



# Pen City Current

Thursday, March 8, 2018 | 9 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 71

## SE Iowa hit hard by flu; rest of state hit harder

*Rashid pharmacy manager says it's worst he's seen in 23 years*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Despite record levels of flu shots being dispensed in the area and the veracity of the influenza A virus that's ripped through the area the past three months, it ap-

pears Lee County and southeast Iowa weren't hit as hard as other parts of the state.

According to data from the Lee County Health Department, influenza activity remains high in Iowa and is widespread, but samples from

the State Hygienic Laboratory, the main reporting agency in the state's week-to-week results, 24 schools in the state reported 10 percent or more illnesses at least once during the week. The southeast region, which includes Lee County, reported just two schools in the week ending Feb. 17 and 28 schools since Oct. 1.

Statewide, there have also been 157 influenza-related

deaths reported for the whole flu season.

Tom Nelson, pharmacy manager and 18 year employee of Rashid Pharmacy in Fort Madison said it's easily been the hardest this area has been hit by the flu in his 18 years dispensing medicine.

"I've been a pharmacist for 23 years and I've never seen it this severe before," Nelson said.

He said both generic and

brand name TamiFlu doses have been very high as well.

"We've dispensed over 310 children regiments of Tami-Flu capsules in generic form and then about 50 of the name brand, plus 400 doses for adults and children that can swallow the pills. Both brand name and generic were off the charts this year. And that doesn't count

See **INFLUENZA**, page 9

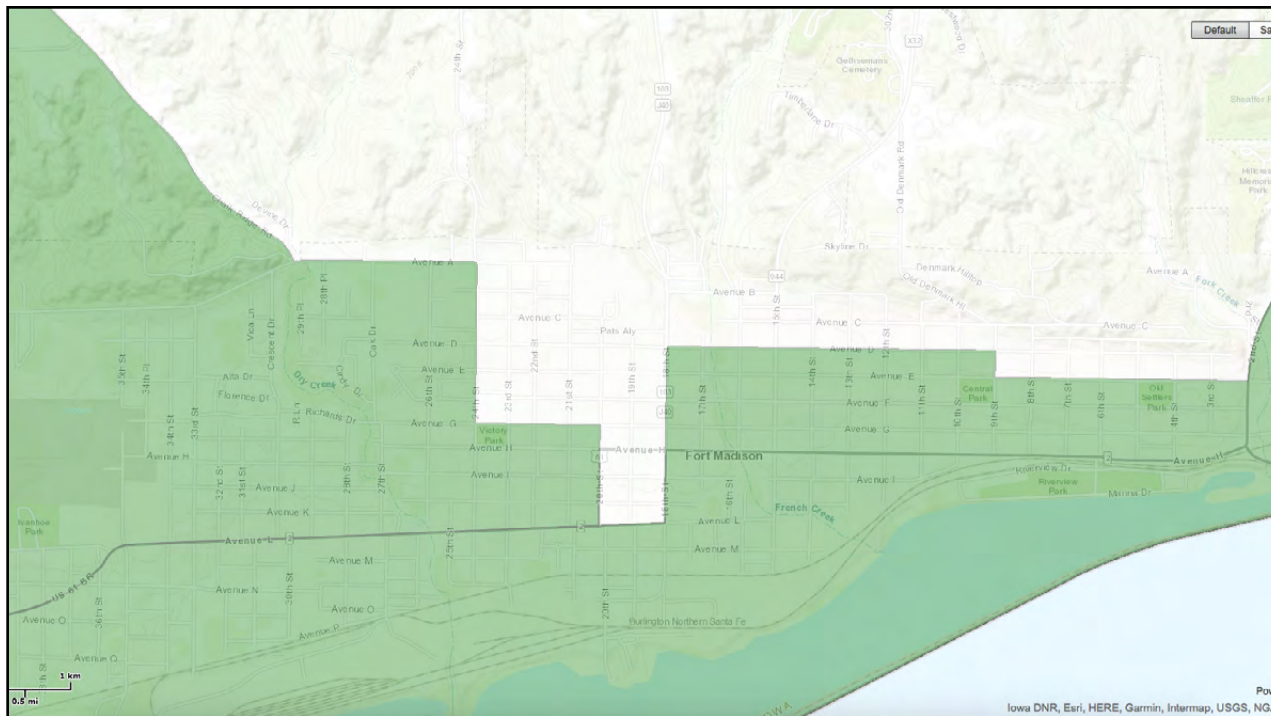
## Partners trying to lock up Opportunity Zone

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A new incentive program aimed at generating private investment in lagging Iowa communities, could be coming to Fort Madison.

