



# Pen City Current

Friday, August 2, 2019 | 13 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 170

## State taking comments on rural broadband mapping

*High-speed Internet mapping shows most of county with multiple providers, but officials say mapping doesn't tell whole picture*

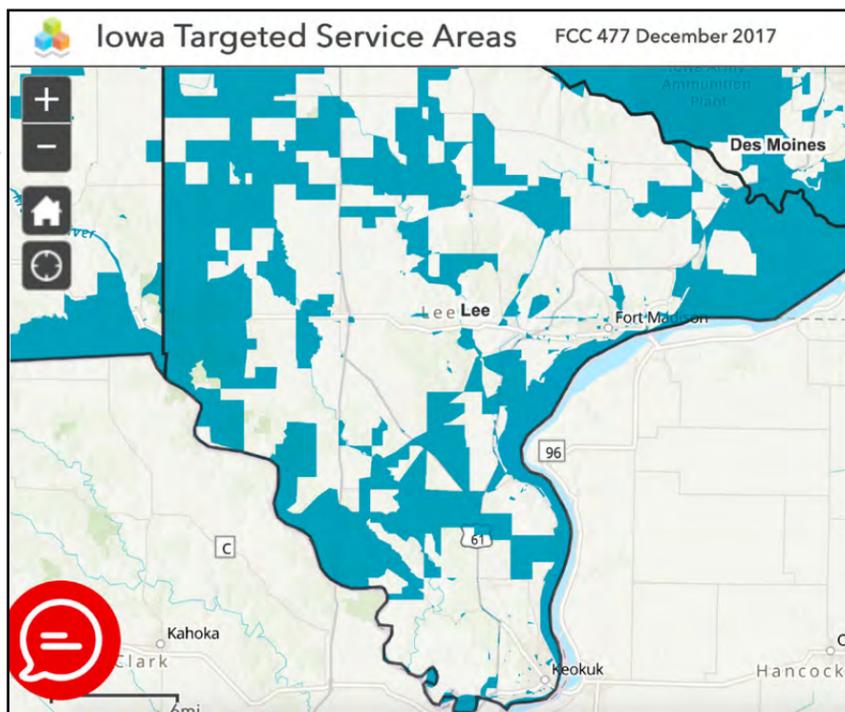


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Expanding high speed broadband access to the more rural locations in Lee County may be an issue of investment, technology and even just Father Time.

But as with any utility's in the United States, getting investments to extend services to the most rural areas takes those resources, but the initial work is increasing the

discussion. According to FCC reporting the white areas above are areas designated to have broadband Internet coverage with a 25 mgbp download speed and a 3 mgbp upload speed. As you can see, the map, using data cultivated in 2017, shows more than a good portion of Lee County's rural areas "appear" to have that standard speed. The blue areas show where the 25/3 speed was not available during that time and it is designated as a "Targeted Service Area". This map was released this week.

Several weeks ago Iowa's U.S. Senators Charles Grassley and Joni Ernst sent letters to Federal Com-

munications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai, that census block

See **BROADBAND**, page 10

## Health foundation pledges \$1.5 million to P.O.R.T

BY PCC STAFF

WEST BURLINGTON – The GRHS-FMCH Community Health Foundation has pledged to provide up to \$1.5 million to Promoting Outdoor Recreational Trails (P.O.R.T.) of Fort

Madison for the construction of a trail connecting to Rodeo Park in Fort Madison. The route will be determined after a survey is completed.

This announcement comes on the first anniversary of the affiliation agreement between

Fort Madison Community Hospital (FMCH) and Great River Health System (GRHS). The GRHS-FMCH Community Health Foundation was created as part of the agreement to provide funding for projects or initiatives that help im-

prove the health of communities served by the health system. Its board of directors consists of three members from each organization. The new foundation does not replace the FMCH Foundation.

See **P.O.R.T.**, page 3

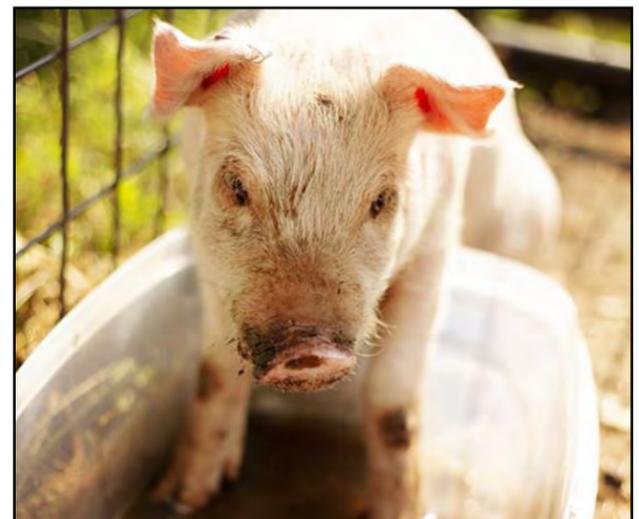


Photo courtesy of PAW Animal Shelter

"Shirley" is a pig that fell off a livestock trailer July 19, 2019 and is now being rehabbed in Fort Madison under quarantine until a permanent no-butcher home is found.

## Little pig escapes by hair on chinny chin chin

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Sandy Brown is probably the foremost advocate for animal care in this part of the state.

