

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's **Black & White** and **Read** all over

Wednesday, October 28, 2020 | 8 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 196



[www.pencitycurrent.com](http://www.pencitycurrent.com)

# No tricks, just treats



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

The Sunday No Tricks Just Treats Halloween event sponsored by Lee County Crime Stoppers and the Lee County Sheriff's Department saw more than 1,000 vehicles come through the new location at the Lee County Fairgrounds. The event was supposed to run from 5 to 8 p.m. but the lines were so long that volunteers stayed on site until almost 10 p.m. handing out treats, hot dogs, water and entertaining kids.



## Athletic union ruling hurts some of Iowa's girls

A strategic goal of the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union is to represent the "Iowa Girl". It's on its website

In my eight years covering news and sports in Iowa, they've done a bang up job. I've covered cross country, volleyball and wrestling at the state level – events that are put on by the boys and girls athletic unions.

Leaving those events, I'm always proud to be an Iowan and blown away by how good we are at what we do.

But there was chink in the armor during this past COVID-infused fall sports season.

Eligibility.

Both the IGHSAU and the Iowa High School Athletic Association have been banged with applications and appeal hearings on athletes pouring into the state to play fall sports. Unenviable to be sure.

I wrote a month ago how impressed I was with how Iowa's unions had dug their heels in when it came to students flocking to Iowa to finish out their high school sports careers. The COVID pandemic had shut down most of the nation's high school sports programs.

Iowa pressed on, and then touted the success with more than 95% of teams finishing the season without being incumbered by the pandemic.

We believe it was more of a don't ask, don't tell scenario, and the numbers don't accurately reflect the impact of the pandemic on sports programs. That's a deduction of course based on formal and informal conversations, but one simply need to look one county to the north to see the real impact of pushing ahead.

However, we all need something to cheer about. I've said that since the state said "Play ball" this summer.

See **LIBRARY**, page 8

See **TRANSFERS**, page 4

## FORT MADISON

# Library full of activities as holidays near

BY SARAH CLENDINENG  
Fort Madison Public Library

FORT MADISON – The following is a regular update on events happening at the Fort Madison Public Library

NaNoWriMo

NaNoWriMo is not some weird, mystic incantation to finally get the grass stains out of your white socks or create a magic cupboard that is never empty of snacks. NaNoWriMo stands for "National Novel Writing Month" which is celebrated every November. According to Grant Faulkner, Executive Director of NaNoWriMo, it, "is an opportunity to step out of your everyday life, open your mind to infinite possibilities, and create new worlds with people from around the globe. It's a joyous leap into unexplored worlds, a laboratory of the

imagination, a chance to free yourself from the obstacles that prevent you from telling your story. Our stories help us understand ourselves and others, so we need our stories more than ever in this age to bridge connections and heal divides."

Though the word "novel" is included in the title, there are a lot of writing options. You can work on a memoir or a collection of short stories. You can write poetry or a script or non-fiction or something else, entirely. Write on your own, or register for free at [NoNoWriMo.org](http://NoNoWriMo.org) and join a community of writers from across the country. As the days get darker and the temperature drops, this November might be the time to find out if you really can write 50,000 words in 30 days.

Some books in our collection to help the

aspiring writer:

No Plot? No Problem: A Low-Stress, High-Velocity Guide to Writing a Novel in 30 Days by Chris Baty (808.3 BAT)

Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life by Anne Lamott (808.02 LAM)

Writing & Selling the YA Novel by K. L. Going (808.068 GOI)

How to Write Your Life Story by Ann Gawthorpe (808.06692 GAW)

How to Write Tales of Horror, Fantasy & Science Fiction (Writing 808.3 WIL)

The Weekend Novelist by Robert J. Ray (Writing 808.3 RAY)

Amateur Detectives: A Writter's Guide to How Private Citizens Solve Crimina Cases by Elaine Raco Chase (Writing 808.3 CHA)

The Art of Poetry Writing by William

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## WEATHER

WED 28 Oct.....Clear Skies, 56° F/ 32° F  
THU 29 Oct.....Overcast, 48° F/ 36° F  
FRI 30 Oct.....Clear Skies, 52° F/ 31° F

OpenWeatherMap

## IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 10/26.....9 12 20 30 38, Lucky Ball: 6  
PICK 3 10/26 MIDDAY.....3 8 9  
PICK 3 10/26 EVENING.....9 7 6  
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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### DOMINYCK R. HUBBARD

Dominyck Ray Hubbard, 21 of Keokuk, IA died Monday, October 26, 2020 at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City, IA.



