...And down it comes

Here's a picture log of volunteers taking down the visitor side press box at Richmond Stadium on Friday and Saturday of last week. (See page 7 for more pictures) Building Trades instructor Clint Kobelt, students, volunteer coaches, and school administrators helped tear the structure down.

School board to petition for recount

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison school board will be asking for a recount of Tuesday's failed $30 million school bond referendum.

The vote failed to reach the state-mandated 60% +1 vote threshold by .8% and school officials indicated Tuesday that a recount could be in order.

Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise said Wednesday the board would need to petition the county for the recount. That petition would require 30 signatures and would need to be submitted to her office no later than three days from the canvass of the election, which will take place at Tuesday's Lee County Board of Supervisors meeting.

"If they get that in, the next step would be to form a recount board and that would consist of one person they (the board) selects, one person I select, and then a third person those two already selected would pick. And all that has to be done in a time frame - it's pretty quick," Fraise said.

"Then they would meet and count the ballots. They can either count them manually or use the machine.”

Fort Madison Community School District President Tim Wondra said Tuesday that the board started the recount process on Wednesday and they are in the progress of gathering signatures for the petition.

See PETITION, page 6

BNSF Bridge to be closed Saturday

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Burlington-Northern Santa Fe bridge in Fort Madison will be closed on Saturday according to city officials.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Fort Madison City Council, City Manager David Varley informed the council and those in attendance that work on the bridge will start at 6 a.m. and is planned for about 14 hours.

"That's going to be closed for virtually the whole day," See CLOSURE, page 2
Reynolds inks Future Iowa act

New law is aimed at training Iowans for jobs of tomorrow

DES MOINES – Gov. Kim Reynolds signed House File 2458, the Future Ready Iowa Act, on Tuesday at the Future Ready Iowa Summit in Des Moines.

Future Ready Iowa is the governor’s plan to train Iowans for the jobs of today and tomorrow. The goal of Future Ready Iowa is 70 percent of Iowa workers having education or training beyond high school by 2025. In order to reach that goal, another 127,700 Iowans need to earn post-secondary degrees or other credentials.

“This bill changes lives by helping Iowans earn credentials that prepare them for rewarding careers in advanced manufacturing, computer science, finance, health care and many other fields,” Gov. Reynolds said. “This bill also helps employers hire the skilled workers they need to grow, which means Iowa communities will be even more prosperous.”

The governor called on the legislature to pass the Future Ready Iowa Act in her Condition of the State address in January. The bill passed both the Iowa House and Iowa Senate with unanimous, bipartisan support. It passed the Iowa House on March 15, 98-0 and the Iowa Senate on March 19, 47-0.

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All Fluid Levels
EmISSIONS & Coolant
Tires & Lights
PLUS Road Test

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Receive a $5.00 Coupon for Kempker’s True Value with any service!

Limited coupons available. Schedule your service appointment today! *See store for full details.

Charlene Ellenore (Fotsch) Hood, 93, of Bonaparte, Iowa, passed away at 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at the Solon Nursing Care Center in Solon, Iowa.

Born February 18, 1925 in Boone, Iowa the daughter of Paul and Agnes (Anderson) Fotsch. On October 20, 1946, she married Robert Ben Hood in Farmington, Iowa. He preceded her in death on June 3, 2006.

Survivors include one son: Steven (Kathy) Hood of Bonaparte, Iowa; two granddaughters: Erin (Josh) Hale of Ely, Iowa and Alicia Salger of Ely, Iowa; five great grandchildren: Josiah, Jordyn, Nathan and Noah Hale and Danica Salger; one sister: Dorothy Klinkhammer of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; two brothers: Harold Fotsch of Mendota Heights, Minnesota and Wesley (Nancy) Fotsch of Solon Iowa.

She was also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband: Robert; parents, two brothers and three sisters.

