



Pen City Current

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Food pantry funds at “dangerous” level

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Food Pantry is reporting that their funding levels for 2018 are currently at about 1/3 of where they typically are at this time of year.

Lin Cramer, the pantry's board president, replacing George Gaudette, who stepped down this week, said funding is

dropping while expense are increasing and that dynamic has the group's funding tight.

In a letter to Pen City Current, board member Denise Fraise said funds are at “dangerous levels” and the group is looking for additional donations of cash to help purchase less expensive food through the Iowa Food Bank.

The food bank charges the local pantry about .07/pound for deliveries.

“We can get more food from the cash donations. Food Bank Iowa, they charge us .07 per pound. Although they don't have everything we want to give to our clients, that gives more food than we can buy locally,” Cramer said Thursday afternoon.

She said local groceries like Fareway, Hy-Vee, and Aldi's are very good about providing supplies for their shelves, but the pantry is serving 400 more families

this year than in years past.

“I started comparing our statements and in 2016 we ended with \$67,000 in donations. This last year through Dec. of 2017 were down by about \$6,000,” she said. “When I got to looking at expenses, last year they were around \$67,600 almost \$68,000 and this year they were over 71,000 and sitting right now we're at

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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison YMCA Instructor Melissa Peitz leads 17 ladies in a PiYo class Thursday night at a facility at the intersection of Hwys. 218 and 61. The YMCA is expanding its adult fitness options out into the county to make it easier for people to access the fitness programs.

YMCA taking programs to members

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison YMCA is bringing health to a facility near you.

According to Ryan Wilson, executive director the Fort Madison YMCA, classes are now being offered in rural Lee County where adults interested in taking some exercise classes can do so without always having to travel half an hour to Fort Madison and back to get it done.

“We're expanding our group fitness offerings and going offsite out into the pockets in Lee County. We've secured some space in a building near Houghton and we're now utilizing the University

Athletic Center in Donnellson,” Wilson said.

“We want to touch different pockets of the county with health and wellness. Instead of making people drive to Fort Madison from Houghton and back is not all that conducive to their schedules. People work out there and live out there and we've found these spaces that are available, so we're going to try some classes out there.

Wilson said the YMCA is going to look at the programs for the next three months and then evaluate the success and determine a course of action at that point.

The facility near Houghton is located on the

See FITNESS, page 8

The Madison adds two new directors

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Madison is pleased to announce two new members of the leadership team. Shannon Smith began her service as the new Director of Nursing of The Madison on August 1st. Melissa Carter, the new Housekeeping Director, began her new position on November 1st.



SMITH

Prior to joining The Madison, Shannon Smith was an RN at Fort Madison Community Hospital for seven years. She started her nursing profession at Great River Medical Center. She graduated from Southeastern Community College in 2010 with an Associate's Degree in Nursing and continued her education at Mount Mercy University and received her Bachelors of Science in Nursing.

Smith and her husband live in the Lee county area and they enjoy spending their free time with their two children and their families.



CARTER

Melissa Carter is from Xenia, Ohio but has resided in the Lee County area since 2008. Carter comes to The Madison with more than 20 years of retail management and previously worked as the head of housekeeping at Grafton Oaks in Dayton, Ohio. “I enjoy doing the work that I do because of the caring atmosphere towards the residents and the staff. I feel like I can make a difference in their lives by offering compassion and leading my team.” Carter said.

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

CHARLOTTE ANN WILCOX GRIGSBY

Charlotte Ann Wilcox Grigsby, 89, of Ft. Madison passed away at 10:35 AM on Thursday, February 08, 2018 at her home.

She was born on August 8, 1928 in Elmer, MO to Elbert W. "Rance" and Lydia Erma Agee Wilcox. On January 19, 1947 Charlotte married Billy Foster Grigsby in Elmer, MO and he passed away on August 12, 1993. She was a 1946 graduate of Elmer High School where she was the Salutatorian of her class. Charlotte was a homemaker and was a member of Elmer Assembly of God and attended Calvary Assembly of God in Ft. Madison.



GRIGSBY

Survivors include her three children, Marcia Kay (Samuel) Bush of Jasonville, IN, David Bruce Grigsby of Ft. Madison and Barbara Ann (Richard) Grindstaff of Columbia, MO; five grandchildren, Rebecca Bush, Katherine (Mike) Smith, Tyler (Aimee) Grindstaff, Aubrey Grindstaff and Britt Grindstaff; two great grandchildren, Owen and Gwyneth Smith; three sisters, Shirley Moore of Guymon, OK, Mona Lummer of Visalia, CA and Carolyn Bean of Springfield, MO; several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, a daughter, Linda Sue Grigsby and a brother, David Wilcox.

