



# Pen City Current

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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Above, Darla Farrell, far left, reacts in surprise after her "The Funky Cowgirl" boutique was named MicroBusiness of the Year at Thursday's annual Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce Small Business Breakfast. Dodd Printing's Betsy and Matt Hayes applaud. Below right, Chris Swed of the Fox Theater accepts his plaque for Small Business of the Year from Chamber Coordinator Savanna Collier.

## Riverfront group absorbed by FM Chamber

*Volunteers needed for new set of Chamber committees*

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The recent transformation of the downtown business district is now complete, according to an announcement this morning from Fort Madison Chamber President Eric Van Ausdall.

"Fort Madison Chamber and I are excited to make the announcement that as of this month the Fort Madison Business District and formerly Fort Madison Main Street will no longer exist.

After countless efforts to try and turn the program around, it was decided the programs and events once held by FM Main street and Riverfront Business District will now be executed by the Fort Madison Area Chamber of Commerce.

Van Ausdall said committee have been working for several months to end the so-called competition and to end the identity-crisis each entity was facing.

"This will enable us to ultimately benefit our business community in more ways and work together for the betterment of Fort Madison

He said benefits will include a streamlined form of communication, a wider volunteer base, expansion of in-place events, financial stability, and the ability to pool assets from each entity.

He said the chamber has reorganized to align the missions of both the Chamber and what was the Riverfront Business District, including restructuring committees to engage more people and cover more ground.

Those committees include fundraising, programs, member relations promotions, beautification, and commercial development.

He said the board will also be initiating a new membership drive to encourage those that were previously being served by Fort Madison Main Street.

"We know this is a huge change for our community and organization, but we are looking forward to what we can accomplish together."

Savanna Collier, the Chamber's coordinator said the staff and board is excited about the opportunities the new structure will create and encouraged anyone in the

## Funky Cowgirl, Fox Theater honored

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A funky cowgirl in Fort Madison with more than 100,000 Facebook followers, and the restored Fox Theater in Fort Madison were honored Thursday morning as part of national Small Business Appreciation Week.

The annual Small Business Breakfast put on by the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Huffman Welding & Mfg and Huffman Farm & Home, at Quality Inn & Suites was well attended by more than 100 people.

Chris Swed, of the Fox Theater at 831 Avenue G in downtown Fort Madison, was honored with annual Small Business of the Year Award.

Fox Theater's Chris Swed is presented with the 2019 Small Business of the Year award from Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce Coordinator Savanna Collier Thursday morning at the Chamber's annual Small Business Breakfast. Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

"Thank you so much to everyone who's come down to see a movie, if you haven't, I'm shaming you into coming on down," Swed said.

"My wife and I are so glad to be in this community, she's from here, but I've truly come to know Fort Madison as our home and I couldn't think of a better place



to call our home and raise our daughter," Swed said.

Swed has been part of the Fox Theater since it was rebranded and reopened in March of 2017. The Theater has two sections showing two box-office power-

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## Lee County News/State News

# Iowa gets \$3M dislocated worker grant

DES MOINES - Today, Governor Kim Reynolds and U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta announced a \$3 million Dislocated Worker Grant (DWG) for Iowa, which will provide funding to create temporary employment opportunities to assist with flood clean-up and recovery efforts. These grants are awarded to areas impacted by the disaster that have been declared eligible for public assistance by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The bulk of the funding will be used to pay wages to the temporary workers.

"Having an integrated and regional long-term flood recovery plan that includes state, local, and federal coordination is crucial for moving forward," said Gov. Reynolds. "I sincerely appreciate this administration's timely response to severe flooding in Iowa and their willingness to provide temporarily displaced workers with a way to make ends meet. Iowans are resilient, strong, and determined to come back from this disaster stronger than ever."

"This grant will allow dislocated Iowa workers to earn a pay check while engaged in activities that benefit community clean up efforts," said Director of Iowa Workforce Development Beth Townsend. "It is the proverbial win/win and we are grateful the US Department of Labor acted so quickly and awarded the full amount requested."

