



Pen City Current

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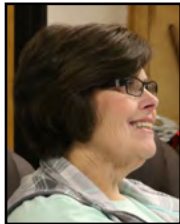
Young running to keep rural voice for district

Editor's Note this is the last article in a series looking at the candidates running for the Fort Madison Community School District Board of Directors on Sept. 12.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - After serving her first year on the Fort Madison School District Board of Directors, Gayla Young wants to keep building on the board's momentum.

Young, who lives in the Denmark area, said she wants to continue to be a representative for the rural district residents and living in the rural area allows her to bring a



YOUNG

different perspective to the board.

"Sometimes when you're living in different areas you can bring a different perspective. When your in FM you hear things and when you in the outer areas we hear things to," Young said.

"I want to continue to represent the rural areas and smaller communities so everyone's opinion can be heard. I'd like to be re-elected because we've got so many great things going on right now with the new superintendent and we're seeing that continuity. We've got some ideas and

we want to get the community involved. I just think our work isn't done."

Like Tim Wondra, a current board member seeking re-election, Young feel financing the district is the toughest hurdle facing the board and she said she doesn't think it's going to get better any time soon.

"What the state has done with cutting their money to us has a trickle down effect. Something has to give. Whether it's programs we hate to cut or don't want to cut - we have to be very good stewards with our money. Lot's

See **BOARD**, page 2



Madison Mohrfeld gets crowned the 2017 Sweet Corn Festival Queen in a rain-delayed ceremony Thursday night at the West Point Sweet Corn Festival. Madison is the son of Brian and Sara Mohrfeld and said her cousin won the crown and she looked up to her cousin as the queen so she wanted to run herself.

Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



At left, Bernie Holtkamp tends to some corn early Thursday night, while at right several volunteers with the Sweet Corn festival tend to the pork loins courtesy of Iowa Pork Producers.

County program looking for next class of leaders

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK - The Lee County Leadership Program is requesting applications for emerging leaders to participate in the class of 2018.

The program will train accepted applicants in community-based leadership skills. Throughout the process, participants will use their learned skills to implement projects for the better of the communities in Lee County.

Classes and events will occur October 2017 through May 2018 at various locations within Lee County. The Lee County Leadership Program is a partnership between the Fort Madison Area Chamber of Commerce, Keokuk Area Chamber of Commerce and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

The Lee County Leadership Program utilizes researched-based leadership curriculum from ISU Extension and Outreach.

The class of 2018 will improve on four core leadership skill sets including understanding community leadership and your community, identifying issues and framing ideas, building social capital, and mobilizing resources for community action. The projects that leadership trainees will implement based off of these learned skills will be chosen from submitted projects from area nonprofit groups.

Class sessions will rotate around the various communities in Lee County and will also include local speakers that provide examples of leadership. Both rural areas and towns will be showcased.

In addition to building skills and implementing

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From the Front

School finances a hurdle for district

BOARD - Continued from Page 1

of people don't understand how we get money," she said. "We get it, but it can only be spent in certain areas. People tell us we get the money and why we can't do things, but they don't understand that it has to go in certain spots and the state has restrictions."

With the state financial picture projected to stay bleak, Young said it's very important at this point for voters to let their legislators know they are unhappy with the direction the state is headed. She said Iowans should be contacting their legislators and letting them know how difficult it is to fund education with current funding allocations.

"We will continue to educate the students of Fort Madison as best we can, but we won't be able to provide everything we want to," Young said. "Without the allowable growth we have to use that same money we did two years ago."

She also wants to keep working on improving the communication between the district and the residents it serves. She pointed to the bond referendum, which she is still in support of, as an example of the work that still needs to be done to get the community involved in district goals.

"When we had the bond referendum we wanted people to ask us ques-

“*We will continue to educate the students of the Fort Madison as best we can, but we won't be able to provide everything we want to.*”

-Gayla Young,
School board candidate

tions, but people wouldn't come - we didn't get the turnout. We want to see community involvement. We don't just want to hear that they're unhappy about something, we want them to come tell us why," she said.

"The bottom line is what is best for our students and families of the district. What can we do to make

sure we're getting the prepared for the 21st century whether that's college or work. It's our job to make sure we can work with the staff and the state and our administrators."

Repeated attempts to reach Brad Menke for this article were unreturned. Menke has turned in papers to seek a spot on the board.

