



Pen City Current

Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017 | 4 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 40

Test Kitchen is undervalued utensil

BESIDE THE POINT

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

I've spent quite a bit of time down at the Elliott Test Kitchen for different events, and I always find myself drawn to the white boards with the math and science questions scripted out for the students that attend sessions there.

Kumar Wickramasingha's storefront school and eats endeavor is something worth taking a look at. And if you looked at it, you might want to take a second look.

This program is put together with donations and grant money. No child is charged for coming down

and studying. Let me say that again, no child is charged for coming down and taking part in study help and ACT prep. And although donations are a welcomed and necessary part of the business, coupled with federal, state and local funding grants, families looking to college for their students give this effort credence.

I just got the bill for my youngest daughter's first year at the University of Iowa. \$22,000...one year. That's almost static to other universities in the state and really out of state as well. These universities are business first and foremost and don't ever let anyone tell you anything else. They want people whose academic track record shows a consistent pattern of success

See **UTENSIL**, page 2



C. VANDENBERG



Fareway underway

Construction crews from FYE Excavating and Jazz Concrete pumping help prepare the site on the southeast corner of Avenue H and 18th Street for the new Fareway Grocery set to open this year.

Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



Mobile Food Bank site moved

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - According to George Gaudette, president of the Fort Madison Food Pantry, this month's Mobile Food Bank will be held in the parking lot at Shopko.

The event, which is typically held at Rolling Hall, will be held on Thursday Feb. 9 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

COMING SOON

PCC STAFF

Pen City Current will be providing creative writers a venue to publish their works of poetry, fiction, and the like in the very near future.

Pieces may be published online, in our digital pdf edition, and through our social media channels.

All materials will be subject to approval by our editor before publication.

Watch for more information coming soon.

P.O.R.T. phase 2 easement on council agenda

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison School district is giving a local group property to extend a current recreational trail on the northwest edge of town.

At Tuesday's upcoming Fort Madison City Council meeting, the council will vote to approve a purchase for one dollar for an easement that will run along the southern edge of the school district's current junior high campus.

The easement will connect with the Phase 1 easement obtained by the city from DuPont, which runs along the east side of the same property. When

completed, Phase 2 will connect with 48th Street according to drawings provided to the city by Poepping, Stone, Bach & Associates of Keokuk.

Rachel Benda, chairperson for PORT (Promoting Outdoor Recreational Trails), said this is part of the legal portion of the processes for Phase 2.

"It's a process that Larry Driscoll (FM Public Works Director) helps us with," Benda said. "He helps us with getting all the easements and making sure all the i's are dotted and t's are crossed. The Phase 2 land is all owned by the school district and the city has to own the property."

Benda said the same process was handled when DuPont owned the

first half of the trail on the east side of the school campus.

The PORT committee was also informed last week that they were awarded a Trees Forever grant through Alliant Energy's Branching Out program of \$10,000 for help in planting trees along the trail route. The grant is triggered by local in-kind donations to the project typically in the form of labor to plant the trees.

"We just received word that we received a \$10,000 Trees Forever grant last week and we informed the committee this week. We hope to partner with the school and identify a teacher or teachers that

See **TRAIL**, page 2



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

On to Phase 2

The FM P.O.R.T. may get another easement Monday night to extend the current recreational trail west to 48th Street. The easement is on Tuesday's City Council agenda as a sale from the school district for \$1.

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From the Front/Local News

Benda: We have just about everything for Phase 2

TREE - Continued from Page 1

will help us plant those. We have to use some in-kind labor as part of the grant award."

She said the committee, which operates as a sub-committee of the Fort Madison Parks, Recreation and Docks board, has almost everything they need to start on Phase 2.

Phase 1 of the project, which connects Bluff Road - just east of the junior high campus - to Ivanhoe park is open and available for recreation enthusiasts. However some lighting for the trail is still being worked on. The committee is looking at using solar lighting for the trail or other energy efficient models.

