PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Tuesday, January 14, 2020 | 8 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 21



www.pencitycurrent.com

SIREPA: Next five-year plan focuses on education, partnerships

PORT looking for projects, visibility

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – We all have that favorite tool in the garage that doesn't get a lot of use, but is specifically effective when we need it and use it properly.

The Southeast Iowa Regional Economic & Port Authority is the region's economic development tool that's kind of been hanging around in the garage for the past decade or so.

The board of SIERPA recently released its third 5-year strategic plan starting this year.

One of the ponents of the half-decade sincreasing ed what opportruport authority.

Lee County

NORRIS

One of the key components of that latest half-decade strategy is increasing education of what opportunities the port authority brings to Lee County and southeast Iowa.

The Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission is the administrative arm of the port authority and SEIRPC Executive Director Mike Norris said it's his goal to ramp up the identity of the port authority.

"It compares to that really special tool in your garage that means a lot in the right situations. It's not a screwdriver you use all the time. The really special thing here is that when you re-



Stock image

The Southeast Iowa Regional Ecomonic and Port Authority recently unveiled its five year plan starting in 2020.

ally need it, it's the only thing that really works," he said.

Norris said the group is trying to establish an identity as an important tool to leverage when development projects land on the desks of city, county, and state officials.

"We don't have that project visibility yet. I think that's at the heart of it. We're not out talking about it. We're a little economic development – a little infrastructure development," he said.

"I don't just want to have this open and not get anything done."

Iowa Code 28J governs the majority of state port authority powers. The groups function similar to governmental agencies, except they cannot levy taxes, and their leadership is appointed.

Without being able to levy taxes, the

See **DEVELOPMENT**, page 8

BUSINESS BUILDER

Chambers host four-month DreamBuilder class

Submitted article

LEE COUNTY – The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce, Keokuk Area Chamber of Commerce and the Small Business Development Center are pleased to announce the launch of DreamBuilder – an online business-training program for aspiring entrepreneurs.

DreamBuilder, developed by Freeport-McMoRan and the Thunderbird School of Global Management, equips participants with the practical skills needed to start or grow their own business. While the program was initially developed for female entrepreneurs, all aspiring entrepreneurs are encouraged to participate in the program. When community members gain skills, they gain confidence, increase their productivity, mentor others, raise their income levels and reinvest in their children's education, their family's health and economic activities at the community level.

Dreambuilder combines interactive online courses and access to helpful tools and resources, including an innovative Business Plan Generator, to guide participants in the creation of a business plan.

The Lee County DreamBuilder Cohort will begin in February and meet weekly leading up to graduation in May. The cohort will be led by facilitator, Janine Clover who will guide participants through technical aspects of the program, arrange area entrepreneurs to speak to the class, and create a support system and network. Cohort participants can independently complete the program modules online as needed.

The program, which produces a complete business plan in a few short

See **PROGRAM**, page 3

CAUCUS 2020

County Dems offer satellite caucus spots

BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY – Two satellite Democratic caucuses will be held at 1:00 pm on February 3rd for those unable to attend their usual precinct caucus at 7 p.m.

The caucuses will be at the Keokuk Labor Temple, 301 Blondeau St., Keokuk and the LULAC Club, 1424 36th St., Fort Madison. They are available to all registered Democrats. However, attendees must be pre-registered to participate through the Iowa Democratic Party through the following link https://action.iowademocrats.org/page/s/online-Satellite-Caucus-Pre-Registration

Attendees must be pre-registered by January 17th and those who are not pre-registered will be unable to partici-

See **ELECTION**, page 3

LEGISLATIVE LUNCH

First Chamber lunch with elected officials Friday

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Area Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee will host the first 2020 Legislative Luncheon this Friday, January 17th 12:00 noon at the River Rocks Bar & Grill on the west side.

