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Thursday, Aug. 31, 2017 | 18 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 210

Shoppers jump into aisles at Fareway

BY CHUCK **VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR**

FORT MADISON -More than 70 people piled into the produce section at Fort Madison's newest grocery Wednesday morning.

With Fareway corporate officials watching and city residents piled in the front of the store, a red ribbon was cut by Market Manager Mike Hanna and Grocery Manager Mark Braun to welcome shoppers to the fully stocked and fronted aisles of the 19,000 square foot facility.

Fareway CEO Reynolds Cramer, said the journey was very welcoming and the company was excited to begin serving area customers.

"Obviously our management team and all our great employees are so excited," Cramer said. "The fun part starts here after this when we get the doors open and start selling gro-



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fareway Grocery Manager Mark Braun, center left, and Market Manager Michael Hanna center right, cut the ribbon to open the new grocery Wednesday morning.

ceries. What a great time to be here and have the experience we've had."

Cramer commended Fort Madison Mayor Brad Randolph and City Manager David Varley. "The work that you did to help

get us going from start to finish has been amazing. David (Varley), all you did and the team work was just flawless."

Randolph owned the property prior to Fareway making the commitment

to come to Fort Madison.

"It's an amazing day for us and I thank you from the bottom of my heart and all of our employees," Cramer said. "This is just a fun day for Fareway anytime we open a new

store especially in a great community like this."

Randolph said it was special day for Fort Mad-

"It's certainly a big day

See **FAREWAY**, page 3

"Shoeloose" hits 45 years clowning around

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON -It's a been 45 years, and he started just clownin' around after a couple of tours in Vietnam.

"Shoeloose" the Clown has been seen in a variety of places lately, most recently the opening of the Fareway Grocery in Fort Madison on Wednesday and then showed up to lead the Fort Madison Middle School band later that day.

"Shoeloose" a.k.a Gregg Brockman said this morning while he crashed that Fareway opening,

See **CLOWN**, page 18



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Gregg Brockman, a.k.a. "Shoeloose" the clown takes time Wednesday to do a drop in on the Fort Madison Middle School Band and lead the band on a march down to 48th Street.

Suicide attempt prompts local action

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The stunning announcement late Monday night that a Fort Madison Middle School student tried to commit suicide has left one local woman saying enough is

Lisa Martinez, a friend of the family of the student, said she wanted to have a gathering at Ivanhoe Park's shelter house at 5 p.m. on Thursday.

"There's just so much bullying going on out there. Kids just need to know that there are people out here they can talk to," Martinez said. "We as a community, not just here but everywhere, we have to let these kids know that there are people here that will help them.