And despite the director of Fort Madison's P.A.W. animal shelter having her hands more than full finding forever homes for wayward dogs and cats, she doesn't have the heart to turn away anything, including a piglet that fell from a livestock trailer on July 19 on a Lee County highway.

The 21 lb. baby pig, may have been smarter than the rest of her truckmates, or was maybe just clumsy, but certainly was lucky as now, despite getting a little banged up, escaped a certain path to a mechanized butcher, and will now find a home free of the demise.

"Shirley" likes lettuce, bananas and apples. The piglet fell escaped from a livestock truck in Lee County and is now in search of sanctuary or family farm that will agree not to butcher the animal. Photo courtesy of PAW Animal Shelter.

And Brown insists upon it.

"Shirley" as she has been affectionately dubbed by P.A.W. volunteers is now in a back yard pen at a res-

See **RESCUE**, page 2

### Advertiser Index

Classifieds .....Ps.6-8	Madison Turf & Timber ..... P.10
Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis Family Dentistry.....Ps.5-6	Montrose Dog Boarding..... P.2
Fort Madison Columbus Club ..... P.9	North Lee County Relay for Life ..... P.9
Great River Regional Waste Authority ..... P.4	Pen City Current.....Ps.6,8-9
Green Acres Bar & Grill ..... P.10	Pilot Grove Savings Bank..... P.3
Green Oak Development..... Ps.11-13	Prado Trading Post..... P.5
Jimmy Keenan..... P.10	Professional Services.....Ps.7-8
Lee County Health Department..... P.4	Scotts Miracle-Gro Company ..... P.6

### News Index

For the Record..... P.4
From the front..... P.3
Iowa News..... P.9
Lee County News..... P.10
Local News.....Ps.2-3
Lottery Numbers..... P.2
Opinion..... P.9
Sports..... P.5
Weather..... P.3

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From the Front/Lottery Numbers

# Rescued pig must go to no-butcher private farm

**RESCUE** - Continued from Page 1

idence in Fort Madison under quarantine by Iowa Wildlife.

The pig has to be isolated for a month and then tested for any possible viral or bacterial infections before being moved.

But back to the tumble. A motorist traveling behind a livestock trailer full of the pigs witnessed the little banana-loving porker slip through a gap in the trailer and tumble to the pavement.

Brown said the pig may have suffered a broken snout, but for the most part just suffered some pretty serious road rash and bruising. The motorist, who wasn't identified, took the pig to the Lee County Sheriff's office who in turn called Brown to see if P.A.W. could help.

"I'm so thankful that we have that relationship with the sheriff's office and the Fort Madison police department that they feel they can call on us in these situations," Brown said. "We work very closely with them and I think we have a very good relationship with them."

The pig was taken to a vet and checked over and vaccinated, tagged and

then brought back to the shelter.

"She's a farm pig, not a pot-bellied pig, so we put out that we are looking for a home for her," Brown said.

"We don't want her to end up on somebody's BLT sandwich. So we're looking for a farm sanctuary or a home with a couple chickens, and a goat... and possible a big pig. She's a butcher hog, so she could get to be 500 lbs in a year or so."

Brown said anyone who takes possession of "Shirley", will have to sign an agreement that the pig will never be taken to slaughter.

The shelter has previously taken in rats, ferrets, turtles, rabbits, guinea pigs and potbelly pig. She said she didn't know she couldn't have the potbelly pigs, but through this process now knows she can't have those on the property.

Ag officials told Brown "Shirley" now cannot be taken to another pig farm and has to be quarantined.

"We can't give her to a pig farm because you can't cross up the animals," she

said. "We have to hold her til the testing is done at the end of August. We hope to have her home chosen before her quarantine is done so when she is released to go - she's gone."

Brown said the shelter frequently gets calls about animals other than dogs and cats and staff takes action to make sure they are healthy and then try to find homes or a proper release vessel for the animals.

"Last year we had opossums and baby raccoons, but we work with Iowa Wildlife Management where we hold them for a day or two and then they come and pick them up.

Brown said she's has never turned away an animal, but the best course of action for these types of events is to either call the shelter for a resource, and in the event of wildlife, Iowa Wildlife or conservation officials are a good source.

"Obviously, we're here to help in situations like this, but we also know people, so if we can't help, like we're not licensed or something, we can contact people who can help,"

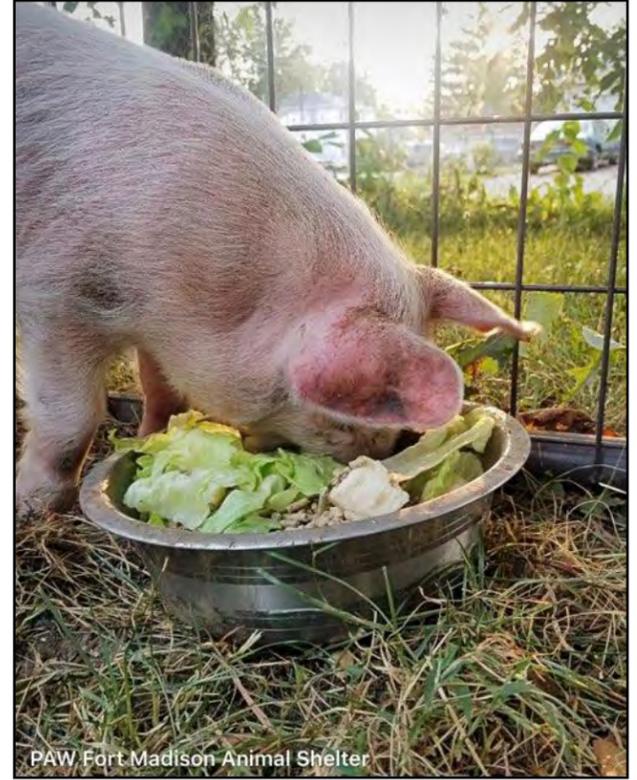
Brown said.

