



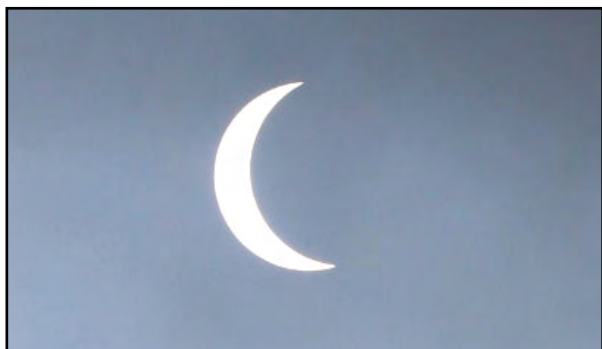
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Pen City Current

Tuesday, August 22, 2017 | 17 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 202

Clouds give city quick peeks at eclipse

Downtown a flurry with gawkers taking in the first solar eclipse visible in the continental U.S. since 1979.



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

The town wasn't in the total coverage area, but several Midwest towns in Illinois and Missouri were in the path. However, cloud cover made an untimely pass over the eclipse in some areas and left viewers a bit unsatisfied.

Geoff and Lisa Shields were in town from Madison, Wisconsin, looking at properties and visiting with family. The couple stopped down at the Connection's Bank Clock tower and sat on the benches watching the afternoon events unfold.

Motorists would randomly stop by the two who

Employees from the Lee County Bank take a moment in the afternoon to enjoy the spectacle of the moon pulling a mask over the sun on Monday afternoon. From right to left are Amy Hogan, Shirley Hoenig, Rachel Shaffer, Kim Shacklett, Shauna Stuart, and Lisa Lihs.

“

We were standing out here and a lady from the bank came out and let us use her glasses and I got very emotional. My dad would have been 90 and he would have loved to see this again. ”

-Patti Dobson,
Fort Madison eclipse gazer

graciously shared their eclipse glasses they were given from Kara Morrow, of KLM Realty.

“Geoff's originally from here,” Lisa said. “But I re-

member back in elementary school watching this and we used old shoeboxes.”

Geoff said he also remember using boxes of

some sort when he was in elementary school at Richardson.

“I think it was in first

See **ECLIPSE**, page 3

State training change could hit sheriff's budget

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

Enforcement Academy director Judy Bradshaw on August 10,

expressing concern about the possibility of eliminating regional training with the South Iowa Area Crime Commission.

The letter is part of an amended agenda for Tuesday's Lee County Board of Supervisors.



WEBER

The commission provides on-site training for county jail correctional officers in addition to a number of other functions including, but not limited to, transportation of offenders and people with mental health issues that aren't incarcerated, as well assistance moving juvenile offenders to the juvenile detention center in Montrose.

“If the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy



continues to not allow us to utilize the SIACC for training that'll be a tremendous burden on us. We can host a training with SIACC at our offices

and they will travel to us,” said Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber on Monday. “I can put 15 COs in

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Local News

Three council seats, mayor spot up for grabs in November

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - All three current Fort Madison city councilman and the mayor have indicated they will be running for re-election on Nov. 7.

Nomination papers and affidavits are available at the Fort Madison City Clerk's office at 811 Avenue E.

The seats that will be on the ballot in the fall include the Mayor's seat, which is a two-year term. Current Mayor Brad Randolph said he will be looking to be re-elected and Fort Madison resident Chris Sorrentino has said he will be seeking that office as well.

Councilman Brian Wright said he will also be looking to retain his chair in council chambers. His seat is a four-year term.

"I am going to run," Wright said this morning.

The 4th Ward seat is currently head by Mark Lair and is also a four-year term.

"Right now, I am planning on it," Lair said of seeking re-election.

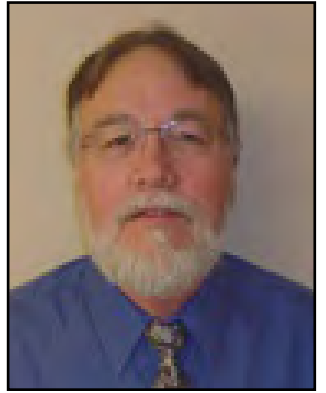
The other position available will be an at-large seat, currently held by Rusty Andrews who indicated this morning that he too will be trying to hold onto that seat.

Petitions and affidavits must be turned into the City Clerk's office and the earliest date to file is Monday, August 28. The last day to file papers is Thursday, September 21. The City Clerk's office will be open until 5 p.m. on September 21st in order to accept petitions.