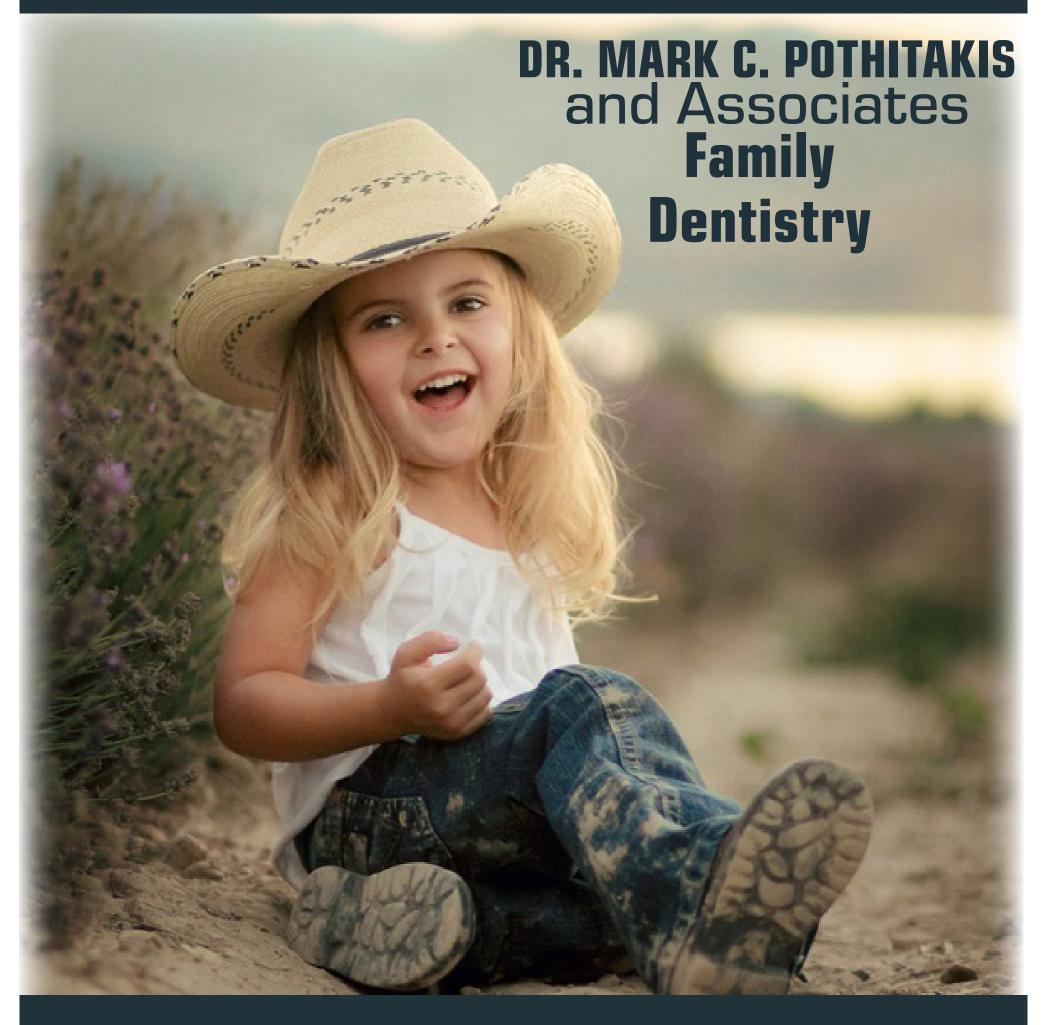
Fort Madison Superintendent Erin Slater sent an email blast to all parents of students at Fort Madison Middle School informing them of the suicide attempt and informing parents that the district places students' safety as their highest

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From the Front/For the Record

Mayor says grocery shows value of FM

FAREWAY - Continued from Page 1

for Fareway and a more exciting day for Fort Madison," Randolph said. "I get excited any time there is economic development in this community and for me this is just a bit more special. For a company to recognize a need and take

advantage of that and seize on that opportunity really speaks volumes for what our community has to offer. Not just for Fareway, but for any business looking to locate in Fort Madison and expand in Fort Madison."

Fort Madison Area Chamber of Commerce Director Angie Budnik said the opening is just another example of the growth occurring in Fort Madison.

"I want to express our sincere appreciation for

the trust that Fareway Stores put in our community by choosing to build this brand new store here in Fort Madison. We, as the chamber, are looking forward to forging a partnership and helping you to build your business. The culture of service and family values Fareway Stores exhibits is one that we think our employees are going to have a good time working here," Budnik said.

"This is just one more example of the positive things happening in FM to make it a great place to work and live."

The store is open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police report

08/29/17 - 12:37 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1400 block of Avenue G. 08/29/17 - 1:23 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 700 block of 14th Street. 08/29/17 - 3:27 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglry in the 1500 block of Avenue H.

