School's 5-senses program ends with Thanksgiving meal

FORT MADISON - Thanksgiving started early for some in Fort Madison Elementary students on Tuesday morning. Parents and teachers too.

The third annual Richardson Thanksgiving program for the kindergarten and Bright Beginnings classes served more than 250 people in the school's gymnasium. In addition to a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, parents were treated to some entertainment in a holiday song from the students.

The program began 12 years ago on a much smaller scale in Shelly Hoenig's kindergarten classroom.

"We started, oh...it must have been, well, 12 years ago when my son was a kindergartner. We just did a thanksgiving song from the students.

The annual dinner takes place on Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the FMHS Multi-purpose Room.

Prep for the annual Thanksgiving Community Dinner was in full swing Tuesday with turkeys being prepared, homemade yeast rolls were mixed, rolled, and baked, stuffing bread was torn and seasoned and gelatin desserts were being prepared. The annual dinner takes place on Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the FMHS Multi-purpose Room.

County gets Mooar/Powdertown update

LCHD says Iowa DNR is happy with cleanup progress

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - Residents in Mooar/Powdertown are slowly getting their act cleaned up so to speak, according to a report Tuesday from the Lee County Health Department.

Rosa Haukedahl, program director of Environmental Services for the health department, updated the Lee County Board of Supervisors on the progress of the unincorporated district's efforts to get permitted septic systems in place.

A program was started in 2016 to get 38 home-owners with unpermitted septic systems to have upgraded or new systems installed. The efforts began when the Iowa Department of Natural Resources told Lee County that Chatfield Lake, located in the township, was contaminated and had to be cleaned up. DNR officials at one point threatened the county with fines of up to $25,000 per day if efforts weren't undertaken to get the district and lake cleaned up.

Haukedahl said the efforts focused on residences on three roads in the township including Argyle, Lake, and Iowa roads. Out of the 38 properties that were identified as not having approved or permitted systems, 20 have been issued permits. She told the board those 20 either had systems in place or were working together under extensions to get the equipment and supplies into the area to build new systems for each residence to save on rentals and delivery charges.

In October 2016, right before former Lee County Attorney Mike Short retired, he sent out a letter making residents aware of the situation.

"We're at about a year later and we've made some progress," Haukedahl said. "Initially we sent letters out to 47 homes that we didn't have a record for and over the last year we narrowed it down to about 20 or 10 that are being cleaned up."

Lee County attorney Mike Short filled in on the report, saying Haukedahl's office has served as a liaison and has been very helpful.

"I'm pretty happy with the progress," Short said.

Haukedahl said in the early stages of the program, some companies looked at the area and decided they didn't want to work there. She said the board has also been cooperative.

"We're at a point now where we're working better together," Haukedahl said.

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CURRENT-LEE

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Sheaffer Golf Course plans Customer Appreciation Party for December 2

FORT MADISON - The Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course will be holding a Customer Appreciation event on Dec. 2, 2017 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with complimentary food, beer and soda. Course pro Ryan McMillan will be on hand with hefty discounts on green fees, demonstrating food, beer and soda.

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

11/20/17 - 7:23 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 500 block of Avenue G.

Lee County Sheriff’s report

11/20/17 - 1:43 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft 1800 block of Avenue.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report

11/20/17 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to one home outlet fire, four medical, one burn complaint and one lift assist.

Lee County Health Department-Hospice’s Tree of Love

Order the 2017 Ornament - Fort Madison Pilot Grove Savings Bank

Order the 2017 Ornament - Fort Madison Community Hospital for treatment.

Students in the Richardson Kindergarten and Bright Beginnings classes perform a Thanksgiving song for parents and family in attendance at the school’s Thanksgiving dinner on Tuesday morning.

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~ Annual Traditional Events
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Pen City Current - Wednesday, November 22, 2017 - 3
Fort Madison’s Caleb Cresswell drives on Central Lee’s Jake Fraise in Monday’s Tuesday half-game Jamboree action at Shottenkirk Gym at Holy Trinity High School. The Hounds won the unofficial matchup 32-29.

