CONNECTION made in Burlington

CEO said Connection Bank & Insurance wanted to create something “unbanky”

The new Connection Bank and Insurance building on Roosevelt just off the corner of Market Street is open for business. Below, Market manager Brock Ita, far right, and Michelle Fickel, Branch Manager, talk with one of the building contractors.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

BURLINGTON - Carrying the iconic orange, green, and gold colors now synonymous with Connection Bank and Insurance, a new ultra, state-of-the-art banking location is now open in Burlington.

The new building has quickly become the architectural centerpiece of the new development zone on the east side of Roosevelt Avenue at the corner of Market Street, and features full-service banking and insurance services.

Brock Ita, a Danville native, will serve as the Branch Manager.

Michelle Fickel, a 15-year veteran with Connection Bank, formerly Fort Madison Bank & Trust, will serve as the Branch Manager.

Customers will enter the bank on the north side parking lot and walk into a spacious welcome area complete with a fireplace and a fabricated circular LED light resembling the linked circle logo of Connection. Glass offices encircle the large waiting area with a very large conference room on the south side. A double lane drive thru with separate ATM lane is on the building’s east side.

Inside, typical teller counters are replaced with smaller pods that feature cash recyclers to speed up transaction times, while increasing security for customers and staff.

Matt Morris, President and CEO of Connection Bank & Insurance, said it was important for the building to be open and inviting.

“We wanted something with an open floor plan,” he said. “We wanted the customer service reps to be able to move freely around and greet customers,” he said. “You’ll notice it isn’t a traditional bank teller line. We went with pods and cash recyclers. There are no line drive thru services.

State and local officials put together an incentive package to help the project become a reality. On May 19, the Iowa Economic Development Authority awarded Scotts $91,612 in direct financial assistance and tax benefits from the state’s High Quality Jobs program to help with the company’s capital investment. The package required the City of Fort Madison to match the $91,612 so City Manager David Varley recommended a three-year tax abatement to meet its obligation in the package.

FORT MADISON - The golden shovels were out and hardhats on as city, county, and Scotts Miracle-Gro officials broke ground Monday on an expansion project that could bring more than 40 new jobs to Fort Madison.

The expansion facility is a $3.6 million project that will expand the company’s Fort Madison footprint by 4,400 square feet and bring in an additional packaging line

Dale Heidbreder, the technical manager for the facility, said the project helps secure the company’s position in Fort Madison for the future.

“What’s happening is we’re putting an addition on our formulation building,” Heidbreder said. “It’s two levels, and what will go in that will be three new product storage tanks and four formulation tanks.

In addition, we’ll install one new packaging line and upgrade an existing packaging line.”

For the Record

Obituaries

Celebrations

Pilot Grove Savings Bank

PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - The Lee County Sheriff’s department is asking the public for help locating a Keokuk man.

Authorities were asked to do a welfare check just before noon Monday morning on 39-year-old Dan Oilar of Keokuk, near the Red Wing Access on the Des Moines River southwest of Keokuk.

Sheriff Stacy Weber said deputies were unable to physically locate Oilar, but were able to reach him by phone. After brief conversations with deputies on the phone. After brief conversations with deputies on the phone.

In addition, we’ll install one new packaging line and upgrade an existing packaging line.”

Scotts breaks dirt on expansion

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

Fort Madison Community Hospital

Fort Madison Family YMCA

Great River Regional Waste Authority

Hope Associates Real Estate

KLM Realty

Pilot Grove Savings Bank

Professional Services

StopBullying.gov

Test Kitchen Education Foundation

Trailways Travel

See SCOTTS, page 6

See SEARCH page 5

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106th Annual Charlie Korschgen Kiddie Parade

"Oldest 4th of July Patriotic Kiddie Parade in the USA"
(American Magazine June 1956 issue)

Parade Starts 10:00 A.M. On Wednesday, July 4, 2018

Registration 8:30 A.M. - 9:45 A.M.
18th & Avenue G

No preregistration necessary, but forms available at
Dodd Printing & Stationery, 621 Ave. G

