FMCH, Blessing to close Keokuk clinic

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK - Fort Madison Community Hospital announced Friday that it will be closing the Keokuk Medical Center after a decision to break with Blessing Health Systems.

In separate releases from FMCH and Blessing Health Systems, it was announced that the clinic will stop seeing patients on Aug. 31, but will remain open for four more weeks to allow for the transition of patient records.

FMCH officials indicated in their release that the partnership with Blessing Health System to operate Keokuk Medical Center (KMC) in Keokuk has been in place for the past three years. “While this has been a successful joint effort, the determination has been made to discontinue the partnership between FMCH and Blessing, therefore, closing KMC. Patients will continue to be seen at KMC through August 31st,” the release indicated. “KMC filled a void in health care in the Keokuk market during a difficult time. Since then, other healthcare providers in the region have expanded their primary health services, leading to the decision to close Keokuk Medical Center, allowing FMCH and Blessing to focus on other healthcare needs.”

Heritage on display at Denmark festival

The annual Sunday tractor parade is a big draw for the Denmark Heritage Days Festival that took place this past Friday through Sunday in Denmark.

Annual event brings new flare with cooking competition

BY ASHLYN BUTLER

DENMARK - Throngs were bustling through Denmark’s Star Park over the weekend to participate in the town’s annual Heritage Days Festival, which for the first time ever featured a competitive cookout.

The 13th annual Heritage Days Festival started at 7 a.m. on Friday with the registration of engines and tractors and ended with the traditional tractor parade at noon on Sunday. People from Denmark and the surrounding area gathered together to shop different vendors and food stands.

The festival is a chance for locals to show off their tractors and engines as well as their cooking skills. Some other special activities include a horse carriage ride around the town, the Mr. and Miss Heritage Days contest for kids between the ages of four and ten years old, and the West Burlington Fire Department bringing down its fire house for kids to see what an actual house fire is like, as well as learning fire safety from real firefighters.

Gayla Young, who has helped run the event through- out the years said the event is a chance for newcomers to see Denmark.

Blossom ate my wedding ring

BY CURT SWARM

Blossom doesn’t like being weaned. Not one bit. When I go in her pen to check her calf starter, hay, and water, she pesters me to no end, nose bumping me for milk and sucking anything she can get a hold of—like clothing, fingers, or elbows. (She thinks I’m her mother.) That nose bumping hurts, especially when she comes up from behind and nails me in the rear!

Curt confronts Blossom with his ringless finger. She neither confirms nor denies any knowledge of its whereabouts, as she she tries to get another taste. To pacify her, so that I can get to her feed and water, I had taken to letting her suck my fingers while I tend to her food. This was awkward at best—her sucking on one hand, leaving my other hand free to feed and water, but it got the job done and kept her from ramming me. I hate it when I’m carrying a bucket of water or feed and she slams into me, knocking everything two-ways-to-thunder. She’s a big calf at seven weeks, maybe 200 pounds. So, I had become adept at letting Blossom suck the fingers on my left hand, leaving my right hand free to work on the feed and water.

It was after morning chores, while I was eating breakfast, that I noticed my wedding ring was gone. I checked the sink where I wash my hands. Not there. I checked everywhere. Nothing. Then it hit me—Blossom! Uh, oh. It was the fingers on my left hand that I let her suck. I’ve been losing weight and my wedding ring was loose. It had to be her! Maybe she had sucked the ring off and spit it out.

I scurried out to her pen and scoured the ground. It was after morning chores, while I was eating breakfast, that I noticed my wedding ring was gone. I checked the sink where I wash my hands. Not there. I checked everywhere. Nothing. Then it hit me—Blossom! Uh, oh. It was the fingers on my left hand that I let her suck. I’ve been losing weight and my wedding ring was loose. It had to be her! Maybe she had sucked the ring off and spit it out.

I scurried out to her pen and scoured the ground. Nothing. I called a retired veterinarian friend and explained the “unusual” situation. He chuckled and patiently explained that bovine have four stomachs, explained the “unusual” situation. He chuckled and patiently explained that bovine have four stomachs, the stomachs are hardly developed. If the ring was in her, it would more- than-likely stay. I needed to have her x-rayed. If the ring was loose, it had to be her! Maybe she had sucked the ring off and spit it out.

