



Pen City Current

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2017 | 8 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 266

LeeComm loses phone system Tuesday

Phone system back up and running Tuesday evening

BY PCC STAFF
MONTROSE - The Lee County E911 dispatch center lost phone service this morning, according

to new director Shanna Krogmeier.

In a release from the center, Krogmeier said the phone lines went

down at 10:30 a.m. and all 911 calls were being rerouted.

"At approximately 10:30 am this morning the phone lines to the Lee County dispatch center went down," Krogmeier wrote. "We are working with our providers to re-

store service. The public is advised to contact 911 for service at this time and calls will be rerouted to surrounding agencies while we work to remedy the situation."

No information about the expected duration of the service was available.

Sheriff Stacy Weber said it appears the entire Lee County Sheriff's Office, jail, and dispatch center's line are down,

"I would encourage anyone who needs to call 911," Weber said. "They're working hard to find the problem."

FMHS drama club hits stage this weekend

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison High School Drama Club students will follow Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, Jack and his Beanstalk, and the witch and Journey into the Woods this weekend at Fort Madison.

Students from the club will offer an amusingly different way to think about everyone's favorite fairy tale characters through their production of Into the Woods JR. The show featuring 24 talented performers and crew members premieres on Friday at Fort Madison High School beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each. Encore performances will be at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday.

Tickets are available at the High School or from any cast or crew member. For more information contact the school at 319-372-1862.

Into the Woods JR. is a Musical. The musical follows a Baker and his Wife who learn they've been cursed with childlessness by the Witch next door. The couple embarks on a quest and encounters many characters including Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel and Jack. But the story doesn't end "happily ever after" as each character must now face the consequences of his/her decision.



Workers from Jones Construction work on finishing off a section of curbing along the west side of 27th Street near Jim Scott Automotive. The south side of the intersection work has been completed and now efforts turn to the north side of the street at Avenue L.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

City, fire dept. efforts boost ISO rating

Rating boost should result in lower property insurance rates

BY CHUCK
VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - City residents can thank the efforts of the city and the Fort Madison Fire Department for a pending reduction in their homeowner insurance rates.

The city's fire department was recently assessed a rating of "3" from

previously a "4" from the Insurance Service Organization. A "1" is the best ranking a fire department can get.

Fire Chief Joey Herren said the rating improvement is based on improvements on several fronts including water service, communications, and fire department improvements including training, equipment, and other

efficiencies.

"It's done by the ISO and they give us a public protection classification. Normally that's on a 10-year rotation. When I became chief in 2006 we were a "5" and I started looking at things, we changed some things," Herren said Tuesday.

But he said the city's construction of a new water plant, combined with the new coordinated LeeComm dispatch center all contributed to moving the needle from a 5 to a 4. Then the additional train-

“*The rental inspection program Doug and I go out and do has resulted in a reduction of fires... That's one of the factors that made it drop down.*

-Joey Herren,
FM Fire Chief

ing mechanisms and the use of Firehouse software to track the fire department's progress, coupled with improvements on the inspection process all has

helped the department get the "3" rating.

Herren said now the ISO group is looking to move

See **RATING**, page 8

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Area News/Weather

County board gives sheriff half staffing request

Weber said jail population was main reason for request

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - The Lee County Jail will get a partial boost to staffing possibly by the end of the month.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, the board approved immediately hiring two more full-time correctional officers despite a motion being on the floor to hire four.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber had asked the board at last week's meeting to add at least four full-time correctional officers due to a steady increase in jail population. Weber told the board that at times this year the inmates totaled over 100 and the average is hovering between 80 and 90 per day. Which is 10 to 15 more than the 72 the department had budgeted based on prior year's numbers.



WEBER

After close to 20 minutes of discussion on the issue, Supervisor Matt Pflug made a motion to approve the four new officers citing an increase in fees being collected at the sheriff's department as a possible way to cover the costs of the new staff.

But supervisors Gary Folluo and Ron Fedler balked at the four and no second was given. The motion didn't technically die from a lack of a second because discussion began before a second was heard on the motion. Supervisor Don Hunold was not in attendance.

Hunold and Pflug were to be part of discussions with county officials about the budget including Auditor Denise Fraise, county Budget Director Cindy Renstrom, and Weber, as to how to fund the extra officers.

“

I'm not going to push away from the table like a little kid mad. We're all in this together.”

