



Election News.....P.2	Obituaries.....P.8
From the Front.....P.14	-Donald Asa
Local News.....Ps.4,8	Charbonneau
Lottery Numbers.....P.3	Tri-State RodeoPs.6-7
Sports.....P.14	Weather.....P.10

Pen City Current

Friday, Sept. 8, 2017 | 15 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 215

Officials looking at bridge study

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Area economic officials are looking into the possibility of a feasibility study to determine if changes could be made to the BNSF bridge in Fort Madison to allow for heavier truck traffic.

City Manager David Varley said Thursday informal discussions have been taking place for about two years, but he was invited to be on a conference call with other business,

economic development, and state officials about 10 days ago to discuss the study.

"The main purpose has been to look at the bridge and see what changes would be necessary to handle full lane and full load trucks," Varley said.

He said the Iowa Fertilizer Company is one of the companies that could benefit as they have some resources they use across the river and it would be a time and money saver if they could cross in Fort Madison. He said industries such as Scotts and

DuPont could also stand to benefit from changes to the bridge that would allow the bigger load trucks. He also said it would be attractive for the area if that piece of the transportation segment were improved.

He cautioned that the Burlington Northern Santa Fe, which owns the bridge, would probably have a problem with anything that would interfere with moving the trains across the bridge.

See **STUDY**, page 14

Advertiser Index

Anderson for School Board.....P.2
Brad's Pad.....P.7
Boulders Inn & Suites Fort Madison.....P.12
Classifieds.....Ps.12-13
Dave's Old Fashion Meats.....P.8
Dodd Printing & Stationery.....P.12
Dollhouse Dreams....P.15
Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis and Associates.....P.11
Elliott Test Kitchen.....P.6
Eternelle' Beaute' - Sarah Harworth.....P.12
Farm Bureau Financial Services - Larry Holtkamp.....P.4
Farmers Savings Bank.....P.4
Fort Madison Chamber Ladies Golf Outing....P.12
Fort Madison Depot Farmers' Market.....P.12
Fort Madison Eye Clinic.....P.5
Fort Madison Public Library.....P.10
Fort Madison United Methodist Church.....P.2
Fort Madison YMCA.....P.4
Fullenkamp Insurance.....P.15
Great River Hospice.....Ps.3,9,15
Great River Regional Waste Authority.....P.6
Griffin Muffler & Brake Center.....P.3
Hill Side Inn.....P.12
Holy Trinity Catholic Schools.....P.4
Hope Associates Real Estate.....Ps.4,13
Kempker's True Value Rental.....P.5
KL M Realty.....P.4
Lee County Bank.....P.14
Lee County Health Department.....P.7
MidWestOne Bank....P.10
Pilot Grove Savings Bank.....P.9
Quarry Creek Elk & Bison.....P.9
Scotts Company.....P.5
State Farm - Thomas Klann.....P.12
Sunnybrook Assisted Living & Memory Care.....P.10
Team Staffing.....Ps.10,15
The Kensington.....P.8
The Madison / Rodeo Park Rehab.....P.12
Trailways Travel.....P.7
Under the Sun.....P.4
West Liberty Foods.....Ps.13,15
West Point Care Center.....P.15
Your Heat & Air guy.....P.8

Thursday at the Rodeo



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



Cody Johnson, upper left, wrapped up the entertainment Thursday after rodeo action including Madison Pirri, of Fort Madison running Pee-Wee barrels at left. The bullfighters had their hands full all night, too.

Marshall joins FMCH Walk-in Clinic

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison Physicians & Surgeons My Care Walk-in Clinic is proud to welcome Family Nurse Practitioner, Bobbi Marshall to their health care team.

Bobbi Marshall started her nursing career as a Certified Nursing Assistant after completing the program at Southeastern Community College (SECC). Working as part of the FMCH Home Health team, she was encouraged to continue her education, also receiving her Registered Nursing degree from SECC. At that time she took on a Supervisory role, filling in where needed at FMCH on the Med/



MARSHALL

Surg unit, Special Care Unit, Birthplace and Emergency Room. She then completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Chamberlain College of Nursing and her Masters of Nursing degree from South University, Georgia.

