



Pen City Current

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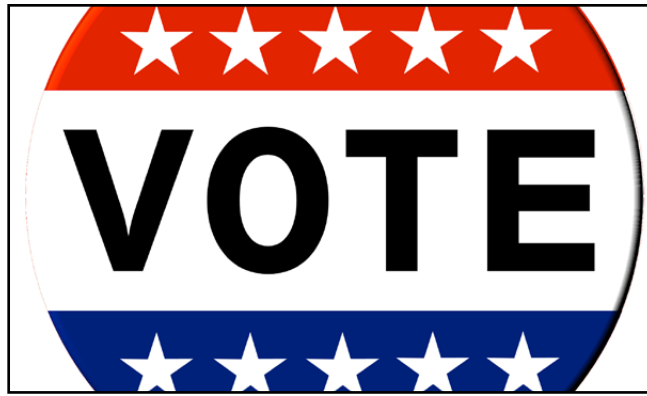
Partners to host two election forums

First event Thursday features city council candidates

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – According to Fort Madison Partners Executive Director Tim Gobble, the group will be hosting two forums to give voters a chance to get to know those running for Fort Madison City Council and Fort Madison Mayor.

The first forum will be held on Thursday in the Council Chambers at Fort Madison City Hall, 811 Avenue E. The forum will be moderated by Tri-State Public Radio's Jason Parrott and will feature all candi-



dates for City Council.

Rebecca Bowker and Christopher Sorrentino have both filed to fill the 1st Ward seat being vacated by Chris Greenwald. Both have confirmed their attendance at the forum.

In Ward 3, current councilman Matt Mohfeld is seeking to fill the Mayor's seat and had to vacate his seat to file papers of the mayor's race. Tyler Miller was the only candidate to file papers for that seat.

Current Councilman Chad Cangas is the incumbent for the 5th Ward seat with no opposition.

The other contested race pits Jerry Hamelton, who's running for the first time in Fort Madison, against incumbent Kevin Rink, who's seeking his fourth election to the council.

A separate forum will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 16th to allow voters to get to know candidates for the mayor's seat.

In addition to Mohrfeld, residents Rodney Hoskins II and Joseph Helmick both are running for Mayor.

See **FORUMS**, page 8

Consultant talks SAVE options with FMSCD school board

Could hold key to getting new elementary school built

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – In very preliminary discussions, the Fort Madison Community School District is listening to other options for funding a new elementary school.

Voters in the school district have repeatedly voted down bond referendums to build new schools in Fort Madison. The first was a referendum to build the middle school in 2008 and the last three were to build a new elementary school on the campus by the middle school at 48th Street and Bluff Road.

At a Monday night's workshop, the district heard a presentation from Piper Jaffray Managing Director Tim Oswald, who said with the state extending the SAVE (Secure an Advanced Vision for Education) program through 2050, the district would have some funding available there. Piper Jaffray is a financial consultant for the district.

Lee County voters approved the 1% tax option in August of 1999 and it went into effect on Jan. 1, 2000.

See **SAVE**, page 4



Photo courtesy Fort Madison Schools

Students from Ms. Rue's second grade class at Richardson Elementary see that urban legend about Mentos candy and Coca-Cola is actually scientifically true as Ms. Rue runs from the eruption that occurred when the candy was dropped in a two-liter bottle of soda earlier this week.

Pilot Grove to expand in WB

New facility to go south of Shottenkirk

BY PCC STAFF

WEST BURLINGTON – Pilot Grove Savings Bank received approval letters from both the Iowa Division of Banking (IDOB) and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) to expand their operations to West Burlington.