-Stacy Weber
Lee County Sheriff

“Looking at what they've received so far in first quarter of '17 taken times 4, its roughly going to be about \$171,000 more in fees they've already raised,” she said. “Last year they brought in \$287,436. They eliminated the money that goes directly to the state, so this year they anticipate \$458,000.

Folluo said he wanted to put off the vote on the four because Hunold was absent.

“I'd like all the supervisors to be here to vote because it's going to effect all the rural residents because they're going to have an increase in rural basic. No matter what we take in in fees... we take in fees in the treasurer's office, but that doesn't offset the cost of driver's license or anything like that. The fees just go back into the general fund,” he said.

The total package for the four would have been \$228,000.

Pflug said four would give them a chance to enhance security at the courthouses as well.

“We also agreed that if that jail population were to decrease, you could move those folks to county buildings,” Pflug said. “That's a key thing to talk about here, too. We have an immediate need there as well. Again, I think if we're talking money here, and this is my opinion, you find the money and then come budget time next year or the first of the year you can make cuts elsewhere aside from those increased fees. We have to do

something. We can't sit here and allow that to happen again in our jails. With a population of 100 and one c.o. on shift - that's problematic. We keep putting this off and we go another week something bad happens, that's on our watch.”

Folluo asked Weber prior to getting a second, if two would suffice until the next budget year.

“I'm not going to say no to anything,” Weber said. “Two would be progress and that would fill that one overnight shift to give us a second officer there. Four would be great, But we could work with two and work with you again in January during budget time and see where we are. But two would be a very conservative approach I think.”

The department currently has 14 full-time jail staff and five part-time positions that cover vacations and time off and other down times for the full-time staff. The jail is down one part-time officer currently.

Weber said as soon as two of the part-time officers can get physicals he can get the personnel in line, but he said after the meeting he had to post the positions for at least one week.

The county's budget process begins in January and February of next year, but won't take effect until July 1 so if the supervisors approve adding two more correctional officers in the next budget, they wouldn't be authorized until July unless a budget amendment were to be taken up.

Weber said two would only help the jail situation and may not extend into the county buildings depending on the jail daily population.

“I understand where you're coming from if you want to do two now and then go back in January and take a hard look again. I'm not going to push away from the table like a little kid mad, We're all in this together,” he said.

See COUNTY, page 8



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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

WED 15 Nov
Light Rain
High - 50.1° F | Low - 50.0° F

THU 16 Nov
Light Rain
High - 50.9° F | Low - 32.7° F

FRI 17 Nov
Few Clouds
High - 57.9° F | Low - 52.4° F

SAT 18 Nov
Light Rain
High - 36.3° F | Low - 32.3° F

SUN 19 Nov
Snow
High - 33.0° F | Low - 30.5° F


[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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Obituaries/Current-Lee

CURRENT-LEE

Great River Hospice plans volunteer training

Great River Hospice is looking for additional volunteers to help meet the needs of people at end of life and their families in Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa counties.

A four-part training is scheduled from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 15 at the Atlas Steak and Smokehouse, 709 Avenue H, Fort Madison.

People interested in volunteering must pass a criminal background



check and be at least 18 years old. Registration and completion of application materials is required before the training

begins. For more information or register, please call Great River Hospice at 319-768-3350.

Elks Soup supper fundraiser set for Nov. 17

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Elks Lodge will be once again holding their annual Soup Supper Fundraiser on Nov. 17 to coincide with the downtown Wine and Beer Walk.

The supper will run from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. or until the soup is gone and will feature eight soups and a large bread table filled with breads, muffins and biscuits.

This year's senior division will feature Dave Clark preparing a creamy chicken and wild rice soup. Rick Tebbs will bring an oriental Thai

Soup, Lee Meller will feature a vegetable/meat soup, and Lin Cramer and Lori Illner will bring an Italian Wedding soup.

In the junior teams division, Carol Cowles and sous chef Maddy will bring a beef stew. Bridget Link and sous chef Addison will bring back their 2016 winning squash soup. Lynn Parson and sous chef Reyna will feature a chill, and Jodie Ried and sous chef Jordyn will bring a potato ham soup with grilled cheese croutons.

Again this year, there will be "Tip" jars out in front of each soup and the soup with the highest

amount of money in the jar is the overall winner. The team with the most tips received in their jar will win the team competition.

The money raised supports the Elks Lodge and the Elks Kid's Christmas Party as well as Elk's community Projects. Prices for the event are adults-\$8.00 kids 3-12-\$5.00 and kids under three are free.

