



Pen City Current

Friday, December 15, 2017 | 8 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 4

The Buffalo will roam to FM

Gibb purchases west end's Chandler's to bring iconic Burlington eatery to Fort Madison

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR



GIBB

FORT MADISON - This spring, the Fort Madison area will be home to one of Burlington's most iconic eateries. Chase Gibb, the owner of The Buffalo Tavern on Burlington's south side, announced today that he has purchased Chandler's Bar and Grill on the west end of Fort Madison and has plans



to open under the new name The Buffalo Bar and Grille by St. Patrick's Day. He said he had heard the location might be for sale about four months ago and about 10 days ago a group of people with the ownership group showed up at The Buffalo in Burlington for lunch and a conversation took place that resulted in Gibb agreeing to the location.

"The timing is right with the ownership group and a couple of them expressed interest in talking to me about it, and actually, they just showed up for lunch and we had a good conversation," Gibb said Thursday afternoon.

Gibb said he's purchasing the property outright and won't be leasing or renting.

"We plan to take over on March 1, but I want to point out that Chandler's will still be open and serving customers until that transition date," Gibb said.

He said he has a proven record of success in Burlington with the menu and environment he provides and will bring that same menu to the Fort Madison location.

"We have a menu that's proven successful here in Burlington and we're going to bring that to Fort Madison. We've won awards for our tenderloin locally and our tenderloin was named a Top 5 tenderloin in the state by the Iowa Pork Producers. We've got steaks, prime

See **RESTAURANT**, page 3

New P3 system alerts school to issue

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The new anonymous reporting line that was instituted at the Fort Madison High School and Fort Madison Middle School was used on Wednesday by a student who had overheard a potential threat against other students.

Fort Madison High School Assistant Principal, Pat Lamb, who was instrumental in bringing the new system to the Fort Madison schools issued the following statement via the district's alert system on Thursday. The statement says a threat risk is low and as a precaution the school will be on lockdown on Friday. Law enforcement in the area was notified of the situation and will be present at all school events on Thursday and Friday.

The new anonymous reporting system known as P3 went live on Nov. 20 for both schools.

The statement issued at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday is listed below in its entirety.

"Yesterday, a tip was submitted through our

See **REPORTING**, page 3

Freitag's new car, dog wash taking shape

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The past three months have seen the corner of Avenue L and 37th Street go through transitions of demolition to construction, but Turbo Wash owner Eric Freitag said he hopes to have his new car wash and dog wash open by the beginning of February.

Freitag said rebuilding the car wash was a reinvestment in the city

with a price tag of a half a million. He said it's important that businesses do what they can to help Fort Madison grow.

The new facility will have a large solar presence on the south roof, as Freitag worked with Mike Mohrfeld of Mohrfeld Electric on adding the panels.

"Fort Madison has been so good to me and it was time to reinvest," he said, "We're trying to keep Fort Madison moving. I talked with Mike Mohrfeld and we want to



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Turbo Wash owner Eric Freitag of Fort Madison stands in front of the new 7 bay car/dog wash at the corner of Business 61 and Avenue L. The new facility should be open by February.

continue to invest in Fort Madison. We have kids growing up here and we want to help keep that growth going for them."

The new wash will have

six bays, including four self-serve bays, one automatic lane and a detail bay on the east side of the wash. The west side will feature a unique offering

for Fort Madison residents - a dog wash.

Freitag said he'd heard of other car washes in

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Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

JAMES PERRY BRUNER JR.

James Perry "Buck" Bruner, Jr., 88, of Denmark, IA died Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at his home.



BRUNER JR.

He was born September 27, 1929 in Kahoka, MO the son of James Perry and Nettie Hillis Salyers Bruner.

Buck was a veteran of the United States Army and Air Force and proudly served his country during the Korean War.

Following his discharge from the service he was married to Norma Louise Gaylord and they later divorced. Buck had been employed as an over the road truck driver and drove from coast to coast. He was a VFW Lifetime member.

Buck enjoyed riding his motorcycle and driving his semi across the country.

He is survived by three sons, James "Edward" Bruner (Pam Bowman) of Ft. Madison, IA, Mike (Kelly) Bruner of Denmark, IA and Charles (Jenny) Bruner of Keokuk, IA, two daughters, Debbie Bruner of Ft. Madison, IA and Pam (Greg) King of Denmark, IA, many grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, three sisters Marilyn (Harlan) Roberts of Kahoka, MO, Susie (Carl) Wilsey of Wayland, MO, and Bonnie Howell of Montana, and one brother, Bill (Linda) Bruner of Iowa.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one daughter at birth, Tina Louise Bruner, and two sisters, Nancy Colleen Bruner at birth and Dixie Toops.

