



Pen City Current

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Heavy rains cause flash flooding

BY CHUCK
VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Monday's evening thunderstorms brought heavy downpours to parched southeast Iowa and brought the weather spotters out. Rumors of cloud rotation over Fort Madison had residents, specifically on the east side of town, carefully gazing to the sky and then heading indoors. Lee County Emergen-

cy Management Agency Coordinator Steve Cirinna said there was cloud rotation detected over the city, but no funnels or tornadoes were reported. He said the biggest fear was flash flooding. "We had a lot of rain come down real quick," Cirinna said at about 8:30 Monday night. "The real big issue is if we keep getting this heavy rain we're going to have some flash flooding." Flash flood alerts were sent out on emergency radio and cell phones at

about 8:20 p.m. "We sure can use the rain, but I just wish it would have come down a bit more gradually, the ground is so hard and dry, at this volume it's running off pretty fast." He said a large tornado was photographed in a farm field in McDonough County in Illinois. Facebook posts on Monday showed photos of rain gauges with over an inch in them and some were saying that more than two inches had come down in some

areas. Rain bands on Highway 2 slowed traffic to a crawl most of the way into Fort Madison at about 7:30 and heavy water was starting to build up along the curbs of main highways and streets with the typical small branches and shrubbery in the streets. Cirinna said he had not heard of any reports of power outage or damage from the storm, but people needed to be wary of the potential flash flooding into tomorrow.



Photo courtesy of Steve Cirinna's Twitte feed

A heavy rainband moves into the Montrose area at about 7:30 p.m. Monday. Downpours were the worst part of the storm that moved through the city and outskirts as flash-flood alerts were posted to weather radio and cellphone apps at about 8:20 p.m.

County drug cops get Keokuk man

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Keokuk, Iowa man on felony and misdemeanor drug charges.

Brian John Taylor, 47, of 1720 Des Moines Street, Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on July 7th, 2017 at his residence on felony and misdemeanor drug charges. Taylor is charged with two counts of Delivery of Less than Five Grams of Methamphetamine within 1000 Feet of a park, second or subsequent offense, a class C felony with enhancements, Maintaining a Drug House, an aggravated misdemeanor, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Taylor faces up to 92

years and 30 days in a state correctional facility. Taylor was also arrested on a warrant for a parole violation.

The arrest of Taylor stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that he was involved in the use and distribution of illegal narcotics in the Lee County area.

The Lee County Attorney's Office, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, Keokuk Police Department, Lee County Sheriff's Office, Iowa State Penitentiary K9 Unit, and the 8th Judicial District of Probation and Parole assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation. The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

BESIDE THE POINT

We have to believe in Mayor Ireland's vision

Operating a social media driven local news organization has opened my eyes to people who don't believe in the future of downtown Fort Madison.

There is a very specific group of people who live in this community who have given up on Fort Madison being a destination location.



A quick look at what is currently underway along Fort Madison Main Street district should give everyone reason to rethink what's happening.

We started with Jeff Eisentraut and C. VANDENBERG family being instrumental in getting a theater reopened under their management and providing new releases to the Fort Madison residents for the first time in close to a decade. Some nights the parking is scarce because of the attendance at the theaters. Lights, Camera, Action is only hosting three shows this summer because the theater is now open.

The Hesse 7th Street Marketplace has put five new store fronts in the district. There's a new art gallery close to opening. Business owners are getting together to make plans for a streetscape along Avenue G when that street is torn up as part of a separation of the aging storm water and sewer lines per federal regulations. Granted, that work won't even begin until probably 2020 because it's set to be done after the Hwy 61 renovation is done over the next three years.

The Amtrak Depot is still held up in paperwork but that could have the potential to bring people into the downtown area. Some logistical things still need worked out, but former Mayor Steve Ireland had a pretty specific plan in mind when the city started pursuing that plan under his leadership.

As a community, we can't give up on those dreams. It's a disservice to the former mayor and the business owners in that district.

The Main Street group and the businessowners themselves are putting together events to bring people downtown, but people need to go there as well. You should shop locally if and when you can. We clearly have naysayers in this town, but I think the people that believe in this community and its potential far outweigh those that have given up.