On March 12, 2019, Iowa was hit with a major storm system described as a "bomb cyclone" which brought a deluge of rain and melting snow resulting in historic flooding. On March 21st, Governor Kim Reynolds submitted a formal request to President Donald Trump to approve an expedited Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for Iowa. On Saturday, March 23, 2019, the President approved the major disaster declaration (DR-4421), which included 56 counties in Category A. Flood waters caused significant damage to numerous roads, bridges, public buildings, parks, homes, and local businesses.

# Chamber puts business district in committee

**CHAMBER** - Continued from Page 1

community with a passion or connection to any of the committees to come forward.

"We're going to be actively looking for people to help serve on these important committees," she said

The Beautification committee will get a bump in fundraising at the outset as about \$12,000 from the former Riverfront Business District will go into the committee's budget, but those funds will be earmarked

for downtown beautification. Any additional funds that are raised for that committee in the future will be used community wide.

"That will probably be an application process throughout the year, where people can apply for assistance with beautification efforts anywhere in the community," she said.

"We're just really excited about this new chapter for the downtown, the Chamber and the community as a

whole. We've already been moving around downtown and talking with people and the reactions have been very positive. It's kind of like we're going to back to what was like many years ago."

The business district was under the Iowa Main Street flag for the past 15 years, but dropped the designation in January of this year, reverting back to the former Riverfront Business District.

# Sheriff's dept. seeks man for robbery

*Weber says man should be considered dangerous*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - The Lee County Sheriff's Department is asking for the public's help in locating an area man charged with 1st degree robbery and burglary associated with an alleged theft of a vehicle this morning.



STARK

Sheriff Stacy Weber said the department is looking for Skyler Stark, 32 of Montrose, who's been known to frequent residences in Montrose, Donnellson and Iowa City. Weber said he doesn't know if Stark is armed or not,

but said the public should consider him dangerous.

His last known whereabouts were at 223rd Avenue and 320th Street in rural Montrose at about 2:50 a.m. Thursday morning.

"We think he stole a car on Ambrosia Lane, a white oldsmobile with a 'In Memory of Scott Bryant' sticker," Weber said this afternoon.

"We need to get this guy in custody."

A deputy has recognized Stark in a vehicle earlier this morning and when the deputy pulled up close to run the plates, he was able to identify Stark who then took off leading deputies on a chase through the gravel roads near Ambrosia Lane and wrecked the vehicle before exiting and taking off on foot.

"We've all been out this morning looking for him since about 3 a.m.," Weber said.

Starks is described a white male approximately 6 feet tall with brown hair. Anyone with information on Stark's whereabouts is directed to call 911 or the sheriff's department at 372-1152.

Weber said all residents should check to make sure they lock their vehicles and to report anyone walking on gravel roads or suspicious cars coming into the area.

Weber also said anyone found to be harboring Starks will be prosecuted.

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## 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

**FRI 10 May** Partly Cloudy  
High- 57.2° F | Low - 46.9° F

**SAT 11 May** Light Rain  
High- 61.3° F | Low - 49.9° F

**SUN 12 May** Moderate Rain  
High- 58.9° F | Low - 48.9° F

**MON 13 May** Light Rain  
High- 57.5° F | Low - 49.2° F

**TUE 14 May** Clear  
High- 69.0° F | Low - 57.1° F

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**Charles Vandenberg, Editor**  
(319).371.1670  
editor@pencitycurrent.com

**Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager**  
(319).371.4125  
sales@pencitycurrent.com

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## Sports/Lottery Numbers

# Fishing picking up as flood waters recede into banks

DES MOINES - This is the updated fishing report for southeast Iowa waterways from the Department of Natural Resources

### Big Hollow Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: Early in the week, anglers were picking up a few crappies around the trees and brush piles in 3 to 4 feet of water. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Anglers that were willing to push back into the backs of the bays with flooded timber, were catching some pretty decent bass on plastic worms.

