



Pen City Current

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Randolph won't seek re-election in fall

Greenwald also out; Matt Mohrfeld to seek mayor's seat

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR



GREENWALD



RANDOLPH

until I sent it I wasn't sure I wanted to send it. And then when I sent it, I was thinking of ways to take it back."

In his emailed statement, Randolph left room to return to public

service, a notion that has been the subject of much speculation with a high mark last year when his name was surfaced in Washington D.C. circles as someone to potentially run for U.S. Rep. Dave Loebsack's seat in Congress.

"I don't think I'm done yet serving. Whether it's done back at the local level, or at the state or federal level – I don't know. We'll just have to see how time bares that out," he said.

He pointed to the successful relocation of the Amtrak

• Rebecca Bowker, Chris Sorrentino, Tyler Miller, and Jerry Hamilton all take out papers for council seats. Incumbents Chad Cangas and Kevin Rink also have papers out, but non-committal on running.

platform, the Hwy. 2 project, and the riverboat cruises as accomplishments of his tenure as mayor. And staying active in the community is still on the agenda. He said he wants to still be part of the process of helping with things like economic development.

On the heels of Randolph's decision, current 3rd Ward councilman Matt Mohrfeld confirmed that he has taken out papers to run for Mayor.

"It is my intention to run for mayor and I have talk-

See COUNCIL, page 8

HTC ushers in new K-6 elementary school

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC STAFF



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Students and faculty stand outside the new HTC elementary school in West Point Friday morning prior to a blessing before students began the first day of the fall semester.

in said despite the new facility he said he doesn't have a sense of newness as the school year opens.

"Yes, the building is new, but the spirit, the family and the community hasn't changed and that's what's going to make these walls ring truer than any new coat of paint or anything else," Sheerin said Friday morning.

The campaign to fund the new school

started in January of 2017 and construction started in the spring of 2018. Dennis Menke, the fundraising chairman, said the building is for all intents and purposes finished.

"You always have the little things to do at the end," Menke said.

"It's pretty much done. We're at the stage

See HTC, page 4

City adds meeting for ATVs

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison City Council will be taking a second vote on ordinance allowing golf carts, ATVs and UTVs on certain city streets a week earlier than expected.

The city has called for a special meeting Tuesday night for a second reading on the ordinance that would permit licensed drivers 18 and older to drive golf carts, ATVs, and UTVs on all city streets except Hwy. 2, Business 61, and 15th and 18th streets.

The measure passed

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Local News/Ag News

FSA add payment options for farmers

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) is expanding its payment options to now accept debit cards and Automated Clearing House (ACH) debit. These paperless payment options enable FSA customers to pay farm loan payments, measurement service fees, farm program debt repayments and administrative service fees, as well as to purchase aerial maps.

“Our customers have spoken, and we’ve listened,” said Bill Northey, USDA’s Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation. “Finding ways to improve customer service and efficiency is important for our farmers, ranchers, producers, and forest landowners who work hard for our nation every day. Now, our customers can make electronic payments instantly by stopping in our offices or calling over the phone.”

Previously, only cash, check, money orders and wires

were accepted. By using debit cards and ACH debit, transactions are securely processed from the customer’s financial institution through Pay.gov, the U.S. Treasury’s online payment hub.

While traditional collection methods like cash and paper checks will continue, offering the new alternatives will improve effectiveness and convenience to customers while being more cost effective. In 2017, the average cost to manually process checks, a process that included navigating multiple systems, cost USDA more than \$4.6 million. The expanded payment options will cut the time employees take processing payments by 75 percent.

“At USDA, we’re focused on modernization to improve customer service,” said Northey. “If half of our

See **OPTIONS**, page 8

Council adds ordinance to special meeting

ATVs - Continued from Page 1

with a 4-2 vote with a strange abstention from Councilman Chad Cangas who said he wanted more deliberation. The measure requires three readings to become part of the city’s code, but the third reading can be waived with a majority vote of the council.

Councilman Chris Greenwald said he’d like to see the issue cleaned up before rodeo.

