



# Pen City Current

Sunday, July 29, 2018 | 14 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 177

## County Republicans showcase candidates at annual banquet

*Reichman says Lee County is "Open for Business"*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Lee County Republican Chairman Martin Graber talks to fellow Republicans at the Quality Inn and Suites Saturday night as part of the annual banquet. Several speakers including candidates Jeff Reichman, James Steffan, and Joe Mitchell spoke at the event.

and Kim Reynolds have brought the state back from disaster.

Reichman, of Keokuk, said Lee County is open for business. He's seeking to fill the District 84 State Senate seat currently being held by Jerry Kearns, a seat that Republicans haven't had for three decades.

"At the state level, one of the key jobs will be to advocate for Lee County and let people know that Lee County is open for business," Reichman said. "The president started this and it was great to see that. He was at Grant City at one of the steel mills and talking about bringing back the man-

ufacturing jobs that the last president said were gone and weren't coming back. They are coming back."

Reichman, who's a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corp, said he had to have his arm twisted a little to run. He grew up in Ke-

See **GOP**, page 14

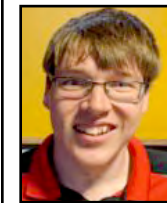
## *Gehle takes five golds at junior nationals*

FMHS grad just eight days away from Barcelona in Cerebral Palsy World Games

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT WAYNE, Ind., - A Fort Madison man has wrapped up two more gold medals in a series of junior national paralympic games in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Caleb Gehle, 18, was coming off two gold medals and two silver medals Wednesday and Thursday and then wrapped up the Adaptive USA Junior Nationals with wins in the 100- and 400-meter wheel chair races Friday.



GEHLE

The event finished just eight days before Gehle and his family head to Barcelona, Spain to compete in the Cerebral Palsy World Games Aug. 5-12 with TeamUSA.

Gehle said the competitions at these events are broken down into specific categories and the classifications allow people with similar disabilities to compete against each other instead of being lumped into one group.

"The nice thing about these competitions is that they're separated into different classes including spina bifida, cerebral palsy and amputee," he said. "We're not all lumped together, like at state where someone may have an unfair advantage over someone else."

At the Iowa State Track meet, where Gehle competed during his years at Fort Madison High School, all athletes with disabilities compete in the same events with boys and girls being the only classifications used.

"I like the competition here. "It's a very friendly environment, where as in Des Moines everyone's kind out for themselves."

On Wednesday, Gehle heaved the shot 17'-5.75" which was about two and half feet further than Matthew Tomaino who through 14'-9". Tomaino then beat Gehle in the javelin and discus events. Gehle threw the discus 29'-9", to Tomaino's 34'-10" and then took silver in the javelin with a throw of 25' compared to

See **GEHLE**, page 14

## Loebsack says Congress should stay in session

WASHINGTON D.C. - As the House gavelled out of session for its August recess, Congressman Dave Loebsack reiterated his call for the House to remain in session through August to work on the important issues facing Iowans. Loebsack called on House Speaker Paul Ryan and Majority Leader



LOEBSACK

Kevin McCarthy to follow the lead of their Senate counterparts and cancel this August recess. Today marks the 207th day of the year and the House has only been in session

for a total of 82 days.

"It is beyond unacceptable that the House has only been in session for a total of 82 days this year and is now taking off for nearly 40 more days. The people of Iowa want Congress working on issues that affect their lives and being in session less than 40 percent of the time

is no way to get anything accomplished," said Loebsack. "Today, I am again calling on House Republican leaders to follow the Senate and cancel its planned August recess. Congress cannot afford to close up shop for over five weeks, leaving behind

See **LOEBSACK**, page 14

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### AILEEN LOUISE JINKENS

Aileen Louise Jinkens, 85, of Keokuk died Thursday, July 26, 2018 at the Klein Center in West Burlington.

She was born June 20, 1933 near Kahoka, MO the daughter of Ralph Lincoln and Edna Opal Ingram McNally. She was raised by her aunt and uncle, Gladys and Walter Bertram in Oakland, CA until the age of 15. On May 20, 1951 she was united in marriage to Robert E. Jinkens near Wayland, MO. He preceded her in death on May 15, 1967.



JINKENS

Aileen graduated from the Wayland High School with the Class of 1951.