Charlene graduated from Farmington High School. She worked for Bittman Electric in Rock Island, Illinois for six years. In 1950, she and her husband Robert purchased a farm west of Farmington in which they farmed for twenty-five years. She was also a supervisor for Farmington Senior Center for twenty-seven years. Charlene was a lifelong member of Farmington United Methodist Church. She enjoyed watching her granddaughters play in sporting events, spending time with her great-grandchildren and her dog “Missy”, playing cards with friends, traveling with Robert and reading. She also enjoyed playing basketball while in high school and had participated in two state tournaments.

A visitation will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 7, 2018 at the Farmington United Methodist Church in Farmington, Iowa.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 Saturday at the Farmington United Methodist Church with Pastor Michael Elrod officiating.

Burial will be at the Farmington Cemetery.

Memorials have been established in her memory for the Farmington Methodist Church, Farmington EMT’s or Bonaparte First Responders.

Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com

Senior Community BINGO

2nd Wednesday of every month
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All Seniors Welcome
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Area News/Lottery Numbers

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/.

Lee County Bridges group to hold Keokuk community-wide meeting April 16

The steering committee is hosting the next community-wide Bridges out of Poverty training in Keokuk on April 16th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the First Lutheran Church located at 1101 Blondeau Street. The Public is invited to attend

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.

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game</th>
<th>Draw Days</th>
<th>Sales Cutoff</th>
<th>Approx. Drawing</th>
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<td>Mon &amp; Thu</td>
<td>8:30 pm</td>
<td>9:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mega Millions</td>
<td>Tues &amp; Fri</td>
<td>8:59 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Powerball</td>
<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
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<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
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Details released in Monday morning accident

BY PCC STAFF

MONTROSE - A 75-year old Burlington man was taken to Fort Madison Community Hospital Monday morning following a two-car accident at the junction of U.S. Hwy 61 and Hwy 218 on the Montrose hilltop.

According to sheriff reports, Danny Joseph Brownlee of Burlington was driving in a 2008 Chrysler Town & Country van when he collided with a 2005 Sterling box truck driven by Jamie Ray Wrieden, 45, of Keokuk, in heavy fog on top of the hill.

Brownlee was trapped in the vehicle and showed several injuries. A witness at the scene was holding Brownlee’s head. The witness, who was behind Wrieden’s vehicle, said the fog was so thick it was very difficult to see any traffic. Emergency crews broke out the passenger side window so crews could get inside the van to immobilize Brownlee, while crews mechanically removed the driver’s side door to get him out. Wrieden said he was crossing the southbound lanes to travel north on Hwy. 218 and said, due to the heavy dense fog that hampered visibility, he didn’t see Brownlee’s vehicle until he was already crossing the southbound lanes.

He reported he saw Brownlee’s headlights once he was already in traffic and Brownlee struck Wrieden’s vehicle in the passenger side of the truck.

No citations were issued at the scene and Wrieden didn’t report any injuries at the scene.

Montrose Fire & Rescue, Lee County Sheriff’s Department, and Lee County EMS responded to the accident.

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In the health of our community

ONE PERSON AT A TIME

FMCH Hospice Volunteer Training

When: May 1st, 3rd, & 7th at 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Where: FMCH Canella Conference Room

Registration is required by April 20th, 2018 and can be completed online at www.fmchosp.com. For more information or to register for the training program, contact Debbie Green, Director of FMCH Home Health & Hospice at (319) 376-2721.

The FMCH Hospice program is funded by the FMCH Foundation.

Pen City Current - Thursday, April 5, 2018 - 3

Pen City Current
Founded in 2016

Pen City Current and www.pencitycurrent.com are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 2018 AT 10AM

TWO STORY HOME ON CORNER LOT

Take a look at this spacious two story home built in 1890 with 1,888 sq ft on two levels. The main level features a kitchen with refrigerator & electric stove, spacious living room and an adjoining bedroom with washer/dryer hookups and updated carpet. Also on the main level is a handicap accessible bathroom. The open stairway leads to two bedrooms and a bath. The attached breezeway has a workshop area which attaches to the single car garage. The garage also has a storage room. All situated on a 75’x123’ corner lot.

