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Accelerating Opportunities and Growth



Sen. Larry McKibben



Rep. Mark Smith

Legislative Preview

By KEN BLACK
T-R Staff Writer

Many initiatives could come to the table when the Legislature convenes in January — but how many will get passed in a contentious election year with a divided Iowa Senate remains to be seen.

One of the things Marshalltown legislators agree on is that there could be some work in making health care costs more affordable to small business employers. This has been named a priority for Gov. Tom Vilsack, who has proposed hiking the cigarette tax 80 cents per pack to pay for it. Both parties seem to agree

something needs to be done concerning healthcare costs.

“We will probably work toward doing what we can on the state level to assist small business employers with the burden of health insurance cost,” said Sen. Larry McKibben, R-Marshalltown.

Rep. Mark Smith, D-Marshalltown, said “despite what may be a partisan atmosphere at the Iowa Statehouse this year, this issue has a good chance.”

“I am encouraged by what I’m hearing from both parties, regarding an interest to do something to help small business with their health care costs,” he said. “There will be

more pooling efforts to assist companies with health insurance costs.”

However, while there is some agreement that something needs to be done, the devil lies in the details. Vilsack’s proposed cigarette tax has been met with some resistance throughout the ranks of Republicans. “I have never been a strong supporter of tax increases and I don’t expect to now,” McKibben said.

Rather, the Marshalltown senator would rather look at what the current budget is funding and prioritize resources to key areas, which may include business health care costs.

Doing that would likely mean a reduction of funds for some other area, though with the growth rate in the state budget due to a rebounding economy, it may also be a possibility that it could be done with no cuts to any other portion of the state’s budget.

Property tax reform is also a target area among the state’s businesses. The Iowa Chamber Alliance (ICA) has

Preview cont. on page 16

A new line of communication

By STEPHANIE
LOVELACE
T-R Staff Writer

Marshalltown Chamber of Commerce officials have opened a direct line of communication with local business owners thanks to a new meeting program called Curbside Conversations.

Through this outreach program local businesses have the opportunity to meet with other Chamber of Commerce members and officials to share business concerns.

“We need to find out what things need to be worked on and what things need attention that aren’t getting attention,” said Ken Anderson, chamber president. “We figured this would be an easy way for business owners to tell us how to help them. It’s a win-win situation.”

In order for Chamber officials to meet with as many owners as possible their businesses have been divided into districts, with 20 to 30 businesses in each.

All businesses within each district will then be invited to

one business location serving as host for the discussion. Ken Wise auto dealership was the first to serve as host for their district while Chase Insurance Services followed soon after.

According to Anderson both Curbside Conversations sparked interest in business owners as they appreciated the opportunity to share their concerns.

“The meetings are more like informal conversations,” Anderson said. “We have nothing planned ahead of time to pull out information from anyone, we want the issues to come from them on their own.”

After the concerns are shared Anderson and other Chamber officials work to come up with possible solutions which they plan to share at follow-up meetings with business owners.

While a date has not yet been set for the next meeting, Anderson said the district has been chosen and will include businesses west on Iowa Ave.

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A new expansion for the company



Business Spotlight

Super 8 Motel

Iowa Inns introduces a new addition to the family



Convention & Visitors Bureau



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"The next 3-5 years will be very exciting for Marshalltown's metro area. Many people are firmly committed to achieving our economic development goals. Patience and persistence is key."

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Marshalltown Works

is a monthly publication of the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce, Marshall Economic Development Impact Committee and Marshalltown Convention & Visitors Bureau who collaborate in creating opportunities for business, residents and visitors.



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Marie Steenlage reflects on community leadership



Marie Steenlage

With a professional plan for the future of downtown Marshalltown in the making, Marie Steenlage steps into the Marshalltown Central Business District director position with a lot going on.

Fortunately, she has met similar challenges before. Weaving businesses into an active, cooperative downtown she did it in Manchester. Handling major events with national media attention had been there in Britt.

She has spent 15 years developing communities in Iowa, and Marshalltown is next.

"I certainly want to help develop the Main Street Program and take it to another level," she said.

