Proposed budget shows lower levy rate

**Preliminary numbers may change at Feb. 12 workshop**

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison residents may be getting a bit of good news from the city as a proposed budget for next year shows a 33.4 cent drop in the city’s levy rate.

City Administrator David Varley and city staff have put together a preliminary budget that includes a $15.911 general mil levy. That number compares to the 2017-18 fiscal year budget levy of $15.911. That number is the amount the city collects per $1,000 of assessed valuation of city residential, commercial, and industrial property.

The city is maxed out on its $8.10/$1,000 regular general levy, an amount capped by Iowa law, so they are permitted a .27/1,000 emergency levy. Outside of the $8.10, the city levies for liability, property and any self-insurance costs, local emergency management services, employee benefits such as retirement, and debt service. The city can also levy on agricultural land but at a reduced $3/1,000 assessed valuation rate. Outside of the agricultural levy, those levies total $15.564. The levy is the lowest since FY2014 when it was set at $14.89.

See **BUDGET**, page 8

Green featured artist for February at FMAAA

**BY BRIAN RIGGS**

FORT MADISON - FMAAA gallery welcomes some vibrant color and brushstroke into the dreary and cold February month in order to warm the hearts of Midwestern landscape lovers with the watercolors of Jamie Green. Jamie hails from Quincy, Illinois and works in pencil, pen&ink, watercolor, and marker. Reception for the artist occurs this Friday from 5-7pm at 825 Ave G. Show sponsored by HyVee of Ft. Madison. Receptions are always free and open to the public. Start your weekend with visual trek of the Tri-State region landscapes. Jamie likes to work from local architecture and historical landmarks. He exclaims, ‘I want people to view my work and say ‘I remember that!’’

Jamie studied art at Culver-Stockton College and

See **FMAAA**, page 8

Pilot Grove gives FMMS finance program

**BY PCC STAFF**

FORT MADISON - A local bank has donated a financial literacy program to be used at the Fort Madison Middle School as part of an ongoing commitment to local students and educators.

Pilot Grove Savings Bank has donated Ramsey Solutions’ Foundations in Personal Finance curriculum to FMMS. The curriculum, Foundations in Personal Finance, was selected to teach financial literacy to students and it includes textbooks, videos, and online budgeting tools for more than 120 students to use in the classroom.

“One of my favorite things from personal finance is that this is something we will use in the real world,” said eighth grader Sylvia Jerden.

Ft. Madison Middle School and Pilot Grove Savings Bank were in support of a curriculum that teaches students the value of saving, spending, and giving.

Dave Ramsey’s Foundations in Personal Finance was selected by Ft. Madison Middle School because it utilizes a blended learning model that meets standards and benchmarks in all fifty states and Jump$tar nation- al standards. Eighth grade teacher Donna McVeigh claims, “Teaching kids about using money now allows them to learn the value of having a budget, using cash, and saving money before they actually get to the working world.” The program has been taught in more than 120 schools in all fifty states and forty-seven countries.

See **FINANCE**, page 8

Pilot Grove Bank - cell phone photo
Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis is now seeing patients on Wednesdays in the downtown Fort Madison office.

Schedule your appointment today

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

Dr. Jonathan Dingeldein    Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis
Mon-Thur: 8:00am - 5:00pm    Wednesday: 8:00am - 5:00pm
Friday: 8:00am - 12:00pm

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- Homecare
- Wellness
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- Environmental Health
- 1st Five
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- Child / Adolescent Health
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Pheasants Forever raffle tickets available now

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.leecountypf.org/raffle/.

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/forms/d/1vSl-nFEFAP60w-D46EgauNz.../pub. Forms need to be returned to FMHS athletic office or to a Booster club member.

Got a news tip? Call Chuck (319)371.1670

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

Lottery Numbers/Current-Lee

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game</th>
<th>Draw Days</th>
<th>Sales Cutoff Time</th>
<th>Approx Drawing Time</th>
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<td>8:30 pm</td>
<td>9:38 pm</td>
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<td>Megabucks®</td>
<td>Tue &amp; Fri</td>
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- Homecare
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Travel Show

Come join us for an evening and check out some of the amazing tours that we have planned!

Thursday, February 8

902 Riverview Drive // Ft. Madison, IA

Doors open at 4:00 pm // Open house from 4:00-5:00 pm
Presentations start at 5:00 pm for Mayflower Tours

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Experience the reawakening of spring along the Rhine and Mosel Rivers. From the enchanting Keukenhof Gardens, in the Netherlands, at the peak of tulip season to the majestic beginnings of Switzerland. See the countryside bloom as we sail these two historic rivers of Europe.

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There’s nothing like the holidays in New York City, and this tour gives you the best the city has to offer, including spectacul...
Lady Hounds get first win of year

BY CHUCK VANDEMBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON -
The Fort Madison girls got their first win of the season in a 48-34 win over Davis County behind sophomore Sara Bernhart’s 15 points.

