Bira resigns as head of FMCH

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Community Hospital is looking for a new CEO starting today.

FMCH Community Relations Director Angie Budnik confirmed the resignation Tuesday afternoon.

"He is no longer at FMCH. The board officially accepted his resignation last night," Budnik said.

She said FMCH CFO Jeremy Alexander will fill in temporarily while Quorum Health Resources out of Brentwood, Tennessee finds an interim CEO while a new search begins for Bira.

Bira was hired in March of 2016 as President and CEO following Jim Platt who left the hospital's CEO post in 2015. Bira came to Fort Madison after holding leadership positions at hospitals in the St. Louis area.

According to a release this morning, FMCH Board of Directors Chair Bob Bonta said the hospital benefited from Bira's term.

"While Pat has only been with Fort Madison Community Hospital for a short time, FMCH benefited from his over thirty years of experience. We thank him for his dedication to our organization and appreciation that persists here," Bonta said.

David Yackell, vice president of Quorum Health Resources said "Quorum will place an interim President/CEO at FMCH in the next few weeks, then work with the FMCH Board of Trustees to conduct a national search for a permanent replacement for this position."

Games on Saturday at RiverFest 2017

BRA

FORT MADISON - Get your game on this weekend at RiverFest 2017. RiverFest 2017 is chalk full of events for the competitive and skill-minded, kicking off with the recently added World Series of Beer Pong tournament on Thursday.

Beer Pong

Thursday afternoon opens competition with open and tournament play for a chance to win entry into the Las Vegas World Series of Beer Pong. The winning two-person team for the tournament, which is slated for 4 p.m. to midnight, will be able to compete for $60,000 in the WSOP-BP. Saturday kicks off a full day of competition starting with the RiverFest 5K along the Mississippi River. Registration for all events is still available online at www.riverfestfm.com. The 5K begins with an onsite registration between 6:45 and 7:30 a.m. Pre-registered participants can pick up packets on Friday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the festival. Entry fee for the run is $35.

Following the 5K are the RiverFest Games which begin at 9 a.m. through completion of the final events.

Sand Volleyball

A sand volleyball tournament begins at 9 a.m. with co-ed teams of 6. Entry fee is $50 and anyone under 18 years of age must have a parent permission form. The tournament is a double elimination event limited to 24 teams with each match best of three. There is a 100% cash payback to the top three positions in the tournament.

Bags

A bags or "cornhole" tournament will begin at 9:30 p.m. on Saturday with a final registration from 9 to 9:30. Teams will be limited to 64 and play will be the best of three. Entry fee for each team of two is $30. The double elimination tournament will also have a 100% payback to the top three teams. The event is recreational play so all abilities are welcome to compete.

Kanjam

Kanjam, which is played by tossing discs thrown with two slotted barrels on each end of the playing area. One player throws the disc at the barrel and the teammate has one shot to hit the disc into one of the slots for varied points. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. with play starting at 10 a.m. The tournament will be limited to 64 teams and will be a double elimination with matches based on the number of teams, best 3, 5 or 7 to be determined on Saturday.

All participants are encouraged to register online before Saturday to increase the speed of Saturday registrations. Coolers are welcome at RiverFest Games but alcohol is not allowed to be brought onto the property due to permitting.

Pickleball

See RIVERFEST, page 6

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Pen City Current

Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2017 6 pages Volume 1 Issue 185

Pen City Current

INSIDE:

15th Street is now open.

See page 2

Games on Saturday at RiverFest 2017

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See RIVERFEST, page 6

IFC wants immediate closure of crossover

Company offers $50K for study

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

WEVER - The Iowa Fertilizer Company has requested an immediate closure to the Hwy 61 and 180th Street crossover. In a letter dated July 24, Darrell Allman, the managing director at IFC, asked the Iowa Department of Transportation that, due to traffic safety concerns, IFC believes the median crossover at Highway 61 and 180th Street should be closed immediately and without any further delay.

Allman outlined in the letter that IFC would be willing to spend up to $50,000 to do a study on the closure to the Hwy 61 and 180th Street crossover.