The bank will be located in Becker Plaza, south of Shottenkirk, west of Becker's Jewelers, and off of South Gear Avenue in West Burlington. A ribbon cutting and grand opening event will be announced at a later date, to give the public

See **BANK**, page 8

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For the Record/Area News

IDOT to close Hwy. 61 southbound in Louisa County next week

New construction to take motorists on detour for five days

MOUNT PLEASANT, Iowa – Oct. 8, 2019 – Road construction on U.S. 61 in Louisa County will require closing the southbound lane to traffic for about two miles just south of Iowa 92, near Grandview, beginning at 6 a.m. Monday, Oct. 14, until Friday, Oct. 18, weather permitting, according to the Iowa Department of

Transportation's Mount Pleasant construction office. Motorists will be directed to use an official 50-mile marked detour (see map) and will follow Iowa 92 (east and west for about 17.5 miles), U.S. 218/Iowa 27 (north and south for about 12 miles), and Iowa 78 (east and west about 20.5 miles). The detour will be in place for approximately 5 days, weather permitting. Local traffic will have access to U.S. 61 except for the approximate two-mile southbound lane closure starting at U.S. 61 (exit 74) near Grandview, to just north of 130th Street near mile marker 72.15.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

10/7/19 – 11:02 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Pele Oscar Wise, 41, of Fort Madison in the 800 block of Avenue G. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 10/07/19 – 12:52 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage in the 5100 block of Avenue O.
 10/07/19 – 2:20 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 800 block of Avenue G.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

10/04/19 – 7:13 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 1600 block of 303rd Avenue. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Charles Edward Case, 27, of Burlington, was southbound when he fell asleep exiting the roadway to the left and entering a ditch, jumped a private drive and came to rest on it's wheels. No injuries or citations were reported at the scene. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

GRRWA'S 4th Annual pReserve Day



SAVE THE

PLANET



REDUCE



REUSE



RECYCLE

RECYCLING EVENT

Friday, October 11

7 a.m.—4 p.m.

OPEN TO RESIDENTS!!!!

Commercial & Business Fees apply to any Business who wish to attend.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE
 Fertilizers, herbicides, household & Auto cleaning products, insecticides, oil based paints, paint thinners & solvents, pesticides, pool chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze. All batteries and lightbulbs; propane tanks & more!

Latex Paint will NOT be accepted!



Latex paint is not hazardous, mix it with kitty litter, sawdust, or dirt, and it can be placed in your regular trash.

EYE GLASSES

Only those in reasonable condition
 Sponsored by the Fort Madison Lions Club



BICYCLE REFURBISHED PROGRAM

Accepting all bicycles working or otherwise. To be refurbished and given to those in need.

APPLIANCES & E-WASTE (electronics)

All household appliances will be accepted.
 Electronics is anything that plugs into a wall or takes batteries.
 There is a fee for Appliances and any screened electronics (computer monitor, TV, laptop, tablets, etc.)
 During this event, GRRWA will accept any combination of four (4) appliances/screened electronics, per vehicle, at no cost! There will be a fee for any additional screened electronics/appliances.
 Vehicles can only come through ONCE with electronics/appliances.
NO SMOKE DETECTORS.

GENERAL & PAPER RECYCLING

Accepting : glass, plastics, tin cans, aluminum cans, office & shredded paper, newspaper, corrugated cardboard, magazines, phone books, paperbacks and hard cover books.

Rigid plastics (i.e. riding toys, buckets, plastic lawn furniture, etc. Items must be 100% plastic, no metal attached)

PLEASE BRING ITEMS IN LOOSE, DO NOT PUT PLASTIC BAGS IN RECYCLING BINS.

FREE GIFT

TO THE FIRST 25 PEOPLE WHO COME TO THIS EVENT!!

(One gift per vehicle)

Event held at Great River Regional Waste Authority

2092 303rd Avenue, Fort Madison, IA

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Got a news tip?
 Call Chuck (319)371.1670

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

WED 09 Oct



Partly Cloudy
 High-66.5 F | Low - 61.9° F

THU 10 Oct



Rain
 High- 66.8° F | Low - 65.6° F

FRI 11 Oct



Light Rain
 High- 40.6° F | Low - 35.2° F

SAT 12 Oct



Clear Skies
 High- 50.0° F | Low - 40.0° F

SUN 13 Oct



Partly Cloudy
 High- 47.4° F | Low - 38.7° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

9 IN 10

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Obituaries/Lottery Numbers

OBITUARIES

STANLEY WESLEY CORNS

Stanley Wesley Corns, 90 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died Monday October 7, 2019 at his home. He was born April 8, 1929 at Bonaparte, Iowa a son of Calvin and Jenny June (Henry) Corns. On July 2, 1954, he married Mary Cleek at Burlington, Iowa. She preceded him in death February 8, 1981.



