



Pen City Current

Monday, April 3, 2017 | 6 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 89

Plans taking shape for Hesse Marketplace

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - With the purchase of the Hesse building on the books, Jimmy and Hitomi Wendorf are now unveiling plans for the first floor retail sections and those plans include some very unique ideas that should help to pump even more life into the Main Street district.

Tacos...Tacos...Tacos

As just part of what the Wendorfs are calling the Hesse Marketplace, the couple is planning on opening a six-day-a-week seasonal taco patio on the screened-in porch of the building called Tacos, Tacos, Tacos.

Jimmy Wendorf said hours for the concept aren't finalized but he and Hitomi are looking at something like 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Friday and Saturday they would serve 11 to 7 p.m. He said the hours of

operation are still fluid and so are the offerings.

"It'll be a Caribbean theme taco concept with different kinds of tacos, from barbecue to fish and that will change. You might even come in and find a crawfish taco," he said. "We'll have some Mexican beers on hand too."

The Wendorfs closed on the Hesse building in March and went to work on how to bring a market feel to the building while keeping the historical charm. Jimmy said he will hang a sign that has the word Hesse on it to bring that history back to the northeast corner of Seventh and G.

sip. (n.) a coffee and wine bistro

Holly Frary, owner and operator of "sip. (n.) a coffee and wine bistro" on the east side of the square in Mt. Pleasant next to the Chamber announced Saturday that she will be a part of the new marketplace venture.

Frary's sip. has been



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Plans underway

The Hesse building at the corner of Seventh and Avenue G will be the site of the Hesse Marketplace this summer. Jimmy and Hitomi Wendorf purchased the building in March and have announced tentative plans for retail space on the first floor.

open for almost two years in Mt. Pleasant and she is hoping for a June 1 opening to coordinate with her second anniversary on the square.

"We are a full service coffee and espresso bar," Frary said. "We have all sorts of coffee drinks and non-caffeine offerings, as well."

She said the bistro will

offer breakfast and lunch bistro type food items made with fresh and "semi-healthy" ingredients and then will switch to small plate foods to go along with wine and craft beer offerings in the later afternoons.

"We want people to come in and take a load off," Frary said. "They should just feel good

about coming in and relaxing. I want to be able to offer the folks a nice place to just come and relax by themselves or with friends. In Mt. Pleasant you come and stay as long as you like. It's a gathering spot."

The wine will be sold by the glass, not the bottle,

See **MARKET**, page 2

2018 election cycle should start sooner

I was getting caught up on my reading Sunday morning while having the scanner and Meet the Press going on in the background. I can multitask.

A wave came over me at about 8:10 this morning that politics has never been more prominent in our daily lives as it is right now. The GOP controls government at the federal level and in Iowa, among other states in the Union.

The Trump administration is seeing that running the country is more than saying whatever you

want and cleaning it up later. It's starting to realize that words have consequences



C. VANDENBERG

and the country was swept up by this atypical man who wants to 'Make America Great Again'. I, like a good portion of Americans watched with mouth agape as Trump won state after state. My daughter called from New York City.

"What's going on Dad!?", "He can't win this?"

I typically watch politics play out. We do, after all, live in a Democratic Republic. It's not oxymoronic, it's real. We get who we get and those people draft our laws and guide our country financially, militarily, and socially. We get them through an election, but our voices are in

See **CAMPAIGN**, page 3

Pen City Cruisers to move show to Baxter Sports Complex

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The annual Pen City Cruisers' Car Show will have a new home this year.

The annual rain or shine event will be held this year at the Baxter Sports Complex parking lot at 909 48th Street on Saturday, May 6.

The annual event is more than just cars, trucks, and hot rods as organizers Jerry and Kim

Krogmeier, and John Emmett have planned door prizes, music, food and drink, some games and a 50/50 drawing to go along with awards, including the Pen City Cruisers' Choice, Veterans, & Young Guns under 21, the Rick Jr. & Chandler Berry Memorial Award, and top 20 awards.

On-site registration takes place from 9 a.m. to noon with voting taking place from noon to 2 p.m.



and awards presented at 3 p.m.

