



Pen City Current

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 | 14 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 28

Shopko plans closure by April 15

Company statement indicates optical centers may be reopened at new locations

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

ASHWAUBENON, Wis. – According to a list of stores released on the company's website today, the Fort Madison Shopko will be closing its doors on April 15 as the company looks to restructure under Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

The announcement came today and includes the closure of more than 100 stores, including the Burlington location on Roosevelt, and nine other Iowa stores.

Iowa is the third largest state hit with the news. The company is closing a dozen locations in Utah and 13 in its home state of Wisconsin.

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Local management in Fort Madison declined to comment on the closure but referred all questions to the company's corporate headquarters in Wisconsin.

It was rumored that the Fort Madison and Burlington locations weren't included in the closure lists for the

company, but spokesman Tucker Elcock, who's with Te-neo, Inc., a management consulting firm in New York City that's assisting Shopko with the restructuring, said that was speculation.

"I had not heard that before," he said this afternoon. "The full list is available on the company website."

He said the company cannot comment on how many employees are on staff at the Fort Madison location.

See **CLOSURE**, page 6

City could be looking at 2nd snow emergency

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – With the potential for another substantial winter storm hitting the area beginning Friday, city officials are asking property owners to help with getting streets cleared by following emergency snow removal protocols.

With last weekend's storm still fresh in everyone's mind and the city actually towing some vehicles today to finish removing snow from the streets, Police Chief Tim Sittig is asking everyone to work together to get the streets cleaned as quickly and efficiently as possible.

He said when city crews have to keep going back to revisit streets that have had cars in the way of plowing efforts, that's when snow is repeatedly piled up in front of sidewalks, some of which may have already been



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison could be looking at another snow emergency this week if the projected path of a second snow storm blankets the city, yet there are still roads that haven't been cleaned due to vehicles not being moved like this on stretch of Avenue D.

shoveled.

"It's not our intention to take people's vehicles, but the overall purpose is to keep streets clear. We just want to encourage people when the storm starts, do your best to keep your cars off the streets," he said. "With this last warning, we'll probably be towing some vehicles

today."

Sittig said the city can actually tow vehicles once a snow emergency has been called and he said there is a very good chance that another snow emergency will be called.

He said even if a snow emergency isn't declared, but there is accumulation, just parking on the same

side of the street, helps city workers.

"We try not to tow vehicles. This week, we spent a day and half knocking on doors trying to get people to come out and voluntarily move their cars. Monday and Tuesday we put snow stickers on cars. Today and the rest of the

See **SNOW**, page 6

Residents want county to address western 255th St.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE – About 10 residents who live near the 255th Street on the western edge of Lee County want supervisors to stop putting off rehabbing the road.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, the residents voiced concerns for about an hour over the dangerous conditions of the road and how long the county has been delaying resurfacing the road.

The street in question starts on the east at the turn off Hwy. 61 south of Fort Madison at the turn off for the Lee County Sheriff's department. The road then runs west across Hwys. 218 and 27 and into Croton.

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Stephen Pohren, a former Lee County Secondary Roads employee from Croton, voiced his concerns over the condition of the road.

"I really believe it's time that this road is graded and hard-surfaced because all the traffic's got to filter in there from all the other roads," Pohren said.

"The county has torn up hard surface roads and reggraded them over the past 40 years that I'd be proud to drive on. They've torn 'em up and repaved 'em and graded the road and everything and I think we've waited too long. I know it's gonna cost a lot of money, but I think it's time."

County Engineer Ben Hull said it would cost about

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Obituaries/Local News

OBITUARIES

LOLA MAE BOYER

Lola Mae Boyer, 88, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 9:58 p.m. on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at The Madison. She was born on February 7, 1930 in Fort Madison, IA to George H. & Bertha P. Gang Manka. She married Jerry Lee Boyer on October 6, 1950 in Fort Madison, IA.



BOYER

He preceded her in death on August 28, 2004. She worked at the Sheaffer Pen Company for 11 years and also worked at Mike's Supper Club & the Americana Bowling Alley. She was a member of Sacred Heart Church and the Eagles Auxiliary. She was a great cook and enjoyed camping, playing cards and spending time with her family.

Lola is survived by: 1-daughter: Lue (John) Muth of Fort Madison, IA; 4-sons: Richard (Jan) Boyer of Fort Madison, IA, Jay (Denise) Boyer of West Point, IA, Bill (Connie) Boyer of Fort Madison, IA & Kirk Boyer of Fort Madison, IA; 11-grandchildren & 9-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by: her parents, husband, 1-brother & 4-sisters.

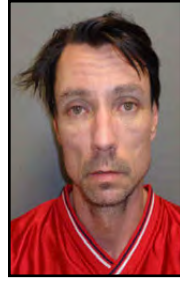
The family will receive friends from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Monday, January 21, 2019 with the funeral service to immediately follow at 11:00 a.m. at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Pastor Jon Heyland officiating. Burial will be held at Soldiers' Circle in Oakland Cemetery. A memorial has been established in her memory. Online condolences to Lola's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

FM man nabbed on felony meth charge

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The Lee County Narcotics Task Force conducted a search warrant at a Fort Madison home that led to felony charges.