If the council approves a final third reading or waives the third reading, the ordinance would need to be published in the Fort Madison Daily Democrat and once it’s published would become part of the city’s code.

The meeting will also include a resolution to set a public hearing on the reconstruction of 2nd to 6th Street on Avenue H.

The city set a public hearing for last Tuesday’s meeting, but then indicated on the agenda they wouldn’t hold the hearing, and then held the hearing, prior to a scheduled vote to reject a bid from Jones Contracting for \$3.3 million for the work.

The vote never surfaced because the resolution died for lack of a motion.

Pen City Current questioned the validity of putting the hearing on the agenda, and then listing on a published agenda that the hearing wouldn’t be held, and then holding the hearing.

Pat Jones of Jones’ Contracting and Tim Cutsforth of HR Green, the engineering firm overseeing the project, both spoke on the project during the public hearing.

City Clerk Melinda Blind said after the meeting that the hearing was going to be rescheduled.

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- SUN 25 Aug** —————
 Moderate Rain
 High – 74.3° F | Low – 67.2° F
- MON 26 Aug** —————
 Heavy Rain
 High– 84.3° F | Low – 66.9° F
- TUE 27 Aug** —————
 Clear Skies
 High – 78.0° F | Low – 60.7° F
- WED 28 Aug** —————
 Clear Skies
 High – 73.0° F | Low – 58.8° F
- THU 29 Aug** —————
 Clear Skies
 High– 77.9° F | Low – 67.1° F

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Pen City current



Sports

Cooler parts of day producing better bass fishing

The following is the weekly fishing report from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for southeast Iowa lakes, rivers and ponds

Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)

The recent spotty heavy rains brought the Iowa up a couple of feet, but it's headed back down. Channel Catfish - Fair: Work the bigger brush piles. The rise in the water level got them biting, but now it's dropping again.

Lake Belva Deer

Water temperature is 78-80 degrees, still getting too warm during the day to cool down the lake. 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 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

The rain helped knock down the green color (algae) in the lake. Weather has been up and down lately, messing with the fishing. Largemouth Bass - Good: Anglers are picking up a few more bass early in the morning. Work

the fallen trees and brush piles to catch a few before they head out deep for the balance of the day. 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

Water temperature is bouncing from 78 to 80 degrees. The water was still pretty green a couple of days ago; the rain helped knock that down some. Largemouth Bass - Good: Bass fishing is starting to pick up, especially just about dark. Work them out along the edges of the weed beds and out around the trees and brush piles in 4-6 feet of water using soft plastics. Black Crappie - Fair: 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 nicer bluegills remain out in deeper water; smaller ones are in shallow. Channel Catfish - Fair: Anglers continue to catch catfish below the causeway.

Skunk River (Coppock

to Mississippi River)

The North Skunk jumped up with the rains and the South Skunk came up a little bit, too. Should be down to Brighton soon and move on down river. Channel Catfish - Fair: Try to hit the rise in water level and catch a few nice catfish looking for an easy meal.

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

Coralville Reservoir

The lake is at normal summer pool. Channel Catfish - Fair: Slow troll or drift cut bait in the channel. White Crappie - Fair: Use minnows or bright jigs over brush piles.

Diamond Lake

Channel Catfish - Fair: Try stink bait or chicken liver. Bluegill - Fair: Use worms or small jigs fished in brush. Black Crappie - Fair: Fish brush piles or drift the basin with jigs.

Lake Macbride

Only outboards 10 hp or less may be operated on the lake. Walleye - Fair. Black Crappie - Slow. Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass) - Slow. Largemouth Bass - Fair. Channel Catfish - Fair. Bluegill - Fair.

Pleasant Creek Lake

The main ramp is still closed for repaving. Bluegill - Fair. Channel Catfish - Fair: Evenings are best.

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 nightcrawlers 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 tipped with a chunk of nightcrawler fished around the fishing jetties and rip-rapped shorelines. Largemouth Bass - Good: Use crankbaits or rubber worms around the fishing jetties and around the submerged cedar trees. Channel Catfish - Fair: Try nightcrawlers along the shorelines.