The funeral service will be held on Monday, February 12, 2018 at 11 AM at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Samuel J. Bush officiating. The family will meet with friends from 9:30 AM until the time of the service at 11 AM. Burial will be in Oakland Cemetery.

A memorial has been established in her memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

Pantry officials worry layoffs will add to funding woes

FUNDING - Continued from Page 1

about 1/3 of what we'd like to have in our account."

She said the recent layoffs at Siemens, where more than 200 permanent layoffs happened just over two weeks ago, will also add to the demand at the pantry at some point.

The pantry also had an 11% increase in families visiting the office, which is now located in the former Idol Rashid Library building. In 2016 the pantry served 3,300 families and in 2017 that number jumped to 3,700.

"I'm afraid with the economy now being shaky and the local layoffs we're gonna see even greater numbers."

She said a committee meeting is being set up for next week when the board can brainstorm and try to find options to mitigate the budget crunch. She said the board may have to look at events like the holiday Christmas basket and reduce offerings there and go back to the businesses to find extra food and funds.

"Next year we may not be able to give all those things away. Those certainly aren't the better ways to go about fixing the problems. We really rely on church donations, businesses, and all the small fundraising that goes on, just the numbers are down," Cramer said. "We're also looking at grants and other ways to increase our funding. Right now I guess it would be me writing them, but I don't have a lot of experience with that and we don't have a grant writer on the board, so if there's someone out there who has experience in that and would like to help us, that would be wonderful."

Anyone wishing to make donations can send them to PO Box 273, Fort Madison, IA 52627 or donations may be dropped off at the Pantry located at 3421 Avenue L, Fort Madison, IA. For more information you can visit <https://www.facebook.com/Fort-Madison-Food-Pantry-1554159578212844/>.

**Got a news tip?
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IMPLICATIONS OF THE NEW

TAX LAWS

Friday, February 16, 2018 at 11:00 am

Registration and Lunch

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

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This free session will highlight the changes that may affect you as an individual, your estate plan and your charitable giving. We will allow for time to address questions on how the new tax laws will impact you.

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Founded in 2016



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For the Record/Lottery Numbers

For the Record

Fort Madison Police report
 02/06/18 - 11:16 a.m.
 - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 300 block of Old Denmark Road.
 02/06/18 - 4:17 p.m.
 - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1000 block of 33rd Street.
 02/06/18 - 5:34 p.m.
 - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 400 block of 23rd Street.
 02/07/18 - 11:52 a.m.
 - Fort Madison Police arrested Kenneth Dale Sommerfield, 57, listed as homeless, in the 3000 block of Avenue N, on a charge of violation of a no-contact order. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 02/07/18 - 4:16 p.m. - Fort Madison Police respond-

ed to a report of a property damage accident in the 3200 block of Avenue L.
 02/08/18 - 1:44 a.m.
 - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 6100 block of Reve Court.

Lee County Sheriff's report
 02/06/18 - 12:00 p.m.
 - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Bradley Michael Dettmers, Jr., 32, of Fort Madison, at the North Lee Countyhouse on a court-ordered hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 02/06/18 - 10:30 p.m.
 - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 2800 block of Hwy. 218. A vehicle driven by Keyshawn Isaiah White, 20, of Keokuk, lost control on snow covered roads and slid across

the highway heading northbound into the west ditch. No citations were issued at the scene and White refused medical treatment.
 02/07/18 - 3:36 p.m.
 - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jordin Rod Dale Snowden, 24, of Montrose, in the 2700 block of 255th Street on a charge of driving while barred. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on a promise to appear.
 02/08/18 - no time given - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Matthew Lawrence Spring, 22, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Carter, Smith join The Madison

MADISON - Continued from Page 1

Carter and her husband enjoy living on nine acres and spending their time gardening and riding 4-wheelers.
 The Madison administration said they were pleased to have both Smith and Carter join us at The Madison to continue its mission of providing excellent care to the residents and providing job opportunities within the community.



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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	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
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Great River Regional Waste Authority is looking forward to continuing our efforts to manage our environmental footprint and help educate our communities on ways to help in 2018!

Things to remember in 2018 when recycling:

Please do not place plastic bags in recycling bins.

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Place all recyclable products loose in bins.

Do not recycle wrapping paper.

Properly dispose of all electronics and household hazardous waste. [Click Here](#) for more guidance!

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Keokuk Transfer Station:
 111 Carbide Lane
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HTC girls shut down Nikes' season

Boeding leads team again with 16, on 5 3-balls

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Holy Trinity got another strong performance from junior Taylor Boeding as they rolled over Burlington Notre Dame 49-16 in the first round of Iowa High School girls regional action Thursday night.

