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Pen City Current

Tues., February 14, 2017 | 10 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 48

Proposed city levy at \$15.91 for 2017-18

Main Street and LCEDG could take 50% cut from city

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Despite several hours of crunching debate and a smorgasboard of ideas, the Fort Madison City Council is looking at keeping the city's tax asking static to 2017.

The City Council, along with all city department heads, met Monday in Council Chambers to listen to a budget proposal from City Manager David Varley.

The 2016-2017 fiscal year rate was

\$15.91050/\$1,000 of assessed valuation and the proposed 2017-2018 FY budget is set at \$15.91020/\$1,000. The proposed rate will generate \$4.059 million in property taxes for the city. "Technically it did go down just a little, but since no one's going to really notice it we don't have to spend a lot of time on it."

The city will be taking a hit in some of its funds however and corrections are being proposed to lessen the burden on the general fund, which



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Budget time

City Manager David Varley presents the 2017-2018 fiscal year proposed budget at a city council workshop Monday night.

Varley said is struggling to keep pace.

One of the funds is the Grant Opportunity Fund which was being fed by an annual \$300,000 payment from the Catfish Bend

Riverboat, but the lease expired in March and the revenue source is now gone.

The fund was used for items such as contract services, grant matches,

capital projects and transfers to the general fund. It also funded entities such as Lee County Economic Development, Main

See **BUDGET**, page 7

Ross joins Current sales staff

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Pen City Current announced on Tuesday that Shawna Ross, a staple in the advertising and marketing of local business, has joined the company's sales team.



ROSS

Ross, a former sales and marketing consultant at the Fort Madison Daily Democrat and Bonny Buyer,

has joined the company after eight years of working with local businesses.

Lee Vandenberg, Sales Manager at the Current, said Ross' history and passion for helping her customers will be an immediate asset to the new company started in December.

"Shawna has always had her clients' best interests at heart and has always said her number one priority was doing what was right for the customer," Vandenberg said. "It's that passion that makes this a great partnership. Not just with us but with this community and we're thrilled to have her on our team."

Ross' love for serving the public started in August of 2003 when she began working at the Hill Side Inn as a waitress and then bartender. She stayed

See **ROSS**, page 2

Taylor returns to take on 10th Street Station

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - With less than a dozen years before its 100th birthday and just past the 25th anniversary under current ownership, the 10th Street Station has been sold.

Dave Taylor, a 1982 graduate of Fort Madison Community High School, purchased the landmark diner from Bill and Donna Fraune a couple weeks ago and was in town this week looking at operations.

Taylor, just prior to the purchase, was living in Sandusky, Ohio and working at the Sandusky State Theater in a town he says is very similar to Fort Madison. But in the



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Taylor-made for this

Dave Taylor, formerly of Fort Madison and a 1982 graduate of Fort Madison High School, has purchased 10th Street Station. Taylor said customers have no fear of menu changes but he will bring a few tweaks and some programming to the 87-year-old diner.

past year, Taylor said he's lost three family members and every time he comes

back to the area the family would meet at the diner. "Every time I would

come to town my dad would say, 'You know, the diner's for sale,'" Taylor

said. "But I never saw a for sale sign so I never talked to Donna or Bill. But the last time I was here with my sister and that was the first time I saw the sign and said, 'Dad's been talking to me about buying this for years', so I said you know let's take a look."

"Bill and Donna have strived for food presented in a nice way, simple, and tasty and I'm not gonna mess with that."

But he said the real testament to their operations is that two of the employees have a combined 30 years working for the Fraunes.

"You just don't find that in this industry anymore." Taylor started working

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From the Front

Taylor won't change what's working, but has ideas on community, model

TAYLOR - Continued from Page 1

out of high school in the Quad Cities for a lumber company and then joined the army for four years and went on active duty for four years. He then did a stint with Gordon's Jewelers before going to Sangamon State College in Springfield to work as an assistant ticket manager for the college auditorium. He stayed there for 17 years before leaving as the director of the venue. He then moved to McKinney Texas, just outside of Dallas and opened a rehabilitated historic theater and then worked for two years with the Majestic Theatre in downtown Dallas, before moving to Sandusky. "At each of the theaters I've managed there's been some type of kitchen, but running a diner is something outside the norm. But it's one of those things that's a no brainer," Taylor said. "Your grandpa came here, my dad came here. I don't want to tinker with it...I'm not going to change it. The menu's pretty much going to stay the same."

