



Pen City Current

Thursday, March 16, 2017 | 8 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 74

Former Iowan hotel set for demolition

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The dilapidated and heavily damaged former Iowan Motor Lodge is very close to coming down according to city officials and the current owner.

Glen Meller, owner of Meller Excavating, is the current owner of the building and has some equipment on the lot of the structure to begin tearing it down.

"We hope to start in the next 10 days or so," Meller said. "It is our intention to start tearing it down unless something comes up. I've got a couple of jobs that may pop up and that might delay it a little bit, but we're gonna get it down."

City Building Director Doug Krogmeier confirmed that the city does have a permit at City Hall for the demolition of the building.

"We've known for a long time that it was dilapidated. He had five different contractors in there to try and make it cost-effective

(to rehab it)," Krogmeier said. "We do have a permit here and he's submitted to DNR."

Meller said the city never asked him to tear the building down until two weeks ago when Fire Chief Joey Herren and Meller had a conversation.

"It was never mentioned by the city to tear it down," Meller said. "I've had structural engineers in there to look at possibly renovating the place, but it was going to cost too much to fix the damage by the owner before me. It was a disgrace how bad the owners had it torn up."

Meller said he originally had planned on renovating the rooms and opening the facility back up for rooms for construction workers who were working on building the Iowa Fertilizer plant.

"We looked at it with him," Krogmeier said. "I don't know we would have said no if he could have made it cost-effective. But if you have a hotel you have a brand looking after it, but apartments, you just don't know what's going



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Ready to come down

The former Iowan Motor Lodge is set to be torn down in the near future, even as early as 10 days. Meller has demolition equipment on the lot ready to go to work.

on in those places."

Currently there are broken windows throughout the building, several doors had been broken in, and Meller said after gaining access through the bro-

ken doors and windows, trespassers have also torn up the interior walls.

"Inside it's tore up so bad."

See MELLER, page 2

FMHS names Hall of Honor inductees

Wyrick, Rothenberg to be honored

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison High School Alumni Hall of Honor was established to recognize alumni who have distinguished themselves based upon elements of academic excellence and achievement, career accomplishments, community service, personal excellence, and a dedication to lifelong learning.

This year nominated candidates were reviewed and The Hall of Honor Committee selected two Distinguished Alumni that they feel have contributed over and above expectations.

This year's inductees are Darrell Wyrick, class of 1951, and Harvey Rothenberg, class of 1955. Alumni Hall of Honor Award recipients will be honored at a reception and award presentation on Tuesday, May 23rd at the high school.

If you know of someone who fits the criteria for the Hall, please ask the high school office for a nomination form, visit the website at www.fmcsd.org to access one, or send us an email at HallofHonor@fmcsd.org.

FMHS' Taco Supper/Trivia night Saturday

Taco Supper precedes annual wild ride trivia contest

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Music's Department's annual Taco Supper and Trivia night is set for Saturday.

The Taco Supper is a fundraiser for the program with great food, hosted at FMHS from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. The night has been moved back to the high school due to the popularity of the event. The event had been being held at the Union Presbyterian Church for the last few years, but the public attendance of the event has outgrown the seating availability of the site.

Each student in the mu-

sic department is asked to provide a specified items for the event (i.e. 1 lbs of cheese, lettuce, peas, etc.). The students in the program donate food items for the night and public donations of a dessert are welcome. Desserts can be dropped off at the high school any time on Friday or Saturday before the event. Each of the three high school jazz bands will be performing for this event; all jazz students are to report to the high school band room at 4:30 pm for warm up and prep.

Spring Trivia Night - The trivia night typically follows the taco supper and is a fun event for

all families, groups of friends. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

This event starts at 7 p.m. in the high school MPR and will feature ten sets of questions ranging in categories from i.e. music, to geography, tv shows, etc. Come early to the taco supper and eat. There will be bottomless cups of soda/water available for \$3.00 (separate from the Taco Supper).

Bring some mad money with you. We will be playing head and tails, have a 50/50 drawing and muligans will be available. Music students have been encouraged to sell ticket packets ahead of the trivia night to generate funds for their personal trip accounts. Funds generat-

ed will be applied to the 2018 Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade performance. 100% of the ticket sales will go to the student's

trip account, if the student sells the tickets. Tickets are \$10 each for the trivia night. The Taco supper is separate.

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Thursday, March 16th

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Local News

Lee County EDG hosts career exploration day

LEE COUNTY - More than 360 students from Fort Madison, Keokuk, Central Lee, Holy Trinity and Keokuk Christian attended the 8th Grade Career Exploration Day hosted by Lee County EDG, the Burlington Partnership and South-eastern Community College today.

The students were divided into groups and were able to explore six different career paths in the Arts & Communications, Business & Marketing, Construction & Manufacturing, Family & Human Sciences, Agriscience and Health Science fields.

