



Pen City Current

Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2018 | 7 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 40

County continues to work on trimming budget

Sheriff's dept. cuts \$350,000, Secondary roads \$320,000

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - Lee County officials continue to trim proposed numbers for the 2018-19 fiscal year as the budget is still about \$400K short of balancing.

At Tuesday's Lee County Board of

Supervisors' meeting, budget director Cindy Renstrom presented an updated budget that shows the county out of balance in the 2018-19 budget year by \$1.961 million. Total revenues for the year are projected at \$25.88 million with expenses showing at \$27.85 million. Renstrom is showing a balance carryover of \$10.4 million at the end of this fiscal year June 30. That carryover would be reduced to \$8.42 million under current budget numbers.

Don Hunold, chair of the county supervisors, said that's not a pattern the county should continue with. In

“

I know it's tough times and you're looking at numbers, but also think about the people, the communities and the businesses.”

-Dana Millard
LCEDG spokesperson

the last fiscal year, the budget carry-over balance went from \$13.4 million to \$10.4 million.

Dana Millard, marketing and communications director for Lee County

Economic Development Group, tried to get out in front a potential cut in funding by updating the board on the

See **BUDGET**, page 7



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Monday grass fire

Wever firefighter Bryor McMillen walks the edge of a 2-acre grass fire that got out of control just before noon Monday on 354th Avenue just north of 175th Street. Wever Fire and Rescue and Denmark Fire and Rescue battled the fire.

Gerdes retires from FMCH Board of Directors

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Jim Gerdes, a member of the Fort Madison Community Hospital Board of Directors since 2001, has announced his retirement from the Board effective January 29th, 2018. He will be replaced by JoAnn Lampe.



GERDES

“It has always been a honor and a privilege to represent our patient base on this Board. I have enjoyed the relationships I developed with my fellow Board members and the employees of the hospital,” expressed Gerdes.

JoAnn Lampe is a registered nurse and a retired FMCH employee, holding the position of Vice-President of Patient Care Services prior to her retirement in 2014. JoAnn will join the Board as a voting member effective immediately.



LAMPE

The remaining community members on the FMCH Board of Directors include: Ann Menke, President; Dave Poland, Vice-President; Bob Bonta, Past-President; Vicki Stephenson; Deanna Barr and John McKillip.

The FMCH Board of Directors is made up of seven community members who volunteer their time to guide FMCH in fulfilling their mission and vision.

Utility scam targets local businesses

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Another rash of recent scams targeting utility customers is targeting local businesses.

A recent attempt to extract money from a local business had a caller claiming to be a representative from Alliant Energy.

The called said the businesses needed to make a payment over the phone

immediately or service would be cut off at the end of the day. The caller also indicated that the business had received several warnings and needed to call an 800 number and make payment to correct the situation.

Justin Foss, a senior spokesperson for Alliant said scammers are continuing to target area customers and some simple fact checking will prevent any loss of money.

See **SCAMS**, page 4

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Obituaries/Business News

OBITUARIES

MOLLY ELIZABETH WOOD

Molly Elizabeth Wood, 34, of Waukee, Iowa, formerly of Danville, Iowa, passed away Friday, January 26, 2018, at her home surrounded by her loving family. Born April 7, 1983 in Burlington, Iowa, the daughter of Daniel and Theresa Wood. Molly is survived by her significant other: Tim Munford of Waukee, Iowa; her parents: Theresa (John) Wood of Danville, Iowa and Dan Wood of New London, Iowa; brothers: Joey Wood of San Diego, California, Andy Wood of McKinney, Texas and Johnny Wood of San Diego, California; step-sister: Melissa Wood of Burlington, Iowa and beloved dog: Murphy. She is also survived by several cousins and many special friends.



She was preceded in death by her grandparents, aunts, uncles and beloved dog: Newt. Molly was a 2001 graduate of Danville High School. She attended Southeastern Community College and received her Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Iowa. She continued her education and training at Mercy College in Des Moines and began her career as a cardiac sonographer at Iowa Heart Center where she worked for six and a half years. Molly had been active in high school sports where she participated in track, basketball and softball. She enjoyed watching the Iowa Hawkeyes, Oakland Raiders and Chicago Cubs. In September of 2002, Molly met Tim Munford and together they enjoyed motorcycling and boating. She also enjoyed watching the "Housewives" series. Molly had a zest for life, a radiant smile and a great sense of humor. She was an adored daughter and sister, always kind, non-judgmental and was a best friend to many.

The family will receive friends from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Thursday, February 1, 2018, at Hamilton's near Highland Memory Gardens, 121 NW 60th Avenue in Des Moines, Iowa.

The family will also receive friends from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m., Saturday, February 3, 2018 at Nauvoo United Methodist Church, 1610 Ripley Street in Nauvoo, Illinois.

A funeral service will be held at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, February 3, 2018 at Nauvoo United Methodist Church in Nauvoo with Pastor Mark Anderson officiating.

Burial will be at Saints Peter and Paul Cemetery in Nauvoo.

Memorial contributions in the Des Moines, Iowa area may be directed to Four Paws Unleashed in loving memory of Molly. Contributions in the Nauvoo, Illinois area will be received by the family and designated at a later time.

Schmitz Funeral Homes are assisting the family with local arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.



Photo courtesy of Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce

The Fort Madison Ambassador Club stopped by to visit Ron Barnes at Under The Sun Friday at noon. Barnes is celebrating 40 years in business this month.



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Lotto Drawings

Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life [®]	Mon & Thu	8:30 pm	9:38 pm
Mega Millions [®]	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
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
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



1/30
29 41 42 49 57
Lucky Ball: 24
Megaplier: 3



1/30 MID-DAY
3 7 0
1/30 EVENING
2 9 5



1/30 MID-DAY
5 1 8 2
1/30 EVENING
0 0 9 2

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Lee County Health Department - Hospice



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March 6 - March 27, 2018
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Lee County Health Department office

No fee to the general public. To register, call Lee County Health Dept.-Hospice at **(319)372-5225** or **(800)458-6672** by March 2nd.

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/For the Record

CURRENT-LEE

Pheasants Forever raffle tickets on sale

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.leecounty.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-D46Eaju6Nx.../pub>. Forms need to be returned to FMHS athletic office or to a Booster club member.

Soroptimist Business Meeting Feb. 1

FORT MADISON - Soroptimist International of Fort Madison will be holding their regular business meeting at noon at Atlas Steak & Smokehouse on Thursday. Women who are interested in our organization are invited to attend.

Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for \$15. Add a photo for \$5. Non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of \$10 per 25 words and \$3 per photo. To place your listing, click here or call Lee at (319)371.4125.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

01/29/18 - 10:09 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1900 block of Avenue N.
 01/29/18 - 11:21 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 500 block of Avenue G.
 01/29/18 - 11:35 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1200 block of Avenue H.
 01/29/18 - 6:42 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 5400 block of Avenue O.
 01/29/18 - 7:17 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 200 block of Hwy. 61.
 01/30/18 - 7:51 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 700 block of Avenue E.
 01/30/18 - 8:01 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 300 block of Avenue F.

Lee County Sheriff's report

01/29/18 - 10:18 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident on 255th Street.

A vehicle driven by Theodore Gerald Bernard, 63 of Donnellson struck a vehicle legally parked behind him. No citations or injuries were listed on the report.
 01/29/18 - 10:33 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Matthew Wayne White, 44, of Keokuk, in the South Lee County Courthouse on a court ordered hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 01/29/18 - 11:40 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Brian James Abel, 32, of Fort Madison, at the Lee County Sheriff's office on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 01/29/18 - 11:52 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Colt Wayne Bergheger, 20, of Keokuk, at the Lee County Sheriff's office, on a charge of being a fugitive of justice. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 01/29/18 - 7:22 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of 280th Street and Hwy. 61. A vehicle driven by Marvin G. Tappe, 60 of Bowen, Ill., was traveling northbound on Hwy.

61 when a vehicle driven by Robert Dean Anspach, 61, of Montrose, entered the highway and collided with Tappe. Anspach and Tappe were both transported to Fort Madison Community Hospital with minor injuries. Anspach was cited for failure to yield.
 01/30/18 - 2:30 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Travis Christopher Hutcherson, 26, of Keokuk, in the 3900 block of Valley Road, on charges of OWI-1st offense, failure to have a valid driver's license and failure to obey a stop sign. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of a law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report

01/26/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls.
 01/27/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to four medical calls and one assist.
 01/28/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls.
 01/29/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call and mutual aid with Montrose.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

WED 31 Jan

Partly Cloudy
 High – 45.8 F | Low – 27.9° F

THU 01 Feb

Light Snow
 High– 20.0° F | Low – 4.9° F

FRI 02 Feb

Light Snow
 High– 24.3° F | Low – 15.7° F

SAT 03 Feb

Snow
 High – 34.9° F | Low – 13.0° F

SUN 04 Feb

Snow
 High– 11.0° F | Low – 10.7° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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Local News/Sports

Four in double figures for HTC in loss at Wapello

BY PCC STAFF

WAPELLO - The Wapello Indians kept Holy Trinity scoreless through the first five minutes of play and rolled to a 90-57 win in boys basketball action Tuesday night.

Wapello's Trenton Massner put in 19 in the first half and led all scorers with 25 on the night, as the Crusaders fell behind by as much as 17 points in the first half. But HTC did put on a 13-7 run to end the period. They cut that lead to 12 at 27-15, but were again stymied in the front half of the 2nd quarter. The Indians held HTC at 15 points until the four-minute mark of the second period. However Holy Trinity was able to contain 17-1 Wapello to just four points in the same four-minute stretch.

Wapello outscored Holy Trinity 18-16 in the second period and held a 45-31 advantage at the break.

But that's as close as the Crusaders would get as Wapello opened up a 26-point lead at the end of the third period and led 74-45 going into the fourth. The Crusaders wouldn't get any closer as Wapello stretched the lead to as much as 35 before the final buzzer.

Sophomore Matt Hellige paced Holy Trinity with 16 points, followed by sophomore Reed Fehseke, junior Brant Holtkamp and senior Collin Thornton, all with 10 on the night. Quentin Schneider had eight points and Blake Crabtree added three to round out the scoring for HTC.

In the junior varsity contest, Holy Trinity won 41-37, sparked by 10 points from Cole Thornton and nine from Garrett Hannum. The Crusaders led the entire game.

Holy Trinity will feature Senior Night on Thursday as the boys and girls varsity squads take on New London with seniors being honored between the games. The girls game is set to begin at 6 p.m.

Alliant says new app gives quick status of accounts

SCAMS - Continued from Page 1

"We've have seen an uptick, but it's also important to note that scammers really haven't ever stopped targeting customers, Foss said.

He said customers need to verify any requests for payment by calling the number printed on statements and customers should never trust a number someone gives you.

He also said Alliant has new technology that customers can take with them.

"We have a new smart-phone app. Customers can download this for apple or android phone. This app gives customers instant access to their account to understand where they sit," he said.

Foss said Alliant,never demands immediate payment over the phone.

Hellman medals at MAC jayvee swim meet

BY PCC STAFF

MUSCATINE - Holy Trinity Catholic's Wyatt Hellman medaled in the 100-meter breaststroke at the Mississippi Athletic Conference junior varsity swimming invitational on Saturday in Muscatine.

The sophomore finished in sixth place in the breaststroke at 1:14.71.

Hellman also finished eighth in the men's 200-meter individual medley with a time of 2:36.88.

He also was part of Burlington's men's 200-meter relay team of Dalton Manley (12), Wyatt Hellman (10), Will Godar (10), and Colby Geiger (10) that finished sixth in a time of 2:00.85.

As a team, the Grayhounds finished in fourth place with 176 points. Pleasant Valley won the meet with 370 points.

Next weekend is district finals to determine state tournament swimmers.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
FORT MADISON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WORK SESSION
February 5, 2018
6:00 P.M.
Located in the
Fort Madison
Middle School Library
AGENDA**

- I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum
- II. Recognition of guests
- III. Approve the agenda
- IV. Guiding Coalition Discussion
- V. Certified Budget 2018-2019 Discussion
- VI. Adjourn

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**PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
BUDGET WORKSHOP
DATE: FRIDAY,
February 2, 2018
CONVENING TIME:
2:00 P.M.
LOCATION:
County Office Building,
933 Avenue H,
Fort Madison, IA 52627**

**PUBLIC MEETING -
CITIZENS WELCOME**

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HELP WANTED

School Age Care Program Supervisor Wanted

Holy Trinity Early Childhood Center has an opening for a School Age Care Program Supervisor. This is a full-time (benefits eligible), year round position that requires the following qualifications:

- Associate's Degree in Education or Early Childhood; Bachelor's Degree preferred
- 2+ years experience working in a youth program or education
- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Able to pass a background check and complete training as required by Iowa DHS
- Enthusiastic and patient in working with children

Holy Trinity Early Childhood Center is also seeking substitute associates for our preschool and childcare programs.

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From the Front

LCEDG, Health dept. make pleas at Supervisors meeting

BUDGET - Continued from Page 1

progress of the LCEDG.

The economic group provides quarterly updates to the board, but with the county short on balancing the budget, and previously hinting at pulling funding of close to \$210,000 from the LCEDG, board members were in attendance, along with Millard, to address the board.

Millard said the group's focus on developing and retaining jobs in the county, has had an impact in helping reduce the unemployment number in Lee County from close to 9.8% down to 4.7%. But she said that number is still one of the highest in the state and the group has more work to do.

Hunold asked if there has been any thought to combining the LCEDG with the Fort Madison Economic Development Group and The Keokuk Economic Development Group.



HUNOLD

"Is there any reason we don't pull that whole thing together," Hunold asked.

"There's been a lot of discussion about that," Millard said. "Each organization is set up differently and that would be more cumbersome than we want. However, one of Lee County's main goals is bringing the county together. We want one Lee County moving forward. Site selectors don't want to deal with multiple entities, they want to deal with one."

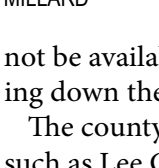
Board member Matt Morris said the current staff has done a great job of bringing those groups together and the communication is very transparent.

"We get the same information and that didn't happen in the past," Morris said. "It was tumultuous because groups were protecting assets, but I don't think the relationship has ever been better."

Millard said cutting funding to the LCEDG would hurt the private/public relationship.

"I know it's tough times and you're looking at numbers, but also think about the people, the communities, and business," Millard said. "But if you have to cut somewhere, I implore you to not cut economic development. If people see that cut in investment, then what gives them the incentive to invest. These private entities are looking to partner with the supervisors. They don't want to do it on their own, they can't. They need your help in moving Lee County forward."

A week and a half ago the county was showing a budget deficit of \$3.03 million for the proposed 2018-2019 budget year. Included in that is a \$1.5 million negative balance for mental health and developmentally disabled services. Known as Fund 10 in the county accounting, those funds are specifically earmarked for mental health services. The state is requiring counties, currently, to spend down funds that are being held. According to county officials, those funds have been allocated to counties as a result of closing state mental health facilities such as Mt. Pleasant.



MILLARD

However, county supervisors are cautious that those funds may not be available in the fiscal year and the state could change their tune on spending down the fund.

The county is looking to see if those funds can be used in other departments such as Lee County Health Department and the Lee County Sheriff's department who regularly have costs associated with the mentally ill and disabled residents.

As it stands, many departments have resubmitted budgets with areas that have been trimmed down.

The sheriff's department has cut nearly \$350,000 out of their budget.

"This is training that we're cutting," Weber said. "You've got rapid response training, annual training, and then you have vehicles that have to be replaced. All this is being put on hold. Another thing that's being cut is fuel projections. If the cost of fuel goes up, you're probably going to see a budget amendment request because we can't not be on the road."

Weber said he was also not able to put on the additional two correctional officers at the jail. Supervisors approved hiring two after an incident at that jail where an altercation between one officer and an inmate pointed to safety issues on the overnight shift. They said Weber could look at including two more in the upcoming budget year.

Weber said the staff has agreed to work 12 hour overlapping shifts in order to make sure the safety issues are addressed and more than one officer is on the floor at all times.

"This was the staff realizing this was a dangerous situation and they worked together to come up with the idea. It was them protecting each other because we won't be able to add the additional staff we need."

Other departments that have submitted reduced budgets include Secondary Roads which cut their initial budget by \$321,000 and the Lee County Board of Health, that cut its initial budget close to \$130,000.

LCHD Director Julie Schilling was also on hand to address the board pointing to the programs that are required by the state according to the Department of Public Health's Title XIX requirements. The only programs not required are homecare and hospice care.

Supervisors agreed to meet again Friday at 2 p.m. at the County Office Building in Fort Madison to further discuss budget options.



WEBER

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