



Pen City Current

Thursday, Jan. 25, 2019 | 14 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 34

State offers up 2019 STEM project funding menu

Schools, groups can apply online through March 4 for project resources

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – With STEM being the action word of educational and economic development officials for the past half a decade, state officials continue to put money toward programs that focus on critical thinking.

A new wave of applications through Governor Kim Reynolds' Iowa STEM Advisory Council, is now being accepted for area schools and outside organizations



MILLARD

interested in helping students of all ages engage in the STEM processes.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) is an interdisciplinary approach that helps students develop technical skills and make connections from the classroom to the world of work," according to Lee County Economic Development Group's Dana Millard.

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The Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council began accepting Scale-Up applications for the 2019-2020 school year January 21st. Applications will be accepted through March 4th. For a complete list of 2019-2020 STEM Scale-Up Programs, and to apply please visit <https://www.iowastem.gov/scale-up/>.

"STEM careers with local business and industry is a major focus of our Grow Lee programing and are a vital economic development driver for the growth of SE Iowa and the state" said Millard, the group's economic development project director.

"Helping promote programs such as STEM Scale-ups are a great way for us to leverage our resources in order to benefit local students."

The STEM Scale-Up programs range from building robots and coding programs, to conducting agricultural field experiences and learning about STEM careers.

Millard said Lee County is leading Southeast Iowa in its participation in receiving STEM Scale-ups with



PCC File photo

Students look at different STEM project boards at last year's STEMfest at Southeastern Community College. State STEM project funding applications for 2019 are now being accepted. This year's STEMfest is set for Feb. 23.

92% percent of the county's 13 public school buildings having received STEM Scale-up funding. That funding equates to more than \$60,000 in grants over the past four years. This is in addition to Fort Madison High School and Keokuk High School receiving \$25,000 each for the STEM BEST (Businesses Engaging Students and Teachers) program. Des Moines County has had 33% of their buildings receive a Scale-Up grant over the past four years, Henry County has had 54%, and Louisa County has had 50%.

See **SCALE UP**, page 5

Talks underway to help with city's redemption woes

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The idea of having another redemption center in Fort Madison is being, well.... recycled.

Fort Madison Mayor Brad Randolph, who also serves as chairman of the Great River Regional Waste Authority board, has reopened conversations about the possibility of partnering with local businesses and Hope Haven out of Burlington to establish a functioning redemption center, he said.

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The move coincided with a bill introduced Jan. 17 in the Iowa Senate, that would up the amount of the reimbursement to redemption centers by a penny to two cents per beverage container. Currently, reimbursement operations are getting one cent over the deposit refund by distributors, making it difficult to sustain operations out of the 1-cent margin.

The bill also cleans up language and would require distributors to pick up recycled containers at least weekly and provide payment within one week following the pick up.

The bill was introduced by State Sen. Mark Segebart (R-Vail) of the 6th District and was moved to a sub-committee on Wednesday.

Randolph said he'd had a few brief conversations with Wade Hamm, the director of GRRWA, as to whether space could be found to house the operations on landfill property.

Hamm said it might be difficult to find room at the landfill now, and he's not sure how much room the facility would need and what features would be required.

"Brad Randolph brought the idea to our attention," Hamm said. "We discussed it a little bit but nothing has become of that yet. Without doing some structural changes I don't think it's possible."

Randolph said he would like to see some businesses get behind the effort to help fund the operation. Spe-



RANDOLPH



GOBBLE

See **RECYCLE**, page 5

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Obituaries/Lottery Numbers

OBITUARIES

ERIC "GIZ" VAJENTIC

Eric "Giz" Vajentic, 70, of Donnellson, Iowa, passed away at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 22, 2019, at Great River Medical Center in West Burlington, Iowa.

Born on November 10, 1948, in Washington, Pennsylvania, the son of Joseph and Rose (Yanik) Vajentic. On August 22, 1970, he married Judith Laposta in Burgettstown, Pennsylvania. She preceded him in death on November 9, 2010.