A candidate must be 18 years of age when his or her Nomination Petition is filed. Candidates must live within the City of Fort Madison. Persons signing the petition must live in the City of Fort Madison.



RANDOLPH



LAIR



ANDREWS



WRIGHT

To be on the ballot, candidates for 2nd and 4th Ward would need a minimum of 10 signatures. Mayoral candidates would need 11 signatures, and at-large candidates would need 33 signatures. City officials recommended that candidates obtain more than the required number of signatures on their petitions to guard against possible unacceptable signatures causing the petitions to be invalid.



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From the Front/Lottery Numbers

Gazers say they remember 1979 event

ECLIPSE - Continued from Page 1

or second grade, but I remember going out and seeing the eclipse through a box.”

Patti and Dale Dobson were also in the Connection's Bank parking lot but were going a bit more pro-

vincial.

Patti had a pinhole cut in a piece of cardboard and was letting the image reflect onto a piece of paper on the hood of their vehicle.

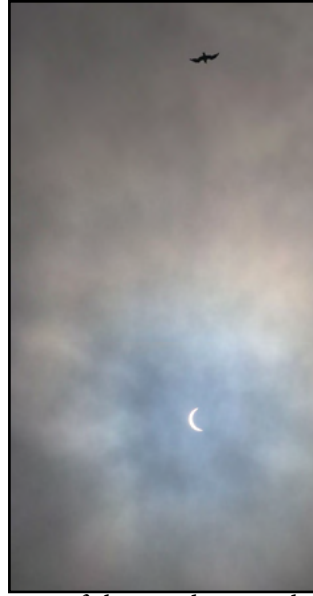
“I was going to go with

the cereal box thing, but I didn't have any scissors this morning or tape. But we were standing out here and a lady from the bank came out and let us use her glasses and I got very emotional. My dad would have been 90 and he would have loved to see this again,” Dobson said.

According to NASA's website, the “celestial event is a solar eclipse in which the moon passes between the sun and Earth and blocks all or part of the sun for up to about three hours, from beginning to end, as viewed from a given location. For this eclipse, the longest period when the moon completely blocks the sun from any given location along the path will be about two minutes and 40 seconds. The last time the contiguous U.S. saw a total eclipse was in 1979.”

At several different times, employees at Lee County Bank ran in and out of the bank parking lot to watch and photograph the event.

Amy Hogan, bank services coordinator, was



one of the employees who stopped for a moment to watch the event. She said she too remembered the 1979 event.

“I remember doing something with a box, now that you mention it. I was at Richardson at the time.”

The eclipse began at just before noon and was expected to last until about 2:40 p.m. but clouds and rain were in the forecast so viewing was expected to be sporadic.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Geoff and Lisa Shields of Madison, Wis., take advantage of some clearer skies to see the eclipse at about 50% in the Connections Bank parking lot.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Patti Dobson uses the pin-hole method of looking at the eclipse in the parking lot at Connections Bank.



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8/21
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8/21 EVENING
0 9 3



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8/21 EVENING
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Sports

FMHS runners start X-country with wins

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

KNOXVILLE - Fort Madison's boys and girls cross country teams jumped out to good start on the 2017 season with wins in a very humid run at Knoxville Monday night.

In the girls meet, seniors Sierra Howardson and

Brett Schneider were just three seconds apart finishing 2nd and 3rd respectively in the 5K run. Fairfield's Ashley Bloomquist set the pace with a mark of 20:43.60. Howardson ran 21:53.7 and Schneider finished at 21:56.6.

The Hounds finished with 29 points and had an average team time of 24:07, a full :50 ahead of Knoxville, who took second place at the meet with 40 points.

Fairfield finished with 65 points for third.

The next Lady Hound across the line was sophomore Ashlynn Haas with a 25:06 mark at 7th overall. Senior Elizabeth Miller chased Haas over the line at 25:41 good for 8th place and fellow senior Clair Mendez rushed in for 9th at 25:57.

Maddy McVey, a sophomore was 12th overall with a mark of 26:38 and Brittney Sanford rounded out the scoring for the Hounds with a 27:00 good for 13th place.

Other finishers for Fort Madison included junior Claire Hellman at 27:48, sophomore Lexi Miller with a 35:12 time, and freshman Rachel Hellman at 36:12.

In the boys' meet, senior Aaron Steffensmeier took first-place at the meet completing the 5K run at 18:37.3, 4.1 seconds ahead of Bloodhound junior Dayne Cordray with a 18:41.4 mark good for second place.