Lee County Sheriff's report

08/29/17 - 9:58 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Timmie Lee White, 48 of Keokuk, in the 1700 block of Bank Street on two warrants of theft in the 3rd degree. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 08/29/17 - 3:24 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies

arrested Courtney Renee Adams, 28 of Middletown at the Lee County Sheriff's office on warrant for contempt-failure to pay fines/ costs. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held 08/2912 p.m. - 1:12 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident at 255th Street and 148th Avenue. A vehicle driven by Darwin De Lano Hoss, 61 of Farmington was traveling westbound on 255th Street and was turning onto 148th Avenue and lost control due causing the vehicle to swerve and roll onto it's top. Hoss was treated for scrapes at the scene but refused transport to the hospital. No citations were issued at the scene. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Fort Madison Mayor Brad Randolph welcomes Fareway officials and staff to the community at the grand opening Wednesday morning.



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Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Hot Lotto®	Wed & Sat	8:18 pm	9:40 pm
Pick 3 - Midday Pick 3 - Evening	Daily Daily	Noon 9:40 pm	12:20 pm 10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday Pick 4 - Evening	Daily Daily	Noon 9:40 pm	12:20 pm 10:00 pm



8/30 19 28 43 67 69 Powerball: 7 Power Play: 2



8/30 6 14 23 31 37 Hot Ball: 9 Sizzler: 3



8/30 MID-DAY 505 8/30 EVENING 556



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2017 Tri-State Rodeo News

2017 Tri-State Rodeo Schedule of Events Pre-Rodeo events kick off this Saturday

All Pre-Rodeo events are free with Rodeo Button that can be purchased from local merchants for \$5.00. Don't Miss Any of The Action. For additional information, visit www.tristaterodeo.org

Saturday, September 2, 2017

Pancake Breakfast Sponsored by Fareway 6:30 a.m.~10:00 a.m. - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds

<u>Tri-State Special Kids' Rodeo</u>

Sponsored by the Tri-State Rodeo

10:00 a.m. - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds, C.E. "Eddie" Richards Arena

Special Kids' Rodeo is a totally free event for all participants, their families, and spectators.

Sunday, September 3, 2017

Chili Supper Sponsored by Fareway 5:00 p.m. ~ 7:00 p.m. - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds

Monday, September 4, 2017

Lil' Spurs Rodeo

10:00 a.m. - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds

Includes events for children up to age 14 - Includes MuttonBustin', Calf Riding, Goat Tail Tie, Greased Pig, Stick Horse Barrel and Calf Scramble

Pork Dinner Sponsored by Hy-Vee 5:00 p.m. ~ 7:00 p.m - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds

Dinner includes sandwich, baked beans and chips

Lil Miss Rodeo; All Around Cowboy 6:30 p.m - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds Open to children 5 to 7 years of age

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

Pee Wee Barrel Races

5:30 p.m -Tri-State Rodeo Grounds Open to children under 12 years of age, ponies under 56 inches, Register Here

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

Tri-State Rodeo Competition **CINCH SHOOTOUT**

7:00 p.m - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds, C.E. "Eddie" Richards Arena - Broadcast via FLORODEO

Coors Party Pavilion Performance Music performed by the Rough Ryders following the CINCH shootout - Coors Party Pavilion

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Tri-State Rodeo Competition Big Country 103.1 Night and Family Night 7:00 p.m. - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds, C.E. "Eddie" Richards Arena

Cody Johnson

Following the Rodeo Performance - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds, C.E. "Eddie" Richards Arena

Coors Party Pavilion Performance Music performed by the Rough Ryders following the following the Cody Johnson performance on the main stage - Coors Party Pavilion

Friday, September 8, 2017

Tri-State Rodeo 26th Annual Golf Tournament

8:30 a.m. Registration / 9:00 a.m. tee off - Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course

Schools Out Roundup

12:00 p.m – 2:00 p.m. - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds Open to grades K-12

Buses will be available from Richardson and Lincoln schools to pick up kids leaving at 11:45 returning at 2:15 pm.

<u>Tri-State Rodeo Competition and Tough Enough</u>

to Wear Pink 101.7 The Bull Night

7:30 p.m. - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds, C.E. "Eddie" Richards Arena

Smash Mouth

Following the Rodeo Performance - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds, C.E. "Eddie" Richards Arena

Coors Party Pavilion Performance Music performed by the Rough Ryders following the following the Smash Mouth performance on the main stage - Coors Party Pavilion

Saturday, September 9, 2017

<u>Grand Rodeo Parade –</u>

Kids, Clowns, and Cowboys

9:30 a.m. - Travels down Avenue G in downtown Fort Madison

See ad on page A2 for registration or visit www.

Tri-State Rodeo Competition 7:30 p.m. -Tri-State Rodeo Grounds, C.E. "Eddie" Richards Arena

<u>Jon Pardi</u>

Following the Rodeo Performance - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds, C.E. "Eddie" Richards Arena

Coors Party Pavilion Performance Music performed by the Rough Ryders following the Jon Pardi performance on the main stage - Coors Party Pavilion



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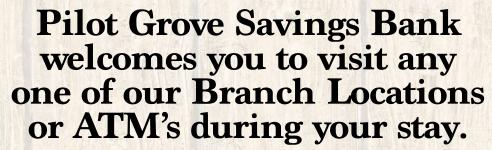
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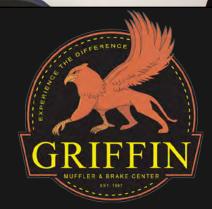




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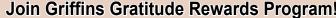
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Sports

Hounds will face versatile Central Lee

Gully, Redd-Donald lead
District 5 in rushing/receiving
after first week's game

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – It could be the game of the season, but it's only the second game of the year.

Head Coach Nick Ehret brings the much ballyhooed Central Lee Hawks down Highway 61 to take on the Bloodhounds who won last Friday for the first time on opening night since 2013 when they downed West Burlington.

The Hounds have won five games total since that season, but infused some energy into the crimson-and-black faithful with a 39-0 drubbing of Davis County last

led and the ner

BARKER

week. Head coach Tony Shiffman knuckled his desk and said everyone is healthy and ready for the game Friday night but the team is still dealing with some of the nerves of last week's win.

"It's kind of funny, our kids are nervous. It's a good, positive nervousness, but I really don't know the last time we

started out 1-0. I think it's been a few years and they're just not used to playing in a game like this. This is a big game against Central Lee and I think they may be overthinking it a bit."

Fort Madison is actually leading Class 3A's District 5 in passing yardage after the first game with QB Lennon Barker throwing for 161 yards and a couple of scores



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Senior Alex Gully finds room last week against a block by Logan Allen (4) Davis County. Gully leads the district in rushing with 161 yards. The Hounds take on Central Lee at home this Friday starting at 7:30 p.m.

last week. Coupled with Shance Redd-Donald's 37 yard pass on the first play from scrimmage off a lateral pass from Barker, the Hounds lead the district with 198 yards through the air.

Barker's 3rd overall in passing in the district, while Redd-Donald is far and away the district's top receiver after the first game with 141 yards on seven receptions and two scores. He's also a force on defense, laying a couple big hits on Mustangs in the secondary last week. But Shiffman was happy with his quarterback's play.

"They were a few drops in there and a few bad decisions. But I'm thankful he's a junior. As a senior

See **PREVIEW**, page 8



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Sports

Central Lee racked up 250 yards on ground in week 1

PREVIEW - Continued from Page 6

he's really gonna be on top of things," Shiffman said. "He made a few mental errors and threw a couple where they shouldn't have been. But he threw for 161 yards and we threw for 119 yards in nine games last year. He's pretty excited and you can't fault him too much. We're going to keep counting on him to improve."

Senior Alex Gully also sits on top of the district carrying the football. He rushed 22 times for 161 yards and three touchdowns last week. In second is sophomore Luke Turner from Washington who carried the ball just nine times last week for 148 yards, a 16.4/carry average.

Shiffman said there's not going to be much change in what the Bloodhounds do offensively.

Defensively, he said defensive coordinator Luke Rickelman is prepared for the Hawks. Senior Austin Gaylord accounted for 214 yards of offense against Keokuk last week, Shiffman said the Hounds need to contain the quick Hawks and keep runs short.

"They ran outside and they have the speed and quickness to do that, but we should be able to match up athlete to athlete with them. It will come down to who makes the least mistakes.

Gaylord threw for 112 yards and a couple of scores in the team's 21-14 win over Keokuk Friday. He also ran for 102 yards to lead the Hawks on the ground. Juniors Tyler Hopp and Adam Rooney shared handoffs out of the backfield combining for 29 carries and 124 yards. The Hawks will also go to senior wide out Jared Brisby on some carries.

"We just gotta play sound defense and tackle the football. They don't do anything sneaky or exotic. They run what they run and come right at ya. We need to force a few turnovers and make sure the 3 or 4 yard runs don't turn into 30 or 40 yards because they have the speed to do that," Shiffman said. "Luke's very well-prepared. He came in Saturday and had kind of a game plan and then came back in on Sunday and fine tuned it and said here's what we're going to do in this situation and here's what were gonna do in that one."

He said one of the keys to the game will be to contain Gaylord and try to force Central Lee into a passing game and get them out of their comfort zone.

"When you run for 250 and pass for 119, you're a running team," he said. Shiffman and Ehret are well acquainted.

"He was actually, at one point, going to be on staff here," Shiffman said. "I had spoken with him about it and then a week after that the Central Lee coach resigned and he interviewed for it. He let me know right away and I told him, 'best of luck and I hope you get it' and he did. But he does what we do. He gets the balls to his athletes and just lets 'em play. It makes us coaches look better than we are."

Shiffman said he doesn't think the Hounds even know how good they can be.

"I don't think we've scratched the surface on how good we can be. With the athletes we have and our bench we can be very explosive and do a lot of good things offensively."

Who to watch

FORT MADISON (1-0) Senior RB #1 Alex Gully, Senior OL/ DL #58 Elijah Barnes, Senior OL/DL #55 Dalton Mabeus, Senior WR #2 Shance Redd-Donald, Junior LB #53 Sam Hayes, Senior WR #4 Logan Allen, Junior QB #12 Lennon Barker.

CENTRAL LEE (1-0)
Senior QB #30 Austin Gaylord,
Junior RB #20 Tyler Hopp, Senior
RB #20 Adam Rooney, Senior WR
#11 Jared Brisby, Senior #82 Aaron
Wills, Collen Allen.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PC

Fort Madison quarterback Lennon Barker slips by a diving defender last week against Davis County. Barker threw for 161 yards, about 40 yards more than the Bloodhounds threw in 2016 combined. The Hounds take on Central Lee Friday night. The Hawks knocked off Keokuk in week 1 21-14.

Lady Hounds roll MP in 3

BY PCC STAFF

MT. PLEASANT - The 10th-ranked Class 4A Lady Bloodhounds started conference volleyball off on the right foot Tuesday sweeping Mt. Pleasant in three straight games.

Senior Leigh Johnson led the Hounds with 26 assists, two blocks and three kills, while fellow senior Amber Dilsaver cleaned things up at the net 20 kills and six blocks on the night.

Fort Madison won the first game 25-16, the second in easier fashion at 25-9 and the third game 25-16.

Josie Pumphrey had 10 digs and led with Lady Hounds from the line with 6 aces. Kaeli Hutson had five kills and seven digs and Kamryn Bailey had eight digs and three aces for the Bloodhounds.

"Our back row served well tonight keeping Mount Pleasant off balance and taking them out of system," Bailey said. "This led to a good night of passing and allowed us to run our offense more efficiently.

