



Pen City Current

Thursday, Feb. 23, 2017 | 8 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 56

Science fair

The Holy Trinity Catholic Science fair was held Wednesday. At right clockwise, a project by Laura Mehmert, Kayla Box and Alexa Dingman talks about protein's impact on blood sugars. Instructor Ernie Schiller introduces Maggie Walker's presentation of sodium polyacrylate on nitrate absorption and Jake Pothitakis talks about which tooth brushes are best.



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

No details released concerning body

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - Information is still being held very close to the vest by state officials looking into the death of a Fairfield man found on the morning of Feb. 12 by Skunk River.



Special Agent Joe Lestina of the Iowa Department of Criminal Investigations, said today that no additional information is being released at this time because the case is still ongoing.

Lestina did say, however, that he does not feel that there is any risk to the public in general as a result of the incident.

The body, discovered at Indian Path Park off Highway 61 at around 11 a.m. on the 12th, was identified to the Pen City Current by the man's sister, Gina Ollom of Fairfield, as James Merlin Nelson, 47, formerly of Fairfield.

According to Ollom, Nelson had been working construction at the Iowa Fertilizer Company in Wever, but she was unaware of his occupation at the time of his death.

An autopsy has been ordered, but no information or results have been released to anyone, according to Lestina.

Democrat leaders warn IPERS may be in GOP crosshairs

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - With the GOP-led Chapter 20 restructure being signed into law, many Democrats in the Iowa legislature are worried



now about possible changes to state employees' retirement system. Democrats including State Rep. Jerry Kearns (D-Keokuk) and State Sen. Joe Bolkcom (D-Iowa City) have a lingering fear that, considering the swiftness of the collective bargaining changes being signed into law, changes to the Iowa Public Employees Retirement System (IPERS) may be closer than some anticipated.

"The collective bar-

gaining bill came down 10 days from the time we saw it until it was signed into law," Bolkcom said Wednesday. "It changed more than 40 years of practices without much deliberation at all. That was a greased product and that was step 1," he said.

Bolkcom said step 2 is taking a look at retirement benefits. He said Governor Terry Branstad has appointed business leaders to make recommendations for changes to IPERS.

"The question then becomes what are the recommendations? What kind of input will current beneficiaries and those currently paying in have?" Bolkcom said. "Given the way the collective bargaining bill went through with little to no public input, people should be very concerned about any changes to this system. It could be very detrimen-



tal." He claimed the collective bargaining issue was brought to the table by billionaire interests.

"Their agenda doesn't like public unions and they don't like public retirement systems. I don't put it past these guys to come in here and drastically change this system for our state's employees."

Danny Homan, President of AFSCME Council 61, who filed suit on Monday, on behalf of the union and its membership, for injunctive relief of the new collective bargaining law agreed with Bolkcom.

"We agree with Senator Bolkcom's warning cries that IPERS-covered employees or retirees should watch their back. The overreaching, power-hun-



gry attacks of the new GOP trifecta, so far, has showed no bounds. While we have yet to see IPERS-gutting legislation, the newly-formed study group suggests changes may be coming. Take a lesson from the collective bargaining fight: "tweaks" are seldom just that," Homan said.

But State Rep. Dave Heaton (R-Mount Pleasant) said there could be merits to looking at a defined contribution system rather than a defined benefit system. Currently the IPERS system collects a percentage of Iowa's public employees' salary coupled with a percentage from the employer to fund the system, then guarantees a benefit upon retirement. Employees can choose

several options at retirement including a lump sum payment, monthly payments or to hold money for dependents. Conservative groups are suggesting replacing it with a defined contribution program, similar to a 401(k) plan, which is less risky for the employer because it does not promise a specific benefit when a worker retires, which conversely would add risk to the employees' retirement plan.

"You know there is always that defined-contribution against defined-benefit argument," Heaton said. "You always have the uncertainty that concerns a lot of people. With a defined benefit plan they know what they're gonna get based on contributions. I think my state workers are concerned about the security of their pension and they

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Obituaries/Local News

OBITUARIES

MICHAEL L. MALLORY

Michael L. Mallory, 74, of Ft. Madison passed away on Sunday, February 19, 2017 at 12:15 AM at the Wapello Specialty Care Center.



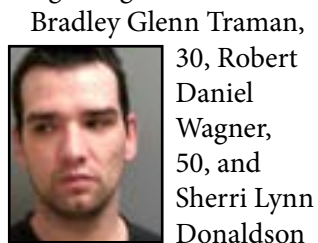
He was born on October 17, 1942 in Peoria, IL to Cecil and Iola Day Mallory. Michael worked at GE in Burlington and was also a janitor at Ft. Madison High School. On April 30, 2004 he married Susan Othmer in Keokuk. He enjoyed fishing, cooking, playing card games and collecting baseball cards.