But she said the best plan, as hard as it sounds, if the animal just seems lost, to let Mother Nature take it's course.

"As cold-hearted as it sounds most of the time it's just best to let Mother Nature takes it course," Brown said. "And don't stand there and look at the animal, mom is watching somewhere just let it takes it's course."

**Fundraiser planned**

The shelter is also planning their first golf-outing fundraiser on Aug. 11. The four-person best shot is \$60 per player and includes entree fee, greens fees and a cart. Some adoptable pets may be on the course during the event and cleaning supplies can be donated for mulligans. Call 319-528-6214 for more information.



PAW Fort Madison Animal Shelter

Photo courtesy of PAW Animal Shelter

"Shirley" likes lettuce, bananas, and apples. The piglet fell from a livestock truck in Lee County and is now in search of a sanctuary or family farm that will agree not to butcher the animal.



## IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

### Lotto Drawings

Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life®	Mon & Thu	8:30 pm	9:38 pm
Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America™	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



7/31  
14 37 47 55 67  
Powerball: 6  
Power Play: 2



7/31  
4 13 21 41 46  
Star Ball: 1  
All Star Bonus: 3



7/31 MID-DAY  
3 6 6  
7/31 EVENING  
5 6 7



7/31 MID-DAY  
4 0 0 3  
7/31 EVENING  
4 3 4 9

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Pen City Current

Founded in 2016



P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

**Member LION Publishers**  
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Pen City Current and www.pencitycurrent.com are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings.

## From the Front/Weather

# Commitment comes as groups celebrate first anniversary

**P.O.R.T.** - Continued from Page 1



Pictured left to right: Rachel Benda, P.O.R.T. Committee; Neal Dodd, Chair, GRHS-FMCH Community Health Foundation Board of Directors; Jeremy Alexander, CEO, FMCH – CFO, GRHS; Matt Wenzel, CEO, GRHS; Larry Smith, P.O.R.T. Committee; and Emily Biddenstadt, P.O.R.T. Committee

“Great River Health System’s vision is to empower people, transform lives and fulfill dreams,” said Matt Wenzel, president and chief executive officer (CEO). “To do this, we must provide exceptional health care and invest in the communities our patients call home, giving them the tools necessary to live healthy lives.”

Great River Health System consists of several entities. Besides Great River Medical Center and Fort Madison Community Hospital, it includes more than 25 clinics, three outpatient pharmacies, two medical equipment and supplies stores, and Universal Therapy Group, which joined the health system April 1. Having a shared vision will enable the health system to provide coordinated, comprehensive care.

“Our goal is to make southeast Iowa a better place to live for employees, residents and future residents. By collaborating with community partners like P.O.R.T., we can make it happen,” said Jeremy Alexander, FMCH CEO, and Great River Health System Chief Financial Officer.

Construction of the connecting trail to Rodeo Park is expected to begin in September 2020.

“We are extremely grateful for this generous donation,” said Rachel Benda, chair, P.O.R.T. committee. “It has been our goal to connect our current P.O.R.T. trails to Rodeo Park. We never dreamed it would happen so soon.”

P.O.R.T. of Fort Madison is a subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Board of the City of Fort Madison. Its mission is to promote active living and improve recreational trails in Fort Madison and the surrounding area.



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### 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

**FRI 02 Aug**



Light Rain  
High – 78.1° F | Low – 63.1° F

**SAT 03 Aug**



Clear Skies  
High – 77.6° F | Low – 62.7° F

**SUN 04 Aug**



Clear Skies  
High – 79.8° F | Low – 67.6° F

**MON 05 Aug**



Partly Cloudy  
High – 81.5° F | Low – 69.3° F

**TUE 06 Aug**



Moderate Rain  
High – 83.4° F | Low – 66.5° F

[OpenWeatherMap](http://OpenWeatherMap)

# No Plastic Bags in the recycling bins

*When recycling, be it at one of our convenient drop off sites, or putting out your residential recycling bin for the pickup, please **DO NOT** put items in plastic bags. They are not recyclable at Great River Regional Waste Authority.*

*For a complete listing of what we do recycle, contact your local City Hall, or one of our facilities for a service guide. Check with your local retail stores such as Hy-Vee or Walmart for their recycling capabilities. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation concerning this issue!!*



**Ft. Madison Main Office:**  
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**Keokuk Transfer Station:**  
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## For the Record

**Fort Madison Police Report**  
07/30/19 – 2:23 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2000 block of Avenue E.  
07/30/19 – 5:34 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of 33rd Street.  
07/30/19 – 9:08 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 1100 block of 28th Street.  
07/31/19 – 5:07 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle at the intersection of 28th Street and Avenue O.  
07/31/19 – 8:45 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Faamamata Livigisitone, 35, of Fort Madison in the 2700 block of Avenue G, on a charge of driving while barred. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