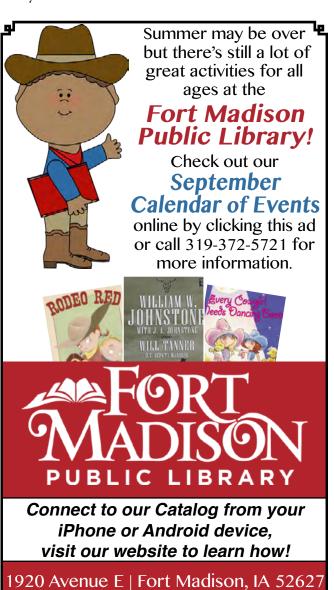
"We had great crowd support tonight and it helped the girls stay focused and kept their energy levels up."

The Hounds are 4-1 on the season after going 3-1 in a Saturday tournament in Danville losing to Class 1A 7th-ranked New London in three straight to start the day on Saturday. They rebounded to sweep the next three matches.

The 9th grade defeated Mt. Pleasant 25-12, 25-9 on Tuesday and the Fort Madison junior varsity won 25-19, 25-23.

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- Cooking Demonstration by Chef Robert
- Vermont Marble Museum
- Vermont Country Store visit
- Hildene self-guided tour
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- "Animals with Bad Reputations" at
- Squam Lake Natural Encounters
- Lake George, islands of the Narrows Cruise • Dinner & Show at the Lake Theater
- Niagara Falls / Maid of the Mist Cruise • Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino
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WHERE Foam Fabricators 100 Formad Ind Dr. Fort Madison, IA 52627 TIME 10:00am - 2:00pm Plant Tours ABOUT THE EVENT Team Staffing will be holding a job fair at Foam Fabricators on August 31 at 10am. There will be plant tours, refreshments, on site interviews and multiple giveaways!!

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Bus Drivers Needed

We are currently in need of bus drivers for athletic events and occasional day-time trips. Pay is \$16.00 an hour. Drivers will need to have all standard CDL licensing requirements for driving a school bus. If interested, please contact John Goetz at the Jr./Sr. High - john. goetz@holytrinityschools.org or 319-372-2486 x2.



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State News

Governor needs to fill pot advisory board

BY PCC STAFF

DES MOINES – Gov. Kim Reynolds announced eight appointments Wednesday to the nine member medical cannabidiol

The following appointments are effective Friday, Sept. 1, 2017, are unpaid and are not subject to Senate confirmation:

Medical Cannabidiol Board Pediatrician: Dr. Ken Cheyne, Clive Psychiatrist: Dr. Jill Liesveld, Coralville Law Enforcement: Mike McKelvey, Mason City

Family Medicine: Dr. Lonny Miller, Creston

Pharmacist: Dr. Stephen Richards, Spirit Lake Oncologist: Dr. Robert Shreck, Des Moines

Pain Management: Dr. Jacqueline Stoken, Waukee

Neurologist: Dr. Wendy Zadeh, Ankeny House File 524 (Medical Cannabidiol Act) requires the board to consist of eight medical practitioners representing specific specialty fields and one law enforcement representative.

The governor's office boards and commissions are still seeking one practitioner representing gastroenterology. The practitioner must be licensed in Iowa, nationally board-certified in gastroenterology and knowledgeable about the use of medical cannabidiol.

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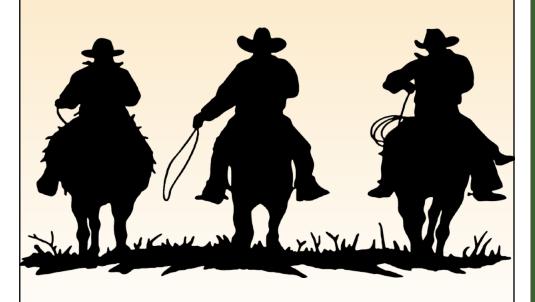
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From the Front



Please help Great River Regional Waste
Authority keep Fort Madison clean and
safe during your visit. Trash and
Recycling bins have been placed in
multiple locations throughout the Rodeo
grounds for your convenience.
We encourage you to properly dispose
of your trash and recyle any materials
that can be recycled.