Holy Trinity’s Brant Holtkamp penetrates off the dribble against a couple of Mediapolis defenders at the Holy Trinity Catholic Jamboree on Monday at the Shottenkirk gymnasium.

Sandhill Cranes & Irish Fest

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• A luncheon Performance by Irish Fiddler Deborah Greenblatt
• Father Flanagan’s Boys Town Tour
• Free time in the Historic Old Market District
• Celtic Journey Performance at the Holland Center with the Omaha Symphony

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**FM Chamber members are #ChamberStrong**

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce’s Member Benefits Committee continues to visit member businesses as part of their #ChamberStrong campaign. The goal of the program is to personally visit every Chamber member every two years to thank them for their membership and support. The most recent visits took place Thursday. Members that were visited were Climax Molybdenum, Siemens, and Silgan Containers.

Members have access to various networking opportunities throughout the year, professional development opportunities, use of the Chamber facilities, use of the Chamber bulk mail permit, workshops, and more. For more information about becoming a Chamber member, visit their website at www.fortmadison.com or call the office at (319) 372-5471.

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3032 Avenue E • Fort Madison
3BR • 1BA • 1 car garage
Listing #20166815

15 15th Street • Fort Madison
3BR • 4BA • 3 car garage
Listing #20168815

118 Avenue E • West Point
3BR • 1BA • 1 car garage
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3032 Avenue E • Fort Madison
3BR • 1BA • 1 car garage
Listing #20166815

15 15th Street • Fort Madison
3BR • 4BA • 3 car garage
Listing #20168815

Brand New Listings

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Reduced

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Artisan Next Door: 10% of Candles, Cookies, Register to win a holiday gift basket with purchase
The Colony Shop: Treats & $10 off boots or shoes
Dana Bushong Jewelers: Girl Scouts will be selling hot cocoa
Dawgs & Divas: Free coffee, tea & cocoa 20% off everything
Dollhouse Dreams: 25% off All Melissa & Doug Toys
Dodd Printing: Treats, Scented Stationary & Letters to Santa
Elks Club: Sandwich Specials & Vendor Blender
Faith’s Cigar Store: 10% off Fishing Pole
The Fort Diner: Breakfast & Lunch Specials
Fort Mad Emporium: Free Pencil & 10% off
The Funky Cowgirl: Treats & 20% off

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Carriage Rides • Kids Crafts
Treats • Carolers • Polar Express
Visit Santa from 10am – Noon at Sip • 7th St

Artisan Next Door: 10% of Candles, Cookies, Register to win a holiday gift basket with purchase
The Colony Shop: Treats & $10 off boots or shoes
Dana Bushong Jewelers: Girl Scouts will be selling hot cocoa
Dawgs & Divas: Free coffee, tea & cocoa 20% off everything
Dollhouse Dreams: 25% off All Melissa & Doug Toys
Dodd Printing: Treats, Scented Stationary & Letters to Santa
Elks Club: Sandwich Specials & Vendor Blender
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Fort Mad Emporium: Free Pencil & 10% off
The Funky Cowgirl: Treats & 20% off

For more details click here or call 319-372-5471

Saturday, November 25th • 10am - 2pm
Downtown Ft. Madison • Avenue G

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Treats • Carolers • Polar Express
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Junk To Gems: Free cookies
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Scrub Impressions: Free coffee, tea & cocoa 20% off
all regular items
Sip: Buy One Large Specialty Latte & Get One 1/2 price
The Schnitzelbank: Treats & 25% off Harvest & Christmas
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Sensory unit has grown from classroom to full gym

**SCHOOL** - Continued from Page 1

turkey sandwiches and then another teacher joined in and it’s just progressed from there."

