



Pen City Current

Wednesday, June 14, 2017 | 6 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 146

LCHD picks ISP's Bennett unit for new home

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON –The Lee County Health Department has found a home, at least for the next three years.

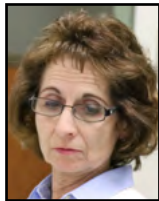
After a bond referendum failed May 2 to build a new \$2.6 million building, health department officials went to work to find a new home.

An air quality issue forced them out of their former building in Fort Madison.

According to LCHD Director Julie Schilling, the health department will be signing a lease with the Iowa Department Of Corrections to use the former John Bennett unit.

“This will be a three year lease,” Schilling said. “It will be effective June 15th and both parties have a ninety day out.”

Schilling said the IT staff will be able to



SCHILLING

get in on the 15th to work on setting up data lines and the IT system.

The Lee County Health Department Board of Directors is meeting tomorrow morning in open session at 7:00 a.m. at the

Fort Madison Community Hospital to approve the lease agreement.

Schilling said they were contacted by building owners in other areas of Lee County for other possible buildings, but they eventually settled on the John Bennett unit.

Former Lee County Attorney Ross Braden ordered the staff out of the building after an air quality issue was brought to their attention.

See LCHD, page 3



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Lee County Health Department Board of Directors will be meeting Thursday morning at 7 a.m. to approve a 3-year lease with the Iowa Department of Corrections for use of the shuttered John Bennett Unit.

Agents weigh in on state insurance proposal

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Iowa's Insurance Division, headed by Doug Ommen, has proposed a stopgap measure to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to ensure all Iowans have access to health insurance in 2018.

According to a press release from the division, Iowa will not, in all likelihood, have a participating market provider in 2018



PIEPER

under the current health insurance marketplace structure, a move that some estimate will effect 72,000 Iowans. The proposal would use federal tax credits, reinsurance, and high-risk pools to offer a more favorable environment to providers,

while keeping premiums and tax credits at rates comparable to Affordable Care Act plans.

Tony Wolfe, of Tony Wolfe Insurance Services in Fort Madison, said the proposal would likely get massaged a little if it gets approved.

“My view is that it was expected there would be some type of solution offered and we should assume adjustments and tweaking to whatever is proposed will likely occur,” Wolfe said. “That said, there are a broad range of changes in requirements and steps that health insurers, providers, advisors, members, and everyone else relative to this industry have made in recent years. We need to be patient and cautiously optimistic a system will be found that results more favorably than what is currently in place. It is important to take care of people's needs while



we make this necessary change.”

Federal poverty lines for a family of three for 2017 is \$20,420 up \$260 from 2016 numbers.

Under the proposed rate structure, which starts credits at 133% of poverty level (anything less than 133% would ultimately fall under the state's medicaid/medicare program) an individual 0-20 years old would be entitled to a \$250 credit and have a monthly premium of \$22. Two adults ages 35-44 at the same (making up the family of three) would be entitled to a \$398 credit and face a \$56 premium per person per month. That family of

three under the current proposal would pay \$134 a month for their family coverage.

“We're clearly supportive of the efforts led by our insurance commissioner, Doug Ommen, in partnership with the executive teams at Wellmark and Medica. Given the dire situation facing many Iowans in 2018, these leaders are doing what it is going to take to put some short-term stability back in the market,” said Justin Pieper, co-founder of Fort Madison's Group Benefit Partners.

Pieper said the real decisions lie in the hands

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Supervisors set animal ordinance in motion

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - Lee County Supervisors passed the first reading of an animal ordinance that will give the Lee County Sheriff more options in dealing with aggressive or “out of control” animals.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, an ordinance passed the first reading unanimously that gives the Sheriff's Department authority to impound the animals.

Specifically the ordinance in Title 5, Chapter 10 reads, “Any dog or companion cat running at large may be apprehended by a law enforcement officer and/or may be impounded by the sheriff...”

It also reads that is unlawful for the owner of a dog or companion cat to permit such animal to attack any person or domestic animal, or to destroy property, or to permit the animal to place any person in reasonable fear of attack or injury.

The ordinance had been tabled twice before to allow supervisors to meet with constituents and gauge the impact of the new ordinance. There also was some fine tuning of the language in the or-

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| Non Theme Float (\$90, \$60, \$40 prizes) | Non Competitive |
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 Phone (____) _____ - _____
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Please return the entry form to the address below:

Kirk Sherwood
 31 Storms Court
 Fort Madison, Iowa 52627
 319.470.3884

Becker's Review taps FMCH at top 100 hospital

BY PCC STAFF
 CHICAGO - Becker's Hospital Review is pleased to release the 2017 edition of its list of 100 Great Community Hospitals. Fort Madison Community Hospital (FMCH) in Fort Madison, Iowa was named to the list for the fourth time.