Goodie bags and dash plaques will be given to

the first 75 entries.

Entries received before April 30 will receive a chance to win \$25 cash

and will be entered for \$10. Entrants can also register the day of the show for \$15.

Entries can be sent to 2254 220th Street in Donnellson, Ia 52625. For more information, contact Jerry at 319-470-0761 or John Emmett at 319-470-8009 or by email at pencitycruisers@gmail.com.

No alcohol is allowed at the event.

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From the Front/Local News

Local favorites taking part in Hesse Marketplace

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and the craft beers will be sold by the bottles and a lot will be from crafters and wineries not so familiar to the area.

“These come from small family-owned vineyards in the pacific northwest and France.”

She said her hours of operation in Fort Madison are also still up in the air, but people who want to get an early impression of what’s going on can visit the Mt. Pleasant facility from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m to 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. She is closed on Sunday.

Frary said she has been approached about coming to Fort Madison for some time, but nothing ever felt right.

“When Jimmy came to me with this whole concept of a Hesse Marketplace, he had me,” Frary said. “Nothing ever felt right and then he calls me out of the blue and proposes this concept to me and I got excited instantly. It’s an amazing concept and hopefully it can help re-energize the downtown area with all the businesses going in there.”

The concept comes on the heels of the Eisentrauts reopening the Fox Theater just two blocks down the street and traffic seeing significant growth during the later evening hours in the Main Street area.

Harvestville Farms coming to Main Street

A local favorite will be adding to their presence

in Lee County.

Julie and Adam Hohl will open an offshoot of their Harvestville Farm business as part of the venture.

“Our store in Fort Madison will consist of a combination of Home Décor, a selection of fresh veggies and in-season fruits, our popular jams, jellies, pickles, relishes and salsas, local honey and maple syrup, along with some fresh baked goods,” said Julie Hohl of Harvestville Farm, another local iconic favorite.

“We are also excited to be possibly adding Iowa Wine and Iowa Beers, as well. We are currently still working through the logistics. We are very excited to be providing these options to the citizens of Fort Madison. We realize that our farm is a bit of a jaunt for customers to travel to during the week, especially for a customer just wanting some fresh produce or a quick gift item. By coming to Downtown Fort Madison, we will be able to serve those customers in a much easier fashion. We are currently finalizing our exact hours but plan to be open Monday to Saturday and closed on Sundays,” Hohl said.

Hohl said as much as it was a good business opportunity, her family and staff is also excited to be a part of helping add to the downtown Fort Madison offerings.

“We are excited to be opening a location in downtown Fort Madison. Fort Madison has been

“*Fort Madison’s Main Street district and downtown area has a great deal of history and potential. We want to be a part of that growth.*”

-Julie Hohl
Harvestville Farms

very supportive to us over the past twelve years and this unique opportunity provided us with the chance to give back to the community and be part of the revitalization of downtown Fort Madison,” she said.

“Fort Madison’s Main Street District and downtown area has a great deal of history and potential. We want to be a part of that growth. We want customers to come and stay for an afternoon in Fort Madison and enjoy all that it has to offer.”

The Wendorfs and Harvestville Farm are familiar business partners.

“We have been very fortunate in knowing Hitomi and Jimmy over the past few years and have enjoyed partnering with them for our popular Mother’s Day Brunch the past two years,” Hohl said. “We share a lot of the same values and passion when it comes to



providing a service and experience to our customers. We have both started our businesses from the ground up and are familiar to growing our business based on customers’ wants and needs.”

Holistic help is coming

Lara Haas, a local holistic healing expert, has also agreed to be a part of the new marketplace.

Haas will go in where the Artisan shop was on the north side of the building on Seventh Street. She said she wants to create some space where people can be inspired and provide some natural products to help them get in sync with their souls.

“I have a little work to do in my mind,” Haas said. “I’ve been on a journey myself for the past few years and as I

did that I realized that I wanted to help people with their journey, too. I want to provide a space where I can teach some classes and help people feel better.”