Chad Michael Vice, 43, of Fort Madison, Iowa was arrested on January 10th, 2019 at his residence 33 Alta Drive on felony drug charges. Vice is charged with delivery of more than five grams of methamphetamine, within 1000 feet of a park, second or subsequent offense, class B felony with enhancements. Also, felony possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia.



VICE

The arrest of Vice stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that he was involved in the distribution of illegal drugs in the Lee County area. A search warrant was conducted in relation to the charges.

The Lee County Attorney's Office, Lee County Sheriff's Office, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, and the Fort Madison 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.

CURRENT-LEE

Comedy Night at the FM Elks Club Rescheduled

Due to the impending weather, the Fort Madison Elks Lodge Comedy night has been rescheduled for Saturday, February 15 at 8:30 p.m. The show will feature two comedians – Tim Sullivan and another act to be named – and is Adult Humor. Tickets are \$15 in advance/\$20 the day of the show. Limited seating is available. Call 319.372.3724 or stop by the lodge for tickets today. Food available 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

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1/15
29 52 58 60 62
Mega Ball: 7
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1/15 MID-DAY
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From the Front

Residents want bigger discussion on road rehab

STREET - Continued from Page 1

\$12 million to resurface the road with concrete, but he said that surface would last. He said to grade and pave roads is about \$1.5 million per mile and the stretch in question is about seven miles long west of Hwy. 27. He said a bridge in that stretch would also have to be replaced.

He said there would also be some land acquisition required.

The stretch of road has been on the county's legally required 5-year plan for more than 40 years.

Supervisor Rich Harlow asked what it would cost to seal coat the road.

Hull said sealcoating would cost about \$20,000 per mile just for the sealcoat, but he said initial prep or construction on the road to prepare it for the seal coat would be about \$100,000 per mile.

After the meeting, Hull said it probably wouldn't be his preference to seal coat the road because the county would save money going with asphalt over the lifespan projections of that surface.

"I'd looking at things over 30 years because that's typically what we estimate for the lifespan of concrete. That's a good break point to look at the different options," Hull said.

Supervisor Matt Pflug said the county should take a closer look at the seal coating option.

"I don't think we should rule out seal coat when we have our discussion on our five year plan, we should seriously take a look at it or talk about it," Pflug said.

Supervisor Ron Fedler said the problem with the road is that it's difficult to get water off the road, but he said the county has to stay with its budget and that's the reason why the road work keeps getting pushed back.

"The best thing we can do is get the ditches dug out and get the water off the road, keep the road crowned and get the hills, if we can find the money, cut down so we don't have the blind spots."

Board Chairman Gary Folluo said he would like the county staff to take another look at the road.

"I know we talked at one time about grading some of the hills and that creates some problems. We're looking for a way to get some relief and seal coat may fit that bill. If everyone is set on concrete, your 5-year plan, you're looking at another 20 to 25 years, because the county is not going to be able to afford to do that," Folluo said.

Heather Fuger, the principal at Central Lee Elementary School, said she appreciated the county's position, but wanted to know if a meeting could be set up at a more opportune time to allow more residents to come and voice their concerns. She said many parents in the district are concerned about the condition of the road.

"We have a lot of people who would like to understand and be a part of that conversation," she said.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Heather Fuger, third from left, is the Central Lee Elementary principal and discussed the dangerous conditions of 255th Street in western Lee County at Tuesday's regular board meeting.

Folluo directed Harlow to help the residents set up a meeting to discuss the issue further. Pflug said it would be appropriate for the supervisors to move one of the regular supervisor meetings to Central Lee at a different time to allow people who work to come and voice their concerns.

No date or time for that meeting was officially set by the board.

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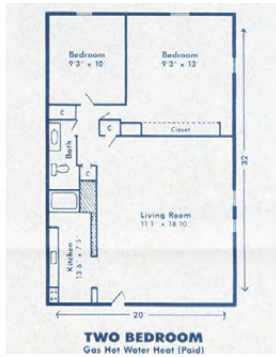
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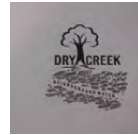


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Sports

No. 4 New London rolls HTC boys

PCC STAFF

NEW LONDON – Holy Trinity got 20 points from junior Quentin Schneider, but couldn't hold up high-octane New London Tuesday night in Southeast Iowa Superconference boys basketball action.

The Class 1A 4th-ranked Tigers got 24 points from senior Keontae Luckett, including 14 in the second half as they raced to a 79-45 win, their 14th straight of the year against no losses.

Holy Trinity, coming off an emotional win over Fort Madison in overtime on Monday, didn't get on the board until the four-minute mark of the first quarter, which set the Crusaders back 18-8 at the end of the period.

The Tiger's Darius Whaley went a little crazy in the second quarter putting up 11 of New London's 18 points as the Tigers stretched the lead at the half to 39-22.

The Crusaders got their best effort in the third period where they put up 14 points to the Tigers 17, but couldn't sustain enough offense to mount a comeback, as New London held Holy Trinity to just nine fourth quarter points.