The luncheons are to provide the general public an opportunity to hear what our legislators are doing while representing us in Des Moines. This is a first of five luncheons planned during the 2020 legislative session. The other dates are: February 21, March 20, April 17 and the final one being May 15th. All these luncheon events are subject to the availability of our legislators- due to commitments they

See **CHAMBER**, page 8

INDEX

Business Directory	P.7
BUSINESS NEWS	
CLASSIFIEDS	Ps.6-7
Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis	
Family Dentistry	P.8
Fort Colony Family Restaurant	P.8
FOR THE RECORD	
Fort Madison Family YMCA	P.8

LOCAL NEWS	P.3
LEE COUNTY NEWSF	s.3,8
Lee County Health Department	
JDRF.org	P.6
IOWA NEWS	P.4
Great River Regional Waste Authority	P.2
Fullenkamp Insurance	P.3

FROM THE FRONT...

en City Current	
ilot Grove Savings Bank	P.2
ublic Notices	P.6
onDavoo	P.3
CENE AROUND THE AREA	P.4
CC PACE Program	P.6

WEATHER

 OpenWeatherMap

 TUE 14 Jan
 Scattered Clouds, 41.0° F/ 33.4° F

 WED 15 Jan
 Light Rain, 42.0° F/ 15.7° F

 THU 16 Jan
 Cloudy & Cold, 19.2° F/ 16.3° F

IOWA LOTTERY

IUMA LUI I LIII I	
PICK 3 01/12 MIDDAY	440
PICK 3 01/12 EVENING	176
PICK 4 01/12 MIDDAY	6243
DICK A 01/12 EVENING	2600

SUBSCRIBE

Scan the code to subscribe today



For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

01/10/20 - 3:44 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1900 block of Avenue L. 01/10/20 - 8:52 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism, reported at the police station. 01/10/20 - 11:01 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2300 block of Avenue I. 01/10/20 - 12:13 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1200 block of 36th Street. 01/11/20 - 7:30 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1500 block of Avenue B. 01/11/20 - 9:48 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2700 block of Avenue O. 01/11/20 - 3:53 p.m. - Kalifa Ayana Mae Devon McCaleb, 20, Montrose, was cited in the 2800 block of Avenue L, on a charge of possession of a controlled substance. She was released upon citation. 01/11/20 - 10:07 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1500 block of Avenue M. 01/12/20 - 12:57 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1200 block of Avenue F.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

01/10/20 - 7:23 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a two-vehicle accident in the 1800 block of Hwy. 61. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Thomas James Benner, 25, of Montrose rear-ended a vehicle driven by James Allen Richart, 88, of Wever, causing heavy rear damage to Richart's vehicle. Benner was cited for following too closely. No injuries were reported. 01/10/20 - 10:19 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Neysa Marie Root, 35, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. She was released for serving weekends. 01/11/20 - 3:04 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jamie Donald Horn, 38, of Wever, in the 1700 block of 354th Avenue on charges of domestic assault and 1st-degree sexual abuse 01/11/20 - 1:59 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested James Paul Dean Burleson, 24, of Keokuk, at the Lee County Jail on charges of simple assault and disorderly conduct. He was held in custody. 01/11/20 - 1:59 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Deshon Arron Bolden, 26, of Burlington at the Lee County Jail on charges of disorderly conduct and assault with injury to a law enforcement officer. He was held in custody.

01/12/20 - 9:32 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident on Hwy. 218 near the Hwy. 103 intersection. According to the report, a vehicle headed southbound on Hwy. 218 driven by Aria R. Snedegar, 21, of Evanston, III., slowed to turn onto 103 and was struck by a vehicle driven by Matthew John Pitcock, 30, of LK Cormorant, Miss. causing both vehicle minor damage. No citations or injuries were reported.

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

Hancock County Sheriff Scott Bentzinger reports the following arrests for the week of January 6, 2020 through January 12th, 2020 01/06/20 - Gregory A Russell, age 57, of Planeville, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Aggravated Battery and Criminal Damage to Government Supported Property. Russell remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance. 01/06/20 - Daniel E Scott, age 40, of Fort Madison, IA was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine and Driving While License Suspended. Scott was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.