Hours haven’t been defined as Haas said there is still a lot that will come together as the next couple of months pass, but she said it wouldn’t necessarily be by appointment as she wants people to feel they can stop in anytime she’s there. She did say she would have daytime hours for probably four days a week.

“Knowing that I can feel better in my own life and that I could get better, this is my journey and I want to do some sessions there and help be their guide,” she said.

When she was approached about being a part of the marketplace she reacted like others in the group have.

Coming to Main Street

Adam and Julie Hohl will be opening a space in the new Hesse Marketplace. The Hohls are hoping to coordinate the opening with the opening of their season at the Harvestville Farm on Hwy 2 west of Fort Madison.

“You know, I said, ‘This is it. I gotta do this and get more out in the community,’” Haas said. “It just feels right.”

The front part of the space will eventually be used for retail space with books, skin products, and other items of inspiration, but Haas said classes can be held for people who want to start improving the journeys in life, but also she would open the space for others to teach their own lessons.

“I want it to be a place of inspiration...meditation. I would even make the offer for other people to come in and let them teach about their lessons and journeys.”

Wendorf said Sugar Lumps, a bakery currently located on the west of end of Fort Madison, will also be joining the Marketplace with baked good to complete the marketplace feel.

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From the Front/For the Record

GOP conduct should result in earlier campaign season

CAMPAIGN - Continued from Page 1

deference to the people we elect. We just hope they are working in our best interest and, in theory, if they aren't they risk re-election.

It doesn't always work out that way, but as they saying goes, it may not be the best system, but it's our system. We've done ok as far as hegemon standards go.

But the state level is a different horse this year. Governor Terry Branstad is clearly on his way to China and we have a Senate and House that are GOP dominated. And we've seen this year how powerful that scenario can be. On Thursday, Branstad signed a bill eliminating local governments' ability to set a different minimum wage than the state. That is just a part of what could fairly be said are a series of new laws that broadly sweep away our ability to think and act for ourselves including changes in worker's compensation laws very eerily specific to repetitive shoulder injuries and reducing benefits for those injuries in lieu of a two-year retraining benefit at a local community college.

Not that it's not good to get people back to work - that makes sense, but the push for the change was from meat packing companies who had been paying out on the injuries because people were doing jobs for them that specifically caused the injuries.

All these changes, and potential changes to the Iowa Public Employees Retirement System, have done one thing for sure. Energize the other side. Democrats are ringing the bells of their constituents in a "Are you seeing all of this?" Senators and Republicans alike on the Democrat side of the aisle are posting emails and using social media to shine a very bright light on what is going on in the Capitol Building in Des Moines.

Social media is becoming a strong weapon for legislators to post videos of hearings, speeches, even messaging to their constituents through self videos.

All this increasing second-to-second newscycle keeps politics in the forefront of people in their spare time because that time is spent on our phones where everyone is bombarding our senses with news and information.

The current climate should extend the political campaign season and with emotions as high as they are, savvy Democrats are going to keep the fire burning as they plan to take back control of the Iowa legislature. And when the legislative session ends there could be a rush of Iowans forming exploratory committees and that's a good thing.

Let the campaigning begin. Most Iowans aren't over the shock of the last campaign, but things have happened so quickly. The dark side is that a lot of this movement, even from what is supposed to an objective perch of the media, has been done in a way that reduces discourse and that flies in the face of what we're supposed to be doing here.

Granted, eventually decisions have to be made and we all know that things can get 'talked' to death and movement must at some point take place. But this has been something different. Something a little...scary even.

So let the cards fall where they fall. We might as well take the opportunity to sniff out the very best of candidates.

Let the sandwich lunches and chicken dinners begin....but that's Beside the Point.



For the Record

Fort Madison Police Department Report

03/30/17 - 6:53 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 3000 block of Avenue E.
 03/30/17 - 7:01 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary.
 03/30/17 - 8:21 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a gas drive off in the 1500 block of Avenue H.
 03/30/17 - 8:21 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2700 block of Avenue J.
 03/30/17 - 8:22 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2000 block of Avenue M.