I was in Iowa City for a jazz festival last week. It really is a neat event, although jazz is consumed in different ways and sometimes the music fits my tastes and sometimes it does not. But that really is beside the point. Thousands of people flock to the Pedestrian Mall (Ped Mall if you're a local) to sit on the grass, take a nap, and listen to music in front of you, beside you, and behind you. Food vendors line the adjacent streets and

See **OPINION**, page 4

Advertiser Index

Classifieds	Ps.2-3	Pen City Current.....	Ps.2,4
Fort Madison Depot Farmers' Market.....	P.2	StopBullying.gov	P.4
Fort Madison Main Street Big Buckle Bash.....	P.2	Tri-State Rodeo Parade Committee	P.3
Great River Regional Waste Authority	P.3	UnitedWay.org	P.2
Hill Side Inn	P.2	West Liberty Foods.....	P.3
Hope Associates Real Estate	P.2		

News Index

From the front.....	P.4
Lottery Numbers.....	P.4
Opinion.....	P.4
Weather.....	P.4

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1135 Ave. E • Wednesday ~ Saturday 5:00pm

Shawna Ross, Sales & Marketing Consultant.
sross@pencitycurrent.com
319.470.0622

Pen City current

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Email: info@bouldersinnfortmadison.com

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Fort Madison Main Street Presents:

FORT MADISON MAIN STREET'S 7TH ANNUAL **BIG BUCKLE BASH**

AUGUST 26, 2017
4 PM - 12 AM

Main Street's Premier Summer Event kicking off Rodeo season welcomes all ages to join in on the fun!
Adults: \$5 Kids: \$2 • Food Vendors
Beer Tent (must be 21 w/ valid ID)

DOWNTOWN SHOPPING AT IT'S FINEST!

Big Buckle Bash 2017 brought to you by:
Boulders Inn & Suites, Connection Bank
Matt Lafrenz - Country Financial, Hy-Vee, J&S Electronics

Classic Car Cruise-In

Starting at 4pm

The Voice Singing Competition

Starting at 5pm

Country Musician

JAKE DODDS

Starting at 8pm

Classifieds

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tristaterodeo.org



September 9, 2017 at 9:30 AM

Theme: "Kids, Clowns, and Cowboys"

Registration required! Entry Forms due by Saturday, August 26, 2017

Category Desired (circle one below)	Classification (circle one below)
Theme Float (\$100, \$75, \$50 prizes)	Competitive (\$20 fee make checks payable to the Tri-State Rodeo)
Non Theme Float (\$90, \$60, \$40 prizes)	Non Competitive
Decorated Car/Truck (\$80, \$50, \$30 prizes)	
Antique Car/Truck (\$75, \$50 prizes)	
Miscellaneous (\$40 prize)	

Name of Entry _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (____) _____ - _____

Note special conditions (extra-long, extra-high, will have music)

ALL ENTRIES ARE TO BE DECORATED TO BE CROWD PLEASING EXCEPT ANTIQUES AND MILITARY VEHICLES. FOR SAFETY REASONS, CANDY AND FAVORS ARE NOT TO BE THROWN FROM THE ENTRIES, BUT CAN BE PASSED OUT BY THOSE WALKING WITH THE ENTRIES

Note: Lineup information will be sent out 10 days prior to the parade. All entries are to be in place by 8:30 AM parade day. Competitive entries to be in place by 8:00AM.

Special Note: The Tri-State Rodeo is a private organization and reserves the right to refuse any entry on the day of the parade if the entries' message is not consistent with the express content of the organization. If you have any question about the entries' message quality please contact Kirk Sherwood BEFORE the day of the parade.

Please return the entry form to the address below:

Kirk Sherwood
31 Storms Court
Fort Madison, Iowa 52627
319.470.3584

Great River Regional Waste Authority reminds you to use the 3 R's!



REDUCE

REUSE

RECYCLE

FOR A
HAPPIER EARTH!

Here are some helpful tips:

REDUCE

*Reduce the amount of waste produced in society

The best way to manage waste is to not produce it. This can be done by shopping carefully and being aware of a few guidelines.

- Buy durable goods & products in bulk
- Avoid over-packaged & disposable goods
- Use cloth napkins/towels instead of paper napkins/towels
- Make 2-sided copies whenever possible
- Maintain central files for multiple individuals
- Use electronic mail/communications or a central bulletin board

REUSE

* Reuse products for the same purpose or for a different purpose

It makes economic & environmental sense to reuse products. Sometimes it takes a creative mind to do so.

- Sell or Donate old clothes, appliances, toys & furniture
- Use resealable containers rather than plastic wrap
- Reuse grocery bags or bring your own cloth bags to the store

RECYCLE

* Recycle/convert common waste into reusable material

Recycling is a series of steps that takes a used material and processes, re-manufactures and sells it as a new product. Begin recycling at home and work.

- Recycle all acceptable products at our recycling bins, stations & trailers
(see www.grrwa.com for a complete list of locations)
- Check for curbside recycling acceptable items & schedules on your local city websites
- Purchase and use recycled materials for the home & office
- Implement a composting process for your lawn & garden

Household Hazardous Waste

We accept household hazardous waste and electronic waste at the Fort Madison location. Appointments are encouraged to ensure a proper procedures are in place for disposal. Please call 319-372-6140 to schedule your appointment. For a full list of acceptable items please call or visit us online.