She had been a member of the Wayland Methodist Church in Wayland, MO and the Kahoka Methodist Church in Kahoka, MO. Most recently she had been attending the United Presbyterian Church in Keokuk. She had also been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Aileen had been an Air Force bride and a devoted farmer's wife who enjoyed taking care of her family. She cared for her husband, who suffered with Multiple Sclerosis for many years. She made her house a loving home and always welcomed the neighborhood kids in. Aileen enjoyed sewing. She was a Nascar fan and especially liked Jeff Gordon. Aileen liked to keep her mind busy by reading the Bible and mystery books and working crossword puzzles. Aileen loved all animals, particularly cats and enjoyed watching horse racing. She loved to sing and go dancing. She was a dedicated Red Cross donor, donating 13 gallons of blood over the years.

She is survived by five daughters, Karen Hickey (Mike) of Keokuk, Brenda Coursey (Steve) of Monmouth, IL, Bonnie Underwood (Steve) of Keokuk, Cynthia Ames (Roy) of Keokuk and Julie McNitt (Tim) of Osage Beach, MO, two sons, Dennis Jinkens of Keokuk and Jerry (Martha) Jinkens of Keokuk, eighteen grandchildren, twenty-four great-grandchildren, two step-grandchildren and two step-great-grandchildren, two sisters-in-law, Anna Jean Jinkens of Keokuk and JoAnn Jinkens of Eldorado Springs, MO and numerous nieces and nephews. Besides her husband, she was also preceded in death by her parents, step-mother, Myra McNally, and brothers and sisters, Wilma McNally, James McNally, Opal Irene Fleming, Lola Eder, Waneta Smith, cousins who were like brothers, Hillis and Forest Bertram.

A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m., Monday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA. Burial will be in the Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk. Visitation will be held after 3 p.m., Sunday at the funeral home with family meeting with friends from 6-8 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to FOKAS (Friends of Keokuk Animal Services), PAWS No Kill Animal Shelter or the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

## OBITUARIES

### BILLY DEAN "BILL" WALKER

Billy Dean "Bill" Walker, 81 of Montrose, IA died Thursday, July 26, 2018 at his home.

He was born May 20, 1937 in St. Louis, MO the son of Clyde and Lelia Fox Walker. On December 16, 1978 he was united in marriage to Betty F. Ireland Schrader in Ft. Madison, IA. She survives.



WALKER

Other survivors include two daughters, Sandy Andrews of West Point, IA and Tracy Morgan of Kaiser, MO, two sons, Mike Walker of Houston, TX and David Walker of Magnolia, TX, two step-daughters, Kelly Enke of Denmark, IA and Korenda Bell of Keokuk, one step-son, Fred Schrader, Jr. (Stacey) of Keokuk, three granddaughters, seven grandsons and seven great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his step-mother, Fern Walker, three sons-in-law, Charlie Bell, Gene Enke and Randy Andrews and one great-grandchild, Braxton Bell.

Bill had been employed by the Dial Corporation in Montrose, IA for twenty-eight years until his retirement. He was a member of First Christian Church of Disciples of God in Keokuk.

Bill enjoyed spending time outdoors golfing and working in his yard. He was also an avid Nascar fan. A gifted woodworker, Bill enjoyed countless hours in his workshop and created gifts for his family and friends and also made decorations for all the holidays.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m., Monday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with Pastor Cathie Courtois officiating. Burial will be held in the Fairview Cemetery in rural Ft. Madison, IA.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Sunday at the funeral home, with family meeting with friends from 4-6 p.m.

Memorials may be made to HCI Hospice or First Christian Church.

Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com)

#### Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries 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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## For the Record/Lottery Numbers

### For the Record

**Fort Madison Police Report**  
 7/26/2018 - 9:40 a.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3100 block of Ave. J.  
 7/26/2018 - 11:16 a.m - Fort Madison Police arrested John Allen Scott, 40, of Fort Madison, in the 2000 block of Ave. E, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.  
 7/26/2018 - 3:34 p.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of Ave. G.  
 7/26/2018 - 3:47 p.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of

larceny/ theft in the 600-700 blocks of Ave. H.  
 7/26/2018 - 9:09 p.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/ theft in the 800 block of Ave. H.  
 7/26/2018 - 11:09 p.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1500 block of Ave. E.  
 7/26/2018 - 11:15 p.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 300 block of Ave. F.

