



# Pen City Current

Friday, July 20, 2018 | 8 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 170

## FMCH showing hiring, retention success

*Officials credit new recruiting programs, community with more success in hiring*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - With competition for medical professionals feverish among health care facilities across the country, Fort Madison Community Hospital is seeing unprecedented success in recruiting in the past year.

Parallel to recent industrial expansions of Fort Madison's industries in the likes of Siemens Gamesa, Scotts Miracle-Gro, Gregory Manufacturing, and Huffman Welding and Machine, Inc., FMCH is also growing inside the brick and mortar. The hospital has added 16 physicians and nurse practitioners in a 17-month period that spans from August 2017 to commitments made through November of this year.

Matt Mullins, vice president of physician services at FMCH, said the hospital began an aggressive recruiting campaign after results of surveys came back showing people in and around FMCH's service area were concerned about the time it took to get in to see their

doctor or to find a family physician.

"Every year we sit down and do a strategic plan and part of that plan discusses what the needs of the community are, as well as the needs of the patients we serve," Mullins said.

"Something consistently we hear is - 'We call in and we can't get an appointment. All I want to do is see my doctor. I don't want to go the walk-in clinic, I want to get an appointment with my doctor.'"

Mullins said the hospital administration looks at those results and every year they have a plan to have a

See HOSPITAL, page 6



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison firefighters assess an oil spill Thursday afternoon at High Life Auto in the 500 block of 2nd Street. A large used oil container fell off a flatbed truck (background) rupturing and spilling oil into the parking lot and down in the grass easement.

## Truck dumps oil at east side tire shop

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - A tub holding approximately 200 gallons of used oil, fell from a flatbed truck at High Life Auto in the 500 block of Second Street Thursday afternoon.

Fire Chief Joey Herren said the tub fell off the truck at about 1 p.m. spilling the oil into the parking lot and grassy area to the east and started making its way toward a city drain.

"We were able to get city crews down here and

they were able to vacuum a lot of it up," Herren said at the scene. "They were just down the street working on something else, so I called Larry (Driscoll, city public works director) and they brought some sand and sandbags down and we were able to block the oil from getting into the city drainage system"

Herren said city firefighters were able to throw down some absorbing pads used in hazardous material spills to help take up some of the oil until city crews could get on the scene. Firefighters were on the scene until about 3 p.m.

## Governor's rural initiative draws local interest

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A new initiative to create a task force to look at rural issues in Iowa has drawn some local attention.

Governor Kim Reynolds signed an executive order on Wednesday to create the Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative, with Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg and Sandy Ehrig of the Iowa Rural Development Council chairing the initiative.

According to a press release issued Wednesday, the initiative establishes a partnership with the Iowa Rural Development Council to identify needed legislative, regulatory, and policy changes. Recommendations will be provided by an executive committee and three task forces: the Investing in Rural Iowa Task Force; the Growing Rural Iowa Task Force; and the Connecting Rural Iowa Task Force.

Fort Madison Partners Director Tim Gobble said he has expressed interest in serving on a task force to help bring rural economic issues to the initiative, and hopefully to legislators in 2019.

The governor is asking for any interested parties to apply by August 1, with task force meetings set for the fall. Recommendations from the task forces will be in front of legislators for the 2019 session.

See RURAL, page 5



GOBBLE

### Advertiser Index

Classifieds .....Ps.6-7	Pilot Grove Savings Bank..... P.8
Great River Regional Waste Authority ..... P.3	Professional Services ..... P.6
Griffin Muffler & Brake Center ..... P.5	RiverFest Fort Madison ..... P.4
Hope Associates Real Estate ..... P.7	Siemens Gamesa ..... P.7
KLM Realty ..... P.7	Trailways Travel..... P.2
Lee County Health Department..... P.5	<a href="http://UnitedWay.org">UnitedWay.org</a> ..... P.7

### News Index

From the front.....Ps.5-6
Local News ..... P.3
Lottery Numbers ..... P.3
Obituaries .....Ps.2-3
-Josias Neri Cruz
-Sandra Louise O'Shea
-Kathern "Kay" Smith
Weather ..... P.3

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# Obituaries/Lottery Numbers

## OBITUARIES

### SANDRA LOUISE O'SHEA

Sandra Louise O'Shea, 70 of Keokuk, IA died Friday, July 13, 2018 at her home. She was born September 1, 1947 in Keokuk, IA the daughter of Jap and Ida Stamp-er Huston. On September 13, 1985 she was united in marriage to Andrew O'Shea in Ft. Madison, IA. He preceded her in death on January 27, 2005.