I scurried out to her pen and scoured the ground. Nothing. I called a retired veterinarian friend and explained the “unusual” situation. He chuckled and patiently explained that bovine have four stomachs, the stomachs are hardly developed. If the ring was in her, it would more-than-likely stay. I needed to have her x-rayed. If the ring did pass through, it would probably take 48 hours to pass through, it would probably take 48.
OBITUARIES

YOLANDA LEE CHEEK (SAM)

Yolanda Lee Cheek (Sam), age 80, of Mt. Pleasant Iowa, formerly of Fort Madison, passed away Friday June 1, surrounded by her loving family. She was born October 23, 1937 to Eugene Bruno and Wanda (Coppage) Eicher.

Sam enjoyed many years of her life working as a bartender, where she loved socializing and meeting new people; she never met a stranger. Following her years bartending, she began working for Trailmobile Trailers in Jonesboro, Arkansas; a job she always said she loved. She enjoyed baking cookies and other goodies for everyone in her department.

Sam always put everyone’s feelings and needs above her own and would do anything she could to help out others whether family, friend, or stranger. Her heart was pure gold and she will be missed by anyone that was blessed to have met her.

Sam is survived by her five children, Mike (Laura) Yauk of Corpus Christi, TX, Chuck (Kayla) Yauk of Pensacola, FL, Cory (Yonne) Yauk of Cape Coral FL, Lee (Chuck) Vandenberg of Fort Madison, and Kelly (Mike) Holdrege of Mt. Pleasant; brothers Ronald (Mary Ann) Bruno of Iowa City, Rick Eicher of Le Claire; and sisters Phyllis (Leonard) Anderson and Connie Clark of Fort Madison. She also leaves behind seventeen grandchildren, Mikey Yauk, Jason Yauk, Charlie Tunstall, Tara Farriss, Sara McMorris, David McDowell, Samantha Douglas, Chad Yauk, Stephanie L. Yauk, Danielle Yauk, Austin Taylor, Kelsey Vandenberg, Taylor Vandenberg, Sean VanTiger, Samantha Douglas, Paul Holdrege, and Jared Holdrege as well as nineteen great grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brothers Rio Bruno and Pete Eicher and grandchildren Amy Yauk and Cody Morgan.

Graveside services will be held at Oakland Cemetery in Fort Madison on Wednesday June 6th at 11:30 AM, followed by a Celebration of Life at the Eagles in Fort Madison.

Flowers should be sent to the Services for Yolanda Cheek, c/o Murphy Funeral Home, 408 N. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641 for delivery to the cemetery.

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- Avoid smoking and limit alcohol to 2-3 drinks per day.
- Have a bone density test to measure your risk – it is simple, painless, takes 5-10 minutes and uses very little radiation.

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.
Wife just shakes her head at life on the farm

hours, give or take.
I went to our friendly rental store and rented a metal detector and scanned the ground in Blossom’s pen. Nothing. Now, twice a day, I take a vowed and begrudgingly poke through the fresh cow-pies in hopes of finding the ring. I refuse to have Blossom x-rayed. If the ring is in her it would require surgery. Let’s see, a $2,000 dollar surgery versus a $500 wedding band. But there’s sentimental value in the ring. Hmm. Naw. Ginnie just shakes her head in wonder at life on the Empty Nest Farm.

Meanwhile, Blossom chews her cud and curiously watches me from the corner of her pen while I pick through her cow-pies. There’s a little gleam in her eye, like, “That’ll teach’m to wean me.”

After mowing, I checked the live animal trap to see if it was still set. I’ll be darned, the trap was tripped. Aaarrgh! The age-old battle between man and nature! But I knew what to do. I got the live animal trap, baited it with one of the dead hens, and set it where I thought it might be effective. I proceed to mow.

It was after this morning chore that, when I went to feed and water the chickens, I found three dead hens. The mink had returned in broad daylight while I was mowing, penetrated the trap was tripped and in it was a not-too-happy mink. I couldn’t believe it. The mink had returned in broad daylight while I was mowing, penetrated the electric mesh fence, and got caught in the trap. Will wonders never cease!! Mr. or Ms. Mink got a long, long ride.

Out of the corner of my eye, I thought I caught a glimpse of a little furry animal under the hen house. I told myself that it must be a baby rabbit.

For the Record

Fort Madison
Police report
05/31/18 - 8:23 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary on 29th Place. 05/31/18 - 9:38 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1400 block of Avenue J. 05/31/18 - 11:34 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 900 block of Avenue H. 05/31/18 - 2:23 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the Lee County area. 06/01/18 - 6:38 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 600 block of 34th Street.