Electronic Waste

Please place all electronic waste in their appropriate bins, some electronic items are free to dispose. Please call for fees on TV's, Monitors, Laptops & Tablets.

GRRWA

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111 Carbide Lane • Keokuk, IA

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From the Front/Weather

Naysayers aside, efforts spurring downtown growth

OPINION - Continued from Page 1

the smell of smoked meat and fried funnel cake waft over you.

The streets are blocked off in the Ped Mall and Lee and I went in to Molly's for a cupcake while walking around. I asked the lady if it's bothersome to have the streets closed down and is it hurting business. "We're typically busy, but when there are events like this that shut the street down, it can get a little crazy," she said.

But putting on a jazz festival like that would take some doing, but a block party wouldn't. Standing near a swing while I was finishing my s'more cupcake, I read in the campus newspaper that Iowa City recently put on a block party in which more than 5,000 people attended. Businesses stayed open, there was some alcohol served, music was played, and people were just free to meander and enjoy the event. The paper posted some Facebook

comments on the event and the majority were requesting the city do it twice a year.

Our downtown puts on holiday events and the Big Buckle Bash, this year they had summer street fair among other things. But people need to turn out for these events. The very same people who say the downtown is dead... and you know who you are...need to come down and see that it's not.

There's a new victorian art gallery opening soon. There's another person that just has an art studio she works in. Ian Hauck has an art studio anyone can work in for about \$50 a month. We have an art gallery, a wedding outfitter, one of the most unique bars I've ever seen with and awesome sign that reads. "Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms". There's a dollhouse supplier that also serves old-fashioned ice cream. Sure, you have your service businesses

too, but all downtowns do. There's a steakhouse, a place to buy scrubs and get pet supplies...in the same building. You can buy western clothing, get a hair cut, and find a microwave. We have a diner that has the fourth best maid-rite in the state and a grocery right there in walking distance of all of it. You can get your car fixed while you walk down to get your teeth fixed or your eyes checked. You can get your computer fixed or see an attorney. You can find a place for your student to get help with homework and college prep classes, while learning to make a quiche. There's even a doctor in the house.

Barker Financial of Iowa City has secured building permits for work to finally begin on the upstairs apartment projects which will include renovating the Cattermole Library and the old Lee County Bank building. Some plans are included



there for the Sears building as well. You should see workers any day now.

I also read that another town in Iowa with a "dying downtown" got a boost when a mother of a family that lived on the outskirts of town formed a group of women to invest annually in one building at a time in the downtown area. The story caught on to local, state, and even national media outlets and things are catching on there. Oskaloosa (a town of 11,000) has the Golden Goose Club - another group of 90 women who all pay \$10 annual dues and make a quarterly

\$100 tax-deductible donation and then pick two community projects each year to help fund the revenues.

This isn't to say any of this could or should happen here, but it's that innovative spirit that keeps things from dying. People need to have ideas.

How about a Community Basket for Fort Madison? Burlington does very well with their event. Service organizations could sell the tickets as could PAW or the local scouts or the band, athletic boosters, whom ever, and we could hold the drawing at Riverfest to help bring even more

people to that event each year. I'm just spitballing... there's no detention here. Charles and Jenny Craft and that group of people are pumping energy into that program every year - right along that beautiful riverfront that can be seen right from downtown.

We need to have our eyes fixated on the future, not the past. We can have that future, we just need to believe in our own future and, as Robin Delaney so aptly put in her column in the Democrat, the "Never Say Yes to Anything Crowd" to the side and keep thinking of Mayor Ireland's vision.



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Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Hot Lotto®	Wed & Sat	8:18 pm	9:40 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



7/10
9 23 32 33 42
Lucky Ball: 16



7/10 MID-DAY
5 7 6
7/10 EVENING
0 9 0



7/10 MID-DAY
2 9 7 9
7/10 EVENING
6 4 3 4

The Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

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Pen City Current
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Fort Madison, IA

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

- TUE 11 Jul**
Light Rain
Low - 81.8° F | High - 86.1° F
- WED 12 Jul**
Light Rain
Low - 83.1° F | High - 85.8° F
- THU 13 Jul**
Moderate Rain
Low - 77.4° F | High - 88.3° F
- FRI 14 Jul**
Light Rain
Low - 79.9° F | High - 89.9° F
- SAT 15 Jul**
Light Rain
Low - 68.9° F | High - 91.2° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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