



Pen City Current

Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2017 | 6 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 185

Bira resigns as head of FMCH

**BY CHUCK
VANDENBERG**
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Community Hospital is looking for a new CEO starting today. FMCH Community Relations Director Angie Budnik confirmed the resignation Tuesday afternoon. "He is no longer at FMCH. The board officially accepted his resignation last night," Budnik said. She said FMCH CFO Jeremy Alexander will fill



BIRA

in temporarily while Quorum Health Resources out of Brentwood, Tennessee finds an interim CEO while a new search begins for Bira. Bira was hired in March of 2016 as President and CEO following Jim Platt who left the hospital's CEO post in 2015. Bira came to Fort Madison after holding leadership positions at hospitals in the St. Louis area. According to a release this morning, FMCH Board of Directors Chair Bob Bonta said the hospital benefitted

from Bira's term. "While Pat has only been with Fort Madison Community Hospital for a short time, FMCH benefitted from his over thirty years of experience. We thank him for his dedication to our organization and appreciation of the culture of quality that persists here," Bonta said. David Yackell, vice president of Quorum Health Resources said "Quorum will place an interim President/CEO at FMCH in the next few weeks, then work with the FMCH Board of Trustees to conduct a national search for a permanent replacement for this position."

Games on Saturday at RiverFest 2017

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Get your game on this weekend at RiverFest 2017.

RiverFest 2017 is chalk full of events for the competitive and skill-minded, kicking off with the recently added World Series of Beer Pong tournament on Thursday.

Beer Pong

Thursday afternoon opens competition with open and tournament play for a chance to win entry into the Las Vegas World Series of Beer Pong. The winning two-person team for the tournament, which is slated for 4 p.m. to midnight, will be able to compete for \$60,000 in the WSOBP-13.

Saturday kicks off a full day of competition starting with the RiverFest 5K along the Mississippi River. Registration for all events is still available online at www.riverfest-fm.com. The 5K begins with an onsite registration between 6:45 and

7:30 a.m. Pre-registered participants can pick up packets on Friday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the festival. Entry fee for the run is \$35.

Following the 5K are the RiverFest Games which begin at 9 a.m. through completion of the final events.

Sand Volleyball

A sand volleyball tournament begins at 9 a.m. with co-ed teams of 6. Entry fee is \$50 and anyone under 18 years of age must have a parent permission form. The tournament is a double elimination event limited to 24 teams with each match best of three. There is a 100% cash payback to the top three positions in the tournament.

Bags

A bags or "cornhole" tournament will begin at 9:30 p.m. on Saturday with a final registration from 9 to 9:30. Teams will be limited to 64 and play will be the best of three. Entry fee for each team of two is \$30. The



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Members of the FMHS football team help put up fencing on Tuesday evening in Riverview Park as part of the RiverFest 2017. The event kicks off on Thursday evening with carnival rides and Captain Geech and the Shrimp Shack Shooters.

double elimination tournament will also have a 100% payback to the top three teams. The event is recreational play so all abilities are welcome to compete.

KANJAM

After the bags tournament is underway, a new entry this year will be Kanjam, which is played with discs thrown with two slotted barrels on

each end of the playing area. One player throws the disc at the barrel and the teammate has one shot to hit the disc into one of the slots for varied points. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. with play starting at 10 a.m. The tournament will be limited to 64 teams and will be a double elimination with matches based on the number of teams,

best 3, 5 or 7 to be determined on Saturday.

All participants are encouraged to register online before Saturday to increase the speed of Saturday registrations. Coolers are welcome at RiverFest Games but alcohol is not allowed to be brought onto the property due to permitting.

Pickleball

See RIVERFEST, page 6

IFC wants immediate closure of crossover Company offers \$50K for study

**BY CHUCK
VANDENBERG**
PCC EDITOR

WEVER - The Iowa Fertilizer Company has requested an immediate closure to the Hwy 61 and 180th Street crossover.

In a letter dated July 24, Darrell Allman, the managing director at IFC, asked the Iowa Department of Transportation that, due to traffic safety concerns, IFC believes the median crossover at Highway 61 and 180th street should be closed immediately and without any further delay.

Allman outlined in the letter that IFC would be willing to spend up to \$50,000 to do a study on

See IFC, page 6

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Local News/Area News

Keokuk man faces felony drug, firearms charges

Smith caught on traffic stop



SMITH

BY PCC STAFF
KEOKUK – The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Keokuk, Iowa man on felony and misdemeanor drug charges.