O'SHEA

Sandra was a lifelong resident of Keokuk and had been employed by Todd Uniforms Company in Keokuk.

Sandra was of the Catholic faith.

She is survived by her mother, Ida Huston of Keokuk, three children, Nicholas O'Shea and Patrick O'Shea both of Keokuk and Kelly Duncan of St. Louis, MO, five grandchildren, Breanne, Keith and Stephanie Boyle and Joe and Shea Duncan, one brother, Brad Huston of Keokuk and many nieces and nephews.

Besides her husband, Sandra was also preceded in death by her father, one daughter, Gina Boyle and one grandson, Michael Boyle.

A Gathering of Remembrance will be held from 3-8 p.m., Friday at the Labor Temple in Keokuk.

Burial was in the Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk. Memorials may be made to the family. Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.vigenmemorial-home.com](http://www.vigenmemorial-home.com)

#### Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

## UPCOMING TOURS



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### JULY

7/25	Cubs vs. Diamondbacks at Wrigley	\$155 pp
7/27-29	Wonders of Wildlife	\$360 pp double
7/28	Cardinals vs. Cubs at Busch Stadium	\$140 pp

### AUGUST

8/1	Mamma Mia! at Circa '21	\$98 pp
8/2	Chicago Museums	\$99 pp
8/4	Cubs vs. Padres at Wrigley	\$155 pp
8/7	Strolling Down Broadway	\$102 pp
8/11	Cubs vs. Nationals at Wrigley	\$155 pp
8/13-16	Quilter's Escape to Paducah, KY	\$495 pp double
8/14	Iowa State Fair	\$65 pp
8/15	Cubs vs. Brewers at Wrigley	\$128 pp
8/21	The Henry Ford & Rouge Factory Tour	\$450 pp double
8/29	Cubs vs. Mets at Wrigley	\$110 pp

### SEPTEMBER

9/12	A Comedy of Tenors at Old Creamery	\$98 pp
9/12-15	Legends of Louisville, KY	\$550 pp double
9/15	Cubs vs. Reds at Wrigley	\$145 pp
9/21-30	The Gold of Colorado Trains	\$2790 pp double
9/26	Mama Won't Fly at Circa '21	\$98 pp
9/27	Dinner on the Boone Scenic Valley RR	\$120 pp
9/28	Cubs vs. Cardinals at Wrigley	\$145 pp
9/29	Cubs vs. Cardinals at Wrigley	\$155 pp



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3211 Division St. Burlington, IA

## OBITUARIES

### KATHERN "KAY" SMITH

Kathern "Kay" Smith, 77 of Keokuk, IA died Wednesday, July 18, 2018 at her home.

She was born September 28, 1940 in Malvern, IA the daughter of Kenneth and Ruby Sullivan Adair. On October 4, 1958 she was united in marriage to Doyle Smith. He preceded her in death on May 26, 2010.



SMITH

Kay loved crocheting and created beautiful blankets, table cloths and even crocheted a wedding cake. She enjoyed spending time outdoors in her vegetable garden, watching birds and gathering wild flowers. She liked watching her favorite westerns. Kay was also an avid Elvis fan and collected Elvis memorabilia.

She is survived by two sons, Michael Smith (Sue) of Montrose, IA and Brad Smith of Keokuk, one daughter, Teresa Steele of Keokuk, one granddaughter, Katie Smith (Jordin Snowden) of Montrose, IA, three grandsons, Dyvon Smith, Jonathan Steele and Edward Smith all of Keokuk, six great-grandchildren, Aiden, Brody and Jace Lucas, all of Warsaw, IL, Leah and Remi Snowden both of Montrose and Avery Retting of Canton, MO, three sisters, LaVonne Palmer of Ocala, FL, Anna Cross of Burlington, IA and Phyllis Haugen (Tom) of WI and two brothers, Keith Adair (Martha) of Omaha, NE and Les Adair (Denise) of Lakeland, FL.

Besides her husband, Kay was also preceded in death by her parents, three brothers, Bobby, Kenny and Jerry Adair and two sisters, Linda Mace and Jean Jones.