Other place finishers for the Hounds were freshman Owen Kruse with a 20:40 time, good for 7th place overall. Kruse ushered in a pack of other Fort Madison runners including senior Noah Sissel at 20:51 at 8th place and junior Elton Kruse at 21:02 good for 9th overall. Junior Miguel Trejo, crossed the line at 21:05 for 11th place, while Shakir McClellan, just a freshman, took 19th overall with a 22:57 time.

Fairfield junior Mike Diers took 3rd place with a 19:44 time and senior Darren Roberts took 5th overall with a 20:33 time. Knoxville sophomore Jordan Bacon took 4th to round at the top five finishers at the meet with a 20:16 time.

Other runners for Fort Madison included freshman Alex Steffensmeier who clocked in at 23:28 and Seth Mendez, also a freshman with a time of 25:12.

Both teams head to the Cedar Rapids Prairie Invitational on Saturday.



The Fort Madison High School Cross Country team. Front row, Brett Schneider, Sierra Howardson, Claire Mendez, Maddy McVey, Lexi Miller, Claire Hellman; Middle: Dayne Cordray, Owen Kruse, Miguel Trejo, Elizabeth Miller, Ashlynn Haas, Anna Kester; Back: Aaron Steffensmeier, Shakir McClellan, Nathan Steffensmeier, Alex Steffensmeier, Elton Kruse, Seth Mendez, Noah Sissel, Rachel Hellman, Lauren King. Missing: Paige Munson, Brittney Sanford, Shelby Wright, Matt Meierotto, Anthony Barnes. Photo and information courtesy of Brian Mendez.

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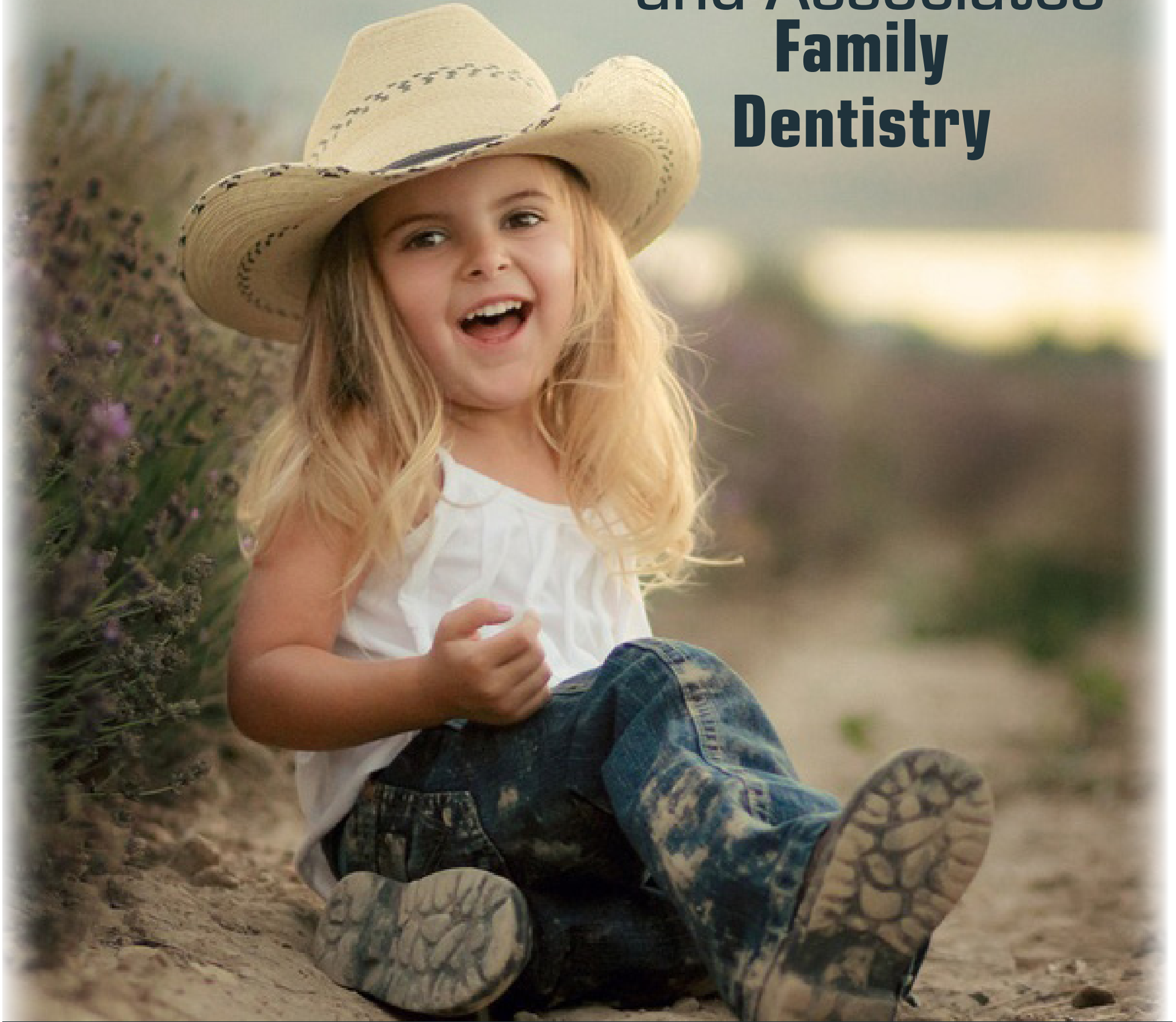
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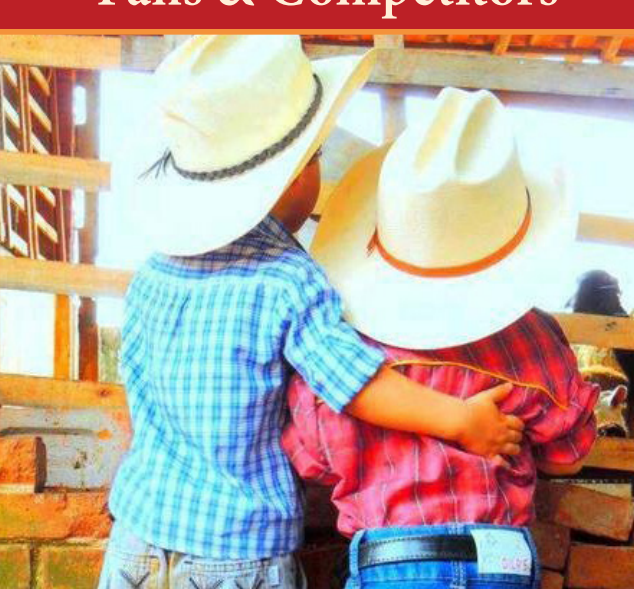
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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police report