"This is a great opportunity for students to see the different career paths available in the area as they look at what classes they want to take during high school," said Lee County EDG Marketing Manager Dana Millard.

"Many of our schools have career pathways students can explore in high school, today's event allows them to see local careers these pathways might lead to."

During each session, students learned about a career path, what kind of education you need to be successful, salary ranges and a typical day at each company. Students also heard how a real career differs from what they see on TV. A Keokuk Area Hospital ER nurse told students, "It's not like you see on Grays Anatomy or Chicago Med, you're dealing with real people and not everything will be fixed within the hour; though most of the equipment is the same."

They also received life advice from presenters. "It's okay if you change your career path," commented DuPont Production and Logistics Manag-

er Chase Hennigar, "Ask questions, it's the only way you'll know if it's a job for you."

Many presenters emphasized the importance of a good attitude, desire to learn, positive communication, and the ability to be flexible as essential to their success.

The Career Exploration Day was part of a bigger regional 3-day event where students visit SCC to hear about these career paths. The three-day event, Monday through Wednesday, included 36 presenters from different careers and 952 students from Lee and Des Moines counties.

Presenters from Lee County included representatives from: Alliant Energy, Connection Bank, DuPont, Fort Madison Community Hospital, Keokuk Area Hospital, ISU Extension, Roquette, and Schiller Greenhouse.



Photos courtesy of LCEDG

A little direction

Retired Central Lee teacher Ernie Schiller talks with eighth graders at the Career Exploration Days at SCC. The program was geared to talking with the students about potential jobs that could await them after they finish their education.

Building was site of vandalism

MELLER - Continued from Page 1

On several occasions the Fort Madison police department has been called to the location after people had seen kids running from the building.

"We may have to talk with the owner," Police Chief Tim Sittig said several weeks ago. "You don't know what kind of nefarious activity might be going on in there."

Meller said he didn't think it would be young

kids, but probably older kids and young adults in and out of there.

He also said he was disappointed in the negative comments from the city that had appeared in other articles about the building.

"It was just negative information," Meller said. "This is why people don't come to this town..stuff like this. It's sad but that's one of the reasons."

Krogmeier said the city, despite the building falling into disrepair for the past five years, hadn't pushed Meller to take it down if he could make something of the property.

"We're just happy that it's going to come down."

Meller said after demolition he doesn't have plans for the property and said no one has expressed interest in the property.



Great River Regional Waste Authority
would like to remind you to properly dispose of your Household Hazardous Waste, Construction Waste and Electronic Waste.
Call GRRWA's Household Hazardous Waste Regional Collection to schedule your appointment Monday - Friday 8am - 4pm



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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Fort Madison Community School District and the Chauffers, Teamsters and Helpers Local Union #238, Unit 1 (Bus Drivers) will meet in open public meeting to receive the Union's initial proposal to the District for the purpose of negotiating the 2017-2018 contract at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 23, 2017.

They will then meet in open public meeting to receive the District's initial proposal to the Union at 10:05 a.m. on Thursday, March 23, 2017.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Fort Madison Community School District and the Chauffers, Teamsters and Helpers Local Union #238, Unit 2 (Custodians and Maintanances) will meet in open public meeting to receive the Union's initial proposal to the District for the purpose of negotiating the 2017-2018 contract at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday,

March 23, 2017.
They will then meet in open public meeting to receive the District's initial proposal to the Union at 2:05 p.m. on Thursday, March 23, 2017.

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Go to www.agemark.com/careers/ and click on the link for positions in Fort Madison or send resume to ebrown@kensington-evergreen.com. You can also stop in The Kensington at: 2210 Avenue H Fort Madison, IA



HELP WANTED

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, the world's largest marketer of branded consumer lawn and garden products, is seeking a **Maintenance Electrician** for the Fort Madison, Iowa location.

The Maintenance Electrician will perform detailed mechanical, instrumentation, and electrical troubleshooting, repair, and preventative maintenance on plant process, utility, and packaging equipment. This position will perform multi-discipline maintenance and electrical work and maintain appropriate documentation.

This position requires a High School Diploma/GED, PLC Technician and Electrical Educational Courses. Candidates should be able to demonstrate the technical skills required to install/service a variety of systems in addition to program, repair, and maintain programmable logic controller systems (PLC) used in a high speed industrial packaging facility. Individual must be committed to maintaining a safe and clean work environment and complying with regulations and policies. This position must be available to work any shift and overtime as needed.

Minimum five years' experience in an electrical maintenance field in a manufacturing environment. For expanded job details and to apply visit <http://www.scottsmiraclegro.com/careers> and search for Req 2221.

