



Pen City Current

Friday, Sept. 22, 2017 | 9 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 227

It's Wright, Morawitz - Round 2

Incumbent Wright says city infrastructure a priority

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - 2nd Ward City Councilman Brian Wright will be seeking another four years on the City Council in the upcoming November elections. With the elections less than seven weeks away, Wright says he wants to continue his work on the council and see that infrastructure and services to the people of Fort Madison and his ward remain a high priority. Wright was originally appointed to the council in 2011 and then won a special election for the seat and was re-elected in 2013 to his first full term. He opposed Bob Morawitz in 2013 and will oppose Morawitz again in this election.



“
My mom and dad always taught me about service to the community....I want to continue on this council because it puts the city and citizens first above everything else.”

-Brian Wright,
Candidate for 2nd Ward Councilman

Wright said his family has a rich tradition of serving the community and he wants to continue that legacy that was instilled in him by his parents. Brian's brother John served several stints as Fort Madison's mayor.

“My mom and dad always taught me about service to the community,” Wright said. “The council and myself have moved the town forward and we've got lots of stuff done in the Second Ward including 15th Street, Avenue F on 13th and 14th streets and other infrastructure improvements throughout the city. I want to continue on this council because it puts the city and citizens first above everything else.”

One of the issue the six-year councilman wants to work on improving is the communication between the city and its citizens. He said at times Fort Madison residents

See **WRIGHT**, page 9

Morawitz questions city's direction on several issues

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Robert Morawitz ran for 2nd Ward city councilman in 2013... against Brian Wright. Morawitz is throwing his hat in the ring again in 2017...against Brian Wright.

Morawitz has also run unsuccessfully for state senator in Iowa, but said he heard when he was campaigning that people wanted him to run for City Council instead.

A former member of the U.S. Navy, Morawitz moved to Fort Madison about 31 years ago and says he plans to stay here for quite a while. One of the biggest reason he's running is that he's concerned with the direction of the council and the city.



“
I don't know why we're not promoting ourselves. We've got a beautiful river and parks here. We're sitting at the widest part of the river and we're not doing anything with it.”

Bob Morawitz,
Candidate for 2nd Ward Councilman

He said one of his biggest concerns is the Hwy 61 project that is currently underway.

“I don't know what the schedule is for that but they started in the wrong place. I think they should have started between 2nd and 6th streets. They have \$14 million and I don't think that's going to be enough to do all the things they want

to do and the most expensive is between 2nd and 6th,” Morawitz said.

Morawitz said they would have the sewer separation and costs associated with the Old Fort and the historical significance of that area of the highway will result in higher costs and those improvements should have been done first and then move down the highway with the money that's left over.

In contrast to his opponent, Morawitz is in favor of moving the depot back down-

See **MORAWITZ**, page 8

Lee County Auditor to hold voter registration booth on Tuesday

Office to have staff at Fareway from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

BY CHUCK
VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Tuesday, Sept. 26 is Na-

tional Voter Registration Day and the Lee County Auditor's office is taking advantage of the opportunity to engage voters and address questions with

new voter ID laws.

Nikki Sugars, the elections administrator in the auditor's office, said the staff will be at Hy-Vee in Keokuk from 10 to 11 a.m. on Tuesday and will also be at Fareway in Fort Madison from 2 to 3 p.m.

“We think it's just helpful to the voters to have it out there someplace where voters are,” Sugars said.

Lee County has an overall population according to the last census of 35,862 of which 23,383

are registered to vote. But Sugars said the population numbers include children under the age of 17 1/2 so she didn't know what percentage of actual eligible voters in Lee County are registered.

Sugars said the booths

will also give voters a chance to ask any questions or get information on new voter ID laws recently enacted.

“We're also using it as an educational time to let

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Obituaries/Weather

OBITUARIES

BETTY L. SANDERS

Betty L. Sanders, 76, of Houghton, Iowa passed away Wednesday, September 20, 2017 at Arbor Court in Mount Pleasant.

Born September 27, 1940 in Fort Madison, Iowa the daughter of Robert and Esther (Mueller) Stuecker. On November 9, 1963 she married James Edward "Jim" Sanders at St. James the Less Catholic Church in St. Paul, Iowa. He preceded her in death on February 9, 2015.