VAJENTIC

Survivors include his two children: Eric Matthew (Sharon) Vajentic of Kansas City, Missouri and Lynae (Mark) Scott of Donnellson, Iowa; four grandchildren: Dominic and Benjamin Vajentic and Reegyn and Grayson Scott; two brothers: Joe (Sue) Vajentic of Elyria, Ohio and Tom (Cathy) Vajentic of Apalachin, New York; one sister: Anna Kathryn Vajentic of Mayfield Heights, Ohio; mother-in-law: Florence Laposta of Burgettstown, Pennsylvania; two brothers-in-law: Robert (Barbara) Laposta of Paris, Pennsylvania and Eugene (Diane) Laposta of Grantsville, Maryland and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Joseph and Rose; wife: Judith and father-in-law: Robert Laposta.

Eric graduated from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh with a Bachelors Degree. He worked at Climax Molybdenum as an accountant for forty-four years. He attended St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Montrose for many years. He was a longtime member of Green Acres Golf Course and the Montrose City Council. Eric was active in many area outdoor organizations. He enjoyed spending time outdoors: golfing, fly fishing and gardening. He was an avid fan of all Pittsburgh sports teams and loved hosting Sunday football get togethers. Eric was a strong man overcoming many medical issues and was always very grateful to all those who assisted him. Above all, Eric enjoyed spending time with his family and grandkids (to whom he was affectionately known as "Pap Pap") and he was well loved by his nieces and nephews. Giz was full of integrity and was well respected by all who knew him.

In accordance with his longstanding wishes, his body has been deeded to the University of Iowa Anatomy Department.

A Memorial Service will be held at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, February 2, 2019, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson with Reverend Mark P. Spring officiating. The family will receive friends from 11:00 a.m. until the time of service.

A memorial has been made in his memory.

Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be made at www.schmitzfuneral-homes.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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OBITUARIES

AGNES M. FULLENKAMP

Agnes M. Fullenkamp, 101, of West Point, Iowa passed away at 1:55 a.m. Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at the West Point Care Center.

Agnes was born on November 4, 1917, in Houghton, Iowa, the daughter of Joseph and Deanna (Holtkamp) Bentler. On January 31, 1940, she married Adrian "Abie" Fullenkamp at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Houghton, Iowa. Able passed away on December 1, 1997.



FULLENKAMP

Survivors include her five sons: Ray (Becky) Fullenkamp, Dan (Deb) Fullenkamp of West Point, Will (Chris) Fullenkamp of Fort Madison, John (Jill) Fullenkamp of Danville, Jim (Sandra) Fullenkamp of Irving, California; three daughters: Jeanne Griswold of Fort Madison, JoAnn (Danny) Lampe of West Point and her very special daughter, Judy Fullenkamp of Burlington; one daughter-in-law: Carol Fullenkamp; some of her greatest loves were her many grandchildren; the thirty-two grandchildren; seventy-four great-grandchildren and eight great, great grandchildren. She's also survived by her two brothers: Frank Bentler

of Ft. Madison and Tony Bentler of Mt. Pleasant; one sister: Rita Meyer of Davenport; sister-in-law: Ann Bendlage; her many nieces, nephews and so many wonderful friends, as well as her West Point Care Center family.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one son: Ron; one son-in-law: Pat Griswold; two brothers: Louis and Leo Bentler; five sisters: Claire Pranger, Rosina Sanders, Gertrude Berg, Dorothy Pollmiller and Mary Menke and one grandson-in-law: Greg Menke.

Agnes graduated from St. John's Catholic School, Houghton, Iowa. She was a homemaker and mom throughout most of her life. She worked as a sitter at Sacred Heart Hospital, Ft. Madison after her children were raised.

Agnes was a member of St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church, the Daughter's of Isabella, the West Point Garden Club and St. Mary's Altar and Rosary Society. She was an avid card player, enjoying many games with her many friends, as well as children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She loved all of her family and friends very much but showed no mercy when she was playing cards. Her favorite year was 2017 when the Cubs won the World Series. She was told she would have to wait one-hundred years for that so she did.