There will be no services according to Kay's wishes.

Vigen Memorial Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).



## IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

### Lotto Drawings

Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life®	Mon & Thu	8:30 pm	9:38 pm
Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America™	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 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



7/18  
1 10 27 28 36  
Powerball: 12  
Power Play: 2



7/18  
1 5 8 11 32  
Star Ball: 6  
All Star Bonus: 2



7/18 MID-DAY  
0 5 0  
7/18 EVENING  
6 0 4



7/18 MID-DAY  
8 9 9 5  
7/18 EVENING  
0 1 8 5

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

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Founded in 2016



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## Obituaries/Area News

### OBITUARIES

# JOSIAS NERI CRUZ

Josias Neri Cruz, 97, affectionately known as "Joe" and "Papa" died Wednesday, July 18, 2018 at home.

He was born on May 26, 1921 in Baymon, Puerto Rico the son of Vicente and Maria Rodriguez Cruz.



CRUZ

On August 28, 1949 he was united in marriage to Marilyn Dunagan in Kahoka, MO. She preceded him in death on March 19, 2012. He was a veteran of the United States Army and proudly served his country as a combat medic during World War II.



Joe graduated from Robert Morris College with a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering and Philosophy.

He had worked for Sheller Globe in Keokuk as a Research and Development Engineer for 33 years before his retirement in 1983.

Joe was an extremely talented carver, carving statues out of stone, wood and metal, specializing in religious and Native American art. He enjoyed golfing, reading philosophical books, writing poetry, and socializing with people. He loved being with his family and friends. Joe thoroughly enjoyed watching and listening to Cardinal baseball games with his wife. They never missed a game.

He was a member of the Deer Run Golf Club in Hamilton, IL.

Joe is survived by two sons: Michael (Elizabeth) Cruz of Orlando, FL, and Randy (Jane) Cruz of Waukesha, WI, five grandchildren: Deanna (Dr. Jason) James of Keokuk, Josh (Rachel) Cruz of San Antonio, TX, Erin Cruz of Keokuk, Bradley Cruz of Waukesha, WI, and Megan Garcia of Houston, TX., great-grandchildren: Ben James, Caleb James, Will James, Mia James, Alexandra Cruz, Josh Cruz, Jr., Grace Cruz, Cain Cruz, and Bella Cruz, a great-great granddaughter: Guinevere Cruz and several nieces and nephews in Puerto Rico.

Besides his wife he was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers and three sisters.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Monday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with Pastor Mike Shea officiating. Burial with military rites will be held at the Keokuk National Cemetery.

Visitation will be held from 2-4 p.m., on Sunday, at the funeral home with the family meeting with friends at that time. Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. Online condolences can be made to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

# Clark County takes custody of man charged with rape

BY PCC STAFF

KAHOKA, Mo. - Charges have been added in the arrest of 33-year old Missouri man arrested on rape and sodomy charges Tuesday evening.

Adam Christopher Tucker is now in custody in the Clark County Detention Center on a \$100,000 cash only bond. Clark County officials are listing Tucker's address as a Wyaconda, Missouri address, but said he was floating around living in several places.

Listed on the arrest warrant for Tucker were five felonies under Missouri law. Included in those are rape or attempted rape 1st degree-aggravated sexual offense an unclassified felony; sodomy or attempted sodomy 1st degree-aggravated sexual offense an unclassified felony; armed criminal action - an unclassified felony, unlawful use of weapon - a class E felony; and tampering with a motor vehicle - class D felony.

Tucker was arrested without incident during

a traffic stop at approximately 10 p.m. in Hamilton. He was transported

to the Hancock County Detention Center and later waived extradition.