08/18/17 - 4:59 p.m.
 - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1300 block of Avenue E.
 08/19/17 - 2:06 a.m.
 - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 500 block of 15th Street.
 08/19/17 - 3:50 a.m.
 - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 800 block of Avenue H.
 08/19/17 - 8:12 a.m.
 - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in progress in the 600 block of 22nd Street.
 08/19/17 - 9:57 a.m.
 - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 600 block of 22nd Street.
 08/19/17 - 10:09 a.m.
 - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2100 block of Avenue L.
 08/19/17 - 11:14 a.m.
 - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident at 34th Street and Avenue L.
 08/19/17 - 12:42 a.m.
 - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1400 block of Avenue F.
 08/19/17 - 1:23 p.m.
 - Fort Madison police

responded to a report of a hit and run in the 3400 block of Avenue L.
 08/19/17 - 1:40 p.m.
 - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1100 block of 26th Street.
 08/19/17 - 3:38 p.m.
 - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of Avenue G.
 08/20/17 - 8:44 a.m.
 - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2100 block of Avenue L.
 08/20/17 - 12:56 p.m.
 - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1100 block of Avenue E.
 08/20/17 - 12:56 p.m.
 - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2100 block of Avenue E.
 08/21/17 - 2:17 a.m.
 - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1100 block of Avenue F.

Lee County Sheriff's report

08/18/17 - 11:29 a.m.- Lee County Sheriff's deputies Tyler Douglas Hoskins, 22, of Ottumwa at the intersection of Hwy 218 and 335th Street on a charge of driving while license revoked/denied. He was released on a promise to appear.