CORNS

Stanley retired from Gleasons Metal Works. He loved fishing, camping at the Iowa State Fair and was a big Nascar Racing fanatic. He is survived by three sons: Tom Corns, of Fort Madison, Iowa; Michael (Regina) Corns, of Fort Madison, Iowa; Bob (Jeanie) Corns, of Las Vegas, Nevada; one daughter, Joni Noble, of Wapelo, Iowa; one brother, Charles Corns, of Burlington, Iowa; five grandchildren: Robert, Karen and Ryan Corns all of Las Vegas, Nevada; Teleasha Corns, of Fort Madison, Iowa and Amanda Canterbury, of Burlington, Iowa. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, one daughter, Lori Corns; one brother, Hank Corns and three sisters, Shirley Danley, Barbara Six and Mary Bergmeier.

Graveside services will be 10:30 am Friday October 11, 2019 at Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison, Iowa. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established for the American Cancer Society, contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison or during the graveside service. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Corns family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

OBITUARIES

KORY JAMES GILBERT

Kory James Gilbert, 34, of Parnell, IA (formerly of Marion IA), died Saturday, October 5, 2019, at his home.

He was born June 20, 1985, in Rock Island, IL, the son of Justin and Karla Gilbert.



GILBERT

Kory was active in sports and graduated from Springville High School, Springville, IA. Kory was a loving son and a person with a big heart.

Kory is survived by his parents, and two brothers, Ken (Leah) Gilbert of Seattle, WA and Keith (Amanda) Gilbert of Des Moines, IA, an aunt, Judy Messina of Tuscon, AZ, an uncle, Kevin Gilbert of Geneseo, IL, two nieces, his fiancé, Amy, and her three children, Liz, Ethan, and Greyson.

Kory was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Kenneth and Peggy Howard, and paternal grandparents Gayther and Jeffie Gilbert.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday October 12, at Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk IA. Burial will be in the Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

OBITUARIES

FRANKLIN MONROE MCCARL

Franklin Monroe "Frank" McCarl, 81 of Ft. Madison, IA died Saturday, October 5, 2019 at his home.

He was born August 16, 1938 in Osceola, IA the son of James and Maxine James Blythe McCarl. On May 12, 1967 he was united in marriage to Gloria Jean Elston. She survives.



MCCARL

Other survivors include one daughter, Susan Jane Palmer (Tony) of Keokuk, two grandchildren, Shawndra Spoore of Ft. Madison and Shannon Watts of Keokuk, nine great-grandchildren, and one sister, Gloria Jewett of Burlington, IA.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters and three brothers.

Frank was a veteran of the United States Army and proudly served his country.

Frank had been employed by Verizon Wireless Company as a foreman in charge of the lineman for thirty-eight years until his retirement in 1994.

Frank enjoyed spending time outdoors, hunting, fishing, and working with animals on the farm in Montrose. Most of all, he loved playing with his grandchildren.

According to his wishes, there will be no services.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Online condolences may left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.



Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

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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™	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



10/7
113 18 31 38 43
Lucky Ball: 16



10/7 MID-DAY
6 5 4
10/7 EVENING
9 5 1



10/70 MID-DAY
6 2 1 8
10/7 EVENING
4 5 8 0

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 - Kids (ages 5-12) includes 2 sides & a roll \$5.00
 - Kids under 5 eat FREE
 - Carryout 4 pcs. chicken 2 sides & a roll \$8.50
 - Kids (ages 5-12) 2 pcs. chicken, 1 side & a roll \$5.50
- Chicken also available by the piece (carryout only)
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Dinner includes 2 sides and a roll

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 - Brew House Combo (Cream Cheese Jalapeno Poppers, Chicken Strips, Mushrooms, Shrimp, Mozzarella Sticks & Onion Rings)
 - Reuben Bites
 - Macaroni & Cheese Bites

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

Open to the Public for Wednesday & Friday Dinners

From the Front

District also thinking voter approved infrastructure levy

SAVE - Continued from Page 1

At the time the tax was called a Local Option Sales Tax, or a LOST tax. The Iowa legislature changed the name to SAVE later.