"I want to continue the legacy that the Fraunes have created and not upset the apple cart."

-Dave Taylor, new diner owner

He said he would also like to plan for some special events and even possibly some sampling. "I'm going to be doing some taste testing and doing some special events. I've got a couple of ideas of things I've done in other communities that could be fun here, but I'm gonna wait on that for now." Physically he wants to take the building back to a retro 30s or 40s theme and wants to incorporate local groups or schools in the process possibly even having the school involved in some of the refurbishing of the building. "Aesthetically I'd like to get the building back to a period look. We're gonna be a hundred in about 13 years so it would be very cool to have a retro look to the thing," he said. "I wanted to continue that legacy the Fraunes have helped create and not upset the apple cart." Fraune has owned the business with her husband Bill for the past 25 years.

"I'm just greatly relieved. I'm happy its sold and I'm ready to do other things," Fraune said. "We have grandkids that don't live here so I'm looking forward to that." But Fraune said she can't get too far away from the business she's done for the better part of a quarter century. "I'd like to work a couple days a week and help where I can," she said. The local counter luncheon has been in operation for 88 years in a few different hands and a few different names, but has always had a steady flow of regular customers and Fraune said she'll probably miss that the most. "That's been the best part," she said. "And we've gotten to know so many people that have continued to come back every year. We've gotten really close to a lot of people." She said she hopes some of the things stay the same, but indicated that new ideas can be good.

"I think everybody has new ideas and things they want to try." Taylor said the customer base has been built on staples at the diner and folks have nothing to fear. "I may broaden the breakfast menu, but the maid-rites are a staple... the tenderloins are a staple... the soups are fantastic and pies, I don't want to mess with any of that. There may be some tweaking of things and the generation x and y eating habits are different. They are looking for different things. But I'm not going to mess with what's working," Taylor said. Taylor has Facebook and Twitter pages and is encouraging everyone to visit the sites at 10th Street Station. He said he encourages people to search the site and give him some feedback. Sunday hours with four churches within a few blocks and partnering with the theater for some special events may also be on the horizon.

Taylor said he actually looked at purchasing the theater because of his background, but he said he got a call and someone had put in a bid on the theater. "I said no problem, they can take the theater and I'll take the diner." Taylor also said he has been very involved in the community and encourages people to reach out to him. "I'm gonna be involved in the Main Street, I want to be involved in the Chamber, but other groups should feel welcome to reach out. I just love being involved in the community's groups." "There's a bigger picture here, but you start small so you can get a feel for things," he said.

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Ross happy to keep working with clients

ROSS - Continued from Page 1

there until owners John (Biff) and Beth Rippenkroeger sold the operation in October of 2010. In January 2008 she took a position with the Bonny Buyer when it was housed in West Point and then moved onto the Daily Democrat after a year.

"Lee Vandenberg, then Advertising Director for the Democrat and then publisher, Gary Milks, advanced me into one of two outside sales positions within the advertising department where I stayed for seven years," Ross said.

"The seven years I spent in that position allowed me the honor of servicing the area businesses and getting to know all the amazing people that make up this business community. I never really viewed myself as an Advertising Sales Representative as my title warranted. I viewed, and continue to view, myself as more of a Marketing Service Representative and Consultant, a marketing tool if you will, to all the businesses I service," Ross said.

Ross said her main career joy is helping area business owners find new avenues to market their business and to help them create new and exciting messages. She said she's proud that many of her customers consider her a close friend or even extended family.

"It is no secret that the digital and social marketing world is essential to the growth of all businesses. Partnering with Pen City Current was an essential move for me to make. I knew when I left my previous position that I didn't want to give up the most important, and hands down the most valued, part of what I do; forming and nurturing the bond and relationships with area business owners. In addition to my partnership with Pen City Current I have taken on the favorable task of helping some of the businesses in our area enhance their website and social media presence," she said.

"I worked with Chuck Vandenberg in my previous position and he felt an overwhelming need to make the print papers and their websites viable. Much to my pleasure and the pleasure of our community, Chuck did not give up on that desire and formed with Lee, the area's first-ever digital news product."

Ross said when she first heard about the Vandenberg's effort she was excited about the potential of the business.