**Lee County Sheriff's Report**  
 7/26/2018 - 3:34 p.m - Lee County Sheriff's dep-

uties arrested Jessica Ann Harwood, 35, of Fort Madison, at the Court House, on a judgment hold. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

**Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report**  
 07/26/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls and one false alarm.  
 07/27/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls, two lifts assist, one grass fire, and one gas smell investigation.

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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



7/27  
 1 32 40 49 63  
 Mega Ball: 20  
 Megaplier: 3



7/27 MID-DAY  
 6 3 7  
 7/27 EVENING  
 1 4 8



7/27 MID-DAY  
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# Sports



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



The Fort Madison Bloodhound Youth Camp wrapped up this week. Above, Jamiah Williams, 13, makes a tackle from behind on a new tackling roll used at the camp Wednesday evening. Sophomore Quentin Schneider sets the roll in motion as high school players helped demonstrate the drills. At left top, about 65 campers in grades 1st -8th worked out together on Thursday. At left side Brandt Booten gets in a tackle and at left middle, Nolan Lamb, 10, works the tomahawk drill with assistant coach Mike Hayes.



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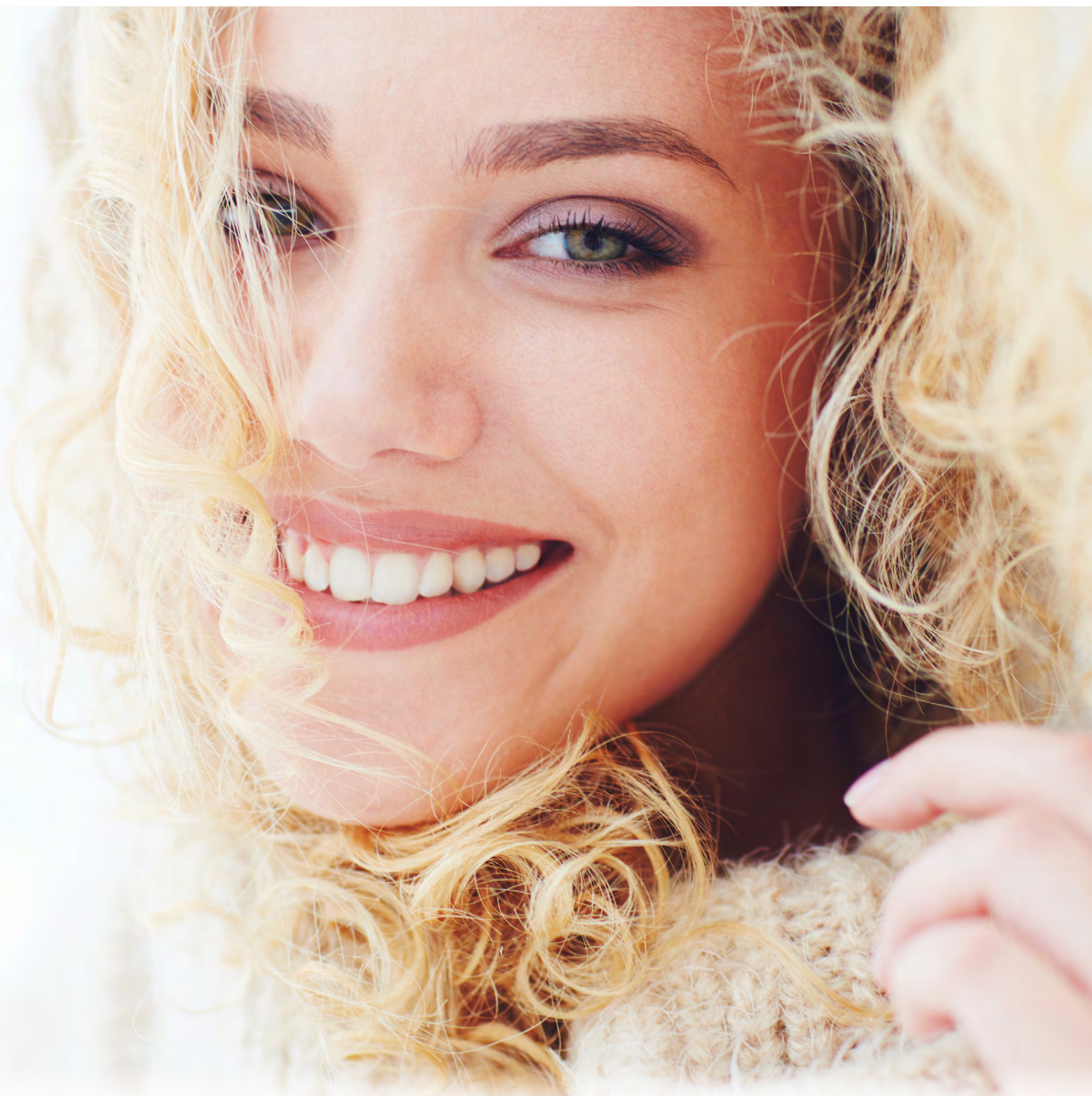
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## Area News