### Lake Belva Deer

The lake has returned to its normal level; water clarity is much improved at 8 feet. Water temperature was 62 degrees on Monday. Black Crappie - Slow: Crappie fishing was slow earlier this week. Very little angler pressure during the middle of this week. Largemouth Bass - Slow: A few bass came back in shallow earlier this week as the water temperatures warmed up.

### Lake Darling

The water temperature warmed to 64 degrees on Monday. The water clarity remains at around 2 1/2 feet. Black Crappie - Fair: Crappie fishing was very slow over the weekend with the crappies in 12 feet of water near the bottom. It picked up a little bit on Monday with fish moving to 4 to 5 feet of water and a few coming in shallower. Very little angler pressure the last couple of days.

### Lost Grove Lake

The lake is running about 2 feet above normal pool, but is dropping. Water clarity isn't terrible, but isn't as clear as normal. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Anglers were catching good numbers of bass in the shallows around the flooded trees over the weekend. Black Crappie - Slow: Crappie were starting to come in shallow.

For more information on the above lake, call the Lake Darling Fisheries Office at 319-694-2430.

### Coralville Reservoir

The lake level is 684 feet as of May 9. It is slowly falling until it reaches 683 feet, where it will stay for summer pool. Channel Catfish - Slow. Black Crappie - Slow.

### Diamond Lake

Black Crappie - Good: Tube jigs or jigs tipped with worms work best. Try around the jetties and shallow brush. Most fish are around 9 inches. Bluegill - Fair: Anglers are starting to pick up some bluegills; fish up to 8 inches have been reported.

### Green Castle Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Catch fish up to 9 inches. Black Crappie - Fair: Most fish are 8-10 inches.

### Hannen Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: The bite slowed a bit this week, but most fish are 10-13 inches. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Most fish are smaller.

### Iowa Lake (Iowa Co.)

Black Crappie - Fair: Some fish are still suspended out deeper, while some move in shallow on warmer days. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Some nicer fish were caught this week. Bluegill - Fair: Anglers are catching some fish on deeper brush piles, as well as some near shore.

### Iowa River (Marshalltown to Coralville Lake)

Channel Catfish - Fair: Cut bait is working well.

### Lake Macbride

Water temperatures are in the upper 50's. Water clarity is good. All motors may be used at no wake speed at this time. The fish cleaning stations are open. Walleye - Fair: Some fish are shallow, while others are still out deeper. The shallow bite should improve as water temperatures warm. Black Crappie - Fair: Fish are starting to move shallower. They are not on the bank, but are by shallower brush and staging just off the bank. Nice 10-13 inch crappie are available. Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass) - Fair: Wipers are starting to move shallower and chase bait and lures. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Quite a few bass are in the shallows.

### Otter Creek Lake

Bluegill - Fair. Yellow Bass - Fair.

### Pleasant Creek Lake

The lake is full. Water temperatures are in the upper 50's. There is a lot of terrestrial vegetation in the shallows that established during the low water period. Walleye - Fair: Most



## IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

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| Mega Millions®              | Tues & Fri | 8:59 pm           | 10:00 pm             |
| Powerball®                  | Wed & Sat  | 8:59 pm           | 9:59 pm              |
| Lotto America <sup>SM</sup> | Wed & Sat  | 8:59 pm           | 10:00 pm             |
| Pick 3 - Midday             | Daily      | Noon              | 12:20 pm             |
| Pick 3 - Evening            | Daily      | 9:40 pm           | 10:00 pm             |
| Pick 4 - Midday             | Daily      | Noon              | 12:20 pm             |
| Pick 4 - Evening            | Daily      | 9:40 pm           | 10:00 pm             |



5/8

1 45 53 64 66  
Powerball: 3  
Power Play: 3



5/8

14 17 19 25 34  
Star Ball: 4  
All Star Bonus: 5



5/8 MID-DAY  
9 2 3  
5/8 EVENING  
9 0 3



5/8 MID-DAY  
5 3 1 8  
5/8 EVENING  
8 2 4 7

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**Dr. Amy Huber's presentation on CBD Oil has been rescheduled for Tuesday, May 28 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.**

## Sports

## Grayhounds too much for HTC

BY PCC STAFF

BURLINGTON – Sophomore Claire Pothitakis and junior Ashlynn Haas each scored Thursday night at Bracewell Stadium, but the two goals weren't enough to subdue the Grayhounds as HTC fell 3-2.