Jodie Ried, Deann Niggemeyer and Lin Cramer have organized the event and more information can be obtained by calling the Elks Lodge at 319-372-3724.

The original Ivy Bake Shoppe now taking orders for holiday treats

Remember the original Ivy for your holiday desserts, sweet trays, catering, & gift certificates. Order yours by Tuesday, December 21st. Call us at Burlington Uptown Ivy (319)754.5924 or visit us at 514 Jefferson Street, downtown Burlington. Visit us online at www.ivybakeshoppe.com.



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Burlington Uptown Ivy
(319)754.5924

OBITUARIES

MARY THERESE "TRIX" STANDEFER

Mary Therese "Trix" Standefer, 77 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 8:50 pm Monday, November 13, 2017 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics,



STANDEFER

Iowa City, Iowa. She was born April 1, 1940 at Emmetsburg, Iowa, a daughter of Walter J and Catherine J (Molloy) Higgins. On August 31, 1963 she married John Hoadley Standefer Sr. in Des Moines, Iowa. He preceded her in death.

Mary was a 1958 graduate of Emmetsburg Catholic High School, Emmetsburg. She earned her nursing degree from Mercy Nursing School in Des Moines. She worked as an Registered Nurse in the OR and family practice for more than 40 years. She was a member of Holy Family Parish, Altar and Rosary Society, and The Prayer Shawl Ministry. Using her seamstress, cooking, and baking talents she was an active volunteer all her life. Anyone who knew Mary as a nurse, volunteer, mother, grandma, sister, aunt, or friend loved her dearly.

She is survived by one daughter, Jeanie (Alan) Schmoldt of Oakwood Hills, Illinois; three sons: John H Jr. (wife Stef) Standefer of Bartlett, Illinois; Jack J (wife Betsy) Standefer of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and James W (wife Noreen) Standefer of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; two brothers, Bill (Linda) Higgins of Toledo, Ohio and Joe (Brenda) Higgins of Longview, Texas; two sisters, Ann (Ed) Ruddy of Ottumwa, Iowa and Rita (Ted) Schneider of Wever, Iowa; 10 grandchildren: Jasmine, Jade, Savannah, Aaron, Nicholas, Joshua, Caelum, Kieran, Charleston, and Ryker; several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and husband.

A rosary will be recited at 4:30 pm Thursday, November 16, 2017 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Visitation will follow. A Christian Wake Service will begin at 6:00 pm Thursday evening at the funeral home. Mass of Christian burial will be at 10:00 am Friday, November 17, 2017 at Ss. Mary and Joseph's Catholic Church, Holy Family Parish, Fort Madison with Reverend Mark Spring. Burial will be Keokuk National Cemetery, Keokuk, Iowa. A memorial has been established for Holy Family Parish, contributions may be left at the Barr Memorial Chapel or the church. Online condolences to the Standefer family may be made at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

Thanksgiving SALE

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TUESDAY GO PAPERLESS:
 Decrease your need for paper products. Elect for paperless statements, digitize shopping lists, documents and more!

WEDNESDAY GO WASTE FREE:
 Make a conscious effort to not use your waste bin. Recycle or compost any items that have an end of life solution.

THURSDAY REUSE:
 Instill new life in items you would normally toss out. Such as jars and containers, clothing, paper products and more.

FRIDAY COMPOSTING:
 Build or purchase a composting bin for food & yard waste. Use your composted goods to better build a healthy garden in the Spring.

SATURDAY PROCUREMENT:
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SUNDAY ENJOY:
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West Point to ask for 2-year 28E deal with Donnellson

Wine Walk set for Dec. 1 on the square from 5 to 8 p.m.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
 PCC EDITOR

WEST POINT- The West Point City Council approved a two-month extension to its current shared policing agreement with Donnellson.

At Monday's regular meeting of the council, Mayor Paul Walker said the agreement was set to expire and he wanted to extend the 28E agreement between the two cities.

City Administrator Gary Menke said the agreement was extended just to the beginning of the year and then West Point was going to look at asking for a two-year agreement going forward to allow the agreements to cycle with elections.

"We had a meeting with Donnellson Monday to work out the agreement,"

Walker said. "They only thing that was probably the biggest change is they want another 6-month agreement and I would ask that we approve it for two years. The reason why is because it would be near election years and so if a new mayor or council comes in and they don't like it, they have a chance to bail out. That way we don't have to go through the process every six months," Walker said.