Lake Sugema

Largemouth Bass - Good: Use spinnerbaits or crankbaits around rip-rapped shorelines and the fishing jetties. Try rubber

worms around openings in the vegetation. Black Crappie - Slow: 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 tipped with a chunk of nightcrawler 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: Use rubber worms or spinnerbaits around rock jetties and submerged cedar trees. Bluegill - Fair: Try small jigs along the shorelines and around the aquatic vegetation.

Rathbun Reservoir

The current lake level is 905.67 msl. Normal operating elevation is 904.0 msl. Lake Rathbun has zebra mussels, so make sure to properly drain, clean, and dry equipment before

transporting to another water body. Channel Catfish - Good: Try cut bait or nightcrawlers fished along the shorelines. Black Crappie - Slow: Catch suspended crappie with small crankbaits. Sorting is needed for larger fish. Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass) - Good: Anglers have been successful trolling crankbaits along rocky shores. Anglers are also vertically jigging over rock piles with some success. Walleye - Slow: Troll baits that imitate gizzard shad or bottom bouncers with a nightcrawler over submerged points or along rocky shores.

Red Haw Lake

Channel Catfish - Fair: Use cut bait or nightcrawlers along the shorelines. Bluegill - Fair: Try small jigs with a chunk of nightcrawler fished around the shores and submerged structure. Largemouth Bass - Good: Use rubber worms or spinnerbaits around brush piles and other submerged structure

The district includes Mahaska, Lucas, Wayne, Monroe, Appanoose, Wapello, Davis and Van Buren counties. Contact the Rathbun Fish Hatchery at 641-647-2406 with questions about fishing in south central Iowa.

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From the Front/Lottery Numbers

New school opens with fanfare and blessings

HTC - Continued from Page 1



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



Above Holy Trinity Catholic Elementary Principal Michael Sheerin directs traffic as students prepare to enter the system's new K-6 elementary school. At left, Bishop Thomas Zinkula talks with students who are waiting to enter the new building for the first time on Friday morning.

now, we really don't know what we don't have done or what we need to do. It will be a couple weeks or months before we get all that put together, but we're pretty much done. It was all well thought out and planned and the board worked with us real well."

Menke said the building was a collaboration of efforts of the communities in the system to bring a better environment to the students and staff.

"The communities have come together to create a learning experience for generations to come," he said. "It's with the support of the community that we've been able to do this."

Sheerin said it couldn't have been a better day for the event.

"The thing about it is you couldn't have scripted a better day," he said.

"The morning started with beautiful sunshine and happy, smiling faces. Honest to God it was the most picturesque thing that you could think about. For me, not being from here, it epitomized everything I thought middle America was."

He said, as Bishop Thomas Zinkula issued a blessing on the new facility, an eagle soared in the sky above the students assembled on Avenue D in front of the elementary.

"We had kids happy coming into school, the sun shining without a cloud in the sky, parents here and everybody friendly, and then to top it off there was a bald eagle soaring above," Sheerin said.

"It was the perfect balance of mass, patriotism, sun shining. It couldn't have been a better poster for America. It made you feel that good. I hope every school has this same type of opening day."

The first two days meals were prepared by Elliott Test Kitchen founder Kumar Wickramasingha as an added treat to the students.

The first floor will hold the K-3rd grade students, a new cafeteria and kitchen and some administrative and staff space and a small centralized media center.

The upper floor holds classrooms for 4th - 6th grade students. With classrooms running down the east side of the building all but one of the classrooms is expandable. Sheerin said there is still some small issues to deal with like new tables for the cafeteria and some signage and decoration that he wants the students to be a part of creating.

The building was funded totally by private donations and pledges secured over the past 2.5 years.

“

For me, not being from here, it epitomized everything I thought middle America could be.”

-Michael Sheerin,
HTC Elementary
Principal



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8/23
11 15 37 54 68
Mega Ball: 21
Megaplier: 2



8/23 MID-DAY
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8/23 EVENING
5 0 7



8/23 MID-DAY
6 9 3 4
8/23 EVENING
9 3 2 6

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Local News/Classifieds

FMCH honors Clark as July Employee of the Month

Submitted article

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Community Hospital recognized Kayla Clark as their July Employee of the Month. Clark works in the Information Technology (IT) Department at FMCH. She has been with FMCH for 11 years. Kayla was recognized with the following nomination.