VEHICLE: 2011 Chevrolet Impala LT 106,305 miles, 4dr. V6 Flexfuel, automatic

ANTIQUE FURNITURE: Secretary with glass front bookcase; glass front pie safe; Kitchen cabinet w/ flour bin; (4) Glass front sectional bookcase; 4 drawer dresser w/ mirror; 3 drawer dresser w/ mirror; Vanity w/ mirror; Accent table; 6 gal. crock; Antique pictures; Antique wall phones; Stamp collection

TV, APPLIANCES & MODERN FURNITURE: Samsung 55” UHD TV, 4k; GE electric dryer; Maytag washer; Entertainment center; (2) Lazy Boy recliners; Electric IR chair; End tables; Dining room table & 4 chairs; Corner cabinet; Couches; Recliners; Full bed w/night stand; Chest of drawers; Dressers; Antique dishes; Hall’s kitchenware; Glassware; Kitchen utensils; Lamps; Christmas decorations; Bookshelves; Book collection including Westerns & others; Kirby vacuum; Alum ext. ladder; Bench grinder; Vice; Bolt bin; Lawn & garden tools.

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Everybody hates you.
From the Front/Weather

Remaining absentees could make recount closer

Unofficially there were 1,747 votes in favor of the referendum and 1,202 against. Social media was ablaze Tuesday night with numbers indicating that 24 more yes votes would have passed the referendum. That was the number of votes if converted to yes votes would have resulted in enough to pass the bond, not just 24 more additional Yes votes.

The absentee ballots came in at 943 Yes, and 459 No for a 67% approval. According to Nikki Sugars, the Lee County deputy auditor and elections administrator, there are currently 63 absentee ballots still unreturned. She received seven in the mail on Wednesday for a total of 70. In the unlikely event that all 70 were in favor of the referendum. That would push the Yes votes to 1817 for a total of 3019 votes. That would total 60.19%, which in theory would approve the bond. But that would require all of the absentee ballots having been postmarked by April 2, and all would need to be returned.

According to Fraise, there are also four provisional ballots in the county’s possession. Those are ballots where the voter couldn’t prove residency at the polls and they need to bring in proof of residency prior to the canvas for the votes to count.

The district has put the referendum in front of voters three different times, the last of which was June 27, 2017 when a $27 million bond failed with a 1528-1212 result with a 55.8% approval.

Absentees in that referendum had a 64.7% approval, but Tuesday saw roughly 600 more absentee generating just a 2.3% higher approval. Another interesting contrast was voters at Grace Bible Church in Wever voted against the measure in both of the previous efforts, 81-87 in 2016 and 121-125 in June, but this time around had a majority in favor of 137-109, with the exact same number of voters as in 2017.

Voters at the West Point Library, who were taking a hit on social media for not helping carry the referendum, voted 102-175 (43.3%) in December of 2016 and 124-241 (33.9%) in June, and voted 162-293 on Tuesday (35.6%). The total voters Tuesday was 90 more than 2017 and 178 more than 2016.

The Fort Madison city polling locations have not carried the needed 60% in any of the three elections. Only absentee voting has surpassed the required 60%.

Amtrak’s Southwest Chief won’t run this weekend

Varley said, “And because of the work being done, we also received notification that the Southwest Chief, the Amtrak that runs basically between Kansas City and Chicago will also not be running that day.’’

The work will stop the Amtrak Southwest Chief run for Saturday and Sunday and no alternative transportation will be provided.

“Sometimes bigger cities will run buses or things like that, but for those two days the Southwest Chief will be running Andy Williams, director of public affairs for the BNSF region that includes Iowa and Illinois, said the bridge will be closed from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. to do rail platform repairs.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 05 Apr