HUBBARD

Dominyck was born on February 12, 1999 in Keokuk, IA, the son of Tim Hubbard and Stacie Curtis.

Dom graduated from Keokuk High School with the Class of 2017.

He enjoyed reading books. His favorite author was Rick Riordan. He also enjoyed watching science fiction movies, drawing cartoon characters and listening to music and Fan Fiction on his phone.

He is survived by his mother Stacie (Chris Loring) of Keokuk, one sister, Kelcee of Keokuk, grandmothers, Linda Curtis of Keokuk and Pat Benedict of TX and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father Tim, and grandfathers, Ray Orr and Fred Curtis.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

The Vigen Memorial Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

#### Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.



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## OBITUARIES

### CHARLOTTE D. METTENBURG

Charlotte D. Mettenburg, 90, of Ft. Madison, passed away on Sunday, October 25, 2020 at the West Point Care Center in West Point.



METTENBURG

Charlotte was born on February 4, 1930, the daughter of Eugene "Stanley" and Elizabeth M. (Moeller) Abolt.

Charlotte graduated from Donnellson High School in 1947.

She married Robert J. Mettenburg on May 21, 1949. He preceded her in death on June 21, 2014.

In early years she sold real estate and worked at the Diet Center. Later, she was a licensed massage therapist, providing massage therapy out of her home.

She was a member of Holy Family Parish in Ft. Madison and enjoyed gardening, reading and sewing.

Visitation will be held from 9:30 AM until the time of the service at 11:00 AM on Thursday, October 29, 2020 at SS Mary and Joseph Catholic Church in Ft. Madison. Masks and social distancing will be required.

Burial will take place in Calvary Cemetery in West Point.

Charlotte is survived by her sons: Rich Mettenburg of Romney, WV, Dan (Linda) Mettenburg of Ft. Madison, IA, Jim (Ruth) Mettenburg of Downers Grove, IL, Don (Lesa) Mettenburg of Evans, GA and Stanley (Mary) Mettenburg of Donnellson, IA, 11 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, 1 great great grandchild, her sisters: Doris Boeding and Helen (Dave) Hoenig both of West Point, IA and brothers: Jerry (Janet) Abolt of St. Paul, IA and Stanley Don (Mary) Abolt of Ft. Madison.

She was preceded in death by her husband, daughter Lisa Johnson, infant son Joseph Mettenburg, infant granddaughter, as well as two brothers and two sisters.

Memorials may be made to Holy Family Parish in her memory.

The Bentley Funeral Home in Durant, IA will be assisting the family with the services.

## OBITUARIES

### SHARON L. COCKRELL

Sharon L. Cockrell, 78 of Keokuk, IA died Sunday, October 25, 2020 at Unity Point in Keokuk.

She was born February 24, 1942 in Keokuk, IA the daughter of Martin and Irene Lambert Washburn.



COCKRELL

On July 26, 1959 she was united in marriage to Gerald Allan Cockrell at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Keokuk. He preceded her in death on July 9, 1999.

Sharon was a faithful member of All Saints Catholic Church in Keokuk. She was always there to volunteer, help and assist whenever there was a need.

Sharon's family was the most important aspect of her life. She was the glue that kept her family together. Her favorite pastime was working puzzles in puzzle books. She also enjoyed watching her favorite actor, Shemar Moore in Criminal Minds and watching Tiger Woods play golf on Sundays.