Kayla exemplifies these Standards of Behavior - positive attitude, commitment to co-workers, and respect for our resources. This person should be the next employee of the month because she is endlessly striving to improve clinic processes and workflows. She goes above and beyond by listening to provider and staff issues/concerns and always tries to find a way to make things easier. If she doesn't know the answer, she will find

it. The staff can truly count on her. Even with all the frustration that a new system can bring she works continuously with a positive attitude and a smile on her face!

“Wendy Matlock, Matt Mullins, Shane Tapper, and everyone I have learned from over the years, which is almost everyone at FMCH, have made a difference in my career here. My favorite part of working at FMCH are the people,” expressed Clark.

Kayla enjoys spending time with her husband and young son, Andrew, Jr. and staying busy doing projects.

The Employee of the Month is an initiative developed by the Reward & Recognition team. Each month a FMCH employee is honored for going above and beyond for the good of the patient, their co-workers and the organization.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Pictured left to right, FMCH staff came out to congratulate Kayla Clark, second from left, along with left to right; Shelby Burchett, COO, Kayla Clark, Dan Linhart, CFO and Shane Tapper, Health System Executive, Information Systems on her Employee of the Month award.

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15. Ability to maintain a large filing system of current and closed files.

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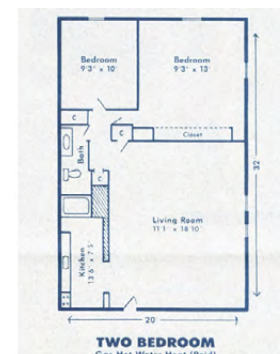
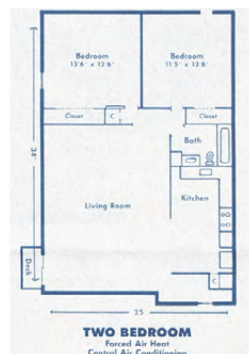
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From the Front

Council poised for shakeup in November elections

COUNCIL - Continued from Page 1

ed it through and have blessing of some of the council," Mohrfeld said Friday.

He said the work that lays ahead of the city certainly isn't easy or popular.

"I gotta be honest - the most glaring thing in front of Fort Madison is not glamorous. There are gonna have to be some hard decisions made when we set direction for the budget moving forward," Mohrfeld said. "We've got a potential shortfall and a budget cliff coming in the next few years. Even if it's half of what we project, it's still severe. That's gotta be addressed as we bring the council together with one voice."

He said if elected to the seat, everything's on the table to keep Fort Madison moving forward.

"I think you're naive if you take something off the table. To get where they need to be, it's going to take a multi-faceted solution, and when you take something off the table, you put pressure on something else."

1st Ward Councilman Chris Greenwald said Randolph's leadership was imperative to Fort Madison's future and will be reflected in its history.

"I talked Brad into running 13 years ago and that was one of the best things I've ever done. He's sharp, he's classy, he's educated. History will judge us all and I not only believe it will judge him well, but I believe it already has," Greenwald said.

At-large Councilman Rusty Andrews, despite a recent dustup with the mayor over the financials of the North Lee County Historical Society where Andrews serves as treasurer, said he's not sure anyone could have done a better job than Randolph.

"I can't think of anybody that could have done it better. Again, some of my views are different than his, but that's politics and that's what makes it great," Andrews said.

"I honestly couldn't think of a better person to do the job. It's not for everybody. It takes time from your family and dammit - at the end of the day somebody's gonna hate ya."

Fifth Ward Councilman Chad Cangas said he was stunned with the news.

"He still had a lot of things in progress. I was just

stunned when I read it. He was still so involved in things. We didn't know anything until the email came out today," Cangas said.

"I think he was a good face for the city and he certainly put in the time. When he went to work to save the platform and that was going above and beyond to get that done. He made it happen."