MALLORY Survivors include his wife, Susan Othmer Mallory of Keokuk; three daughters, Marlo Meyer of Burlington, Michelle Palmer of Overland Park, KS and Carrie Mallory of Ft. Madison; two sons, Matt Mallory of Ft. Madison and Mark Palmer of Texas; eighteen grandchildren; two sisters, Cecile Amerson of Peora, IL and Suzette Williams of Michigan; one brother, Robert Mallory of Arkansas; several nieces and nephews.

Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and there will be no formal services at this time. A memorial has been established in his memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

Task Force arrests three FM residents on drug charges

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of three Fort Madison, Iowa residents on misdemeanor and felony drug charges.



TRAMAN Bradley Glenn Traman, 30, Robert Daniel Wagner, 50, and Sherri Lynn Donaldson (photo not provided), 23, all of 2703 Avenue M, Fort Madison, Iowa were arrested on February 21, 2017 at their residence on misdemeanor and felony drug charges.

Traman is charged with Possession with Intent to Delivery Methamphetamine, Less Than Five Grams Second or Subsequent Offense, a class C

felony with an enhancement, Maintaining a Drug House, an aggravated misdemeanor, Possession Of Methamphetamine, a serious misdemeanor, Possession Of Marijuana,



WAGNER a serious misdemeanor, and Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Traman faces up to 34 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility. Traman was also arrested on a Parole Violation warrant.

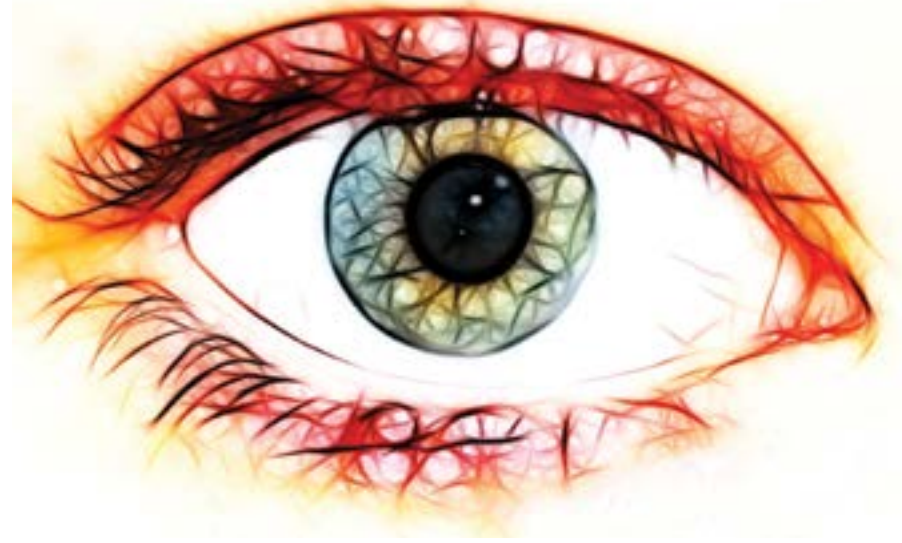
Wagner and Donaldson are both charged with Maintaining A Drug House, an aggravated misdemeanor, and Possession

Of Drug Paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Donaldson and Wagner each face up to 1 year and 30 days in a state correctional facility.

The arrests of Wagner, Donaldson, and Traman stem from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that they were involved in the use and/or distribution of illegal narcotics in the Fort Madison area.

The Lee County Attorney's Office, Fort Madison Police Department, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, Lee County Sheriff's Office, and the 8th Judicial District of Probation and Parole assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

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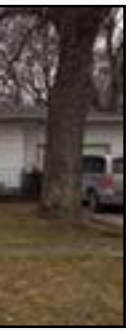
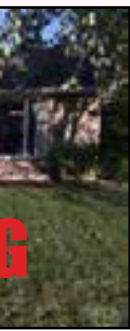
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Listing #20161863 • \$299,000



3BR • 2.50 BA • 2 car garage • 2,400 sq. ft. • 10,150 sq. ft. lot

Lovely tri-level home on a quiet cul de sac offering numerous upgrades. There are 3 bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths, a large living room, dining room and open kitchen with newer stainless steel appliances and a breakfast bar. Newer windows, HVAC, new floor coverings on main and lower level and freshly painted throughout. The large backyard is completely fenced and has a 24 x 16 patterned concrete patio. Don't miss out on this wonderful family home.