"I started out at Fort Madison Community Hospital as a Custodian in 2002. Bob Schierbrock, Director of Facilities, gave me my first opportunity in a health care setting. From there, I watched the nurses in the Emergency Room caring for patients and made the

decision to pursue a career in patient care. When I moved into supervision, I missed the patient interaction and wanted something more. I had some great mentors at FMCH who supported me through the process and my decision to become a Nurse Practitioner. These women are all amazing nurses, Ann Torgler, JoAnn Lampe, Michelle Callahan-Moore and Nancy St. Clair," commented Bobbi. "After completing all of my clinical rotations at FMCH, I found my home in the My Care Walk-in Clinic, which challenges me every day with the variety of patients that I

See **MARSHALL**, page 10

Election News – Letters to Voters

Ehlers outlines experience, background FM can be stepping stone for students

Editor's Note: All candidates for the upcoming Sept. 12 school board election were invited to write an unedited letter to the voters to be posted on our website, to our social media outlets and to be published in our e-edition.

Hello, Voters. My name is Renee Ehlers. I have lived in Fort Madison most of my life and graduated from Fort Madison School District in 1995. I continued my education at SCC and graduated Western Illinois in 2000. I currently work for the Iowa Department of Human Services where I have been employed for the past sixteen years in the following positions: Social Worker, Child Abuse Investigator, and Income Maintenance Worker. I have been married for thirteen years to my husband, Mike, and we have two children in the district, Jacob, 5th grade, and Allison, 2nd grade.

I have been very involved in our school district on several different levels. I have been the Lincoln Elementary School PTG President for the last 4 years, been an active member of the middle school PTO, and I have been the parent representative for the PBIS committee



EHLERS

for the last two years. Over the last year, I have been the chairman of the KIDS committee. I was in charge of the committee made up of community members, and through that committee we were responsible for yard signs, mailing over 7,000 mailings, and was directly responsible for the KIDS Committee Facebook page.

Since my kids have been in the district, I have worked hard to support our kids, staff, and our district. I have worked every carnival, fundraiser, and event held by both schools to make sure they were successful. Through that I have developed relationships, knowledge of the district, and how the school board is essential in a successful school district. I believe my involvement in our school district one of the most important reasons of why I should be elected.

Please go and vote on September 12th.

Thank You,
Renee Ehlers

FM can be stepping stone for students

Editor's Note: All candidates for the upcoming Sept. 12 school board election were invited to write an unedited letter to the voters to be posted on our website, to our social media outlets and to be published in our e-edition

To the families and community of Fort Madison, Some of you may know me, or know of me, through my husband Andrew. Andy is in his 9th year with this district after earning his interview and job offer during the recession in 2009. It was his job, this district, that brought our family here to SE Iowa. I have seen him grow professionally and personally since joining the Fort Madison School District, and have many reasons to be proud of him. He has been supportive and encouraging toward my decision to run for school board. But, I am here to tell you that he is not the reason why I chose to run. I chose to run for our children. We have two children at home, a girl and a boy. Our oldest, our daughter, just started kindergarten last month. I want to be a representative of parents of the younger generation of students in our district. Education is a high priority in our home; Andy is the first in his immediate family line to go to college. I am the daughter of a teacher; my clinical doctorate in physical therapy is the highest educational degree achieved in my family. We can partially thank our families for giving us opportunities to thrive as young people. At the same time, we each owe a large debt of gratitude to the school systems in which we were educated. These districts prepared us for what came next after we graduated. As a working mother, I want to make sure I am doing everything I can to make sure my kids have that same kind of encouragement and support both at home, and at school.

Some of you may know me through my occupation. I have been a physical therapist for seven years, and a proud Fort Madison Community Hospital employee for six of those years and counting. I do not hesitate to describe myself as an analytical thinker, almost to a fault (just ask my husband or my boss!). At my job, I spend my day solving problems or limitations that are keeping my patients from their functional goals. This takes experience with critical thinking, including knowing what questions to ask in order to get to the root of the problem and then in turn, coming up with solutions. These personality characteristics would directly correlate to a contributing member of our school board.

As a parent with children just starting school, it is important to me that we as a community band together and protect the biggest asset our school district has: its people. We want our school district to attract and retain teachers and staff who partner with us in producing young adults who are ready to take on the world upon graduation. This starts from Bright Beginnings and can be a constant theme throughout a student's career in the Fort Madison schools. I look forward to the opportunity to be a part of a team that is fervently working to embrace and adapt to changes in our education systems as our world and job forces change. Fort Madison schools should be a stepping stone for our students in preparation for life after high school. Fort Madison can be a destination district for our staff. Thank you for your time and I appreciate your support on September 12th.