Tyrell Devon Smith, 23, of 307 Morgan Street, Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on July 29th, 2017 in the 500 block of Concert Street in Keokuk on felony and misdemeanor drug charges. Smith is charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance (amphetamine/dextroamphetamine) With Intent to Deliver While In Possession of a Firearm, a class

C felony with an enhancement, Possession with Intent to Deliver Methamphetamine Less than Five Grams While in Possession of A Firearm, a class C felony with an enhancement, Possession with intent to Deliver Cocaine While in Possession of a Firearm, a class C felony with an enhancement, Carrying Weapons, an aggravated misdemeanor, and Possession of a Schedule IV Drug (Alprazolam) with intent to Deliver, an aggravated misdemeanor. If convicted, Smith faces up to 49 years in a state

correctional facility.

The arrest of Smith stems from a traffic stop conducted by a Keokuk Police Officer. During the traffic stop, items that support the charges were discovered. The investigation is ongoing.

The Lee County Attorney's Office and the Keokuk Police Department assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Open for traffic

City officials said at Tuesday's City Council meeting that 15th Street is now open for traffic. Apparently some barriers were moved by people not affiliated with the project and City Public Works Director Larry Driscoll said, contractors had to put barriers back up to finish seeding, which was outside the scope of the contract.

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For the Record/Lottery Numbers

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

07/28/17 - 9:39 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1100 block of Denmark Hilltop.
 07/28/17 - 3:24 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1200 block of Avenue H.
 07/28/17 - 11:52 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of 40th Street.
 07/29/17 - 6:56 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Avenue H.
 07/29/17 - 10:33 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Kindra Ford, 33, no address provided, in the 500 block of Avenue H on a warrant for 5th degree theft. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 07/29/17 - 2:36 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 600 block of Avenue H.
 07/29/17 - 2:50 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 1300 block of Avenue F.
 07/30/17 - 12:26 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Donald Ray Wall, Jr., 46, homeless, in the 3400 block of Avenue H, on a charge of felony possession of stolen property. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 07/30/17 - 8:13 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of stolen vehicle in the 800 block of Avenue E.
 07/31/17 - 5:50 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Stephen Winn, 39 of Montrose in the 3100 block of Avenue K on two warrants for probation violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 07/31/17 - 8:47 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1400 block of Avenue H.

07/31/17 - 12:07 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Luke Austin Hummel, 39, of Fort Madison in the 1500 block of Avenue M, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 07/31/17 - 12:30 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 400 block of Avenue G.
 07/31/17 - 2:15 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of burglary in the 1900 block of Avenue O.
 07/31/17 - 6:19 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of stolen bicycle in the 500 block of Avenue E.
 07/31/17 - 8:24 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Angelic Lathae Nelson, 25 of Fort Madison, in the 2900 block of Avenue N on a charge of driving while suspended. She was released.
 08/01/17 - 5:24 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Cody Lee Bennett, Fort Madison, 19, in the 2500 block of Avenue L, on a warrant for contempt for failure to pay fines. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

07/28/17 - 9:19 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Andrew Jay Woods, 57 of Wever, in the 3600 block of 190th Street, on a warrant for failure to pay fines/costs. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.
 07/28/17 - 2:29 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested David Edward Bishop, 49, of Keokuk at the Lee County Sheriff's office, on a warrant for sex offender registration violations. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 07/28/17 - no time given - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested a 14-year-old female from Ottumwa on 4th-degree theft charges. She was

held in juvenile detention center pending a hearing.

07/29/17 - 2:07 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Timea Street and 14th Street. A vehicle driven by Danielle Renea Clark, 26 of Keokuk, was heading east on Timea Street and according to the report, did not yield the right of way to a vehicle driven by Ashley Michelle Noble, 27, of Keokuk. Noble's vehicle struck Clark's broadside and both vehicle had to be towed Clark was cited for failure to obey a stop sign and no insurance.
 07/31/17 - 11:20 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Natasha Ashly Bryant, 25 of Keokuk in the 700 block of Dorcas Drive in Keokuk, on charges of driving while barred, interference with official acts and no insurance.
 07/31/17 - 4:52 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested James Lee Roberts, 19, of Keokuk, no location given on a warrant for 3rd-degree burglary. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

It should be noted a criminal charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

07/29/17 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to six medical calls, four lift assists, three smoke complaints and one false alarm
 07/30/17 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls.
 07/31/17 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls.

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8/1
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From the Front/Weather

RiverFest brings in Onix for pickleball showcase

RIVERFEST - Continued from Page 1

Pickleball participants can also come out during RiverFest to compete and learn about the game from the nation's largest pickleball equipment supplier, Onix. Pickleball is open for recreational play from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday.

For each tournament, anyone under 18 must have a parent permission to play and all participants will be required to sign a RiverFest Games Sport Participation Waiver.