"I knew it would be a fun, fresh, and more importantly, a viable avenue for our area businesses to advertise with. I am beyond excited to be a partner to Pen City Current. Not to mention how honored I feel to be a part of a family-owned and ran news outlet. What is most exciting is being able to witness the astounding growth of the company even in its infancy."

My husband, Zeke, worked for the Democrat. Starting as the all-lovable newspaper delivery boy and moving onto the press. It was his driving force that helped me make the decision to work in the same industry. For almost four years he has been employed at the Ft. Madison DuPont plant and has held the title of the all-lovable boiler guy for a little more than a year.

I met my husband when I was 8 years old as he stood on the front porch of my childhood home here in Ft. Madison visiting with my sister, Stacie, and a group of their friends. It wasn't the most pleasant of meetings as he somehow irritated me and I took it upon myself to kick him off my porch. His reaction, well, he called me a few choice names (all innocent). We became good friends about 5 years later and began dating when I was 17. We married in February 2003 after the birth of our daughter, Aniah. We went on to have our son, Cuyrin and I suppose the rest is history.

Shawna and Zeke have two children Aniah and Cuyrin, both teenagers. Ross said. Aniah shines far beyond her 15+ years and is very involved with extracurricular activities and groups at the High School. Making Freshman Class President this year and being involved in Key Club, Book Club, Large and Individual Speech Group, Drama Club, Show Choir, Marching Band, and Jazz Band.

Cuyrin, just shy of 13 years of age, is giving his sister a run for her musical talent. He is also a multi-instrument kid, playing the piano, the tuba for Concert Band and sousaphone for Marching Band, the bass guitar for Jazz Band and is more recently learning to play the harmonic and preparing to learn the acoustic guitar. He's also involved in sports. He is our sporty kid, enjoys hunting with his Dad and his dad's "Army Buddies" and looks forward to one day taking on the Wally Burger Challenge at the Fort Diner.

"To say I have been blessed with an amazing family is an understatement. My entire family, extended and immediate, most of whom go unnamed in this article, has really encouraged me to take this necessary step in my career. To me their support means the world.

So, if you're a business owner looking for fresh and creative ways to market your business and be able to see the results of your advertising or if you just want some tips, give me a call. I enter with a smile, a notebook, a listening ear and ideas to help you grow your business!"

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For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

02/09/17 - 8:01 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 3400 block of Avenue N. 02/09/17 - 9:10 a.m. - Fort Madison police received a report of larceny / theft in the 5100 block of Avenue O at the Police Department. 02/09/17 - 9:56 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny / theft in the 800 block of Avenue G. 02/09/17 - 12:41 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 3200 block of Crabtree Lane. 02/09/17 - 3:40 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 3400 block of Avenue L. 02/09/17 - 3:44 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Shaukim Urijah Redd, 26, of Burlington, in the 1000 block of 34th Street, on warrant services for escape from residential facility and flight to avoid escape; and on charges of interference with official acts-serious misdemeanor and 1st-degree theft - Class C felony. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed. 02/09/17 - 5:44 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a gas drive off in the 5000 block of Avenue O. 02/09/17 - 9:21 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Dakota John Mckeown, 23, of Fort Madison, in the 2700 block of Avenue J, on 2 warrant services harassment in the 1st degree and carrying weapons and two counts of interference with official acts. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed. 02/10/17 - 6:47 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1400 block of 38th Street. 02/10/17 - 1:30 p.m. - Fort

Madison police arrested Timothy John Smith, 40, of Fort Madison, in the 1700 block of Avenue G on charges of interference with official acts - simple misdemeanor and possession of drug paraphernalia - simple misdemeanor, and a warrant service for parole violation. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed. 02/11/17 - 5:09 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Adam Andrew Nolz, 29, no address given, in the 1700 block of Avenue H, on warrant services for 2nd degree theft and 3rd degree burglary. He was transferred to the Henry County Line. 02/11/17 - 8:23 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit & run in the 2800 block of Avenue A. 02/11/17 - 9:34 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny / theft in the 1600 block of Avenue H. 02/11/17 - 10:13 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny / theft in the 400 block of 4th Street. 02/11/17 - 1:47 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny / theft in the 3400 block of Avenue L. 02/11/17 - 3:56 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2100 block of 303rd Avenue. 02/11/17 - 5:23 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1300 block of Avenue J. 02/11/17 - 5:30 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 300 block of Avenue G. 02/11/17 - 5:56 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Tara Michelle Sharp, 25, of Fort Madison, in the 1300 block of Avenue J, on charges of OWI 1st offense and driving while suspended. She was taken to the Lee County Correc-