Listing #20163404 • \$167,500

4BR • 3BA • 2 car garage • 1,349 sq. ft. • 9,160 sq. ft. lot

From the inviting entrance to the serene back yard, you will enjoy it ALL and everything in between!!!! This very well maintained 4 bedroom, 3 bath home has everything your family will need to call this Home. There is a beautiful screened porch and a deck off the back of the house, all overlooking a meticulously landscaped large yard. Call today on this amazing home situated on a quiet, safe cul de sac!!!

Listing #20163339 • \$164,900

3 BR • 2 BA • 2 car garage • 1,168 sq. ft. • 0.54 acres

Lovely family home comfortably situated at the end of a cul de sac, where you can enjoy the woods and the privacy! There is an inviting deck off the back of the home overlooking the woods and beautiful vinyl fencing. There are newer mechanicals and a newer roof, 2 fireplaces and lots of storage!! Don't miss out on this beauty.

Listing #20163951 • \$139,000

4 BR • 1.75 BA • 3 car garage • 2,052 sq. ft. • 8,700 sq. ft. lot

Beautiful 4 bedroom home with large rooms, recently redecorated and ready to move into. This home features stainless steel appliances, main floor laundry, eat in kitchen and formal dining room, main floor office or bedroom, open staircase, large living room and big bedrooms. Newer roof, siding and gutters on house. 24' X 36' insulated garage and workshop, plus carport. Large wrap porch great location near Old Settlers Park.

Listing #20163776 • \$129,500

3 BR • 1 BA • 1 car garage • 1,248 sq. ft. • 0.37 acres

Well-kept ranch on a beautiful, large corner lot in West Point, IA. New wooden privacy fence surrounding the entire back yard. There is also an attached garage and storage shed. A large wooden deck leads to the front door where you can sit and enjoy those beautiful Iowa summer sunsets! PLUS a covered deck in the back for those rainy days. This house is a rare find.

Listing #20164234 • \$119,900

BEAUTIFUL PERIOD HOME



5 BR, 3 BA

3,119 sq. ft. • 14,500 sq. ft. lot
 From the period wrought iron fencing to the amazing stained oak staircase...from the impressive arches to the large wrap porch, this beautiful turn of the century (20th) home offers all the beauty and elegance of that era. This is a beautifully appointed home with all the modern conveniences. There is an extra large lot for your family to enjoy!!

Listing #20162159 • \$164,000



5BR • 2.50BA

2 car garage

2,834 sq. ft.

14,868 sq. ft. lot

Amazing family home on a large corner lot in Farmington, IA. 2 fireplaces, beautiful woodwork, a beautiful open front porch, a large yard and an oversized garage!!

Listing #20164117 \$127,500



3BR • 3BA

2,754 sq. ft.

3,550 sq. ft. lot

Gorgeous, turn-key home with large patio minimum maintenance. UPDATES GALORE!!! Practically perfect in every way, this 1841 home includes the latest improvements while keeping its Victorian charm.

Listing #23006122 \$99,999



2 car garage • 2,527 sq. ft.

UNIQUELY beautiful 9.38 river bluff acreage. This home boasts many updates including complete master suite, heat and A/C, Septic system, deck, roof & gutters, flooring, and the list goes on. This private property includes fenced in barn area for animal lovers, mature fruit trees plus trees have been dropped for a beautiful panoramic river view that will last for years! Owner also plans to leave a John Deere mower and new snow blower!!

Listing #20162733 • \$269,000

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2BR • 1BA
2 car garage
868 sq. ft.

7,000 sq. ft. lot
PRICE REDUCED!
 Rare opportunity to own a renovated home at a great price!! Large, shaded yard and a 2 car garage. Located in a nice neighborhood on a corner lot. Seller is motivated and offering a 1 year AHS Home Warranty!

Listing #20163035
\$52,000



2BR • 1BA
2 car garage
1,330 sq. ft.

7,250 sq. ft. lot
REDUCED BY \$13,100!
 Affordable with lots of potential!!! Nice size kitchen with breakfast bar plus dining area, spacious living room w/fireplace. Sits on a corner lot.

Listing #20160368
\$59,900



3BR • 1BA
1 car garage
928 sq. ft.

1,087 sq. ft. lot
 Very nice maintenance-free home by Lincoln School with a 75 X 145 fenced yard, nice patio, fire pit and child's play set! Some very nice built-ins, some original hardwood flooring, full basement including laundry area. Also find extra parking, garage and carport area on the paved alley.

Listing #20164148
\$72,500



5BR • 1.75BA
1 car garage
1,904 sq. ft.