The hospitals included on this list are recognized for quality, patient satisfaction and overall excellence. The institutions featured on this list play a key role in their communities as the centerpiece for healthcare in many

occasions. Several of the hospitals have rolled out unique population health initiatives over the past few years and are among the highest employers in their region.

Fort Madison Community Hospital challenges their employees to continually look for ways to improve quality and safety and enhance the patient experience. This challenge directly results in recognitions such as this one. FMCH was also honored with two Iowa Healthcare Collaborative Patient Safety Awards for 2017 for Reducing

Healthcare-Associated Infections and Improving Person and Family Engagement earlier this year.

The Becker's Hospital Review editorial team selected hospitals for inclusion based on analysis of key awards, rankings and certifications in addition to the hospital's reputation for leadership and innovation.

Becker's Hospital Review is a monthly publication offering up-to-date business and legal news and analysis relating to hospitals and health systems.



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Obituaries/For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

06/12/17 - 11:25 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1400 block of Avenue E
 06/12/17 - 2:12 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 900 block of Avenue D.
 6/12/17 - 9:31 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Bradley Michael Dettmers, 32, of Fort Madison in the police department on a charge of domestic abuse assault - third or subsequent offense. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

06/13/17 - 6:21 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested James Anthony Beechtree, 52 of Donnellson at

the sheriff's office on a charges of OWI - 1st offense and carrying weapons. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 06/01/17 - 2:20 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Hwys 16 and 61. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Jonah Tyler McDermed, 18 of Burlington was stopped at the intersection. A vehicle driven by David Lee Gibbs, 73 of Burlington didn't stop in time and tapped McDermed's vehicle from behind. No injuries were reported and minor damage was reported to McDermed's vehicle. Gibbs was cited for following too closely. *It should be noted that those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Ordinance to have at least one more reading

ANIMAL - Continued from Page 1

dinance that needed to be done between Lee County Attorney Clinton Boddicker and Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber.

Weber said he had seen the revised language from Boddicker, who was not present at the meeting, and was comfortable with the language as written in the current version in front of the board.

Supervisor Ron Fedler said he had spoken with Weber prior to the meeting and he was comfortable moving ahead and made the motion to approve the first reading.

The ordinance will require at least one more reading before being approved. Most new ordinances require three readings, however the third reading can be waived after the second reading is approved with a majority vote of the board.

In other action, the board:

- approved a motion to permit Lee County EMS to apply for a guaranteed grant for five automated compression machines called LUCAS Chest Compression Systems. The systems cost between \$18,000 to \$20,000 each and take over compressions on heart attack sufferers.
- approved a second reading of a rabies control ordinance
- approved a second reading of a fireworks ordinance that puts the county in line with new state regulations.

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OBITUARIES

MAUREEN PAPAJOHN and HELEN "JEANETTE" LERCHE

The graveside committal service for Maureen Papajohn and Helen "Jeanette" Lerche will be held on Friday, June 16, 2017 at 2:30 PM at Gethsemane Cemetery with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory is in charge of the service.

Current requests LCHD air quality report

LCHD - Continued from Page 1

The Pen City Current last week requested, via the Freedom of Information Act, the report for the air quality test that was done on the former facility at 2218 Avenue H in Fort Madison. County officials have said they're working to get the report released to the Pen Current.

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Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	8:00 pm	8:50 pm
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6/13 MID-DAY
 2 4 5 8 9 10
 15 17 20 22 23 24
 6/13 EVENING
 3 5 9 11 13 14
 16 19 20 21 22 23



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Sports

FMHS girls stall in weekend tourney

BY PCC STAFF

DAVENPORT - The Fort Madison Bloodhound softball team dropped four games over two days in a weekend tournament at Davenport West.

After a stellar week where the Hounds knocked off No. 4 Burlington and came from behind to down Wapello, the Hounds struggled to find winning ways on the road.

To start the tourney on Friday, the Hounds ran into some tough competition and some pretty big schools as 18-1 Davenport Assumption handed the Hounds a 12-0 shut out in the opener.

Senior Chase Lowney took the loss going four innings giving up 12 runs, all earned, on eight hits, two walks, and a strikeout. The Hounds were held scoreless by senior Nicole Timmons who gave a walk against no hits and 11 strikeouts.

FMHS then found themselves pitted against 10-6 Pleasant Valley. The Hounds held a 2-0 lead going into the fourth inning but PV put up a



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Chase Lowney takes a pitch against Burlington in high school softball action last week. The 'Hounds dropped four games in the Davenport West tourney over the weekend.

four spot to take the lead then added nine more in the top of the sixth. Lexi Schmidt took the loss going 4 2/3 innings giving up six runs on nine hits before giving way to Lowney with the Hounds down 6-3. Pleasant Valley was ready for Lowney and the big sixth inning giving up nine runs, six earned on six hits.