Boeding, who is coming off a 22-point performance Friday against Highland, was a catalyst for the Crusaders with 16 points including five 3-pointers. Junior Emily Box scored a dozen, but was dominant inside with six blocks anchoring the Crusaders defensively.

HTC head coach Tony Johnson said Boeding is getting confident at the right time.

"She's just getting her confidence right now. When they start going, that kind of builds on itself," he said. "We've been working on some things on her form in practice and that's paying off at the right time."

Boeding didn't score in the first quarter, but came on strong in the second quarter going 3-for-3 from the long arc. Her third was launched with just under :04 left in the half. The ball hit the front of the rim and went up on the back board, came back down on the rim bracket, hit the front of the rim, and then fell back through at the buzzer.

"When you get that kind of shot to go in things are going pretty good," Johnson said.

The Crusaders defense held the Nikes scoreless until the 5:13 mark of the 2nd quarter. Senior Madison Mohrfeld got the Crusaders' scoring going as she continues to play extra minutes with junior Eryn Anderson out with a broken nose. Mohrfeld opened the scoring inside at 4:26 and then HTC got a couple buckets from Box, who in four possessions had two blocks on the defensive end and two buckets on offense, in about two minutes time. She also had a couple of free throws at the end of the 8-0 run to end the quarter.

Johnson applied a 3/4 press for most of the game and the pressure took its toll in the 2nd quarter as Notre Dame committed seven turnovers. Mohrfeld scored on a three-point play to start the period, then Boeding hit back-to-back 3-balls to put HTC up 17-0. The Nikes had trouble getting the ball into the offensive set for about three minutes until Taylor Ackerman hit to make it 17-3. Notre Dame wouldn't score again in the half as the Crusaders raced to 28-3 at the break after Boeding's three at the buzzer.

Boeding said she's concentrating more on her form before shots.

"I'm really trying to get my feet set and keep my elbow in and make sure I have some spin on it," she said after the game. "I feel like I'm one of the leaders on this team and it's my job to step up and put some points in and going into the post season I want to be able to do that."

Boeding and senior Brett Schneider started the scoring early in the third period putting up three each



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

It was all hands on deck as HTC Junior Emily Box goes up for a jump shot in the first half Friday. Box finished with a dozen points and six blocks on the night as the Crusaders advanced in regional play with a 49-16 win over Burlington Notre Dame

“
I feel like I'm one of the leaders on this time and it's my job to step up and put some points in, and going into the post season, I want to be able to do that.”

-Taylor Boeding
HTC junior guard

in the midst of a 6-0 run before Ackerman hit another 3-pointer to try and cut into HTC's 34-6 lead. The Nikes were whistled for six fouls and committed seven turnovers in the period. Ackerman had all the points putting up seven in the period. At that point Ackerman had all of Notre Dame's 10 points, but HTC was out comfortably by 28 going into the final period.

Boeding hit from long range to open the period and then the Crusaders went scoreless until Box scored inside on a nifty entry pass from sophomore Avery Hopper. The Nikes' Hope Ward got on the board with when she hit four straight free throws with just over four minutes left in the game, but those would be the only points Notre Dame would get in the game.

The Crusaders, who have struggled to maintain focus in the fourth quarter this year, committed four turnovers and missed three shots in the quarter while still working in the press off made buckets.

"We got a little lazy again in the fourth and we need to clean that up," Johnson said. "People talk about us using the press late in the game, but I have to because if weren't not pressing we get a little lazy and lose our focus. So we press a lot."

Rounding out the scoring for the Crusaders was Mohrfeld with seven points, Schneider and Mya Lawlor each had four points. Ashlyn Haas, who's played in her first game of the last three with an ankle injury, scored three points, Avery Hopper had two and Sam Hoenig had one point.

At the top of the bracket, Winfield Mt. Union ended New London's season with a 51-27 score, so HTC will face W-MU on Tuesday in Winfield at 7 p.m. The winner of that game will face the winner of Montezuma/Waco in Montezuma on Friday, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

HTC sophomore Ashlyn Haas brings the ball up the floor in first half action Friday. Haas is returning from an ankle injury that sidelined her several games. At left, Crusaders Brett Schneider (2) and Mya Lawlor (14) try to trap Notre Dame's Taylor Ackerman as part of HTC's pressure defense.



Area News/Letters to the Editor

Domestic violence group holding 2nd "Souper Bowl"

Submitted article

KEOKUK - The Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP) is hosting its Second Annual "Souper Bowl" fundraising event to be held Monday, February 26th, 5:00-7:00pm at First Christian Church, 3476 Main Street Keokuk, IA 52632.