SANDERS

Survivors include one son: Joseph (Heather) Sanders of Ankeny; one daughter: Stacie (Lou) Baccam of Mt. Pleasant; five grandchildren: Hailie (Ben) Carlson, Collin and Brett Baccam, Dylan and Olivia Sanders; four brothers: Robert (Martha Ann) Stuecker of St. Paul, Le-Roy (Viola) Stuecker of St. Paul, Larry (Marge) Stuecker of Pilot Grove and Mark (Pam) Stuecker of St. Paul and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Jim and one brother Donnie.

Betty was retired from the Mental Health Institute in Mt. Pleasant. She was a member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Houghton and the Altar and Rosary Society of the church. She enjoyed camping, being with the "Sunshine Girls" and especially her grandchildren.

Friends may call after 12:00 noon Friday, September 22, 2017 at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point, Iowa. The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. that evening. A Christian Wake Service will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, September 23, 2017 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Houghton with Father Bruce DeRammelaere as celebrant.

Burial will be at the St. John's Catholic Cemetery in Houghton.

Memorials may be made in her memory to St. John's Catholic Church.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com. The Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point is assisting the family with the arrangements.

JUDITH J. STEPHENSON

Judith J. Stephenson, 65, of Montrose, IA, passed away at 11:21 a.m. on Thursday, September 21, 2017 at the University of Iowa Hospitals in Iowa City. Arrangements are pending at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory.

LAWRENCE EDWARD "LARRY" SCHNIStock

Lawrence Edward "Larry" Schinstock, 62, of rural Salem, passed away at 8:18 a.m. Wednesday, September 20, 2017.

Born August 28, 1955 in Fort Madison, Iowa the son of Edward and Rosanna (Stohlmeier) Schinstock. On July 20, 1979 he married Sue Hoenig at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fort Madison, Iowa.

Survivors include his wife: Sue of rural Salem, Iowa; one daughter: Jennifer Schinstock (Jarred Recker) of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; one son Phil (Amanda) Schinstock of West Point, Iowa; one granddaughter: Emery; three brothers: Dale (Terri) Schinstock of Urbandale, Iowa, Ken Schinstock of Salem, Iowa and Randy (Sharon) Schinstock of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa; one sister: Kathy (Wayne) Walljasper of St. Paul, Iowa; one aunt: Sister Dorothy Stohlmeier and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister Joan Margaret.

Larry did carpentry work and was a lifelong farmer. He was a member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and the Houghton Knights of Columbus Council #3905. He enjoyed carpentry work, camping, attending National tractor pulls, family and especially being a grandpa.

Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. Friday, September 22, 2017 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Houghton, Iowa where the family will receive friends from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. that evening. A Knights of Columbus Rosary will be recited at 4:00 p.m. A Christian Wake Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the church.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, September 23, 2017 with Father Bruce DeRammelaere as celebrant. Burial will be in St. John's Cemetery in Houghton.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to St John's Catholic Church or the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

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MON 25 Sep

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

RONALD ALLEN CARTER

Ronald Allen Carter, 54, of Keokuk, Iowa died at 12:03 a.m. Thursday, September 21, 2017 at the Fort Madison Community Hospital, Fort Madison, Iowa. He was born September 28, 1962 in Illinois, a son of Jerry and C. Jane (Rusher) Carter. He married Linda Duncan. They later divorced.



CARTER

He was a graduate of Wapello High School. Ron was co-owner of the Big River Outdoors magazine with The Hawkeye in Burlington. He loved photography. He was an avid deer and pheasant hunter and a tournament fisherman. He loved sharing his passions with his children.

He is survived by his mother, Jane Carter of LaHarpe, Illinois; one son Craig Carter (fiancé Kayla Beriou), of Montrose, Iowa; one daughter Rebekah Carter, of Montrose; two brothers, Lonnie Lewis of Dallas City, Illinois and Stan Carter of Cahokia, Illinois; one sister Janet Eckerd of Dupo, Illinois; nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, and two sisters, Rose Lewis and Glenda Hutson.