She is survived by two sons, Gerald Allan Cockrell Jr. and his wife Linda of Columbia, MO and Marty Cockrell and his wife Teri of Fairfield, IA, six daughters, Barbara Riddle and her husband Robert, Tracey Bryant and her husband Duane, Vickie Ruffcorn and her husband Mark, Robin Steele and her husband Lee, Heather McCarron, and Melissa Capaldo and her husband Gabe all of Keokuk, twenty-one grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren and three sisters, Shirley Dodge and her husband Sonny of Hamilton, IL, Sheila Kay and Kate Boltz and her husband Bob all of Keokuk, along with many nieces and nephews.

Besides her husband she was also preceded in death by her parents, two sons, Scot Cockrell and Paul Lee Cockrell and eleven brothers and sisters.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m., Thursday, at All Saints Catholic Church in Keokuk with Reverend David Brownfield, Ph.D. officiating. Burial will be in the Keokuk National Cemetery.

There will be no visitation.

Memorials may be made to the family.

The funeral will be live-streamed on the All Saints Catholic Church Facebook page or the Vigen Memorial Home Facebook page at 11 a.m., Thursday. Social distancing requirements will be in place and masks are required at the church.

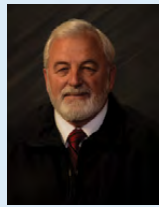
Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

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# PEN CITY CURRENT

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# Scene Around Town/Lee County News



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Chuck Bermel, left, and Gene Zeiger, right plant trees near the Riverview Pavilion on Saturday as part of a volunteer effort. The trees were from the Trees Forever program. At right, Sharman and Ken Steeples work on the north side of the pavilion. On Nov. 13, more volunteers will be needed at the new dog park in Rodeo Park where even more trees will be planted.


## Lee County Democrats extend office hours

LEE COUNTY - The Lee County Democratic Party will have expanded hours for the week before the election and on election day.

In Keokuk, at 3437 Main Street, they will be open 10:30am-6:30pm, Monday – Friday. 9:30am-2pm on Saturday, noon-4pm on Sunday, and 9:30-9pm on Monday, November 2nd and Election Day.

In Fort Madison, at 821 Avenue G, the hours will be 10-7pm Tuesday – Friday, 9am-noon on Saturday, 1-5pm on Monday November 2nd, and 1-7pm on Election Day. We will be open to distribute signs, answer questions, and give rides to the polls both to vote early and on election day.

Call Mary Jo Riesberg at 319-526-3160 with any questions.



# ★ VETERAN'S DAY ★

## HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Honor your family members that answered the call to serve in our special Veterans Day edition on Wednesday, November 11th.

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*Submissions are due by the end of the day Monday, November 9th.*

SAMPLE LISTINGS

(NOT SHOWN ACTUAL SIZE)



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## From the Front

# Athletic unions, state need tighter transfer controls

### TRANSFERS - Continued from Page 1

But almost in a queasy fashion the unions started to back down on their commitment to protect the integrity of the programs and Iowa athletes as the post-season approached. In all fairness, the timing of that could be attributed to appeals and the time it takes to work through that process.

And again, "in all fairness," the girls union is creating a pathway to abandon its strategy of protecting the "Iowa Girl".

Several Illinois girls were given eligibility on appeal in October to play for Burlington Notre Dame this year. The ruling came after IGHSAU Director Jean Berger denied the families application for immediate eligibility at the start of the year. Her denial forced a 90-day varsity waiting period, or an appeal, and was based on information provided by the school, the family, and interested parties.

After the eligibility was granted four weeks ago, the impact was felt immediately. The Nikes were 12-15 in set play prior to the girls arrival. They are 30-5 since that time and are one match away from the state tournament after beating Holy Trinity in a fifth-set tiebreaker 15-12 Monday night.

Holy Trinity swept the Nikes on Sept. 15 in three sets, and downed Notre Dame 2-1 at the Keokuk tourney four days later.

Berger said new information came to light during the appeal process, a process that typically is not reserved for new information.

"The family appealed to the Board of Directors and the initial administrative ruling by me was overturned by the Board," Berger wrote in an email to Pen City Current Tuesday morning.

"The family presented new information during the appeal process which led to the change in the eligibility ruling."