Saturday didn't fare any better as the Hounds ran into Davenport North and West. The Hounds managed 14 hits against

Davenport North led by Schmidt and Sadie Smithburg who both went 3 for 4. Kamryn Bailey, Shyla Farmer, and Olivia Williams all had two hits for FMHS.

North had a 9-1 lead going into the third inning. The Hounds scored six runs in the next three innings but couldn't keep a rally going long enough to get back in the game. Lowney took the loss for the Hounds.

Scoring was scarce again in the final game

for the Hounds with West downing FMHS 10-1. Lowney drove in Dalyn Wondra in the fifth inning for the only run of that game. Schmidt suffered the loss for the Hounds going six innings, giving up 10 runs on nine hits, eight earned, and striking out eight.

Through the weekend the Bloodhounds were 5-14 on the season. The Hounds played at Keokuk Monday and those results weren't available Tuesday.

Hounds drop two at Central Lee tournament

BY PCC STAFF

DONNELSON - The Fort Madison High School boys baseball team is still winless on the year after dropping two games in the Central Lee tourney on Friday.

The Bloodhounds suffered a 12-0 shut out at the hands of host Central Lee in the first game Friday. Tyler O'Tool had two hits to lead the Hounds and Dayne Cordray added a hit, all singles, to wrap up the offense for the Hounds. FMHS sent two freshmen, Jace Burgher and Parker Denning, to the mound. Burgher suffered the loss, going three innings, giving up five runs, all earned, on six hits, and struck out two. Denning came in in the fourth and gave up seven runs, four earned, on four hits, and walked three.

In the night cap the bats came alive for the Hounds but Burlington Notre Dame (9-2) outlasted FMHS 10-5. O'Tool hit a grand slam in the fourth inning plating Brady Reynolds, Logan Allen, and Aaron Steffensmeier to put the Hounds up 5-3. Unfortunately, that would end the scoring for FMHS. BND would put up four runs in the eighth and three more in the ninth inning to put the game away.

Steffensmeier and Jordyn Gerdes both went 2-of-3 at the plate on the night. Caleb Wood and Diego Lozano each had singles for Fort Madison.

Gerdes took the loss for FM, going six innings, giving up six runs, five earned on five hits, striking out four, and walking two. Cordray came in for an inning of relief, giving up four runs, all earned, on four hits with no walks, and no strikeouts.

The Hounds stand at 0-12 through the weekend. They played at Keokuk on Monday but those results weren't available on Tuesday.

Van Buren nips Holy Trinity boys on the road



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Senior Ben Tinguely takes a swing at pitch over the weekend against Louisa-Muscatine. The Crusaders lost Tuesday 4-3 to Van Buren are 2-10 on the season.

BY PCC STAFF

KEOSAUQUA - Senior Ben Tinguely singled in Quentin Schneider in the top of the sixth inning to pull HTC within a run of host Van Buren, but a ground out to short killed the inning and the Warriors went on to down the Crusaders 4-3 in Tuesday night baseball action.

Two incoming freshmen, Cole Thornton and Jason Thurman, handled

the mound duties for HTC. Thurman came in in relief in the bottom of the sixth and held Van Buren scoreless the rest of the way.

Kyle Bredemeyer lined out to center to start the final inning. Aiden Alfred struck out on a full count and Vasin Thurman grounded out to short to end the game.

Head Coach Albert Schinstock, who's been plagued with staffing

issues on the mound all year, said he's turning to younger pitchers to fill in at times and was impressed with how the two eighth graders handled themselves Tuesday.

"Four eighth graders and a freshman started in the infield tonight and did an awesome job," he said. "Cole Thornton really came out and showed command on the mound and did exactly what we needed him to do."

Thornton went 4 2/3 on 85 pitches and gave up four runs, all earned, on nine hits, three walks, and a strike out in the

loss. Thurman threw 18 pitches and gave up three hits, no runs, walks or strikeouts.

At the plate, Reed Fehseke went 3-for-4 to lead HTC with a run scored. Bredemeyer, Kadin Medland, and Schneider all had hits for the Crusaders. Aiden Alfred doubled in the third inning to deep left center.

The Crusaders (2-10) fell to 20-3 Monday at home to 12-2 Burlington Notre Dame. Statistics from that game were not available Tuesday. They play at Mediapolis on Thursday.