"It's been nothing but open arms from the community," Benda said. "We started this project in January of 2014 and had the first phase ready for use by 2016 so that was pretty fast and we're pretty proud of that."



In addition to still working out the lighting, she said bidding will soon begin for fencing along the east side of the Phase 1 trail.

Total plans for the trail include Phase 1 which is almost complete; Phase 2 which is in the works and will

connect the trail with the Baxter Sports Complex and then a third phase will take the trail west further to Fort Madison Community Hospital

A quick look at other agenda items for Tuesday's meeting include:

- second reading (of three) for an ordinance changing the meeting time for City Council meetings from 7 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- first reading (of three) to approve amending several chapters of the zoning code to update definitions of commercial vehicles on recommendations from the Planning and Zoning Committee.
- resolution authorizing accepting Phase 1 work on the Wastewater Treatment Plant raw pump station as complete.

Increased test scores help save families money on college tuition

UTENSIL - Continued from Page 1

and achievement. Those people stay four years and those people PAY for four years.

I've been railing about the costs of college for years now. And I think when you look at the efforts of our state's community colleges to stay very affordable and offer alternatives to degrees, as well as state school districts looking at building regional education centers to offer some of the same academic and vocational programming at very reduced, if not free, tuition. You'll see that the landscape is changing. The state can't balance its budget so it pulls back on taxpayer contributions. Oh... and if you're really athletic, they'll pay for everything.

But there's the rub, most of our students locally don't fit that model of the Big Ten scholarship athlete. And this is not a knock on them. Parents

spend a lot of money helping their kids follow their dreams of playing hoops or softball or what-have-you. But that's a crap shoot at best. You might get there, but honestly probably you won't. Maybe you do to another level, DIII or community college sports and they pay for your school. That's wonderful, you've worked hard and you've earned it.

But for parents who don't have the lineage and successful student athletes in the family, there is a way for your student who works hard at their studies to get some of that money.

Most colleges now use the ACT as a barometer coupled with your grade-point average. Our daughter qualified for an Old Gold scholarship at the University. She also was accepted into an honors program that also kicked in some money. All in all she'll get about \$9,000 per

year paid by the university her first year. The Old Gold is renewable every year as long as she stays in good standing and keeps a 3.3 GPA on campus.

But that money is not competitive with the other students. It's guaranteed. Every year...every student. The Old Gold is guaranteed if you have a 30 or 31 on your ACT and your student holds a 3.8 GPA. If your student accomplishes that, their college bill just dropped by \$35,000. Now I don't believe that a college education should cost much more than that. I believe we all should have some skin in this, but it shouldn't be as hard as it is now. The health care industry is taking our savings. The FAFSA must be reinvented as it does not include any credits resulting from the increased costs of the Affordable Care Act. It gives little to no value for two or more



students in college at the same time. It's out of date.

But Wickramasingha, brings people in to help your child prepare for the ACT. At a minimum sit down with your student and formulate a plan. If they have a GPA over 3.0, it is worth it, believe me, it is worth it, to get them some ACT prep. Outside of the Test Kitchen you will likely pay for that prep on your own via online or at another facility. There is a lot of money to be had in that test.

And by the way parents,

if you don't know this already, the government has changed the game with student loans. You can get a private loan to fund education through your bank but it's not an education loan, it's a private loan. Any student loans now go through Sallie Mae and Navient. Politicians and advocates have been screaming about the high cost of college, but universities and the government will only give your child about 20% of the net out-of-pocket cost of college to

the students. If you don't have about \$15K to \$20K per year set aside for each student you put in college, you..as a parent, are going to have to borrow 80% of what you don't have. The government very rarely says no, because they make 6% to 8.5% on that money, that's high enough to make up for default.

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Local News/Sports

Friday Prep Basketball

Hounds roll Washington 70-53

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WASHINGTON - Pushing team basketball seems to be working well for Fort Madison Head Coach Ryan Wilson.