His body has been cremated. His family will greet friends from 5:00 - 6:00 pm Monday, September 25, 2017 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. A memorial service will follow and begin at 6:00 pm Monday at the funeral home, with Pastor Dean Graber officiating. Burial will be at a later date. Online condolences to the Carter Family may be at www.barrmemorialchapel.com. Barr /Memorial Chapel <http://www.barrmemorialchapel.com> is in charge of the arrangements.

State voter ID cards will be sent out at year's end

VOTERS - Continued from Page 1

people know of the new voter ID laws," she said. "If you don't have a valid driver's license or valid state ID card in the DOT's system by December you will be issued a state voter ID card in the mail

sometime after they check everything against their database.

Voters won't technically have to provide an identification at election sites until January of 2019. Sugars said the new law

was probably a result of a crackdown on voter fraud.

"We haven't really heard of any voter id fraud rampant around here, but they are hearing of it in the bigger metro areas."

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Hounds spikers 6-0

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Bloodhounds took about half a set to get things going in the right direction Thursday night in girls high school volleyball action.

The Hounds have played seven matches in four days, but settled in for a 25-14, 25-4, 25-18 win over visiting Keokuk.

The first set had the Hounds tied with the Chiefs at 14 after going back and forth on points for about five points, but then Amber Dilsaver went on a 10-0 run from the service line and put the game away.

"Our servers did a nice job by taking Keokuk out of system and getting 19 aces. Leigh (Johnson) and Amber got in rhythm and our offense got going," said head coach Kent Bailey.

Dilsaver finished 16-of-17 serving on the night with six aces to lead the Hounds. Leigh Johnson was the assist leader again for Fort Madison with 31 in the three sets. Josie Pumphrey had 13 digs for FMHS and went 14-of-17 serving with five aces. Kamryn Bailey had 10 digs and served 9-of-10 with two aces. Dilsaver had 17 kills on the night, Courtney Woodley had six kills, and McKenna Fehseke had five to lead the ladies at the net.

"It took a game to get our legs underneath us tonight," Bailey said. "We've had a good week of volleyball, but have some kids nursing some soreness and illness. It's nice to know we can go out and win games when we aren't at our best. Give Keokuk credit for digging up a number of tough hits tonight."

The Hounds are now 16-4 overall and are still unbeaten in the Southeast Conference at 6-0. They will play host again on Tuesday night to Iowa City Liberty.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Senior Leigh Johnson sends one of her 33 sets on the night into the air for Amber Dilsaver (14) to spike for the Hounds Thursday night.

Burlington shuts out FM 8th graders

BY PCC STAFF

BURLINGTON - A combined middle school football program in Burlington handed Fort Madison's 8th grade program it's first loss Tuesday night 34-0.

Head Coach Ryan Smith said the FMMS found it tough getting things going offensively, but the game gave the 8th graders a chance to see where they were at for the year.

Landes Williams led the crimson and black in rushing with eight carries for 42 yards. Jakob McGowan carried eight

times for 40 yards. Tate Johnson rushed five times for seven yards.

Williams also had three completions for five yards and an interception.

Johnson and Williams had four and five tackles respectively. Johnson also has a fumble recovery.

"It was a great opportunity to see where we are at as a team, and we will definitely grow from this experience," Smith said.

The 7th grade team tied Burlington 6-6.

FMMS plays on Tuesday at home against Ottumwa at 4:30.

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From the Front

Morawitz says city struggling to promote itself

MORAWITZ - Continued from Page 1

town, not because it will increase business but because it's a more attractive place to drop off and pick up passengers and they'll get to see more of the beauty of Fort Madison, which is another area he'd like to have an impact.

Morawitz said the city isn't doing enough to promote itself.

"We were traveling in northern Iowa recently and you see those tourist racks and you see flyers from Keokuk and Nauvoo, but there wasn't anything from Fort Madison. I don't know why we're not promoting ourselves. We've got a beautiful river and park here. We used to have bass tournaments here all the time and we don't have that. We don't have the restaurant at the marina any more. That drew people in, boats fill up with gas and grab a burger and drink. We're sitting at the widest part of the river and we're not doing anything with it."

As far as the Fort Madison economy, Morawitz said the investors should come because of what we have to offer, not necessarily what financial incentives we can give them, but he said there is a time and a place for

those types of incentives.

