



Pen City Current

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Bill has potential to leave county with only one courthouse

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

courthouses and eliminate personnel branch-wide," Nuccio wrote. "As such we are projecting the closure of over 30 county courthouses proportionately distributed across our eight judicial districts. The courthouses selected for closure within each judicial district will be determined by caseload volume in each county. The workload of the closed courthouses will then be shifted to other county courthouses in that judicial district. The exact re-distribution will be determined in consultation with court and county officials at the local level. The period of closure will be indefinite."

Nuccio continued to write that a lot could change as the bill makes its way through the legislature and final numbers will determine what steps

See **JUDICIAL**, page 8

FORT MADISON - A move to cut \$4.8 million from the Iowa Judicial Branch in fiscal year 2018 could potentially cut a courthouse from Lee County.

In a document obtained by the Pen City Current, signed by State Court Administrator Todd Nuccio, Senate Study Bill 3089 calls for a reduction in the state's judicial budget. The state is looking to cut \$50 million in this fiscal year.

Nuccio writes in the letter dated Jan. 25, 2018, 96% of the state's judicial branch budget is made up of personnel costs and options are limited in where the cuts can be made.

"Should the \$4.8 (million) cut come to reality, we are left with no other choice than to close



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Workers work on the clock tower at the South Lee County Courthouse in November last year. State budget woes could result in Lee County having only one courthouse this year.

Former ISP warden loses cancer battle

Local celebration of life planned for staff and friends

FORT MADISON - Retired Warden Ludwick passed away Wednesday night surrounded by friends and family at his home in Alma Michigan.

Ludwick became Warden in June of 2010 and held the reigns of the Iowa State Penitentiary until January of 2017 when he retired. He made many friends and he will be missed by his Iowa family.

He was diagnosed with Melanoma over a decade ago and fought his illness bravely with a positive attitude and simply the will to beat his ailments. He stayed active enjoying golf and going for trips with his favorite pup-Grace.

A Celebration of Life will be held in Michigan on February 16th. A local celebration will also be held. More information will be shared as soon as it becomes available.

Ludwick ushered in the brand new state-of-the-art ISP facility on 330th Avenue and the transferring of the offenders to the new site, as well as overseeing cultural and internal modernization of the maximum security facility.

He retired just over one year ago after overseeing operations at the maximum security prison for 6.5 years and more than 40 years in the Iowa and Michigan prison systems.



LUDWICK

Supervisors settle on 2018-2019 budget figures

Supervisors to Dept. heads. 'No more amendments'

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - In a mid-Friday afternoon budget strategy session, Lee County officials settled on a budget that could short the county \$158,000.

However, during preliminary budget discussions, the county was originally looking at a \$1.5 million loss for the next fiscal year which runs July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019. The Lee County Board of Supervisors set Feb. 13 to finalize and approve the budget.



HUNOLD

"This is something we can deal with," said chairman Don Hunold on the \$158K. "But we're going to be watching very carefully what happens between now and the end of this fiscal year."

The 2018-2019 budget includes a \$1.5 million deficit in the Mental Health and Developmental Disability Fund. The fund, referred to as "Fund 10" is foregoing a levy in the next year to start to abide by a 2017 Iowa law requiring the spend down of reserve funds.

County Budget Director Cindy Renstrom has earmarked \$1,491,788 for that spend down in the budget, but said the fund doesn't have to be fully spent down un-



FOLLUO

til 2020, if the mandate holds through that year and things don't change at the state level. The board has been cautious about spending down the whole fund because of the ever-changing financial condition of the state.

The \$158,000 deficit could be even more if a cash-strapped Iowa legislature doesn't fulfill a commitment to backfill a portion of property taxes on industrial and commercial property in the state. County Auditor Denise Fraise said that amount is about \$287,000.

Supervisor Gary Folluo said he is optimistic, at least

See **BUDGET**, page 8

Advertiser Index

ClassifiedsPs.6-7	Professional Services..... P.6
Dave's Old Fashion Meats P.5	Quarry Creek Elk & Bison Co..... P.8
Fort Madison Community Hospital P.2	Scotts Miracle-Gro Company P.7
Great River Regional Waste Authority P.3	Test Kitchen Education Foundation P.5
Hope Associates Real Estate P.7	WebeSalsa P.4
Lee County Health Department P.2	West Liberty Foods..... P.7
Pen City Current.....Ps.6-8	Your Heat & Air guy P.4

News Index

Area News P.8
Current-Lee P.3
From the front P.8
Health News P.2
Lottery Numbers P.3
SportsPs.4-5
Weather P.8

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Health News

FMCH launches heart campaign at Birthplace

Submitted article

FORT MADISON – Today Fort Madison Community Hospital (FMCH), in conjunction with the American Heart Association, The Children’s Heart Foundation, and hospitals across the state, launched the 3rd year of Iowa’s Little Hats, Big Hearts initiative. The program outfits newborns with knitted red caps during Heart Month in February to raise awareness of heart disease, the number one

killer of Americans, and congenital heart defects, a condition that affects 1 in every 110 babies born in the US. All babies born at participating hospitals during the month of February will receive a hat.