Councilman Bob Morawitz said he wasn't overly surprised by the news considering Randolph had said a month ago he wasn't sure he was going to run again.

"He had talked about it over a month ago where he was contemplating it and I didn't know where he was going with that, but I thought if he was thinking about not running, he probably wouldn't."

Morawitz said Randolph was dedicated to his post and did great work for the city. "I've been very happy with his service and he's done a great job for the city. We don't always agree, but his heart is in it

for the city. He does a lot behind the scenes and I really appreciate that."

Greenwald also confirmed Friday that he won't be seeking re-election in November. He said he hopes the city is better now that it was when he took office.

"When Steve Ireland passed away, one of the things I said in tribute to him, even in the short time he was in office, was he left it better than he found it," Greenwald said. "I hope I've done that and I think I have."

He pointed to the increase in the city's tax base in the past 13 years compared to the previous 30 years as proof of the city's better footing. But he said his biggest regret will be the toll politics takes on people.

"I regret having enemies I don't know - and who don't know me. This town needs to learn how to agree to disagree."

With Greenwald stepping down, two other well-known Fort Madison residents have put their name in the hat for the first ward.

Rebecca Bowker and Chris Sorrentino both confirmed Friday they have taken out paperwork. Sorrentino, who made an unsuccessful run for mayor two years ago, said a city council spot may be a better spot. But he said with Randolph's announcement, he may rethink

the candidacy.

"That's a development of a different field for the race this year. I'm still focused on the 1st ward seat, but I'm not 100% decided as of yet and am still talking it over with certain people and family," Sorrentino said.

"I was kind of hoping Brad would stay in his seat another term. So if I got the 1st ward seat I would have a chance to work with him."

Sorrentino is an over-the-road, self-employed truck driver who leases to Curry's Transport. He's been in Fort Madison since 2009.

Bowker is the executive officer at the Iowa State Penitentiary where she's been employed for the past 11 years and prior to that was in the private sector for 14 years in Fort Madison.

She said the city is facing some big things and she wants to lend her experience and passion to those causes.

"I think we're on the cusp of some very exciting things for the city of Fort Madison and I want to be a part of that," she said. "I'm hoping with my experience and investment in the community, I can be a vital part of the change."

She said the city can't function in a silo and needs to reach out to the other communities in the county and the county itself and garner those resources.

Papers for the upcoming election can be turned in starting Aug. 26 for the Nov. 5 election.

Other seats on the council up for election in November will be the 3rd Ward seat, Chad Cangas' 5th Ward seat, and Kevin Rink's at-large seat.

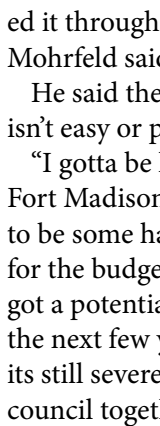
Rink said he hasn't made a commitment to the re-election but did take out papers.

"I'm on the fence and if I jump over the fence I'll have my signatures," he said.

Rink is facing possibly two candidates for his at-large seat in November, one of which is Tyler Miller, a 21-year-old resident. The other is Jerry Hamilton.

Miller said he's running to represent the younger voters in Fort Madison. He currently works at Merschman Fertilizer. Miller said he also is concerned about property tax rates deterring people from living or staying in the city.

"I'm running to represent the youth here. To show the young people they need to step up and play a role. What's this city going to be like in 20 years if we don't engage the young people," Miller said.



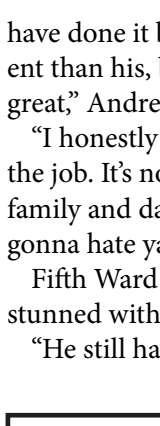
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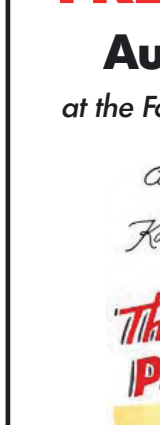
GREENWALD



CANGAS



MORAWITZ



BOWKER



SORRENTINO



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RINK

USDA rolling out different payment options

OPTIONS - Continued from Page 1

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