At the time of that approval, the state had no sunset on it, and legislators decided to put one in for Dec. 31, 2029. Legislators have since extended that date to Dec. 31, 2050.

Oswald said the biggest take away from the discussion was that the board understand the school doesn't have one more dollar today than they had before the legislative session extended

the SAVE tax.

"When the board decided 10 years ago to build the middle school, they borrowed the money against the majority of that tax through 2029. So there isn't a lot of play money until 2029," he said.

"I want everybody to understand legislature added 20 years to the schedule but it starts in 2030. You borrowed through 2029 so what you picked up starts in 2030."

Oswald said the formula is enrollment multiplied by revenue

per student. Revenue per student is now statewide with all counties getting \$1,059 estimated in the current budget year.

Enrollment at FMCS D as of Friday was 2,109 students. He said the math results in \$2,233,000 per year. The funds from the SAVE tax are allocated specifically for infrastructure needs and property tax relief. Oswald said the district spends about \$660,000 per year on those costs outside of the middle school debt service, which would give the district about \$1.6 million

per year.

"If you want to have any facilities discussion that involves using sales tax to pay for a new facility or improvements, the tax you're using would be after 2031, you need to vote. It's a 50% yes vote plus 1. I would encourage you to get on the ballot at the next available date which would be in March," he said.

"After you voted, you could borrow money if you wanted to. You need to have a project and a program and it needs paid for and you probably wouldn't be ready that fast, but you could, in theory, borrow money after that."

He said the SAVE tax also requires a public hearing and a 10-day notice for the hearing. The hearing would have to come after the vote on the revenue purpose statement.

Only SAVE tax can be used to pay the bonds. Other school revenues cannot be used to pay off the bonds.

The district voters could also approve what's called a Voted Physical Plant and Equipment Levy. The district already levies a 33-cent PPEL levy as provided by state law, but the Voted PPEL is voter approved and would also need a 50% plus one majority approval of district voters.

PPEL funds are specific to school facility or grounds improvement or to pay debt incurred by those improvements. They can also be used for equipment and technology leases or purchases.

According to the Iowa Department of Education, the voters may authorize a Voted Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (VPPEL) for a period not exceeding ten years and in an amount not exceeding \$1.34 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. The VPPEL revenues may be used for the same purposes as the PPEL revenues. In addition, the board may obtain loans against future VPPEL revenues and may repay that debt with interest from the VPPEL.

Regionally, schools such as Burlington, Keokuk, and Mt. Pleasant all have Voted PPELs in place. Burlington and Mt. Pleasant have a 67-cent voted PPEL, while Keokuk has a full \$1.34.

Oswald said the Voted PPEL can either be property or income tax or a combination.

"If you levy it as property tax you can borrow against it. So you could advance forward 5, 6, 8, or even 10 years of the PPEL to spend it up front if you wanted to," Oswald said.

"Sandy and I are both

of the agreement that if you do that you will free up SAVE money that will then allow the SAVE money to be used to pay off the middle school."

He said \$1.34 per 1,000 would generate about \$1 million a year. He said \$1.34 PPEL would only raise the tax about 50 cents next year.

"I know that makes absolutely no sense, but there are factors inside the budget that are causing the levy rates to come down. The general fund levy rate next year will be lower than this year, outside of some surprise," he said.

"You would be capturing the reduction so you can get the full \$1.34 PPEL with a much more modest increase than the \$1.34."

Oswald said a five-year projection isn't complete so he wanted to finalize those numbers with Elmore and would bring back a firmer number.

Board member Carol Ross said she would be interested in what a 20-year project would look like with the Voted PPEL and the SAVE and what the totals would look like.

Oswald said he was trying to keep the two separate in conversations about the facility. He said contractors will want to know what the top dollar for the project is before putting together bids.