Route from 18th Street & Avenue G,
Fort Madison to Moose Club 6th & Avenue G

For information call: Andy Andrews 371-5379
Or Rusty Andrews 319-470-9413

Organized by the Moose Club,
4th of July Kiddie Parade Inc., and Friends of the Parade.
Madison Police responded 6/29/2018 - 8:30 a.m - Fort Madison Police arrested 7/01/2018 - 11:11 a.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 600 block of 7th St. 6/29/2018 - 8:55 p.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Ave. L. Madison Police arrested 7/01/2018 - 11:00 a.m - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested William Earl Jones, 53, of Fort Madison, on a warrant of judgement entry/mittimus, at the Sheriff's office. He was released the next day at 4:23 p.m for serving his time. 6/29/2018 - 10:30 a.m - Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Joseph John Record, 20, of Keokuk, on charges of drivers license denied/ revoked - OWI and dark windows at the intersection of South 7th and Cleaver. He was released at 11:37 a.m the same day upon citation and promise to appear. 6/29/2018 - 2:09 p.m - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Adam James Huss, 29, of Fort Madison, on warrants of assault-simple, disorderly conduct, and trespassing, and charges of driving while barred, dark windows, fraudulent use of registration, and failure to provide proof of financial liability in the 4000 block of Main St. in Keokuk. He was released on bond the same day. 6/30/2018 - 6:00 p.m - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident on Hwy. 61. Steven Lee Toops, 32, of Donnellson, was attempting to make a right hand turn southbound onto Hwy. 61, when the rear of his car was struck by Janet Ann Quin- lan, 41, of Hamilton, IL who was behind him. No injuries were reported at the scene, and Quilan was charged with following too closely. 7/01/2018 - 3:02 p.m - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Robert Steven Land, 41, of Argyle, who was being held temporarily in the 2700 block of Hwy. 218 until they could be transported to Mt. Pleasant. 7/02/2018 - 12:17 a.m - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Michael Vincent Onofrietti, 36, of Keokuk, on a charge of possession of stolen property in the 1800 block of 295th St. in Argyle. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report 06/29/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one assist, three medical calls. 06/30/2018 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls and a vehicle accident 07/01/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to five medical calls, one lift assist and two false alarms.

7/1 MID-DAY 0 7 0 7/1 EVENING 9 1 2
7/1 MID-DAY 0 9 0 3 7/1 EVENING 8 5 2 8

For the Record

For the Record

For the Record

For the Record

For the Record

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Powerball® Wed & Sat 8:59 pm 9:59 pm
Lotto America® Wed & Sat 8:59 pm 10:00 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

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

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OBITUARIES

TOM VAN

Tom Van, 65 years of, Marion, Iowa died on Wednesday, July 27, 2018 in Savannah, Georgia, where he was on vacation. On May 23, 1976 he enlisted in the United States Army and served in Vietnam. On August 23, 1976 he was united in marriage to Don Horton in Kahoka, MO. He preceded her in death in 1956. She married Clinton Stark in 1962 and he preceded him in death on April 16, 1998.

After she was married, Helen had been employed as a receptionist at Dr. Kasiske’s office in Keokuk. She really enjoyed watching the television shows, Law and Order, Walker Texas Ranger and Gunsmoke. She also enjoyed doing needle point, listening to Elvis gospel music and visiting with people in their home just to talk. Helen also like to read the word of God in her PTL Bible. She was a member of the Calvary Foursquare Church in Keokuk, the PTL Club, Home League Club and was a 700 Club member. She thoroughly enjoyed going to church and traveling with her family. She and Ray had been to almost every state including Hawaii. She liked to crochet and was an avid reader. Norma was a loving wife and mother who was devoted to her family and especially cherished her grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, at the New Testament Christian Church in Keokuk with Dawn Farris officiating. Burial will be in the Montrose Cemetery.

Visitation is after 1 p.m., Wednesday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Donnellson Public Library.

OBITUARIES

NORMA HELEN WALL CASE

Norma Helen Wall Case, 66 of Farmington, IA died Sunday, July 1, 2018 at her home. She was born October 27, 1951 in Keokuk, IA the daughter of Norman H. and Helen E. Young Wall. On November 22, 1969 she was united in marriage to her best friend, Raymond L. Case at the St. Joseph Catholic Parish Church in Montrose. He survives.

She was preceded in death by her father, granddaughter, Heather Lambert-Pullins, siblings, Larry Wall and Rita Boyer, grandmother, Mamie Wolf, other grandparents and her mother and father-in-law, William and Irene Case.

Norma graduated from Central Lee High School with the Class of 1969. She was a member of the Donnellson Presbyterian Church.

Norma had been employed by Van Buren County Hospital in Keosauqua and the Lee County Home in Keokuk.

She was preceded in death by her father, granddaughter, Heather Lambert-Pullins, siblings, Larry Wall and Rita Boyer, grandmother, Mamie Wolf, other grandparents and her mother and father-in-law, William and Irene Case.

She was a member of the Donnellson Presbyterian Church.

Norma had been employed by Van Buren County Hospital in Keosauqua and the Lee County Home in Keokuk.

Norma enjoyed camping and traveling with her family. She and Ray had been to almost every state including Hawaii. She liked to crochet and was an avid reader. Norma was a loving wife and mother who was devoted to her family and especially cherished her grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, at the New Testament Christian Church in Keokuk with Dawn Farris officiating. Burial will be in the Montrose Cemetery.