Friends may call after 12:00 noon Friday, January 25, 2019, at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point where the family will receive friends from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A Parish Rosary will be recited at 3:30 p.m. and a Christian Wake Service will be held at 6:00 p.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, January 26, 2019, at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point with Father Dennis Hoffman as celebrant. Burial will be at the Calvary Cemetery, West Point, Iowa.



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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



1/22
 4 15 37 59 64
 Mega Ball: 16
 Megaplier: 5



1/22 MID-DAY
 7 8 0
 1/22 EVENING
 1 6 7



1/22 MID-DAY
 8 3 9 2
 1/22 EVENING
 3 7 0 6

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Sports

FMMS girls take two from Fairfield

Jenkins scores game high 13 in 30-24 "A" game win

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison 7th grade girls basketball team defeated Fairfield 30-24 in the A game Monday night in Fairfield.

Aija Jenkins led all scorers with 13 points, followed by Taylor Johnson with eight points. Madelyn Gobble, Lauryn Helmick, Ellanore Wright, and Gracie Blind each pitched in two points.

Helmick added four assist and four steals. Johnson led in rebounds with 10 and Jenkins added seven.

Fort Madison's A team moves to 2-0 on the season and plays at Mt. Pleasant on Tuesday.

The Fort Madison B team won by a score of 8-4.

Ieisha Coleman led in scoring with six points and Haley Lampe chipped in with two. Amy Yasenchock and Ali Carson contributed three steals. Lampe led in rebounds with four. With the win, Fort Madison's B team moves to 2-0 and also plays at Mt. Pleasant on Tuesday.

Fairfield boys take three from FMMS

PCC STAFF

FAIRFIELD – Fairfield won all three games against the Little Hounds' 8th grade boys team on Tuesday.

Nathaniel Swigart led Fort Madison with eight points, two of which came from three-point land in the 54-22 loss in the "A" game.

Xander Wellman had six points and three rebounds, while Aiden Boyer and Jamiah Williams each scored four.

In the "B" game, Fort Madison fell 27-22 with Calviyan Tucker putting in 10 points and hauling in four rebounds for the Hounds. Dane Butler and George Hantzeas each had four points, while Drew Davis and Wellman added two. Nick Fullencamp led the boys with five boards.

Davis had three points in Fort Madison's 18-5 "C" game loss. Hantzeas added two to round out the scoring for Fort Madison.

Hound boys pitch 2nd quarter shutout in win over Clark County

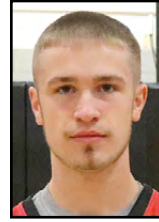
Fedler scores 18; Rashid, Keester 12 ea.

PCC STAFF

KAHOKA – A second quarter shut out by the Fort Madison Bloodhounds Tuesday night was the catalyst to a 53-47 win over Clark County on the road.

Junior Jayden Fedler led Fort Madison with 18 points on the night including eight in the first quarter, to go with senior Brandon Keester's two 3-balls as the Hounds found themselves behind 17-14 after one.

But the Hound defense strapped the Indians



KEESTER

down in the second quarter not allowing a point, while the Hounds raced out to a 29-17 first half lead.

Fort Madison converted three 3-pointers in the second period, two by senior Logan Rashid and one from Keester.

Clark County got things going again in the third period, putting up 17 with five different players scoring in the period. Hound freshman Dayton Davis scored six in the third period and Keester got his fourth 3-pointer of the game to help the Hounds hold onto the lead.

Rashid would convert

4-of-4 free throws in the final period and Fedler would convert a couple bucket for Fort Madison to seal the win, despite the Indians outpacing the Hounds 13-10 down the stretch.

Rashid and Keester each finished with a dozen on the night for the Hounds. Davis finished with six points on the night, while Mike Mosen and Parker Denning both added two points. Jordyn Gerdes had one to round out the scoring for Fort Madison. Fort Madison went a sparkling 11-of-12 from the free throw line in the win.