The program was born out of the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017, where private investment helps spur economic development in areas designated as Low Income Community Census Tracts, or Qualified Opportunity Zones. The initiative allows private investors to roll what are called unrealized capital gains, or gains on investments in stocks that haven't been sold, into O-Funds.

The incentive is to allow the private investors to defer capital gains taxes on the earnings until Dec. 31, 2026, while at the same time seeing possible earnings in the O-fund which, depending on how long



Source: Iowa Economic Development Authority

The map above shows a close-up of the city of Fort Madison. The green areas are the areas that are qualified to be Opportunity Zones. Officials need to have an application to the state by March 19 and then Gov. Kim Reynolds will recommend 60 areas in the state to the U.S. Department of Treasury to be accepted into the O-Fund zones.

the investor leaves the money in the fund, could result in no capital gains tax on the earnings in the fund. The initial money rolled over into the fund, would be subjected to capital gains rates at the time

the fund is sold.

If an investor leaves the money in the O-fund for a minimum of 10 years, there



GOBBLE

would be no capital gains tax on the money earned in the fund, minus the original investment. There is a sliding rate at seven and five years in the fund.

According to the

Development Authority, the state has 239 areas that would qualify for the the program, but Gov. Kim Reynolds would only be able to submit 25%, or 60, of

See **ZONES**, page 9

## Keokuk woman named to state HOF

Submitted article

KEOKUK - For more than 45 years, Dev Kiedaisch has devoted her time and talents to causes such as education, literacy, poverty, and equal rights/equal pay for women and minorities. She is one to act, coordinate, and implement programs that make a difference. Her vision for increasing volunteerism in the community will impact programming for years to come.

After attending a workshop in Des Moines in 2011 about the importance of promoting volunteerism in your community, Dev dreamed of establishing a volunteer center in Keokuk that would connect people with opportunities to serve. She was

See **HONOR**, page 6

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## Scene Around Town/Area News



Courtesy photo

FORT MADISON - They're 22 of the class of '22. And they've thrown their weight behind Head Coach Tony Shiffman and the Fort Madison Bloodhound football team. On Tuesday 22 members of the incoming freshman class gave commitments to Shiffman and the Hound staff to help build the program. Shiffman will be in his second year as head coach of the Bloodhounds. In the photo above, Assistant Coach, and strength and conditioning coordinator, Derek Doherty, talks with members of the incoming class while Assistant Coach Andrew Troxel listens at the back of the classroom.

## Conservation group to hold Easter Egg Hunt March 24

MONTROSE - Lee County Conservation's annual Prairie Egg Hunt is taking place Saturday, March 24 at 2 p.m. at the Heron Bend Conservation Area.

Kids will be divided into four age groups that will tromp through the prairie in search of candy-filled eggs at different times.

Entry fee is \$2. The public is invited to visit the animals and displays in the Conservation Center after the event. Contact (319) 463-7673 with any questions.



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#### Lotto Drawings

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Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America <sup>SM</sup>	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



**3/7**  
6 13 19 36 51  
Powerball: 18  
Power Play: 2



**3/7**  
1 2 13 20 36  
Star Ball: 9  
All Star Bonus: 2



**3/7 MID-DAY**  
8 6 1  
**3/7 EVENING**  
9 6 5



**3/7 MID-DAY**  
9 6 6 7  
**3/7 EVENING**  
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Founded in 2016



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## Sports/Education News

### Kidtek grants underway

Kidtek U, Southeastern Community Colleges, Summer Youth Camps keep your children engaged, learning, and having fun during the summer. Camps take place in June and July meeting Monday - Friday from either 9am - noon or 1 - 4pm.

Camps are designed for kids of all ages: standard camps for students grades 4 - 6, and advanced camps for grades 7 - 9. Each week-long camp cost \$179.