A graveside service with military rites will be held at 1 p.m., Monday, at the Kahoka Cemetery in Kahoka, MO with Pastor Roger Welty officiating.

On-line condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.



For the Record

Fort Madison Police report

12/13/17 - 11:02 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2900 block of Avenue H.
12/13/17 - 3:04 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1700 block of Avenue E.
12/13/17 - 5:02 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident at the intersection of Hwy. 2 and Hwy. 61.

12/14/17 - 2:25 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2500 block of Avenue I.

Lee County Sheriff's report

12/13/17 - 11:00 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested John Thomas Curry, III, 45 of Burlington, at the Des Moines County Jail on a warrant for violation of probation. He was held in custody, 12/13/17 - 2:44 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Sarina Elizabeth Davis, 32, of Hamilton, Ill., in the 2000 block of 255th Street in Montrose, on a warrant for escape from custody and a judgment entry. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 12/13/17 - 5:06 p.m. - Lee

County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident at the intersection of Hwy 2 and Hwy. 61. Robert J. Lewis, 69, of Aledo, Ill., lost control of his vehicle after reaching for cooler in the pickup and when he picked the cooler up it hit the gear shift and put the gear into reverse, causing the vehicle to lock up and slide before rolling two times into the ditch. No injuries were or citations were reported at the scene. The vehicle sustained heavy damage. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

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Charles Vandenberg, Editor
(319).371.1670
editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager
(319).371.4125
sales@pencitycurrent.com

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Pen City Current

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P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Nissa Rung, Advertising
(319).520.8953
n.rung@pencitycurrent.com

Shawna Ross, Advertising
(319).470.0622
ross@pencitycurrent.com

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From the Front/Lottery Numbers

Chandler's will be open until transition to Buffalo Bar and Grille

RESTAURANT - Continued from Page 1

rib, boneless wings, and tacos that we're bringing to Fort Madison. We'll probably do the tacos on Monday like we do up here."

Gibb's operations were also singled out with a Distinction Award from the Greater Burlington Partnership in 2015.

Gibb said he thinks the two entities can be similar in offerings and programming because of their proximity to each other, but he does have some upgrades in mind.

"I've been pricing some big screens because we'll need some TVs in there and we'll probably redo a lot of the upholstery and some updates like that," Gibb said. "We may have to close down for a week to get some of that stuff done and get the signs changed, but I'm going to work with a pretty hefty budget there."

He said he would need to change the awning out front and is going to check with city code once the operation is up and running, to see about possibly getting outdoor seating somewhere on the property, possibly the south side.

Lunch delivery and catering are also on the agenda for Gibb. He said the location is a prime spot as Fort Madison continues to develop, and with the bypass access close by as are many of the city's industrial partners and the hospital.

The tavern in Burlington is a very popular hang out for happy hour and Gibb said he plans on holding the same happy hour offerings in Fort Madison.

He also said he's met with the current staff at Chandler's and will be keeping the staff in place and will probably, at some point, be adding staff after the re-opening.

The restaurant will have the same sports bar environment but he said families are welcome. Gibb said he plans on the restaurant being open til midnight during the week and 1 a.m. on the weekend with food available during all hours.

More information on the operations of the Buffalo can be found on the company's Facebook page or on its website.



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Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



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12/14 EVENING
0 5 3



12/14 MID-DAY
3 1 4 5
12/14 EVENING
7 3 2 4

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

Tip line helps guide officials to students of interest in threat

REPORTING - Continued from Page 1

anonymous tip reporting line by a high school student who overheard what they believed to be a threat against the school. In conjunction with the Superintendent of Schools and the School Resource Officer, an exhaustive investigation was undergone to determine both the individual who may have made these remarks, and the credibility of the threat itself. The list of potential individuals was narrowed very specifically based on the tipster's description to a few students, who were interviewed at length and determined to be of no threat to students or staff at FMHS. After concluding that investigation and determining that there was a significantly low probability for an individual to be a danger to students and staff, several additional tips were submitted through the anonymous tip line which were of a similar nature to the initial tip. The district users of the anonymous tip line have been in two-way dialog with these tipsters throughout the school day and it is believed by members of the district threat assessment team that the tips all correlate to the original tip, and the investigation which occurred because of that tip. It has been determined that there is no actual credible threat at this time. All local law enforcement agencies have been apprised of the tips, and the district's threat assessment team is collaborating with those agencies to provide the highest level of safety and security that can be achieved.