tional Center and jailed. 02/11/17 - 6:17 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2200 block of Avenue I. 02/11/17 - 6:38 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 800 block of Avenue H. 02/12/17 - 12:11 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Fran Lee Allen, 32, of Morning Sun, at the Fort Madison Police Department on a charge of OWI 1st offense. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed. 02/12/17 - 12:45 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny / theft in the 1800 block of Carroll Street. 02/13/17 - 2:46 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Richard Zachery Marosi, 23, of Jacksonville, FL, in the 2600 block of Avenue L, on a charge of OWI 1st offense. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed. 02/13/17 - 11:21 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Jayson Wayne Elizondo, 36, of Fort Madison, at 30th Street and Avenue L, on a charge of driving under suspension. He was released on promise to appear.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

02/10/17 - 12:55 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Lisa Marie Johnson, 28, of Fort Madison, at the Lee County Sheriff's office on warrants for conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine, failure to appear, and theft in the 5th degree. She was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed. 02/10/17 - 7:25 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Scot Andrew Flora, 48, of Keokuk, at the Illinois State Line on a warrant for arrest of parole violator. He was taken to the Lee County

Correctional Center and jailed. 02/11/17 - 9:41 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested James Paul Dean Burleson, 21, of Keokuk, on warrants for voluntary absence and judgment entry / mittimus. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed. 02/12/17 - 11:28 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Tiffany Renae Atterberg, 42, of Keokuk, at the Des Moines County Jail on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed. She was later released on bond. 02/13/17 - 12:53 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Noah Michael Williams, 20, of Keokuk on a charge of possession of a controlled substance marijuana. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed. 02/13/17 - 1:30 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Katelyn Marie Van Pelt, 22, of Fort Madison, in the 3900 block of Valley Road, Keokuk, on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. She was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed. 02/13/17 - 1:30 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Derek Alan Miller, 22, of Carthage, in the 3900 block of Valley Road, Keokuk, on charges of possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, and driving while suspended. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed. 02/13/17 - 1:32 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Robert Roland Harper, 26, of Fort Madison, in the 1500 block of Avenue G, Fort Madison, on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance. All persons in these listings are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

For the Record

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SPLendor IN THE WOODS



3 BR, 3.50 BA

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

DREAM HOME!



3 BR, 3 BA, 4.3 ACRES

3 car garage • 1,635 sq. ft.

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

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!!

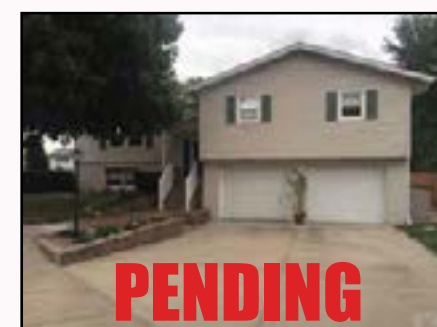
Listing #20162159 • \$164,000



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



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 #203006122 \$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, it's 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 • 1.75BA
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
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



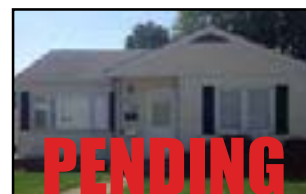
Land
50.82 acres
2,213,719 sq. ft.
Ideal 50 acre m/l parcel to develop. Close to new 4-8 Middle School and Baxter Rec Plex. TREMENDOUS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY.
Listing #20162779
\$559,020



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



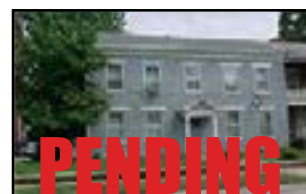
Land
14.65 acres
638,514 sq. ft.
Just outside city limits, perfect for housing development or small farm for horses or small livestock, over half tillable. City water is available. 30' X 60' building is totally insulated, heated and air conditioned with 200 amp service.
Listing #20162574
\$249,000