Partial scholarships are open to Lee County residents!

Preference will be given to students with a need and haven't received a scholarship in the past.

First round of application reviews starts April 19th. There are a limited number of scholarships and camps available so don't delay. Scholarships and camps fill quickly. Registration opens May 1st.

Have questions about any Lee County EDG events or programs contact Dana Millard for more information.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

### 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 08 Mar

Partly Cloudy  
High - 29.3° F | Low - 17.5° F

FRI 09 Mar

Light Snow  
High - 34.2° F | Low - 29.8° F

SAT 10 Mar

Light Snow  
High - 38.6° F | Low - 27.3° F

SUN 11 Mar

Clear Skies  
High - 34.5° F | Low - 24.3° F

MON 12 Mar

Clear Skies  
High - 37.2° F | Low - 28.3° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

### Hound grapplers say goodbye to seniors

FORT MADISON - At Wednesday's banquet for the Fort Madison Bloodhound wrestling team, the program said goodbye to four seniors including from left, Ryan Steffensmeier. Ryan was 1st team all-conference in the Southeast loop, was a two-time state qualifier and placed at 113lbs as a junior. He was also selected to the All-Academic Conference team and was an Iron Hound for not missing any practices during the year. Second from left is 152lb state champion Harlan Steffensmeier. Harlan was a four-time state qualifier, four-time state placer, 1st Team All-Conference, Most Outstanding Wrestler of the Southeast Conference,

Academic All-Conference, an Iron Hound, Varsity Outstanding Wrestler, Varsity Hammer of the Year, has the school record for most wins with 159 and recorded 94 pins in his career. Second from right is Aaron Steffensmeier. Aaron was a 1st Team All-Conference, Academic All-Conference, a state qualifier, an Iron Hound and co-Most Improved Varsity Wrestler. At far right is Dalton Mabeus, who was Varsity Newcomer of the Year and Academic All-Conference. Not pictured is Austin Haas, of Holy Trinity Catholic, who was also named Academic All-Conference. Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**2018 Announcement Party** - Saturday, March 10th starting at 6pm  
 Kinnick South 1310 14th St. Ft. Madison, Iowa  
**NO COVER CHARGE**  
 Ticket Sales • Raffles • Giveaways • Drawings  
 The Natu Band will play starting at 8 p.m.

**Battle of the Bands & Battle of the Charities** - Sunday May 27th at 12pm  
 Vinnies Longbranch 2601 Avenue L Ft. Madison, Iowa  
**NO COVER CHARGE**  
 Battling Bands will play for a spot on the main stage as an opener to one of our national acts.  
 Elliot Test Kitchen, PAWS and Puppy Jakes Foundation will be battling for your support through free-will donations. Winning charity will receive an additional \$500.

Sponsorship Opportunities are available. Contact Charles Craft [charles@riverfestfm.com](mailto:charles@riverfestfm.com) or Shawna Ross [ssross@riverfestfm.com](mailto:ssross@riverfestfm.com).

There are a few Commercial, Craft and Food Vendor spots available. Contact: Lori Illner (Food Vendor) [food@riverfestfm.com](mailto:food@riverfestfm.com) and Gina Simmons (Craft & Commercial) [vendor@riverfestfm.com](mailto:vendor@riverfestfm.com).

**2018 LINE-UP RELEASE Party**  
 Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> 6PM  
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Riverfest 2018 Tickets available on [ticketfly.com](http://ticketfly.com) starting March 10th, 2018

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**AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup> 2018 DRAGON BOATS**

Dragon Boat Racing Returns to Fort Madison  
 For the first time in more than a decade Dragon boat racing will be returning to the beautiful riverfront of Fort Madison Iowa. Registration is open so grab 20 of your closest friends and form a team today.

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**From the Front/Current-Lee**

**United Way's Kiedaisch gets volunteer designation**

**HONOR** - Continued from Page 1

instrumental in bringing together a group of individuals to develop a permanent and sustainable volunteer center.



KIESAISCH

Dev assisted with the process of formalizing a partnership with United Way and helped write the first Volunteer Generation Fund grant to hire staff. She served as chair of the Volunteer Center Advisory Committee that developed the volunteer program mission and policies. To date, the United Way has received nearly \$170,000 in Volunteer Generation Fund grants; her initial involvement to help secure this grant has had a lasting impact on expanding volunteer opportunities in the community.

