



# Pen City Current

Thursday, April 5, 2018 | 8 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 94

## ...And down it comes

Here's a picture log of volunteers taking down the visitor side press box at Richmond Stadium on Friday and Saturday of last week. (See page 7 for more pictures) Building Trades instructor Clint Kobelt, students, volunteer coaches, and school administrators helped tear the structure down.



## School board to petition for recount

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison school board will be asking for a recount of Tuesday's failed \$30 million school bond referendum.

The vote failed to reach the state-mandated 60% +1 vote threshold by .8% and school officials indicated Tuesday that a recount could be in order.

Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise said Wednesday the board would need to petition the county for the recount. That petition would require 30 signatures and would need to be submitted to her office no later than three days from the canvass of the election, which will take place at Tuesday's Lee County Board of Supervisors meeting.

"If they get that in, the next step would be to form a recount board and that would consist of one person they (the board) selects, one person I select, and then a third person those two already selected would pick. And all that has to be done in a time frame - it's pretty quick," Fraise said.

"Then they would meet and count the ballots. They can either count them manually or use the machine."

Fort Madison Community School District President Tim Wondra said Tuesday that the board started the recount process on Wednesday and they are in the progress of gathering signatures for the petition.

See PETITION, page 6

## BNSF Bridge to be closed Saturday

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Burlington-Northern Santa Fe bridge in Fort Madison will be closed on Saturday according to city officials.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Fort Madison City Council, City Manager David Varley informed the council and those in attendance that work on the bridge will start at 6 a.m. and is planned for about 14 hours.

"That's going to be closed for virtually the whole day,"

See CLOSURE, page 2

### Advertiser Index

Classifieds .....	Ps.4-5
Fort Madison Community Hospital .....	P.3
Great River Regional Waste Authority .....	P.6
Griffin Muffler & Brake Center .....	P.2
Hope Associates Real Estate .....	P.5
KLM Realty .....	P.5
Professional Services .....	P.4
RiverFest Fort Madison .....	P.8
Steffes Group .....	P.5
The Kensington .....	P.2

### News Index

Area News .....	Ps.2-3
Current-Lee .....	P.3
From the front .....	Ps.2,6
Lottery Numbers .....	P.3
Obituaries .....	P.2
-Charlene Ellenore Hood	
Scene Around Town .....	P.7
Weather .....	P.6

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## Obituaries/Area News

# Reynolds inks Future Iowa act

*New law is aimed at training Iowans for jobs of tomorrow*

DES MOINES) – Gov. Kim Reynolds signed House File 2458, the Future Ready Iowa Act, on Tuesday at the Future Ready Iowa Summit in Des Moines.

Future Ready Iowa is the governor's plan to train Iowans for the jobs

of today and tomorrow. The goal of Future Ready Iowa is 70 percent of Iowa workers having education or training beyond high school by 2025. In order to reach that goal, another 127,700 Iowans need to earn post-secondary degrees or other creden-

tials. "This bill changes lives by helping Iowans earn credentials that prepare them for rewarding careers in advanced manufacturing, computer science, finance, health care and many other fields," Gov. Reynolds said. "This bill also helps employers hire the skilled workers they need to grow, which means Iowa communities

will be even more prosperous." The governor called on the legislature to pass the Future Ready Iowa Act in her Condition of the State address in January. The bill passed both the Iowa House and Iowa Senate with unanimous, bipartisan support. It passed the Iowa House on March 13, 98-0 and the Iowa Senate on March 19, 47-0.

### OBITUARIES

## CHARLENE ELLENORE (FOTSCH) HOOD

Charlene Ellenore (Fotsch) Hood, 93, of Bonaparte, Iowa, passed away at 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at the Solon Nursing Care Center in Solon, Iowa.



HOOD

Born February 18, 1925 in Boone, Iowa the daughter of Paul and Agnes (Anderson) Fotsch. On October 20, 1946, she married Robert Ben Hood in Farmington, Iowa. He preceded her in death on June 3, 2006.

Survivors include one son: Steven (Kathy) Hood of Bonaparte, Iowa; two granddaughters: Erin (Josh) Hale of Ely, Iowa and Alicia Salger of Ely, Iowa; five great grandchildren: Josiah, Jordyn, Nathan and Noah Hale and Danica Salger; one sister: Dorothy Klinkhammer of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; two brothers: Harold Fotsch of Mendota Heights, Minnesota and Wesley (Nancy) Fotsch of Solon Iowa. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband: Robert; parents, two brothers and three sisters.