Snow
High – 35.5º F | Low – 24.3º F

FRI 06 Apr

Snow
High – 28.2º F | Low – 18.4º F

SAT 07 Apr

Clear Skies
High– 32.2º F | Low – 19.4º F

SUN 08 Apr

Snow
High – 35.5º F | Low – 32.6º F

MON 09 Apr

Snow
High – 34.8º F | Low – 32.5º F

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Scene Around Town

[Images of construction sites with workers.]
“You can kill the lights and the amplifiers/But dreams don’t care if you’re tired,” “No Rest” probably sums up Colt’s ambitions on Love Hope Faith, his tribute to being a working musician, what he calls “my version of ‘My Way.’” “I’m proud of that song,” he says. “I think it’s one of the best I’ve ever done. It’s not just about being a rock star, but accomplishing your dreams, a passion that can’t be stopped. Being a rock star is my drives out session, while the anthemic “I’m Mud” is just that, a self-deprecating, but in-your-face song from the perspective of the dirt below (‘I’ve been played on, spit at, kicked until I turned to dust!’). “Keepin’ It Real” is just that… Colt on staying the distance, “headlights on the highway/just keep going…” Beer is cold and life is good.”

“Love Hope Faith is Colt Ford’s musical message, one so universal and love being a part of a very new and unique brand of country rock and roll music called StumpTown. Their infectious harmonies, catchy lyrics and driving grooves already have fans singing out loud. And that makes a sound you don’t get to hear very often. It’s the sound of a band ready to go down in history. StumpTown is: Jerad Harness- vocals, rhythm guitar, lead vocal; Natu Gesnelli- load guitar; backing vocals Jesse Carebas- bass guitar, backing vocals Dakota Weber- Drums.

In 2008, Natu began a career in Professional Boxing. He was a highly ranked professional and fought several times on National television including a USA World Title fight. He was a training partner for Legends such as Evander Holyfield, Vladimir Klitschko, James Toney, and more. Towards the end of 2015, Natu was featured in a songwriting competition in Tennessee called Nashville Rising Star that also hosted 2016 ACM Female Artist of the Year, Kelsea Ballerini. Natu won the fan votes but finished as runner up. Shortly after NRS, Natu formed a band with various professional musicians in Central Illinois called The NATU Band. After an invitation to perform at a renaissance fair, Natu & co-founder/owner of his own Average Joes Entertainment, the co-founder/owner of his own Average Joes Entertainment.

Tickets will soon be available at a Casey’s General Store near you!

2018 RiverFest Line-Up features some of the hottest national, regional and local acts around!

RiverFest 2018 SUNDAY NIGHT Entertainment Line-Up! August 5th, 2018!

“I feel more confident than ever as an artist,” says Ford, and while he numbers some of the most important supporters in Music City, his lack of country radio acceptance and award show accolades continues to drive him. “I’ve given it my best shot. Some of that outsider thing is tongue-in-cheek, but some of it is true. I’m unbelievably accepted by artists and songwriters. There’s no one I can’t work with. They know I’m real. I’ve built those relationships over time, and I feel I’ve created a body of work.”

Love Hope Faith was created with some of the leading songwriters in music today, Jeff Hyde (“Lookin’ for a Hand Out”) and Justin David (“Time Flies”) to Jaron Johnston, Neil Masing and Jesse Frasure (“Dirt Road Disco”) to Walker Hayes & Thomas Archer (“No Rest”) and Eric Dodd & Alex Hall (“Dynamite”). Still, it is the sturdy persona of Colt Ford that gives them their consistency. “There are a lot of different styles on this album, but I think my fans will hear it’s just me,” he says. “As long as I remain true to myself, I can delve into all of them. Songs like the rock/hip hop “Dynamite” reference the Scorpios (“rock like a hurricane”), Marvin Gaye (“let’s get it on”), Michael Jackson (“Billie Jean on the radio”) and Jay Z, while the first single, “4 Lane Gone,” sports a full-blown rock intro before settling into a lament for a lost romance in which the individuals are on their separate paths. “My Truck” is a hilarious “can you top this” playground rank-out session, while the anthemic “I’m Mud” is just that, a self-deprecating, but in-your-face song from the perspective of the dirt below (“I’ve been played on, spit at, kicked until I turned to dust!”). “Keepin’ It Real” is just that… Colt on staying the distance, “headlights on the highway/just keep going…” Beer is cold and life is good.”

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