1,903 sq. ft. lot
 Great family home on large corner lot in the middle of Ft. Madison. Large living / dining area with original craftsman woodwork and built-ins, 14 x 22 garage on the alley with 2 additional storage sheds. Nice front porch, rear deck, and a great sunroom on the East.

Listing #20162346
\$86,950



3BR • 1.50BA
1,460 sq. ft.
3,625 sq. ft. lot

Reasonably priced home has had new doors installed, new bathroom fixtures, and freshly painted. With it's vinyl siding and fenced rear yard, its ready for your family!!

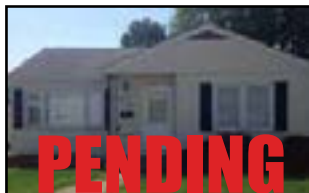
Listing #20162025
\$25,500



2BR • 1.25BA
1,119 sq. ft.
0.17 acres

Brick rancher on Ave E close to Old Settlers Park, has full basement mostly finished, picket fence, newer windows, roof, etc.

Listing #20162502
\$88,900



2BR • 1.50BA
2 car garage
1,366 sq. ft.

3,300 sq. ft. lot
 Immaculate, well-kept ranch has family room with fireplace on the main floor, finished Rec Room, 2nd laundry room, 1/2 bath, and storage room with shelving all in the basement. All windows are vinyl replacement.

Listing #20162507
\$109,900



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2BR • 1BA
2 car garage
930 sq. ft.

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Listing #20164279
\$38,500



2BR • 1.75BA
2 car garage
679 sq. ft.

6,500 sq. ft. lot
 Nice, small home. Seller has purchased and remodeled. Excellent condition.

Listing #20164161
\$62,500



2BR • 1BA
1 car garage
733 sq. ft.

9,116 sq. ft. lot
 Country living in the city! Large fenced lot with garden including blackberry bushes, grapes, rhubarb, and asparagus, along with apple and peach trees. Large shop attached to the garage and a storage shed. Sit on the front deck and enjoy the country scenery! In Farmington.

Listing #20163103
\$39,999



Multi-family Duplex
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Income property. Potential for \$875/month income or more. Side-by-side duplex with 2 - 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartments. West side has a long term renter and east side is vacant.

Listing #20162154
\$49,500



2BR • 1BA
1,144 sq. ft.
3,625 sq. ft. lot

Move-in ready with many updates including kitchen WITH appliances, fresh paint, newer electrical (100 AMP breaker), new water lines at street and more! The home is clean as a whistle and ready to move in!

Listing #20161431
\$42,500



2BR • 1BA
1 car garage
1,224 sq. ft.

7,250 sq. ft. lot
 A house with character! Wrap-around porch, original hardwood in formal dining room/living room combo, main floor laundry, nice size eat-in kitchen including appliances, dining room has original fireplace, basement and 1 car garage.

Listing #20162543
\$53,000



3BR • 1.75BA
1 car garage
888 sq. ft.

9,450 sq. ft. lot
RARE RANCH with large fenced back yard and attached garage! Updated windows and kitchen, newer HVAC and water heater. Family Room in the basement. Just waiting for your own personal touch!

Listing #20163423 •
\$74,900



Land
14.65 acres
638,514 sq. ft.

Just outside city limits, perfect for housing development or small farm for horses or small livestock, over half tillable. City water is available. 30' X 60' building is totally insulated, heated and air conditioned with 200 amp service.

Listing #20162574
\$249,000

Sports

Bloodhounds face Panthers for third time this year

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison boys basketball team has had a rough experience with No. 6-ranked Mt. Pleasant this year, but there's an old coach's adage that says it's hard to beat the same team three times in a season.

Head Coach Ryan Wilson will be hoping that holds true to form as the Bloodhounds take on the Panthers in Mt. Pleasant on Thursday at 7 p.m. in the District 11 championship. The winner will face the winner of District 12 in Fairfield on Feb. 27th at 7 p.m. for the right to go to state.

FMHS advanced with a hard-fought 52-48 win over Chariton on Monday. Mt. Pleasant advanced with a 67-30 win over Keokuk the same night.

Mt. Pleasant won the Southeast Conference and finished the season 6th in the MaxPreps rankings at 19-2 on the year. Their only losses were to Cedar Rapids Xavier 45-55 in the first game of the year,

and to Muscatine on a night when Muskies' junior Joe



WILSON

Weiskamp, who leads Class 3A in scoring, threw up 42.

Fort Madison finished the season 14-7 and in second place in the conference with the only conference losses coming to Mt. Pleasant on Jan. 10 38-64 and on Jan. 27 41-78 at home.

