



Pen City Current

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Four decades is enough

Ernie Steffensmeier to retire as Lee County Engineer

BY CHUCK
VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

With more than 42 years under his belt, Lee County Engineer Ernie Steffensmeier will be stepping away from his position on Dec. 28. A reception is being held.

be at three when the 65-year-old Steffensmeier leaves on Dec. 28th, but he said he thinks the county will replace those and get back to a staff of five. He said when he came on board in the late 70s they had a staff of seven.

"We needed extra people back then because it took two people to hold a steel tape when we're surveying and planning work," he said. "Now you can do that work using GPS technology and it doesn't take as many people."

He said a couple years after he arrived, the staff was reduced to six and now they operate with a staff of five.

He's also seen the budget for county engineering just about double since

1976 from \$3 million to roughly \$6 million. Steffensmeier said legislative changes have also resulted in more federal money being available for some of the work that the county and state used to pay for, especially for road safety and bridge work.

"When the legislature started collecting a gas tax, there was a portion that went to the state and some that went to the counties and a portion went to the cities, and there was a portion that went to roads between cities that were labeled Farm-to-Market roads that ran to rural areas and to elevators and barge terminals."

In addition to minor staffing changes and budgetary changes, Steffensmeier said technology is

something that has been consistently changing since he came back to Lee County.

After graduating from Fort Madison High School, Steffensmeier went where most students pursuing an engineering degree in Iowa went... Iowa State University. After graduating in the spring of 1976, Steffensmeier went to work in Iowa County near the Amana Colonies and then, when a position opened up back in Lee County about five months later, he applied, was hired, and came back home. When he first started, he was the assistant engineer under Tom Nelson, before Dennis Osipowicz took over.

See **RETIRED**, page 2

IFC donates \$10K to food pantries

PCC STAFF

WEVER – For the second consecutive year, Iowa Fertilizer Company and its employees are donating thousands of dollars to the St. Vincent's De Paul Food Pantry in Burlington and the Lee County Food Pantry in Fort Madison.

Through employee donations and the company's matching contribution, \$10,000 will be split between the two organizations to help better ensure families in southeast Iowa have access to food and other supplies this holiday season.

"Iowa Fertilizer Company and our employees are committed to supporting organizations that are driving community improvement efforts throughout the region," said Darrell Allman, Iowa Fertilizer Company's Managing Director. "I would like to thank our team members for generously donating to the food pantries in Burlington and Fort Madison and encourage our entire community to continue supporting local charitable efforts that enhance the lives of those in need."

To help raise money for the donation, eleven Iowa Fertilizer Company employees worked with nearly 50 local vendors and contractors to secure items for a silent auction. The employees included: Matthew Baumert, Kathy Dye, Lori Greene, Eric Greene, Jill Lenahan, Diane Kaltefleiter, Larry Rasmussen, Katy Salvador, Jim Uppena, Hugh Vandegriff, and Mike Wendland. Businesses that donated were from both Lee and Des Moines counties.

Iowa Fertilizer Company is a leader in the fertilizer industry. The plant in Wever, Iowa, is the first green-field nitrogen fertilizer facility constructed in the United States in more than 25 years.



IFC employees present Lin Cramer, center, with a check for \$5,000 for food at the Fort Madison Food Pantry.

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For the Record/From the Front

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

12/12/18 - 1:55 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2000 block of Avenue B.
 12/12/18 - 7:21 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Tyler Mitchell Lees, 33, of West Burlington, in the 1500 block of Avenue D on a charge of violation of a no contact order and interference with official acts. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 12/12/18 - 7:21 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Amanda Marie Sutton, 34, of Fort Madison, in the 1500 block of Avenue D, on a charge of violation of a no contact order and interference with official acts. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 12/13/18 - 9:51 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1100 block of Avenue D.
 12/13/18 - 12:22 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Jason Paul Thurman, 39, of Fort

Madison in the 2800 block of Avenue K, on a warrant for two counts of controlled substance violations and failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 12/13/18 - 12:54 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1100 block of Avenue F.
 12/13/18 - 4:45 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2300 block of Avenue L.
 12/13/18 - 4:45 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2700 block of Avenue L.
 12/13/18 - 8:06 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 600 block of 5th Street.
 12/14/18 - 6:45 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1400 block of Avenue D.
 12/15/18 - 2:17 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Quinlan Travis Lozano, 20, of Fort Madison, in the 2500 block of