08/18/17 - 3:43 p.m. - Lee County deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hwy 218. A vehicle driven by Kathryn Elaine Coulter, 67 of Cedar Rapids was headed southbound near mile marker 21 and ran off the roadway and onto the shoulder and overcorrected entering the other shoulder and overturned. Coulter was cited for failure to maintain control and suffered minor injuries.
 08/18/17 - 6:23 p.m.
 - Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited and released Tracy Dean Terry, 47, of Keosauqua at the Lee County Sheriff's office on a charge of OWI-2nd offense.
 08/19/17 - no time given
 - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Anthony Thomas Beasley, 42 of Dallas City in the 2000 block of Hwy 16 on a warrant for contempt of court/nonpayment of fines. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on bond.
 08/19/17 - 10:38 a.m.
 - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Gilbert Allen Woodward, Jr., 31, of Keokuk at the Lee County Sheriff's office on charge of violation of a temporary restraining order. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

08/20/17 - 3:38 a.m.
 - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Joseph John Recor, 19, of Keokuk on a charge of eluding. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.
 08/20/17 - 4:20 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kyle David Shepherd, 23, of Joliet, Ill, in the 600 block of Ridge Street, on a charge of OWI-2nd offense. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue

08/17/17 - Fort Madison firefighters responded two medical calls, one smoke detector malfunction, one car accident at 20th Street and Avenue L.
 08/18/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls, one flow alarm, and one structure fire at 1905 Avenue F.
 08/19/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to five medical calls and one false alarm
 08/20/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls.



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From the Front

Weber: Academy just not thinking forward

BUDGET - Continued from Page 1

this thing and it doesn't cost us anything other than the time. But if we gotta load everybody up and haul them to Des Moines...that's a driver, an overnight stay, meals and potential overtime. It would be huge."

Weber said the training classes put on by the commission were quality classes and he contacted the ILEA himself to let them know the impacts of doing away with the SIACC training.

"I contacted them myself and told them that I was going to sign that letter. I encouraged the assistant director to attend

one of the SIACC classes and see for themselves how good they were," Weber said. "We're not talking about thousands of dollars here, we're talking tens of thousands and potentially hundreds of thousands going forward. I just don't have that in my budget."

Weber said eliminating the commission training also subjects smaller jails and communities, as well as larger jails and communities, to the same training which may not be in everyone's best interests.

"We've probably got a jail that is in the top 10

as far as staff and inmate numbers in the state. But Linn County, for example, is bigger than Lee County and one class for all counties may not be suitable for each county," Weber said.

Phone calls and messages to the commission and to the academy went unreturned on Monday.

Weber said he understands that the academy has a lot to handle, but reducing the role of the commission is not the right position to take.

"They want us to go back to training with ILEA. They're trying to regenerate themselves up

“

Linn County, for example, is bigger than Lee County and one class for all counties may not be suitable for each county.”

-Stacy Weber,
Lee County Sheriff

there too, and they have a lot to look after, but to me there not thinking forward," Weber said.

"The one-on-ones with SIACC are tremendous. If it's a setting like in our building, our staff will have more interaction with the teachers and be more comfortable asking questions. Instead

of being in a huge room with people from all over the place. To me it's a no-brainer.

In the letter, the sheriffs wrote in part, "You can understand our surprise and displeasure with this news because we utilize these jail schools not only for their exceptional training, but for

the monetary value they bring to our training budgets. The expenses incurred from sending our staff to non-Crime Commission schools adds up quickly..."

The group asked the academy to reconsider the move and to continue to utilize the 28E agreement in place with commission.

The academy is currently looking at moving their location due to air quality issues at the current facility at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa. Officials said cleanups have rendered the air safe, but officials at the academy are still looking for a move.

Kick up your Boots & Enjoy the Rodeo!



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School Countdown



Almost time...

Parents and students alike file into the Fort Madison Middle School Monday during the school's open house. While parents sorted out bus routes and meal plans, students were able to get a feel for programs, classrooms and teachers. Class starts on Thursday.

Photos by Shawna Ross/PCC

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School Countdown/Weather



Step up

Lincoln PTG President Renee Ehlers looks for parents to volunteer for the PTG at Lincoln Elementary School at Monday's open house. At left, parents get in line to sort out the meal plans.

