



# Pen City Current

Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019 | 6 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 53

## Students get up close with Industrial Tech

PCC STAFF

KEOKUK – Students from Lee and Des Moines counties, as well as students from Warsaw and Clark County attended Southeastern Community College's Industrial Technology Day at the Keokuk Campus last week.

ConAgra, Sligan Containers, Griffin Wheel and Iowa Fertilizer spoke to current and future students about job expectations and how what they are learning at the SCC Keokuk campus applies to their facilities.

"These students are getting good, high paying, job offers before they finish their training because the skills are in such high demand," SCC instructor Jason Radel said.

Current SCC Industrial Technology student Adam Connors talked to high school students about how he uses the troubleshooting techniques he's learning in SCC's IMT program while working maintenance at Griffin Wheel.

"We are seeing more traditional students coming into the programs, which is a big plus" Radel said. These

traditional students are students currently in high school or recently graduated.

Several of Lee County EDG's 12 Plus graduates are continuing to take the Industrial Maintenance classes and showed off what they've been learning to other high school students interested in the program.

When asked if the 12 Plus Employability class had been beneficial, graduate Romeo Maestro said, "12 Plus helped me with my speaking skills so I feel more

See SCC, page 6



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

A bulldozer sits atop the lot at 13th and Avenue I, where a home used to stand last week. The city razed the home earlier this week, a move that has been met with disapproval by the city's Historic Preservation Commission.

## Razing draws ire of city's historic commission

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The demolition of a house at 1301 Avenue I has the ire of the city's Historic Preservation Commission.

The property was demolished sometime during the three-day holiday weekend and Andy Andrews, president of the North Lee County Historical Society, told the Fort Madison City Council the move was a slap in the face of the commission. Andrews also serves as the chairman of the HPC.

"It was a real slap into the face of the HPC yesterday when they came in on a holiday and tore down an 1836

brick house at 1301 Avenue I. There was no knowledge to the preservation commission," Andrews told the council Tuesday night.

Andrews spent some time outlining the history of the building and said there was some hardware the commission would have like to have saved.

"Unknown to us, this was being torn down and we kept this all secret from the Historic Preservation Commission."

He presented a list of homes built before 1960 and said those homes should have a demolition permit.

"Of course, the city's going to tell me they don't have to

See HOUSE, page 2

## City proposes new lease with RiverFest

*City didn't discuss new fees, deposit with organizer*

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Under a new proposed lease with the city, RiverFest organizer Charles Craft will pay 1,500% more to use Riverview Park for the burgeoning summer festival.

The 1,500% amounts to \$375 for the year. Craft was paying just \$25 to the city for the rental of the park for the four-day event for the past three years. Under the new contract, Craft will pay \$400 for the park.

The city and Craft have been working on a lease agreement for use of the park. City Manager David Varley told the Fort Madison Parks Board at its meeting on Wednesday night, that the proposed agreement is a one-year deal.

"We're asking you to approve this as a one-year agreement with the intent that in 2020 the parties would enter into a multi-year agreement," Varley said.

The board approved the agreement with a 4-0 vote.

Craft said Wednesday he didn't have a problem with the increased fee, but said he would have liked to have seen the lease before the park board approved it.

"I've been asking (Varley) for a lease agreement since October. I've stopped in to see it several times and they tell me it's not ready or it's close to being ready. Then, almost overnight, it shows up in front of

See PARKS, page 6

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## From the Front/Weather

# City says property has been a nuisance for years

**HOUSE** - Continued from Page 1

get demolition permits, but that's really not designated. The commission is here to preserve our historic structures," Andrews said.

Andrews said the commission tried to purchase the property, but there were too many hoops to jump through. He said the commission has agreed to tear down some buildings including 721 Avenue G, so he didn't know why 1301

was chosen so quickly.

"The demolition of 1301 I was a blatant disregard to the Historic Preservation Commission. Wanted to bring that to your attention tonight and hopefully we can get this resolved so the Historic Preservation Commission feels like they serve a purpose here in town."

The city has owned the property since it received

it on a quit claim deed in February of 2017 from the county on sheriff's sale.

Andrews son, Rusty, who sits on the council, made a pitch to the council for the property in the summer of 2017, but according to City Building Director Doug Krogmeier, nothing ever came of the sale and the property stayed with the city.

After the meeting, Rusty

Andrews confirmed that he never did take possession of the property. He said the commission used to get demolition permit information on properties that were being torn down in the city, but a rift existed between the commission and the city and wording was changed so it was not required to give the commission an opportunity to review the permits.

He said the demolition points to city staff not

having value in the commission.