Pen City Current requested information on the change of status in early October after writing on how well we thought the unions were doing sticking to their guns as families looked to Iowa as a place for their children to compete. We received no answer until reaching out again Monday morning to Berger and Lisa Brinkmeyer, the union's administrator for volleyball.

We don't blame the families looking to Iowa as place to play. Lots of resources are spent to get these kids to where they are. To have their seasons yanked from them leaves parents looking for answers.

But leasing or even buying a home across state lines in another district isn't solely enough to pass the test set up by Iowa Code under the General Transfer Rule. The intent has to be to

make a home for reasons in addition to athletic participation.

To overrule Berger's original decision creates a pathway to an end run on the intent of the GTF, and comes close to abandoning the IGHSAU's strategy of promoting the Iowa Girl. There are legitimate reasons for immediate eligibility and clearly the IGHSAU board of directors agreed on appeal.

But, even aside from this COVID infected 2020, the board has leeway to move in both directions.

We think the paramount question should be, "If it weren't for COVID, would the move have taken place?" Families with attorneys can make that case to the unions, but extra steps should be taken to see past the moves made to make the transfers seem legitimate.

Maybe more definitive rules for bordering states and shorter time limits for appeals would bring forth the legitimacy of transfers, especially with winter sports now squarely in the coronavirus crosshairs. Illinois raised the risk level for winter sports one notch on Tuesday.

It would seem a stretch that Berger didn't have all the pertinent information at the time she rendered her decision. The board should also be giving deference to the director's opinions and shouldn't allow "new information." That amounts to a different hearing altogether, not an appeal of a decision. Courts don't allow new evidence on appeal, only a review of the submitted facts, determinations, and procedures of the lower court.

So Iowa Girls throughout the region, including Wapello, Winfield-Mt. Union, Holy Trinity, and now possibly WACO, are subject to having their dreams dashed because the union board ruled in favor of allowing these Illinois transfers, a transfer the director didn't deem appropriate.

The union's are not public bodies, therefore there is no on-the-record accountability. But we all are accountable for our actions. And even though we have no legal access to the unions, we do have the right and responsibility to scrutinize a decision that goes against the grain of their vision and mission.

Our question, which can't be answered because the union isn't subject to public meetings laws, is was the decision on appeal based on changed information, or information that Berger wasn't privy to? Either case would seem on the surface insufficient on appeal.

It's certainly a tough pill to swallow for every family of a senior Iowa Girl who was sent home this volleyball season, in part, because of that ruling.

On a related note, that volleyball game on Monday was some of the gutsiest stuff I've seen on a court from two teams in a long time. That excitement is what the post-season is all about. But that's Beside the Point

Chuck Vandenberg is editor/co-owner of Pen City Current and can be reached by email at [editor@pencitycurrent.com](mailto:editor@pencitycurrent.com).

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**For Iowa Senate District 42**



After twenty-six years working with other union members, and serving the residents of Southeast Iowa, Rich understands our values because they are his own. Rich wants today's children to have the same opportunities in Iowa that he had.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Education</b> – Rich guards against education cuts that harm our students and educators.</p> <p><b>Economic Development</b> – Rich works with community colleges and unions to assist displaced workers and help businesses with broadband access.</p> <p><b>Healthcare</b> – Rich will fight to increase access to mental healthcare for all Iowans, for more funding for hospitals, and making ambulance service more</p> | <p>accessible for rural Iowans.</p> <p><b>Veterans</b> – Rich advocates for veterans on home ownership incentives, tax credits, and job placement programs.</p> <p><b>Rights of Gun Owners</b> – A responsible gun owner, Rich supported the updated Stand Your Ground Law.</p> <p><b>Collective Bargaining</b> – Rich will continue to fight for the restoration of full collective bargaining rights of public employees.</p> |
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## Sports

# YMCA's fall youth basketball league signups open

*Cory Arnett to hold skills combine for 7th-12th grades starting November 2.*

Submitted article

FORT MADISON – Fall Youth Basketball League registration is now open at the Fort Madison Family YMCA. The Y's Youth Basketball Program is broken into two leagues, Mighty Mites and 1st/2nd Grade. Both leagues are designed to prepare and instruct players on the fundamentals of the sport while playing in game situations. Registration deadline for both leagues is Friday, November 6th. Cost to register is \$20 for YMCA members and \$40 for non-members.