The Hounds dropped Washington 70-53 on Tuesday night and had three boys in double figures, after last week's win over Central Lee where four players had double figures.

Kaleb Cresswell led the Hounds with 28 including six 3-pointers, five in the second half. Seniors Treavor Kokjohn had 13 and CJ Richardson chipped in with 10 points.

"We were kind of sluggish in the first quarter," Wilson said. "But once we got going things started falling and we were moving the ball well."

The Hounds had a three-point lead starting the 2nd quarter and then went on a 9-3 run through the third minute and pushed the lead to a 27-19 halftime lead.

By the end of the third period the Hounds had built a 54-30 lead and never looked back.

Wilson said aside from Cresswell's hot shooting, the Hounds got another good outing from Kokjohn and Richardson.

"CJ did a great job pushing the ball on transition and I think Treavor was really close to another triple double," Wilson said. "It seems to be that they're sharing the ball and spreading things around well right now. We need team basketball and those things seem to be helping."

Wilson said the team got into a little foul trouble early with three starters having two fouls each in the first half.

He said he also got good production from brothers Shance and Sheymouhr Redd-Donald, who came off the bench to give the starters some time.

"Sheymouhr got on a bit of a run in the third quarter. He got a chance to see his first real action and played well," Wilson said. "We're getting everyone involved."

Logan Rashid scored seven for the Hounds followed by Shance Redd-Donald and Lorenzo Riles who each had four points. Austin Rose and Alex Gully each added a bucket for Fort Madison, who travels to the Quincy KHQA Shootout on Saturday to face Pittsfield.

"They're a really good well-rounded team. We're going to have our hands full with them," Wilson said.

HTC girls get sweep of New London

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

NEW LONDON - The Holy Trinity girls did just enough to stay ahead of New London Friday night and pull out a win.

The Tigers pulled the game even with about two minutes left at 35, but the Crusaders were able to hang on for a 39-37 win in Southeast Iowa Superconference South action in New London.

The win pulls Holy Trinity even on the year at 10-10, New London falls to 9-10 with both teams finishing up the regular season with the SEISC Shootout today in Danville.

The Crusaders got a little handsie in the fourth quarter sending New London to the free-throw line eight times. Senior Madysen Wahls made six free throws in the final period. She led all scorers with 17 points.

Senior Ali Randolph led the Crusaders with 13 points including four in a 6-point 4th quarter that allowed New London back into the game.

"We played pretty vanilla," Head Coach Tony Johnson said. "The girls did enough to get the win and we see (New London) again next week in the first round of regionals."

The first quarter looked like Johnson was going to get a balanced scoring effort as Brett Schneider and Emily Box each had four points and Mya Lawlor added a bucket. Senior Ali Randolph, who sits at 5th place in the conference at 12.0 points per game, didn't get on the board until the 2nd quarter, when she scored six of the Crusaders 10 points to give HTC a slim 20-18 lead at halftime.

Taylor Boeding started the third quarter with a 3-pointer to push the lead to five but then HTC was held scoreless for almost six minutes while New London chipped away at the lead. The Tigers took their one and only lead at the three minute mark 25-23 on a three-point play by freshman Alex Wenger. Boeding answered with another 3-pointer and the Crusaders were back on top 26-25. HTC got two more buckets and a free throw in the last minute of the period for a 33-27 score going into the final period.

The Tigers then started getting frequent trips to the free-throw line where they converted all seven of their attempts in the period and actually had the game tied at 35 at the one-minute mark. But Randolph made back-to-back free throws to help put the game away.

Other scorers for Holy Trinity included Schneider with 8, Emily Box and Boeding had 6 each, Samantha Hoenig had 3, Mya Lawlor scored two and Madison Mohrfeld had one. Box and Schneider each had 8 boards for the Crusaders. Box is currently 2nd in the conference with 9 per game.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Department

01/31/2017 - 12:41 p.m.
- Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1400 block of Avenue G.