“The FMCH Birthplace is excited to partner with the American Heart Association and the Children’s Heart Foundation to raise awareness to the many ways heart disease affects our community. Little Hats, Big Hearts brings attention to

congenital heart defects, the most common type of birth defect in Iowa” says Angie Budnik, Community Relations Director, FMCH. “The volunteers who pull this program together, including making the red hats, are to be commended for their dedication to bringing attention to heart disease in Iowa.”

The FMCH Birthplace staff perform a non-invasive Congenital Heart Disease screening on all of the newborns they deliver after 24 hours of



Courtesy photo

Garrett Morgan, Madilynn Black, La’Asha Cockrell) model the big red hats that are part of the FMCH new heart campaign at the Birthplace.

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age.

The American Heart Association plans to deliver over 3,000 hats to the following participating hospitals across the state of Iowa this year.

Little Hats, Big hearts began in Chicago in 2014. The project has grown to include 660 hospitals in 40 states handing out more than 100,000 hats. In addition to using red hats to raise awareness of heart disease and congenital heart defects, Little Hat,

Big Hearts also drives awareness for the American Heart Association’s Support Network, an online forum for families affected by heart disease and stroke.

About The Children’s Heart Foundation Established by Betsy Peterson in 1996, The Children’s Heart Foundation (CHF) is the country’s leading national organization solely committed to congenital heart research funding. CHF is a national

501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization, whose mission is to fund the most promising research to advance the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of congenital heart defects. Since 1996, CHF has funded millions of dollars of research across the U.S. and Canada. For more information, please visit: www.childrensheartfoundation.org. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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Volunteers are needed in Iowa counties of Lee, Henry, Van Buren, Des Moines and in Illinois counties of Hancock & Henderson.



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Current-Lee/Lottery Numbers

CURRENT-LEE

LEE COUNTY – Raffle tickets for Lee County Pheasants Forever 25 Gun Raffle are available from any club member or at the banquet. Tickets are \$10 each and are limited to 3,000. The raffle will be held during the chapter’s annual banquet on February 24, 2018. Proceeds from the raffle are used to support the Tri-State Young Guns and Fort Madison Clay Crushers High School Trap Shooting Teams. For more information about the raffle, go to <http://www.leecountypf.org/raffles/>.



FMHS Boosters Trivia Night Feb. 10

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Bloodhound Boosters are holding a Trivia Night on Feb. 10 at the Fort Madison Eagles Club from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

The night will feature a full trivia contest in addition to a silent auction and other games for cash prizes. Teams are to be no more than eight people at \$10 per person. Participants are encouraged to bring snacks for their team table. A cash bar will be available.

Proceeds go to benefit the Fort Madison Athletic Booster club. The first 15 teams to register will receive an advantage on trivia night.

You can register at the following link <https://docs.google.com/.../2PACX-1vSl-nEKPM0vv-D46Esj6Nx.../pub>. Forms need to be returned to FMHS athletic office or to a Booster club member.

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Lotto America [™]	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
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Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



2/3
1 4 41 44 45
Star Ball: 1
All Star Bonus: 2



2/2
1 4 14 17 40
Mega Ball: 4
Megaplier: 3



2/3
15 23 27 48 53
Powerball: 6
Power Play: 2



2/2 MID-DAY
3 5 5
2/2 EVENING
7 7 8

2/3 MID-DAY
6 2 4
2/3 EVENING
0 0 0



2/2 MID-DAY
3 1 2 0
2/2 EVENING
2 2 8 4

2/3 MID-DAY
2 2 6 2
2/3 EVENING
5 2 6 7

Things to remember in 2018 when recycling: Please do not place plastic bags in recycling bins.

Rinse & Clean all food jars and cans before placing in recycling bins.

Flatten boxes for better storage and volume reduction. *Empty all boxes before recycling.