RiverFest 2017 kicks off Thursday at 4 p.m. and runs through Sunday at 7 p.m. Tickets for musical entertainment are available for purchase at the event website at www.riverfestfm.com or at Fort Madison Hy-Vee. Single day entertainment tickets will be available for \$10 on Thursday, \$15 on Friday, and \$20 on Saturday. Connor Amusements will hold a wristband event from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday with unlimited rides for one price of the band. There is also a three-hour wristband window on Saturday from noon to 3 p.m.

IFC offers to pay for some of Hwy 61, 180th improvements

IFC - Continued from Page 1

costs, timing, and any potential issues associated with creating a northbound acceleration lane and the expansion of 180th Street approach to Hwy 61.

The letter also goes on to outline that IFC would consider "helping to pay for some of the costs for these two changes," provided that all of the costs were identified and approved, but if that course of action was not acceptable to the IDOT then they would have to revert 180 back to gravel.

Lee County Engineer Ernie Steffensmeier said as part of IFC's agreement with Lee County they are obligated to restore the road to its original condition after the construction phase, as the roadway is owned by the county.

"They were spending \$30,000 a month maintaining that gravel road when they were in construction so they just paved it to save them some money,

but under our agreement they would revert it back to gravel," Steffensmeier said.

Jim Armstrong, district engineer with IDOT's District 5 Highway Division, said Tuesday he received a copy of the letter on the 28th and his office was discussing it internally.

"We're anticipating meeting with IFC to discuss this further," he said. "There has been no action taken on the closure and I'm still waiting on that discussion here to see if that meeting can be arranged."

"We're anticipating meeting with IFC to discuss this further. There has been no action taken on the closure and I'm still waiting on the discussion here to see when that meeting can be arranged."

-Jim Armstrong
IDOT District 5 Engineer

Armstrong said the letter is just another added value to the ongoing conversations.

"Everyone should understand that there is a controlled intersection at this location. This is a request to control movement by the fertilizer plant," Armstrong said.

Lee County Supervisor Gary Folluo said the board is holding to its original statement that the crossover should remain open.

"We sent a letter to them stating that we would like that closure to remain open," Folluo said.

Folluo said he hasn't had any conversations with other supervisors about the letter but said the board's going to have to discuss if there have been any changes.

Lee County Supervisors typically have a workshop following the regular meetings and Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise asked Hunold, who chaired the meeting in the absence of Board Chairman Rick Larkin, if the board wanted to discuss the letter.

Hunold said he would prefer to wait until Larkin returned to discuss it.

I guess I can understand what (IFC is) trying to do, but I'm looking

300 trucks in and out of the facility every day now that production is underway. Even the small handful of trucks that are using 180th Street could potentially create an issue.

"That is what we are working with the county and DOT to address. We believe the best way to ensure safety in the area and further maximize the use of the Rise Road is to close the crossover intersection at 180th Street and Highway 61."

He said truck drivers are not employees of the company and once the trucks are loaded and leave the facility they are on public roads and can choose whatever roads they like.

"This is why IFCo, the county, and the Iowa Department of Transportation are discussing how we can work together to ensure the continued safety of those traveling through the area, whether that is the expansion of 180th Street, a new acceleration lane on Highway 61, or the closure of the crossover intersection at Highway 61 and 180th Street," he said.

"Since Iowa Fertilizer Company (IFCo) started construction in Wever, our number one priority has been the safety of the community, its residents, our employees, and the individuals and families traveling through the area.

"Throughout that time, we have worked closely with Lee County and the Iowa Department of Transportation to discuss safety issues and we look forward to continuing those conversations now as truck traffic around the plant has increased."



HUNOLD

down there would like to leave it alone and see how it goes."

Hunold said he

hopes IFC can see the county's position on the closure and said the Rise Road was constructed to give truck drivers a safe path in and out of the facility.

"I would hope they would understand our position. If you build a \$10 million road, you probably should use it."

IFC officials said drivers are not employees of IFC and once products are loaded onto a truck, the facility cannot control which path they take.

According to Jesse Harris, a spokesman for IFC, the facility is encouraging truck drivers to use the Rise Road.

"We strongly encourage trucks to use the Rise Road, and the overwhelming majority of them do take this route," Harris said. "However, there are approximately

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

WED 02 Aug



Partly Sunny

Low - 66.9° F | High - 84.6° F

THU 03 Aug



Clear Skies

Low - 60.2° F | High - 77.4° F

FRI 04 Aug



Light Rain

Low - 61.1° F | High - 72.3° F

SAT 05 Aug



Light Rain

Low - 63.0° F | High - 65.5° F

SUN 06 Aug



Heavy Intensity Rain

Low - 64.2° F | High - 70.5° F

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