### Lee County Sheriff's Report

07/30/19 – 10:19 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Tomas James Berk, 24, of Hansell, at the Iowa State Penitentiary on charge of being a fugitive from justice.  
07/30/19 – 1:22 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Shawn Michael Schelby, 37, of Carthage, at the Keosippi Mall in Keokuk on warrants for contempt. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
07/31/19 – 1:50 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Taylor Dean Burgess, 22, listed as homeless, at the Lee County Jail on a charge for possession of drug paraphernalia.  
07/31/19 – 8:11 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Roderick Vaughn Rice, 40, of Fort Madison at the sheriff's office on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
07/31/19 – 11:28 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Mathew Rohan Boon, 33, of Fort Madison,

at the sheriff's office on warrants for violation of a temporary restraining order, false reporting to law enforcement, violation of probation and 4th-degree criminal mischief. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
08/01/19 – 4:21 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Martin Leo Meierotto, 57, of West Point in the 2300 block of St. Paul Rd., in West Point, on a charge of operating a vehicle while intoxicated. 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 Report

07/30/19 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to one medical one assist, one smoke removal from burning food, one faulty fixture.  
07/31/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one dumpster fire

## Chrisman Named New VP of Technology Services

WEST BURLINGTON - Southeastern Community College recently named Chuck Chrisman as its new Vice President of Technology Services.

Chrisman has been with SCC for over 25 years. As the Executive Director of Technology Services, he has worked on all aspects of distance learning, instructional technology, information technology and institutional research.

"Whether someone is accessing their email or teaching class with our virtual reality zSpaces, Chuck and his team are responsible for making it happen," explains Dr. Ash.

Chrisman was also a founding member of the Iowa Community College Online Consortium (ICCO) in 1999 and served as its first director from 2000 through 2003. He continues to provide technical oversight for the Consortium, which shares online courses, staff, and resources among seven participating Iowa community colleges.

"The part of my job that I enjoy the most is watching our students succeed," Chrisman says. "In my new role, I look forward to collaborating with the SCC team to continue offering the best programs, services, and support for our students."

SCC President Dr. Michael Ash recognizes that technology is critical in higher education.

"We have the latest technology in our classrooms, we offer online courses, and we will continue to keep up with the fast-paced changes in this realm," he says.

Chrisman is pleased to accept his new role and reflects on why he enjoys his career.

"It is rewarding to witness students reaching their educational and career goals," he says. "I am lucky to work with people who are passionate about preparing students for the next phase of their lives."

*Touching the Community with Care*

**LEE CHD**  
#3 John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison  
(319) 372-5225 . [www.leecountyhd.org](http://www.leecountyhd.org)

## Sports

# Fishing heats up as area waters cool down

### Big Hollow Lake

Water is cooling off; temperatures are back down into the upper 70's. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Look for the bass to get more active again with the cooler water. Bluegill - Fair: With the heat, switch to fishing early mornings and late evening. Concentrate your efforts around the brush piles near the upper end and the flooded timber near deep water at the lower end. Black Crappie - Slow: Look for crappies out in the trees and brush piles in 6 to 7 feet of water. The bite slowed some since last week, maybe because the bluegill bite is drawing more anglers. Channel Catfish - Good: Fish near the rocks on the dam jetties and island to catch some nice catfish.

### Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)

The Iowa River is falling at a good rate; keep this in mind if you are setting bank lines this weekend. Channel Catfish - Fair: Try stink bait or grass frogs this time of year. Flathead Catfish - Fair: Flatheads are mostly done spawning and are starting to get back on the feed.

### Lake Belva Deer

Water temperatures are around 80 degrees. A green tint is in the water, but water clarity is improving. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Look for bass around the mounds in the deeper water at the upper end and around the rip-rap at the lower end of the lake. Early morning or late evening is best. Bluegill - Fair: Bluegills are out deep. Start out in 10 to 12 feet of water early in the morning. Channel Catfish - Fair: Most catfish have moved into deeper water; start along the old creek channel.

### Lake Darling

This morning (Aug. 1st) we finally dropped below 80 degrees (78). Still a green color to the water; need some rain to clear that up. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Bass are out around the rock piles and brush piles in 6-10 feet of water coming in shallower early in the morning before it gets hot. Bluegill - Fair: Most bluegills have moved off into deeper water (8-10 feet) around the rock piles and brush piles. Channel Catfish - Fair: Catfish have wrapped up the spawn. Try drift fishing with cut bait along the old creek channel in the lake. Black Crappie - Fair: Slow drift or troll over the habitat in 10 to 12 feet of water. Early morning or late evening is best.

### Lost Grove Lake

Largemouth Bass - Good: Anglers continue to catch bass; work them out along the edges of the weed beds and around the trees and brush piles in 4-6 feet of water using soft plastics. Late evening is best. Black Crappie - Fair: The bite slowed down a bit. Anglers continue to pick up crappies out around edges of the flooded timber in 8 to 10 feet of water. Try vertical jigging or using a slip bobber and minnow. Bluegill - Fair: The hot weather has put a quick end to the spawn. Look for bluegills around the deeper habitat now. Channel Catfish - Fair: The spawn is mostly over. Start working the areas below



the flow under the causeway and along the creek channel.

### Skunk River (Coppock to Mississippi River)

Earlier in the week, the Skunk River was holding steady; it's dropping once again. Channel Catfish - Good: Use grass frogs this time a year. Try also cut up shad and your favorite stink baits.