Sincerely,

Jillian Troxel



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September 12, 2017

Paid for by Anderson for Fort Madison School Board, 1922 Avenue F, Fort Madison, IA 52627

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Founded in 2016



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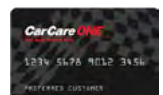
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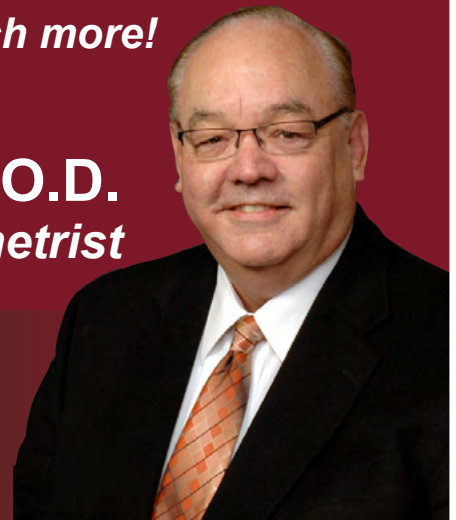
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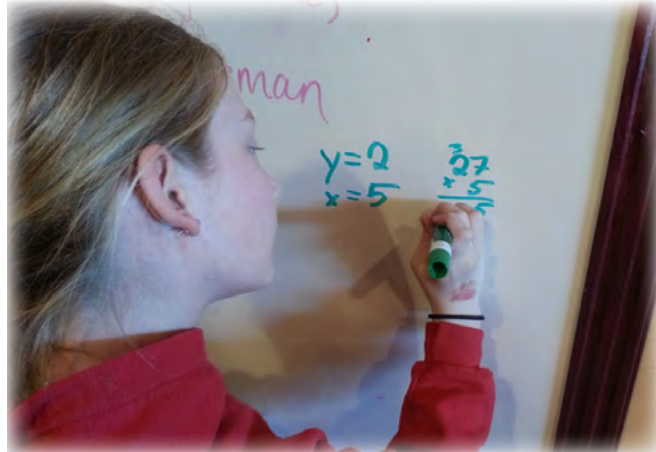
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Tri-State Rodeo



It was bulls 7, riders 0 on Thursday night as no competitor was able to stay on for the full eight seconds and bullfighters had their hands busy protecting riders all night. At far left, one of the bullfighters narrowly misses getting kicked in the head, while at left top, a rider goes butt over gut after getting bucked off. Above, Chuck Schmidt is headed in the wrong direction off his saddlebronc and at right, rodeo clown Justin Rumford steals a cellphone and puts up a selfie during a break in the action.



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Obituaries/Area News

Loebsack aid to hold local office hours

WASHINGTON D.C. – Congressman Dave Loebsack will have a member of his staff in Southeast Iowa for open office hours. Jared Hershberger, Loebsack's District Representative, will be at the following locations. Hershberger will be on hand to work with individuals who are having difficulty with a government agency, have suggestions for Dave, or would just like to share their concerns. Members of the public are invited to attend. Hershberger holds regular office hours throughout Southeast Iowa.

If residents are unable to attend but have a concern to share with the Congressman, please call our district office toll-free at 1-866-914-IOWA

(4692).

Hershberger's schedule for September is as follows.

Tuesday, September 12
Burlington City Hall
400 Washington Street
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Wednesday, September 13
Washington Chamber of Commerce
205 Main Street
10:00 AM – 12:00 AM

Mount Pleasant City Hall
220 West Monroe Street
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Thursday, September 14
Fort Madison City Hall
811 Avenue E
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Keokuk City Hall
415 Blondeau Street
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Friday, September 15
Keokuk City Hall
415 Blondeau Street
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Saturday, September 16
Keokuk City Hall
415 Blondeau Street
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

OBITUARIES

DONALD ASA CHARBONNEAU

Donald Asa Charbonneau, 80 years, of Denmark, Iowa died 7:06 am Tuesday, August 22, 2017 at the



CHARBONNEAU

Donnellson Health Center, Donnellson, Iowa. He was born June 15, 1937 near Oakville, Iowa, a son of Asa and Martha (Bowers) Charbonneau.