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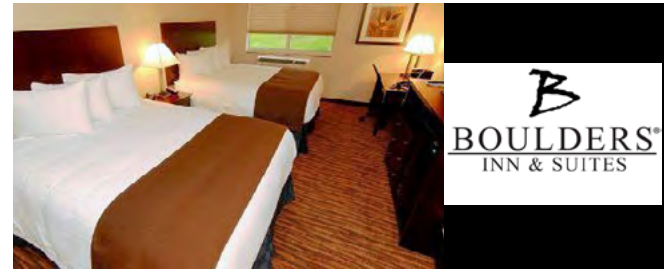
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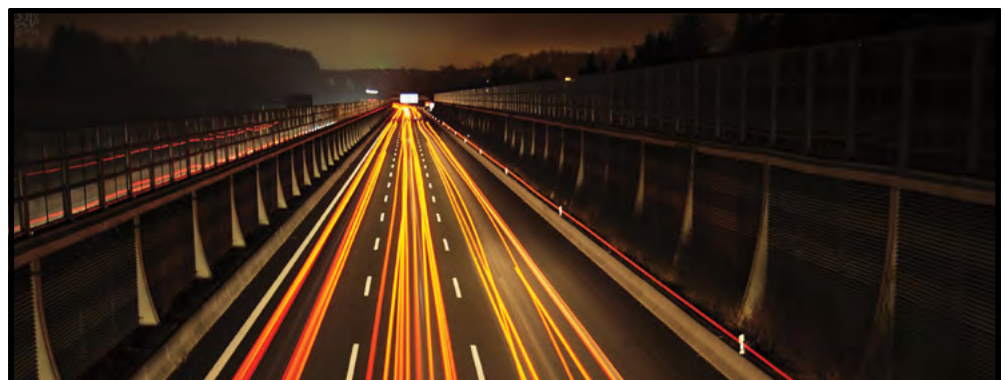
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Low – 72.6° F | High – 88.7° F

THU 15 Jun



Moderate Rain
Low – 74.1° F | High – 83.8° F

FRI 16 Jun



Light Rain
Low – 71.6° F | High – 87.4° F

SAT 17 Jun



Light Rain
Low – 74.7° F | High – 85.2° F

SUN 18 Jun



Light Rain
Low – 81.9° F | High – 96.4° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

Locals cautiously optimistic about Iowa's proposed stopgap measure

STOPGAP - Continued from Page 1

of Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price and Seema Verma, a top health adviser to President Donald Trump in Washington D.C., but leaders have been having productive meetings discussing what could work in Iowa. The next steps could likely include town hall meetings, where feedback will be solicited.

Another hurdle facing the proposal would be getting a computerized exchange up and running, even though it is likely that only one standard plan comparable to the ACA's Silver plan would be offered to Iowans.

Peiper said he would encourage participating in these meetings in support of the proposed actions, as this will need to come together quickly, in order for the insurance companies to establish the products and pricing in time for a January 1, 2018 release.

"We also encourage dialogue with our elected officials in Washington D.C. so they understand how important it is to Iowans that these measures are solidified. While these are necessary measures in the immediate short-term, a long-term fix is absolutely necessary for continued improvements in the market conditions."

Wellmark Chairman and CEO John Forsythe indicated Wellmark's support of the initiative.

"Wellmark is supportive of the proposed Stopgap Measure submitted to CMS because it includes the three principles we have continuously advocated for: creation of a viable risk pool, sharing catastrophic expenses, and product flexibility. If the measure is approved in a timely manner with these principles intact, Wellmark will offer the approved individual health insurance plan in all 99 counties in Iowa for 2018."

In a statement Monday, Wellmark indicated it had publicly shared its desire to structure an Iowa-based solution that makes the individual market stable and affordable again, including maintaining several key aspects of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) combined with three principles: ensuring a viable risk pool, broadly sharing catastrophic costs, and the flexibility to design plans Iowans want and can afford.

Existing ACA plans will be in effect through Dec. 31, 2017. During Open Enrollment this fall, members will need to enroll in a new plan for coverage in 2018.

Other providers in 2017, including Medica and Aetna are still reviewing the proposal, but have been engaged in the development of the proposal.

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Great River Regional Waste Authority will hold a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event during **KEMPKER'S TRUE VALUE**

FT. MADISON CUSTOMER APPRECIATION EVENT!

Saturday June 24th, 2017 ~ 9:00am to 12:00pm

Fort Madison Residents Only, No Businesses Please

Great River Regional Waste Authority will be accepting the following Household Hazardous Waste items during Kempker True Value's Fort Madison Customer Appreciation Event!

We encourage you to call ahead and make an appointment for the collection.

**NO
LATEX
PAINT
PLEASE!**



- Fertilizers, Herbicides, Insecticides, Pesticides
- Oil Based Paints, Paint Thinners & Solvents
 - Household & Auto Cleaning Products
 - Car Batteries, Motor Oil, Antifreeze
- Car Batteries and Rechargeable Batteries
 - Swimming Pool Chemicals
 - Propane Tanks
 - & MORE!

Call 319-372-6140 to schedule your appointed time or to check to see if your items qualify for this event.

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