Lee County
Sheriff’s report
05/31/18 - 12:27 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Payton Wrage VanPelt-Vice, 22, for Fort Madison, in the 1300 block of Hwy. 2 in Donnellson on warrants for assault with injury and accessory after the fact. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on bond.

05/31/18 - 3:34 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Travis Earl Nelson, 39, of Donnellson in the 1700 block of 160th Avenue in Fort Madison on a charge of violating a temporary restraining order. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

05/31/18 - 5:02 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested William Gene Movers, 56, of Newton, at the Newton Correctional Facility on a court ordered hold. He was held in custody.

Birth Announcement

LAMOSI AMARA BREWER

KEOKUK - Cheyenne Crenshaw and Corey Brewer of Keokuk announce the birth of their daughter LaMosi Amara Brewer on May 31, 2018 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Grandparents are Wendy Crenshaw, Eric Crenshaw, Kim Brewer and Alonzo Brewer; all of Keokuk.

Great-grandparents are Cathy Bostic of Keokuk, Clyde Bostic of Ozarks, Me., Charles Boyd of Keokuk and Andrey Worley of Keokuk.

Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.

Celebrations/From the Front

Charles Vandenberg, Editor
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Pen City Current - Monday, June 4, 2018 - 3

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**HTC boys fall in extra innings to Notre Dame**

**By PCC Staff**

BURLINGTON - The Holy Trinity Crusaders had bases loaded in the bottom of the 8th inning, but couldn’t get a runner around and dropped a 7-8 extra inning affair Friday against the Nikes in boys high school baseball action.

Sophomore Reed Fehseke, senior Collin Thornton and freshman Jason Thurman all drew walks to open the bottom of the eighth. But Fehseke was gunned down at the plate on a fielder’s choice when junior Kyle Bredemeyer hit a grounder to first. Bredemeyer reached on the fielder’s choice, to keep the bases loaded with one out.

Senior Kadin Medland and senior Zander Schweiss both fanned in the next two at bats to end the game.

Fehseke went 3-for-4 with a double, a run scored and an RBI in the loss. Sophomore Quentin Schneider went 2-for-3 with a run scored and an RBI.

The Crusaders jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the top of the second inning when Bredemeyer led off with a single and then Medland got plunked putting two men on. Senior Zander Schweiss reached on an infield error that scored Bredemeyer from second. Medland scored when freshman Garrett Hannum grounded out to second. Schneider reached on a walk, then moved to second on Jason Thurman’s ground out to short and then scored when Fehseke singled to center. Collin Thornton popped out to third to end the run.

The Nikes came back with six runs in the bottom half of the inning, starting chaser Medland for Jason Thurman. The Nikes’ Drew Chiprez, Mitchell Brent and Nick Sherik all doubled in the inning. Two fielder’s choices, a hit batsman, and a couple of singles did the rest of the damage and the Nikes were up 6-4.

HTC put two more up in the top of the third inning. Vasin Thurman, Bredemeyer and Schweiss all reached on fielding errors. Thurman scored on one of the errors and Bredemeyer came around to score on Schweiss’s two-out double to left to tie the game at six.

The Nikes took the lead again in the bottom of the third when Carson Chiprez knocked in Riley Koenig for a 7-6 lead. Jason Thurman then settled in and held the Nikes in check until the eighth inning. The Crusaders tied the game in the sixth when Fehseke lined a one-out double to the corner in left and came around to score with two outs when Collin Thornton reached on a two-base error at third.

The Crusaders fell to 2-5 on the season and play host to Van Buren on Monday night at South Park.

**HTC junior high squad splits with NL**

**By PCC Staff**

NEW LONDON - The Holy Trinity junior high softball team split a pair of games at New London Thursday night.

In game one, New London edged the Crusaders 12-11 with Anna Sobczak going 2-for-2 at the plate and taking the loss on the mound. Breanne Peterson went 2-for-4. Laura Mehmert, Kayla Box and Jenna DiPrima each had hits for HTC.

Holy Trinity won the second game 12-5 with Mary Hellige getting the win and getting two hits. Box went 4-for-4. Brooke Mueller and Raquel Schneider each went 3-for-5. Alexa Dingman had a couple of hits and Sobczak added a hit for the Crusaders.

HTC is 6-2 on the year and will host Cardinal of Eldon in West Point on Friday in a double header starting at 5:30 p.m.