Thank you,
Your friends across the street!





Ft. Madison Main Office: 2092 303rd Ave Fort Madison, IA 1-319-372-6140 Keokuk Transfer Station: 111 Carbide Lane Keokuk, IA 1-319-524-6175

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Residents set meeting for today at Ivanhoe Park

MEETING - Continued from Page 1

priority.

"We take the safety of our students as our highest priority and concern. Yesterday, we had a middle school student attempt suicide. We have reached out to the family and are offering any support now and in the future that they need. Specifics about this situation are confidential and sensitive. All students are safe. If you have any questions, please contact the Principal, Mr. Dirth. Again, please know we take the safety of students as our highest priority and our thoughts are with the family," Slater wrote.

Martinez said she was bullied in high school, too, and she knows from experience that most students won't approach a teacher or staff. They're going to wait until they get home. She said the incidents involved in this case were not just at school but also involved social media.

"It obviously clearly cut pretty deep with this girl," Martinez said.

"You know I used to own a skateboard shop, it was an indoor shop and I moved it to Keokuk. When I went there almost every kid was on probation and when I closed the doors none of them were. People can make a difference and turn these kids around. It's not 100% on the parents or 100% on the schools. People need to know there are people out here who care. Even the ones doing the bullying, we need to work with them, too. If the bullies know more people are against it that will show them there is more out of doing good than doing harm."

Martinez said she would like to arrange a march in the city as well to help bring awareness to the problem and let people see that there is support for these students.

She said the walk won't take place on Thursday but she wants to get people together to share ideas and maybe come up with a plan to help address the issue. Some ideas she had were possibly having volunteers staff the school yard after school. People that could pass a background check or something that would increase the presence for students after school is out.

"I'm so passionate about it. I work at a domestic violence center and my passion is to help people. I've worked with the schools and if there's anything I can do to make a difference even in one person's life, it is the greatest high in the world."



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Fort Madison, IA



Wed., Sept. 6

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Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Monday & Tuesday, September 4 & 5 due to the Labor Day holiday

Breaking news will continue to be published to our website

www.pencitycurrent.com

and through our social media channels as it happens.

The e-Edition will resume publication on Wednesday, September 6.

Please celebrate safely.



PO Box 366, Fort Madison, IA 52627 News (319)371.1670 • Advertising (319)371.4125

Letters to the Editor

Greater vigilance needed to address bullying in schools

Editor's Note: This letter was forwarded to us for publication with the following note: "I sent the following letter to Superintendent Slater on 8/28/17 in response to the *email notifying parents* of an attempted suicide by an FMMS student. I'm sharing this with you in order to let other parents and community members know they are not alone in their desire to see change happen for the sake of our children."

Mrs. Slater: I wanted to thank you for your email regarding the incident at the Middle School. Obviously as parents, our first priority is the safety of our children. We live in a small community and when something like this happens it is not a single family that is affected, but the entire community. I'm writing you to let you know that while I appreciate your efforts to notify parents of your intentions to help this child and the family who is struggling,

there is still more to be done.

My child is a fourth grader, so this is her first year at FMMS. My apprehensiveness to have her enter "middle school" at this age is only compounded by this news. When there are this many age groups in a single building it seems insufficient to address an event like this in a singular way. As an educator you know that a fourth grader and an eighth grader are going to react to this news in differing manners. Do you have a plan for the coming days? What about the students who aren't comfortable discussing what has happened with their guardians? Do you have resources for them too?

Teen depression, bullying, and suicide are not new issues. They have been a problem for years and will continue for years to come. I see this as an opportunity to come together as a community

to support our children in a proactive manner and remove the stigma surrounding depression and the silence keeping bullies free from consequence. Suicide is a symptom of a much larger problem, and in this situation, it's a problem that impacts all of our children - not just

Mrs. Slater, I'm looking to you for guidance. Your experience as an educator and position as a leader of this community's education system has led me to believe that you can tell us what you need to truly make our schools mentally and emotionally safer for our children.