The agreement initially went into effect this summer after Donnellson Police Chief Tom Oberman left for the Lee County Sheriff's office. Walker and Donnellson city officials began hammering out an agreement where West Point Police Chief Brad Roberts would serve as chief for both cities and would supervise the Donnellson reserve

force. Other cost sharing mechanisms are in place including vehicle and fuel costs and a monthly payment to West Point from Donnellson.

In other action:

- the council also heard from Carrie Green on the city's first Wine Walk which will be held on Friday, Dec. 1 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the square in West Point. Katie's Cuts, City Hall and Sonny's are offering the glasses in advance for a \$10 donation or \$15 on the night of the event. The West Point Community Club is putting on the event. Green said the group has raised more than \$700 in donations from the glasses.

- the council heard from Holy Trinity Catholic Head Baseball Coach Albert Schinstock about the city possibly funding new dirt for the baseball field at South Park. Menke recommended that Schinstock look to the HTC boosters and the Community Club to share in the cost, but the city could find the funds to help with the cost. The council also allowed Schinstock to leave the outfield boards up all season. Walker advised that if wind damaged the fences due to the boards being left up all year, the fencing would need to be replaced.

"That way we don't have to go through this process every six months."

-Paul Walker, West Point mayor



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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



11/14
 4 35 39 56 72
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11/14 EVENING
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PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Fort Madison
Community School District
1930 Avenue M
Minutes of the
Work Session
November 6, 2017**

I. The meeting was called to order by President Wondra at 6:01p.m. Directors DiPrima,

Young, Troxel, Hope and Ross were present. Also present were Superintendent Slater, Director of Curriculum and Student Services Harmon as acting secretary.

Director Hotop was absent.

II. Recognition of guests. President Wondra welcomed members of the audience in attendance.

III. Approve the agenda. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Young to approve the

agenda as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

IV. Finalize the Iowa Association of School Boards Presentation. The Board finalized

their presentation for the upcoming Iowa Association of School Boards annual convention.

Break: 7:52 p.m.

End Break: 7:54 p.m.

V. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

President

Date

Secretary

hearing regarding the above item at 6:00 PM on Tuesday November 28, 2017 at the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa.

You may obtain further information or express your views concerning this issue either in person or through an authorized representative at the public hearing, or prior to the meeting by fax at (319) 372-8661, by telephone at (319) 372-7700 ext. 212 by email at dkrogmeier@fortmadison-ia.com or in writing to the Planning Commission, P. O. Box 240, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627.

Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing regarding the above item at 6:00 PM on Tuesday November 28, 2017 at the Council Chambers of the

Municipal Building, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa.

You may obtain further information or express your views concerning this issue

either in person or through an authorized representative at the public hearing, or prior to the meeting by fax at (319) 372-8661, by telephone at (319) 372-7700

ext. 212 by email at dkrogmeier@fortmadison-ia.com or in writing to the Planning Commission, P. O. Box 240, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING**

Applicant: Bernie Schneider, Carol Schneider

Requests: Approval to waive subdivision requirements for Carol Schneider

Address: Parcel # 021714022000010, South of 2616 210th St., Ft Madison, IA

Legal Description: Part of the Northeast Quarter of Section 2, Township 67 North, Range 5 West, of the 5th P.M., Lee County Iowa.

Notice is hereby given that the Fort Madison

**PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING**

Applicant: MBMRE, LLC – Michael Mohrfeld
Requests: Approval to waive subdivision requirements.

Address: 3420 Woodland Heights, Fort Madison, IA

Legal Description: Part of the Northwest Quarter of Section 6, Township 67 North, Range 4 West of the 5th P.M., Lee County Iowa.

Notice is hereby given that the Fort Madison Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a public

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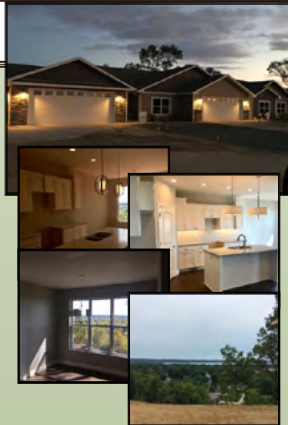


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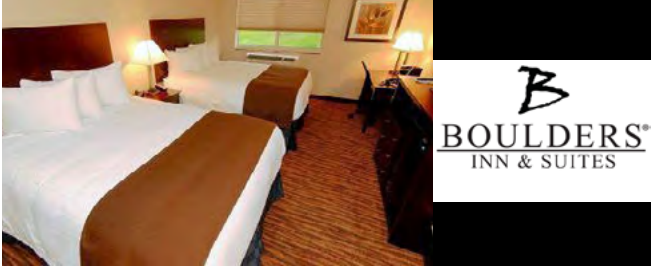
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From the Front

Better rating helps recruitment efforts

RATING - Continued from Page 1

the inspections to a three to five-year rotation.