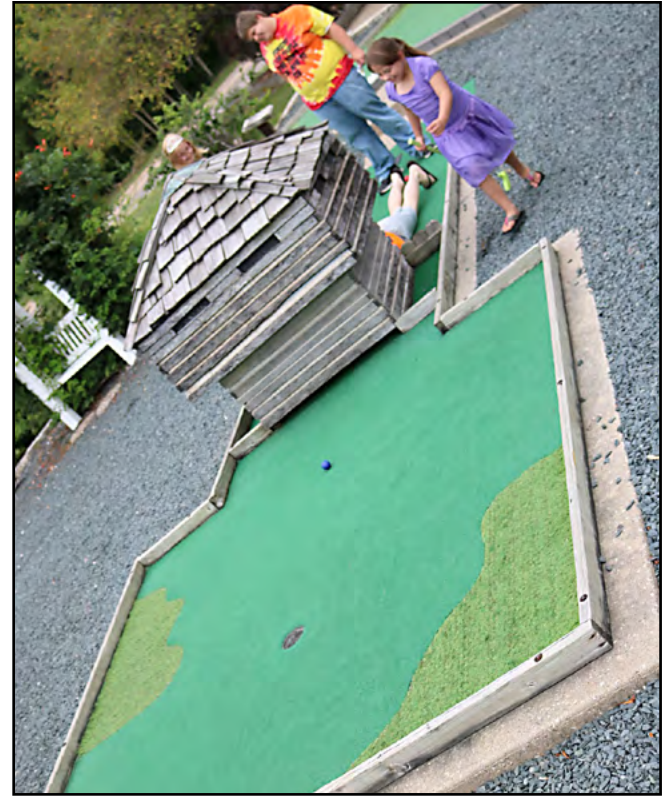


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Several Fort Madison residents enjoyed some free Putt-Putt golf at Putt-A-Round courtesy of Fort Madison Kiwanis. The service club holds an annual Fun Day every year for the children of Fort Madison.

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Charles Vandenberg, Editor
(319).371.1670
editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager
(319).371.4125
sales@pencitycurrent.com

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Pen City Current
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P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Nissa Rung, Advertising
(319).520.8953
n.rung@pencitycurrent.com

Shawna Ross, Advertising
(319).470.0622
sross@pencitycurrent.com

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From the Front/For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police report

08/09/17 - 2:15 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Kristen Leelynn Grelk, 21, of Fort Madison in the 2600 block of Avenue H on a warrant for reckless driving. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 08/09/17 - 11:42 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 5800 block of Avenue O.
 08/09/17 - 3:46 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1100 block of Avenue G.
 08/09/17 - 7:23 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Robert

Joseph Varner, 47 of Fort Madison, in the 1400 block of Avenue G on a warrant for failure to appear, driving under suspension and speeding.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

08/09/17 - midnight - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested James Lee Alberts, 19, of Keokuk at the Lee County Sheriff's office on warrants for felony forgery, and abetting. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 08/09/17 - midnight - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kyle Lee Loney, 30, of Argyle,

in the 2700 block of 150th Avenue, on a warrant for voluntary absence from custody.
 08/09/17 - 2:13 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Stacey Lynn Thurman, 29, of Montrose, in the 2700 block of 252nd Avenue in Montrose, on a charge of lottery fraud.
Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report

08/09/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls.

Applications for Leadership program due by Sept. 1

CLASS - Continued from Page 1

community projects, the class of 2018 will attend the Iowa Legislature's Southeast Iowa Region Days in Des Moines to network with government officials and lobby on behalf of Southeast Iowa.

"This will be the program's third year, and we are excited to graduate a new emerging group of Lee County leaders," said Leeann Shaffer-Smith, Program Coordinator with ISU Extension and Outreach of Lee County. "There are 20 leadership graduates from the last two years of the program. They continue to get together to network and are more involved in their communities. We are excited to train the next group of leaders and have them join this growing network."

The full class schedule and applications are available on sponsor websites atwww.fortmadison.com, www.keokukchamber.com, and www.extension.iastate.edu/lee. Space is limited, and members of the class of 2018 will be chosen based on leadership potential. Consent from the participant's employer is required.

Tuition is \$625 for Chamber members and \$850 for all other participants. Tuition includes accommodations for Southeast Iowa Region Days in Des Moines. Applications are due by September 1 and the class of 2018 will be announced in mid-September.

The Lee County Leadership Program is a partnership between the Fort Madison Area Chamber of Commerce, Keokuk Area Chamber of Commerce and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. It is also supported by an advisory board with representatives from the Lee County Health Department, Lee County Auditor's office, Alliant Energy, Fort Madison Partners, Lee County Charitable Fund, Keokuk Area Community Foundation, United Way of the Great River Region, and CBIZ of Southeastern Community College.

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Nissa Rung, Sales & Marketing Consultant
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Lady Hounds returning four 1st-teamers

FMHS spikers looking for a run a state tourney

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison girls volleyball team is hoping to build on last year's conference title for a deeper run in the post season. The Hounds ended the

season 22-10 with a loss to Cedar Rapids Xavier in the second round of the post season after knocking off Keokuk. Junior Amber Dilsaver returns as the Southeast Conference's most dangerous player at the net with 387 kills, a full 178 ahead of Fairfield's Shelby

Heston. Dilsaver also finished the season with a 30% kill efficiency. A kill is a scoring hit off a spike or tip. Defensively she led the conference with 79 blocks on the season.

Senior Courtney Woodley was fifth overall in the loop in 2016 with 185 kills and 15% kill efficiency. Junior Kaeli Hutson and senior McKenna Fehseke were also in the top 10 in kills for the Hounds.

"Our kids wanna win conference again this year. Last year we went 8-0 and did that, but now we want to move beyond second round and get that chance to go to state," said Head Coach Kent Bailey.

The Hounds lost two components of the Southeast Iowa Conference championship team in Chayse Lowney and Brittiney Harris, but are returning four 1st team all conference players in Dilsaver, Woodley, and sophomores Kaeli Hutson and Josie Pumphrey.

Bailey, who's in his first year back as head coach, has seen most of the girls on his team when he was junior varsity coach and through youth volleyball.

"I've coached a lot of these kids previously," Bailey said. "I was junior varsity coach for the past three years so I know them and they know me. They know what gets me frustrated and it's usually attitude more than play."



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison Head Coach Kent Bailey works some defensive drills with his varsity squad at practice Wednesday. The Hounds are looking to repeat as Southeast Conference Champs and make a run at state with four 1st-team all conference players returning.

Senior Leigh Johnson almost doubled the field as a junior with 802 assists to lead the conference in 2016 at close to 10 assists per set.

"We've got Leigh back as a setter and Amber back in the middle. We're also going to relying on McKenna Fehseke as an outside hitter, Jazmine Bass at the outside or maybe middle hitter. Shyla Farmer is working on the outside hitter spot and Courtney is back in the outside hitter spot," Bailey said.

Pumphrey was third in the conference in digs last year with 304 at 3.62/set clip.

Senior Kamryn Bai-

ley will return as a back up hitter and defensive specialist with 1.54 digs per set.

Bailey said Fairfield will be the toughest competition

Helping out Bailey on the staff will be Mike Davis. Davis was a junior varsity coach under former coach Mike Helling and works with Burlington clubs.

The preseason has been productive for the Hounds who played at an Iowa State camp and walked away with a title among 16 teams.

"We won our division and the kids were able to come home with medals," Bailey said. "We took

three seniors, two juniors a sophomore and two freshmen. It was team camp so we got to see a lot of different teams. There were 16 teams in our division."

Bailey said recent trends would indicate that Fairfield will pose the toughest threat to in the conference. The Lady Trojans went 21-12 on the season followed by Mt. Pleasant 17-15.

Bailey will get help on the bench from Mike Davis who was a junior varsity coach under Mike Helling and helps out with Burlington clubs. Amy Doherty and Kayla Hendrix will also be helping this year.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

FRI 28 Jul Clear Skies
Low - 78.4° F | High - 62.4° F

SAT 29 Jul Scattered Clouds
Low - 76.3° F | High - 60.4° F

SUN 30 Jul Light Rain
Low - 73.6° F | High - 60.7° F

MON 31 Jul Clear Skies
Low - 78.1° F | High - 60.4° F

TUE 01 Jul Light Rain
Low - 80.7° F | High - 66.5° F

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sross@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg
Sales Manager
(319)371.4125
sales@pencitycurrent.com

Chuck Vandenberg
Editor
(319)371.1670
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