



Pen City Current

Friday, May 5, 2017 | 8 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 115

PSAP board discusses director's job

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The LeeComm PSAP Control Board held a closed session to discuss the performance of director Diana Fincher-Smith Thursday as part of their regular meeting which was held today at Fort Madison City Hall.

Fincher-Smith is the current Administrator of LeeComm E-911 services and was not in attendance at the meeting for the closed session or to give a report. Administrative Dispatcher Marla Hemmie gave the monthly report to the board. Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber was absent from the meeting.

Other board members include Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren, Keokuk Police Chief Dave Hinton,

Fort Madison Police Chief Tim Sittig, Jason Dinwiddie of the West Point Volunteer Fire Department and Gabe Rose, Keokuk Fire Chief.

According to the board's notice of public meeting, the closed session was called to "Discuss the performance of the director in closed session as allowed in Iowa Code 21.5 (1)(i) - "To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation, and that individual requests a closed session."

Hinton, who serves as chairman of the board, declined to comment on the situation due to it being a

See LEECOMM, page 3

Port Authority buzzing again in Lee County

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - The wheels are starting to turn again on an economic vehicle in Lee County called the Southeast Iowa Regional Economic and Port Authority.

The State of Iowa approved Code 28J in 2005 authorizing the creation of port authorities within the state

of Iowa and Lee County jumped on the new law in 2006 and formed the first port authority in the state of Iowa.

Mike Norris, executive director of the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission, which provides administration for the organization, said past changes in Foreign Trade Zone rules have led



NORRIS

port authority board members to evaluate new areas of impact for the organization. Establishing a site with pre-authorization for FTZ status was once a focus for the organization.

Cerro Gordo County in north central Iowa near Mason City is also considering forming a port authority, but currently the Southeast Iowa entity is the only one in the state.

"The Quad Cities Point Port of Entry eased the process of forming foreign trade zones through an alternative site framework which makes the application process easier. A while ago the FTZs were a hotter commodity because it was tough to get one, but that designation is easier to get now."

He said custom duties, or taxes, on goods being imported to the country to create a finished product that is then exported, can be reduced or eliminated by companies operating in or through a Free Trade Zone, which is part of the attraction of port authorities.

See NORRIS, page 8

“
Our intent is to be a uniquely valuable organization to Lee County. Over time we've been through cycles of opportunity and we are investigating new opportunities now.”

-Mike Norris
SEIRPC Executive Director



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Small Business of the Year

Jerry Koering, center, Justin Pieper, back, and staff of Group Benefit Partners were honored with the Small Business of the Year award at the 2017 annual Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce Small Business Breakfast and Expo.

Micro Business of the Year

Allison Arevalo, right and husband Alfonso, not pictured, of Rev Fitness, were honored with the Micro Business of the Year award at the 2017 Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce Small Business Breakfast and Expo held Thursday morning at Comfort Inn and Suites.



Advertiser Index

Boulders Inn & Suites Fort Madison.....	P.6	Hope Associates Real Estate	Ps.3,7
Elliott Test Kitchen	P.5	HTC 5th Annual Glo Run	P.2
Farm Bureau Financial Services	P.5	Kempker's True Value Rental	P.4
Fort Madison Depot Farmers' Market	P.8	KLM Realty	P.6
Green Oak Development.....	P.6	Pen City Current.....	Ps.5-6
Griffin Muffler & Brake Center	P.8	Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course	Ps.4-5
GRRWA.....	P.3		

News Index

Area News	P.3
From the front.....	Ps.3,8
For the Record.....	P.3
Local News	P.8
Sports	Ps.4-5

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Area News/For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Department

05/03/17 - 9:42 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 600 block of First Street.
05/03/17 - 10:58 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to

a report of a larceny/theft in the 800 block of Avenue G.
05/03/17 - 12:43 p.m. Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1600 block of Avenue I.
05/04/17 - 4:47 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1400 block of Avenue G.

Lee County Sheriff's Department

05/03/17 - 1:54 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Taylor Carroll Dickens, 30 of Keokuk on a warrant for violation of parole. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Thursday rollover injures one

BY PCC STAFF

WEVER - A Thursday evening rollover accident has sent one person to a local hospital.

Lee County Sheriff, Wever Fire & Rescue and Lee County EMS were

called to a one-vehicle truck rollover in the 33rd block of 175th Street west of Wever Thursday evening at about 8:45 p.m.