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TUE 22 Aug



Heavy Intensity Rain
High - 75.2° F | Low - 59.4° F

WED 23 Aug



Clear Skies
High - 74.1° F | Low - 57.9° F

THU 24 Aug



Light Rain
High - 70.3° F | Low - 54.5° F

FRI 25 Aug



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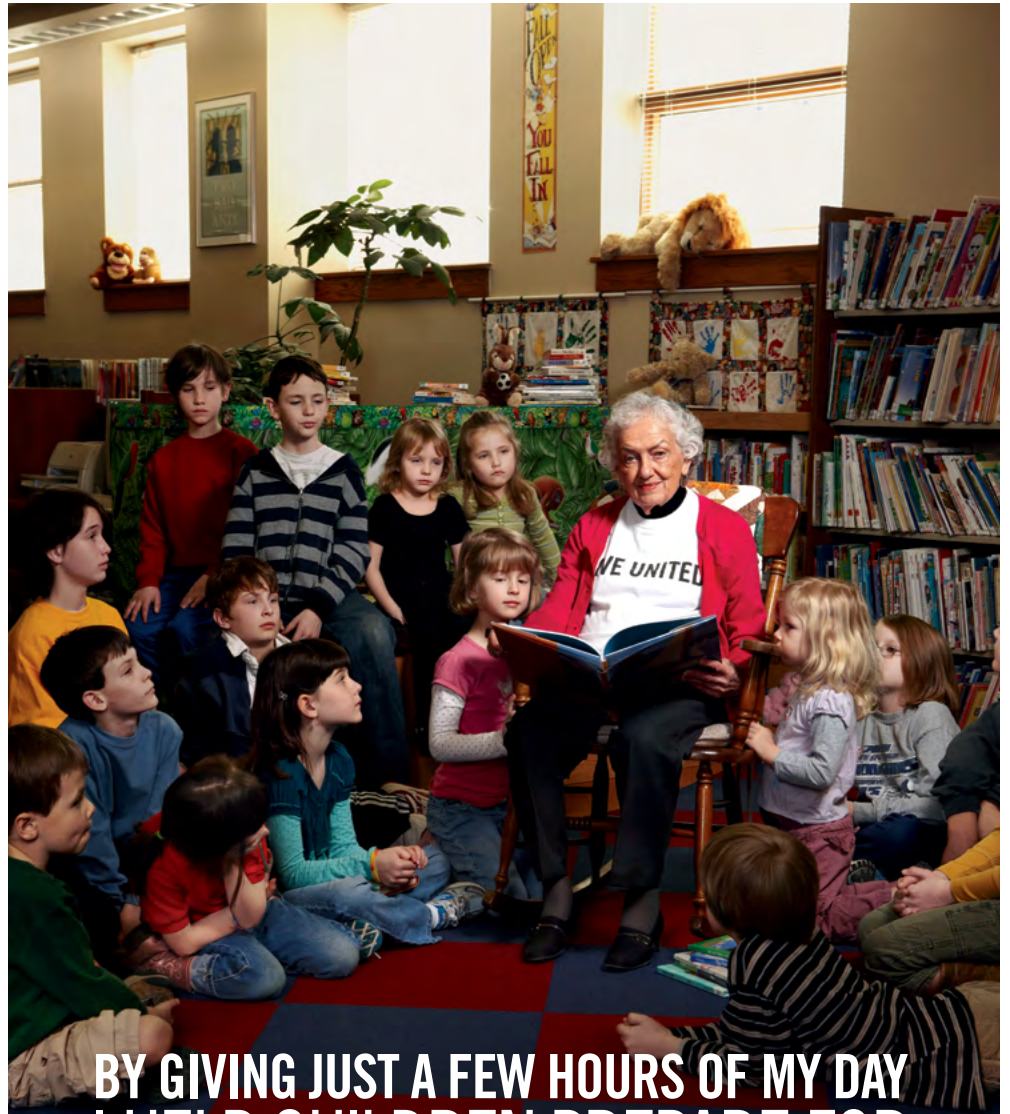
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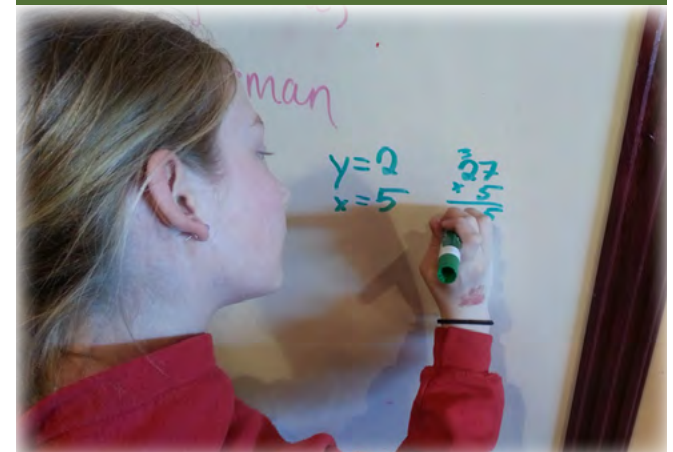
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Montrose Watermelon Festival



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



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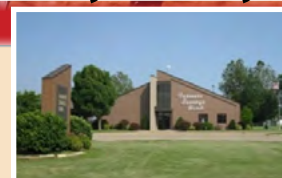
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