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HELP WANTED

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, the world's largest marketer of branded consumer lawn and garden products, is seeking an **Inventory Coordinator** for the Fort Madison, Iowa location.

The Inventory Coordinator (Warehouse Stager) is responsible for the inventory management of multiple production components. This includes physical counts and inventory reconciliation before, after and during production campaigns.

This position requires a High School Diploma/GED, strong math skills, and the ability to follow directions provided in verbal or non-verbal format. Candidates should be able to demonstrate a willingness to learn multiple job assignments, able to utilize Microsoft Office and Google Chrome, safely operate a fork truck in a manufacturing environment, excellent prioritization skills and the ability to perform multiple simultaneous tasks, with interruptions. This position must be available to work any shift and overtime as needed.

Minimum one year experience in a manufacturing or warehouse environment and past SAP experience. For expanded job details and to apply visit <http://www.scottsmiraclegro.com/careers> and search for Req 2124.

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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 • \$129,000



**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



**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



**5BR • 1.75BA • 1 car garage
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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**



**2BR • 1BA • 2 car garage
930 sq. ft. • 7,280 sq. ft. lot**
This 2 bedroom home in Montrose has been a rental property and sells as is. Priced way below assessed value to sell quickly!
Listing #20164279 • \$38,500



**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 • 1 car garage
2,260 sq. ft.
6,784 sq. ft. lot**
Lots of new! Semi open floor plan, new flooring, great open basement family space, and many updates including heat/air units, kitchen back splash, counters and more! Fenced in back yard with stamped concrete patio and awning. Call today to see this great home in a quiet neighborhood.
Listing #20164544 • \$139,900



**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



**3 BR • 2 BA • 2 car garage
1,168 sq. ft. • 0.54 acres**
Quality and beauty! Many updates and upgrades including a new concrete patio/carport with surround sound and mood lighting, new kitchen, bath and lighting throughout. This is an AMAZING house that you MUST see to appreciate!!!
Listing #20164622 • \$92,500



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**5BR • 3BA
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



SOLD

**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



PENDING

**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



**3BR • 1BA • 1 car garage
928 sq. ft. • 1,087 sq. ft. lot**
Very nice maintenancefree 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



SOLD

**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



REDUCED

**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



REDUCED

**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



**3BR • 3.50BA • 3 car garage
3,723 sq. ft.**

Splendor in the woods...with privacy...AND a view...AND an AMAZING home. Call today on this brick beauty perched atop a hill overlooking Ft. Madison with a view of the Mississippi River and almost 6 acres of ground. Offered are 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, a formal living & dining room, a large great room/kitchen/breakfast room combo and a study/den with beautiful cherry cabinetry & bookshelves lining the walls. All of this with STUNNING hardwood floors. This beautiful home offering top-of-the-line features throughout.

Listing #20160805 • \$460,000



**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



NEW

**3 BR • 2.50 BA
2 car garage • 1,194 sq. ft. 10,400 sq. ft. lot**
Great family home is move-in ready. Nice-sized kitchen with all appliances, dining area, and nice living room all on the upper level. Completely re-modeled family room with a wood burning fireplace on lower level. Many updates include newer flooring, roof and HVAC system.

Listing #20164531 \$114,900



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PENDING

**3BR • 3BA • 3 car garage
1,635 sq. ft. • 4.3 acres**

Amazing cedar log sided home in a quiet and private setting, a well-appointed guest house, and 26x32 metal building. The main home offers beautiful hardwood flooring with a awesome open floor plan. Enjoy summer evenings on the nice walk-out patio area. This is a dream home!!!

Listing #20161863 • \$299,000



SOLD

**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



**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



REDUCED

**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



SOLD

**Multi-family Duplex
2,672 sq. ft.
7,250 sq. ft. lot**

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



NEW

**2 BR • 1 BA • 1 car garage
528 sq. ft. • 5,600 sq. ft. lot**
Super deal on this cream puff home, offering 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, new roof, newer windows, siding and REALLY nice garage!

Listing #20164597 • \$29,900



**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



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



PENDING

**4BR • 2.50BA • 1 car garage
2,056 sq. ft.**

Beautiful 2 story home located just off Highway 61 north of Fort Madison. Formal living and dining room, nice kitchen with breakfast room all open to a main floor family room, relaxing, private screened porch that opens onto the large deck that spans the back of the home. Basement boasts recently finished family room and tons of storage.

Listing #20164530 • \$175,000



Land

**50.82 acres
2,213,719 sq. ft.**

Ideal 50 acre m/l parcel to develop. Close to new 4-8 Middle School and Baxter Rec Plex. TREMENDOUS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY.

Listing #20162779 • \$559,020



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



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Ad Effective: 3-7-17 thru 3-20-17

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Monday-Friday 9:00am-6:00pm,
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