Among her initial ideas are working to provide better resources for existing and potential businesses as well as the public.

"I would like the new Main Street office to be a Small Business Resource Center which would provide various resources," she said. "For example, hosting small business start-up or expansion classes, providing business counseling and posting available property information."

Another goal to work toward is "developing a comprehensive downtown incentive program to improve commercial and retail properties," she said.

While those may be long-term plans, Steenlage's preliminary agenda centers around getting to know the downtown business owners she will be working for, and so far that has not been hard.

"It's easy to get to know people," she said of her first impressions of Marshalltown. "It's extremely friendly. It has a real small-town feel to it." The task may be easy, but it is no less important to her job.

"I want to continue to get to know all the different stakeholders in the community, to learn what's been done and where to go from there," Steenlage said.

The future of Marshalltown's downtown hinges on how well people work together, she added.

"One of my goals is communication, personal one-on-ones with business owners and the community. [Marshalltown] seems very open and progressive to new ideas," she said.

The incentive program she hopes to bring to

Marshalltown's downtown succeeded in Manchester, where she served as executive director of the Chamber of Commerce for the past six years.

There Steenlage implemented a 10-component downtown incentive program that was utilized by 35 buildings and for more than 50 projects, she said. "Having that experience has helped me see what potential there is in the city, Chamber, businesses and financial institutions working together," she said. "You can see what a

difference it can make."

Prior to that, Steenlage spent eight years at the Chamber in Britt, where the annual National Hobo Convention brought major media like the BBC, USA Today, National Geographic, Voice of America and the History Channel to her door for help on reports, articles, features and films.

Her first exposure to the Main Street Program came in Clear Lake during an internship that followed the completion of her education at Waldorf and Buena Vista,

with majors in English and psychology and a minor in art.

Apart from her work, Steenlage enjoys gardening, writing, reading, traveling and painting when she is not spending time with family or friends. Besides visits to Iowa City, Chicago and Portland, Ore., where her two sons and daughter live, she has journeyed to Wales and England, Hong Kong and China, and Spain.

"I enjoy the richness of other cultures in my life," she said.

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The Rogers Elementary School Staff received a MEDIC Partner award for their generous financial support at the recent MEDIC Recognition event.

MEDIC reports accomplishments and recognizes leaders

The Marshall Economic Development Impact Committee (MEDIC) recently held their recognition event, "Recognizing Success – Reporting Accomplishments," at the Best Western Regency Inn.

Mike Miller, Chair of MEDIC, reported on the progress that's been made on the economic development goals set by the committee one year ago. He announced that MEDIC has exceeded their goal of \$1 million for their 2005-2010 fundraising campaign and have reached 51% of the \$250,000 goal set for the 2500 Club – a first ever initiative to build a dedicated incentive fund.

Other goals achieved include: establishing a first-in-Iowa downtown wi-fi zone; cosponsoring a first-ever entrepreneurial conference; conducting business retention calls and working with local companies on their facility and expansion needs; lobbying for and receiving addi-

tional Federal Transportation dollars for Highway 30 and Highland Acres Road.

Ken Anderson, president of MEDIC, introduced Joel Akason, recently hired as the new MEDIC president. Akason comes to Marshalltown after working at the Greater Des Moines Partnership and the Oskaloosa Chamber of Commerce. He will start his duties in Marshalltown on Dec. 19.

William Krause, CEO of Krause-Gentle Corp., was the keynote speaker. A short film was presented that outlined his lifetime achievements and he spoke of his entrepreneurship and how he has built his business.

Awards were presented to recognize outstanding businesses and leaders in local economic development.

Anderson presented awards to outstanding MEDIC partners. Receiving awards were Marshalltown Medical & Surgical Center for their generous financial

support, Bruin Manufacturing for developing and donating boxes to MEDIC, and Rogers Elementary School Staff for their exceptional donation.

Miller presented the Business Growth Award to Fakespace, for their outstanding business growth that supports the economy of the Marshalltown area. The Entrepreneurial Spirit Award was presented by Jim Lowrance, MEDIC treasurer, to Larry Raymon, president of DONCO Air Products, for his entrepreneurial spirit that has grown local jobs.