Charlene graduated from Farmington High School. She worked for Birtman Electric in Rock Island, Illinois for six years. In 1950, she and her husband Robert purchased a farm west of Farmington in which they farmed for twenty-five years. She was also a supervisor for Farmington Senior Center for twenty-seven years. Charlene was a life-long member of Farmington United Methodist Church. She enjoyed watching her granddaughters play in sporting events, spending time with her great-grandchildren and her dog "Missy", playing cards with friends, traveling with Robert and reading. She also enjoyed playing basketball while in high school and had participated in two state tournaments.

A visitation will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 7, 2018 at the Farmington United Methodist Church in Farmington, Iowa.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 Saturday at the Farmington United Methodist Church with Pastor Michael Elrod officiating.

Burial will be at the Farmington Cemetery.

Memorials have been established in her memory for the Farmington Methodist Church, Farmington EMT's or Bonaparte First Responders.

Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.co](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.co)

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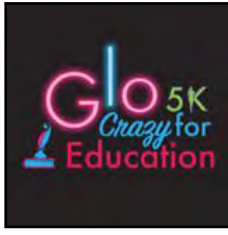


## Area News/Lottery Numbers

### CURRENT-LEE

## Glo Crazy for Education run set for April 7

FORT MADISON - A 5K run/walk will be held on April 7 at Baxter Sports Complex beginning at 8 p.m. Proceeds from the event will go to the Elliott Test Kitchen in Fort Madison. The event is being put on by Fort Madison service clubs including Fort Madison Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary clubs as well as the Fort Madison High School key club. Registration can be done at [www.pencitycurrent.com/glo-crazy/](http://www.pencitycurrent.com/glo-crazy/).



## Lee County Bridges group to hold Keokuk community-wide meeting April 16

The steering committee is hosting the next community-wide Bridges out of Poverty training in Keokuk on April 16th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the First Lutheran Church located at 1101 Blondeau Street. The Public is invited to attend

Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for \$15. Add a photo for \$5. Non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of \$10 per 25 words and \$3 per photo. To place your listing, click here or call Lee at (319)371.4125.



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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



4/4

8 24 42 54 64  
Powerball: 24  
Power Play: 4



4/4

16 22 28 30 34  
Star Ball: 2  
All Star Bonus: 3



4/4 MID-DAY  
5 5 9

4/4 EVENING  
7 0 4



4/4 MID-DAY  
2 2 6 2

4/4 EVENING  
4 8 5 4

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encourages you to play responsibly.

## Details released in Monday morning accident

BY PCC STAFF  
MONTROSE - A 75-year old Burlington man was taken to Fort Madison Community Hospital Monday morning following a two-car accident at the junction of U.S. Hwy 61 and Hwy. 218 on the Montrose hilltop.

According to sheriff reports, Danny Joseph Brownlee of Burlington was driving in a 2008 Chrysler Town & Country van when he collided with a 2005 Sterling box truck driven by Jamie Ray Wrieden, 45, of Keokuk, in heavy fog on top of the hill.

Brownlee was trapped in the vehicle and showed several injuries. A witness at the scene was holding Brownlee's head. The witness, who was behind Wrieden's vehicle, said the fog was so thick it was very difficult to see any traffic.

Emergency crews broke out the passenger side middle window so crews could get inside the van to immobilize Brownlee, while crews mechanically removed the driver's side door to get him out.

Wrieden said he was crossing the southbound lanes to travel north on Hwy. 218 and said, due to

the heavy dense fog that hampered visibility, he didn't see Brownlee's vehicle until he was already crossing the southbound lanes.

He reported he saw Brownlee's headlights once he was already in traffic and Brownlee struck Wrieden's vehicle in the passenger side of the truck.

No citations were issued at the scene and Wrieden didn't report any injuries at the scene.

Montrose Fire & Rescue, Lee County Sheriff's Department, and Lee County EMS responded to the accident.

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*The FMCH Hospice program is funded by the FMCH Foundation.*



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## Pen City Current

Founded in 2016



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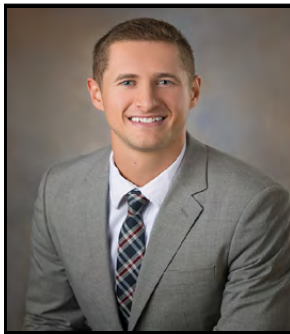
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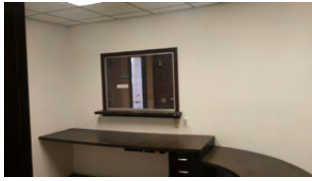


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Darin Gentry & Jaime Shultz - Co-Executors

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## From the Front/Weather

# Remaining absentees could make recount closer

**PETITION** - Continued from Page 1

Unofficially there were 1,747 votes in favor of the referendum and 1,202 against. Social media was ablaze Tuesday night with numbers indicating that 24 more yes votes would have passed the referendum. That was the number of votes if converted to yes votes would have resulted in enough to pass the bond, not just 24 more additional Yes votes.