## 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

FRI 20 July



Light Rain  
High - 79.0° F | Low - 66.2° F

SAT 21 July



Clear Skies  
High - 78.5° F | Low - 72.6° F

SUN 22 July



Light Rain  
High - 75.2° F | Low - 64.7° F

MON 23 July



Light Rain  
High - 81.2° F | Low - 66.5° F

TUE 24 July

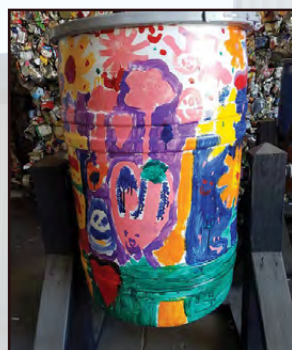


Light Rain  
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[OpenWeatherMap](http://OpenWeatherMap)

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THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



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 8:30pm



**FIREHOUSE**  
 9:30pm



**POP+EVIL**  
 9:00pm



**COLT FORD**  
 8:30pm

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



**THE MEMPHIS WIVES**  
 6:30pm

**JIVE Radio**  
 10:00pm

**FRIDAY**



**CHAZ AND THE CHANNEL CATZ**  
 6:30pm



**DECADE OF DECADENCE**  
 10:00pm

**SATURDAY**



**H1 HEADFIRST**  
 6:30pm



**KRUSH**  
 10:00pm


**SUNDAY**



**StumpTown**  
 6:30pm



**THE NATU BAND**  
 10:00pm



**BRANDON GIBBS**  
 7:30pm



**HINDER**  
 6:00pm



**RADI ROMANCE**  
 7:00pm

**RiverFest Games:**

- WSOBP Beer Pong Tournament
- Sand Volleyball
- KanJam
- Bags Tournament
- Pickleball



**RiverFest Events:**

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- DRAGON BOATS
- Sunday Charity Breakfast
- Harmony Sunday Church Services
- RiverFest Canoe/Kayak Float Trip



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**From the Front**

# Initiative to turn a focus to rural Iowa

**RURAL** - Continued from Page 1

Gobble said he wanted to bring tax incentives for payrolls at smaller industries and businesses to the discussion table.

“The main thing for me is that we are a rural area and, if this initiative is to help rural communities better themselves, I would hope to be a part of that discussion,” Gobble said.

“We have issues here with housing and we seem to be fighting homes that fall into disrepair and the city’s need to have more options in dealing with those homes so we can make it easier to act on some of these things. Some of these homes and buildings are absent ownership and in total neglect.”



STEIL

Joe Steil, chief executive officer with the Lee County Economic Development Group, encouraged other rural Iowans to consider serving on the task force.

“Gov. Reynolds’ creation of the ‘Empower Rural Iowa Initiative’ is a further step by this administration to bring focus and results-oriented activities to encourage much needed opportunity now, and sustainable into the future, for Rural Iowa,” he said. “I encourage interested rural Iowans to step up and be a catalyst, authoring transformational leadership results for the future(s) of rural Iowa and Iowans by volunteering your expertise and time serving on a task force of your choice.”

According to the release, the Investing in Rural Iowa Task Force will focus its recommendations on improving access to quality housing in rural Iowa. The Growing Rural Iowa Task Force will focus on identifying ways to encourage leadership development and strategic development in rural communities. The Connecting Rural Iowa Task Force will look into effectively and sustainably financing connectivity.

Gobble said another piece of the puzzle should be looking at leveling the playing field for smaller businesses and industries that don’t meet the wage thresholds for some of the large state payroll tax incentives.

“I’d like to talk about how we can break down the system for smaller employers so you don’t have to meet that higher wage level. Some of these businesses can’t afford that higher wage but are doing so much for these communities and the state isn’t helping compensate those efforts.”

Reynolds said the spirit of Iowa remains in its small towns.

“I’m a product of rural Iowa, and I’m driven to create opportunity throughout this state,” Gov. Reynolds said. “I believe the heart, soul, and spirit of Iowa will always remain in our small towns and rural communities. That’s why I’m creating the Governor’s Empower Rural Iowa Initiative. I want concrete solutions for the unique challenges of rural Iowa in order to maintain its vibrancy and ensure there is opportunity everywhere.”

Gregg said the initiative is just the beginning of work to be done.

“This is just the starting point for initial recommendations,” Lt. Gov. Gregg said. “The work of the Governor’s Empower Rural Iowa Initiative will be ongoing, and the task forces will work on other issues within their scope in the years to come.”

Iowans interested in being a part of a task force should [click here](#) to apply by August 1. Gov. Reynolds is looking for diverse members who share an interest in empowering rural Iowa for generations to come.



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## Recruitment efforts ramped up years ago

**HOSPITAL** - Continued from Page 1

specific number of physicians hired.

"Each year it's way more than we thought possible, but this year it's become possible."