Visitation is after 1 p.m., Wednesday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with family meeting with friends from 5-8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Donnellson Public Library.

Celebrations

JILLIAN ALICE GERVELER

KEOKUK - Michaela Land and Jerrad Gerveler are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Jillian Alice Gerveler on June 27, 2018 at the Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Grandparents are Amy and Charles Gerveler, of Fort Madison, and Karla and Bob Land of Keokuk. Great-grandparents are Dodie Fisher of Fort Madison, Alma Finton, of Warsaw Ill., and Tom and Billie Gerveler of Nashville, Tenn.

Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.
SCOTTS - Continued from Page 1

Council approved that abatement in June. Heidbreder said the company would have moved ahead with project without the incentives, but he said the incentives make things easier and show the state's and city's commitment to the company.

“We would have done it without the incentives, but it sure helps,” he said.

“We’re going to bring in 40 plus jobs... and good paying jobs.”

In addition to the 40 plus full-time added jobs, Leslie Malinski, the plant’s Di- rector of Liquid Operations, said up to 50 additional seasonal employees may be added to the current staff of 130 full-time associates and 150 seasonal employees.

Fort Madison Partners Executive Director Tim Gobble said the expansion project speaks to the commitment of the city, the county, and the state to help existing businesses continue to grow, as well as the commitment of Scotts to the area.

Fort Madison City Councilman Chris Greenwald, who represented the city at the ceremony, said Scotts has been a strong corporate citizen.

“You always show up and you are very community-minded,” Greenwald told Malinski.

Malinski said so many times leaders try to take credit for these types of proj- ects.

“So many times leaders say, 'Look what I did.' But this isn't about us. It's about creating an environment that's conducive to this kind of growth,” he said. “Those folks, the workers - they're the real deal. It's a reflection on them... adding to that solid workforce. It's not always about going after the new business, you have to take care of the existing business and that's equally, if not more, important because they're already here.”

Malinski said the Fort Madison facility produces 70% of the liquid products for Scotts Miracle Gro.

“Next year with the expanded production capacity, we will produce more than 95% of the company's Miracle-Gro®, Ortho®, and Roundup® consumer products,” she said.

She also said some of the new positions are already posted on the Scotts corpo- rate website at https://scottsmiraclegro.com.

“We're going to be ready by the end of October,” she said.

Seither and Cherry won the bid on the project and Paul Schulte, who was on hand for the groundbreaking, said some work has already been done.

Sheriff suspends river search

phone, Oilar hung up on authorities and appeared to have powered down his phone prompting a search in the area of the Des Moines River.

Keokuk Emergency Volunteer Corp launched a rescue boat at Red Wing about an hour later, but Weber called off the search due to high water levels and quick moving currents at about 2:40 p.m.

“We don't even really know if he got into the river. Right now it's an attempt to locate and we're just trying to find him to make sure he's OK,” Weber said. “So if any- one has any information on his whereabouts, they should give us a call.”

Weber said the conditions were dangerous for rescue crews and without knowing for sure if Oilar was actually in the river, he suspended the search.
FMHS takes two in Goose Lake

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

GOOSE LAKE - Despite a six-run first inning in the final game of the three-game tourney, the Lady Hounds had things pretty well under control at the Goose Lake Tournament held in Goose Lake, Ia on Saturday.

The Hounds won the first two games of the tournament 5-3 over Monticello in eight innings, 3-0 over Goose Lake in the second game, but fell in the championship game 6-4 to Calamus-Wheatland.

Sadie Smithburg, Olivia Williams, and Kamryn Bailey all singled to open against Calamus-Wheatland in the top of the first inning and jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the inning.

In the first game, FMHS's Vanessa Golowach took 2nd to start the inning in an extra inning format. Smithburg flew out to center and Williams drew a walk to put two runners on. Bailey doubled driving in the first out. Grace Elvert hit the next hitter before Donald on second to start the inning, but Powers got the next two batters to pop out and the inning ended.

Cashman drew a walk. Diercks who doubled in the bottom of the 7th. At home. Cassie Powers drove in Featheringill who had doubled to start the inning, Calamus was able to shut down the next two Hound hitters for the win, giving the Hounds second place in the tournament.

In the first game, FMHS's Vanessa Golowach had a six-run first inning in the final game of the three-game tourney, the Lady Hounds had things pretty well under control at the Goose Lake Tournament held in Goose Lake, Ia on Saturday.

The Hounds won the first two games of the tournament 5-3 over Monticello in eight innings, 3-0 over Goose Lake in the second game, but fell in the championship game 6-4 to Calamus-Wheatland.

Sadie Smithburg, Olivia Williams, and Kamryn Bailey all singled to open the game to load the bases for FMHS. Maryce Feaeringill then singled scoring Smithburg but Williams was thrown out at home. Cassie Powers grounded out for the second out before Kylie Cashman drew a walk.