For more information on the above lake, call the Lake Darling Fisheries Office at 319-694-2430.

### Cedar River (Cedar Rapids to Moscow)

Channel Catfish - Good.

### Coralville Reservoir

The lake level is at normal summer pool of 683 feet. The boat dock is in at Mehaffey Bridge ramp. Channel Catfish - Fair: Slow troll or drift cut bait in the channel.

### Diamond Lake

Channel Catfish - Good: Stink bait or chicken liver works best. Best bite is early and late in the day. Bluegill - Fair: Try worms or small jigs in deeper brush. Black Crappie - Fair: Try deeper brush or drift the basin with jigs for suspended fish.

### Iowa Lake (Iowa County)

Bluegill - Fair: Some nice sized fish are being caught. Largemouth Bass - Slow. Black Crappie - Slow. Channel Catfish - Fair: Early and late in the day is best.

### Iowa River (Marshalltown to Coralville Lake)

Channel Catfish - Good: Frogs and stink bait work well as bait.

### Lake Macbride

Only outboards 10 hp or less may be operated on the lake. Water temperatures are in the low 80's. Walleye - Fair: Troll in 8-10 feet of water along rock. Black Crappie - Slow. Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass) - Fair: Sunset has been best. Look for schools feeding on the surface. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Try fishing around the weed edges and shallow rock/weed. Channel Catfish - Fair. Bluegill - Fair: Target rock reefs in 8-10 feet of water or around shoreline rip-rap.

### Pleasant Creek Lake

The main ramp and parking lot will be closed starting July 8 for repaving. It will most likely be closed for

a couple months. Bluegill - Fair: Fish have been about 12-15 inches. Channel Catfish - Fair: Try chicken livers or shrimp in about 12-15 feet of water.

### Sand Lake

Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass) - Fair: Fish up to 2 pounds are being caught on the surface early in the mornings.

For more information, contact the Lake Macbride Fisheries Station at 319-624-3615.

### Hawthorn Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Try rubber worms or spinnerbaits along the rock jetties and the face of the dam. Use topwater lures early and late in the day in the same spots. Channel Catfish - Fair: Try dead chubs or night-crawlers in 4-8 feet of water. Bluegill - Fair: Use small jigs tipped with a waxworm. Sorting is needed for larger fish.

### Lake Miami

Bluegill - Fair: Try small jigs fished around the fishing jetties and rip-rapped shorelines. Largemouth Bass - Good: Use rubber worms or spinnerbaits around the fishing jetties and along the face of the dam. Try also topwater lures in the mornings and evenings. Channel Catfish - Fair: Use nightcrawlers or chicken liver around the shorelines.

### Lake Sugema

Largemouth Bass - Good: Use topwater lures early and late in the day. Try also spinnerbaits or crankbaits around rip-rapped shorelines and the fishing jetties. Black Crappie - Fair: Use jigs tipped with a minnow around the flooded timber and submerged structure. Keep moving until you find active fish. Bluegill - Fair: Try small jigs in the open areas of the aquatic vegetation.

### Lake Wapello

Channel Catfish - Fair: Use cut bait or dead chubs along the shore. Don't fish too deep, most lakes have stratified. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Try rubber worms or spinnerbaits around rock jetties and submerged cedar trees. Try topwater lures in the same areas. Bluegill - Fair: Try small jigs along the shorelines and around the aquatic vegetation.

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Dr. Heyland is pictured with her husband, Chad, and their two children.

Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis Family Dentistry is proud to welcome  
**Dr. Stephanie Heyland**

Dr. Heyland will see patients on Tuesdays, and Thursdays at Fort Madison West & our West Burlington office on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning August 12th

Scheduling Patients Now



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**Classifieds**

# the classifieds

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To apply, email your full resume to [careers@baxterconstructionco.com](mailto:careers@baxterconstructionco.com)



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 Or email [burldental@gmail.com](mailto:burldental@gmail.com)  
 EOE.

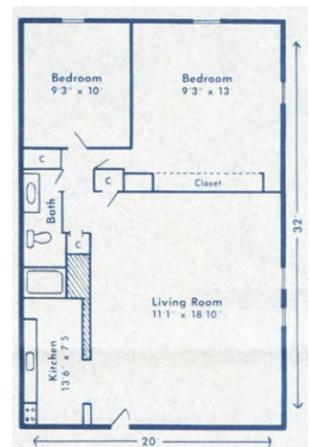
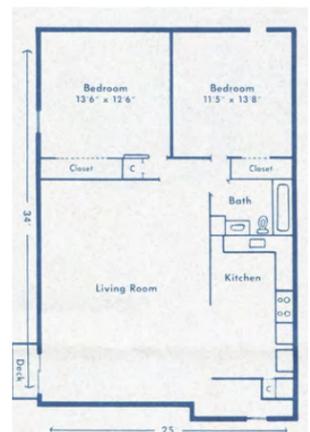


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**Opinion/Iowa News**

**BESIDE THE POINT**

*Central Lee superintendent outlines bond impact*

Dear Editor;

In early June, we officially announced our plans to go back to the polls on September 10, presenting a \$12.9 million general obligation (GO) bond for the Central Lee Community School District. If approved, the bond would allow the district to upgrade safety and security features and address key facility needs.

One of the interesting aspects of this bond is that it would have a net-zero impact on property taxes. Naturally, this comes as a surprise to many in our community. After all, the last time the district proposed a bond, in April 2018, it would have increased property taxes \$1.81 for every \$1,000 of assessed property value. As you likely know, the April 2018 bond carried the majority but not the 60% required to begin the project.