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Sports/Lee County News

Crusaders sweep Lady Falcons on the road

BY PCC STAFF

WEST BURLINGTON – The Holy Trinity Catholic girls volleyball team is, once again, beginning to peak at just the right time.

The Class 1A 8th-ranked Crusaders swept West Burlington on the road Tuesday night in three games 25-22, 25-23, 25-19. The win is the tenth in the last 11 matches with the only loss coming to Class 2A No. 7

Van Buren. The last loss to a 1A school was on Sept. 12 to New London.

The Crusaders are 21-3 in games played during the last 11 matches.

Sophomore Kassi Randolph led HTC at the net with one of her best night's of the year going 33-34 attacking with 15 kills and 16 assists. Randolph also had 23 digs to lead Holy Trinity. Junior Claire Pothitakis was 29 of 33 with 11 kills and a couple assists.

Senior Maille Sheerin hit perfect on a dozen serves and had an ace. She also had seven digs on the night. Maria Rauenbuehler was 11 of 11 serving with an ace and had 19 digs for the Crusaders.

Bailey Hellweg was 13 of 14 hitting with 5 kills and led Holy Trinity with 21 assists. Avery Hopper had four blocks on the night.

Holy Trinity (19-7) hosts Cardinal at Shottenkirk Gymnasium in Fort Madison on Thursday

FMMS 8th graders move to 9-6

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison 8th grade girls volleyball A team is 9-6 on the year after dropping two of three to Fairfield Monday night.

Lauren Helmick was 16 of 16 serving with an ace. Alexis Beebe was 8 of 9 and Gracie Blind was 7 of 8 as the Hounds fell 16-21, 21-15 and 11-15.

The B team lost 0-2, 11-21, 19-21. Ali Carson and Ava Baier were four of four serving. Ella Wright was six of seven serving with four aces. The B Team is 7-5 on the year.

The C team split its games 12-21, 21-11 with Mazie Hotop going a perfect 10 of 10 serving with 8 aces. The C squad is 9-3 on the year.

On Thursday the A team lost 0 – 2 to Washington 18-21, 23-25. Beebe went 11 of 12 serving with 2 aces. Helmick was 7

of 8 with an ace, while Aija Jenkins was 9 of 8 with two aces.

The 'B' team also lost 0-2 23-25, 19-21. Baier was 12 of 12 serving with three aces and Rylee Steffensmeier 4 of 5 with an ace. C team split again 21-9; 18-21 with Tia Jenkins going 11 of 14 with six aces.

Last week the A team won 2-1 over Ottumwa losing the first game 21-18, but coming back with 22-20 and 15-6 tiebreaker. Gracie Blind was 8 of 8 with 2 aces, while Taylor Johnson was 7 of 9.

The B team won 21 – 16, 21 – 18. Steffensmeier was 8 of 9 serving and Amy Yasenochok went 4 of 5 with two aces. Madelyn Gobble was five of six serving with two aces.

The C team won 26 -24, 21-14. Lily Arnold went 12 of 14 serving with 10 aces.

The D team split its match 17-19, 15 – 5 Ella Wright. Savanna Trout was 2 of 2 serving with two aces.

Hellige 5th at Hillcrest Academy Invitational

IOWA CITY – Holy Trinity senior Matt Hellige was just 13 seconds off the pace at the Hillcrest Academy Invitational held at Iowa City Regina Monday night.

The Invitational features some of the area's bigger schools and Hellige's 17:47.84 was good enough for fifth place overall.

The Crusaders finished 10th as a team in the 13-team field. HTC had 283 points. Pella won the event with 40. Danville-New London was third with 90 points.

Senior Jacob Mohrfeld's 20:40.02 was good enough for 54th in the team placements and 60th overall. His time was second fastest on the HTC squad. Mitchel Pothitakis was 71st in the team standings and 81st overall with a time of 22:04.52. Chandler Rung (73rd, 83rd) and Jacob Pothitakis (80th, 91st) rounded out the scoring finishes for HTC.

Rung finished with a time of 22:07.33 and Jacob Pothitakis crossed the line at 24:27.07 for 4th and 5th for the Crusaders.