But Krogmeier said the property was a nuisance and had to come down.

"They've known this property was a nuisance and it needed to be abated," Krogmeier said after the meeting.

Krogmeier said Rusty Andrews made an offer in June of 2017 to buy the property from the city but never followed through.

"It's a nuisance. If he

would have given us something in writing on what his plans were, but he never did that and it had to come down."

Fire Chief Joey Herren said there has already been one fire in the building and the structure was hazardous.

Mayor Brad Randolph said outside of Rusty Andrews' interest in the property, there was never an offer made to purchase the home.



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THU 21 Feb



Clear

High- 27.2° F | Low - 11.0° F

FRI 22 Feb



Clear

High- 30.6° F | Low - 28.9° F

SAT 23 Feb



Snow

High- 36.7° F | Low - 31.9° F

SUN 24 Feb



Light Snow

High- 27.9° F | Low - 22.2° F

MON 25 Feb



Clear

High- 20.0° F | Low - 9.5° F

[OpenWeatherMap](http://OpenWeatherMap)

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# Obituaries/Lottery Numbers

## OBITUARIES

### ALLEN WAYNE WRIGHT

Allen Wayne Wright, 91 of Keokuk, IA died Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at River Hills Village in Keokuk.



WRIGHT

He was born September 7, 1927 in Ft. Madison, IA the son of Franklin and Gertrude Dahn Wright. On January 8, 1954 he was united in marriage to Anna M. Kaneer in Quincy, IL. She survives.



Other survivors include one son, Franklin (Joy) Wright of Kahoka, MO, one daughter, Debbie (Wally) McClain of Keokuk, six grandchildren, Kody Wright, Harley Wright, Kelsey (Brandon) Murphy, Chastity (Tory) Rhea, Teresa McClain, Matthew McClain, seven great-grandchildren, Ezzrick, Mason, Grayson, Kierstyn, Tori, Caitlyn and Ian, one great-great-grandchild, Legend, one brother, Paul Wright and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Diana Lynn, a son, Allen Wayne, two grandsons, James and Franklin Wright, his parents and three sisters, Dorothy Cloud, Patricia Urban and Gladys Brouillette and one brother, Edward Wright.

Allen enlisted in the United States Army on February 26, 1946 and proudly served his country until his retirement on January 31, 1968, retiring with the rank of First Sargent. He served two terms in Korea, and also served in France, Germany and several posts in the United States.

Allen later had been employed by Krebill's Engineering for a short time before going to work for the Iowa State Penitentiary in Ft. Madison, IA where he worked from 1968 until his retirement in 1990.

He loved working on cars, listening to Jimmy Davis and Patsy Cline music, and watching old westerns on television. Allen enjoyed spending time outdoors mowing the grass, taking walks and going for car rides. Most of all, he loved his grandchildren and family and received great joy from spending time with them.

Visitation for family and friends will be held from 6-8 p.m., Friday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA. A private service and burial will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or to the donor's choice. Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

## OBITUARIES

### DAVID MERLE WILSON

David Merle Wilson, 73 of Keokuk, IA died Monday, February 18, 2019 at his home. He was born August 14, 1945 in Kirksville, MO the son of Albert Merle "Dinky"



WILSON

and Eloise Cummings Wilson. On August 14, 1965 David was united in marriage to Cheryl Bloyd in Macomb, IL. She survives.

Other survivors include two daughters, Gina Wilson of Keokuk and Dana Boone and her husband, Patrick, two grandsons, Nathan and Kirklan Boone and two great-grandsons, David and Eli Boone all of Ft. Madison, IA.

He was preceded in death by one sister, Cheryl Wood.

David graduated from Harmony High School in Bonaparte, IA with the Class of 1963.

David had been employed in Foote Mineral in Keokuk for twenty-two years. He later worked for Lee County at the South Lee County Courthouse in Keokuk, retiring after more than twenty years of service.

David was an active Union Member during all his working years.

David loved the outdoors and enjoyed hunting. He regularly attended auctions and was an avid flea market shopper and enjoyed trips to Rutledge. David loved spending time with his grandsons.

Visitation will be held on Friday from 10:00 a.m.- 12 noon at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with family meeting with friends at that time. A graveside service will follow at the Hickory Grove Cemetery in rural Keokuk with Captain Grace Roinila officiating.

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

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Lotto America <sup>SM</sup>	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



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Mega Ball: 3  
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## Pen City Current

Founded in 2016



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**Business News/Sports**

# Steffensmeier tapped for Goldman-Sachs program

BY PCC STAFF

ANKENY – Jenny Steffensmeier, owner of Steffensmeier Welding & Manufacturing in Pilot Grove, is one of two area businesswoman selected to participate in the first Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program in Iowa.