"It's almost become a have-to thing. I don't like it. Sometimes they're offered before they've even asked for it," he said. "I've been at city council meetings where there are people remodeling a home and asking for a TIF. I don't agree with that. As far as businesses it just becomes a game where they try to see how much they can get and they're going to be here anyway. I'm kind of upset with the state, they were looking at our renewable energy and we didn't need to give them that. It shouldn't be a first step, it can be negotiated - but that's taxpayer money."

He said incentives used at the Iowa Fertilizer Company were heavy, but the potential for feeder industries to come to the area is greater now and there's been talk of expansion out on that property as well as the local employees still spending money locally. IFC does pay a sum annually in lieu of property taxes for 20 years. The amount increases every five years before the company comes on the tax roles.

He said property taxes in Fort Madison are about average for a city its size in the state but he said as long as similar homes are assessed equally the system is fair and people are paying what needs to be paid to make sure services from the city and schools and other taxing bodies are intact.

As far as what he'd like to see improved, Morawitz said he'd like to see the downtown area spruced up for businesses and residents in that area, but those improvements are very expensive.

"At one time the city had talked about redoing Avenue G and installing new curbs and sidewalks. It would be very expensive. The businesses don't want to pay for it. I don't like when they redo a street and I have to pay for it. Things need to get done downtown. They talked about putting brick back in, not old bricks but a newer brick and that would be an asset to the town to bring the old feel back to it with the older buildings we have."

He said when he tells people he's from Fort Madison he's heard them say, 'Oh...that's the town with the old Victorian homes and the brick streets.'

Morawitz is a former chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission and was integral in bringing the city's Park to Park district onto the National Register of Historic Places. He also helped design and purchase the brown historic street signs that are now present in the district.

He said the river is another feature of the city that isn't being utilized to its fullest potential.

He agreed with Wright that it's good Riverfest is back because it's helping bring people into town and down to the riverfront but he said the city should be more engaged in trying to reopen the marina.

"I'm a bit upset that the city has not done anything with the restaurant. They say it's in a flood zone but it's always been in a flood zone. They've had offers to renovate it but the city hasn't moved on that yet. They did some work on the docks and they're constantly dredging to keep the marina open. At one point there was a plan to extend the break water further into the river to prevent some of the silting. That's probably very expensive and probably why that hasn't been done. But we have a beautiful view of the river and we need to promote it."

He said the rumors of the Viking Cruise lines are still out there and he thinks that would be a good addition to the city and riverfront.

"Last I heard they were still trying to get approvals for boats to be built - I don't know where that ended up," he said. "I would love to have them here but we need to work on the riverfront."

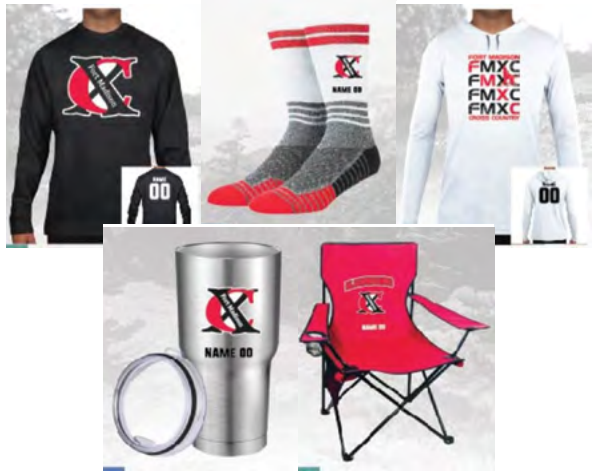
Morawitz said he would most likely limit his term to two if he won as he thinks younger people need to be more involved in the future of the city, but he thinks term limits ultimately should be left up to the voters.

"I think that should be decided at the polls, but I pretty much decided I would like to do just two terms if I get in. I think some younger people should get involved. The thing is it's hard getting people to run," Morawitz said. "I think there's things I'd like to get done and I think it would take more than 4 years. I think Councilman Chris Greenwald was going to do two terms also, but since no one ran he stayed in. I'm hoping more people get involved."