Wyatt Hellman and Rhett Fulhart also competed for Holy Trinity. Hellman finished with a time of 24:34.36 and Fulhart crossed at 27:29.48.



HELIGE

United Way to host Oktoberfest in Keokuk

KEOKUK - It's Oktoberfest by the River! United Way of the Great River Region is proud to present the first Tri-States Oktoberfest by the River. Join us at Southside Boat Club on Friday, October 11th from 5 - 7 pm. Come dressed in your authentic German attire (or not) & enjoy the food and fun overlooking the beautiful Mississippi River. Southside Boat Club will be having Jive Radio beginning at 7 pm.

Food will include bratwursts, sauerkraut, German potato salad and of course pretzels with cheese or mustard. A meal is \$6 and items will be individually priced as well. There will be a 50/50 drawing with the winner drawn at 6:55 pm. We will also have three different contests: at 5:30 pm the stein hoist (Masskrugstemmen), at 6 pm the stein carry (Masskrugtragen) and at 6:30 pm the nail driving (Hammerschlagen). Entry fee is \$1.00 per person. There will be a Men's and a Women's division for each and prizes for the winners.



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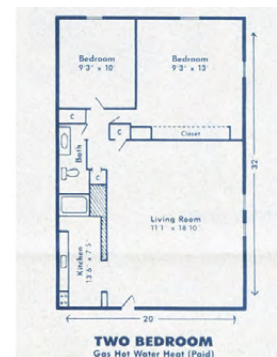
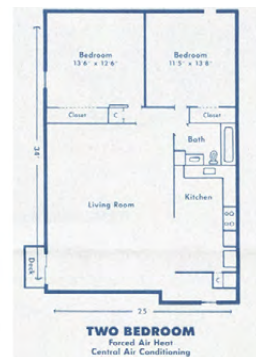


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From the Front

Mayoral candidates to take questions Oct. 16

FORUMS - Continued from Page 1

Haskins and Mohrfeld have confirmed attendance at the forum.

Both forums will begin promptly at 6 p.m. and are scheduled to run to 7:30 p.m. but Gobble said he has access to the Chambers until 9 p.m if things run a little long.

Resident who wish to submit questions are encouraged to arrive a little early and write questions down that will be handed to the moderator prior to the start of each respective forum.

The state's regular city/school election is on Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019.

Pilot Grove to move into Becker Plaza

BANK - Continued from Page 1

the opportunity to meet staff at the new location.

Pilot Grove Savings Bank's first branch was founded in 1911 in the community of Pilot Grove. Starting in 1980 the bank opened a branch in Houghton followed later by Donnellson and West Point. In December 2000 the bank acquired Mount Pleasant and Packwood followed by acquisitions in Winfield, Fort Madison, and Keokuk. Most recently the bank opened a branch in Fairfield in 2014.

As their slogan says, employees have been "Working for Southeast Iowa" since the bank grew from approximately \$12.9 million in total assets in 1976 to over \$600 million in third quarter of 2019. With now more than 100 employees in Southeast Iowa and some of the most technologically advanced

banking systems available, the institution's main goal remains as it was in 1911- to serve the customer well.

Ted Vonderhaar, President & CEO of Pilot Grove Savings Bank explained, "Pilot Grove Savings Bank has been waiting for the right time to expand our operations to the greater Burlington area and when the space at Becker Plaza came available our board decided the location was right."

"Pilot Grove Savings Bank has a long history of serving Southeast Iowa," said Greater Burlington Partnership President Della Schmidt. "Congratulations to the bank on their growth into the greater Burlington marketplace. We are looking forward to celebrating with you at the opening of the branch office in West Burlington."

Ted Vonderhaar continued, "We look forward to getting to know new customers. Our people are really what set us apart from the others. The banks largest shareholder is our Employee Stock Ownership Plan. When you meet with one of our staff members, you're also meeting with one of our owners. We make quick decisions on loans and welcome new deposit customers. When you deposit with us the dollars stay local and are loaned out right back in your home towns. Let us demonstrate our unique approach to community banking."

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