How is it possible that the district is now proposing a bond with a net-zero tax impact?

The answer largely comes down to what's known as the district's "taxable valuation," a number that consists of all residential, commercial, agricultural land and utilities. This year, the district experienced a 24 percent increase in its taxable valuation. The vast majority of this increase was due to the pipeline finally being taxed by the State of Iowa. Normally, the district experiences only a 2 to 3 percent increase in valuation each year.

This year's significant increase in taxable valuation led to two developments:

It allowed the district to generate \$12.9 million in GO bonds. Back in April 2018, the district would have had a maximum capacity of \$9.8 million.

It allowed the district property tax rate to absorb nearly \$2.30 of the total \$2.70 GO bond.

But where do the funds come from to cover the remaining 40 cents? Due to the district being able to fully fund its current slate of projects with a GO Bond, we can use sales tax revenue to reduce any remaining need to use property tax for the project and stabilize it in the future.

The district could have opted for a smaller GO bond and a sales tax bond. After reviewing interest rates of sales tax bonds, we discovered that we could reduce the total long-term cost of the project if we simply used a GO bond rather than a sales tax bond. This is because sales tax bonds typically come with a higher interest rate than GO bonds.

It is important to note that these numbers are all projections based on current levy rates. The district may experience some fluctuation as we always have, due to special education deficits, cash reserve needs or management fund needs. However, we do not anticipate significant fluctuations and we will leverage additional sales tax dollars to minimize the impact on local taxpayers as needed.

While the numbers can get complicated, the bottom line is that the district is in a unique position to address its facility needs without burdening local property taxpayers.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Andy Crozier

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**Gov. says IowaWORKS job database has 80K listings**

DES MOINES - Today, Gov. Kim Reynolds announced more than 80,000 jobs available on [IowaWORKS.gov](http://IowaWORKS.gov) during a press conference at the Kelley Conference Room at Iowa Methodist Medical Center. Gov. Reynolds recognized UnityPoint Health as one of the employers with the most openings on [IowaWORKS.gov](http://IowaWORKS.gov) with over 500 job postings.

"There are more than 80,000 job openings across the state of Iowa, and it underscores the strength of our labor market," said Gov. Reynolds. "Companies, like UnityPoint Health, are looking for skilled workers in high-demand industries like health-care, information technology, advanced manufacturing, and more. Future Ready Iowa is playing a critical role in upskilling Iowans so they can access the cutting-edge careers available. Taken together, this growing and vibrant economy has created an environment for success."

Iowa Workforce Development launched the employment services system in June. [IowaWORKS.gov](http://IowaWORKS.gov) provides a variety of employment resources, tools and services to meet the needs of customers, employers and IowaWORKS staff members. Job postings are de-duplicated on the site and can be sorted by categories such as county, industry, or business.

"[IowaWORKS.gov](http://IowaWORKS.gov) is a customer-focused system that helps employers and job seekers find and post employment opportunities around the state," said Director Beth Townsend, Iowa Workforce Development. "Our recently modernized system provides more accurate information and we know now that our reporting is consistent with what we have heard around the state about what 2.4% unemployment looks like. As a web-based resource, the newly modernized [IowaWORKS.gov](http://IowaWORKS.gov) allows us to have greater connections with our customers, anytime and anywhere."

Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg and Iowa Workforce Development Director Beth Townsend joined Gov. Reynolds and the UnityPoint Health team.

For more information about the new IowaWORKS employment services system, visit [www.IowaWORKS.gov](http://www.IowaWORKS.gov)

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From the Front

# Officials say fiber optics is the best option

**BROADBAND** - Continued from Page 1

mapping being currently used inaccurately reflects the availability of high speed Internet access in rural Iowa.

The maps being used were from data cultivated in 2016, but a new map distributed by the Iowa Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) this week is using data from 2017 and shows a slightly different picture.

According to FCC reporting the white areas above are areas designated to have broadband Internet coverage with a 25 mgbp download speed and a 3 mgbp upload speed. As you can the map, using data cultivated in 2017, shows more than a good portion of Lee County's rural areas "appear" to have that standard speed. The blue areas show where the 25/3 speed was not available during that time and it is designated as a "Targeted Service Area". This map was released this week.

Federal and state grants are available to help bridge the high speed broadband across rural America in the "Targeted Service Areas", but local official say it isn't just about applying and receiving.

A local tri-state advocacy group called Tri States Summit, originally formed about 20 years ago to look at regular infrastructure in northeast Missouri, western Illinois and southeast Iowa, is now taking up the rural broadband issue.

Data cultivated through census blocks by the FCC sets a standard broadband speed at 25 megabits/second download and 3 megabits/second upload. The TSAs are designated by those that do not have that 25/3 service speed.

Tim Fencil is the general manager and CEO of Danville Mutual Telephone Company. Danville Teleco offers broadband services in Lee County. Fencil, and Mt. Pleasant Chamber Alliance Director Kristi Ray are working with the Summit group to help bring about conversations regarding the poor service in the area.

"When the government started talking about electrical, water, and now the Internet - the more they talk about it the more gets done. My personal take is seems to take 5 to 15 years for us to make real solid headway," Fencil said.