Morawitz has set up a Facebook page for his candidacy where information on these topics and more can be found by visiting <https://www.facebook.com/Bob.Morawitz/>.

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From the Front/Ag News

Wright say cruise line could be better investment than depot

WRIGHT - Continued from Page 1

get either misinformation or a lack of information from the city. He said social media can be a platform of incorrect information and the city needs to do a better job at making sure citizens have correct information.

He said people get upset with the city about certain projects or directions city officials are going but the people don't have all the information they need to understand why things are done the way they are.

Wright pointed to the parks and street work that's being done.

"One thing that has come about is the parks and people believe we are letting the parks go because we don't have the prison labor anymore, but that's not true. Our parks are in great shape because of some hires we've made," he said.

"And streets, people don't understand why we are doing them the way we are and 27th street is a great example. That money came from IDOT and it can only be used for that because it's Hwy. 61. We are also under some EPA mandates on storm sewer and sanitary sewer separation so a lot of things have to be done according to those guidelines and people just don't understand that because they don't have that information."

Other hotly debated issues have been in front of the city council in the past weeks and months. One of which is relocating the depot, an issue that may not be decided until election time depending on the progression of negotiations between the city and Amtrak.

Wright said he's heard both sides of the issue of moving the depot to its former location on the riverfront near downtown Fort Madison and said right now he's on the side of leaving it where it is.

He said the people using the depot either in its current place or moved to the east will be stopping for gas or getting food regardless of where it is located and he can't see spending the money yearly to maintain the new depot. Figures have estimated the cost to be between \$35,000 and \$50,000 per year for a 20-year agreement.

"That's money that can't be spent on streets or for fire protection. I'm really torn on it right now, I guess that's the best way to say it," he said. "I get that people can see the downtown and the riverfront. It is beautiful down there, but they can see that when they are riding in from the east or the west, too. But I just can't see it bringing a lot of business downtown especially when most are closed on the second stop at 7 p.m."

Wright said he'd rather see the city put that money into attracting the Vikings Cruise Lines to the city.

"I think the Viking Cruise Line would benefit us more than a rail depot. I think investing in that and making sure it's aesthetically pleasing would be a great benefit for the town. There's no guarantee they're still looking at this location, but we would have to build a dock for them."

He said the Riverfront should be the centerpiece of the city but it's still underutilized.

"I think what Charles and Jenny (Craft) have done with the Riverfest has been wonderful to the community. They are seeing success and the city is seeing it from bringing people in. But something has to be done with the marina and I don't know about a bar or nightclub but a restaurant. I'd like to see something done to the marina area with the boats. We've dredged and there are some other things we can do," he said.

He said the pavilion should also be cleaned up and renovated and made attractive for a company like Viking to come in and use.

Downtown is also a concern of Wright's. He said the current progress going on in the area is a good start, but he said he still thinks more needs to be done to fix up the properties and make them good places for more apartments and attractive store fronts.

"I'd like to see if we can find more funds to fix the facades. Barkers are doing great things with the Old Lee County Bank building and the Cattermole. I don't think you'll see much done with the Sears building, but these projects are going to help," he said. "Part of revitalization is making those building inhabitable. I would love to live downtown above a store front and have all that at hand. I think that would be a positive change."

Wright said the city needs to set its sights on the things that benefit the public in big ways, economically. He said the city isn't in the entertainment business so things like bowling alleys or skating rinks should be done with private investment but larger scale hotels, industries, and businesses that have a large impact on the community are the ones that should be incentivized.

"We are seeing the benefits of the incentives we gave to Siemens already and you always hear the rumors of others locating in that area, too. But anything we can do to spur economic development means spurring the development of the people of Fort Madison."

He said one of the main concerns he hears from people in the second ward is the condition of the streets and alleys in the city.

"My response is probably cold at times. It's an alley. It's not meant to be traveled so much and would you rather us put it into services and amenities or an alley. Lots of streets have been improved. Avenue E from 16th Street to 24th Street is done. 15th Street was done and it wasn't that long ago that 24th Street was done. My next thing would be Avenue F from 2nd to 22nd street."

He said the city has also been extending services like water and sewer to further reaches in an effort to grow the tax base of the community.