**Mighty Mites Fall Youth League** – Available to girls and boys 5 & 6 years of age. This league emphasizes on fun, with players having the opportunity to learn the basic skills of basketball while preparing them for the next level through game situations. The importance of teamwork, fair play, sportsmanship and cooperation are emphasized in this league. Practices for Mighty Mites begin on Tuesday, November 10th and are held at the Fort Madison YMCA on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:15 pm to 6:00 pm.

**1st & 2nd Grade Fall Youth League** – Available to 1st and 2nd grade boys and girls. This league focuses on the fundamentals of the game of basketball giving players the ability to expand on skills all while continuing to build positive sportsmanship to their foundation. Practices for the 1st & 2nd Grade League begin on Tuesday, November 10th and are also held at the Fort Madison YMCA on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:15 pm to 7:00 pm.

Online registration is available for this program, please visit [www.fortmadison.org](http://www.fortmadison.org) for more information. Forms can also be found on our website and at the front desk at the Fort Madison YMCA at 220 26th St. Fort Madison. Early registration is encouraged prior to initial deadlines to ensure a shirt for your player and to avoid the late registration fee of \$10.

The Fort Madison Family YMCA will also be hosting a basketball combine for girls and boys grades 7th through 12th beginning November 2nd. The combine will be instructed by Cory Arnett, former professional basketball player who played in the CBA (1990-'91), NBA (Trailblazers 1991), ABA (2011-13) & in Mexico City (1992-94). Cory is now a fundamental basketball teach-



er with an on-hands approach to teaching the game of basketball and willing to help you as a player get better.

Combine objectives include offensive and defensive skill drills, shooting drills, form shooting, fundamental advancement, movement/defenders and decisions, catch and shoot/off the dribble, half/full court action drills, and 2-on-2, 3-on-3 and 4-on-4 actions.

point in their development. Athletic measurements will be recorded for each player.

Players are asked to bring a good attitude, ears to listen, a willingness to get better, and good pair of shoes, towel, water, as well as your own basketball.

Combine schedule is as follows; 11th/12th Grade Girls and Boys Monday/Wednesday Nights 8:00-8:45 (November 2, 4, 9, 11) Saturday's 9:00am – 10:00 (November 7 & 14) 9th/10th Grade Girls and Boys Monday/Wednesday Nights 7:00-7:45pm (November 2, 4, 9, 11) Saturday's 10:00am – 11:00 (November 7 & 14) 7th/8th Grade Girls and Boys Monday/Wednesday Nights 6:00-6:45pm (November 2, 4, 9, 11) Saturday's 11:00am – 12:00 (November 7 & 14)

Registration is limited to 8 people per group, cost is \$80 per person, registration is available online at [www.fortmadison.org](http://www.fortmadison.org) and at the Fort Madison Family YMCA during regular office hours. For questions of further information contact the Y at 319-372-3515.



## RE-ELECT GARY FOLLUO NOVEMBER 3RD

### Lee County Board of Supervisors

As a lifelong resident of Lee County, a former Labor Representative with Local #148 I.U.O.E, past Mayor of Keokuk, former General Manager of Withers Broadcasting, and past business owner, alongside my wife Nancy, of 34 years, my priority has and always will be the people of Lee County.

With my experience in government, business, and public service, I understand that public input, availability, and enthusiasm is essential for creating quality representative government.