Over the years, Dev has been involved in establishing and growing countless volunteer programs, as well as supporting the nonprofits which manage them. A small sampling: developing the framework for the Literacy pilot project, which is now a permanent program of the United Way; helping organize KARE – Keokuk Association for Rights and Equality; starting programs to

encourage high school and middle school students to volunteer, as well as getting local businesses involved in Keokuk schools.

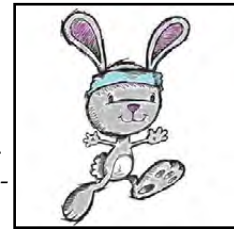
She often works tirelessly behind the scenes without recognition; devoting her time to causes that are important to her. She has always been a volunteer and a recruiter of volunteers and lives life by her motto, "service above self", and mission to improve the quality of life in Keokuk for all.

**CURRENT-LEE**

*Spring vendor show coming to Fort Madison*

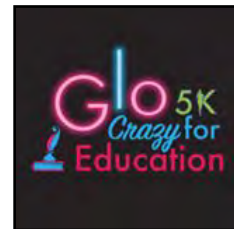
FORT MADISON - Spring Vendor Show, Saturday, March 10th, 9am-1pm, Roling Hall, 2217 Ave. I, Ft. Madison. Featuring 16 Vendors. Bake sale items will be available for sale from the Holy Family Parish BFF group

*HTC TAPS 8th Annual Bunny Hop Event – March 31st, 2018*



WEST POINT - HTC Bunny Hop 5K Run/Walk or 10K Run event. Saturday, March 31st beginning at the West Point Library. Registration begins at 8:00a.m. The race begins at 9 a.m. Pre-registration before March 23rd is \$20 & includes t-shirt. Registration on or after March 23rd is \$25. Drinks and light snacks will be provided for participants. Medals will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place finishers in each age group. Registration forms can be found here or [www.holytrinityschools.org](http://www.holytrinityschools.org). [Click here](#) to download & print your registration form.

*Glo Crazy for Education run set for April 7*



FORT MADISON - A 5K run/walk will be held on April 7 at Baxter Sports Complex beginning at 8 p.m. Proceeds from the event will go to the Elliott Test Kitchen in Fort Madison. The event is being put on by Fort Madison service clubs including Fort Madison Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary clubs as well as the Fort Madison High School key club. Registration can be done at [www.pencitycurrent.com/glo-crazy/](http://www.pencitycurrent.com/glo-crazy/).

Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for \$15. Add a photo for \$5. Non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of \$10 per 25 words and \$3 per photo. To place your listing, [click here](#) or call Lee at (319)371.4125.

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# Classifieds/Public Notices

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### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Holy Trinity Catholic Early Childhood Center is seeking an Assistant Director for their Ft. Madison Center.

This is a year round clerical and administrative role - full time during the school year, part time during the summer. Benefits eligible.

The position requires strong organizational and interpersonal skills. A college degree is preferred.

Please contact Stefanie Drollinger at [stefanie.drollinger@holyltrinityschools.org](mailto:stefanie.drollinger@holyltrinityschools.org) or 319-372-6428 for application information.



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## SALES SUPERHERO WANTED



Pen City Current has an exciting opportunity in media sales available for a customer service maniac who is goal-oriented and creative, with a strong drive to succeed. Prior sales and media experience is a plus, but not necessary. Must be Internet and social media savvy, as well as highly computer literate. If you love working with people and thinking outside the box, this opportunity could be perfect for you!

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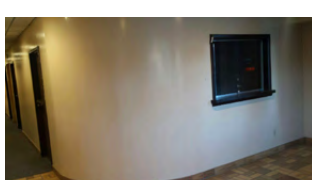
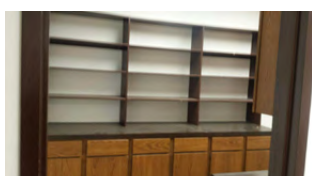
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## PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The Great River Regional Waste Authority Is accepting bids for the mowing of its properties located at 2092 303rd ave in Fort Madison and 111 Carbide lane in Keokuk.