He was a heavy equipment operator. He was a veteran of the United States Navy.

He is survived by three daughters: Cheryl Branch of Danville, Iowa; Lori Charbonneau (formerly Beckert) of Fort Madison; and Martha Charbonneau of Osage Beach, Missouri; one step-son, Dwane Ott of Fort Madison; one step-daughter, Debbie Ott of Augusta, Iowa; one brother, Roger Charbonneau of Wapello, Iowa; two sisters, Lola Carlson of Texas and Doris (Jerald) Nietert of Arkansas; four grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, one daughter Annette Charbonneau, and a couple special ladies, Iris Platt and Inge Kosiba.

His body has been cremated. Graveside service and burial with military rites will be at 10:00 am Saturday, September 16, 2017 at Edwards Cemetery, Oakville, Iowa. Shirley McCord will officiate. A memorial has been established, contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Online condolences to the Charbonneau Family may be made from the Barr Memorial Chapel, www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

WELCOME TRI-STATE RODEO FANS
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From the Front/Local News

Lee County Conservation to host monarch tagging program

BY PCC STAFF

MONTROSE - Lee County Conservation will be hosting a monarch butterfly program on Saturday, September 16th at the Lee County Conservation Center starting at 1:00 p.m.

The program will include an overview of monarchs and their amazing life cycle. Participants will also get to try their hand at capturing and tagging monarchs. Monarch tagging is one of the main tools scientists use to monitor the monarch population. If participants have monarchs they reared at home and would like to tag them, they are welcome to bring them to the program.

The cost of the program is \$2.00 per person.

The Lee County Conservation Center is located at 2652 Hwy 61 north of Montrose. For more information about the program, contact Lee County Conservation at 319-463-7673.

A few spots left in FM Chamber's Ladies golf outing

Fort Madison, IA – Get the girls together for a fun afternoon of golf! The Fort Madison Area Chamber of Commerce will host a Ladies Golf Outing at Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course on Friday, September 22nd. All proceeds benefit the Community Beautification Fund.

Team check in will begin at 3:00 pm with tee-off at 4:00 pm. Registration fee is \$180 per team of four or \$45 per person and includes 9 holes of golf with a cart, dinner, beer tickets and a goodie bag. Raffle tickets will be available

to purchase for a change to win some amazing prizes. For more information or to register your team, please call Fort Madison Partners at 319-372-5471 or email Savanna at chamber@fortmadison.com.



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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

FRI 08 Sep	Partly Cloudy High – 76.5° F Low – 64.8° F
SAT 09 Sep	Clear Skies High – 72.3° F Low – 59.9° F
SUN 10 Sep	Clear Skies High – 69.7° F Low – 49.6° F
MON 11 Sep	Clear Skies High – 69.6° F Low – 61.8° F
TUE 12 Sep	Clear Skies High – 73.5° F Low – 58.0° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

Marshall seeing patients now

MARSHALL - Continued from Page 1

see.”

Outside of her work at FMCH, Bobbi stays busy with her family.

Bobbi Marshall is currently seeing patients in the FMP&S My Care Walk-in clinic with Family Nurse Practitioners, Gwen Scott, Tiffany Rhoades and Chelsea Youmans. The Walk-in Clinic at FMP&S was established to offer guests the convenience of receiving health care when it best fits their schedule. My Care is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the FMP&S Main Clinic. My Care Walk-in Clinic is open to patients of all ages; no appointment is necessary. My Care Walk-in Clinic is available to treat non-emergency conditions like allergies and infections, abrasions and bruises, colds and flu, and sprains and pains. For more information visit us online at www.fmchosp.com.



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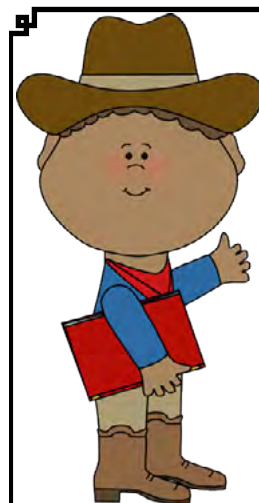


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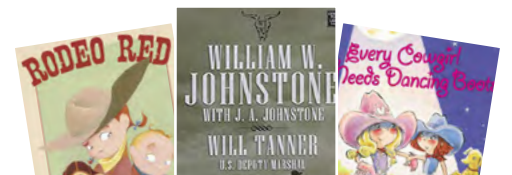
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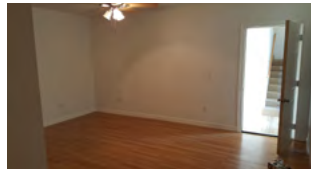


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Retooled bridge would have economic advantages

STUDY - Continued from Page 1

Varley said Mike Norris of the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission has been spearheading the effort. Norris couldn't be reached late Thursday afternoon.