**Keokuk Medical Clinic will see patients through Aug. 31**

**CLINIC - Continued from Page 1**

“other strategic healthcare needs in the region.” Officials said Dr. Annette Oetken and Dr. Misty Bowen and their professional staff will continue to see patients through August 31st. Personal letters will be sent to all patients currently under the care of Dr. Oetken and Dr. Bowen with more details for continuity of care and how to attain their medical records. The KMC office will be open through September 28th for that purpose. FMCH and Blessing are working with all of the team members at KMC to help them find new positions after the closing. The center was opened in 2014 to help enhance access to primary healthcare services in Keokuk and surrounding communities. Since then, other healthcare providers in the region have expanded their primary healthcare services, leading to the decision to close the Keokuk Medical Center, allowing Fort Madison and Blessing to focus on other strategic healthcare needs in the region, according to the release. Between now and August 31, Keokuk Medical Center staff will work with patients to help them find another provider. Blessing Health System owns the Keokuk Medical Center building and will assess its future over the coming weeks.

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**Venue:** Danksward Park Pool

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- **Age**
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  - 9-11: 100yd, 3.3mi, 1/2mi
  - 12-14: 200yd, 4.9mi, 1mi

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**More info at www.facebook.com/BurlingtonYouthTriathlon**

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**Great River Health System**
DENMARK - Continued from Page 1

and past residents to get a fresh look at the community.

“I’ve seen people this weekend that have moved away that have come back for this. People have been able to really see our community really close up,” Young said.

DeAnne Boner, who has also helped in putting on the event said the point of the event is to get together with others and enjoy the weekend.

“Just get together and just have a good time and visit. Nobody takes the time to sit and socialize.”

She also urged people to check out the Denmark Heritage Days Facebook page for more information about what the Heritage Days Festival holds at https://www.facebook.com/DenmarkHeritageDays/.

“We have just a little bit for everyone…the church is involved, the firemen are involved…” said Boner.

The closing day of the festival holds the most popular event – the tractor parade. People who register their tractors and other vehicles have the opportunity to participate in the parade along with the Denmark Fire Department.

“The parade is “where it all started,” said Young, expressing the importance of the community coming together.

“This face-to-face is what we need,” she said.

The Denmark Heritage Days Festival takes place in the first weekend of June. Young and Boner said the best way to understand the importance of the festival is for people to come check it out themselves.

Tractor enthusiasts had plenty to see over the weekend in Denmark’s Star Park as the Heritage Days Festival took place over the weekend.

Festival’s Facebook page is the go-to for information

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF FORT MADISON SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT

PROGRAM RULES
1. The purpose of this program is to furnish an opportunity for residential property owners to replace existing deteriorated sidewalks and/or to install new sidewalks in front of existing buildings where no sidewalk now exists. This does not include driveway approaches or sidewalks going to the residential unit. It does include sidewalk, which is located within the street right-of-way.

2. The property owner’s responsibility will be to remove and dispose of the deteriorated sidewalk or excavate where new sidewalk would go, form the sidewalk to be poured, and place the concrete. This work can be done either by the property owner, renter, or your contractor. The City will not pay for Saturday delivery charges. Work cannot begin before July 1st.

3. The City of Fort Madison will inspect the sidewalk prior to approval of your application, prior to removal and prior to placement of the new sidewalk. The Fort Madison Ready Mixed Concrete Co. will bill the City for the concrete used and the City of Fort Madison will pay for the concrete directly to the supplier. The City will not pay for the additional Saturday delivery charge. If the property owner wishes to have the delivery on Saturday the bill for the delivery will be sent to the property owner. No payments will be made directly to the property owner. The concrete can be ordered by the property owner or your contractor from:

Fort Madison Ready Mixed Concrete Co.
1204 14th Street
Fort Madison, Iowa 52627
319-372-4183

4. The sidewalk shall be constructed according to the sidewalk design specifications which can be acquired at the Fort Madison Public Works Department.

5. Each application will be evaluated based on its condition and how it improves the area for pedestrian traffic. Extra consideration will be given for connection to an existing sidewalk.

6. Applications for this program will be available on May 1st at 8:00 A.M. and will be accepted through June 22nd at 4:30 P.M. Each proposal will be evaluated and you will be notified by July 2nd. The City will fund projects as funding is available. The replacement work cannot take place before July 1st and must be approved by the City prior to the commencement of the work.

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