Mike Schlesinger, MEDIC Marketing Chair, presented business milestone awards to companies that have been in business over 100 years, in 5 year increments. Award recipients were: Evans Abstract, 125 years; Fisher Controls, 125 years; Swift & Company, 110 years; Lennox Manufacturing, Inc., 110 years; and Marshalltown Company, 100 years.



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Economic Statistics

Employment	Oct. 2005	YTD
Marshall Co. Residents in labor Force	21,080	20,930
Percent Unemployed	4.3%	5.3%
Total Employment (residents)	20,170	19,820
Marshalltown Construction	Nov. 2005	YTD
Building Permits	14	162
Residential Dwelling Units	3	23
New Residential Construction Value	\$575,000	\$4,027,000
Residential Addition/Remodeling Valuation	\$18,600	\$2,087,600
New Commercial/Industrial Permits	1	15
New Commercial/Industrial Valuation	\$145,000	\$4,658,000
Remodeling Commercial/Industrial Valuation	\$154,000	\$17,458,000
Housing	Oct. 2005	YTD
Home Sales, Single Family Dwelling	57	513
Average Sale Price	\$87,623	\$98,600
Median Sale Price	\$81,500	\$87,300

Visit www.marshalltownworks.com for additional statistics

Marshalltown Industrial Park officials celebrate Hoglund Bus Company Expansion

Hoglund Bus Company recently opened its new Iowa operations center in the Marshalltown Industrial Park. "Hoglund Bus Company has been a great part of the Marshalltown business community since 1999, and we are excited that they chose to expand their business in our community," said Ken Anderson, Chamber President.

Hoglund Bus Co., Inc., owned by Wayne and Lisa Hoglund, has grown and developed as a leader in the transportation industry over the past fifty-five years in the state of Minnesota. The corporate headquarters have been located in Monticello, Minnesota, since its founding by Stuart and Arleen Hoglund. In 1999 the company expanded to Marshalltown, IA; and currently employs 5 full-time staff and 3 part-time staff in Iowa.

Wayne and Lisa, together with their daughter Holly Hoglund Klein, were eager to build a new facility in order to better serve their customer base. "We enjoy doing business in Iowa and are committed to a long term relationship with our customers; therefore we want to provide them with a full service dealership. By having a full service dealership we are able to perform service work and sell parts out of our new facility, in addition to bus sales. We look forward to continuing to partner with the customers we serve."

Hoglund Bus Company's mission is to deliver top quality mobility products at a favorable cost, to provide a first class parts and service facility, and to maintain a mutually beneficial relationship between their suppliers, their company, and their customers.

ers.

Offering a full line of IC Corporation products, including school and commercial buses, Hoglund Bus Company is focused on delivering mobility. They also carry Diamond and Glaval commercial buses, as well as Mid Bus school and commercial mini buses.

Hoglund Bus Company's expansion in Marshalltown is one more example of how Marshalltown Works for Business, and our central Iowa location is a great business advantage.



Hoglund Bus Company recently completed their new building in the Marshalltown Industrial Park. They have been a part of the Marshalltown business community since 1999.



A ribbon cutting ceremony took place on Dec. 1 for the Hoglund Bus Company at their new location 823 South 19th Avenue.



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TOURISM



The Marshalltown Convention and Visitors Bureau is dedicated to promoting the Marshalltown area as a destination for meetings, conventions, group tours, and recreational activities, with an emphasis on overnight business.

Over 500 Competitors Travel to Marshalltown for MAT's "Circus Of The Stars"

Marshalltown Area Tumbling/Trampoline ("MAT") hosted a two-day invitational entitled "Circus Of The Stars" December 3-4 at the Marshalltown Community College gym. Approximately 300 athletes participated in Saturday's Trampoline & Double-Mini meet and 550 athletes competed in Sunday's Power Tumbling invitational. Nearly 70 competitors were from the Marshalltown area.

In addition to the tumblers/trampolinists, approximately 2,000 spectators came from all across the state. This was the first of two meets that MAT will be hosting in the next year in Marshalltown, with the next invitational being

Pre-State set for April 1-2, 2006.