01/31/2017 - 1:05 p.m.
- Fort Madison police arrested Jeremy Abraham Atwater, 27 of Fort Madison, in the 2800 block of Avenue P on charge of possession of marijuana. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.

01/31/2017 - 1:38 p.m.
- Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 900 block of Avenue H.

02/01/2017 - 7:00 a.m.
- Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1900 block of 48th Street.

02/01/2017 - 9:42 a.m.
- Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1300 block of Avenue H.

02/01/2017 - 10:48 p.m.
- Fort Madison police arrested Aaron Michael Rash, 38 of Fort Madison, in the 2500 block of Avenue L on a charge of driving while suspended. He was cited and released.

02/01/2017 - 9:16 p.m.
- Fort Madison police arrested James Allen Moore, 33, of Fort Madison in the 2600, block of Avenue L on a charge of driving while barred.

He was released on a promise to appear.
02/02/2017 - 4:57 a.m.

- Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 200 block of 15th Street.

02/02/2017 - 1:48 p.m.
- Fort Madison police arrested David Patrick Mortimer, 52, Fort Madison, in the 1800 block of Avenue L on a warrant for contempt of court-failure to pay fines and a warrant for violation of a no contact order. He was taken to Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.

02/02/2017 - 3:49 p.m.
- Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2700 block of Avenue M.

02/02/2017 - 10:04 p.m.
- Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 2800 block of Avenue K.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

02/01/17 - 4:06 p.m.
- Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Skyler Dwayne Stark, 29, of Donnellson, in the 2800 block of Hwy. 61, Montrose, on two charges of probation/pretrial violation and one charge of failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.

02/01/17 - 6:54 p.m.
- Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested

Cody Lane Page, 40, of Montrose, in the 3200 block of 220th Avenue, Montrose on a charge of harassment - third degree. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.

02/02/17 - 2:07 a.m.
- Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Melvin Lester Walker, 61, of Montrose, in the 3100 block of 223rd Avenue, Montrose, on a charge of domestic abuse assault. No information was provided on the disposition.

02/02/17 - 3:51 a.m.
- Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Brandon Caine Oliver, 33, of Montrose, in the 2500 block of Hwy. 61, Montrose, on a charge of probation/pretrial violation. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.

Fort Madison Fire Department

02/03/2017 - The Fort Madison Fire department responded to 3 medical calls.

02/03/2017 - The Fort Madison Fire department responded to a call for a smoke investigation, no fire.

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.

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Pen City Current
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Pen City current

Sports

PUBLIC NOTICES

Lee County, Iowa Board of Supervisors

Regular Meeting Agenda

DATE: TUESDAY,

February 7, 2017

MEETING

CONVENING TIME:

9:00 A.M.

LOCATION:

Correctional Center,

2530 255th St.,

Montrose, IA 52639

AGENDA

Pledge of Allegiance

Approve Agenda

9:01 a.m. Public Hearing

for Sale of 1512 Orleans Avenue and 606 Concert Street to City of Keokuk

Consider Approval of

Resolution Approving Sale of 1512 Orleans Avenue and 606 Concert Street to City of Keokuk

Approve Tuesday, January

31, 2017 Board Minutes

Consider Approval of

Claims

Public Input

Consider Approval of

Part-time Clerk in Treasurer's Office

Consider Approval of

Resolution Setting Public Hearing for Proposed Sale of 1301 Avenue I to the City of Fort Madison

Consider Approval of

Resolution Setting Public Hearing for Proposed Sale of 3034 Avenue K to the City of Fort Madison

Consider Approval of

Resolution Setting Public Hearing for Proposed Sale of Property Located Near 1621 Avenue G, Fort Madison to Jeffery and Summer Fedler

Consider Approval of Tax Abatement Resolutions (16)

Consider Approval of Class B Beer Permit and Ownership Update for Tri State Gun Club, Montrose

Consider Approval of Weed Commissioner for 2017

Personnel Actions:

A. New Hire-Treasurer's Office

Reports:

A. County Auditor's Report of Fees Collected

B. Manure Management Annual Update-Pieper Pork Plantation, Cedar Township

C. County Recorder's Report of Fees Collected

D. Sheriff's Quarterly Report

E. Treasurer's Report of Fees Collected

Commission or Committee Reports

Adjourn

PUBLIC MEETING -CITIZENS WELCOME

Vision and hearing assistance available upon request

Contact Title VI Administrator

319-372-3705

County Website: www.leecounty.org

PUBLIC NOTICE

EXCHANGE OF PROPOSALS

Wednesday,

February 8, 2017

Lee County

Correctional Center

2530 255th Street ,

Montrose, IA 52639

9:00 a.m. Exchange of Initial Proposal with Administrative Union

11:00 a.m. Exchange of Initial Proposal with Sheriff's Union

1:00 p.m. Exchange of Initial Proposal with Secondary Roads Union

Exchange of Proposals will be conducted in an open meeting. Negotiations will be closed pursuant to Iowa Code 20.17 (3).

PUBLIC NOTICE

DATE: Thursday,

February 9, 2017

CONVENING TIME:

9:00 A.M.

LOCATION:

County Office Building,

933 Avenue H,

Ft. Madison, IA 52627

Interview County Attorney Applicants

Open meeting unless requested by applicant, pursuant to Iowa Code 21.5 (i).

Friday Prep Basketball

Crusaders put scare into 6th-ranked New London

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

PCC EDITOR

NEW LONDON - After Tuesday's comeback win over Wapello, the Holy Trinity boys had upset on their mind but came up just short of knocking off No. 6 ranked New London.

HTC fell 65-58 to the Tigers in a Southeast Iowa Superconference South matchup after trailing by 15, the largest deficit on the night, going into the final period.

But as has been the case for most of the year, the Crusaders weren't about to fold. "It really was a heroic effort from these boys tonight," Head Coach John Hellige said.

The Crusaders put eight points up in the fourth quarter before the Tigers could get anything going and got themselves back into the game. The Tigers then responded with five unanswered to put the lead back to 12. Then HTC went to work on the defensive side of the court and held New London scoreless for three minutes until the two minute mark when Holy Trinity went on a 9 point run to put them within five before the Tigers put two more points on the board.

As the clock ran down under 10 seconds, the Crusaders got the ball in the hands of senior Cory Hopper who took the ball up the court, down by 3, and was whistled out of bounds to end the threat.

"Cory was just phenomenal again tonight against a pretty stifling defense. They were keying on him the whole night," Hellige said. Hopper finished with 21 points coming off a 36-point night in a Wapello win on Tuesday night.

But trying to contain Hopper opened up the inside game for HTC and allowed fellow seniors Bailey Merschman and Jack Stinson Jr, to get 13 and 12 points respectively.

"Bailey and Jack really had nice games inside. It's good to know they can step up when team's focus on Cory."

Hellige said senior Nick Pothitakis had another remarkable defensive effort. Pothitakis who's typically charged with taking on the opposing team's top scorer held SEISC South scoring leader Mason Porter, just a sophomore for the Tigers, to 17 points compared to his 20-point clip.

Hopper, after Tuesday's work against Wapello, is second in the conference in scoring at 19.0 pts. per game.

Rounding out the scoring for the Crusaders was Conner Hellweg with eight, and Pothitakis and Collin Thornton each with two points.

The Crusaders fall to 10-9 on the season and host Burlington Notre Dame on Tuesday night.

In the junior varsity game, HTC one 64-30, Three players scored in double figures led by Reed Fehseke with 16, Brant Holtkamp and Matt Hellige each scored 14, Quentin Schneider had 8, while Ryder Brune, Adam Rauenbeuler, Blake Crabtree, Kyle Bredemeyer and Connor Holvoet each added two points.



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Our website will be undergoing some server maintenance Wed., Feb. 8 and will be unavailable for a very minimal portion of the day.



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