Holy Trinity falls to 9-5 and have lost three of their last five, in part due to injuries sidelining three starters, Mya Lawlor, Maille Sheerin and Elyse Pothitakis.

The Grayhounds scored first when HTC committed a defensive error and lost track of a Burlington striker, but came back to tie it at 1 all when Claire Pothitakis hit on a cross assist from senior Taylor Boeding.

Burlington would retake the lead quickly, but then Haas scored on a shot from about six yards outside the box into the top of the net above the keepers head to tie it up at 2 each going into the second half.

HTC kept the ball on offense most of the second half forcing the Hounds into a defensive posture until the hosts were able to break away on a run with only minutes left to play to take a 3-2 lead.

"Overall it was a great performance where we were outscored due to personal errors," head coach Michael Sheerin said.

"But hey, we are on the mend hoping to bring back our two starters to get us to full strength for the remainder of the season and into state qualifying matches," he said.

Sheerin also eluded to a possible different post-season path than past years, where HTC has run up against perennial state champion Davenport Assumption early on, which could open the door to a further run in post season play, if the squad stays healthy.

**FISHING REPORT** - Continued from Page 1

action is in the shallows towards evening and after dark. Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass) - Fair: Look for schools of fish towards sunset.

**Prairie Park Fishery**

2000 trout were released here on April 20. You must have a fishing license and a pay the trout fee to fish for and/or possess trout. Rainbow Trout - Fair. Black Crappie - Fair.

**Rodgers Park Lake**

Bluegill - Fair: Some decent fish were caught this week.

**Sand Lake**

This lake is in Marshalltown. 2000 trout were released here on April 20. You must have a fishing license and a pay the trout fee to fish for and/or possess trout. Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass) - Fair: Most fish are 14-16 inches. Jigs and other artificials are working, if you can find a school. Rainbow Trout - Fair.

Black Crappie - Fair: Try jigs or minnows around brush or near shore. Many fish are around 10 inches.

## Wade, Wolters finish 13th at 3A golf sectional

BY PCC STAFF

BURLINGTON – Fort Madison's Tommy Wade and Keokuk's Alex Wolter each shot 89s to tie for 13th at the Iowa Class 3A sections held at Flint Hills in Burlington Thursday.

Mt. Pleasant's Trace White and Notre Dame/West Burlington's Matt Briggs tied for medalist honors with a couple of 3-over par 74s. White had three stroke lead after shooting even par on the front nine to Briggs' 39, but Briggs returned the favor coming in with an even par 35.

Mt. Pleasant also ran away with the team title with a 318 combined top four Panthers. Fort Madison finished 6th in team scoring with a 386 and Keokuk finished seventh with a 392.

Blake Algrim carded a 97 and Tyler Wade added a 99 for Fort Madison. Logan Rashid shot a 101 to round out the scorers for FMHS. Brandon Keester shot a 111 and Seth Mendez hit a 118 for the Hounds.

Tommy Wade birdied the par-3 8th hole that is all water to a dropped green.

For the Chiefs, Luke Davis shot a 91 and Jordan Sisk carded a 98, while Nick Profetta shot a 114 to round out the scoring for Keokuk. Zach Myers shot a 117 and Nathan Koerber shot a 138.

## Bloodhound boys fall to .500

BY PCC STAFF

FAIRFIELD – The Fort Madison Bloodhound boys soccer team is even on the year at 7-7 with a 2-1 loss to Fairfield on a chili Thursday evening.

Javier Trejo put up a shutout in the second half as neither team could put the ball in the net in the final 40 minutes.

Fairfield scored at the 15 and 31-minute marks of the first half on Justin Bowker, before Austin Sexton slid a penalty kick with 2:30 left in the first period

to set the score at 2-1.