The MAT Tumbling/Trampoline events attract a large number of participants due to the well-organized format and the club's outstanding reputation at both the

sportsmanship, positive self-esteem and strong friendships are ingredients to make a team complete.

Each student participating receives a trophy regardless of place, to reward each student for their efforts. All

Trampoline and Double-Mini competition is performed on either a 7' X 14' Olympic euro trampoline and/or Double-Mini trampoline. The multiple



flipping and twisting of the athletes 20-35 feet in the air is amazing to watch. All tumbling competition "passes" are completed on either panel mats, or on an elevated rod floor. Every move from a simple forward roll to double backs (two flips in the air) are common at these meets.

With the increasing popularity in Power Tumbling and Trampoline, these types of events will continue to grow. Tumblers range from ages 2-20, and include many different levels of difficulty from beginner to elite. Although Tumbling and Trampoline is an individualized sport,

Marshalltown Area Tumbling/Trampoline is coached by Ron Brooks and Diane Peden. For more information on upcoming events please contact MAT. Tumbling and Trampoline at 641-752-6373.

Marshalltown Area Tumbling/Trampoline is coached by Ron Brooks and Diane Peden. For more information on upcoming events please contact MAT. Tumbling and Trampoline at 641-752-6373.



The Marshalltown Convention and Visitors Bureau wishes you and your family a fantastic year in 2006

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Inns of Iowa Open “New” Super 8

On Tuesday, December 13th, representatives from Inns of Iowa held an Open House and Ribbon Cutting at the new Super 8 Motel, 3315 South Center Street (next door to the Best Western Regency Inn).

The facility was completely remodeled over the last six months and recently opened to guests. Interior improvements include new carpet, new bathrooms (with granite countertops),

new bed and window coverings, and new lobby area.

Other features of the Super 8 include a complimentary “Super Start” continental breakfast, cable TV with HBO & ESPN, in room movies, free high speed wireless

internet, electronic lock security system, and fax service. Outdoor grilling facilities are available also.

The exterior was renovated with a new red roof and many

improvements to the facade and parking lot.

Locally owned by Pat and Leon Shade, Inns of Iowa operates the Super 8 Motel, Best Western Regency Inn and the Comfort Inn.



A view inside of the newly remodeled suite at the Super 8 Motel.

For the time and a description of the events below, log on to the MCVB website’s Calendar of Events...www.VisitMarshalltown.com

January 2006

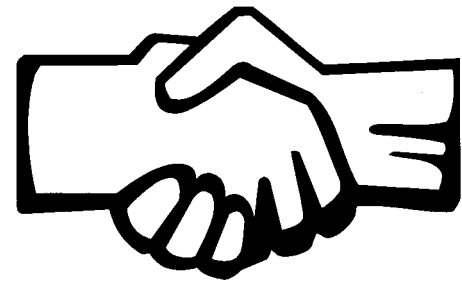
Event	Date	Location
Happy New Year!	January 1	
MCVB Offices Closed	January 2	
Bingo	Tuesdays	Senior Citizens Center
Storytime	Tues. and Fri.	Public Library
Nature Story Hour	Jan. 4	GrimesFarm
Sidewalk Sales	Jan. 12-16	Marshall Town Center
Nature Story Hour	Jan. 18	GrimesFarm
Health Fair	Jan. 21	Marshall Town Center
Buena Vista University “Sit In”	Jan. 22	Marshalltown Community College

Who’s Meeting in Marshalltown

Meetings/Conventions/Tournaments	#	Location
Parent Educator Connection	32	Marshalltown Community College
United States Trotting Association	110	Best Western Regency Inn
Alcohol Anonymous State Meeting	100	IA Valley Continuing Education
Pampered Chef Conference	250	IA Valley Continuing Education
IA County Conservation Board Employees	225	Best Western Regency Inn
IA Fruit and Vegetable Growers Assoc.	100	Best Western Regency Inn
International Harvester Collectors Assoc.	170	Best Western Regency Inn



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Bickford Cottage hosts Business After Hours

The Bickford Cottage tradition of assisted living evolved from a personal journey for owners Don and Judie Eby. When it came time to find the right residential care facility for Judie's mother, Mary Bickford, the options seemed too limited. Mrs. Bickford was still active and capable, with an independent life-style. Moving her into a "nursing home" would have been tragic. When the right residence option failed to materialize, the Eby family designed and built a senior care residence of their own.