Fedler is tops in the Southeast Conference in scoring with at 15.7 points per outing and 234 total points. He's also second

in field goal percentage for starters in the conference at 61.0% from the field, behind Keokuk's Alex Wolter who's at 61.9 through 14 games.

Rashid is 4th in the loop in scoring at 12.4 points per game.

Fort Madison is 6-9 on the year and had lost four of it's last five going into Tuesday's game. They take on Mt. Pleasant at home on Friday and then Central Lee at home on Saturday for the annual cake auction.

Connor Mack had 15 points to lead Clark County and Layne Sommers chipped in with 14.

In the junior varsity matchup Jace Burgher scored 14 to lead the Hounds in a 47-35 win.

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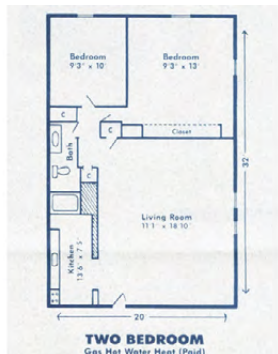
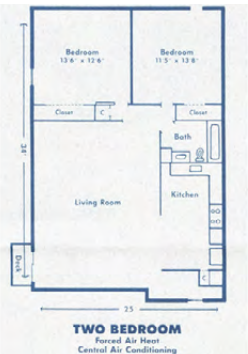
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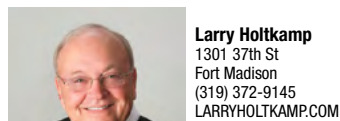
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From the Front/Weather

Lee County has record of success with STEM funding

SCALE UP - Continued from Page 1

Kristine Bullock serves as the hub manager for the Governor's STEM Council for Southeast Iowa. She said the state has six regions and each region receives \$500,000 each year to award programs to area schools and organizations.

"We don't give money to the schools, we use it for training and programming," Bullock said. "Schools can apply for as many programs as they want. Potentially every teacher could get that training."

She said since 2011, the state has been allocating money to increase STEM participation at formal and informal school sessions. Informal school sessions could include scout groups, libraries, after-school programs and with 18 counties in southeast Iowa vying for the programming awards, the application process is very important.

Bullock said that Lee County has been able to take advantage of strong partnerships with the STEM council through the work of Lee County Economic Development Group.

"I believe that southeast Iowa and Lee County are either even, if not ahead, of the rest of the state, especially with the help of Lee County Economic Development Group," Bullock said.

"Dana is on my advisory board and that's a really great partnership and collaboration that has helped that area. We're still trying to make sure that every building has high quality STEM programming and we have pockets of excellence, but we need to make sure they have that programming every year. We don't want them to have that grade where things drop because they aren't continually thinking with that critical mindset."

On the Iowa Assessments, students who participated in the STEM Scale-Up Program scored higher than students statewide with an average of three percentage points higher in mathematics and reading, four higher in science.

"Lee County has a lot of STEM career opportunities, including careers that deal with robotics, engineering, math, and science.

It's important that we prepare our students for these careers" said Millard.

To help shape this, Millard sits on the Governor's SE Iowa STEM Advisory Council. The council is a public-private partnership of educators, companies, and Iowa students and families addressing policies and programs designed to improve Iowa's educational system focused on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The STEM Council works to engage and prepare students for a career-ready workforce path, regain Iowa's historic leadership position in education, and provide a vital competitive economic advantage now, and for the future, to ensure that every Iowa student has access to world-class STEM education opportunities.

"We wanted to try to get the word out that the application process is now open and we would like to see schools, groups, and non-traditional classrooms at all levels take advantage of these program resources," Bullock said.

STEM Fest
Southeast Iowa Regional STEM Festival

SCC WB Campus **Feb. 23, 10AM - 1PM**

Fun for the whole family!
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Lee County ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP
Greater BURLINGTON Partnership
SCC SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
GREATNESS FROM IOWANS GOVERNOR'S STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL

Officials looking to partner with Hope Haven for redemption center

RECYCLE - Continued from Page 1

cifically, those who sell and charge deposits for cans. Right now, cans are accepted at some of those locations, but on a very limited basis. Cans can also be taken out to P.A.W. Animal Shelter, where volunteers sort and bag the items.