Fencil said the real obstacle to bring reliable high-speed Internet to rural counties in Iowa and across America with current technology is the return on investment of fiber optics. He said right now it costs anywhere from \$7 to \$15 or \$35,000 a mile to run fiber optic cable and in some cases that's to one home a mile away from another.

"Anytime your rolling out new technology its expensive when it first comes out. There aren't as many contractors and we're limited to where we can put fiber optics," he said.

A federal Universal Telephone Fund was set up decades ago to make sure there was telephone service to every home in America and the government got

behind that fund. Fencil said utilities are getting away from that slowly but he sees it converting to a digital service fund, which would in essence make the Internet a utility.

But he said rural America is not happy with the speed of the progress.

"Whenever it starts to trigger no one gets it done fast enough. Price point is still high, but every year the technology is getting cheaper and cheaper," Fencil said.

"We're not going it fast enough for everyone's liking - certainly not mine. We're leaving rural behind until we can get it there."

The main providers in Lee County's rural areas are national providers Century Link and Dishnet, but other providers like Windstream, VSAT systems and Danville Telecom.

Ray said she's been working with the Summit for the past year or so and has been involved in helping collect more accurate data on services and providers in the tri-state area.

"We met with a number of providers and met with economic development groups and the economic development people are hearing we don't have good broadband," Ray said.

"It's not fast enough and we have areas unserved and underserved. But the providers are telling us, totally understandably, they can't offer fiber and broadband services when you have one home within miles of each other. They can't find a way to make any money at it."

Ray said the fortunate thing about Lee County is that providers, like Fencil's company are very active at the state and federal levels in trying to open doors to help bring about a swifter solution. But she agreed with Fencil that providers are not going to provide fiber optic services to rural America until they can see a better return on investment.

In addition to the cost factor, she said the group started looking at the maps and saw they were very outdated so they questioned the maps and then the grants that were being awarded based on the maps.

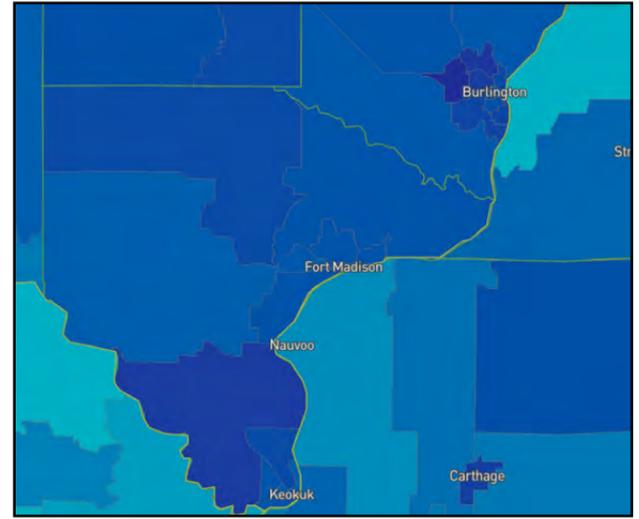
"I will tell you when we started this a year and half ago the maps were from 2014, and they say they've updated mapping to 2016, and we're still not convinced its accurate. Sens. Ernst and Grassley were hearing from constituents that they can't get it, yet these maps show they can," Ray said.

"We agree that the mapping is still not accurate."

But she said the good thing is that it's back on the radar. Ray said the government needs to work out the mapping issues for a more accurate depiction of coverage

"I feel it's getting a ton of conversation right now, but don't know if we're getting anything done. Our local providers are not the problem - but how do they make it feasible," Ray said. "The chance of getting fiber to (rural) homes is slim to none, but can't they find a way to a wireless market."

Outside of the fiber optics Fencil said people are cur-



This is a map of census block that was previously being used with the light blue areas showing 2 to 3 local ISPs and the darker blue areas indicating upwards of 6 - 8 ISPs in those areas that meet the 25/3 speed model. This was the map the prompted letters from Iowa's senators to the FCC Chair.

rently using satellite Internet services, which he said have a lower latency or data transmission speed. Some of the satellites use high orbital paths and some use lower orbital path.

"The number of satellites you would need to provide feasible service is astronomical. What do you do with them when they break. We're talking about 1000s of satellites going across the sky."

Fencil said he doesn't think satellite technology is advanced far enough yet to make it a viable option and that research hasn't determined just how much data can be sent across fiber optic cable, but right now data can move at close to 125,000 miles per second.

"That's phenomenal speed and we haven't even tapped into how much data we can send across fiber yet. I don't see anything in the next 5 to 15 years on the horizon that can do what fiber optics does."

However, he said there could be a balance struck between fiber and wireless connections.

"That tech is being looked at by people smarter than me and is a mix of some type of connected and wireless network. But again, how do you work that in a rural area where line of sight is so important," he said.

The OCIO is currently in a public comment window on mapping and anyone interested in commenting on the situation may do so at [ociogrants@iowa.gov](mailto:ociogrants@iowa.gov).

Officials ask that you include any evidence that supports your claims regarding the current mapping. Additional information on the FCC mapping and the OCIO's involvement can be found at <https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband-availability-map-version-2>

"It goes much deeper than what we realized," Ray said. "We cannot solve the broadband issue here, because it's a national problem that runs very deep. It's very challenging for us."

