Bridges prepping for 1st “Getting Ahead” class

New facilitator looking for volunteers, investigators for first class of Lee County effort

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – After close to two years of planning and fundraising, the Lee County Bridges Out of Poverty Initiative is close to holding its first class. August 12 is set to be the first class of the “Getting Ahead” program for the Lee County effort. Des Moines County has a program up and running and the efforts spilled over into Lee County two years ago when the Lee County Economic Development Group ushered the program in.

Shayla Blackburn, who originally was a volunteer as a Care Connections Coordinator for Young House Services out of Burlington was been hired to be the facilitator and coordinator in May for the Lee County Program. Blackburn has been in the nursing field since 1989 and said she decided she wanted to do something different, and signed up as a volunteer with the Bridges program.

“It’s hard to say enough about how much we need to help the community to better itself. It’s a full community effort. It’s not just geared at one level of the community – it’s geared for the whole community enrichment.”

In two years with the program, Blackburn said she’s seen how the Des Moines County Bridges ini-

Friday snarl sends police looking for FM man

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Area law enforcement are searching for a suspect involved in a multi-car collision in the 3500 block of Avenue L. Friday afternoon. The suspect has been identified as Matthew J. Wells. The collision occurred at about 3:15 p.m. at the DuPont outlet on Avenue L and involved two vehicles at the scene and a third vehicle as a suspect in a silver Pontiac left the scene striking that vehicle.

A motorist followed the vehicle around the vicinity of the accident and eventually lost track of the car, but the vehicle was discovered parked facing east between a home in the 3300 block of Avenue G.

The Pontiac had Kansas license plates, but the driver had abandoned the vehicle and police are still looking for the suspect. Officers with the Fort Madison Police Depart- ment, Lee County Sheriff’s Department and the Iowa State Patrol remained at the scene of the home on Avenue G while other officers tended to the accident scene as no injuries were reported.

Area law enforcement officials monitor a home in the 3300 block of Avenue G on Friday afternoon. A motorist who struck several vehicles in the 3500 block of Avenue L left the scene and abandoned his vehicle between the home and a garage.

RiverFest 2019 just a dozen days from river front

FORT MADISON – With one of the largest music festivals in the Midwest just 12 days from kick off, there is still plenty of time to get tickets, sign up for games, events and activities and make plans to be on the Fort Madison riverfront Aug. 1-4th.

Founder Charles Craft will throw the power switch just a dozen days from RiverFest 2019 presented by Frank Millard Co. Inc. in just 12 days with national rock music headlining the Mohrfield Electric Main Stage for four full evenings of some of the nation’s most recognizable rock bands spanning the decades.

A full schedule of events is listed below, but national recording artists Puddle of Mudd highlight the first night’s musical lineup. Battle of the Bands winner Living Lucid will open the night’s rock offering followed by Burden of the Sky, and after Puddle of Mudd, Ghost of Judas will fire up on in the Budweiser South Tent at 10 p.m.

FORT MADISON – After close to two years of planning and fundraisin...
Lee County Health Department Hospice

Your #1 Choice in Hospice

First Medicare Certified Hospice in Southeast Iowa - Since 1989

Lee County Health Department Hospice

Ask for us by name...

"Lee County Health Department Hospice"

...the most experienced Hospice in Lee County

Our Hospice Services Include:

- 24/7 on-call nursing staff
- Skilled Nursing Services
- Social Worker Visits
- Music/Massage Therapy
- Homecare Aide Assistance
- Spiritual & Grief Support
- Volunteer Services

We are proud to provide our Hospice Services in
Lee, Des Moines, Van Buren & Henry counties in Iowa
and Hancock & Henderson counties in Illinois

Touching the Community with Care

#3 John Bennett Drive • PO Box 1426
Fort Madison, IA 52627
(319)372-5225 or (800)458-6672

www.leecountyhd.org Like us on Facebook!
He was released upon citation.

Robert Genck, 70, of Fort Madison, was arrested for failure to yield half the roadway at the intersection of 27th and Ave. E. He was released upon citation.

Lee County Sheriff’s Report

7/16/19 – 9:11 a.m. The Lee County Sheriff’s Department arrested Kari Ann Bank, 30, of Keokuk on a warrant for violation of probation at the Sheriff’s office. She was held in jail.

7/17/19 – 12:15 p.m. The Lee County Sheriff’s Department arrested Kristofer Charles Johnson, 20, of Keokuk, on a charge of possession of controlled substances in the 1600 block of Bank St. in Keokuk. He was taken to jail and held. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.
No Plastic Bags
in the recycling bins

When recycling, be it at one of our convenient drop off sites, or putting out your residential recycling bin for the pickup, please DO NOT put items in plastic bags. They are not recyclable at Great River Regional Waste Authority.

