEDS

Classifieds

SHOP Classifieds

PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE AT WWW.PENCITYCURRENT.COM OR CALL (319)371.4125

Call Lee at 319.371.4125 today to advertise!

WEDDING & EVENT CENTER

Small GRAND Things
Grand Things Happen Here
Danielle Neaves & Ann Newton Neaves
319.837.8132

1903 West Point Rd West Point, IA 52656
Facebook/Instagram/Pinterest smallgrandthings.com

Eternelle Beauté
FULL SERVICE SALON & SPA
1302 Avenue G
Fort Madison, Iowa
319-246-1018




Don't Let Your Business Slip Away

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 because when your world is protected - it's business as usual.



Larry Holtkamp
1301 37th St
Fort Madison
(319) 372-9145
(319) 470-1927 Cell
LARRYHOLTAMP.COM

FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

Auto | Home | Life | Annuities | Business | Farm & Ranch

Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company, * Western Agricultural Insurance Company, * Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, ** West Des Moines, IA. *Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services PC109 (4-17)

DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY
Est. 1877

Business Cards, Photo Correction, Flyers, Office Supplies, Vinyl Banners, T-Shirt Printing, Coffee Mugs, Posters, Art Supplies, Printing, Office Furniture, Trifold Brochures

621 Avenue G Fort Madison, IA 319.372.2721
doddprinting.com

ENJOY FREE DELIVERY TO FORT MADISON, KEOKUK, BURLINGTON & THE SURROUNDING AREAS!

Patrick Profeta
General Manager

Keokuk Auto Credit
We Tote the Note

No Credit Check Low Weekly Payments
www.keokukautocredit.com

1728 Main Keokuk, IA 52632 Office: 319-524-2334 Fax: 319-524-2373

Dirty Dog Detailing & Boarding

Grooming by appointment
Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday
319-371-9044

2090 250th St Donnellson, IA 52625 Owners Barb Ball & Natalie Dauma Family owned & operated

Over 51 Years Combined Professional Animal Experience

How can chiropractic therapy help you?

BENEFITS OF CHIROPRACTIC

- Improved joint mobility, function, and health
- Decreased degeneration of joints and connective tissues
- Improved circulation
- Increased energy, vitality, and improved sleep
- and many, many more

DR. ROBERT BROCKMAN
Brockman Chiropractic
2311 Avenue L, Suite 3, Fort Madison • 319-372-3800
<http://brockmanchiropracticdrbob.com/>

Extremity Adjustment Myofascial Relaxation Cranial Adjustment Muscle Facilitation

YOUR AD HERE

Call Lee
(319) 371.4125

Generations of Great Service

- 24 Hour Service
- Never An Overtime Charge
- FREE Estimates
- Servicing All Makes

YOUR Heat & Air guy

Full Service HVAC Company
Serving Fort Madison, Burlington, and surrounding areas with over 30 Years Experience!

Ft. Madison: 319-372-4328
Burlington: 319-752-4328
All Areas: 877-380-4328

www.YourHeatAndAirGuy.com

General Insects Termites Mice Bed Bugs

Cullen PEST CONTROL

(319) 372-1060

Toll Free 1-888-818-7378
Email: cullenpest@hotmail.com
www.cullenpest.com

Residential Commercial "Cause who needs bugs?"

Help GRRWA Keep Your Community Hazard-Free!

Household Hazardous Waste Unit is open Monday through Friday 8am - 4pm

800-216-2370
Call for an appointment



GRRWA
Great River Regional Waste Authority

Fl. Madison Main Office: 2092 203rd Ave Fort Madison, IA 52625 1-319-372-6140 Visit Us Online! www.grrwa.com
Keokuk Transfer Station: 111 Carbine Lane Keokuk, IA 52624 1-319-524-6175 facebook.com/grrwa

KEMPKER'S True Value RENTAL

Treating our customers like family since 1970

Fort Madison • Burlington • Mount Pleasant

www.kempkerstruevalue.com

Tuesday vote should send clear message of support

RPS - Continued from Page 1

er, and the American Legion Hall in West Point.