As a parent I am here to provide my voice, asking our school system for more than an email with vague reassurance. As a community member I am here to provide my time and energy to assist in however you need me.

Stephanie King

Reader throws support behind Anderson for school board

Fort Madison School District residents are fortunate have several qualified candidates running for the School Board. One of those candidates is Gunther W. Anderson.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Gunther and his family for over 15 years. Gunther's three children all attend public schools, however his commitment to the school district goes far beyond the interests of his own children. Gunther deeply cares about the quality of education for all students. He will bring his vision, expertise, and dedication to our public schools. I

Got a news tip? Call Chuck (319)371.1670 know that he wants every child in the district to have the same support and success that he desires for his own children.

Gunther possess the skillset to effectively take on the challenges facing our district. He is well respected for his ability to find solutions to tough problems. His open communication will be an asset to all taxpayers.

At a time when the

value of education has taken a back seat from politicians in Des Moines and across the country our students, teachers, support staff, administrators, and taxpayers will have a fair and passionate advocate in Gunther W. Anderson.

That's why he has my vote on September 12th.

Tom Cale, Fort Madison Iowa



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From the Front/Weather

Clowns 45th anniversary at parade will include special float, surprises

CLOWN - Continued from Page 1

that even some of his costumes, although buttoned up and always perfect for the occassion are almost as old as the gig.

"I was thinking just the other day, I've been doing this for 45 years and some of these costumes are just that old," Brockman said, wearing his formal attire. A jacket suit and shorts with orange rainbow socks and orange floppy tennis shoes tied at both ends. Yeah...and a red nose.

As the ribbon-cutting at Fareway came to a close and after a few rope tricks, Brockman grabbed his friend 'Ottie the Gooney Bird' and went back to shopping.

Shoeloose said Ottie, who was propped up on a brand

moments Wednesday at the Fort Madison Middle School.

And now he's head of the band, if for nothing more than a few funny

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

new Fareway shopping cart, had already been down the bird seed aisle and snarfed down a bag of seeds. After the event, he made his way over to the Fort Madison Middle School, picked up the marching band leaders

septer and led the band off the property to 48th Street. According to Gregg's wife Beverly, the antics started 45 years ago on a Friday night before the rodeo parade and some friends were at the former Holiday Inn in Fort Madison listening to a band. They invited the band to ride in a float in the parade and when everyone showed up Saturday morning in cowboy attire, Gregg showed up in a

He took a board and chained it to the back of the hayrack float used for the band in the parade and rode that board along the parade route over the top of all things left in the road... by the horses.

Since then Shoeloose has ridden outhouses, water skies, whisky barrel bath tubs and in 2000 road in a covered wagon with no wheels just three months off a quadruple bypass. He was also hauled in the "Throne" in 2005 when he was named Grand Marshall of the parade.

The "clowning around", which is still seen at the Grand Entries at each Rodeo event in September, became a family affair when the couple's children Nathan and Corrine began performing with their father and at times several of the grandchildren have joined in on the fun. Gregg's brother-in-law Michael Manka has also joined in on the fun at times too.

For the past 19 years, Brockman has also served as the "clown greeter" at the Rodeo for an hour or two before each event and then works the grandstand and rodeo areas.

For the 45th anniversary, many of Brockman's friends and family will join him in the parade, included with a special float for this year's parade, there will also be a few more "surprises."

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST





Light Rain High - 73.5° F | Low - 58.7° F

FRI 01 Sep



Clear Skies High- 69.4° F | Low - 50.2° F

SAT 02 Sep



Clear Skies High- 71.0° F | Low - 51.2° F

SUN 03 Sep



Clear Skies High - 77.3° F | Low - 58.1° F

MON 04 Sep



Clear Skies High- 77.0° F | Low - 57.0° F

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