For a complete listing of what we do recycle, contact your local City Hall, or one of our facilities for a service guide. Check with your local retail stores such as Hy-Vee or Walmart for their recycling capabilities. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation concerning this issue!!

Great River Regional Waste Authority

Ft. Madison Main Office: 2092 303rd Ave
Keokuk Transfer Station: 111 Carbide Lane
Fort Madison, IA 1-319-372-6140
Keokuk, IA 1-319-524-6175
Visit Us Online! www.grrwa.com facebook.com/grrwa

Sports

Hounds can’t hold off No. 6 Trojans

Big 4-run fourth ends Bloodhounds’ season with first winning campaign in 15 years

FAIRFIELD- Never underestimate your opponent, a saying that has been engrained in the minds of any person who has every competed in athletics.

For a Fairfield squad that wrapped up the regular season ranked in the top ten in Class 3A, it was easy to have the ‘Trojans’ egos wash away with the first-round matchup of the Class 3A Substate 5 District 10 bracket against a Fort Madison squad they had defeated four out of four times during regular season.

Despite coming in as a heavy underdog Friday night, Fort Madison put Fairfield against the ropes early on. The Trojans didn’t roll out with their ace, figuring they could handle the Hounds with ease.

That was a mistake.

Starting pitcher Jackson Weaton was pulled after just one inning, thanks to the Bloodhounds getting the bases loaded with no outs in the top of the second.

The situation forced the hand of Fairfield’s head coach to put Kosta Papazogolou, the team’s ace, on the mound to keep the Trojans’ post-season hopes alive. The game continued to be a back-and-forth affair, but errors ended up plaguing the Hounds hopes of the upset, as Fairfield went on to win by the final of 7-4.

“These kids are amazing,” Fort Madison Head Coach Ron Walker said of his team. “We come out and have 15 losses on the year, five of those losses are to the No. 6 ranked team in the state (in Fairfield), that’s 33 percent of our losses. We just kept getting tougher and tougher on them every time we met them out there.

“Their coach said, ‘You’ve got a group of kids there and they play the game the right way, I couldn’t be prouder of them.”

Weaton drew the start and it appeared as if the Trojans made the correct move in saving Papazogolou’s arm. After back-to-back outs to start the top of the first inning, Jordyn Gerdes was hit by a pitch to put the first runner of the game on the base paths.

Brandon Reichelt followed with a walk in the cleanup spot, before a double from Vasin Thurman brought in Gerdes to give Fort Madison the 1-0 lead.

Fairfield responded in the home half of the inning, getting its first runner on with an Austin Simpson walk. Cole Engle then reached base safely on an error, before another error on a throw down to third trying to catch Simpson on a steal resulted in the ball getting to the outfield and scoring Simpson to tie the game at 1-1.

“That’s growing pains of a young team,” Walker said of the errors. “That’s just something for us to remember, you can’t give the good teams extra outs and expect to win.”

Two straight walks from Landes and Kane Williams to start the second inning led to Reed Fehseke getting hit by a pitch back at the top of the lineup to load the bases for the Hounds with no outs. That’s when Fairfield decided to make the pitching change to their ace in Papazogolou.

Despite the change on the mound, Fort Madison plated two more runs thanks to a Gerdes sacrifice fly and Kane Williams scoring on a wild pitch to give the Bloodhounds a 3-1 advantage.

Back-to-back singles with one out in the bottom of the second helped the Trojans to plate a run and cut the lead to 3-2.

Fort Madison continued its one pitch at a time approach at the plate, starting the third inning with a walk from Vasin Thurman, before Dayne Cordray singled to put runners on the corners with no outs. Tate Johnson came up with a sacrifice pop out the next at bat, giving the Bloodhounds a 4-2 lead in the top of the third inning.

“We were finding fly balls for sacrifice flies, we were competing with two strikes in the box and really did a great job,” Walker said.

It took Fairfield until the bottom of the fourth inning before they were able to grab their first lead of the game.

Three singles, two doubles and a sacrifice pop fly were instrumental in helping Fairfield come up with a four-run fourth inning, allowing the Trojans to grab the 6-4 lead.

Fort Madison intentionally walked Simpson in the bottom of the sixth inning with two outs, before a Engle double brought in Simpson for the final security run, putting Fairfield’s lead at 7-4.