He said the assessment begins with a pre-survey of the department.

"We have to send in that pre-survey for the assessment. We fill that out and get points for different areas of that form."

The new water plant has helped with the pressure of the water at hydrants across the city, which are tested regularly by the city water department. A higher water pressure is indicative of better water flow, which yields a better score on that criteria. The dispatch center provided a centralized dispatch with more staff, which resulted in better communication and quicker response times.

He said the fire department had a big hand in the higher rating as well.

"On our side of it, it's about trucks and personnel. About how we re-

spond with tandem trucks and our fleet being as updated as it is. That keeps us in good standing," Herren said. One of our biggest improvements is how we record our training. We now use Firehouse for all our recording. There's different modules on that system, so now all training and building inspections are done through that software and it's very good."

Another area that resulted in additional points for the department was the new inspection process. Herren said the new rental and commercial inspection processes have created a risk reduction and that meant points as well. He said the city's rental inspection program conducted by City Building Director Doug Krogmeier and Herren has really cut down on the risk and actual fires in the city.

"The rental inspection program that Doug and I

go out and do has really resulted in reduction of fires. We think it's that program. We used to have a lot of extension cord fires where people overload them. We really hit that now with the rental owners and tell them they have to cut back on that and we've seen good results there." Herren said. "I have no way of saying that's what caused it, because I don't. But that's one of the other factors that made it drop down."

He said there has been pushback on the inspections from property owners, but now those property owners may be able to see the financial benefits of the program, aside from the safety aspect.

Herren said there are only 3,409 fire departments in the country that have a class "3" rating or better.

The ratings also help when attracting manufacturing and industry. That reduces the insurance costs for people looking to locate here. They also like to see that we have a pretty

efficient fire department.

He said he spoke with a city insurance agent this morning who told him rates would drop shortly for city property owners.

"I spoke with them this morning and they said commercial and residential rates should drop 5% to 8% and that really shows that we have an efficient fire department."

A rating of 3 means the city fire department scored between 70 and 79 points. Herren said Fort Madison scored 73.5 points and getting to the rating of "2" may not save the city enough on the insurance side of things to substantiate the cost to the city to get there.

"It's a risk vs. reward type thing," Herren said. "We would have to add staff and do some other things to get that rating to go up and you have to measure how much you'd have to spend to get that higher ranking. But this is a nice feather in our cap and it's telling you we have a very efficient department."

Rural residents ask about high speed Internet

COUNTY - Continued from Page 2

Fedler said the county has to be responsible with taxpayer money.

"I agree with Stacy, he needs more officers, but we have an obligation to provide the financing from the county," said Supervisor Ron Fedler. "This isn't a one-time expense. This will be going on all the time. So if we could find a way where we can provide the money to staff them that's where my concern is without deficit spending," Fedler said.

Fedler said he could support getting two now and then looking at adding two in the new budget process.

Pflug amended his motion to two officers and Fedler seconded that motion which passed 4-0.

"It's well-needed," Folluo said. "It's just that adding \$228,000 to an already established budget is a huge hit," Folluo said.

Fraise said with the increased fees the department is billing for services, the budget should be able to absorb the increased costs.

After the meeting, Weber said he appreciated the work of the board and reiterated that he hated to see a potential property tax hike, but he has a responsibility to his staff, his department, and the jail inmates.

He also said he didn't support a plan of attrition which Folluo suggested at last week's meeting to help offset increased jail costs.

"I don't want to see the attrition thing. We worked hard to get the extra deputies and the people appreciate that. They like to see detectives come to their crime scenes. The world is changing and we need to stay up with it," he said.

In an unrelated topic, the board also heard from West Point residents Mike Flock and Rusty Robbins about the lack of high speed internet access in some rural Lee County areas. Folluo told them it was matter of dollars and cents and companies weren't required to come out and provide the service. Robbins said Lisco has provided service to several individual landowners but won't hook up those that are still without the service.

"We kind of feel like the step-children of Lee County out here," Robbins said.

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