A white pickup, driver unknown at this time, rolled over into the northbound ditch

and came to rest on its wheels.

The driver was able to extricate himself from the vehicle, but was transported to Fort Madison Community Hospital for reportedly minor injuries.

Hemmie briefs board on E911 April activity

LEECOMM - Continued from Page 1

personnel matter.

After a brief 15-minute closed session the board reconvened and no action was taken as a result of the session.

The board also approved a five-year wage increase for Katy Blindt from \$18.73 to \$18.86 per hour in accordance with the group's current collective bargaining agreement

that went into effect May 16, 2017.

During the regular meeting, Hemmie told the board she attended the Lee County Emergency Management meeting and said spring emergency management exercises are set for May 24th at the Ivor Fowler Center in Montrose.

Hemmie said she at-

tended a CrimeStoppers meeting where fundraising and additional publicity was needed, including using their Facebook page to publicize some of the group's successes.

Hemmie also reported that in April LeeComm handled 8,676 calls of which 1,571 were 911 calls.

Great River Regional Waste Authority reminds you to use the 3 R's!



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REUSE

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*Reduce the amount of waste produced in society

The best way to manage waste is to not produce it. This can be done by shopping carefully and being aware of a few guidelines.

- Buy durable goods & products in bulk
- Avoid over-packaged & disposable goods
- Use cloth napkins/towels instead of paper napkins/towels
- Make 2-sided copies whenever possible
- Maintain central files for multiple individuals
- Use electronic mail/communications or a central bulletin board

REUSE

* Reuse products for the same purpose or for a different purpose

It makes economic & environmental sense to reuse products. Sometimes it takes a creative mind to do so.

- Sell or Donate old clothes, appliances, toys & furniture
- Use resealable containers rather than plastic wrap
- Reuse grocery bags or bring your own cloth bags to the store

RECYCLE

* Recycle/convert common waste into reusable material

Recycling is a series of steps that takes a used material and processes, re-manufactures and sells it as a new product. Begin recycling at home and work.

- Recycle all acceptable products at our recycling bins, stations & trailers
(see www.grrwa.com for a complete list of locations)
- Check for curbside recycling acceptable items & schedules on your local city websites
- Purchase and use recycled materials for the home & office
- Implement a composting process for your lawn & garden

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We accept household hazardous waste and electronic waste at the Fort Madison location. Appointments are encouraged to ensure a proper procedures are in place for disposal. Please call 319-372-6140 to schedule your appointment. For a full list of acceptable items please call or visit us online.

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Conference Track



At left, FMHS's Elijah Barnes heaves the shot in the final round of the boys Southeast Conference Track meet in Mt. Pleasant. Below, Alex Gully blasts from the blocks in the boys Distance Medley relay. The Hounds finished second in Gully's race with a strong finish on the last leg by Aaron Steffensmeier. Full results will be posted in Sunday's edition.



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



At top, FMHS's Belle Baier motors to her heat finish of the women's 400-meter dash in a neck-and-neck dash to the line with a Keokuk runner. At left, the Hounds' Brittiney Harris shows her form in tossing the shot put.

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Sports

FMHS gives up 2 goals in second half loss

BY PCC STAFF

MT. PLEASANT - Fort Madison's boys soccer team played a lot of defense on Thursday night, but the bend don't break of the first half didn't carry into the second as they fell 2-0 to Mt. Pleasant on the road in high school action. With a score knotted at 0-0 for the entire first half and just about halfway through the 2nd half, Mt. Pleasant was finally able to get the ball in the net after having the Bloodhounds

backed up against their own goal. Javier Trejo made 10 saves in the game. AJ Nolting, Chase Rogers, and Brody Rung all had shots for the Hounds. The Hounds fall to 3-8 overall and 0-7 in the Southeast Conference. In the junior varsity game, Trejo had six saves and Danen Settles made four in one half of action. The Hounds travel to Davenport Assumption on Saturday.



Miguel Trejo goes up to grab a shot outside the goal in Thursday's boys soccer action at Mt. Pleasant. The Hounds fell 2-0 to move to 3-8 overall.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

HTC junior high's Hannum, Schneider lead at Pekin

BY PCC STAFF

The Holy Trinity Catholic Junior High boys and girls track team competed in the Pekin Middle School Track Meet on Tuesday. Garrett Hannum and Raquel Schneider each brought home a 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd-place finish for the Crusaders.