Since the first successful residence, the Eby family has brought a full range of assisted living services to over 30 communities in the Midwest; including 13 in Iowa. It's a concept that has lifted Bickford Senior Living Group to a leadership role in the development of senior housing

communities.

Bickford Cottage is committed to providing an assisted living community that affords its residents the highest possible level of independence while providing a support sys-



tem for their current and future needs. Residents are rewarded with all that life has to offer while enjoying the company of friends and family.

Fully staffed with certified and licensed caregivers, Bickford Cottage provides a variety of healthcare ser-

vices. With our flexible care program, we can easily adjust to meet the individual needs of each resident. Additionally, we can accommodate such issues as: personal and wellness care, mental health wellness, mobility assistance, healthcare coordination, and medication assistance.

Bickford Cottage in Marshalltown is a 38 apartment community that was built in January of 1998. Patti Hayes, Director, and Matt Mullins, Regional Community Relations Director, are proud to have achieved 100% occupancy in late November. Bickford Cottage is currently accepting deposits for the waiting list.

Bickford Cottage, 101 Newcastle Road, will host the January Chamber Business After Hours from 5:00 to 7:00 pm on Thurs., Jan. 12th.

January Nonprofit Management Academy Covers Supervision and Delegation

On Jan. 19, 2006, the Nonprofit Management Academy will offer a course on supervision and delegation. The course will be held in room 614 in the Continuing Education Center from 9:00 am-4:00pm. The fee is \$45.

The first part of this session will focus on the various expectations of supervisors themselves, their executive director, and their subordinates. Next the participants will discuss the steps that a supervisor must take to sharpen his / her verbal and no-verbal communications skills. The task of evaluating and counseling at risk subordinates will then be examined. In addition, the multiple ways of motivating subordinates will be discussed. Finally, the delegation process as a motivational, developmental and time management skill will be explored.

Instructors for this course are Paul Retish and Jude West. Professor Retish is a faculty member in the College of Education at the University of Iowa. He is the outreach coordinator for the Iowa Nonprofit Resource

Center. His specialty is employment of persons with disabilities and high-risk employees. He has worked as a consultant for nonprofits and small and large business firms on stress, communication issues and mission statements. Presently he is a Human Rights Commissioner for Iowa City and also on the board of a nonprofit organization.

Jude West is Co-Director, Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center and Professor Emeritus, Management and Organizations Department, Henry B Tippie College of Business Administration, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. Professor West obtained his BA from St. Mary of the Lake, his MBA from The University of Chicago, and his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa.

This course is the fourth in a series of twelve courses for nonprofit directors, staff, board members and volunteers. In January, the course will cover Outcomes your Funders will Love. To register or more information on this course, contact Laura Schinnow at 752-4645.

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Iowa Valley Leadership November Session

The Iowa Valley leadership Class of 2006 met at Lennox Manufacturing last month with the theme of "Embracing The Future." Following a discussion on team building, a warm welcome was given by Bernard Roy. In keeping with our theme and program goals, he discussed some of the many ways businesses can support community stewardship that is more than just by donations but also includes providing resources of equipment, people and knowledge. Brad Eggers gave an enthusiastic presentation on Lennox LEAN Lingo, which includes the Five Ss plus 1: sort, set-in-order, shine, standardize, sustain, and safety. This was followed by a plant tour during which we could see the Five Ss at work.

The afternoon focused on economic development. Sandy Ehrig, Community Development Division Administrator from the Iowa Department of Economic Development, discussed five important issues that matter: fostering entrepreneurs; place matters when people choose where they live; promoting partnerships within regions and between communities and

businesses; leaders are made; and philanthropy. We rated several issues regarding support for entrepreneurship in Marshalltown.