“

*I will continue working hard to maintain county services for all Lee County residents, continue updating security measures in our buildings, and protecting citizen's property rights while continuing to support our hospitals so they are able to provide services needed for our industries and citizens. In addition, I will be working to attract new economic development and expand our industrial base and I will support expanding rural broadband, identifying under-served areas and trying to find grants to remedy the situation.*

”



Contact Gary at

[gfollo@gmail.com](mailto:gfollo@gmail.com) or (319)795-1348

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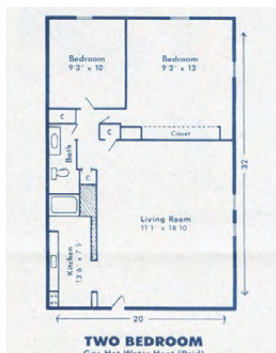
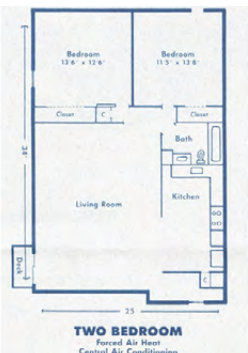
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See [LeeCounty.org](http://LeeCounty.org) website for employment application and job description. Submit application and resume to

Lee County IT Department  
Attn: L.Schmitt  
933 Avenue H  
Fort Madison, IA 52627  
or email to [lschmitt@leecounty.org](mailto:lschmitt@leecounty.org)

Deadline to apply is 4:00 pm on Friday, October 30, 2020.

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## From the Front

# Fort Madison Public Library has events planned throughout each week

### LIBRARY - Continued from Page 1

Packard (808.1 PAC)

Creating Poetry by John Drury (Writing 808.3 DRU)  
Poet's Guide: How to Publish and Perform Your Work by Michael J. Bugeja (808.1 BUG)

'Tis the Season: 10 New Christmas Books at the Library

The Christmas Table by Donna VanLiere (F VAN)

A MacCallister Christmas by William W. Johnstone (WEST JOH)

The Christmas Swap by Melody Carlson (CF CAR)

Holding Out for Christmas by Janet Dailey (F DAI)  
Amish Christmas Twins by Shelley Shepard Gray (CF/PB GRA)

Christmas at the Island Hotel by Jenny Colgan (F COL)

A California Christmas by Brenda Novak (F NOV)

Happily This Christmas by Susan Mallery (F/PB MAL)

One More for Christmas by Sarah Morgan (F MOR)

An Ivy Hill Christmas by Julie Klassen (CF KLA)

BONUS - These books are

on order but haven't arrived yet. Go ahead and place reserves on them if you're interested.

Christmas Card Murder by Leslie Meier, Lee Hollis and Peggy Ehrhart

A Dog's Perfect Christmas by Bruce W. Cameron

Upcoming Events at the Fort Madison Public Library -

Friends of the Library Book Sale - The Friends of the Library Book Sale will be November 2-7 at the Library. The library takes donations year round but please wait until after November 12 to bring in any

new donations.

November 2 and 3 -

10:30-5:30, Full Price

November 4 - 10:30-5:30, ½ Price Day

November 5 - 10:30-6:30, ½ Price Day

November 6 - 10:30-4:30, Sack Sale Day

November 7 - 9:30-12:30, Sack Sale Day

Library Closed - The Library will be closed on

Wednesday, November 11 for Veteran's Day. The Library will be closed on

Thursday, November 26 and

Friday, November 27 for Thanksgiving. The Library will be open on Saturday,

November 28 from 9 am to 1 pm.

Minecraft - 4:00-5:30 on Mondays in November. Space is limited and we are not taking reservations.

Hang Teen - Tuesday, November 17 and 24, 3:30-5:00, for ages 12-18.

Pre-School/Toddler Story Hour - Wednesday morning at 10:30 for toddlers and pre-school age children.

Wacky Wednesday - Craft day November 4 and 18, 2:00-4:00 pm.

Thursday Crafternoon - Thursday, 3:30-5:00, for ages 12 and older, including adults. This program in-

volves a month-long activity so we recommend joining at the beginning of the month in order to have time to finish the project.

All Booked Up! - The library's book discussion group meets on the first Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m. On Thursday,

November 5, we will be discussing "Sacred Hearts"

by Sarah Dunant. Copies of the book are available at the library for check out. Join us for a lively discussion.

On December 3, we will be discussing "A Journey Into Christmas" by Bess Streeter Aldrich.

# Do Your Part!

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encourages you to wear **gloves** when moving bins for residential trash pick-up.

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