Fort Madison High School will be in regular session tomorrow, Friday, December 15th. As a precaution, however, the Fort Madison High School campus will be on a perimeter lockdown for the duration of the school day tomorrow. This security practice means all doors will be locked and will be physically monitored at all times. Students will only be allowed to enter and leave from the front entrance. Any student who will need to leave during the school day for appointments or other reasons, who would otherwise be expected to be in the building at that time, will be required to be signed out by a parent or guardian. As our daily protocol indicates, all persons not identifiable by staff will be immediately reported to the office. We have collaborated with law enforcement and the district's School Resource Officer will be on-site. As an additional precaution, law enforcement will also be present at all FMHS evening events. Thank you, and have a restful evening.

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Sports

Hound grapplers lose on final match to MP



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Steffensmeiers help FMHS come back from 3-30 deficit to set 160lb tiebreaker

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Bloodhound wrestlers fell victim to a pin in the final match Thursday night in a 33-39 loss to Mt. Pleasant.

Harlan Steffensmeier got a pin over Mt. Pleasant's Abe Wilson just before the end of the 1st period to tie the match at 33, setting the stage for a 160 lb-match between the Hound's Austin Haas and Mt. Pleasant's Jaden Davis.

Haas and Davis battled for position through most of the first period with Davis holding a 4-1 lead, but a buzzer saved Haas from a first-round pin. The two went back to work in the second period and about a minute into the round Haas took an aggressive move that Davis was able to counter and got Haas on his back for a pin at 3:12 and the win for Mt. Pleasant.

The match was originally set to be a triangular beginning at 6 p.m. and was to include West Hancock of Warsaw, but they only had three wrestlers so the match became a dual meet with a 6:30 p.m. start.

The two teams kicked off at 170 pounds and the Panthers won the first four out of five matches with Sam Hayes getting the only win for the Hounds over the Panther's Zach Beason at 190lbs with a 6-4 decision.

"Hayes had a good win there. That's a top 10 opponent, so that was good," said head coach Ryan Smith.

Freshman Chance Hocker, junior Lennon Barker, sophomore Danen Settles and junior Gunther Johnson all suffered losses in the first five.

Settles was able to toss Mt. Pleasant's Dalton Bass in the early going and had him positioned for a pin momentarily, but Bass kept rolling on the move and reversed it into a pin over Settles in the 220 lb match.

"We had the guy on his back, but Danen just has to get his hips lower. He got a little high and the kid rolled him through."

Smith said the Panther's would have probably been favored on paper to win. He said starting with the heavier weights was a good strategy for them to get momentum, with last year's state qualifiers Ryan and Harlan Steffensmeier waiting on the other side of the mat.

"We're pretty green there and had some freshman in their first year of wrestling. We gave 'em a run, but we just need to stay off our backs. That's a killer," Smith said.

Elton Kruse dropped a 9-2 decision and Mason Schau was pinned to set the Hounds back 3-30. Junior Dayne Cordray made quick work of the Panther's Connor Coleman with pin at :28. and Ryan Steffensmeier followed up at 132 with a :32 pin over Tyler Raub. Will Larson stepped in to take the quickest pin in 24 seconds over Dalton Moyle to bring the Hounds within nine at 21-30. Nathan Steffensmeier lost in a 5-2 decision to Avante Henley to make it a 12 point match, 21-33

Aaron Steffensmeier then stepped on at 145 and battled with the Panther's Nate Wallace to an even 0-0 draw after the first 2-minute period. Steffensmeier worked Wallace around the Hounds side of the mat and was able to roll him over for a pin at

See **WRESTLING** page 5



Above, Bloodhound wrestler Sam Hayes takes to the offensive against Mt. Pleasant's Zach Beason on Thursday night in the Hounds' 33-39 loss at home. At left, junior Gunther Johnson lifts Henry Lukovsky into the air during the duo's heavyweight match. Johnson lost in a 3-2 decision.

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Sports/Current-Lee

Fort Madison Invite to bring 19 teams in Saturday

WRESTLING - Continued from Page 4

2:48 to close the gap to six with Harlan Steffensmeier up next at 152.

Steffensmeier had Wilson in cradle in the first minute of the match, but somehow Wilson was able to get out of the hold, which is a rare occurrence for Steffensmeier.

"That doesn't happen often. I can probably count it on one hand," Smith said.

The Hounds host the 56th annual Fort Madison invite on Saturday with wrestling starting at 10 a.m. at the Hound-Dome. Nineteen teams from Iowa, Illinois and Missouri will head to Fort Madison for a full day of wrestling.