Papazogolou wasted no time putting the game away in the top of the seventh, retiring three straight batters on strikeouts for the 7-4 win.

“The team did excellently,” Walker said. “Great group of kids. We talked about the season overall. There was a lot of turbulence throughout the season with several different issues. Not only things that were out of our control, but I had some personal things. The kids stuck together and trusted in what we did and beared with me and kept believing. They did a great job. Take your hat off to the kids, I'm very proud to have been able to coach them.”

Fort Madison wraps up its 2019 season with an overall record of 16-15, the first time the Bloodhounds have finished over .500 in more than 15 years.

Johnson, Vasin Thurman and Gerdes each had an RBI for the Trojans. Cordray was hit with the loss, throwing 97 pitches over his five innings of work. Cordray gave up 10 hits and five earned runs while striking out three. Gerdes came on in relief and threw just 15 pitches over his one inning, giving up one hit and one earned run.
APARTMENTS FOR RENT
Chateau Apartments
Extra Clean & Quiet
Apartments for Rent


SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS NEEDED
The FMSD is taking applications for daily regular route school bus drivers.

- Must possess an Iowa Driver’s License and have or be willing to obtain the following endorsements: CDL, Air Brake, School Bus and Passenger.
- Applicant must pass a background check, drug test and DOT physical.
- Successful completion of the STOP training course is required within 6 months of hire date.

TO APPLY
or pick up an application at 1930 Avenue M Ft. Madison

HELP WANTED
QUALITY PLUS FEEDS

FULL-TIME
SHORT HAUL
TRUCK DRIVER
HOME EVERY NIGHT

Class A CDL required • Ag background preferred. Local daily trips • Capable of lifting 50 lbs. and climbing bulk loaded Motor Vehicle Record Required. Pre-Employment Drug Screen. Entry Level Drivers Considered.

Benefits Include: Health & Disability Insurance, Retirement Program, PTO Time, Annual Bonus, Paid Vacation

Apply in Person
2033 Locust Street
St. Paul, IA 52657
Contact Sherri at (319) 469-3167

Holy Trinity Catholic High School
FULL-TIME POSITIONS

- High School Science Teacher
- High School Spanish Teacher
- High School English Teacher
- High School Social Studies Teacher
- IT Coordinator

All positions are full-time and eligible for full benefits.

Holy Trinity Catholic School System in Ft. Madison, IA is a faith-based college preparatory learning community. We inspire lives of service, courage, personal integrity, and intellectual curiosity. We are distinguished by our welcoming community, excellent academic programs, and our commitment to meet the needs of our students and faculty.

 Interested applicants send resumes and cover letters to brenda.graham@holytrinity.schools.org.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
Agenda
DATE: TUESDAY, July 23, 2019
MEETING CONVENING TIME: 9:00 A.M.
LOCATION: Correctional Center
2530 255th Street, Montrose, IA

AGENDA
Pledge of Allegiance
Approve Agenda
Approve Tuesday, July 16, 2019 Board Minutes Consider Approval of Claims

Public Input
Personnel Action:
A. Step Increase-Sheriffs Office
B. Step Increase-Recorder’s Office

Workshop to Follow

PUBLIC MEETING
CITIZENS WELCOME
Vision and hearing assistance available upon request

Contact Title VI Administrator
319-372-3705

Counties Website: www.leecounty.org

YOUR AD HERE
Call Brian
(319)470.9151

FULL-TIME DENTAL HYGIENIST
Mark C. Pothitakis Family Dentistry currently has a position available for a Full-Time Dental Hygienist.

Complete an application or mail your resume to 1223 S. Gear Avenue, Eastman Plaza, Suite 302 West Burlington, IA 52655
Or email burldental@gmail.com
EOE.

Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis
and associates
Family Dentistry
W. Burlington • Ft. Madison • New London
Mediaplex • Burlington

FULL-TIME DENTAL ASSISTANT
Mark C. Pothitakis Family Dentistry currently has a position available for a Full-Time Dental Assistant.

Complete an application or mail your resume to 1223 S. Gear Avenue, Eastman Plaza, Suite 302 West Burlington, IA 52655
Or email burldental@gmail.com
EOE.

Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis
and associates
Family Dentistry
W. Burlington • Ft. Madison • New London
Mediaplex • Burlington

First. Fresh. Local.
Your Community | 24/7 | Your Information

Pen City Current
www.pencitycurrent.com

Got a news tip?
Call Chuck
(319)371.1670

Call Brian
(319)470.9151
Open Mic Night

1135 Ave. E • Wednesday ~ Saturday 7:00pm

American Family Insurance
Crystal Brown
Office Manager
Crystal Capdevila Agency Inc.
Burlington, IA 52601
800-447-5700
www.americanfamily.com

Melissa Pobst
Email: 165310.familia.com

KEMPKER’S

www.kempkerstruevalue.com

Bridge Cafe & Supper Club
101 Olive Street
Farmington, IA 52626

Now Every Friday
Homemade Tacos & Enchiladas
with Ice Cream, Sundays, a Show!

Cullen Pest Control
(319) 372-1060

ATM

Claws & Paws Pet Grooming
Nicole Southward
Owner/ Groomer
1935 1/2 Avenue I
Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627
(319) 376-5978

Here your dog will get one-on-one attention with lots of TLC

LEND A HAND
623-640-4177
JASON RUNGE
NO JOB TOO SMALL
Ft. Madison • Keokuk • Hamilton

REHABILITATION & SKILLED NURSING
WHEN GOING HOME
AFTER A HOSPITAL STAY
ISN’T AN OPTION.

YOUR LOVED ONES
DESERVE THE BEST
Call to schedule your personal tour
319-372-8021

Claws & Paws Pet Grooming
Here your dog will get one-on-one attention with lots of TLC

EARN an EXTRA $20.00 on your Gratitude Card with your July visit!
Your 100th minutes received on your minutes, one valid with any other offer. Excludes all charge service. See store for details.

American Family Insurance

Cullen Pest Control
(319) 372-1060

RIVER CITY MOTORS

www.kempkerstruevalue.com

How can chiropractic therapy help you?

BENEFITS OF CHIROPRACTIC
• Improved joint mobility, function, and health
• Decreased degeneration of joints and connective tissue
• Decreased inflammation
• Increased energy, vitality, and improved sleep
• and many, many more

DR. ROBERT BROCKMAN
Brazilian Chiropractic
2311 Avenue L, Suite 3, Fort Madison • 319-373-2800

Brickstone Chiropractic
Extremity Adjustment
Myofascial Relaxation
Cranial Adjustment
Muscle Facilitation

WEDDING & EVENT CENTER

Keokuk Auto Credit
We Tote the Note
No Credit Check
Low Weekly Payments
www.keokukautocredit.com

Keokuk, IA 52632
Office: 319-524-2334
Fax: 319-524-2373
**Classifieds**

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

**ADVERTISE YOUR SERVICE BUSINESS**
1 month • Only $50.00
2x2 Business Card Size Ad plus Social Media

Place your ad online 24/7 www.pen City current.com
Email your ad classifieds@pen City current.com
Call Brian (319) 470.9151

---

**Quarry Creek Elk & Bison Co.**
Premium Gourmet Elk & Buffalo
Meats & Sausage

Liberty Falls • Milk • Women & Children • Apparel • Garment
Western Wear • Western & Work Boots • Uniform Gift & Fashions

1666 • 303rd Avenue • Fort Madison, IA 52627
Office Phone & Fax 319-372-8964 • www.quarrycreek.com
Hours: Mon-Sat 9-4, Sun 10-5

---

**Darwin Bunerger**
Attorney At Law
Saunders/ Bunger
The Association of Real Property
401 Eighth St., Suite A • Fort Madison, IA 52627
Ph: 319-372-9145 Fax: 319-372-9150
319 S. 10th Street, PO Box 233, Burlington, IA 52601
Ph: 319-470-1082 Fax: 319-470-7347
Visit: www.darwinbrewing.com for more info.

---

**Your dog deserves to be pampered**

While your dog is enjoying their spa day in our grooming area, shop our healthy selection of dog foods & treats, collars & leashes, super fun toys, and other unique items and gifts you won't find anywhere else!

**605 9th Street, Fort Madison • (319) 372-3294**

---

**The Power of AgMax**

Protect your bottom line with The Power of AgMax®

Larger commercial and diversified operators have distinctly different insurance needs than traditional farms and ranches. That’s why we created AgMax specifically to serve the unique needs of commercial agriculture operations and related businesses, including:

- Producers who process, retail or direct market
- Equine and kennel operations, including boarding, breeding
- Agritainment and agritourism
- Hunting and other farm-based recreation
- Large commercial and diversified operations have distinctly different exposures than traditional farms and ranches.

Contact me today to learn how I can help you maximize your insurance protection.