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Sports

Bloodhounds have fun in win over Washington

James-Kokjohn, Cresswell go for 50 to snap two-game skid

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Whether it's senior Treavor James-Kokjohn hitting setshot 3-balls, Brandon Keester pulling a cross-over that left his defender on the floor and then stroking a 22-footer, or Kaleb Cresswell hitting from everywhere except the bleachers...the Hounds found themselves on the winning side again Friday night.

James-Kokjohn had 29 and Cresswell fired in 21 including five from 3-point land to help the Hounds to a 87-49 coaster over Washington. The win snaps



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

FMHS sophomore Jayden Fedler gets a bucket working the middle in Friday night's win over Washington.

the Hounds out of funk of sorts dropping two of three games last week to No. 2 ranked Mt. Pleasant and Central Lee, a top 15 Class 2A team. The Hounds will face No. 5 Class 4A Pleasant Valley on Saturday. They knocked Missouri's Class 2 No. 4 Clark County to start last week.



CRESSWELL

The game opened with a flurry of 3-balls on both sides with the Demons' Jacob Van Osdol and Blake Hartzler each hitting for Washington and the Hounds Kaleb Cresswell and Logan Rashid all alternating long shots before either team would miss. The two teams traded buckets for most of the first period with James-Kokjohn putting up seven for Fort Madison, including a 3-pointer of his own to give Fort Madison a 15-14 lead with :30 remaining in the quarter. But the Demons' Cale Hobscheidt scored on a runner in the middle of the lane to end the period with Washington on top 16-15.

That would be the last time the Demons would hold a lead in the game. The Hounds junior Brandon Keester hit from about 23 feet out to start the 2nd and give the Hounds some momentum as the crowd digs the long ball. The shot would set Fort Madison on a 16-0 tear where five different Bloodhounds would score highlighted by Cresswell's seven points. Washington wouldn't score again until Cade Hennigan would make the back end of two free throws off a Parker Denning foul, when Fort Madison shifted into a full court press.

The Hounds had pulled out to a 31-17 advantage at that point and James-Kokjohn countered with a move inside. Keester converted on the next possession after Fort Madison's defense held. After Washington's Hennigan hit another free throw, Cresswell threw in another three to push Fort Madison to a 38-20 advantage. Washington would get their only field goal of the second quarter when Dalton Myers would hit to cut the lead to 40-22. The Demons did convert 4-of-4 from the free throw line in the final 1:35 and trailed 44-26 at the half.

The Demons outscored the Hounds 15-13 in the third period, but Parker Denning's 3-ball and a score inside by James-Kokjohn in the final seconds of the third had Fort Madison out comfortably 59-41 going into the final period. With about three minutes left in the quarter, Keester executed a nifty head fake and cross over that left his defender on the floor, stepped back and hit a 22-footer to put the Hounds up 54-32.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Senior Treavor James-Kokjohn gets a look inside during the Hounds' 87-49 win Friday. James-Kokjohn finished with a team-high 29 points in the win.

Fort Madison then played one of their best periods of the year going perfect from the free throw line, shooting 9 of 13 from the field and held Washington to just eight points down the stretch. James-Kokjohn gave the Hounds their biggest lead with a standing 3-pointer from the top of the key to put Fort Madison up 77-44. Fort Madison would stop the Demons on the next trip and James-Kokjohn fired in another 3 from the same spot on the next trip down.

Logan Rashid finished with 13 for Fort Madison and Keester had 12. Denning had five, AJ Nolting had three, and Sheymouhr Redd-Donald, Lorenzo Riles and Jayden Fedler each had a bucket for the Hounds.

After Pleasant Valley comes calling Saturday, the Hounds take their 12-6 mark to Davis County on Tuesday.

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Chuck & Kayla

Sports

Lady Hounds still looking for first win of year

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A cold first half from the field and a lopsided rebound advantage spelled doom for the Fort Madison girls' basketball team in a 50-19 loss to Washington Friday night.

The girls went a chilly 2-of-13 in the first half with the only buckets coming from senior Taylor Shannon and freshman Maddie Rashid. Rashid also converted a couple of free throws in the opening period at the 2:40 mark for the first points of the game for Fort Madison, which is still looking for its first win of the year.

Sarah Bernhart's two free throws in the second period rounded out the scoring for the Lady Hounds in the first half.

The third quarter didn't get much better with the Hounds only completing 30% of their shots on 3-10 from the field.

Senior Kamryn Bailey hit underneath with about 5:11 to go in the 3rd period to cut the lead to 12 at 10-22, and then Shannon scored and Nadia Boeding scored with a nice assist from Shannon in a 6-0 run that brought the Hounds to within eight at 14-22. Washington had an answer, however, as sophomore Halle Leyden hit a 3-ball and junior Isabel Bailey scored to push the lead to 27-14.