Steffensmeier is one of 37 scholars from 20 Iowa counties ranging from Iowa’s largest city to towns with a population of under 1,000. They represent a diverse range of business and industry including restaurants, architecture, professional services and healthcare.

“Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses is offered for free as a philanthropic investment to help small business entrepreneurs create growth, jobs and economic opportunity across the country – or in this case, across Iowa from the Missouri River to the Mississippi River,” said Katherine Jollon Colsher, National Director of Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses.

For the first time, Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses is being offered in Iowa, exclusively to Iowa small businesses. It is hosted at Des Moines Area Community College, delivered in partnership with Iowa’s community college. The curriculum was devel-



oped in partnership with Babson College, which was recently named the top college in America for entrepreneurship for the 22nd year in a row by US News and World Report.

“Des Moines Area Community College and Iowa’s entire community college system is proud to partner with Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses to offer Iowans access to this free, exceptional curriculum developed by Babson College” said DMACC President Dr. Rob Denson. “Small business is the backbone of Iowa’s economy. In seeing the high level of interest from applicants and the high-caliber of scholars selected, it’s clear that Iowa was the right choice for this statewide offering of Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small

Businesses.”

The class will last for three months, with scholars taking a blend of in-classroom and online learning. The classes cover everything from identifying growth opportunities, refining operations processes, marketing and selling, understanding and using financial statements and leadership training. Business owners who have taken the program sometimes call it a real-world MBA – where small business owners focus on growing their business, using their own business as a case study.

Since the inception of Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses, the national program has been a tremendous success. Sixty-seven percent of alumni report increased revenues six months after graduating, 47 percent report hiring employees during the same time period, and nearly 88 percent of graduates do business with one another.

Those eligible for the program have been in business for at least two years, have at least \$100,000 in revenue, and have at least two employees, including the business owner.

Ann March, of Bark & Play Daycare and Suites in West Burlington was also selected to participate in the program.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Holy Trinity Catholic senior Emily Box signs her letter of intent earlier this month along with her parents and future coach, to play volleyball at Grandview University in Des Moines .



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Holy Trinity Catholic senior Eryn Anderson signs a letter of intent with her parents and future coach, to play volleyball at Des Moines Area Community College.



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 Agenda  
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**MEETING**  
**CONVENING TIME:**  
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United Way of the Great River Region supports non-profit organizations and agencies that provide programs addressing needs in health, education and financial stability to residents in Clark, Hancock, and Lee Counties.

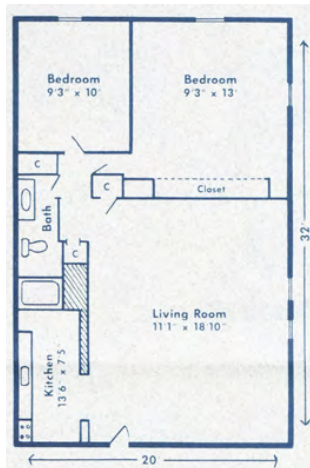
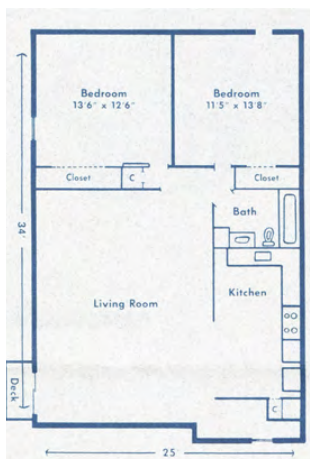
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**From the Front**

# City to open Rodeo park drives all year

**PARKS** - Continued from Page 1

the board,” Craft said.

“It’s not the dollar amount in the lease, I think that’s a fair amount to pay. It’s the precedent that it sets. Are we encouraging people to do things in the community or discouraging them. This seems discouraging to me. It’s patently geared toward us and not anyone else that uses the park.”

Varley said at the meeting he had spoken with Craft about the new lease, but not about the new rates.

Craft has also paid a utility bill for the festival to the city for electricity and water used based on city analysis of usage during the four days. This year Craft said the festival may provide their own electrical service and metering.

The city has also added a \$1,000 deposit for utilities and Craft said he was unaware of any requests for a deposit.

He said for the past three years he received large electrical bills. With the carnival providing their own electricity through generators, he wasn’t sure how the bills were being assessed.

The festival this year runs Aug. 1-4. The RiverFest Reveal Party is March 2 at Kinnick South where this year’s entertainment lineup will be announced, along with ticket giveaways and other promotions.