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



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
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



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

From the Front

Viking dock and Amtrak dominate discussions

BUDGET - Continued from Page 1

Street, RSVP and SEIBUS.
"These dollar amounts to these groups aren't huge dollar amounts, but I don't want anyone to think I just glossed that over," Varley said.
"I am proposing in this budget that we reduce our commitment to the LCEDG to \$25,000 from \$50,000 and Main Street from \$10,000 to \$5,000." Varley said.
City Finance Director Peggy Steffensmeier said this year is the last year in the city's commitment to the LCEDG, but Varley said there is language in the agreement that permits the city to step it back if they are having budget issues.
Another issue that drew quite a bit of discussion is a \$6 million Quality of Life

Bond.
The bond was issued to pay for street improvements and city park improvements and by the end of the 2018 fiscal year those projects will be completed with the exception of one project which is the dock and amenities for use by Vikings Cruise Lines. The fund will continue to hold \$100,000 for the project.

"If the city ever bonds like this again, I hope we have a better plan," said Councilman Rusty Andrews. "We've used this as, and I hate to use the word, but a slush fund of sorts. But this Viking thing is way out there. Is it worth holding back 100 grand?"
Varley said what they are talking about is a stripped down version as opposed to highly developed river-front.

Also at issue was a pending deficit at the new depot when that is moved.
"Currently Amtrak pays \$0 for rent at the current facility. So for us to even get rent from them was a lot of work. But if we can look at that from the tourism side, then the general fund may not take a hit," Randolph said.

Randolph said the city subsidizes a lot of businesses through incentives and tax increment financing, or TIF, projects.
"But this is going to be around for all of us when we're gone and we're gonna leave this for future councils. David's done a good job of shrinking (Amtrak) down I think because they had big expectations first," Andrews said.

"From the first agreement to what we have now we're in a much better state than we were," Randolph said.
"I'll be honest with you, I don't know how much we're gonna see from people getting off the train. Best case scenario is the train is four hours late and people need to get something to eat. But the more ways you have for people to get into town, the better off you are. If you start closing that off you kind of shut that down."

Regarding the sales tax fund, Varley is projecting the city will start the next fiscal year with \$7 in that fund, with projected revenues of \$1.477 million with expenditures calculated at \$1.531 million causing a shortfall of \$54,390.

The Hotel/Motel Tax Fund, money contributed to city coffers from a tax added to all hotel and motel stays in the city, was also discussed. The city contributes 9 percent of that revenue to the Fort Madison Area Artists Association and 9 percent to the North Lee County Historical Society. There was discussion among the council to reduce the 9 percent to 7 percent to offset budget deficits.

The revenues have been increasing with the construction of the Iowa Fertilizer Company with workers staying at local hotels, but Randolph said that money could start to dwindle as the plant comes on line. But he said Boulders is doubling their size and that could help stave off some of the decreases.

The budget is not finalized. City staff will include any changes and then the budget will have to go through a public hearing and be approved by the city council at a future city council meeting.



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Holy Trinity youth team competes in New London

PCC STAFF

NEW LONDON – The Holy Trinity 5th/6th grade basketball team competed in an 8-team tourney on Saturday in New London. The Crusaders were beaten by Fairfield in the first game and Van Buren in the elimination game.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Drivin' . . .

Jacob Pothitakis drives from the left side during the game with Van Buren. HTC loss but rallied in the fourth quarter.



. . . and flyin'

Nick Fullenkamp (23) pulls up for a short one-handed jumper during the first-half of the Van Buren game Saturday in New London.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Seniors nab win in home finale

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - In a curtain call of sorts, the Fort Madison High School boys basketball team seniors gave Head Coach Ryan Wilson something he hasn't be able to get all year. A win vs. a non-Iowa team.

The Bloodhounds erased a six-point first quarter deficit and sent Illini West home with a 74-55 loss.

Fort Madison finishes the regular season at 14-7, but was 0-for-Illinois and Missouri until Monday night. The Hounds had fallen to Illinois' West Hancock, Unity and Pittsfield and Clark County, Missouri. But Wilson wasn't thinking of streaks, but had his mind on his senior players.

"These are great kids. They bust their tail every night. They come ready to play...they lead by example...they're gonna be missed," Wilson said.