Join DVIP for their second annual Souper Bowl in Keokuk! Guests choose a unique, often one of a kind, donated bowl, and eat an unlimited amount of amazing soup from area restaurants while conversing with other supporters.

The proceeds from this event provide much-needed funding to keep the doors of our emergency shelter open, our advocates in the community, and help individuals and families to find safety and dignity when they most need it. Tickets are \$10 each.

The Souper Bowl features the best soups from local restaurants, and bowl donations from local art studios and second hand shops. Join DVIP as they increase awareness about their services and develop funds in order to provide safety to survivors in Keokuk.

Tickets are available online at dvipiowa.org/events, by phone at 319.930.2030, or in person at Java River Coffee House and Bakery at 1000 Main Street Keokuk, IA 52632.

The FBI estimates that 1 in 3 women will be affected by intimate partner violence, dating violence or stalking by an intimate partner. Nearly 500 people attend this event annually, providing much needed funding for victims facing the impact of violent crime and homelessness due to abuse.

The Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP) is a United Way agency and relies on private donations to provide services to children and adults affected by intimate partner violence. In July of 2013, Iowa Attorney General's office expanded DVIP's service area from four counties (Cedar, Iowa, Johnson



and Washington) to eight counties. Our newest service area includes Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Van Buren counties. DVIP provides crisis intervention and support services to more than 1900 women, children

and men in 2017 and received nearly 19,000 hotline calls. Confidential information and assistance is available 24 hours a day at (319) 351-1043 or toll free at 1-800-373- 1043

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Chuck & Kayla

Letter to the Editor

Board member asks for food pantry donations

Dear Editor;

Each month the Fort Madison Food Pantry serves over 300 local families. Lee County ranks Number 2 in the State for food insecurity. Our funds are dangerously low. The past year we have seen a decline in donations and a rise in families needing our services.

While donations of food items are welcome, cash donations help the most because we are able to purchase food at the Food Bank of Iowa for pennies per pound. Please support us by making a donation and sharing this need with your friends and family. Hold a food drive at your place of work, school or church.

Checks may be mailed to PO Box 273 Fort Madison IA 52627 or donations may be dropped off at the Pantry located at 3421 Avenue L Fort Madison IA.

Denise Fraise,
Food Pantry Board Member

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Please contact Stefanie Drollinger at stefanie.drollinger@holyltrinityschools.org or 319-372-6428 for application information.



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From the Front/Weather

Donnellson, Houghton sites of new Y fitness classes

FITNESS - Continued from Page 1

southeast side of the intersection of Highways 218 and 16. There are several buildings on the property, one of which is being used by Jones Contracting, but Wilson said theirs is a smaller building with some open space and equipment that is being used for the adult fitness classes.

Melissa Peitz is the instructor for the classes at the Houghton facility and those classes started this week on Monday and Thursday at 5:30. The classes feature PiYo, which is a combination pilates and yoga class, TurboKick, and Body Pump. They are holding a class on Saturday mornings at about 8 a.m.

The Donnellson classes at the University Center at 712 Orchard are held Monday and Thursday at 6:30

p.m. and Chrissy Ball is leading those classes called "Country Heat", which Wilson said is a mashup of country line dancing and Zumba.

"Right now it's all group fitness for adults," Wilson said. "We want to see how these next three months go and then re-evaluate the situation and see what's next."

The programs are free for current YMCA members, but non-members can buy punchcards that can be used at either the Houghton or Donnellson locations. The cards are \$35 for five classes and \$55 for 10 classes. The classes are for adults 18 and over.

He said response to the programs has been good considering it's the first full week.

"We're already talking about two classes at the Houghton site which is really taking off. Instead of just one, we'd have one at 5:15 p.m. and one at 6:00 p.m. if interest stays high."

He said so far the program's spreading on word of mouth, but some marketing is in the works.

"We're putting together some flyers to get out to businesses in those areas, but I'm always willing to come out and give a presentation and talk about membership, and health and wellness and promote incentives through workplaces," he said. "That's one of my goals this year and we have companies that are paying 25% of their employees memberships and different things like that. Hopefully that keeps their employees healthy and productive and potentially could reduce their insurance rates a bit."

CURRENT-LEE

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-1vSlnEKPM0vv-D46Es-ju6Nx.../pub>. Forms need to be returned to FMHS athletic office or to a Booster club member.

Pheasants Forever raffle tickets available now

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/>.

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

FRI 09 Feb	Snow High - 22.6° F Low - 18.4° F
SAT 10 Feb	Snow High - 12.5° F Low - 6.4° F
SUN 11 Feb	Snow High - 16.0° F Low - 13.1° F
MON 12 Feb	Light snow High - 12.1° F Low - (8.8)° F
TUE 13 Feb	Light Snow High - 25.5° F Low - 27.5° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)