Hannum took 1st in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:22.25 and Schneider matched his first with her own, also taking the 800-meter run in a time of 2:46.19. Hannum placed 2nd in the 400-meter dash with a mark of 60.02 and 3rd in the 200-meter dash with a time of 27.30. Schneider placed 2nd in the 400-meter dash at 1:07.7 and 3rd in the 200 at 29.5 seconds. Mikey DiPrima had a good night as well. He placed 3rd in the 100-meter days in 14.94, 5th in the 400 (1:13.2) and 5th in the 200 (31.0). Anna Sobczak placed 4th in the 100 against some very fast competition with a time of 14.25. She also competed in the 200 (31.2).

Also, competing for the Crusaders were Tessa Gendron 100 (16.1), 200 (36.78), and Anna Schroeder 100 (18.4), 200 (42.65). The Crusaders finish their season next May 9, 2017, at the Conference Relays hosted by Van Buren.

FMHS 4th at Fairfield

BY PCC STAFF

FAIRFIELD - Hampered by being short one golfer, the Fort Madison boys golf team took fourth place at the Fairfield Invitational Wednesday evening. Mt. Pleasant won the meet behind the even par 76 turned in by Jeff Cox. Medalist was Centerville's Colton Belloma who carded a 1-under-par 75.

Fort Madison was led by Tristan Reida's 88. Bill Young and Tommy Wade went 2nd and 3rd with a 94 and 95 respectively. Tyler O'Toole finished with a 98 and Brandon Keester, who led all Bloodhounds on the front nine with a 44, came in on the back nine with 59 for a 103. The boys travel to Mt. Pleasant on Friday with a triangular meet against Mt. Pleasant and Washington.

FMHS drops all singles matches at Macomb

BY PCC STAFF

MACOMB, Ill., - For the first time all year, the Fort Madison Bloodhound boys tennis team dropped every match in singles competition in the same meet. The Hounds fell 3-6 to hosts Macomb on Thursday night and didn't see a win until the doubles action. However, the Hounds came back to take all three doubles matches and three of the singles matches had to go to a two-set tiebreaker.

At No. 1 singles Dante Seaney fell to Ben Williams 2-6, 2-6. Then Johnny Hernandez dropped two straight sets to Jared Rhoads at the No. 2 singles level with a 2-6, 4-6 loss. Sam Avery took Sam Sellen to a tiebreaker after splitting the first two sets 5-7, 7-6 and then fell 8-10 to lose the No. 3 singles match. Austin Krueger also forced a tiebreaker after winning the first set at No. 4 singles over Alai Stone. But Stone got the best of Krueger in

the second set 3-6 and then fell 4-10 in the tiebreaker. At No. 5 singles, Conrad Hellman fell to Bailey Collins 4-6, 2-6, and Blake Feuerhammer had an up-and-down at No. 6 singles against Alex Benson with a 6-1 win in the first set then got shut out in the second set 0-6 before falling in the tiebreaker 6-10 to round out the singles play. Seaney and Hernandez downed Williams and Stone 6-3 in the first set but got blanked in the second set before taking the two-set tiebreaker 10-7. At No. 2 doubles Avery and Krueger defeated Rhoads and Collins 7-5, 6-1. Hellman and Feuerhammer had to go deep into the match to seal the doubles sweep. The Fort Madison duo lost the first set in a tie breaker 6-7 (5-7), then came back for 6-4 second set win and won the tie breaker 10-6. The Hounds face Mt. Pleasant at home Friday in a makeup contest starting at 3:45.

Thornton leads Holy Trinity at SEISC golf meet

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Holy Trinity Crusaders took 7th place in the Southeast Iowa Superconference meet Wednesday at Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course. Collin Thornton led the way for HTC with an 81 on the par-72 course. Cameron Bahl shot an 84

followed by Alex Bentler with a 97. Kyle Bredemeyer shot a 102, Mason Holvoet carded a 105, and Nathan Bredemeyer came in with a 107. The conference meet featured 12 teams with West Burlington/Notre Dame winning the event shooting a 328. Followed by Central Lee's team

score of 331. Danville's Wayne Briggs was the conference meet medalist with a 78. Central Lee's Isaac Moeller and Wapello's Trace Howard were runners-up with a 79 each. The Crusaders play Saturday morning in the Central Lee Invitational in Donnellson with a 7:30 a.m. tee-off.