The holiday program has since grown to where in the last three years it had to be moved into the gymnasium. Hoenig said the first year in the gym about 125 people were served. This year more than 250 reservations were taken and more dinners than that were served. Students in the schools four kindergarten classes and its Bright Beginnings class are allowed to invite two guests to the meal and program.

She said the program is a the end of a science study. "It’s a culmination of our five sense unit," she said. "The whole week prior we test taste fruits and vegetables that the students may not be used to," she said. "They are big, brave kindergarteners and they have to try everything. They may not like them, but they have to try them all."

During the unit, parents are asked for donations of green beans, corn, rolls, potatoes and drinks. The teachers provide the turkeys and help prepare all the food. The turkeys are roasted on Monday and the rest of the food is prepared Tuesday morning.

The students make decorations and place settings for all the tables in the gymnasium, which fill the room to capacity with standing room only on the outside walls.

The leftover decorations and possibly some of the remaining vegetables are being donated to the Fort Madison Community Thanksgiving Dinner held on Thursday at the Fort Madison High School.

Hoenig said if the event doesn’t have a whole lot of room left for growth. "If we had a newer school we’d have a bigger environment and would be able to do something bigger, but this is just the kindergarten and Bright Beginnings classes for right now!"
it down to 38 and we did that by people contacting us letting us know they did have the permit. There are also a couple homes that are vacant or the owner has passed away and the home is sitting there empty."

The township was divided into three sections, Argyle Road, Lake Road, and Iowa Road. Lake Road had 18 homes out of compliance, but 13 permits have been issued, according to a report released by LCHD at the meeting. Argyle Road had six homes and three have been issued permits, and Iowa Road had 14 homes with only four permits issued.

“We have been asked and have granted extensions for six properties. They were given a permit, but they won’t be able to finish up by the end of the year. Permits are good for six months and we didn’t want to have to charge them again so we gave them an extension,” Haukedahl said.

Supervisor Matt Pflug asked what timeline was put on the initial letters from Short. Rosa said it didn’t have a specific date but did have a 30-day window for the residents to contact the LCHD. She said then the county could help them find financing options and explain guidelines.

“We met this summer with DNR and they were pleased with the progress we were making,” Haukedahl said. “Today, out of 38 homes, we have 20 permitted systems. We have made it over the halfway threshold. Of the 20 that have been permitted, six have grouped together to help save costs on the installation of the system. They won’t finish that this year so we gave an extension to all six because they are working together.”

Haukedahl said she met with Lee County Attorney Clinton Boddicker and the two talked about the 18 that aren’t compliant. She said Boddicker is actively working on filing suits against residents that have not complied.

“I have been in touch with DNR, but I haven’t given them these numbers yet, but I will before the end of 2017. If the residents have a permit through us, they have an intention to install so we work with them. That is what we want, we want them to have an intent to do their part,” Haukedahl said.

Pflug said at some point the DNR will demand 100% compliance and tell us time has run out.

“That’s why we want to stick close to them and let them know the worst thing they can do is not be in contact with us at all,” Pflug said.

Haukedahl said she can’t say all 18 will be compliant by the end of 2018, but the DNR has been reacting well to the progress being made toward compliance.

“We don’t want to remove anyone from their homes but we do have to clean up that lake,” she said.

In other action, the board, approved changes in the following sheriff’s fees: Notices - $30 (from $15), 2nd person in same household-$20 (from $10), Warrants-$35 (from $20), subpoenas-$35 (from $20), Court orders $30 (from $15) and permit to acquire pistols or revolvers - $40/5-year permit (from $10/year). Mileage will increase to 53.5 cents/mile (from $.45/mile) and service delivery in Fort Madison or Keokuk will carry a flat $5 charge (from $1). The board needs to approve the final version of the fees at next week’s meeting.

In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, we will not publish an e-Edition Thursday, November 23 through Sunday, November 26. We’ll resume publication on Monday, November 27. Breaking news will continue to be published on our website 24/7.

We wish you a very warm & wonderful Thanksgiving. From our #PCC family to yours.