FMCH starts hospice care service

Hospital foundation to lend financial support to program

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison Community Hospital (FMCH) Home Health Care will begin offering Hospice Care in early spring 2018.

This enhanced service line will now be known as FMCH Home Health & Hospice.

FMCH Home Health & Hospice will continue to provide in-home health care services that include medical care, personal care and rehabilitation therapy while adding hospice care. The focus will remain on teaching clients to care for themselves, manage their health challenges and remain safely in the comfort of their own homes.

By adding hospice care, these professionals will be joined by a chaplain and social worker to provide continuity of care for chronically ill, terminally ill or seriously ill patients. Working together as a care team, they will be able to develop a personalized plan of care to help these patients and their families through this difficult journey.

"We are really excited to offer hospice care to our clients. Many times we find ourselves caring for their physical needs up to the point where hospice care takes over. We want to be able to continue the medical care while also providing the emotional and spiritual care so vital when our patients are facing a life-limiting illness or injury," said Deb Green, FMCH Home Health & Hospice Director. "We are very fortunate to have the support of our FMCH Foundation to help make this opportunity possible."

The addition of this service line will be financially supported by the FMCH Foundation.

"The FMCH Foundation’s mission is to support the work of FMCH. The Foundation Board of Trustees believe strongly that by adding hospice care we will be able to more fully care for our patients through all of life’s health care challenges, while allowing them to teach clients to care for themselves, manage their health while also providing the emotional and spiritual care so vital when our patients are facing a life-limiting illness or injury," said Deb Green, FMCH Home Health & Hospice Director. "We are very fortunate to have the support of our FMCH Foundation to help make this opportunity possible."

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Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis
is now seeing patients
on Wednesdays
in the downtown
Fort Madison office

Fort Madison Family Dentistry
726 Avenue G, Fort Madison, IA 52627
319-372-3614

Dr. Jonathan Dingeldein
Mon-Thu: 8:00am - 5:00pm
Fri: 8:00am - 12:00pm

Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis
Wed: 8:00am - 5:00pm

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Local boys step up to help out neighbors

After they left, Ginnie commented, "I've never seen kids that want to work like that."
I said, "Them's farm boys."
Their names are Brody and Boden. We call them, "Bro" and "Bo."
Since then, it's been a repeating scenario. I'll be doing something like unloading chicken feed from the truck, they roar up in whatever: dirt bikes, snowmobiles, four-wheelers, ask what I'm doing, and offer to help.
When Ginnie and I are gone overnight, we have Bro and Bo take care of Buddy and the chickens. Buddy loves Bro and Bo because they spoil him. The chickens love Bro and Bo also, and flock around them when Bro and Bo arrive looking for corn scratch. The boys gather eggs, bring in the newspapers and mail, and generally look after things.
I text them when we're gone. "How's things?"
"Great. UPS came, we put in garage."
I read it to Ginnie. She says, "We're so lucky. Them's farm boys."
Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com, or find him on Facebook. Curt's stories are also read at 106.3 FM in Farmington.

Hospice still has positions to fill

FMCH - Continued from Page 1
remain in their homes," said Carrie Green, Executive Director, FMCH Foundation.
FMCH Home Health & Hospice is actively seeking a Social Worker and Chaplain to join their team of professionals. They are completing the credentialing process through CMS and The Joint Commission to ensure the highest quality care is provided.
"When you work in health care you are given the occasion to experience the full circle of life, from birth to death. At FMCH, we strive to provide the highest level of compassionate, quality health care to our patients at whatever point in life they need us. We feel the addition of hospice care, through our home health department, expands this opportunity even further," said Jeremy Alexander, Interim President/CEO at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

BY PCC STAFF - Lee County Crime Stoppers will be holding a chili fundraiser at both the Fort Madison and Keokuk Hy-Vee locations on Jan. 18 from 5 to 7 p.m. Proceeds will be used for expenses and criminal payouts.
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.
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Steffensmeier faces top-seed Lara at J-Hawk Invite

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

CEDAR RAPIDS - Wrestling fans at the J-Hawk Invitational in Cedar Rapids Saturday caught a glimpse of a possible matchup at the state wrestling tournament in February when two of the top four wrestlers in the state at 195 lbs squared off for the Invitational title. Fort Madison’s senior Harlan Steffensmeier worked his way through the 152 lbs bracket on a collision course with top-ranked Cael Lara of Fort Dodge. Lara is the younger brother of Triston Lara, who bumped Steffensmeier to 3rd place at last year’s state tournament wrestling at 138 lbs.

The J-Hawk invite attracts some of the best wrestlers in the state as evidenced by Steffensmeier not recording a pin in the tournament, but he did get a technical fall over Indianola’s Nick Bonanno (15-0) and then a major decision over Mitchell Mangold of West Delaware 14-4 for a chance to take on Lara for first place at the meet.

"That was the No. 1 kid in the state, ranking wise," Fort Madison Head Coach Ryan Smith said. "[Harlan] was in the match. That could have gone the other way, definitely. They awarded [Lara] two points for a near fall and Harlan kind of went for a high-risk turn late in the match down by one and gave up the reversal. So those two points were critical, he had not given those up, he wouldn’t have been forced to go for that." Smith said taking the team to tournaments like this barometer and that’s why we go to these types of events. "It was a good match," Smith said. "He did a good job. He lost on a last second take down in the semifinals. He was up by one and gave up a take down at the end of the third period, but he bounced back well for third place."

The other top five FMHS finishes in the 14-team tournament included a fourth place finish for Ryan Steffensmeier (15-12) at 120 lbs. and a 5th place finish for Dayne Cordray (Fort Madison) 19-10.

"It was a good match. It’s a good barometer and that’s why we go to these types of events. Harlan’s right there and just needs to clean a few things up."

-Ryan Smith, FMHS Wrestling coach

injury, Smith said Hayes will be kept out of competition as long as they need to make sure he’s ready to go.

MHSS’s Danen Settles took 3rd place at 220 lbs with an 8-2 decision over Owen Dunne of Dubuque Hempstead.

"He was seeded first actually," Smith said of Settles. "He did a good job. He lost on a last second take down in the semifinals. He was up by one and gave up a take down at the end of the third period, but he bounced back well for third place."

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