Mike Miller, chairman of the MEDIC (Marshalltown Economic Development Impact Committee) led an energetic discussion about this committee's initiatives: reduced or no cost high speed internet access, recreating the entrepreneurial spirit with the 2500 Club, and growing the population which includes making Clear Creek Lake a reality. Ken Anderson, President of the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce, tied together the efforts of MEDIC, the Chamber and the Central Business District Main Street Project.

Kileen Rezac explained the Main Street Project, part of a national program to unify a community's downtown and improve economic development based on a four point approach: visual appearance, downtown events, organization and the retention, expansion and recruitment of businesses. She introduced the new Main Street Director, Marie Steenlage.

Iowa Valley Leadership is co-sponsored by the Marsh-

alltown Area Chamber of Commerce and Iowa Valley Continuing Education. The mission is to inspire community stewardship through knowledge of current issues and interaction with people of great vision. For more information, please call the program facilitator, Betsy Macke at 752-4645 ext. 275.



Members of the 2006 Iowa Valley Leadership Class are shown on a tour of the Lennox factory during a recent session held at Lennox. Shown L to R are IVL members: Matt Roelsgard, Justin Lamb, Trudi Scott, Tom Ahart (back), Lizzie Clark (front), Amy Prescott, Janelle Holmgren and Janel Shanks.

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Central Business District 2005 Review

The Marshalltown Central Business District (CBD), held many promotional events in the city. Over the course of 2005 there was:

Souper Bowl Sunday – soup and special deals were served up in many downtown businesses

Crystal & Buddy's Easter Egg Hunt – the annual children's Easter Egg hunt was joined with the Jaycee's egg hunt to create the largest hunt ever – over 1200 eggs and gifts were given away to area children on the Veteran's Home lawn

The Downtown Spring Open House in April saw many promotional sales by downtown merchants

The Mother's Day Spring

Extravaganza was held the day before Mother's Day to give everyone a chance to purchase your last minute Mother's gifts in downtown Marshalltown

June 2005 was the second annual BBQ rib eating contest at Riverview Park during the State BBQ contest

July 1st we welcomed the Great Race on Main Street – what beautiful old classic cars!

July 30th was Ridiculous Days with deep discounts seen all up and down Main Street

October was the month we began our annual Chocolate Walk for Charities – what a treat tasting all those chocolates and supporting the local

charities

November saw our 15th annual Holiday Stroll – a wonderful way to kick off the Holiday Season with merchants showing the latest gift ideas

December 3rd was our 4th annual Santa Claus Saturday with children having breakfast with Santa, giving their list to Santa and creating many different crafts to take home as reminders of the morning

Last, but certainly NOT least – the 4th annual Adopt-A-Veteran party was held December 11th at the Veterans Home. Music, a sing-a-long, and passing out the gifts is always a treat.

Hope to see you next year in your Downtown!



Standing here are the volunteers, Marla Knight (left) from Iowa Telecom and Margy Joslin (right) from MMSC, for the Holiday Stroll that took place on the night of Nov. 18th.



This year's lighting ceremony for the Holiday Stroll included from left to right Marshalltown Mayor-Elect Gene Beach, Central Business Director Marie Steenlage, Central Iowa Fair Queen Jenna Goeke, Fisher Controls Plant Manager Bob Berger, and Santa Claus.

Marshalltown Central Business District Main Street Program Statistics 2000-Present

Net Gain in Business Starts, Relocations, Expansions	13
Net Gain in New Jobs	79
Buildings Rehabilitated, Renovated	34
Private Dollars Invested in Rehabilitation	\$12,401,150
Buildings Sold	31
Private Dollars Invested in Downtown Property Acquisition	\$3,224,532
Total Volunteer Hours	11,038

www.everydaychampions.org



BUSINESS

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Marshall Town Center Hours Change

For your shopping convenience, Marshall Town Center will be open Saturdays, until 8pm, beginning Jan. 7, 2006.

Mall hours:

Mon. – Fri.: 10am – 9pm
Sat.: 10am – 8pm
Sun.: Noon – 5pm

Penny Pinchin' Sidewalk Sales

Thurs., Jan. 12 -Mon., Jan. 16.