Junior Matt Hellige had eight points on the night and Adam Rauenbuehler finished with four points. Brant Holtkamp, Reed Fehseke, Jason Thurman and Kyle Bredemeyer all had three points. Vasin Thurman added one for HTC.

The Crusaders snared 25 rebounds on the night, but only four were on the offensive side of the floor. Schneider led the Crusaders in rebounding with nine, all defensive grabs, and Hellige had eight on the night.

The Crusaders have another tough matchup on Friday when Notre Dame comes calling. The Nikes are currently ranked 11th by the Associated Press in Class 1A. The game is the Crusaders' Homecoming and coronations will be held at 5:45 with the girls varsity tipping off at 6 p.m. and the boys game to follow.

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Lady Crusaders win 5th in a row

Box leads Class 1A girls in rebounding, Boeding 3rd in 3-pointers with 46

PCC STAFF

NEW LONDON – The Holy Trinity Catholic girls basketball team has won four in a row and five of their last six including a 63-34 win at New London on Tuesday night.

The Crusaders actually trailed at halftime 23-24, but held the Lady Tigers, who have just seven players on their varsity squad, to 10 points in the second half.

Senior Emily Box scored 18 of her 23 in the second half as Holy Trinity was able to get the inside game working.

The Crusaders took the lead quickly in third period and never looked back outscoring the Lady Tigers 20-5 in the third and fourth quarters.

Juniors Ashlynn Haas and Avery Hopper, and senior Taylor Boeding all scored nine points for Holy Trinity. Seniors Eryn Anderson finished with six, while Mya Lawlor had five. Sophomore Claire Pothitakis had two points to round out the scoring. Alisha Boles led New London (2-11) with 10 points.

Of the last seven games, the 10-5 Crusaders are 5-2 with the two losses coming by a combined seven points.

Through 15 games, Box is fourth in the Southeast Iowa Superconference in scoring at 14.7 points per outing. She is second to Van Buren's Taryn Scheurmann in blocks with 47, and is tops in rebounds with 143 and rebounds and rebounds per game at 11.6. The 143 rebounds is also 10th best in the state in Class 1A.

Boeding is tops in the conference and currently ranked 3rd in Class 1A in 3-pointers made with 46 on the year. She's shooting just under 35% from the arc.



Holy Trinity senior Emily Box, shown here in earlier action this week against Fort Madison, put up 23 points in the Crusader's win over New London. Box is 4th in the Southeast Iowa Superconference in scoring and tops in rebounds.

The Crusaders host Burlington Notre Dame on Friday in girl/boy doubleheader on Homecoming. Coronations will be held at 5:45 with a 6 p.m. tipoff.

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From the Front/Weather

Travel could get hazardous starting Thursday

SNOW - Continued from Page 1

week if we see a big berm of snow around that car and it's still got 10" of snow on it, it's going to be subject to tow.

"If the streets are clear, it doesn't take very long to clean them," he said.

The area is under a winter weather advisory today and tomorrow, and then the larger storm is projected to move in on Friday.

According to the National Weather Service out of the Quad Cities, a winter weather advisory is in effect southeast Iowa, particularly south of Highway 34.

A statement from the NWS issued today indicates, "A winter weather advisory is in effect for portions of

southeast Iowa, northeast Missouri and western Illinois later this evening into Thursday morning. This will impact the morning commute. Light snow is expected across the area this evening and overnight. For areas along and south of Highway 34, some freezing rain or freezing drizzle may mix with the snow through the evening before changing to all snow before daybreak. Up to one of snow is expected across this area, elsewhere less than half an inch is expected. A glaze of ice is also expected. Temperatures will be in the upper 20s so untreated roads and bridges and overpasses will be especially vulnerable"

The NWS statement also addressed the potential for substantial winter weather on Friday and Saturday.

"A larger storm system will likely produce widespread

accumulating snow across the area from Friday afternoon through Saturday. Several inches of snow accumulation will be possible with this system along with strong gusty winds by Saturday, which could produce blowing and drifting snow adding to the hazard. The exact track and strength of this system is still somewhat uncertain at this time, thus snowfall amounts and placement of the higher totals are also uncertain. Stay tuned for later forecasts and updates concerning this potentially significant winter storm system at the end of the week. Bitterly cold temperatures and wind chills are expected to follow in behind the departing storm system for Saturday night through Monday."

Restructure could result in new format for Shopko stores

CLOSURE - Continued from Page 1

"We're not going to comment on employment or employees as we're still moving through that process and we're not sure how that will shake out in the end," he said.

The company also issued a statement regarding the optical center that indicated those centers will remain through the closure and will be reopened later at a new location.

Michelle Hanson, the company's media spokesperson referred all requests for information to the company's statement.

"This decision is a difficult, but necessary one," said Russ Steinhorst, Chief Executive Officer. "In a challenging retail environment, we have had to make some very tough choices, but we are confident that by operating a smaller and more focused store footprint, we will be able to build a stronger Shopko that will better serve our customers, vendors, employees, and other stakeholders through this process."

The company also issued a letter to customers that can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.pencitycurrent.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/customer-letter.pdf>.

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SUN 20 Jan	Clear High- -0.5° F Low - 16.0° F
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