The absentee ballots came in at 943 Yes, and 459 No for a 67% approval. According to Nikki Sugars, the Lee County deputy auditor and elections administrator, there are currently 63 absentee ballots still unreturned. She received seven in the mail on Wednesday for a total of 70. In the unlikely event that all 70 were in favor of the referendum. That would push the Yes votes to 1817 for a total of 3019 votes. That would total 60.19%, which in theory would approve the bond. But that would require all of the absentee ballots having been postmarked by April 2, and all would need to be returned.

According to Fraise, there are also four provisional ballots in the county's possession. Those are ballots where the voter couldn't prove residency at the polls and they need to bring in proof of residency prior to the canvass

for the votes to count.

The district has put the referendum in front of voters three different times, the last of which was June 27, 2017 when a \$27 million bond failed with a 1528-1212 result with a 55.8% approval.

Absentees in that referendum had a 64.7% approval, but Tuesday saw roughly 600 more absentees generating just a 2.3% higher approval.

Another interesting contrast was voters at Grace Bible Church in Wever voted against the measure in both of the previous efforts, 81-87 in 2016 and 121-125 in June, but this time around had a majority in favor of 137-109, with the exact same number of voters as in 2017.

Voters at the West Point Library, who were taking a hit on social media for not helping carry the referendum, voted 102-175 (43.3%) in December of 2016 and 124-241 (33.9%) in June, and voted 162-293 on Tuesday (35.6%). The total voters Tuesday was 90 more than 2017 and 178 more than 2016.

The Fort Madison city polling locations have not carried the needed 60% in any of the three elections.. Only absentee voting has surpassed the required 60%.

## Amtrak's Southwest Chief won't run this weekend

**BRIDGE** - Continued from Page 1

Varley said. "And because of the work being done, we also received notification that the Southwest Chief, the Amtrak that runs basically between

Kansas City and Chicago will also not be running that day."

The work will stop the Amtrak Southwest Chief run for Saturday and

Sunday and no alternative transportation will be provided.

"Sometimes bigger cities will run buses or things like that, but for those two days the Southwest Chief will be

running Andy Williams, director of public affairs for the BNSF region that includes Iowa and Illinois, said the bridge will be closed from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. to do rail platform repairs.

## 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 05 Apr



Snow  
High – 35.5° F | Low – 24.3° F

FRI 06 Apr



Snow  
High – 28.2° F | Low – 18.4° F

SAT 07 Apr



Clear Skies  
High – 32.2° F | Low – 19.4° F

SUN 08 Apr



Snow  
High – 35.5° F | Low – 32.6° F

MON 09 Apr



Snow  
High – 34.8° F | Low – 32.5° F

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# Spring Cleaning

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# Scene Around Town







# RiverFest 2018 SUNDAY NIGHT Entertainment Line-Up! August 5th, 2018!

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"You can kill the lights and the amplifiers/But dreams don't care if you're tired," "No Rest"  
With his sixth studio album, the aptly named Love Hope Faith, his follow-up to 2014's Thanks for Listening, Colt Ford continues to live out his boyhood dream - the one where you "wake up on a mission/to buy that beat-up Gibson," as he sings on "No Rest." Love Hope Faith is exactly that, a message to his loyal fan base, and a strike against the divisiveness plaguing our country, celebrating the things that bring us together - friends, family, our faith in a better future. Featuring such guests as Music City stalwarts Brad Paisley ("Lookin' for a Hand Out"), Toby Keith ("Time Flies"), Lady Antebellum's Charles Kelley and brother Josh ("Young Americans") and veteran rockers Lit ("I'm Mud"); promising newcomers like Waterloo Revival's Cody Cooper and George Birge ("Dynamite"), Tyler Farr ("My Truck"), Taylor Ray Holbrook ("Reload"), Javier Colon ("No Rest") and Granger Smith ("Keepin' It Real"), Love Hope Faith is the ultimate populist country record, featuring a little something for everyone.

"I'm just trying to bring people together," says the Georgia native, a one-time golf pro who still frequents the links and the co-founder/owner of his own Average Joes Entertainment. "There's so much conflict out there, it's hard to decide who's right and who's wrong." And while he admits to a populist fan base and down-to-earth, "Keepin' It Real" attitude, Colt cautions, "I'm not a politician. I'm a musician, a performer. We have to get past our differences and find a common ground." And what better way to do that with Colt Ford's groundbreaking hybrid of country, blues, rock and rap rhythms, who has built up a following that started with mud trucker events and graduated to arena status sharing the stage with the likes of golfing buddy Toby Keith.