Hamm said last week that Randolph asked to have the idea put back on the GRRWA's agenda.

"I put it on for discussion purposes," Randolph said. "I wanted to make sure if I was going to be the point person on this, that we were all on the same page. And after the discussion, I think the board was pretty receptive to the idea."

He said it would take some investment from area retailers who sell cans to help get the program up and running.

Bob Bartles, executive director at Hope Haven in Burlington, said the organization has an interest in running the facility, but hadn't spoken with Randolph as of last week. Most of his conversations involved Fort Madison Partners Director Tim Gobble.

"We had spoken about this in the past and the sticking point has always been finding a place for a facility. There would have to be some money put into the program, too, because these operations don't net a lot," Bartles said.

Randolph said he asked for a meeting with Gobble to coordinate efforts and see what kind of funding could

be obtained. He also said he intended to reach out to Bartles as well.

City Manager David Varley said if a place could be found to house the operation, the project might be workable.

"They need to have a location, but I think if there was a place, Hope Haven would get pretty serious about it," Varley said.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 24 Jan

Light Snow
High- 14.9° F | Low - 0.7° F

FRI 25 Jan

Light Snow
High- 5.7° F | Low - 1.3° F

SAT 26 Jan

Clear Skies
High- 4.3° F | Low - 0.3° F

SUN 27 Jan

Light Snow
High- 28.5° F | Low - 15.2° F

MON 28 Jan

Light Snow
High- 37° F | Low - 15.8° F

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CURRENT-LEE

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

Budding Artist Exhibit

The Budding Artist Exhibit is on display now at the Fort Madison Area Arts Association, with a reception taking place Saturday, Jan. 19 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Children’s Immunization Clinic

The Lee County Health Department will be holding a children’s immunization clinic with free lead testing on Thursday, Jan. 24 at the LCHD’s facility at #3 John Bennett Drive in Fort Madison from noon until 5:30 p.m. The clinic is open to children with no insurance, those insured by Medicaid/MCO or those with private insurance that doesn’t cover vaccines. No appointment is necessary. Call 319-372-5225 for more information.

Community Blood Drive

Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center will hold a drive at Lincoln Elementary School on Thursday, Jan. 24 from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the school gymnasium. To donate call LeAnn Cashman at 319-372-2896.

Cake Auction

The Fort Madison Bloodhound Boosters will hold a cake auction on Saturday, Jan 26 at breaks during the varsity girls and boys basketball games.

Nerf Wars at FM YMCA

The Fort Madison YMCA will be the site of another round of Nerf Wars on Sunday, Jan. 27. From 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. boys and girls ages 1 through 6 will compete in Nerf Wars in the gymnasium. Children must bring eye protection, their own Nerf guns, darts/bullets/balls. Cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. For more information contact program director Noah Dean or visit the YMCA’s Facebook page for more information.

Local artist on display at SCC

Lori Illner Greene will have her art work on display at the Southeastern Community College Art Gallery, 1500 W. Agency Road in West Burlington from Jan. 28-Feb. 15. The gallery showing will feature her “Raptors and Other Birds of Prey” series.

Evening with Chuck Long

Former Iowa standout and NFL quarterback Chuck Long will be at Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course on Tuesday, Feb. 12 for presentation, including a social hour and dinner with doors opening at 4:30. The social hour and dinner will be from 5 to 6 and Long will speak at 6 p.m. with a question and answer to follow. For more information, contact Ryan at 319-528-6214 or by email at mcmillan@sheaffergolf.com.

Ribbon-Cutting

A ribbon cutting for The Kingsley Inn and River Rocks Bar & Grille will be held on Feb. 15 at 10 a.m.

Fort Madison Partners Annual Dinner

The Fort Madison Partners Annual Dinner will be held Feb. 22 at McAleere Hall in Fort Madison. A night of gaming, food and fun has been planned. Contact Partners at 372-5471 for more information.

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.

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