# Former Sterzings owners think newest chips "have got it"

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

BURLINGTON - It's been a long summer for Craig Smith and the iconic Sterzing's brand potato chip.

After the Food and Drug Administration implemented a phasing out of oils containing trans fats in 2015, the writing was on the wall and changes were coming.

There rarely is a pot-luck, picnic or party in the region that won't showcase the familiar red-and-pale yellow bags with the salty and snappy chip that Iowans and beyond have been snacking on for almost eight decades.

But then the chip maker ran out of inventory of the original oil used to make the chips and had to transition into the new trans-fat free cooking agent.

According to Sterzing Food Co. President, Craig Smith, that's where trouble began. But...better news may be on the horizon.

Smith said the company's food scientists have been tinkering with the

“*I had a bag in the hands of the previous owners and they said, 'We think you got it'. That's as high a regard as I can ask for.*”

-Craig Smith  
President, Sterzings Food Co.

formula for a good portion of the year trying to find ways to abide by the new regs, but get close to the original flavor and texture that loyal customers were accustomed to.

“We started out with this new formula and it appealed to a lot of people, but didn't resonate with our loyal fan base,” Smith said Friday morning. “Our focus was on the taste and the mouth feel and texture and that has taken a long time.”

But he said Friday the newest tweaks have resulted in a chip that just may be worthy of the customers looking for that original Sterzing chip.

“I had a bag in the hands of the previous owners and they said, ‘We

think you got it,’” Smith said. “That's as high a regard as I can ask for.”

That family included the daughters of Dutch Duttweiler, who bought the business in 1959 from Barney Sterzing. Sterzing started the company in 1933 as an off-shoot from his candy business and, when sugar rationing took place during WWII, Smith said Sterzing dumped the candy portion of the business and turned his focus to making a chip that has been in high demand regionally and regularly shipped across the nation. After an inter-family sale of the company to Duttweiler's daughters, Smith and current Chief Financial Officer Gary Schmeiser purchased the company



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Randy Jordan unloads boxes of Sterzings Friday in Fort Madison. Jordan has been with Sterzings for close to 33 years. The company has been tinkering with the recipe of the iconic potato chip since transitioning to a trans fat free oil earlier this year.

in 2011.

In May, the company held a chip-tasting at Community Field in Burlington and got mixed reactions and went back to the drawing board. The chip at that time had a feel and texture that would be considered a “kettle” chip, with a heavier crunch.

Smith said a lot of people liked the new offering, but it was, and still is, the company's goal to do everything possible to get back to the original taste and composition of a Sterzing potato chip.

He said it's difficult to just implement change because the production

process requires a lot of inventory of potatoes, oil, and salt and you have to work through those inventories, while making minor adjustments to the recipe based on what customers are saying.

“Once you buy the oils

See **CHIPS**, page 13

## UPCOMING TOURS



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7/25	Cubs vs. Diamondbacks at Wrigley	\$155 pp
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7/28	Cardinals vs. Cubs at Busch Stadium	\$140 pp

### AUGUST

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8/2	Chicago Museums	\$99 pp
8/4	Cubs vs. Padres at Wrigley	\$155 pp
8/7	Strolling Down Broadway	\$102 pp
8/11	Cubs vs. Nationals at Wrigley	\$155 pp
8/13-16	Quilter's Escape to Paducah, KY	\$495 pp double
8/14	Iowa State Fair	\$65 pp
8/15	Cubs vs. Brewers at Wrigley	\$128 pp
8/21	The Henry Ford & Rouge Factory Tour	\$450 pp double
8/29	Cubs vs. Mets at Wrigley	\$110 pp

### SEPTEMBER

9/12	A Comedy of Tenors at Old Creamery	\$98 pp
9/12-15	Legends of Louisville, KY	\$550 pp double
9/15	Cubs vs. Reds at Wrigley	\$145 pp
9/21-30	The Gold of Colorado Trains	\$2790 pp double
9/26	Mama Won't Fly at Circa '21	\$98 pp
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# GONE FISHING!

Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Sunday, August 12 through Monday, August 20 so our team can enjoy some time this summer. Breaking news will be published online when possible. Our free e-Edition will be back Tuesday, August 21.

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**PRCA Rodeo Action**

*followed by*

**Randy Houser**

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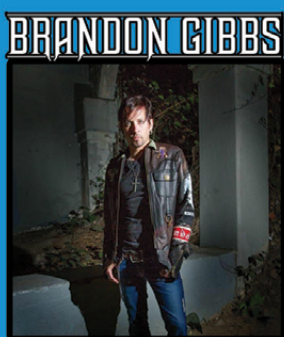
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#### Thursday:

Commercial & Craft Open: 4pm - 7pm  
Beer Pong Open Play: 4pm - 6pm  
Food Vendors Open: 4pm - Close  
Entertainment Area Open: 4:00pm - Close  
Beer Pong Tournament: 6pm - 10pm

#### Friday:

Volleyball Practice: 3pm - 6pm  
Dragon Boat Practice: 3pm - 7pm  
Commercial & Craft Open: 4pm - 7pm  
Food Vendors Open: 4pm - Close  
Entertainment Area Open: 4pm - Close  
Motorcycle Stunt Show: 5pm - 5:15pm  
TEEN STREET DANCE (Live DJ): 9:30pm - 11pm

#### Saturday:

5k Fun Run/Walk: 6:30am - 8:30am  
Commercial & Craft Open: 8am - 5pm  
Food Vendors Open: 11am - Close  
Dragon Boat Races: 9am - Close  
Kan-Jam Tournament: 10am - 2pm  
Pickleball Tournament: 10am - 2pm  
Volleyball Tournament: 10am - 2pm  
Motorcycle Stunt Show: 12pm - 12:15pm  
Entertainment Area Open: 3:00pm - Close  
Motorcycle Stunt Show: 4:45pm - 5pm

#### Sunday:

Legion Charity Breakfast (benefiting area veterans): 8am - Noon  
Motorcycle Stunt Show: 8am - Noon  
Commercial & Craft Open: 8am - 3pm  
Food Vendors Open: 11am - 7pm  
RiverFest Float Trip (Kayak, Canoe, SUP Float): 9am - Noon  
Harmony Sunday Services: 10:30am - Noon  
Captives Set Free (Christian Rock Band): Noon - 1pm  
Bags Tournament: 2pm - 6pm  
Entertainment Area Open: 3:00pm - Close

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Saturday - Noon to 4pm & 5pm to Close  
Sunday - Noon to Close



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## Area News/Weather

# Avid customers still craving original flavor profile

**CHIPS** - Continued from Page 1

and potatoes, you have to go through the process and it's getting a lot better, but we're not sure if we're there yet or not," Smith said. "We're waiting for this latest blend to get out in full supply and see what customers are saying."

If this version of the chip fares well with critics, Smith said the company will probably do another launch and maybe do some social media to encourage everyone else to get a bag and, well...Tri-Some.

He said the company didn't want to do another full-on roll-out until they were getting responses that were more favorable to the original recipe.

"We didn't want to put out a brand new product and say 'here it is, take or or leave it,'" he said. "Our continued goal is to mimic that original product. We didn't want to find ourselves in the repeated position of having customers buying a bag and it would be different, and then it would be different again, and different again. That's very frustrating."

### BTW... it was always gluten free

Smith said the company made an "interesting" marketing decision when they started labeling the bags "Gluten-Free".

"What people didn't realize is that it was always gluten free. We were getting dozens of calls each week asking us if we had gluten in them. We put that on our bags to make it very clear, but there's never been gluten in our chips. After people started seeing things change, we had lots of calls from people telling us to put the gluten back in," he said with a laugh.

In what is probably the clearest picture of the demand for the original Sterzing, Smith said customers desperate for that one-of-a-kind flavor were suggesting tongue-in-cheek, that the company get their oil on the black market and sell the chips that way.