Avenue A on a charge of public intoxication. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 12/15/18 - 12:17 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 3100 block of Avenue O.
 12/15/18 - 4:43 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1700 block of Avenue H.
 12/15/18 - 5:23 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Kimberly Michelle Brewer, 38, of Fort Madison in the 3000 block of Avenue P, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 12/15/18 - 11:08 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1100 block of Avenue C.
 12/16/18 - 12:29 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 200 block of 24th Street.
 12/16/18 - 7:03 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Troy Castulo Gonzalez, 39, of Burlington, in the 400 block of 7th Street on two Lee County warrants, a Des Moines

County warrant and a charge of driving while barred.
 12/16/18 - 11:27 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 2600 block of Avenue D.
 12/16/18 - 2:24 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 900 block of Avenue C.
 12/16/18 - 11:10 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1200 block of Avenue H.
 12/17/18 - 5:06 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Erica Ann Boudreau, 28, of Fort Madison, in the 2000 block of Avenue D, on a charge of driving while barred. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 12/17/18 - 5:21 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Jacob Lee Tapp, 34, of Fort Madison in the 2000 block of Avenue D on a warrant for criminal mischief. He was taken to the Des Moines County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff's Report
 12/13/18 - 2:43 p.m. - Lee

County Sheriff's deputies arrested a 14-year-old juvenile male, of Farmington, at the sheriff's office on two charges of 1st-degree harassment, one charge of terrorism and one charge of exhibiting obscene material. He was taken to the Southeast Iowa Juvenile Detention Center and held pending court.
 12/13/18 - 6:46 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Nathan Daniel Huffman, 33, of Warsaw, Ill., in the 3300 block of Main Street in Keokuk, on a warrant for a controlled substance violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 12/15/18 - 6:41 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a semi-trailer on fire in the 2900 block of Hwy. 27. Upon arrival, deputies found the semi fully engulfed on the southbound right shoulder. The driver of the vehicle, Stephen Wesley Hardin, 57, of Florissant, Mo., said he was flagged down by a passing motorist who told him his back tire was on fire. Hardin tried to put out the fire with an

extinguisher, but couldn't do so and firefighters were called to the scene. No injuries or citations were issued at the scene.
 12/15/18 - 11:43 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one vehicle accident on Peach Orchard Road. A vehicle with no driver was discovered in a ditch on a curve in the road. The driver fled the scene and the vehicle's left rear tire broke from the axle on impact. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report
 12/14/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls,
 12/15/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls,
 12/16/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls, two brush fires, two hazardous material calls, one smoke alarm.

Steffensmeier says county in good shape

RETIRED - Continued from Page 1

Osipowicz stepped down in 2008.

He said his first year at ISU, instruction was still done with a slide rule, or a ruler with a sliding strip, marked with logarithmic scales and used for making rapid calculations, especially multiplication and division.

"My first year in college, they still had the slide rules and by the time I was a sophomore, Hewlett-Packard and Texas Instruments came out with the first-hand held calculators.

"By the time I got out of college, you'd better have had a calculator in

your hands or you were gonna fall behind," he said. "When I first got into the career field we used to measure and do our surveying with a transit and a steel tape. Now everything is done with GPS and you don't have to cut down trees, you just go right around them," he said.

He said newer technology has made surveying and county planning a lot easier.

"You have computers now that you can do design with and make changes very quickly. In the old days you had to stop and figure out the

end area and the amount of dirt you had to move. Now it's all electronic, you just move the line and it recalculates everything."

He said computers also help with determining flow of water in culverts, where you punch in data on watershed and cultivated ground and the programs determine water flow for the best use and style of culverts to use in rural areas. Inspection work is done on Ipad that are carried around with staff. Information is put into the Ipad in the field and then downloaded to computers back at the office.

Steffensmeier said the maturation of GPS technology has also been helpful, but costly.