Mount Pleasant (MOPL) 39.00 Fort Madison (FOMA) 33.00

170: James DeMeyer (MOPL) over Chance Hocker (FOMA) (Fall 1:03) 182: Brennen Bender (MOPL) over Lennon Barker (FOMA) (Fall 1:38) 195: Sam Hayes (FOMA) over Zach Beason (MOPL) (Dec 6-4) 220: Dalton Bass (MOPL) over Danen Settles (FOMA) (Fall 1:04) 285: Henry Lutovsky (MOPL) over Gunther Johnson (FOMA) (Dec 3-2) 106: Corbin Broeker (MOPL) over Elton Kruse (FOMA) (Dec 9-2) 113: Brayden Ackles (MOPL) over Mason Schau (FOMA) (Fall 1:42) 120: Dayne Cordray (FOMA) over Conner Coleman (MOPL) (Fall 0:28) 126: Ryan Steffensmeier (FOMA) over Tyler Raub (MOPL) (Fall 0:32) 132: Will Larson (FOMA) over Dalton Moyle (MOPL) (Fall 0:24) 138: Avante Henley (MOPL) over Nathan Steffensmeier (FOMA) (Dec 5-2) 145: Aaron Steffensmeier (FOMA) over Nate Wallace (MOPL) (Fall 2:42) 152: Harlan Steffensmeier (FOMA) over Abe Wilson (MOPL) (Fall 1:48) 160: Jaden Davis (MOPL) over Austin Haas (FOMA) (Fall 3:07)



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Hounds' Will Larson positions Mt. Pleasant's Dalton Moyle for a quick pin at :22 for Fort Madison during Thursday's 39-33 loss to the Panthers.

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LOADING FRESH CONTENT...

From the Front/Weather

Police to boost patrols during holiday driving

Grants help put officers on the streets to keep motorists safer

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - During this holiday season many people will take to the roads to visit family and friends and enjoy holiday festivities.

The Fort Madison Police Department would like to remind all motorists to drive safely and defensively throughout the season. During this time of year there are more motorists on the road

than usual and the weather can change in minutes.

The Fort Madison Police Department along with law enforcement throughout the State of Iowa in conjunction with the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau will be out in force throughout the holidays enforcing all of Iowa's traffic laws with an emphasis on OWI's, speeding, seatbelt violations, and texting while driving.

The Fort Madison Police Department wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season and to drive safely.



SITTIG

New \$500K facility should be ready by February

FREITAG - Continued from Page 1

the region adding the bays as an additional service. He ran across the idea again at a convention and decided it was a good time to bring it to Fort Madison.

"You go to these conventions and you see all those ideas that kind of work hand-and-hand with car washes and so many people have dogs," he said. "I thought, 'Well, this is a prime time to add it.'"

The dog bay will be complete with a tub and shower hoses with selections for the wash, very similar to the car wash. Customers would buy time on the system and wash the animal and would even be able to blow dry their pet.

"I think what started it was that certain car washes had too many bays," Freitag said, "This gives them options to turn a self serve bay into another option. I think that's how it started out. I think they realized it's more of a service that you want to do all year around. We'll close it, heat it, cool it and make it a year-round service. Some owners are putting ice machines on the property because that creates extra revenue."

Right now the framing and cement walls are up including the wall coverings. Equipment is starting to come in and Freitag said he hopes the warmer weather predicted for next week allows for some work to be done.

Freitag has owned the facility for 10 years and said it was originally built in the 50s and couldn't keep up with today's demand.

"I've had it going on 10 years now. The automatic was really starting to show age and the facility was showing age. The automatic was small and hard for customers to navigate and didn't accept credit cards. It wasn't user friendly and it was old. It was built in the 50s so it was time to update."

Even the floors in the new facility will be kept warm with tubing running through them filled with antifreeze that runs through an exchange.

"Its going to be very economical, the concrete forms have an insulation factor so it won't take anything to heat it. It will be a very energy efficient system," he said.

And the solar panels on the southern pitch of the roof should just about pay for the energy needed to run the building.

The new bays will also accept wireless forms of payment in debit and credit cards as well as cash and tokens.

He said he plans on doing a grand opening in the spring when the weather is nicer.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

FRI 15 Dec
 Light snow
 High - 34.5° F | Low - 20.9° F

SAT 16 Dec
 Clear Skies
 High - 38.8° F | Low - 32.8° F

SUN 17 Dec
 Light Rain
 High - 43.4° F | Low - 18.7° F

MON 17 Dec
 Clear Skies
 High - 40.6° F | Low - 37.4° F

TUE 18 Dec
 Clear Skies
 High - 46.3° F | Low - 33.5° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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