01/06/20 - Christopher O Brownlee, age 33, of Basco, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Criminal Damage to Property, Criminal Damage to State Supported Property, Aggravated Battery, Domestic Battery, Obstructing Justice. Brownlee remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance. 01/07/20 - Nichole Huffman, age 50, of Hamilton, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Petition to Revoke for original charges of Possession of Methamphetamine. Huffman remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting her next court appearance. 01/07/20 - Taylor D Burgess, age 23, of Keokuk, IA was arrested on a Henderson County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Driving on a Suspended License. Burgess was released to Henderson County Authorities. 01/07/20 - Kristopher M Vincent, age 27, of Carthage, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of No Valid Driver's License. Vincent was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. 01/08/20 -Andrea L Blint, age 35, of Niota, IL was arrested and charged with Bond Violation. Blint remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting her next court appearance. 01/08/20 - Jeslyn E Thomas, age 19, of Keokuk, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on original charges of No Valid Driver's License . Thomas was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. 01/09/20 - Dianna M Haworth, age 28, of Burlington, IA was arrested and charged with Contempt of Court. Haworth remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail. 01/09/20 - Leonard L Huff, age 58, of Hamilton, IL was arrested and charged with Driving While License Revoked and Aggravated Driving Under the Influence. Huff remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance. 01/10/20 - Keith A Graham, age 59, of Warsaw, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear I Failure to Pay on original charges of Driving While License Revoked. Graham was also arrested on an Adams County Warrant. Graham was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. 01/10/20 - Alan J Westermeyer, age 27, of Carthage, IL was arrested on a Hancock

County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Retail Theft. Westermeyer remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance. 01/11/20 - Matthew M Tindall, age 49, of Plymouth, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine. Tindall remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance. 01/12/20 - Brooke J Cooper, age 43, of Hamilton, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on original charges of No Valid Driver's License, Operating Uninsured Vehicle, and Expired Registration. Cooper was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

01/10/20 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls and one car accident. 01/11/20 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls and one false fire detector call. 01/12/20 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to six medical calls and one smoke detector call.



NO PLASTIC BAGS IN THE RECYCLING BIN

LEAVE ITEMS LOOSE AND EMPTY

Return plastic bags to retailers or place in trash bin.

THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING PROPER



Ft. Madison Main Office: 2092 303rd Ave Fort Madison, IA 1-319-372-6140

Visit Us Online!

www.GRRWA.com

Keokuk Transfer Station: 111 Carbide Lane Keokuk, IA 1-319-524-6175

Facebook.com/GRRWA

Business News/Local News

Garcia gets specialized nursing certification

Kensington coordinator earns gerontology certificate

Submitted article

FORT MADISON - Mandi Garcia, BSN, RN-BC, CPD, Wellness Coordinator at The Kensington in Fort Madison, recently earned board certification in Gerontological Nursing.

To become board certified, Garcia was required to hold an RN license, practice as



an RN for at least two years and perform at least 2,000 hours of service in gerontological nursing. She was also required to take 30 hours of classroom instruction within a three-year time-period and pass a 175-question written exam given by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

ANCC Board Certification in Gerontological Nursing is the gold standard in demonstrating clinical excellence in geriatric care. Fewer than 1% of nurses nationwide hold this certification. Garcia is

well-recognized amongst the nursing community and was named the NCAL Nurse of the Year in 2018 and ICAL's Distinguished Director of Nursing in Leadership in 2017.

Garcia says that attaining board certification has helped her provide even better care to residents of The Kensington. "Becoming board certified has helped is several ways. First, I am able to have more meaningful conversations with our resident's physicians. Also, the extra training enables me to identify problems before they become an emergency, eliminating the need for an ER visit and avoiding unnecessary hospi-

Leia Morrison, Executive Director of The Kensington says, "We are so proud of Mandi and fortunate to have her on our team. Earning her certification took hard work and dedication. This is just another way she demonstrates her commitment to the health and wellness of our residents."