From the statement of beliefs in "Reload" ("We can agree to disagree. That doesn't make you a bad person, I'm just telling you what I think. If you pet that dog, you might get bit") and the adolescent dreams of "trying to live big in a small town" in "Young Americans," singing "Free Bird" and "Free Fallin'" to the country/EDM mash-up of "Dirt Road Disco" ("Can there be a more fun song than that?") and the ode to the joys of running your fingers in the wind of an open car window ("Lookin' For a Handout") or "one more shot of Baccardi!" in "Time Flies," Colt Ford breaks boundaries and mends fences along the way.

"I feel more confident than ever as an artist," says Ford, and while he numbers some of the most important supporters in Music City, his lack of country radio acceptance and award show accolades continues to drive him. "I've given it my best shot. Some of that outsider thing is tongue-in-cheek, but some of it is true. I'm unbelievably accepted by artists and songwriters. There's no one I can't work with. They know I'm real. I've built those relationships over time, and I feel I've created a body of work."

Love Hope Faith was created with some of the leading songwriters in music today, Jeff Hyde ("Lookin' for a Hand Out") and Justin David ("Time Flies") to Jaren Johnston, Neil Mason and Jesse Frasure ("Dirt Road Disco") to Walker Hayes & Thomas Archer ("No Rest") and Eric Dodd & Alex Hall ("Dynamite"). Still, it is the sturdy persona of Colt Ford that gives them their consistency.

"There are a lot of different styles on this album, but I think my fans will hear it's just me," he says. "As long as I remain true to myself, I can delve into all of them."

Songs like the rock/hip-hop "Dynamite" reference the Scorpions ("rock like a hurricane"), Marvin Gaye ("let's get it on"), Michael Jackson ("Billie Jean on the radio") and Jay Z, while the first single, "4 Lane Gone," sports a full-blown rock intro before settling into a lament for a lost romance in which the individuals are on their separate paths. "My Truck" is a hilarious "can you top this" playground rank-out session, while the anthemic "I'm Mud" is just that, a self-deprecating, but in-your-face song from the perspective of the dirt below ("I've been played on, spit at, kicked until I turned to dust"). "Keepin' It Real" is just that... Colt on staying the distance, "headlights on the highway/just keep going... Beer is cold and life is good."

"No Rest" probably sums up Colt's ambitions on Love Hope Faith, his tribute to being a working musician, what he calls "my version of 'My Way.'"

"I'm proud of that song," he says. "I think it's one of the best I've ever done. It's not just about being a rock star, but accomplishing your dreams, a passion that can't be stopped. Anyone who has that drive will appreciate it. Everybody's got fears, but when you hear that song, it's me."

"I built walls... and I'll be here when they're gone," he says, taking the role of "I'm Mud," but you know he might as well be talking about himself.

Love Hope Faith is Colt Ford's musical message, one so universal it tears down those walls, then invites everyone into the tent.



Music never stays the same. Its always moving in a new direction and changing in new, unexpected ways. That's how music remains relevant. You could say the same about the Southeast, Iowa based country/rock band, StumpTown. The band has been touring all over the midwest in since 2015. StumpTown has been bringing a unique blend of original, classic and modern country, rock, and even pop music to as many new fans as possible. This explosive and innovative arrangement of music has made StumpTown one of the hottest bands in the Iowa/Illinois/Missouri tri-state area.

This group continually pushes the envelope honing their distinct hard-driving sound to a razor sharp edge. Ultimately, StumpTown knows that hard work and dedication to making and performing great music brings success, and they have been earning this success one show and one song at a time. They love to write new and unique music, love to play, and love to perform for their fans. Most importantly they love being a part of a very new and unique brand of country rock and roll music called StumpTown. Their infectious harmonies, catchy lyrics and driving grooves already have fans singing out loud. And that makes a sound you don't get to hear very often. It's the sound of a band ready to go down in history. StumpTown is: Jerad Harness- vocals, rhythm guitar Nathan Gosnell- lead guitar, backing vocals Jessie Carel- bass guitar, backing vocals Dakota Weber- Drums



In 2008, Natu began a career in Professional Boxing. He was a highly ranked professional and fought several times on National television including a USBA World Title fight. He was a training partner for Legends such as Evander Holyfield, Vladimir Kiltchko, James Toney, and more.

Towards the end of 2015, Natu began his music career playing in local venues. In 2017 he competed in a Songwriter competition in Tennessee called Nashville Rising Star that also hosted 2016 ACM Female Artist of the Year, Kelsea Ballerini. Natu won the fan votes but finished as runner up. Shortly after NRS, Natu formed a band with various professional musicians in Central Illinois called The NATU Band. After an invitation to perform on Broadway for Nashville's CMA Festival 2017, Natu has since been working with Nashville Songwriters, and Producers he met to solidify his second EP set to be released February 2018.

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