Washington then went into a trap-press that sometimes had three girls on one ball handler and forced the Hounds into 10 turnovers in the fourth period. The pressure resulted in a 13-4 run that the Hounds couldn't recover from.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

FMHS's Kamryn Bailey drives in the lane against Washington Friday night in the Bloodhounds 50-19 loss.

Shannon, Boeding, and Rashid all had four points to lead Fort Madison. Braxtyn McGhghy had three points, while Bailey and Bernhart each added two to round out the scoring for the Hounds.

In the junior varsity matchup, the Hounds downed the Demons 29-24. Fort Madison was led by Boeding

with seven points. Kylee Cashman had six points and Dalyn Wondra chipped in with five in the win.

The Hounds are off until Tuesday when they play host to (1-18) Davis County before finishing up the regular season on Friday against Southeast Conference front-runner Fairfield (15-3).



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Sophomore Sarah Bernhart goes up for a bucket in the first half against the Washington Demons. The Hounds remained winless on the season with the 50-19 loss.



Senior Amber Dilsaver gets presented with her Multi-Purpose Room plaque, by FMHS Activities Director Andy Mitchell Friday. The plaque honored Dilsaver for receiving Honorable Mention All-state last year in Class 4A for her achievements on the volleyball court.

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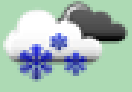
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From the Front/Weather

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

SUN 04 Feb



Light Snow
High – 18.1° F | Low – 2.3° F

MON 05 Feb



Light Snow
High – 19.7° F | Low – 16.3° F

TUE 06 Feb



Heavy Snow
High – 16.5° F | Low – 14.5° F

WED 07 Feb



Light Snow
High – 15.8° F | Low – (7.7)° F

THU 08 Feb



Clear Skies
High – 18.0° F | Low – 10.0° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

Supervisors eyeing current year spending

BUDGET - Continued from Page 1

this year, that the state will pay the backfill.

“Governor (Kim) Reynolds said in her State of the State address that the state was going to pay that money,” he said after the meeting.

Renstrom presented a budget Friday with a \$1.77 million shortfall, but when factoring out the spend down of mental health funds, the deficit was \$284,000.

Hunold started asking for ideas to get that whittled down, and again, the board looked at county insurance premiums. The county is currently paying up to \$1,700 per month per employee for insurance but only charging the employee \$20 for an individual and \$95 for a family policy. The board did some quick math on adding \$5 to the employee’s contribution which amounted to about a \$10,000 savings to the county.

Renstrom then suggested holding \$75,000 out of the supplemental budget from the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) board funds cutting the deficit to \$208,000. County Recorder Nancy Booten offered to forego \$50,000 in record book updates for the year to get the board to the \$158,000 mark.

“The books haven’t been copied for years, so I think we can’t take that out. If we get a lot of money, and at the

end of the year we have it, you can give it back to me,” she said.

The board removed the \$50,000 from the budget with a nod to Booten, and settled on the budget at that point.

The board suggested reviewing the budget again in October to see how department heads are holding the line.

“We need to stress, just because you got the money don’t be spending it just because you have it, because we have to get General Basic back up,” Renstrom said.

Supervisor Ron Fedler said departments heads must start sticking to their budgets.

“We had a lot of budget amendments this year,” Fedler said. If we consistently amend the budget, we fail because we approve a budget and we expect department heads to stick to that budget.”

Supervisor Matt Pflug emphasized the point.

“Let’s be clear. Don’t be coming to the board with any amendments,” Pflug said.

The total budget for the year stands at \$26.1 million in revenue with \$27.9 million in expenditures, with the above changes not included. The county is projecting to carry approximately \$8.62 million in a fund balance at the end of the next fiscal year.

Senate bill also has cuts for education, DOC

JUDICIAL - Continued from Page 1

the judicial branch takes.

Lee County has two county courthouses and the south courthouse is getting close to finishing an overhaul including a new roof, tuck pointing, and interior and exterior repairs. The price tag to

date on the south project is just over \$750,000.

The judicial branch absorbed a \$3 million de-appropriation last year as part of a budget shortfall. The total amount of the proposed reduction to the justice system is \$7.7

million. The \$4.8 would be aimed at the judicial branch.

Other reductions, or de-appropriations, called for in the budget include close to \$19 million combined to University of Iowa, University of

Northern Iowa, and Iowa State University and \$5.4 million to the state community colleges, including Southeastern Community College. There is also a call for a \$5.4 million reduction to the Department of Corrections.

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