See IFC, page 6

Pen City Current

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Pen City Current
Keokuk man faces felony drug, firearms charges

Smith caught on traffic stop

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK — The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Keokuk, Iowa man on felony and misdemeanor drug charges.

Tyrell Devon Smith, 23, of 307 Morgan Street, Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on July 29th, 2017 in the 500 block of Concert Street in Keokuk on felony and misdemeanor drug charges. Smith is a Keokuk, Iowa man on drug charges.

The arrest of Smith stems from a traffic stop conducted by a Keokuk Police Officer. During the traffic stop, items that support the charges were discovered. The investigation is ongoing. The Lee County Attorney’s Office and the Keokuk Police Department assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor’s Office of Drug Control Policy.

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Open for traffic

City officials said at Tuesday’s City Council meeting that 15th Street is now open for traffic. Apparently some barriers were moved by people not affiliated with the project and City Public Works Director Larry Driscoll said, contractors had to put barriers back up to finish seeding, which was outside the scope of the contract.

RIU TROPICAL BAY NERIGL
All-Inclusive Resort
February 16-24, 2018

The RIU Palace Tropical Bay Hotel is located on Negril’s 7 Mile Beach, one of Jamaica’s most stunning! The amenities available at the RIU Palace Tropical Bay Hotel are countless, and they’ll make your stay unforgettable. Overlooking Bloody Bay on the Caribbean coast, this all-inclusive resort with Victorian-style details is right on the water. The Seven Mile Beach is known for its white sands, and very calm and crystal clear waters.

You’re guaranteed to have fun at this Jamaican beach resort! You can enjoy one of the many swimming pools or take advantage of the direct beach access. RIU also offers a recreation program where you can enjoy all types of activities and live shows day or night, as well as the Renova Spa located within the resort.

The Resort has been designed to give you the best quality and variety of food options. You’ll get to taste the finest international, Japanese, and Italian cuisine, or try the best Jamaican barbecue beside the beach! This all-inclusive resort also has four bars located in different zones so that you can enjoy refreshments any time of day (or night!).

Jamaica is a unique country where you are sure to have unforgettable experiences. There will be plenty to do off the resort as well — all within walking distance, including Bobbi Cay, Noel Runnings Water Park, Times Square Mall, Throne Room and the Negril Hills Golf Club.

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For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

07/31/17 - 8:47 a.m. - Fort Lee County Jail and held. Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1100 block of Denmark Hilltop. 07/28/17 - 3:24 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1200 block of Avenue H. 07/28/17 - 11:52 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of 40th Street. 07/28/17 - 6:56 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Avenue H. 07/29/17 - 10:33 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 500 block of Avenue E. 07/30/17 - 8:13 p.m. - Fort Lee County Jail and held. Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 3400 block of Avenue H. 07/30/17 - 12:26 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Donald Ford, 33, no address provided, on a warrant for 5th degree theft. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held. 07/30/17 - 4:52 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested James Lee Roberts, 19, of Keokuk, no location given on a warrant for 3rd-degree burglary. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held. 07/30/17 - 9:19 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Megan Renea Clark, 26 of Keokuk, in the 700 block of Dorcas Drive in Keokuk, on charges of driving while barred, interference with official acts and no insurance. 07/30/17 - 11:20 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Nataasha Ashley Bryant, 25 of Keokuk in the 700 block of Dorcas Drive in Keokuk, on charges of driving while barred, interference with official acts and no insurance. 07/31/17 - 12:30 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 1300 block of Avenue F. 07/31/17 - 11:20 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Luke Austin Hummel, 36, of Fort Madison in the 1500 block of Avenue M, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held. 07/31/17 - 12:07 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Luke Austin Hummel, 36, of Fort Madison in the 1500 block of Avenue M, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held. 07/31/17 - 7:20 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 400 block of Avenue G. 07/31/17 - 2:15 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of burglary in the 1900 block of Avenue O. 07/31/17 - 6:19 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of stolen property. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held. 07/31/17 - 8:24 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Angelic Lathtie Nelson, 25 of Fort Madison, in the 2900 block of Avenue N on a charge of driving while suspended. She was released. 08/01/17 - 5:24 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Cody Lee Bennett, Fort Madison, 19, in the 2500 block of Avenue L, on a warrant for contempt for failure to pay fines. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