Mandi will celebrate ten years of service at The Kensington in 2020. She and her husband, Chuy, have two sons, Greyson and Sawyer, and make their home in Fort

Pre-registration required for Feb. 3 state caucuses

ELECTION - Continued from Page 1

pate in the satellite caucus. So, either use the above link or find it at <u>iowademocrats</u>. org under 2020 Caucuses/register for a satellite caucus.

If you are already registered as a Democrat, the pre-registration is simple. If you are currently not registered to vote, or need to change your registration status to Democrat, it requires just one extra step. Those in need of additional assistance can contact Lee County Democrat Chair Mary Jo Riesberg at 319-526-3160 for assis-

Lee County Democrats also announced the caucus location for the Franklin/ Cedar/Marion/Harrison townships has been moved to the Learning Center, Lee County Fair Grounds 1100 N. Main St., Donnellson.





Program aimed at local business creation

PROGRAM - Continued from Page 1

months will cost participants just \$120. Climax Molybdenum, a Freeport-McMoRan Company, has offered to provide full program fee reimbursement to all participants who graduate the program.

"We are committed to investing in efforts that increase education and economic opportunities for citizens in our operating communities. As part of our effort to ensure all citizens can be full participants in economic development and attain greater levels of prosperity we are pleased to support the program and the program participants." Says Emily Benjamin, Climax Molybdenum Community Development Specialist.

Classes are held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Lee County Conservation Center at 2652 Hwy. 61 in Montrose.

To apply to participate in the program or if you have any questions, please contact the Keokuk Area Chamber of Commerce at officemanager@keokukchamber.com or



Be Sure.

When you need to be sure, look to one of the area's leading insurance agencies.

Auto · Home · Business Life • Farm • Crop

Serving Southeast Iowa, Northeast Missouri, & West-Central Illinois

Left to right: Chris, Erin, Judy, Jill, Brian, Shelby, and Desiree



Open Monday through Friday 7:30 - 5:00 & Saturday 8:30 - 11

Charles Vandenberg, Editor

(319).371.1670

editor@pencitycurrent.com

Member LION Publishers

www.lionpublishers.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.

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

Scene Around the Area/Iowa News

Reynolds to host re-entry roundtable at Anamosa

DES MOINES - Governor Kim Reynolds encourages employers, recruiters, and human resource managers to attend the Employer and Reentry Roundtable on Jan. 29 at the Anamosa State Penitentiary. Iowa Department of Corrections and Iowa Workforce Development will co-host the roundtable to highlight opportunities available with hiring returning citizens. The event starts at 12:30 pm.

"Our prisons shouldn't be one stop in a circle that leads back to prison. They should connect people with opportunities to improve themselves and their skills," said Gov. Reynolds. "We will continue host employer roundtables at our correctional facilities to encourage employers to hire reentering individuals. By doing so, employers can learn about an opportunity to meet their workforce needs and give an Iowan a second chance at a productive and rewarding life."

The roundtable is part of a series that kicked off in November of 2019. Each event features presentations and discussions about recruiting and training practices, apprenticeship programs and incentives available to employers who hire returning citizens.

"The Iowa Corrections Team is working every day to transform those currently incarcerated into the workforce of tomorrow. With over 90% of these people returning to their communities someday, we have a duty to make sure they are ready to go to work upon reentry. This event is an opportunity to highlight this work to Iowa's employers, and we are excited to bring the business community into our institution," said Iowa Dept. of Corrections Director Beth Skinner.

"When employers open their recruitment strategy to include returning citizens, they increase the size of their skilled worker pool given all of the training currently available in our corrections facilities," said Director Beth Townsend, Iowa Workforce Development. "The roundtable is focused on informing employers about peers who have successfully hired from this pool of returning citizens as well as programs and incentives available to employers who do so."