Don't miss out on great deals on apparel for the whole family, electronics, home décor and much more during the Penny Pinchin' Sidewalk Sales at Marshall Town Center!

You'll find great deals mall-wide during the Penny Pinchin' Sales!

Marshall Town Center/PennySaver/KDAO 13th Annual Bridal Show Sun., Feb. 5, 2005

Fashion Show, featuring fashions for the entire bridal party

at 3:30 pm.

- *Bridal Attire
- *Photographers
- *Catering
- *Wedding Cakes
- *Disc Jockeys
- *Reception Halls

For more information, please contact Lynn at the Mall Office at 752-6200.

Marshall Town Center is looking for groups that would like to perform at the Mall throughout the winter and spring months. If you are interested, or if your group would like to host an event at Marshall Town Center please contact the Mall Office.



www.MarshallTownCenter.com

Check out our new and improved website! Browse our directory for your favorite store, check our upcoming events, and find general information about Marshall Town Center. You're just a point and a click away!

New Members

Phoenix E-Waste Solutions
12 South 8th Avenue
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CHAMBER AMBASSADORS

Abassador Visits in the past month



There were two ambassador visits within the past month.

On Nov. 8th they met with Nino Reyes, Co-Manager and some of the management staff at the Wal-Mart Supercenter (left).



On Nov. 22 they met with Mike Knutson of Flooring Gallery (bottom left).

Ribbon Cuttings happening in the area



On Nov. 8 there was a ribbon cutting for the new location of Subway located in the Wal-Mart Supercenter at 2802 S. Center St. (left).



On Nov. 16 a ribbon cutting took place for the new Marshalltown Community College Construction Technology Building at their location of 3700 S. Center St. (middle left).

On Nov. 18 there was a ribbon cutting that took place for the new location of Goodwill Industries at 100 LaFrenz Drive (bottom right).

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SHERWIN-WILLIAMS COMPANY 105 Nicholas Drive Marshalltown 752-0229	FINANCIAL PARTNERS GROUP Jason M. Kirke, CFP® 124 West Main State Center, IA 641-483-9914 800-483-9914	AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE Bill Thiede-Agent 2501 S. Center, Suite F Marshalltown 752-6367	JEWELERS
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BUSINESS

Initiatives to be passed

Preview cont. from page 1 recently argued that the residential rollback has unduly shifted a disproportionate burden of property taxes onto industrial and commercial properties.

ICA is again pushing property tax reform, but meaningful reform will be difficult this year. With a wide-open race for governor, the entire House and half the Senate up for re-election, that issue may have to wait.

"I think there will be a lot of initiatives discussed concerning property tax reform

as there have been the last five years," McKibben said. "Until the state incurs some property tax responsibilities, it probably is not going to happen."

Property tax responsibilities usually include functions of local government.

So the state would need to increase payments to school districts and city and county jurisdictions. The state has taken an opposite action in recent years, pushing more burden and responsibility onto local governments.

After a brief non-election

year hiatus, the minimum wage debate appears to be back. The governor is pushing for an increase in minimum wage. The proposal that seems to be the most popular is to raise the minimum wage by \$1 per hour to \$6.15.

"I'm supportive and will be signing on to legislation to increase the minimum wage," Smith said. "There are approximately 100,000 Iowans who are on minimum wage that has not been raised in nine years.

Renewing Members

16 Members renewed their membership in the past month

- Bernie Lowe and Associates (3 years)
- Big 8 Tyre Center (6 years)
- Boliver Law Firm (24 years)
- Bottom Line Strategies (2 years)
- Cooper Manufacturing (11 years)
- Greater Iowa Credit Union – Marshalltown (4 years)
- Haley's Grocery, Inc. (12 years)
- Hellberg's Jewelers (12 years)
- Jiffy Convenience Stores (14 years)
- Next Generation Wireless (4 years)
- Penn Mutual Life Insurance Co. (5 years)
- Quality Service Corp. (3 years)
- QWest (14 years)
- Salvation Army (9 years)
- Stalzer Photography (2 years)
- Younkers (46 years)



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