



# Pen City Current

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## Main Street's Sensational Chefs returns Jan. 21

BY CHUCK  
VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - With the onset of the new year means the return of Fort Madison Main Street's award-winning Sensational Chef series.

This year the event, which is one of Main Street's top annual fund-



raisers, will be held at Elliott Test Kitchen, 807 Avenue G, the home of Kumar Wickramasingha's venture of combining food and study to help area students.

To continue on that theme Sensational Chef Fred Knoch will use some of the Test Kitchen students in helping prepare the meal for the evening. The main purpose of this event is to feature the culinary talents of area chefs and citizens who are very passionate about great food.

Knoch will be the guest chef along with four talented students

including Alexis Rehm & Ellie Schulte from Fort Madison Middle School, Jayden Fedler from Fort Madison High School and Brett Azinger from Central Lee Middle School. The students will help bring an exciting twist to the traditionally sold out event.

Fort Madison Main Street Director Cassie Gilbert, said the semi-annual event helps fund programming for the Main Street business district.

“The theme for this event will allow guests to be able to enjoy great culinary creations throughout the night in a grazing-type atmosphere.”

-Kumar  
Wickramasingha  
Event host



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

### It's back

Past Sensational Chef Dr. Roy Tinguely discusses his meal with diners at one of the Fort Madison Main Street's previous fundraisers. The event is back this year on Sat. Jan. 21 at Elliott Test Kitchen, 807 Ave. G beginning with a cocktail hour at 6 p.m. Tickets are still available.

She said the change in venue brings a different vibe to the event and helps a fellow business as well.

“Kumar has been very supportive of Main Street and downtown in general and his space is very conducive to doing something like this. It also allows him to also promote what he's doing and that's important because that's a very good program down there.”

The event will start with a cocktail hour at 6 and then a multi-course meal, which is yet to be revealed, is served with wine.

Tickets are \$75 per person. This event is sponsored by Hall Towing, Inc. Please contact Fort Madison Main Street at 319-372-5471 to purchase tickets or for more information.

Knoch is one of the main volunteer chefs at

Elliott Test Kitchen, and he spends every Tuesday cooking with Test Kitchen students and polishing his culinary talents by working alongside Wickramasingha, who is a former award-winning chef and restaurateur. The two started their culinary adventures in 1986 when both began working at Best Western Iowan Motor Lodge as busboy and

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## Bake a cake for kids' sake!

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The annual Fort Madison High School cake auction will be held Jan. 28 at halftime of the boys and girls varsity basketball games.

The theme for this year's wildly popular cake auction is Team America. Cakes should carry a patriotic theme. This is the eighth year the event has been held to benefit projects of the Fort Madison Athletic Department and this year one of the main projects is a new scoreboard for the football and track facility.

Some cakes are used for the live auction done in the gymnasium during halftime of both games. Other cakes are separated by category, student age, theme, etc. and are placed on display in the multi-purpose room as part of a silent auction.

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## FMHS to battle Keokuk, Cancer Friday night

BY CHUCK  
VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Cancer hit the Fort Madison High School basketball programs hard in 2016 and Friday will give area fans a chance to hit back.

At the varsity boy's and girl's matchups with Keokuk, fans will be able to take part in some fun activities and be part of a nice evening of good basketball and helping knock back cancer.

FMHS Boys' Head Coach Ryan Wilson said several members of the program have been



impacted by the disease in 2016.

“The big thing is not only do a lot of families get hit with cancer, and that's a very unfortunate situation, but our programs got hit hard this year, too,” Wilson said. “My mom and my two assistant coaches and our head girls coach. So it was one of those things that

kind of made sense.”

The traditional Chuck-A-Duck throw will take place on Friday. Fans can purchase a rubber duck for \$1 and then at one time all the ducks are thrown into the middle of the floor at a target and the closest duck wins half the money, with the other half going to support Relay for Life and American

Cancer Society.

Other events that night will include a 50/50 raffle with proceeds being split between the winner and the charity.

The freshman class will be hosting a spaghetti dinner during the games and they will also have some raffles going on, one of which will benefit ACS. There will also be a shooting contest at halftime of the girls' game where fans can shoot a 3-pointer and win coupons to area businesses.

Wilson said he's just hoping that the the gym is full, some money is raised to help those battling the disease, and people have

come out for a good time, some good food and some good basketball. And Wilson, who's typically in a suit with Fort Madison red, may even be wearing sneakers with his suit. Maybe...you'll just have to come out and see.

“You hear about this big at the college level,” Wilson said. Coach (Duke Coach Mike Krzyzewski) K and Coach (Kansas coach Bill) Self do it and you see them wearing sneakers with suits. Just a thought of how we can give back to the community and give back to Relay for the Life and American Cancer Society.”

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## For the Record/Local News

# Theme features area students

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dishwasher. They truly treasure the opportunity to work with each other again for a greater cause.

“Elliott Test Kitchen students love to work with Fred, and they learn how to cook because of his friendly, patient manner,” Wickramasingha.

“The theme for this event will allow guests to be able to enjoy great culinary creations throughout the night in a grazing type atmosphere with great music and fun. The guests will be able to see Fred and his talented student team in action at Test Kitchen’s open kitchen counter. Please join us and support the Downtown Main Street and cheer on our future star chefs.”



### Chefs return

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

“Sensational Chefs”, the annual fundraiser for Fort Madison Main Street, kicks off Jan. 21 at Elliott Test Kitchen, 807 Ave. G, at 6 p.m.



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



### Gettin' in the game

The FMMS' 4th and 5th grade students held a musical Thursday night. At top, students are “Havin’ a Ball”, while above Sydney Fraise shows her pouty side and at right Tia Jenkins gets nervy with a soccer ball.

## For the Record

### Fort Madison Police Report

01/11/2017 - 11:50 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Ronald Eugene Green, 53, of Fort Madison in the 900 block of Avenue G on a charge of driving while suspended. He was cited and released.  
01/11/2017 - 1:07 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested John Jerald McKeown, 45, of Fort Madison in the 2600 block of Avenue J on a warrant service on escape and interference with official acts. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and held.  
01/11/2017 - 2:28 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded

to a report of larceny/theft in the 3000 block of Avenue N.

### Lee County Sheriff's Report

01/11/2017 - 10:24 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Samuel Dean Moyers, 32, of Burlington at the Des Moines County Jail on warrant for failure to appear/contempt of court. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed. It should be noted a criminal charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

## CAKE - Continued from Page 1

Any person or business who would like to sponsor a cake for the auction can contact Deb Wiseman at FMHS at 319-372-1862. Parents and students are also encouraged to make cakes and bring them for the silent auction.

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Photo by Lee K. Vandenberg/PCC

### Pigskin Pick'em Winner

Fort Madison YMCA director Ryan Wilson accepts a \$50 visa card from Pen City Current Editor Chuck Vandenberg for winning the Current's Pigskin Pick 'Em contest held over the last three weeks of the season. Wilson, HTC Athletic Director John Goetz and Davis Rung all had more correct picks than Vandenberg. Wilson's name was drawn at random.

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