The loss also drops the Hounds to 5-3 in Southeast Conference play, as they host Burlington for a non-conference matchup Friday night. Fairfield is now a game and half up on FMHS at 8-5, but holds a 5-1 conference record. Mt. Pleasant holds the top spot at 10-4 overall on the year and 6-2 in loop action.

Bowker had three saves in the first half, while Trejo had three in the second period.

The boys also lost the junior varsity game 4-0



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## From the Front

# Winners both working to create better downtown

**WINNERS** - Continued from Page 1

house movies throughout the week and is regularly involved in charitable giving allowing non-profit groups to build events around showings. He also runs an independent coffee company Swed & Co. Coffee from the location.

An excerpt from the nomination submitted for the Theater said it's quickly become a focal point of the downtown district.

"Upon taking ownership, major renovations started happening to ensure the building was ready for the patrons. They have done a fantastic job of keeping this business a success by showing the latest cinema with affordable fare and concessions. The managers have played an active role in the downtown district improvement discussions and has opened up his coffee business to contribute to downtown events."

Other nominees for the award included Kathy, Adam and Julie Hohl of Harvestville Farms, and Chase and Jennifer Gibb of Buffalo61 Bar and Grille.

Darla Farrell, owner of The Funky Cowgirl at 707 Avenue G in Fort Madison was honored with the MicroBusiness of the Year.

Farrell has a tremendous social media following with several facilities in Iowa and other states and has a large online sales following, as well as a mobile boutique.

Farrell said she loves Fort Madison's downtown and believes in the future of the district.

"I want to thank you for supporting me in this community. I just want you to know that I love downtown Fort Madison and that's why I get involved in so many things down there," Farrell said.

She said one of the newest events downtown is the Downtown Summer Market that's being created with more than 50 vendors that will be in the downtown area on Thursdays this summer.

As part of her nomination, Farrell was noted for restoring her building and being a part of the district more than 15 years.

"As a downtown property owner, this person has restored their building to its original beauty. This boutique has been a staple in Fort Madison since 2003 and travels throughout the Midwest with a large mobile boutique on wheels. The boutique has been a vendor at the Tri-State Rodeo for 10 years and has quite the following with a huge online presence and over 100,000 followers on Facebook. The owner has participated quite a bit in downtown and community activities having served as the Vice President of Fort Madison Main Street, past chairs for many events, and makes contributions to a variety of charities and events."

Other nominees included Dodd Printing & Stationery and Pen City Current.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

## Small Business nominees

From left to right Kathy, Adam, and Julie Hohl of Harvestville Farms, Chase Gibb of Buffalo61 Bar and Grille, and Chris Swed of Fort Madison's Fox Theater were all nominated for Small Business of the year.



Photo by Ethan Lillard/PCC

## Micro Business nominees

From left to right, Darla Farrell of The Funky Cowgirl, Betsy and Matt Hayes of Dodd Printing, and Chuck Vandenberg of Pen City Current, were nominated for the MicroBusiness of the Year at Thursday's Small Business Breakfast.

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### DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

**BENEFITS:** This position includes a competitive and comprehensive benefits package that includes IP-ERS, paid personal/sick leave and medical/dental/vision insurance

**HOURS:** 261 days

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Bachelor's degree preferred
- Minimum of 5 years experience in maintenance or operations related field
- Experience in a school district preferred
- Valid driver's license
- Demonstrated ability to work independently
- Demonstrated ability to effectively supervise others

**REQUIREMENTS:** The Director of Operations shall be responsible for maintaining the physical school plant and grounds in condition of operating excellence at all times

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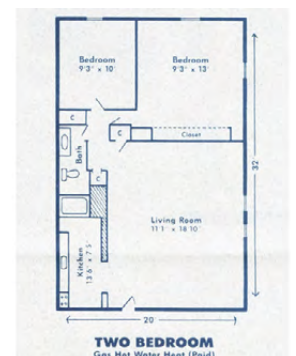
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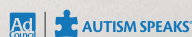
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