07/28/17 - 9:19 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kindra Conboy, 28 of Keokuk, in the 3600 block of Wever, in the 1900 block of 190th Street, on a warrant for contempt for official acts and no insurance. 07/31/17 - 11:20 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Times Street and 14th Street. A vehicle driven by Danielle Renee Clark, 26 of Keokuk, was heading east on Times Street and according to the report, did not yield the right of way to a vehicle driven by Ashley Michelle Noble, 27, of Keokuk. Noble's vehicle struck Clark's broadside and both vehicle had to be towed. Clark was cited for failure to obey a stop sign and no insurance. 07/31/17 - 12:07 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Luke Austin Hummel, 36, of Fort Madison in the 1500 block of Avenue M, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held. 07/31/17 - 8:47 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 1400 block of Avenue H.

For the Record/Lottery Numbers

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

Lotto Drawings

Game Draw Days Sales Cutoff Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life® Mon & Thu 8:30 pm 9:38 pm
Mega Millions® Tues & Fri 8:59 pm 10:00 pm
Powerball® Wed & Sat 8:59 pm 9:59 pm
Hot Lotto® Wed & Sat 8:18 pm 9:40 pm
Pick 3 Midday Daily Noon 12:20 pm
Pick 3 Evening Daily Noon 12:20 pm
Pick 4 Midday Daily Noon 12:20 pm
Pick 4 Evening Daily Noon 12:20 pm

8/1
20 22 52 57 73
Lucky Ball: 7
Megaplier: 5

8/1 MID-DAY
4 7 4
8/1 EVENING
1 0

8/1 MID-DAY
8 0 3 1
8/1 EVENING
0 7 71

Acceptable HHW Items:

- Corrosive, meaning they can corrode or burn your skin on contact.
- Toxic, meaning they can be lethal to humans and animals if swallowed, inhaled or absorbed through the skin.
- Flammable, meaning they may ignite even under normal working conditions.
- Explosive/Reactive, meaning it reacts violently when exposed to heat, sudden shock, pressure, or other chemicals.

Please never dispose of any of these items down your drain, they eventually pollute our rivers.

Becoming familiar with HHW Materials:

- Corrosive, meaning they can corrode or burn your skin on contact.
- Toxic, meaning they can be lethal to humans and animals if swallowed, inhaled or absorbed through the skin.
- Flammable, meaning they may ignite even under normal working conditions.
- Explosive/Reactive, meaning they react violently when exposed to heat, sudden shock, pressure, or other chemicals.

If you don’t see your item(s) on this list or if you have any questions please call 800.216.2370.

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- Paint Thinners
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- Swimming Pool Chemicals
- Florescent Light Bulbs
- Motor Oil

Great River Regional Waste Authority

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

For the Record

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Listing #20164148; $72,500

315 Avenue E
Listing #20162543, $53,000

1712 Avenue E
Listing #20164725, $92,000

2634 Avenue G
Listing #20165688, $94,500

211 Main St., Montrose
Listing #20164279; $38,500

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808 Avenue O

We are currently hiring for full time and part time positions throughout the company. Please call 319-372-5527 or email Austin@smclrr.com with any questions.

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808 Avenue O
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Every Monday
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– Craig S.

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– Lyle T.

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“Another great stay at the Boulders. Everything is great about this place!”
– Julie B.

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“Highly recommend staying at Boulders! Great staff with a comfortable, clean...”
– Bette U.

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“Clean, comfortable, friendly, good breakfast, nice gym, and plenty of pillows...”
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“Nice and clean. Staff is very friendly!”
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– Tami L.

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– Jody H.

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“Boulders is a great place to stay. Rooms are spacious, clean, and comfortable.”
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“Great place to stay and the location is great!”
– Bill B.

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“Great staff, great beds, spacious rooms.”
– Matt L.

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“Clean room, great beds, helpful staff.”
– Tim D.

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“Very clean, comfortable beds...”
– Mandy M.

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– John D.

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“Clean, comfortable beds and sheets, free breakfast. In walking distance to...”
– Louise T.

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“Great stay with my wife. The beds are very comfortable.”
– Tom L.