Short of that, Smith said customer reaction to the most recent recipe blend that is in production now has been favorable and that blend is in production and hitting stores currently. He's waiting for responses to how they set up in the bag and then if things are still on the right track a promotional period may begin.

"We're gonna load the market up and hopefully start hearing some better comments," he said "We're not responding publicly or through social media because there are so many comments and I just don't like to address naysayers. When we're there we're gonna talk about it."

### What about the Kettle-style?

Smith said the company has discussed keeping it as an option because many did enjoy the chip. It just wasn't the original Sterzing and that is ultimately the product they are looking for. He said the company has the equipment to continue to make that product as well as do some flavorings, but all that is on the back burner until people respond positively to the regular Sterzings.

"We're slow at making change. It took us 80 years to learn how to make popcorn," he said. "But it's always been fun making chips," he said.

He asked customers to hold on and keep trying the product as that's the best way for the company to know how the chips taste.

"Be patient with us and understand it is our goal to continually move to our original product," he said.

"Through our discoveries, we're finding steps we can take to get there. It's simple to say 'do this and you'll have that', but trying to match our original oil has been more difficult than we anticipated. From our testing now, we are very close we believe. At some point we'll have to say this is where we're at for a while, so customers know they will get the same product. The problem with that is that we're still moving through the processes."

Smith encouraged customers to just stop by and say hello and continue to give feedback through the company's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Sterzing-Potato-Chips-35704641316> by email at [sterzing@sterzing@sterzingchips.com](mailto:sterzing@sterzingchips.com); or by calling 800-754-8467.

"They're welcome to stop by and say hello," Smith said. "I'm more than happy to meet with people and let them tell us their Sterzing story."

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## 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

SUN 29 Jul



Light Rain  
High— 78.4° F | Low – 62.8° F

MON 30 Jul



Heavy Intensity Rain  
High— 72.1° F | Low – 66.0° F

TUE 31 Jul



Moderate Rain  
High— 76.5° F | Low – 67.4° F

WED 01 Aug



Light Rain  
High— 79.3° F | Low – 67.6° F

THU 02 Aug



Light Rain  
High— 81.0° F | Low – 71.6° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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# Mitchell says state is going in the right direction

**GOP** - Continued from Page 1

okuk and graduated from Southeastern Community College before joining the Marines. He moved back into the area five years ago and said he was concerned by what he saw on Keokuk's Main Street.

"I was driving down Main Street with mom and wondered if I had been living with rose-colored glasses on, or if things had gone down hill that fast," Reichman said.

"You can get \$300 million per year in Lee County's economy," Reichman said. "We need to start building this county back up and take advantage of this turn we're having right now with bringing some of these manufacturing jobs back."

Lee County Republican Chairman Martin Graber said Kearns probably did the Republicans a favor by not running again, but he's endorsed Fort Madison's Jeff Kurtz for the seat.

"Jerry Kearns probably did us a favor by retiring. He's endorsed his successor, but if you have been to any debates and listened to what he thinks and believes and what his issues are - he doesn't talk about jobs too soon and he doesn't talk about making the state better," Graber said.

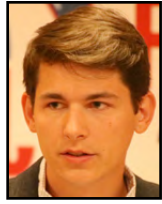
Joe Mitchell, fresh off a graduation this spring from Drake University, is trying to win Dave Heaton's 84th district State Rep. seat. Both Heaton and Kearns have said they will not seek re-election in the fall.

Mitchell said Iowa is ranked No. 1 in the country, has the lowest unemployment rates in the Midwest, has the highest graduation rate in the country and attributes all those recognitions to the work of governors Terry Branstad and Kim Reynolds.

Mitchell said this year it will be important for those in the Republican party to get out and talk to those fringe voters and not spend time on die-hard liberals who won't change their minds. He said the state is going in the right direction, but

that won't continue if the Republicans don't fight back what he called the "Blue Wave".

"Democrats are trying to mobilize right now. And they're trying to



MITCHELL

get many people out to take over the legislatures," he said. "I'm sure you've all heard of the Blue Wave movement they're trying to do. They think they're going to take over all the state legislatures and they think they're going to take over Congress and I'm sorry to tell them but I think that's a false notion," Mitchell said.

"I would think that was going to happen if we weren't the No. 1 state in the country, with the lowest unemployment rate in the Midwest. If we didn't have the highest graduation rate in the country. If we haven't delivered on historic tax cuts for working class families and small businesses."