**Larry Holtkamp**

Fort Madison
1301 37th St
(319) 372-9145
larryholtkamp.com

---

**The Art of Yoga**

Sylvia Thomas
Yoga Instructor
319-470-1082
617 Avenue G, Fort Madison
www.seiowayoga.com

---

**Help GRRWA Keep Your Community Hazard-Free!**

Great River Regional Waste Authority

Help us prevent fires in the household!

Please properly dispose of all Electronics!
739 Ave. G • Fort Madison, IA, 52627
319-372-6140
1-800-216-2370
Christmas Wrapping Paper as some of the recyclable. Please dispose of any wrapping materials in your regular trash cans.

Ft. Madison Main Office:
Monday through Friday
8am - 4pm

Keokuk Transfer Station:
8am - 4pm
Monday through Friday
Call for an appointment
RECYCLABLE!

---

**Doll House Dreams**

Largest Miniature Dollhouse Shoppe in Iowa
Staff-A-Pet Station
9 am – 2 pm Tues.-Sat.
319-372-0599 | 877-875-6200 | 319-470-4674
820 Avenue G • Fort Madison, Iowa • 52627
- shop online at www.dollhousedreams.com

Hand-Scooped Ice Cream • Old-Fashioned Fountain Drinks
Paninis • Kids Meals • Coffee • Rolls and More!

319-372-2828 . underthesunfm@gmail.com

---

**Premier Partner with Melissa & Doug**

Interactive Play Center to Encourage Creativity and Imagination

Contact us today to learn how Melissa & Doug can help create a brighter future for your children.

---

**Shug’s Tiny Town!**

Educational Toys

3300 Agency St., Ste. 120 • Burlington, IA 52601
7 am – 7 pm Mon. – Sat.
Sunday open for private parties only
Interactive Play Center to Encourage Creativity and Imagination

---

**Community Heating & Cooling**

Sales & Installation
Ice Machine Leasing
319-372-1095

---

**The Classifieds**

Darwin Bunerger
pm
319-372-9145
Fort Madison
1301 37th St
319-470-1082
larryholtkamp.com

---
tative has impacted the lives of those involved with the program, both investigators and volunteers.

People who participate in the programs “Getting Ahead” and “Staying Ahead” program are called investigators, because she said they are the ones investigating the hurdles to the generational poverty that could be kept from them by productive lives.

“We call our participants investigators because its set up to investigate how they get from point A to point B. They’re a small group and help each other and I will be helping them and we work together to get to point B,” she said. “I facilitate, I don’t teach.”

The upcoming classes are being held at the Fort Madison and Keokuk Salvation Army locations. In Fort Madison, that facility is the Diamond Center at 1415 Avenue M. Blackburn said Capt. Linda Faye-Jones has been a great partner in getting the program up and running.

Faye-Jones is also a certified Bridges trainer and has agreed to be Blackburn’s co-facilitator.

But Blackburn said there are still lots of places where people can help make the first classes successful. She said the group is still looking of a van for transportation and has been reaching out to area churches for possibly a vehicle and a couple drivers to help get people to the classes.

Child care and dinner will also be provided at each of the “Getting Ahead” classes. The Salvation Army is donating the food and cooks, but volunteers are still needed to help with the serving, setting up, and cleaning up.

She is also still accepting applications for people to attend the classes. Anyone interested in participating in the “Getting Ahead” classes can do so by reaching out to Blackburn via Facebook at www.facebook.com/leecountybuildingbridges/ or by calling or texting her at 319-371-7465.

“If they have issues that we need to address prior to starting a class we need to refer them to the proper agency to get that issue taken care of before starting so they need to get with us sooner than later,” she said.

Blackburn said the program brings a wide array of value to the community they serve. In addition to the program participants, the community pulls together in a cohesive effort to strengthen the bonds within it’s people.

“There’s a wide range of values to this program. When were able to bring the community together to help people uplift themselves and create bridges between levels of society, we help each other and that’s good for the community,” she said.

“Bridging the gap that occurs between the socio-economic stratification of communities, Blackburn said, helps cultivate resources and relationships that are key to successful integration of those suffering from generational poverty.

“People that have a tough time tend to be ill more often and drain resources and if we can build bridges to gain access to better resources, gain access to education, and help them to get there they become a helpful, self-sustaining part of society. Everybody gets more on the same level and that’s what we aim for – to help everybody understand each other.”

The Lee County Initiative had it’s first training session scheduled for last week, but a last-minute postponement was needed due to speaker Vern Reed, having to leave town.

Reed has been instrumental in facilitating the process with Lee County Economic Development Group in getting the program off the ground. Blackburn said the session will be rescheduled at a later date.

** doGetIt@pencitycurrent**