"We bought a total station GPS in Lee County about four or five years ago at a cost of \$70,000 and they told me at the time, after seven years they wouldn't be able to repair glitches in the system and a whole new system would have to be purchased," he said.

Steffensmeier said the county is in pretty good condition and the paved roads are in fairly good shape. He said the gravel roads are at the mercy of the weather and week or so of heavy rain or melting snow can cause some problems with the surfaces.

"I think we're in fairly decent shape. We have a few roads that might not be, but overall I believe we're in pretty good shape."

There will be a reception to honor Steffensmeier's service to the county on Friday, Dec. 28, from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the North Lee County office building.

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

TUE 18 Dec



Partly Cloudy
 High- 40.1° F | Low - 32.0° F

WED 19 Dec



Overcast skies
 High- 42.9° F | Low - 38.3° F

THU 20 Dec



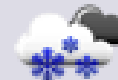
Light Rain
 High- 38.7° F | Low - 37.7° F

FRI 21 Dec



Snow
 High- 36.9° F | Low - 31.3° F

SAT 22 Dec



Light Snow
 High- 26.6° F | Low - 26.7° F

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Current-Lee/Lottery Numbers

CURRENT-LEE

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

Senior Community BINGO at The Kensington

Each month on the second Wednesday of the month, The Kensington hosts Senior Community BINGO at 2 p.m. in their dining room at 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. All seniors are welcome and cash prizes are awarded.

Caregivers Connection at The Kensington

The Kensington hosts this monthly gathering to help educate attendees about all dementia types. Held at noon the 4th Tuesday of every month in The Kensington's private dining room, 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. Call 319-372-4233 to RSVP or for more information. The next luncheon will be held January 22, 2019.

Council of Churches offers "Singspiration"

The Mid-Lee County Council of Churches presents the program Good News Singspiration "What Happened in Bethlehem...DIDN'T STAY in Bethlehem" on December 16, 2018, beginning at 4 p.m. at St. Paul's United Church of Christ 401 Maple in Donnellson. Fellowship and a light meal of maidrites, cheese and crackers, raw vegetables with dip, and cookies will follow the program. A free-will offering will be taken to support the benevolent ministries of the council.

Veterans Assembly

The Fort Madison High School Student Government is inviting all area veterans to the school's annual Veterans Assembly being "A Salute to Those Who Sacrifice" held on Dec. 21 beginning at 2 p.m.

SCC Baseball skills camp

The 2018 Southeastern Blackhawk Baseball Winter Break Skills and Evaluation Camp will be held Dec. 27-28 at Loren Walker Arena with 7-12 year olds from 9 a.m. to noon and 13-18 year olds from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$75 for pre-registration and \$85 for registration on camp day. Call 319-208-5047 or email jschulte@scciaowa.edu for more information. SCC Head Coach and former FMHS standout Chris Ramirez are hosting the camp.

Fort Madison Day at Carver-Hawkeye Arena

Tickets are now on sale for the Iowa vs. Bryant University on Dec. 29, 2018 at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at the Fort Madison Partners office at 614 9th Street through Dec. 13. Prices are \$15 for adults, \$10 for youth and \$5 if you want to ride a Trailways Bus to the game.

Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for \$15. Add a photo for \$5. Non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of \$10 per 25 words and \$3 per photo. To place your listing, click here or call Lee at (319)371.4125.

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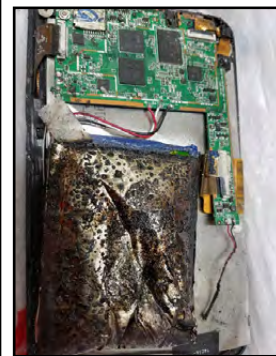


Great River Regional Waste Authority would like to remind you **not to recycle** Christmas Wrapping Paper as some of the materials used in the making of it are not recyclable. Please dispose of any wrapping materials in your regular trash cans. Any curbside bins containing these materials can potentially compromise an entire load.

Please properly dispose of all Electronics!

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Lotto America SM	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



12/16 MID-DAY
5 9 8
12/16 EVENING
6 0 8



12/16 MID-DAY
7 8 0 3
12/16 EVENING
3 0 2 0

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GRRWA will be closed Christmas Day & New Years Day



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Sports

HTC Crusaders put up 34 fourth quarter points in loss to WACO

Best quarter of the year isn't enough to erase 30-point deficit

PCC STAFF

WAYLAND - HTC Head Coach John Hellige is hoping the fourth quarter of Friday's loss to WACO is sign of things to come.

HTC has struggled from the field for most of the year, but busted loose for 34 points in the 4th quarter Friday night in a 64-52 loss to WACO on the road. The Warriors held HTC in check for the most of the game by not allowing the visitors to score in double figures in any of the first three quarters of play.

Quentin Schneider led the Crusaders from the field with 13 points on 4-of-9 shooting. Junior Matt Hellige was just 1-of-6 shooting from the field, but made seven of eight free throws to finish with nine



SCHNEIDER

points. Junior Reed Fehseke shot 3 of 13 from the field and was a chilly 2 of 11 from 3-point land to finish with eight points. Adam Rauenbuehler and Blake Crabtree both had seven points for HTC, while Kyle Bredemeyer had five points and Brant Holtkamp had three to round out the Crusader scoring.

Hellige pulled down nine rebounds and Bredemeyer had seven for Holy Trinity. Schneider had six steals and a blocked shot to lead the Crusaders on defense.

WACO was led by Drew Kissell with 22 points. Kissell was eight of 11 shooting, including a 3-of-4 night from 3-point range.

The Crusaders host West Burlington on Tuesday night in girls/boys doubleheader.

Holy Trinity girls win on the road

Johnson says girls still aren't playing their best basketball

PCC STAFF

WAYLAND - The Holy Trinity Crusaders girls basketball team held off a wild last minute rally from WACO to hold off for a 42-37 win Friday night on the road.

The Lady Crusaders held an 11-point lead with just one minute left in the game and then Waco went on a 7-1 run in the final minute to make things close. WACO outscored HTC 10-1 over the final three minutes and 14-7 in the final period.

Senior guard Taylor Boeding threw up 14



BOEDING

3-point attempts in the game, finishing 5-of-14 for 15 points to lead the Crusaders

who never trailed in the game.

The closest the Lady Warriors would get would be within one point at 9-8 in the opening moments of the second period. With five minutes remaining in the fourth quarter, HTC held a 14-point lead.

Head Coach Tony Johnson said the team is still struggling with some injuries and foul trouble but are finding ways to win.

"The bright side is we are winning road games and not playing our best basketball yet," he said.

Ashlynn Haas had nine points for Holy Trinity, while Emily Box scored eight and Eryn Anderson had seven. Mya Lawlor scored three and Claire Pothitakis has two to round out the Crusader scoring.

Box and Anderson led HTC in rebounds with 10 and nine respectively. Haas had six steals.

Holy Trinity (5-3) plays host to West Burlington on Tuesday night in a girls/boys doubleheader at Shottenkirk Gym in Fort Madison.

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Classifieds

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High School Spanish Teacher

Holy Trinity Catholic High School is seeking a Spanish Teacher for Spanish I-IV. Applicants must be licensed in the state of Iowa and possess a strong knowledge of high school foreign language teaching methods, learning styles and education research.

Please send resumes and references to brenda.graham@holyltrinity-schools.org

Talented and Gifted Teacher

Holy Trinity Catholic School is seeking a part time Talented and Gifted Teacher (K-12). Applicants must be licensed in the state of Iowa and have knowledge of best practice in delivering talented and gifted services within the framework of a results-driven system.

Please send resumes and references to brenda.graham@holyltrinity-schools.org



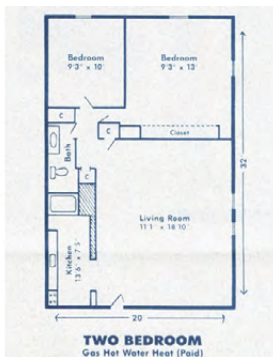
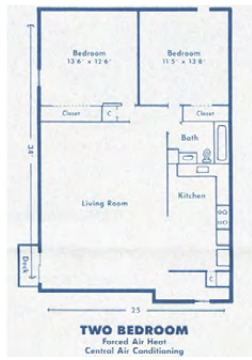
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