"CJ (Richardson) has been playing for three years now. He's a great leader and a great point guard. Austin (Rose) has come a long way and has worked hard on his game this year and Landon (Bentley)...he's relentless. He just keeps going and going. Loves the game. They played hard tonight - played well with a lot of energy and we're gonna need that Monday night."

The Bloodhounds kick off district action Monday night in Mt. Pleasant against an almost mirror

team in Chariton who stands at 14-6 with one game remaining against Oskaloosa on Tuesday.

Fort Madison raced to an 8-2 lead Monday night paced by 3-pointers from Treavor Kokjohn and Kaleb Creswell and couple freebies from Logan Rashid. But Illini West's Jackson Porter pulled out his bag of tricks early and threw up three 3-pointers and added a free throw all in a two-minute span to single-handedly pull the Chargers ahead 11-8 with about two minutes left in the quarter. They also held the Hounds scoreless from the 4:37 mark in the quarter until Creswell converted on a drive with a minute left in the period.

With about three seconds left in the quarter, West's Jacob Bryan squared up from the right side and threw up a 3-pointer that was tipped by Richardson, who was whistled for the foul. Bryan converted all three free throws with virtually no time left to push the Chargers' lead to 16-10.

The 2nd quarter the Hounds' turned to their defense and they were able to go on a 5-0 run to start the period, highlighted by sophomore Logan Rashid's 3-pointer and a bucket to cut the lead to 15-16. Porter countered dialing up another long-distance call to push the lead to 15-19.

Then Kokjohn took his turn to push the Chargers back converting two free throws and another bucket on Fort Madison's next possession to tie the game at 19. The rest of

the quarter was a 3-point shootout with West's Kennedy Gooding and Bryan each putting up a trey and the Hounds got one from Rose who stepped to the top of the key and buried one followed by a couple of Bentley freebies and a Creswell 3-pointer to give Fort Madison its first lead since midway through the first period 29- 27 at the half.

The momentum continued into the third period as the Hounds pushed the lead to six at 35-29 on back-to-back Creswell bombs. Buckets by Bentley and Richardson pushed the lead to 10 and the Hounds were off to the races culminating with a 13-3 run capped by a Richardson trey.

The Chargers never got back into the game going down by as much as 22 in the fourth although they connected on five 3-pointers, three from Aden Trout and two from Jonah Burt. The Hounds only converted one three pointer as Wilson directed his team to start working the ball and finding open driving lanes to work the clock.

Richardson said the crowd was a huge part of the game.

"The energy the crowd brought to the game really was really appreciated. It helped us step it up, especially defensively because that's when you need the extra energy," he said.

Rose said the last time playing at home in front of the student body and fans helped him as well.

"Oh yeah, I mean when we started in warm ups I was feeling it. I know all



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Going for the dunk

Junior Treavor Kokjohn goes for a slam in the late going Monday night against the Chargers. Kokjohn finished with 14 points on the night. The Hounds won 74-55 in the final game of the season in the Hound Dome.

the seniors were, too. It was our last ride here." Wilson said he didn't really expect to win by that margin, but knew his team had the potential to play that well.

"You never expect to win by 20. But when the kids play like they are capable of...like they are coached to play, it can happen," Wilson said. "Tonight they played hard and good things happened. You don't expect that kind of margin but it's nice when it happens."

"I was looking at the half, we had two guys at 7 one guy at 8. If we want to be successful in the postseason and they want to have a chance to beat Chariton and Mt. Pleasant...we have to share it. It has to be "we" and not "me." They played with energy... with heart... with emotion and it's gotta be that way for districts. We have to have that Monday against Chariton and if all goes well and we win Monday we'll need it on Thursday if we get to Mt.

Pleasant. Mt. Pleasant has thumped us a couple times and they're going to expect to thump us again if that matchup happens. But we'll be alright. They just have to play the way they're coached to play." Rounding out the scoring for the Hounds was Creswell with 17, Richardson with 15, Kokjohn had 14, Bentley had 9, Rashid chipped in with 7, Rose and Shance Redd-Donald each had five and Lorenzo Riles added two.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Creswell for 3

The Hounds' Kaleb Creswell lets go one of his five 3-pointers on the night here in the third period Monday night.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Moving the ball

Sophomore Logan Rashid dishes the ball off to the corner in the third quarter of Monday's game against Illini West.

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