Bids must be received by April 2nd by 4:00 p.m.

It is recommended that all bidders look at the properties before submitting their

bids. Bids shall be for mowing services, weed eating every week (Unless not recommended by GRRWA) and also spraying weeds if needed.

Bids need to be sent to: Great River Regional Waste Authority, 2092 303rd Ave. Fort Madison Iowa 52627 and to the Attention of: Wade Hamm.

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## From the Front

# Zones can reduce capital gains tax for local investors

**ZONES** - Continued from Page 1

those areas to the U.S. Department of Treasury to be eligible for the zone status.

Officials need to act quickly as a March 19 deadline is pressing.

Fort Madison Partners Executive Director Tim Gobble, who said he didn't even hear about the Opportunity Zone until late last week, is preparing the application for the governor to consider. He said this is another opportunity to access possible grant funding.

"Obviously, it gives us another opportunity to look for potential investors," Gobble said Wednesday. "Whether we're looking at something for kids or some other venture where someone didn't have all the capital to build, they might have access to these funds. This is another opportunity for grant money or some type of funding to help get projects off the ground."

Gobble said he wasn't sure what the Governor's timeline was on getting the designated areas to the government, but he had to have his done by March 19.

He said Fort Madison should have a shot at getting one of the 60 state designations because Lee County is still labeled as a stressed county and the state has seen, and been a part of, some of economic projects including the Iowa Fertilizer plant.

"They have a presence here and they want to build on that," he said.

The map below shows what parts of Fort Madison have been identified as qualified zone areas, as well as areas along Hwy 61 and Hwy 2 in North Lee County. Much of the Keokuk area is also a qualifying area.

Most of Fort Madison's east and west corridor are included in the zone, but there is a stretch that's not included north of Avenues E and D from 2nd to 18th Streets, as well as a six-block area south of Avenue H at 18th-20th Streets and a six-block by six-block area north of Avenue H from 18th to 24th Street.

# Rashids dispense more than 1,000 regimens of TamiFlu

**INFLUENZA** - Continued from Page 1

cough syrups so...yeah, it's been a very busy winter."

A spokesperson for Hy-Vee's corporate office said the chain does not disclose the number of flu shots or other flu medications, but agreed that it had been a very busy year.

Nelson said Rashid Pharmacy administered 482 flu shots from Sept. 1 through March 6, but that was down from 600 that were given during the same time period last season. He said most pharmacies are offering the shots as are local health departments so the demand is being spread out more this year.

According to the Iowa State Hygienic Laboratory, the highest age group in influenza A detections was 64 and older with 447 or 48% of all detections. The next highest is 50-64 and 18-24 with both showing 12% of all detections. Age groups 5-17, 25-49 and 0-4 each accounted for 9% of all detections.

Influenza B had similar ratios with the exception of the 5-17 age group, which represented 24% of the detections. 64 and over was the highest with influenza B at 33% of all detections.

The number of schools that were reporting higher than 10% of school absenteeism was led by Region 6, which is the greater Quad Cities area with nine schools reporting in the week ending Feb. 17. That region reported 100 schools with 10% or greater absenteeism since Oct. 1.

According to data from the Fort Madison Community Hospital through the end of last week, there were

339 positive tests for Influenza A and 99 positives for Influenza B for 443 confirmed positives at the hospital. However, when the flu is as prevalent as it was this year, several providers don't consistently test for the virus and treat the symptoms, so that number could be lower than actual infections.

The hospital gave more than 2,000 influenza tests so far this season and have administered 3,010 vaccines, which includes 520 to FMCH employees/volunteers, which are required as a condition of employment unless otherwise indicated by a physician.

The Center for Disease Control released information that indicated the vaccine effectiveness against illness caused by the Influenza A and B virus was estimated to be 36 percent.

A breakdown shows vaccines to be 25% effective against A (H3N2), 67% effective against A (H1N1), and 42% effective against B strains.

Children aged six months to eight years had considerably higher effectiveness estimates, with 59% against influenza A and B overall and 51% against influenza A(H3N2).

The Iowa Department of Public Health is still recommending influenza vaccination for those who have not yet been vaccinated this season because influenza will likely continue to circulate for several more weeks.

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