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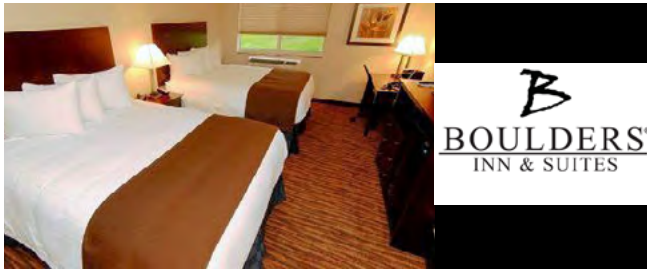
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4BR • 2BA • 2 car garage
1,260 sq. ft. • 4.59 acres

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1703 Avenue L
Listing #20165151 • \$55,900



3BR • 1BA • 2 car garage
1,488 sq. ft. • 16,247 sq. ft. lot

Has been owned by this seller since 1960!!! Large eat-in kitchen with newly tiled floor includes stove, microwave, washer and dryer, main floor laundry (in bedroom), formal dining room with built-in hutch, and spacious living room. The house sits on a HUGE lot and has a nice 2 car garage in back. Home has Gas Heat and central air with maintenance-free siding on house and garage.

1712 Avenue E
Listing #20164725 • \$92,000



4BR • 1.50BA
1,706 sq. ft. • 7,250 sq. ft. lot

This spacious home has it all, the character of a turn of the century home; beautiful woodwork, beamed ceilings, window seat, columns, and large covered front porch, yet also includes MANY updates. Call today for your private viewing!

3098 County Road 103
Listing #20164991 • \$129,900



2BR • 2BA • 3 car garage
1,404 sq. ft. • 1.42 acres

Upgrades, improvements, updates...call it what you like, this home has had MANY in the last 2 plus years. This seller has completely refurbished the hill to the north of the home with new landscaping finishes. This is a must see property!!! It has enough room for your family and then some!!!

4911 Bluff Road
Listing #20164861 • \$157,500



3BR • 1.75BA • 2 car garage
1,772 sq. ft. • 0.57 acres

Great family home with LOTS OF NEW! New kitchen, bathroom, windows, most flooring, wrap around deck, ceiling fans, light fixtures, furnace and central air! Beautiful neutral decor and window treatments make this a must see! All this and a 2 car heated garage.

1708 Avenue G
Listing #20165237 • \$92,500



3BR • 1BA
1,432 sq. ft. • 5,500 sq. ft. lot

This UPDATED, MOVE-IN READY, CHARMING 3 bedroom home will make an awesome family home!!! This gem has all new windows throughout, exterior doors, deck, plumbing, & NEW roof on house & garage. So come check it out! This is a MUST SEE!!!



From the Front/Local News

SIREPA another vital economic tool in the toolbox

NORRIS - Continued from Page 1

SIREPA has been less active in recent months, but Norris said the group has gone through some normal cycles and circumstances since it was established and now new efforts are being made to educate people on the value of the designation.

“Our intent is to be a uniquely valuable organization to Lee County,” he said. “Over time we’ve been through cycles of opportunity and we are investigating new opportunities now.”

The group is controlled by a board

of directors including two members from Fort Madison, two from Keokuk, and two from Lee County. Currently, those members are Mike Dunn of Keokuk, Kim Auge and Roger Keller of Fort Madison, and Denise Boyer of Lee County. One open spot is still available from Keokuk and one from Lee County. Lee County Supervisors Rick Larkin and Gary Folluo serve as liaisons to the board. The SIREPA board also works in close conjunction with the Lee County Economic Development group.

“We’re working with LCEDG and are in close contact with them all the time, so we know who’s looking at sites and what RFPs they are receiving, and if there is something we can help with and be of assistance from the beginning,” Norris said.

“I think any time the county is looking to plan something or run something where it’s difficult for one entity to do, the Port Authority is the kind of entity that could own, manage, lead, and develop. It can do a lot of different things.

If there are difficult questions out there about who could own it, manage it, the port authority should be in on those discussions. The organization exists to get involved in these larger complex projects.”

“SIREPA is alive and well. We are positioned to respond quickly to any opportunity that uses our unique abilities in economic development, education, freight, ports or other areas benefitting Lee County,” said Mike Dunn, SIREPA board member.

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Best of Show

FMAAA wraps up another quality Regional High School Competition. Claire Graham, 9th grade HTC, wins a \$40 stipend for Best of Show. She also won in two other divisions. Sneak peek of May's feature with Tri-States Modern Quilt Guild.



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