03/30/17 - 10:00 a.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Fiona Ann Macken, 52 of Fort Madison for 3rd degree theft. She was released with a court date.
 03/30/17 - 10:16 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1900 block of Avenue L.
 03/30/17 - 3:01 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of burglary in the 2900 block of Avenue I.
 03/30/17 - 3:22 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 3400 block of Avenue G.
 03/30/17 - 6:48 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 200 block of 26th Street.
 03/30/17 - 7:39 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded

to a report of vandalism in the 2700 block of Avenue J.

Fort Madison Fire Department Report

03/30/17 - Fort Madison Fire Department responded to one medical call, two assists and a solvent spill.
 03/31/17 - Fort Madison Fire Department responded to four medical calls.
 04/01/17 - Fort Madison Fire Department responded to one alarm, one report of a gas smell, four medical calls and one burn complaint

All persons in these listings are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



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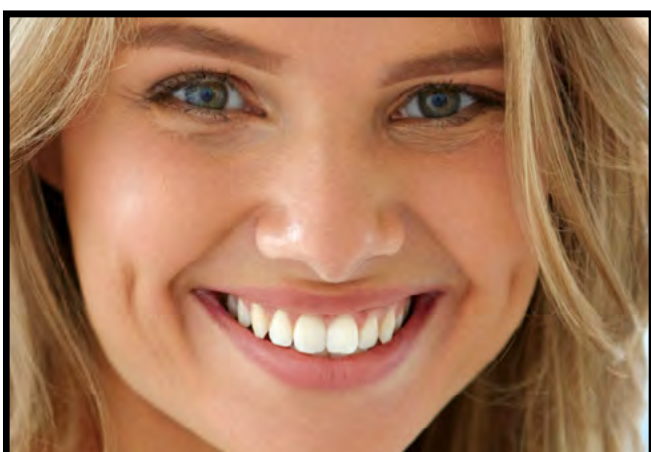


Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



More Saturday soccer

Top left, FMHS' Audrae Vicent (10) dribbles in the defense of HTC's Adam Rauenbuehler (14), top right HTC's Wyatt Hellman and FMHS' Austin Sexton battle for a ball. At left FMHS' AJ Nolting tries to steal from a Central Lee player while below the Crusaders' Josh Pieper moves the ball against Sexton in the first match of the day.



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**Pen City Current will not publish
its digital e-Edition
on Easter Sunday, April 16
& Monday, April 17
in order to enjoy the holiday
with our families.**

*However, any breaking news
will continue to be posted
to our website at pencitycurrent.com.*

**We wish you & yours
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**Pen City
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Listing #20164597 • \$29,900



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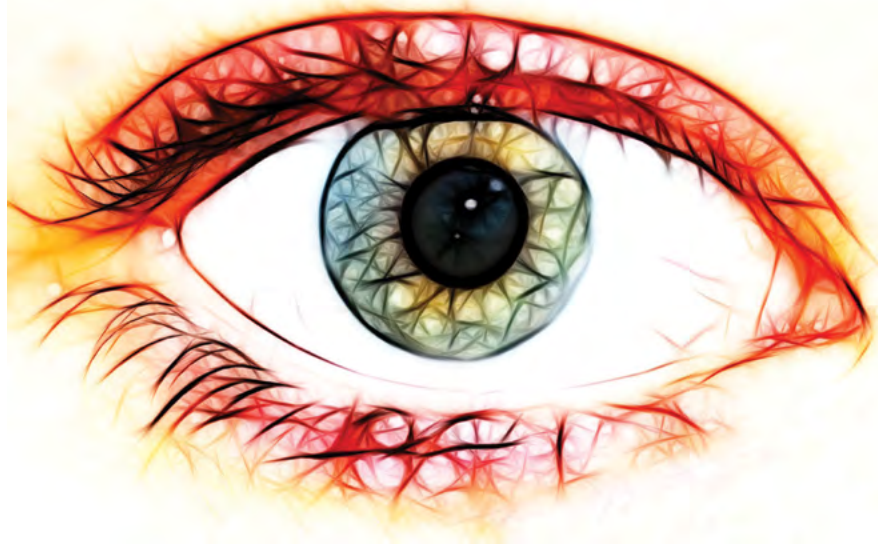
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