Employers may register for the roundtable event at Eventbrite. A link to the online registration will also be available at doc.iowa.gov. If you are interested in attending an event and have additional questions, please contact Richelle Seitz at richelle.seitz@iwd.iowa.gov. For media questions about the event, please contact Cord Overton at cord.overton@iowa.gov



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PC

Pilot Grove Savings Bank made a \$1,000 donation to the Central Lee PTO to help with programming and equipment, between basketball games Friday night at Central Lee.

Reynolds taps interim DOT director

DES MOINES- Today, Gov. Reynolds announced the appointment of Stuart Anderson to serve as Interim Director at the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT). His appointment is effective Friday, January 10th, 2019.

"Stuart brings a wealth of transportation experience and will provide steady leadership to the department until a permanent Director is appointed," said Gov. Reynolds. "I look forward to working with him to not only ensure a smooth transition at the agency, but also improve infrastructure and road safety."

"I appreciate the opportunity to guide the Iowa DOT through this interim period while the process to identify a permanent director is completed," said Anderson. "During this time, the great team at Iowa DOT remains committed to providing outstanding service to Iowans and other users of our multimodal transportation system."

Stuart Anderson, P.E. joined the department in 1992 as an engineer-in-training in the Systems Planning Bureau. He served various roles within the bureau until his appointment to director of the Office of Systems Planning in 2002. Most recently he has served as the director of the Planning, Programming, & Modal Division which he has held since January 2009. Anderson is a 1991 graduate of Iowa State University with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering.



With Pilot Grove Savings Bank Savings Accounts

No matter what your age, we can help you plan your future.



319-469-3951

www.pilotgrovesavingsbank.com

LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT HOSPICE

Your #1 Choice In Hospice

First Medicare Certified Hospice in Southeast Iowa - Since 1989





We are proud to provide our Hospice Services in Lee, Des Moines, Van Buren & Henry counties in Iowa and Hancock & Henderson counties in Illinois



CHD

Lee County
Health Department

Touching the Community with Care

#3 John Bennett Drive • PO Box 1426 Fort Madison, IA 52627 (319)372-5225 or (800)458-6672

www.leecountyhd.org

Like us on Facebook!



Classifieds/Public Notices



PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE AT <u>WWW.PENCITYCURRENT.COM</u> OR CALL (319)371.4125

Follow Us @pencitycurrent



NEW YEAR. NEW JOB.

Get the training you need in as few as 4 weeks.

PACE (Pathways for Academic Career and Employment)
Get the skills you need for the job you want.

- CDL Training Program
- CNA Training Program
- Healthcare Registration Specialist
 - Phlebotomist and more!



If you are currently unemployed, recently laid off due to a plant closure or position elimination, need to go back to school to earn your high school diploma or GED, or if you are considered low income by federal government standards, PACE is for you!

Personalized, one-on-one guidance | Determine eligibility for funding sources Connect with community resources to meet challenges such as transportation & housing

CLICK HERE FOR CLASS TIMES & MORE INFORMATION



PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
AGENDA
FORT MADISON
PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Date: Thursday,
January 16, 2020
Time: 5:30 P.M.
Place: Sheaffer
Memorial Meeting
Room, Fort Madison
Public Library,

I. Excused absences –
II. Approval of Agenda –
III. Public Comments
IV. Approval of minutes

1920 Avenue E

Fort Madison, IA 52627

November 14V. Correspondence –

- VI. Approval of Bills a. Affirmation of De-
- cember 2019 Bills b. Approval of January 2020 Bills
 - VII. Director's Report
 - a. Financial
 - b. Personnelc. Programming
- d. Collection Develop-
- e. Operations
- f. Facilities
- g. Professional
- VIII. New Business
- a. Budget Discussion,
- IX. Trustee EducationChapter 17: Intellectual
- Property
- Chapter 18: Developing and Adopting Policies

- X. Upcoming Business and Events
- a. Review BehaviorPolicy February BoardMeeting
- b. Review Unattended Child Policy – February Board Meeting
- c. Review Password Policy – February Board Meeting
- d. Begin Strategic Planning Process – February Board Meeting

Next Meeting – Thursday, February 20, 2020, 5:30 pm Fort Madison Public Library

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.