We’re an equal housing provider.

“Great location, super clean, comfortable beds!”
– John S.

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“Excellent place to stay. The rooms are well maintained and the staff is truly...”
– Emily B.

We’re an equal housing provider.

“Great location, very clean, and very comfortable beds!”
– John S.

We’re an equal housing provider.

“Great place to stay! Staff is super friendly and helpful!”
– Bob B.

We’re an equal housing provider.

“Great hotel! Beds are very comfortable and the bathroom is spacious.”
– John S.

We’re an equal housing provider.

“Great staff and very clean rooms! Comfortable beds and we even...”
– Jonathan J.

We’re an equal housing provider.

“Great location and a great bed!”
– Bill B.

We’re an equal housing provider.

“Great beds and friendly staff!”
– Tim D.

We’re an equal housing provider.

“Great place to stay! Loved my room and bed maintenance, and the...”
– John S.

We’re an equal housing provider.

“Great location, very nice rooms, and friendly staff.”
– Tim D.

We’re an equal housing provider.

“Great beds and friendly service!”
– Bill B.

We’re an equal housing provider.

“Great location, very nice beds and friendly staff!”
– Tim D.

We’re an equal housing provider.

“Great location, very nice beds and friendly staff!”
– Bill B.

We’re an equal housing provider.

“Great location, very nice beds and friendly staff!”
– Bill B.
RiverFest brings in Onix for pickleball showcase

**RIVERFEST** - Continued from Page 1

Pickleball participants can also come out during RiverFest to compete and learn about the game from the nation’s largest pickleball equipment supplier, Onix. Pickleball is open for recreational play from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday.

For each tournament, anyone under 18 must have a parent permission to play and all participants will be required to sign a RiverFest Games Sport Participation Waiver.

RiverFest 2017 kicks off Thursday at 4 p.m. and runs through Sunday at 7 p.m. Tickets for musical entertainment are available for purchase at the event website at [riverfest.com](http://riverfest.com) or at Fort Madison Hy-Vee. Single day entertainment tickets will be available for $10 on Thursday, $15 on Friday, and $20 on Saturday. Connor Amusements will hold a wristband event from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, $10 on Friday, and $20 on Saturday. Tickets for musical entertainment are available for purchase at the event website through Sunday at 7 p.m. Tickets for musical entertainment are required to sign a RiverFest Games Sport Participation Waiver.

SAT 05 Aug

WED 02 Aug
- Partly Sunny
  Low – 66.9°F | High – 84.6°F

THU 03 Aug
- Clear Skies
  Low – 60.2°F | High – 77.4°F

FRI 04 Aug
- Light Rain
  Low – 61.1°F | High – 72.3°F

SAT 05 Aug
- Light Rain
  Low – 63.0°F | High – 65.9°F

SUN 06 Aug
- Heavy Intensity Rain
  Low – 64.2°F | High – 70.5°F

**From the Front/Weather**

**IFC offers to pay for some of Hwy 61, 180th improvements**

**IFC** - Continued from Page 1

“\[\[quote\] We’re anticipating meeting with IFC to discuss this further. There has been no action taken on the closure and I’m still waiting on the discussion here to see when that meeting can be arranged.\[\]”

-Jim Armstrong

IFD District 5 Engineer

Armstrong said the letter is just another added value to the ongoing conversations. “Everyone should understand that there is a controlled intersection at this location. This is a request to control movement through the facility,” Armstrong said.

Lee County Engineer Ernie Steffensmeier said as part of IFC’s agreement with Lee County they are obligated to restore the road to its original condition after the construction phase, as the roadway is owned by the county.

“They were spending $30,000 a month maintaining that gravel road when they were in construction so they just paved it to save them some money, but under our agreement they would revert it back to gravel,” Steffensmeier said.

Jim Armstrong, district engineer with IDOT’s District 5 Highway Division, said Tuesday he received a copy of the letter on the 28th and his office was discussing it internally.

“We’re anticipating meeting with IFC to discuss this further,” he said. “There has been no action taken on the closure and I’m still waiting on that discussion here to see if that meeting can be arranged.”

“\[\[quote\] We’re not just building a school, we’re building futures!\[\]”

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