"It was the first meeting that I was involved in and Mike was able to get enough people interested to set up the call. But there have been no talks about building something separate or abandoning the current bridge. It's just been a push that some businesses would be able to move larger trucks without going to Keokuk or Burlington."

He said preliminary estimates of the study are in the range of \$360,000 and talks have been focusing on trying to raise about \$74,000 locally with the remainder possibly being paid for by the Iowa and Illinois departments of transportation. He also said there may be some grant funds available for the cost of the study.

"It's been going back and forth between the Iowa and Illinois DOTs to get them both on board and then trying to get funding. But I think this is the first time he's got everybody together on a conference call."

Varley said the study would include a structural inspection of the bridge. He said it was inspected about two years ago and was found to be structurally sound, but the group would look at a wide array of standards to make sure it would meet standards for rail and highway weights.

"One of the other aspects would be how would it all fit into Federal Highway Administration policies as far as weight and structural integrity. There are different ratings for different types of bridges. This would take a look to see what kind of hoops there would be to jump through for permits and construction...timelines, hazardous materials, that sort of thing."

Varley then said part of the study would also include the option of not doing anything.

"That's a life-cycle cost analysis. In other words, if you keep using it, how much longer would it last at the current standard. How much longer could it go on. They come up with a few alternatives including that and they look at a preferred alternative," Varley said.

He said to be able to utilize the bridge for heavier traffic the deck would have to be widened and the ends would probably have to be straightened out.

Southeast Iowa Fishing Report

Big Hollow Lake

Colder night time temperatures are cooling off the water. Water temperature is in the low 70's. Expect to find the fish in shallow pretty soon. Black Crappie - Fair: The crappie bite has picked up some. Try in the flooded timber and down about 8 feet. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Go shallow in the early morning and late evening; as the day gets warmer flow them out to deeper water. Bluegill - Fair: Try around the jetties and the deeper sides of the island where the bluegills still have access to deeper water.

Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)

The Iowa fell just a few inches since last week. The water is still pretty shallow for outboard motors, but with the slow current a nice float trip down the river would be fun. Channel Catfish - Fair: Look for the deeper holes with brush piles; getting to them is the hard part.

Lake Belva Deer

The lake is back to being a little murky; water clarity is about 36 inches. Water temperature is down to the upper 60's. Bluegill - Good: Bluegill fishing has picked back up. They are still out in the deeper 10- to 12-foot water, but with a few more cool nights expect to see them come in shallower. Channel Catfish - Excellent: Catfish are biting. Look for them in the upper end of the lake where the arm from the north connects to the main lake. Black Crappie - Good: Anglers are starting to catch crappies. They are still out in the 10-foot depth range vertical jigging or slip bobbers with minnows.

Lake Darling

A couple of mid 40's degrees nights cooled off the water. Water temperature is down to 68 degrees. Once the fish acclimate to the cooler water, expect them to move in shallow. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Use soft plastics on the shallow edge of the drop-offs. Black Crappie - Fair: Most anglers were still catching them out in deeper water, but expect them to move in shallow very soon.

Lake Geode

Water clarity is improving at 66 inches, but is still a little on the green side. Water temperature is in the lower 70's. Bluegill - Fair: Bluegills are starting to work the outer edges of the water willow beds close to deeper water. Black Crappie - Fair: Crappies are starting to move into the brush piles and tree falls in shallow water, but still near the deeper drop-offs.

Lake Odessa

The water level is stable and cooling off with the cooler weather. The September teal season continues through the 10th (Sunday). Black Crappie - Fair: Look for crappies around the beaver lodges and around the fallen trees from Sand Run on down. Bluegill - Fair: Use bobbers and worms or small jigs tipped with wax worms around the beaver lodges and around the fallen trees from Sand Run on down.

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