"People always are critical of property taxes and I don't want to see an increase, but I think we're doing the right things. We've made the investment to get infrastructure out and you work toward a bigger tax base when you can provide those things."

Wright said he doesn't believe in term limits and doesn't think the city should add anything to the code to address council members missing meetings. At Tuesday's meeting a suggestion was made from a resident to look into adding something to the code for attendance.

"I'm not a term limits guy. I believe that when the citizenry feels you haven't done your job, you address that at the polls," Wright said. "I feel it's a duty and obligation to come and represent your constituents, but I do know illness and family can come into play. I have a 90%+ attendance record but I believe there are extenuating circumstances. Nothing should be written into the code, that should be handled at election time."

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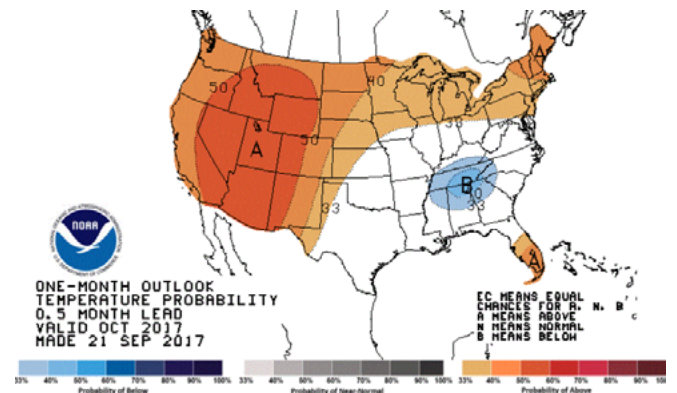
AGRICULTURE

October, seasonal temperature, precipitation outlooks

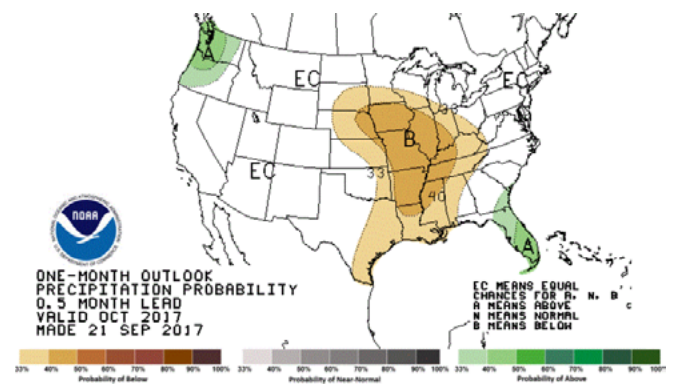
BY JOHN FELDT
BLUE WATER OUTLOOK

OCTOBER OUTLOOK

October Temperature Outlook



October Precipitation Outlook

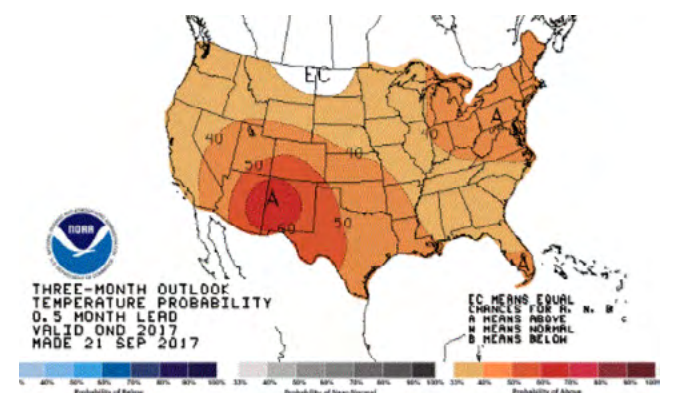


SEASONAL OUTLOOKS

Science Behind This (Seasonal) Outlook:

NOAA forecasts are generally transitioning from an ENSO (La Niña or El Niño) Neutral into patterns associated with a weak La Niña over the next few months. The temperature outlook is aligned along longer-term trends, i.e. warmer temperatures. However, a majority of the U.S. is outlined in "Equal Chances" for either above- or below-normal precipitation (unshaded) due to the uncertainty, weakness, and short duration of a La Niña.

October-November-December Temperature Outlook



October-November-December Precipitation Outlook