He said the state does hold all those recognitions and when voters go to the polls they're going to ask if they are better off now than they were eight years ago under Governor Chet Culver.

"Eight years ago we spent every single penny we had, drained our reserve funds, had record high rather than record low unemployment, and our state was going down and I just thank God for Governor Branstad and Governor Reynolds for getting us out of that," he said to applause from the 120 in attendance.

Graber said it was almost Mitchell's race to lose when you look at demographics.

"He almost has to work real hard at losing that, but I always tell people don't ever assume you've got a win because I guarantee you in politics it's not always the best man or woman wins," Graber said.

James Steffen is running for the Lee County Board of Supervisors to take the District 3 seat being vacated by Don Hunold at the end of his

term.

Steffen said the county has been run by Democrats for too long and it's time for more transparency and more accountability at the county level.

Steffen ran for the statehouse in 2012 losing to Kearns and said he stepped away from public office.

"I kind of stayed out of politics for a while, but I don't like what is going on in Lee County. The focus on economic development doesn't have to be just manufacturing. We've got 5G in Lee County now so we can have any type of technology jobs."

He also said he was disappointed that the supervisors took \$400,000 out of the budget for law enforcement.



STEFFEN

"I support law enforcement. They took \$400,000 out of the budget for the sheriff, but he ended up getting back most of it. One party has been in control of the entire county and I think there needs to be more transparency and accountability and I think I can bring that," he said.

He also said education should be a priority.

"They told me to not worry about education, but children are our future and if we don't provide them with a quality education with more emphasis on the STEM program, if we don't provide them with that, then we are failing them and failing our state and county."

Steffen said the county needs to let the department heads do their jobs.

"We have department heads for our county and lots of decision are made by the board and they don't rely on those department heads. They need to utilize that better and rely on those people to do that job and if they can't do that job they need replaced. Someone needs to hold those people accountable and it's not being done now," Steffen said.



Photo courtesy of Mike Gehle

Fort Madison's Caleb Gehle moves to the front of the pack in the 100-meter wheelchair race on Friday. Gehle earned four gold medals and two silvers in four events over the last three days.

## Barcelona and TeamUSA up next for Gehle

**GEHLE** - Continued from Page 1

Tomaino's gold medal throw of 29'-6". Both Gehle's discus and javelin throws were personal records for him.

Gehle took gold in his only Thursday event, the 200-meter wheel chair race, and then took gold in both races on Friday. In the 200, Gehle won with a time of 56.11 seconds. His gold time in the 100 was 28.67 and he raced to a 1:50.73 in the 400-meter race. He also won a gold medal in the 4x100 relay with a team that asked him to join when he got to the event.

He said he had good leads in most of wheel chair races with his closest competitor being about seven seconds behind. But he said the track was very spongy and none of the racers set personal bests during the games.

Now Gehle begins to prepare for the World Games in Spain. He leaves for Europe on Aug. 4 and said the next week will be full of training and prep work for the trip.

"It's gonna be a lot more training within the next week," he said, "I don't know any times or anything I need to be at I just want to race the best I can and throw the best I can."

In 2017, Gehle competed in the junior nationals and won one gold and two silvers. He said going in April for qualifying allowed him to compete in the javeline and discus events, which were events he didn't get to compete in last year. Now he says he has a better idea of what to expect in Europe.

"I feel confident going over there just with this week even. I've learned a lot of helpful tips from other paralympic athletes that have been on TeamUSA and traveled the world. I'm honestly just extremely honored to get this opportunity."

Gehle said without the support of his family and the community he wouldn't be able to be a part of TeamUSA.

"I want to thank everyone for everything I'm able to do because this all probably wouldn't be possible without their donations and support," he said.

## Farm Bill, opioids are still on Congressional to-do list

**LOEBSACK** - Continued from Page 1

a seemingly endless list of issues to deal with. While I look forward to spending this time back in Iowa traveling across the state, Iowans deserve better. I stand ready to work with anyone to help move our state and nation forward."

Among the issues that have not been dealt with include: Farm bill, Combating the Opioid Epidemic, Long-term infrastructure/highway bill, Increase RFS volume outputs, Annual appropriations, Prison sentencing reform, Comprehensive jobs package, Comprehensive mental health reform, Higher Education reauthorization, Campaign finance reform.

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