Angie Budnik, Community Relations Director for the hospital, says recruitment has become more integrated with the staff at the hospital rather than just a few administrators. Physician interviews now include more interaction with peer physicians, administrators, and the community and the results of that effort are encouraging.

"We tend to be able to get physicians here for interviews, it's just a matter of then showcasing the town and showcasing the facility. Even internally, people have stepped up. Our other providers have done a great job in the recruitment process. Obviously, that first contact they have with Matt or the front desk when they walk in is a huge difference," Budnik said.

She also said a solid relationship with Des Moines University Medical School is helping attract younger doctors the hospital. Medical students in their third year of medical school are working rotations at FMCH. While here, the students are exposed to what the facility and community have to offer and that is helping the hospital in getting commitments.

"Dr. Amy Huber signed with us when she was in her third year of medical school because she did her third year rotation with us," Budnik said. "We can use that as a jumping off point with other recruits who see a young doctor coming in and want to be a part of that growth."

Mullins said the improvement and growth that is being seen in Fort Madison now is also a part of the recent success.

"I think the why of it is that people, and not just here in the hospital, but in the community as well, are having an impact," Mullins said. "It's from when they check into their hotel to when they stop at Burger King or the gas station - to walking along the riverfront and they're seeing it's clean. For the longest time, the Iowan looked awful and people would ask what was going on... and now you can see their actively cleaning it up."

"The ability to say not only do we have a new hotel, but it doubled, the city added a sports complex, built a new school, added another grocery store - those are things that happen in a town that's growing."

Mullins said it's not an issue of the hospital, to put it bluntly, being cheap.

"There are 100 hospitals just like this in Iowa. This is not just the people, but how we get along," he said. "The physicians can literally go wherever they want and if they go somewhere and experience the collegiality from all levels, that's what they want. Some of the consistent feedback we hear is that they not only see the relationships between the staff and administration, but they feel it. I can tell them, or Jeremy (Alexander, FMCH CEO) can tell them, but when they hear it from their peers - that helps."

Physician salaries are set by market value in four different quadrants of the country and Mullins said the market value for FMCH physicians is the same as those in Keokuk, Des Moines, St. Louis, or Chicago.

"It's important for the public to know that, legally, we can't pay more than market value for physicians," he said. "If people say, 'If FMCH would just quit being so cheap and just pay their physicians a good wage they could keep them. Legally we can't pay them more than market value. So then it comes down to setting yourself apart from the others.'"

The recent hiring success since August includes: Bobbi Marshall, Nurse practitioner Walk-in Clinic; Carrie Skibba, NP Walk-in Clinic; Nicole Wilcox, NP Walk-in Clinic; Alisa Kindig, NP in Women's Health; Dr. Gorski, Pediatrician; Dr. David, Family Practice; Mariah Skelley, Mental Health NP; Dr. Rachel Knudson, General Surgery; Dr. Gary Palicka, Pediatrician; Dr. Yadira Rafuls, OB/GYN; Dr. Libby Balbort, Pediatrician; Dr. Amy Huber, Family Practice; Dr. Josh Sirucek, Family Practice; Dr. Ruth Barosy, Family Practice; Michelle Hornung, NP for nursing home; and Dr. Pauline Agorny, Internal Medicine.

In December, FMCH and Great River Health Systems announced they were in official merger talks. At the time, Alexander said the diligence would take three to six months and no new announcements or information has been released. But Budnik and Mullins both indicated that the uptick in hiring and retention has little to do with those talks.

"Some of these hirings have been in the works for more than two years," Mullins said. "The pediatrician that starts next month was here two years ago and Amy Huber was here five years ago. This is ongoing forever kind of stuff. We have a 2020 resident that we are already in contract negotiations with. We're talking two years out and nobody has any idea what we're going to look like, but we know historically we've always needed a pediatrician."

But he said it takes a good mix of internal and external influences to keep staff here.

"A majority of the community, and I don't blame them, are saying, 'What are you doing, FMCH? You're getting rid of all these people. It's your fault.' When really it takes the whole community to keep them here. One of the things we're focusing on with these new physicians is getting them plugged into the community."

Budnik agreed that being out in the community helps to strengthen the retention.

"What we're trying to do is get them out into the public where the community can see we have great doctors here. To have them out marketing themselves that way as well as being a part of the community - that's an important part of the retention piece as well. Health care in general has let that slide."