Cot a
news tip?
Call Chuck
(319)371.1670



Advertise in a brand new way.

Reach thousands of potential customers each day & grow your business. Call today!

Martha (319)316.3621 • Lee (319)371.4125



Classifieds

Call Martha at 319.316.3621 today to advertise!



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





WEDDING & EVENT CENTER



Danielle Neaves & Ann Newton Neaves

319.837.8132

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

Stewart Automotive Transmission Repair Major/Minor Engine Repair Alignments Tune-Up Coolant/Transmission Flush 3136 Avenue M Ft. Madison, IA unior Stewart, Owner (319) 371-4509



Rick Saunders Owner

(319) 878-4000

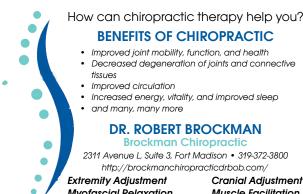
Help GRRWA Keep Your Community Hazard-Free!



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

800-216-2370

Call for an appointment



Martha Hawes, Sales Consultant

martha@pencitycurrent.com 319.316.3621

Myofascial Relaxation Muscle Facilitation









610 Eighth St., Suite A, Fort Madison, IA 52627

Darwin Bunger Attorney At Law Saunders/ Bunger

An Association of Sole Practitioners

Ph: 319-372-2100/ Fax: 319-372-2200

320 N. 3rd Floor 6, PO Box 223, Burlington, IA 52601

isit: www.darwinbungerlaw.com for more info



American Family Insurance



Office Manager Carlos Capdevila Agency, Inc. Email: CBIVENS@AmFam.com



601 Jefferson St., Burlington, Iowa, 52601 Bus: (319) 752-1479 Fax: (319) 752-6164 Web: http://www.ccapdevila.com Anytime Access: 1-800-MYAMFAM (800-692-6326)

AMERICAN FAMILY





Great Atmosphere! Fabulous Food! Quality Handcrafted Brews!

duckbrewing.com

319.372.8255

Kitchen Open 3:00-9:00 PM

Make a Duck Call!!!!



Here to help you retire.

Thomas Klann CLU RICP FSCP LTCP LUTCF Agent 2623 Avenue L

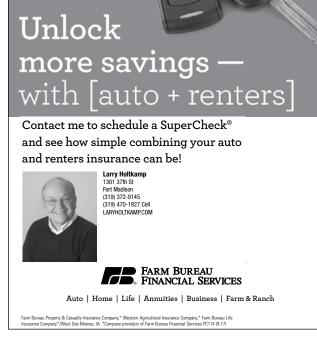
1708167.1

I'm not just here for insurance. I can also help you look at your retirement goals and build a plan for tomorrow. Let's start today.

Here to help life go right.



State Farm





From the Front

Port authorities function as "city-lite"

DEVELOPMENT - Continued from Page 1

port authority looks at alternative funding sources and those would include appropriations from political subdivisions, rental and lease fees, and grants, to name a few

Port authorities can issue revenue bonds to pay for infrastructure improvements the same way governments and schools can, they just can't levy a tax to pay the debt.

Norris said the port authority doesn't have the independent ability to create a project, but its purpose is more of a complimentary function to the political subdivisions it currently serves including the cities of Keokuk and Fort Madison, and Lee County.

In addition to the groups above, the port authority also currently partners with eight other organizations including Fort Madison Economic Development Group, Keokuk Economic Development Corp., Lee County Economic Development Group, Iowa DOT, Iowa Economic Development, SEIRPC, Mid-America Intermodal Port Authority, and Alliant Energy.

"What we're trying to do is have a systematic approach to deploying the abilities of SIREPA and periodically that means we work with community stakeholders, board members, potential partners and say, 'hey, here's what's happened – here's what we can do – and here's some opportunities," Norris said.