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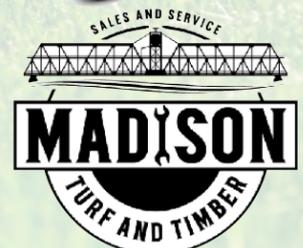
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\*Homemade Tacos - \$4.50 \* Chips & Salsa \* \$3.00 Margaritas





DONNELSON, IOWA  
Click here to visit our website at: <https://greenacresclub.com/>

# WOODLAND HEIGHTS

E S T A T E S  
FORT MADISON, IOWA

Maintenance Free  
Condominiums



— OPEN HOUSE —  
August 4th & 5th  
11am—3pm  
Fort Madison, Iowa



P: 319-470-2540

FB: Green Oak Development—Fort Madison, IA

E: [jillian@greenoakdevelopment-ia.com](mailto:jillian@greenoakdevelopment-ia.com)

# For Sale Condominiums

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**River View Condo**  
Farmhouse Design  
3 Bedrooms—3 Full Baths—  
*2 Car Garage*  
Finished 9ft Walk-out Basement  
2,900 sqft Finished  
500 sqft Storage  
Price: \$324,900



**Pond View Condo**  
Move in Ready  
3 –4 Bedrooms—3 Full Baths—  
*2 Car Garage*  
Finished Walk-out Basement  
2,900 sqft Finished  
500 sqft Storage  
Price:\$336,000



**Woodland View Condo**  
Custom Design Inside  
3 Bedrooms—3 Full Baths—  
*2 Car Garage*  
Finished Walk-out Basement  
1,680 sqft Finished  
Price: \$340,000



**Riverview Condo**  
Custom Design the Inside  
3 Bedrooms—3 Full Baths—  
*3 Car Garage*  
Finished 9ft Walk-out Basement  
2,800 sqft Finished  
500 sqft Storage  
Price: \$330,000



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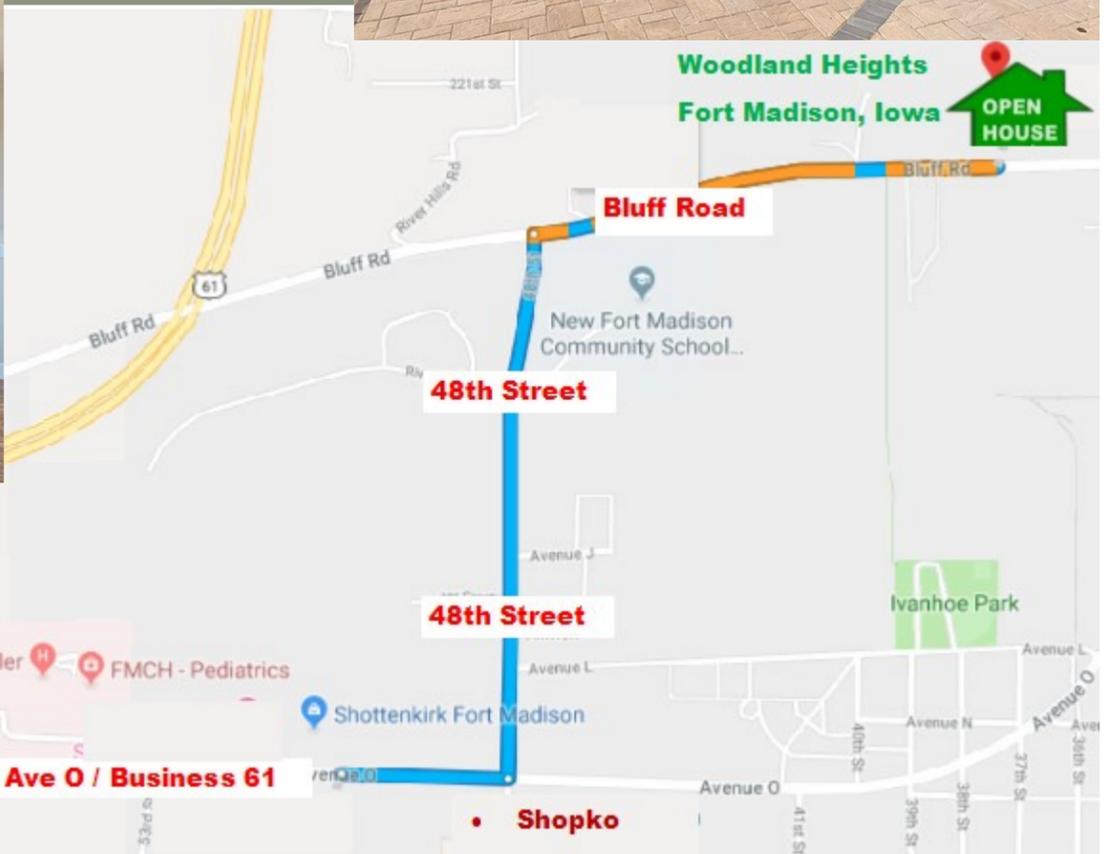
# WOODLAND HEIGHTS

E S T A T E S

F O R T M A D I S O N , I O W A



- Finished Basement & Single Level Condominiums
- Landscape Additions - Pond, Fountain, Fire Pit, Seating Areas
  - 2-4 Bedrooms & 2-3 Car Garage Units
  - River, Forest, & Pond Views
- High-end Finishes—Quartz Counter Tops, Master Suites, Custom Wood Product Cabinetry
- Year Round Landscape & Building Maintenance Provided
- Zero Entry Private Patio & Deck, Large Windows, Energy Efficient



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