In other action, the board;

- voted to allow Rodeo Park roadways to remain open year round during regular park hours.
- discussed the rehabbing or demolishing of the pressbox at Victory Field
- approved a new park shelter agreement. The new agreement holds rental rates the same, but eliminates some of the shelter houses that need to be rented. The others will be first-come, first serve. Those shelters include: Johnson Shelter in Central Park, Ivanhoe Shelter, and all Rodeo Park Shelters with the exception of Old Lions’ Shelter, which still requires rental.

# Area 12-plus kids look at industrial careers

**SCC** - Continued from Page 1

comfortable presenting to others, like I had to do today.”

12 Plus graduate Michael Mosena commented “12 Plus introduced us to some of these companies and we now know people at Pinnacle and Silgan, but it was good to hear from companies we haven’t seen before about opportunities too.”

“It’s important to let students know there’s a lot to industrial maintenance,” said Lee County EDG Economic Development Program Director Dana Millard. “The skills the students are learning apply to companies not only across the region but across the country and with the increase in automation are in very high demand.”

High school students have to opportunity to take these courses, at no charge to them, during their junior and senior years. Parents and students interested in the Industrial Maintenance Technology program can contact Abby Herriman at [aherriman@sccciowa.edu](mailto:aherriman@sccciowa.edu) or their school guidance counselor.

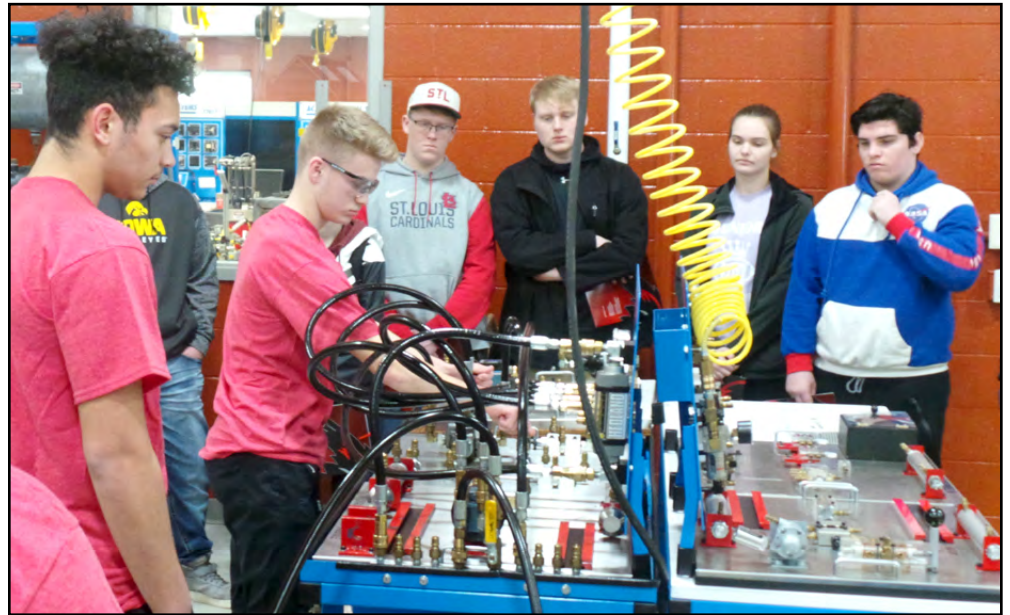


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison High School junior Michael Mosena works on a project at an IT Day at Southeastern Community College last week

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## Early Childhood & Kindergarten Programs

Learn more about your child's educational opportunities for the 2019-2020 school year.



**Early Childhood Center Programs**

- Full Day Pre-Kindergarten Program in Ft. Madison
- 3s and 4s Preschool Programs available in Ft. Madison and St. Paul
- Bring your soon-to-be preschooler and join us at an open house event to learn more about our kindergarten readiness programs:
- St. Paul ECC Open House: February 25th from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- Ft. Madison ECC Preschool Open House: February 28th from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- Ft. Madison ECC Pre-Kindergarten Open House: February 19 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

**Kindergarten Information Night**

- Tuesday, February 26th at 6:30 p.m. at HTC Elementary in West Point
- Join us for an opportunity to learn more about the advantages of Holy Trinity Catholic and our new state-of-the-art elementary school.

**Kindergarten Round-Up Day**

- Friday, March 8th at HTC Elementary in West Point
- Please call Eileen at 319-837-6131 ext. 106 to schedule a one hour appointment for you and your child.

**New school enrolling new students.**

- We would love to show you what Holy Trinity Catholic Schools can do for you!
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