Dalya Wondra then singled scoring Bailey. Ivy Geerdes hit into a fielder's choice where everyone was safe scoring Feaeringill. Vanessa Golowach popped out to short to end the inning.

Powers then gave up six runs in the bottom half of the inning, the only runs she would allow in the game. Samantha Pewe opened with a single and was driven in by Jenna Diercks who doubled in the next at bat. Powers hit the next hitter before getting Alyssa McElmeel to pop out to left field for the first out. Grace Elvert then walked and Addison Leupker scored two on a one-out single. Sammie Flagel reached on an error before Alison Boeckmann grounded out to short. Addy Widel would single driving in the second out. Powers put up another run in the fourth when Powers drove in Feaeringill who had doubled to start the inning. Calamus was able to shut down the next two Hound hitters for the win, giving the Hounds second place in the tournament.

In the first game, FMHS's Vanessa Golowach took 2nd to start the inning in an extra inning format. Smithburg flew out to center and Williams drew a walk to put two runners on. Bailey doubled driving in both Hound runners, but was thrown out at third stretching the hit to give the Hounds a 5-3 lead.

In the bottom half, Monticello put Taylor McDonald on second to start the inning, but Powers got the next two hitters to pop out in the infield. Jaylynn Kraus drew a walk, but Piper Hansen popped out to short to end the game. Smithburg, Williams, and Cashman scored the other runs for Fort Madison in the win.

In the second game against Goose Lake, eighth grader Katie Dennis threw a 3-0 shutout against the Hounds. Dennis gave up five hits, two of which came in the bottom of the 7th.
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**Pen City Current - Tuesday, July 3, 2018 - 7**
Construction on the bank started in January, when Morris said the bank’s main vault, which had been built off-site, was set and the building was literally built around the vault.

The bank has several digital screens for branding and marketing, including a large screen monitor above a fireplace that customers will see when entering the building. Several cozy chairs and tables are set in front of the fireplace to create a non-traditional feel. To the left upon entry, customers will also have access to a technology counter with tablets where customers can experience some of the bank’s electronic services including online banking and the Connection Bank App.

“We’re trying to create a new banking experience,” Morris said. “We think of ourselves as being ‘unbanky’ and the new building reflects our open and approachable philosophy, while still being a profitable and safe institution. This is our flagship facility for the Connection brand and we’re going to incorporate these new concepts here in Burlington and then bring them into our other locations.”

The facility will feature 11 bank and insurance staff members, initially with most of the staff coming from the Hy-Vee location that closed at noon on Friday. Morris said the bank’s lease was up at Hy-Vee and the decision was made to go ahead and build new.

“Hy-Vee was a really great space for us, but people are banking differently now and with the lease expiring, we decided to go ahead and build,” he said. Connection is really in tune with the southeast Iowa market and has seen substantial growth since acquiring KSB (Keokuk Savings Bank and Insurance), merging the groups together and rebranding in 2016. This also greatly increased their presence along the Mississippi River in Lee County. They also have banks in Fort Madison and Montrose.

“We used to think the bigger metro cities would be a great place to be,” he said. “The problem with that is if you don’t understand the market you can get into real trouble. We love our river towns and their marketplaces. We have an intimate understanding of how the economics of our area work, which allows us to assist in the success of our customers.”

He said the announcement at the end of 2017 about the new facility has generated many calls from customers and potential customers.

“There’s been a lot of public interest since then; we’re fielding a lot of questions from potential customers wanting to know a little more about us and what we have to offer,” Morris said. “Burlington is a great market and we’ve had tremendous growth in the past two years since our merger and rebranding. I credit the growth to our staff that knows how to make things happen for our customers and also to our branding. We’re very excited about opening the front doors and continuing our growth and success.”

EASY SHARPS DISPOSAL for greater community health & safety

Great River Regional Waste Authority now has a new sharps disposal bin at the Fort Madison facility. Making disposal easy for our customers and allowing safer handling for our employees. A similar sharps disposal bin will soon be available at our Keokuk Transfer Station. The health and safety of our staff and our community members is of the utmost importance and we urge our residents to use regulated containers specifically made for sharps. Empty Sharps containers can be obtained in the at both the Fort Madison and Keokuk facilities. For the safety of everyone involved, please do not place plastic jugs or bottles containing sharps in your recycling tote or in any non-designated bin at our drop off sites.

From the Front

Connection solidifies footprint in southeast Iowa

The new mini vault cash recyclers will not only save time for tellers and customers but also bring the latest in security technology to the banking industry. The new units are part of teller “pods” that have been installed at the new Connection Bank & Insurance building on Roosevelt in Burlington.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC