

YMCA kicks off annual fundraising campaign

BY ASHLYN BUTLER PCC Iowa State Intern

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison YMCA is kicking off their annual campaign to help the organization offer assistance to those who may need help in accessing the fitness center.

YMCA Director Ryan Wilson has worked for the YMCA for the past ten years, the last six as Director, and heads the campaign.

"It's a campaign we run every year to allow us to subsidize free and reduced memberships for people who apply and qualify," he said. "Being in Lee County, we are one of the poorest counties in Iowa. Because of this, our requests have gone up a little bit over the years."

The goal of the campaign is to help those who may not be able to financially afford a full-priced membership.

Wilson says the help from individuals, families, and local businesses is what has helped them reach their

goal in the past.

This year, the goal is to raise \$30,000 and anyone is able to donate.

A donation worth \$500 or more will receive a banner with the family or business name on it and will be hung up in the YMCA. "We subsidize anywhere between \$42,000-\$45,000 a year in financial assistance," he said. Wilson said the United Way of the Great River Re-

See YMCA, page 8

Program underway to plan future county trail networks

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - A coalition kicked off efforts today at the Lee County **Conversation District** office near Montrose to look at future trail systems in Lee, Hancock, and Clark Counties.

About 30 Lee County residents and media met at the LCCD office at Heron Bend Tuesday afternoon to talk about the future of trails in Lee County. Another gathering was scheduled for Clark and Hancock counties Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

From left to right, JameySue Smith of Donnellson, LCCD Director Nathan Unsworth, LCCD Board member Liza Alton, and Emily Biddentstadt, look over a map and suggest proposed trails for Lee County Tuesday afternoon at the Lee County Conservation Board office in Montrose.

McGhghy to take over FMHS girls hoops

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC FDITOR

FORT MADISON - A familiar face is back working with the FMHS girls basketball team.

Former Bloodhound football and girls basketball coach Todd McGhghy will be back coaching the Fort Madison High School girls basketball team with his approval in

front of the school board on June 18. McGhghy has been coaching the 7th and 8th grade boys basketball teams for the past five years and said when Charlie Knipe stepped down earlier this year, he saw it as an opportunity to step back in.



The Eldridge native was the girls head coach for two years in the 2010-2012 seasons, when former Activities

MCGHGHY

Director Brent Buttjer asked him if he would coach the girls basketball team. McGhghy had been coaching the Bloodhound football team since coming over from Iowa Wesleyan in 2008.

He said the first year will be more of an assessment period without considering the past.

"It's kind of a first year, and mainly due to the timing of this hiring, it's almost going to have be a year of assessment to take a look at where we're at and what we're doing and what we need to address and that kind of thing." He said the initial assessments are underway as he's had a couple open gyms last week to get a look at skill levels. "I'm not sure those initial assessments would be anything anybody else would agree with or disagree with," McGhghy said.

Shelley Oltmans, of the Keokuk Area Chamber of Commerce and ISU Extension, kicked off the meeting indicating the efforts are coming out of the SET program, which is the United States Department of Agriculture's Stronger Economies Together program.

The program is aimed at strengthening communities and counties by helping facilitate economic blueprints for rural areas. Brian Leaders, a landscape architect with the National Parks Service, directed the conversation and pointed out the benefits of a trail system.

He spoke of a variety of trails including hard surface, which would include everything from gravel to concrete, soft surfaces such as dirt and grass, shared surfaces which are used by bicycle and motorists and water trails for canoes, kayaks, and tubing.

As part of the program, those in attendance were seated at five different tables with maps and markers and the people at each table were asked to draw on the maps with a pink marker where they

See TRAILS, page 2

"But their appears to be a lack of skills and things like that. That's not attributed to anyone and until you're at the practices you really don't know what the issues might

See COACH, page 8

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Fron the Front

Program to look at trails for Clark, Hancock counties as well

TRAILS - Continued from Page 1

would like to see hard trails, a green marker where they could see soft trails.

"We're going to take this at the 30,000 foot level at the beginning. What we don't want to hear is someone at the table say, 'Oh, there's a big hill there and no one's gonna want to bike or hike up that hill," he said. "Let's say there's no cost factor in this. Draw the trails where you would like to see them. This is nothing more than you guys telling the rest of the people in your community where you would like to see trails."

He said the maps will not be made available to the public until public officials have seen them.

He also talked about the benefits of trails aside from the health benefits. He said quality of life, recreation,



education, crime reduction, and economic gain are just a few of the ways trails are benefiting rural and urban midwestern communities.

But he said education has seen some of the biggest dynamic impact from trails "Education has become one of the

at Griffins

biggest uses of trails in the last five years. Trails within the larger communities and near schools, we're starting to find teachers are taking students out on trails. And the reason they're doing that is because the cost of fuel and using the bus is pretty expensive. Most schools don't have that budget anymore. Teachers can't take science class, load up on the bus, and take

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them down to the river for an outdoor classroom.

"If there's a trail in close proximity they'll take the kids, hop on a trail, and go where they need to go."

He said Council Bluffs is a good example of how an abandoned rail line was converted to a trail in a lower income section of the town.

"The neighbors were opposed to the trail. They didn't want it. They didn't want more people coming into the neighborhood and causing more crime. The trail went forward. They went in and cut the weeds, cleared out the trees, and put in a trail and what they realized after three years is that there are more people in the area on the trail in the middle income bracket using their cellphones and crime has been reduced by 50% in that neighborhood."

Montrose resident Rich Harlow asked if they can use eminent domain to acquire trail property. Leaders said it is currently illegal to use eminent domain to purchase trail property so plans go around property that isn't authorized for use, or groups can look at purchasing the land.

Leaders services to the county are paid for by the National Park Service in the form of a technical assistance grant.

"There's no money in this grant right now. We're just providing the technical assistance to get things going," Leaders said. "The next step will probably be to get back together in September or October and do this again."

Leaders said he would be working with the counties for probably another year to help finalize plans. He told the group that at that point a steering committee would probably be assembled and would be comprised of land owners, farmers, real estate developers, community organizers and residents, and technical support people to help the project take shape.

He said the best sources for funding of trails are federal and state recreation grants and Regional T.A.P. or Transportation Alternative Program grants. He said hard surface trails can run close to \$300K per mile and bridges can run up to \$900 per linear foot, so fundraising will be an important part of the program.

Oltmans reminded the participants to think connectivity.

"Also you could connect over to the other counties. "If you know those connections - be it Athens State Park - be it other opportunities, provide us with what information you have and know and like and we'll take that with us," she said.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST



Education News

Fort Madison High School releases final honor roll

FORT MADISON - The following is the 4th quarter honor roll as submitted by Fort Madison High School guidance office.

Academic Distinction 3.75-4.00 GPA

Seniors: Kammy Booten, Christopher Brown, McKenna Fehseke, Alyssa Gilpin, David Goebel, Leigh Johnson, Megan Jordan, Katherine Larson, Claire Mendez, Elizabeth Miller, Paige Munson, Teryn Parsons, Hailey Ramatowski, Madeline Sadler, Brittney Sanford, Noah Sissel, Ryan Steffensmeier, Kelsey Vandenberg, Carey Wellington, Zachary Winkel, Shelby Wright.

Juniors: Chloe Blind, Aleana Bohnenkamp, Connor Brinck, Abby Camp, Dayne Cordray, Jace Fedler, Larissa Ferrill, Hannah Fountain, Austin Heidbreder, Claire Hellman, Kaeli Hutson, Rachel Joachim, Marlee Klesner, Elton Kruse, Braxtyn McGhghy, Josie Pumphrey, Logan Rashid, Alyse Schmidt, LilliAnna Scott, Olivia Williams.

Sophomores: Image Bell, Siera Crowther, Shea Dinwiddie, Gracie Gobble, Nathaniel Harter, Chloe Hoenig, Abbee Kelly, Bryce A Kempker ,Anna Kester, Annabelle King, Chyanne Loffler, Sarah Macomber, Madison Hai McVey, Lia Nall, Zoe Ramatowski, Breann Schneider, Reann Schneider, Miho Shirai, Alexis Sullivan, Deanna Warner, Dalyn Wondra.

Freshmen: Taylor Barnes, Kendall Beebe, Nadia Ann Boeding, Kylee Cashman, Olivia Cornelis, Ethan Deacon, Kaylyn Eaves,Dylan Estrada, Kendra Fuget, Kailyn Guzman, Gracie Haessig, Allyson Helmick, Caeden Klesner, William Larson, Gavin Lorence, Calem E MacLearn, Morgan Meierotto, Hailey Ridgway,

Madelynn Schaefer, Lily Scott, Madelyn Swigart , Brandy Walker, Madison Williamson, Blake Wilson, Amanda-Marie Jones, Alex Steffensmeier, Madelyn Rashid, Emily Eid, Alyssa Fincher, Rachel Hellman, Aydn Kelly, Lauren King, Owen Kruse, Julien Pope, Olivia Ida Shields, Aidan Wendorf, Bryce Workman, Kylie Hernandez, Brenden Kline, Emma, Menke, Alicia Stephenson, Allysen White

Academic High Honors

(3.50-3.74 GPA) Seniors Kamryn Bailey, Caleb Gehle, Kayla Hills, Sierra Howardson, Gaylynn Huling, Kearstyn Johnson, Sara Johnstun, Dalton Mabeus, Kylee Newkirk, Taylor Shannan, Tawlivia Wallace.,

Juniors: Justin Bowker, Vanessa Golowach, Jaycie Gordon, Sarah Harris, Dalston Jones, Korinna Kettle, Cole Kruse, Jada Lamm, Gage Lange, Halen Morgan, Alec Nolting, Cassie Powers, Nadine Schaefer, Blaze Vincent, Katherine Young.

Sophomores: Brenton Cook, Parker Denning, Jayden Fedler, Clary Fuerman, Raven Harriott, Jackilynn Hayes, Dawson Hunt, Zina Johnstun, Abigail Martinez, Alexandria Miller, Kelsey Penrod, Brandon Reichelt, Aniah Jo Ross, Maximilian Von Slater, Rayce Steffensmeier, Jillian Wiseman, Kylie Wrieden 10.

Freshmen: Lauren Bailey, Jake Perry, Bryce Britton, Joseph Dodson, Jordan Kuhlmeier, Kearstin Mason, Jyliyah Lynn Smutney, Jeremy Thurman, Chance Decker, Reyna Lampe, Levi Sissel, Isaiah Hoaglin, Makayla Leasch, Aiden Mesecher, Raigan Munson, Anthony Barnes

Academic Honors (3.25-3.49 CUM GPA)

Seniors: Kerrigan Austin, Kaela Baker, Devin Beckert, Terridan Christner, Aaron Copic, Kaleb Cresswell, Mercedee Doty, Skylar Dunn, Joshua Faulkner, Noah Fedler, Cassandra Henson, Treavor James-Kokjohn, Matthew Jones, Cody Patton, Samantha Penrod, Nakia Ross, Sadie Smithburg, Aaron Steffensmeier, Carly Wehrle, Courtney Woodley.

Juniors: Selena Aldridge, Sheldon Edwards, Dominic Frantz, Alaina Gilpin, Ashlynn Hayes, Samuel Hayes, Dezire Kline, Olivia Koechle, Cole McKeown-Smith, Courtney Six, Sergio Trejo, Timothy Watkins, Sydney Weiler Sophomores; Chandler Birdsong, Jace Burgher, Lily Cadwallader, Aysia Franck, Ivy Geerdes, Daisy Meierotto, Christopher Menke, Jada Sheppard, Nathan Steffensmeier.

Freshmen: Cameron Bowman, Lucas Day, Chase Durbin, Jameria McCullough, Samantha Golowach, Myah Kruse, Nadia Leveling, Seth Mendez, Shyanna Hoenig, Brodey McGowan, Kyndon Boatman, Samira Mehmedi, Keaton Poe.

Pen City Current congratulates all the above students on their academic achievements.

Two heads are better than one.



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Sports

FMHS girls sweep Keokuk in twinbill Monday

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON -

The Fort Madison softball team helped end a streak at FMHS that had lasted almost 11 years.

The FMHS softball and baseball teams both swept home doubleheaders on the same night.

The Lady Hounds downed Keokuk 8-2 in the opener and 4-1 in the night cap to snap a seven-game losing skid Monday night.

The boys across the yard were also sweeping Keokuk 5-0 and 4-3 making it the first time both teams have won doubleheaders at home on the same night since July of 2007, also against Keokuk.

Junior Cassie Powers got the win for FMHS in game one giving up just three hits and fanning three through the first five innings.

Keokuk got on the board in the top of the sixth when Jakala Hall reached on an error in right and scored on a one-out double by Jalynn Wood to left. Wood advanced to third on a ground out to second and then scored on a Powers wild pitch.

Powers then walked Keleigh Hall, but got Hallo Arrowood to fan to end the inning. She gave up a walk to Micheala Davis after a ground out to start the seventh, but retired the next two hitters for the win.

The Hounds started the scoring when Kylie Cashman scored after reaching on a passed ball-third strike. Cashman made matters worse when she swiped second and was driven in by Sadie Smithburg who singled to center. Smithburg was erased by an Olivia Williams fielder's choice at second and then Williams was erased when Bailey grounded to short forcing Williams at second.

FMHS started with two hits in the bottom of the fourth but couldn't get any runs across as Dalyn Wondra fanned, Teryn Parsons hit into fielder's choice and Vanessa Golowach grounded out to short.

But the floodgates opened in the bottom half of the fifth when Cashman and Smithburg both walked to start the inning and Williams hit an RBI single scoring Cashman. Smithburg then scored on a wild pitch and Williams stole second before Bailey drew a walk. Powers struck out and Maycee



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Bloodhounds' Maycee Featheringill stretches for a play as Keokuk's Michaela Davis sprints toward the bag in Monday's doubleheader action. The Hounds swept the twin bill.

Featheringill singled to load the bases.

Wondra hit into a fielder's choice throw to the plate that was late to score Williams. Logan Johnson then drew a bases loaded walk to score Bailey. Golowach followed with another base on balls to score Featheringill. Cashman grounded out to the pitcher, but knocked in Wondra, and Smithburg grounded out to end the inning setting the final score at 8-1. Eight grader Kaitlyn

See HOUNDS, page 7

Central Lee knocks off HTC with big fifth inning

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

DONNELLSON -Junior hurler Waylon Weirather pitched a complete game shut out Monday night for Central Lee as the Hawks rolled over Holy Trinity 6-0.

It was shaping up to be a quick game and pitchers' dual as Weirather and HTC's Cole Thornton worked methodically through the lineups at the start of the game. The two combined allowed only three hits through three innings and one earned run.

Central Lee's Tyler Hoppe singled to left to

start the game and stole second. Jake Fraise moved Hoppe to third on a ground out to short and Evan Doyle reached on an infield smash that caught HTC shortstop Jason Thurman on the forearm and allowed Hoppe to score.

Thornton then coaxed a pitcher-to-second-to-first double play to close out the inning.

The Crusaders went 1-2-3 in each of the first three innings, but then got their timing on Weirather and were in business when Quentin Schneider singled to right center to start the fourth and Jason Thurman sacrificed him choice at shortstop where the Hawk's Sam Hirner flipped the ball to second to get Fehseke with Schneider advancing to third. Vasin Thurman then struck out looking to leave two stranded.

Thornton got the next three hitters to fly out on just six pitches to retire the Hawks in the bottom half of the fourth.

Both teams went 1-2-3 in the fifth with Thornton and Weirather each keeping opposing hitters off balance with a mix of pitches. Hoppe made a laid-out catch of a Kyle Bredemeyer dying line drive in shallow center and Weirather needed just quick move over from Weirather in a very close play at the bag. Jason Thurman followed with a single and Fehseke singled to put two men on with two out, but Collin Thornton grounded hard to third where Matt Marlin bobbled the hop, but was able to recover and get Thornton by a half step to retire the side.

The Hawks' Evan Doyle smacked the third pitch he saw from Thornton to deep center over Schneider's head and the ball bounced over the fence for a ground rule double. HTC head coach Albert Schinstock had Thornton at around 60 pitches so he pulled him to be able to use him again on Friday and brought in Kyle Bredemeyer. Aaron Willis then hit a line drive



a bunt.

Reed Fehseke drew a walk before to put runners at first and second with one out. Collin Thornton hit into a fielder's seven pitches in the inning to retire the Crusaders.

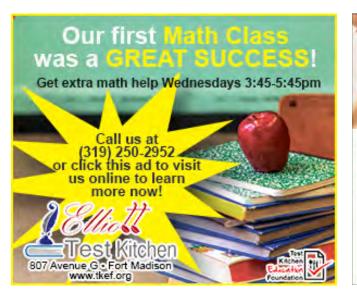
Schneider again got things going for HTC in the sixth with a one-out single to center, but was picked off at first on a

See HAWKS, page 7

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A throw at second gets by Holy Trinity's Garrett Hannum as Central Lee's Tyler Hoppe slides safely into the bag. The Hawks knocked off the Crusaders 6-0 after HTC gave up five runs in the fifth inning.



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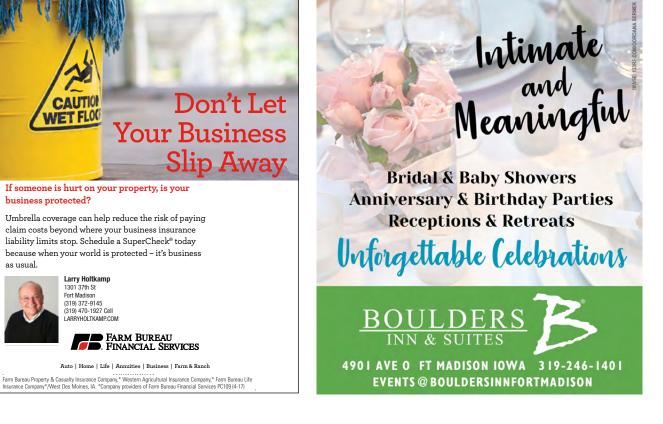
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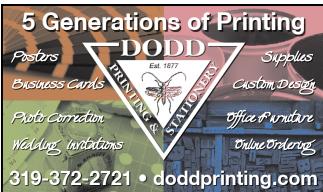




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Sports

Hawks score five in fifth to spoil Thornton outing

HAWKS - Continued from Page 1

to right that bounced over Chandler Rung as he moved in on the ball. Doyle scored and Willis ended up sliding into third on the play.

Bredemeyer then plunked a willing Jacob Brisby on the leg. Brisby stole second with Willis keeping everyone's attention at 3rd base. Schinstock pulled Bredemeyer in favor of Vason Thurman and then Marlin singled to center scoring Willis and Brisby. Marlin

was thrown out at second by catcher Collin Thornton trying to advance on the throw home.

Trevor Petty reached on an error at shortstop and then Dalton Tweedy plated him with an RBI triple to left that Zander Schweiss tried to make a diving catch on. Tweedy then scored on a passed ball.

Luke Simmons reached on an error but Thurman was able to get the next two hitters to fly out to

end the inning with the Hawks up 6-1.

Schinstock said pulling Thornton was part of the undoing in the sixth inning.

"He's rolling along and then I have to yank him in the middle of the inning. No one was ready for that. That's kind of on me, probably should have left him in," Schinstock said. "He came out and pitched one of the best games all year, that's for sure. Got

Dennis shuts down Chiefs in game two

HOUNDS - Continued from Page 1

Dennis went the distance in the nightcap going the distance giving up just one unearned run on three hits and fanning seven. The lone run came in the sixth when the Chief's Grace Koeber reached on an error at short and came around to score on a single by Aryn Kindig. Dennis gave up another hit to Wood in the inning, but got Hall on strikes to end the inning. The Chiefs would do no damage in the 7th as Hall grounded out to

third to end the game.

The Bloodhounds scored early after Williams singled in the first inning and moved to second on wild pitch. Bailey doubled but Williams got held up at third before Powers drove her in with a single in the next at-bat.

FMHS put up three more in the bottom of the fifth. Williams walked to start the inning and moved to third when Kamryn Bailey, who went 3 for 3 in the game, singled. Williams then

scored on a wild pitch and Bailey was driven in by Featheringill. Featheringill swiped second and advanced to third on an error at home. Lauren Bailey drove her in with a groundout to first.

Allison Helmick doubled, but Ivy Geerdes grounded back to the pitcher for the final out of the sixth with the Hounds up 4 to 0.

The Hounds move to 6-13 on the season and travel to Davenport North on Wednesday.



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ahead of hitters and kept them off balance and then I had to pull him and that hurt us."

HTC started the top of the seventh with two singles, but a fielder's choice forced Vason Thurman at third base, Collin Thornton flew out to right, and Schweiss struck out to end the game.

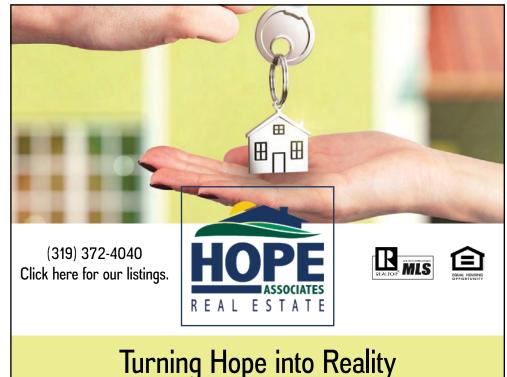
The Crusaders are in the it is." middle of a stretch of five games in five days. Schinstock said fatigue wasn't a factor in the loss.

"They're young. They'll be fine, it's more fatigue for the coaches," he said.

"It was a well-played ball game, they made a few more plays in the field than we did, but it is what

Schneider led the Crusaders going 2-for-3 at the plate. Jason Thurman, Vason Thurman, and Fehseke had the other hits for HTC.

The Crusaders travel to Pekin Wednesday before hosting Danville and Winfield-Mt. Union Friday and Saturday.



FMCH Welcomes **Mariah Skelley, PMHNP**



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From the Front/Education News



Courtesy photo

Larson gets Lee County Bank scholarship

The J. Patrick Koellner Scholarship is given annually by Lee County Bank to a graduating senior from Fort Madison High School and from Holy Trinity Catholic High School. This \$1000.00 scholarship is designated for students with outstanding citizenship, leadership qualities, and sound academic success. Shown here is Lee County Bank President, Mike Culbertson, presenting a \$1,000.00 check to Katie Larson, a 2018 graduate of Fort Madison High School, and wishing her great success in her future endeavors.

McGhghy back on bench for Hounds

COACH - Continued from Page 1

be. There's no question that they were skill deficient and that's not a reflection on past coaches. They would probably agree, but to comment on what I would do differently - I would have no clue at this point."

He said he's had more than 25 different girls total at the open gyms in the past week and each session had about 14 to 17 girls working out. Other girls have communicated with him that they are interested in playing, but have other commitments in the early spring. But McGhghy said there's no lack of energy.

"There's one thing they bring - they're not lazy. I can tell you that and they give great effort," he said. "Playing time with me is not based on politics or popularity or your past. I want them to draw their own conclusions about me and I'll do the same. Nobody has a job and nobody's good or bad at this point. It's just about getting better."

He said he hopes the girls give him a fresh start as to whether he's a good or a bad coach, and he says he's extending them the same courtesy.

"I'll know what I think I have to do and then I'll reflect on that on a daily bases to see if we're accomplishing it. And if not take steps to fix it," McGhghy said.

The move will also give McGhghy a chance to coach his daughter Braxtyn who just finished her junior year with the Bloodhounds. McGhghy also has two sons, Blake, who graduated from Harvard and is looking at law school, and Brody who just graduated from Mt. Pleasant High School and is preparing for college.

In addition to the coaching McGhghy's done in the Fort Madison system, he's also held girls basketball assistant coaching stints at Keokuk and Camp Point Central in Illinois under Matt Long. He's also held football positions with the University of Central Arkansas and played for Washburn College in Topeka, Kansas after graduating from North Scott High School in Eldridge.

He said he entertained the thought of going into law, but then got a graduate assistant gig at Western Illinois University.

"Once you get that coaching bug...boy there's no going back."

McGhghy will be inheriting a team that went 1-21 this past fall and 5-17 the previous year.

Fort Madison newly hired activities director Jeremy Swink said he and the district are extremely excited to have Todd on board.

"He comes on with a wide range of coaching experiences including basketball and other sports and we look forward to him putting that to the task," Swink said.

YMCA kicks off campaign

YMCA - Continued from Page 1

EASY SHARPS DISPOSAL for greater community health & safety



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gion also makes a \$10,000 donation every year. The current monthly membership rates are: \$37.75—Individual Membership \$52.00—Family Membership

"With our membership you can access the pool, our wellness center, the weight room, gymnasium, locker room, and sauna." Wilson says all aerobics classes are also covered by the membership fee. If anyone is interested in making a donation or learning more about the campaign, they can contact Wilson at the Fort Madison Family YMCA at 319-372-2043.



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