Wilson knows his team will have its hands full but when it's win or go home anything can happen.

Six of the top 10 scorers in the Southeast Conference will be on display Monday, led by junior Brady Sartorius, who led the conference in scoring at 22 points per game, while Kaleb Cresswell leads Fort Madison at 15 points per game and was 2nd in the conference.

The Panther's junior Jordan Magnani averages 12 points per outing, while Treavor James-Kokjohn is right behind at 11.8 points per game.

“Mt. Pleasant has got a lot of talent and people that can score. So our priority will be to limit Sartorius and hope when that happens, we can also limit the others.”

-Ryan Smith, FMHS Head Coach

FMHS senior CJ Richardson is right there at 11.7 points per game and the Panthers' Colin Mulford is scoring at a just under 10 points per game.

“It's just like going into Chariton... you have to contain their best. We held (Lim) Chuol to four points below his average and we won four,” Wilson said “Mt. Pleasant



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Dribble stop

Fort Madison senior CJ Richardson drives against Lim Chuol of Chariton in Monday night's District 11 win.

has got a lot of talent and people that can score. So our No. 1 priority will be to limit (Sartorius) and hope when that happens we find we can also limit the others. But obviously, he's a focus so we'll do what we can to contain him.”

Against Keokuk Monday, Sartorius was held to just 13 by the Chiefs, but that focus opened up the inside and 6'9" senior Tom O'Connor dumped in 19, a full 10 points over his season average. Magnani got his 12.

James-Kokjohn led Fort

Madison with 18 points Monday night. Richardson had 12 and Cresswell had 10.

Kokjohn also leads the Hounds in rebounds with 8.8 per game. O'Connor and Kieran Kohorst are

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Fort Madison, IA

From the Front/Sports



Reflecting pond

Photo by Kelsey Vandenberg/PCC

The Kuhlmeier Pond in Riverview Park provides a mirror like reflection of a cotton-candy sky over Fort Madison on a beautiful Sunday evening.

Wilson says a big crowd helps team

DISTRICTS - Continued from Page 7

both at 5.5 boards per game to lead the Panthers. Senior Austin Rose is averaging five per game for the Hounds.

The Hounds are going to have to find away to cut the rebounding advantage the Panthers held in the first two games, 27-16 and

26-13.

“We’ve been talking all year, rebounding is effort,” Wilson said.

“There have been lots of teams that are bigger than us, but if we give the effort that should take care of it. They play good defense and they’ll try to force us

to miss shots. Hopefully we’ll knock more shots down to help negate that.”

The Hounds have won four in a row and six of the last seven and Wilson says if they continue to play like they have been the Hounds should be in the game.

“I would say that we have a shot to win if we play like we have,” he said. “But we also know that Mt. Pleasant brings an intensity that is a lot higher

than others. We know what they will bring and we have to step our game up a notch or two from the previous two games.”

Wilson said he was pleased with the turnout at Chariton, but said students having Monday off may have hurt a bit.

“We’re hoping to have a great turnout and fan support with a big student section. That always helps the kids play harder and motivates them,” he said.

Democrats warn state employees to watch IPERS talk in Des Moines

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don’t want to take a chance.

“That’s the issue. As the governor said recently, changing our pension plan is not a quick decision to make. It’ll take a lot of thought...But sooner or later we’re gonna have to contribute more to the fund.”

Heaton, who was one of six Republicans to vote against the collective bargaining bill citing it was too much in favor of management, said he wouldn’t support any bill to change IPERS that wasn’t fully vetted.

“There’s not going to be any bill any time soon that will say were going to defined contributions, I don’t think. I won’t support it. Not on something that hasn’t been given great thought and is actuarially sound. It has to be a good plan that is adequately funded. This is a big deal...a multi-billion dollar discussion and whether or not there will be a choice. But when you provide employees a choice, all the statistics that prove your fund is solvent are at risk if you don’t know who’s contributing and how much.”

Kearns said people need to be on the lookout as the GOP-led legislature is moving very quickly with their agenda.

“I would just tell people the same thing that AFSCME is. Keep an eye on what is going on, whether you’re contributing now or taking benefits...everyone needs to be watching.”

Bolkcom said public employees only need to look back at how the collective bargaining bill was swept through.

“No one campaigned in the last elections on drastically changing 180,000 public employees’ health care and working conditions, and then come in and turned it on its head. They came in and took only 10 days to do it,” Bolkcom said.

“People need to be alert. This is on the agenda and it’s just a matter of time before a proposal comes up. If they do it like they did that, there will be very little opportunity for input or to stop it. Current beneficiaries and those putting into the system should be definitely concerned.”



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