The group formalized its partnerships in Lee County in 2006 and SEIRPC came on as the administrative entity in 2013.

In that time, the group has been formalizing its role in the region it serves, and bringing groups, both private and public, up to speed on what opportunities the authority can bring to the table.

In the past few years, the port authority has been involved in discussions regarding the Burlington Northern Santa Fe bridge and its current weight embargoes, as well as preliminary discussions regarding a joint education center in Lee County.

Norris said projects of that scope will help create an identity for the port authority and help it become a more commonly recognized entity for the region.

"We play a complimentary role to our partners and work with them to cultivate opportunities," Norris said.

Port Authorities have property tax exemptions and can own property, which makes partnering with the authority for infrastructure improvements an attractive option.

Port Authorities can also buy property, build, own, rent, lease properties, do physical improvements to public waterways; operate and maintain foreign trade zones, employ, contract, and purchase insurance.

Norris described the group as "city-lite" meaning they have many of the same authorities under state code, they just can't tax property owners within the authority.

Current revenues have come from the authority's political subdivisions and grants from partner groups.

"The board isn't asking for much from members right now, because the partnership with Regional Planning is very complimentary to each other. So we're trying to provide them a benefit from that relationship," Norris said.

"Right now it's more about communication and cultivation of opportunities. What we'll see is when we do hit on that project that utilizes the authority SIRE-PA has under Iowa code, you'll start to see increased budget numbers. We try to keep it very lean and very efficient. For 2019 we requested \$2,000 per member and that's very lean."

Past strategic plans have come from planning grants and contributions from Alliant Energy.

"We're trying to make it easy for founding members to keep SIREPA viable."

The term port authority can be confusing in itself and doesn't require the entity to have access to a water front. Norris said aside from the local port authority, another authority in Mason City is having success helping with natural gas distribution.

A forum at the Tri-State Development Summit in Quincy last fall also addressed the idea of a port authority all along the Mississippi River from Wisconsin to Missouri.

Norris said that designation would be in place to help capture statistics from river traffic to be used to help market the region. "Ports have got to be one of the only things that has 10 different definitions," Norris said.

"That port statistical area is more of a way to group together port tonnage data. It's not a legal incorporated framework. It would be similar to on Hwy 61, if all the towns got together to start this collective traffic counting programming and used that to market the highway".

He said a meeting is being set up for the end of January to get all the port groups in the area together to discuss ideas.

Board members on the Southeast Iowa Regional Economic & Port Authority include: Mike Hickey (vice-chair) and Michael Dunn of Keokuk, Denise Boyer (chair) and Bruce Hardy of Fort Madison, and Bob Dodds and Jack Smith representing Lee County.

Board members serve four-year staggered terms and serve in an advisory capacity.

Non-voting members include Gary Folluo and Rick Larkin from the Lee County Board of Supervisors, and Matt Larson from the Iowa Treasurer's Office.

Chamber moves monthly legislative lunches to River Rocks

CHAMBER - Continued from Page 1

have in Des Moines- and may be cancelled if they are unable to attend.

State legislators invited to attend include State Rep. Jeff Kurtz (D-83rd District), State Rep. Joe Mitchell (R-84th) and State Sen. Rich Taylor (D-42nd).

The Fort Madison Area Chamber of Commerce is an affiliate organization of Fort Madison Partners. Fort Madison Partners is the umbrella organization which oversees the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce, Fort Madison Economic Development and Fort Madison SIRRC.

It serves to facilitate and coordinate efforts, services and resources of each individual organization as well as share strategic goals, working towards the common goal of making Fort Madison a great place to visit, live and work.

Now Accepting New Patients.

Fort Madison Family Dentistry West
Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis Dr. Stephanie Heyland

319-372-4882

4723 Avenue J, Fort Madison

Now serving you with more hours Mon. & Tues., 8-5; Wed. & Thurs., 7:30-4