The scenario currently being proposed is to move PreK-6th grade into the Fort Madison Middle School with \$10.3 million in additions and site work. Seventh and eighth grade students would be moved into the current Fort Madison High School with \$41.1 million in additions, renovations, site work, and physical needs.

All the middle school work and \$14.7 million of the high school work would be done in the first phase of the project. That would be funded with \$8.8 million of the current Physical Plant and Equipment Levy, and about \$16 million from an extension of the SAVE funds through 2051.

This phase would require no additional tax burden on district taxpayers.

The second phase, which includes the remainder of the high school work, would require additional funding sources for about \$26.5 million.

Fort Madison Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater said at that point all options would be on the table including a possible third extension of the SAVE funds by the state, another voted PPEL levy, a general obligation bond, or the district's cash reserves – or a combination of options.

The plans address the most common concern of parents over the past three failed attempts which was transportation

and drop offs. Both plans have enhanced designations for drop off, turn arounds, and exits and entries, so traffic flows efficiently at both locations.

But the biggest win here is that all district students benefit from the facility upgrades and there's no additional property tax burden on the \$25 million first phase of the work.

No one can say at this point that the diligence hasn't been done in every way, shape, and form to get our students into contemporary learning environments.

District officials have reached out to the community for input again and spent a tremendous amount of time investigating options to retire

the outdated Richardson and Lincoln elementary schools.

Now is a time when district officials should be able to devote all their time to student learning and performance measures as that shell game continues with the Iowa Board of Education.

We shouldn't add our own shell game to the mix by constantly moving the target on how this district gets students into contemporary learning facilities.

This is a solid plan that will put off additional property taxes while putting our students and future students in the best position that we, as district voters, will allow.

And pay attention to the bills that are coming fast and furious out of the Iowa Legislature.

Bills that reign in early

voting and perceived censorship, both issues many Republicans across the country blame for Democrats taking back the White House and Congress; and now a bill specifically aimed at retroactively threatening the license of Des Moines Public School Superintendent Thomas Ahart. Ahart maintained a local decision to keep DM public schools closed during the pandemic against directives straight from Governor Kim Reynolds and the Iowa Department of Education.

Whether the decision to do that was right or wrong is debatable for sure, but to go back and punish instead of looking forward, is petty and a bit vindictive.

State Sen. Jeff Reichman (R-Montrose) man-

aged a floor bill through the Senate this week that could allow veterans to use GI Bill funds to pay for law enforcement academy training. That's a solid bill that has the potential to widen a current shallow pool of candidates for Iowa's sheriffs and police chiefs.

Now legislators need to keep their collective eye on campaign commitments to work on lowering health care costs, bring jobs to Lee County, and help get existing jobs filled and wages growing, while keeping a closer eye on bills that could hurt TIF programs essential to rural Iowa economies – but that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is editor and co-owner of Pen City Current and can be reached at editor@pencitycurrent.com.

State launches new vaccine website

DES MOINES - The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) announces the launch of Vaccinate.Iowa.gov, a new website that provides information about vaccine priority populations and eligibility, resources available for Iowans age 65 and older, and answers to frequently asked questions about vaccine. The site also hosts a locator tool where users can enter their zip code to find vaccine providers near them. Once a provider is selected, appointment scheduling will be done through the provider's website or scheduling platform. Information on the site will be updated regularly and site content can be translated into multiple languages.

To help older Iowans navigate the scheduling process, IDPH is partnering with 211 to provide a dedicated team of vaccine navigators who will schedule appointments for Iowans age 65 and older who are unable to do so because of technology barriers. This 211 vaccine navigator service will be available starting the week of March 8.

As of today, Iowa has administered 626,947 vaccines.

We are where you are.



319-469-3951

Pilot Grove Savings Bank

Member FDIC Equal Housing Lender

www.pilotgrovesavingsbank.com