The win moves the Hounds to 1-19 on the year, but it also was a big motivator for freshman Maddie Rashid who finished with 11 points on the night.

“I’m just kind of excited that we got a win and our record doesn’t show a zero. I think it makes our confidence a lot better,” Rashid said after the game.

Rashid sparked a 23-9 first quarter that was probably one of Fort Madison’s most efficient quarters of the season. Rashid hit on a 3-pointer and went 4-10 from the field in the opening period for nine points.

Head Coach Charlie Knipe said the pressure was the key in the first quarter. While teams have pressed Fort Madison this year most of the year, and sometimes for full games, the Hounds were able to capitalize on some three-quarter pressure of their own, forcing turnovers in the quarter.

“We pressed in the first quarter and got away with some turnovers and that was key to getting things going,” Knipe said. “I took it off because I don’t like to run up the score, I don’t think that’s right. But getting the turnovers was the key. We also passed very well in the fast breaks.”

Rashid started the scoring on a long ball. Davis County’s Alexa Francis converted and was fouled in the lane but missed the freebie. Kamryn Hart started the scorers with a three, Fort Madison was Lorenzo Riles with eight points on the night followed by Quentin Schneider in the fourth, only scoring eight points in the final period.

Cresswell ties school mark with eight 3-balls

Senior leads Hounds with 28 in win over Davis County

BY PCC STAFF

BLOOMFIELD - Fort Madison senior Kaleb Cresswell hit eight 3-pointers to tie an FMHS record as the Hounds moved to 12-7 on the season. The two are fourth and second, respectively, combined for 50 as the Hounds moved to 12-7 on the season. The two are fourth and second, respectively, combined for 50 as the Hounds moved to 12-7 on the season.

The Hounds pushed the lead to 45-15 in the second period and committed five turnovers. Bailey led the way with three points in the period. We're doing.

“They adjusted well with their zone offense to what we were doing,” Knipe said. “I think we got a little lazy and content and forgot what we’re doing.”

Hound freshman Maddie Rashid drives in the first quarter of the Hounds’ 48-34 win over Davis County Wednesday night. It was FMHS’ first girls win of the year.

HTC boys fall to Nikes on Thursday

BY PCC STAFF

BURLINGTON - A sluggish 6-point first quarter was enough to keep the Holy Trinity Catholic boys basketball team at bay Tuesday night in a 57-42 loss at Burlington Notre Dame in boys high school basketball.

The Nikes rushed out to an 18-6 lead. HTC battled back with a 14-11 run in the second quarter and actually outscored Notre Dame 27-26 through the second and third periods, but couldn’t keep the momentum in the fourth, only scoring eight points in the final period.

Sophomore Matt Hellige led the Crusaders with 15 points on the night followed by Quentin Schneider with 13, despite the sophomore converting just 4 of 16 from the field. Hellige only converted three field goals working inside the paint, but was able to go 9-9 from the free throw line.

HTC shot a cool 11 of 41 from the field and a meager 4-15 from beyond the 3-point arc in the loss. Schneider also led HTC in rebounds with seven and had two blocks.

Rounding out the scoring for HTC was Reed Fehseke with nine, Collin Thornton with three, and Blake Crabtree with two points.

Holy Trinity hosts Loni Tree in the last regular season game of the year on Friday night.

The Crusaders play host to Winfield-Mt. Union on Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. as district 9 sectionals get underway.

The play-in game sets up a run-in with top-seeded Iowa Mennonite on Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. at Iowa Mennonite.

The Mustangs again outscored Fort Madison in the third period 9-8 and had cut the deficit to eight at 34-26. The Hounds shot just 2-8 in the period and committed seven.

See WIN, page 6
Obituaries

MARY L. HITCH

Mary L. Hitch, 89, of Ft. Madison passed away on Monday, February 5, 2018 at 2:40 AM at Ft. Madison Community Hospital.

She was born on October 25, 1928 in Appanoose Township, Illinois to John Ray and Elsie Rachel Isenberger Boyles. She was first married to Lester V. Berry and later to William H. Hitch. Mary worked in her early years at Sheaffer Pen and Midwest Wax. She was a member of Sacred Heart Church and DAR. Mary loved to be outside. She enjoyed gardening, sewing and family gatherings. Most of all she enjoyed being around her children and their families and pets. Survivors include her children, Virginia (Dave) Warner, Bonnie (Mike) Howard, Pat (Kathy) Berry, Rose Ann (Dan) Howard and Cecilia (Craig) Hitch-Smith; thirteen grandchildren; twenty three great grandchildren; one sister, Annabelle McCarty and two brothers John and James Boyles. She was preceded in death by her parents; one brother, Donald Boyles, and one sister, Dorothy Herbert.

The funeral mass will be held on Friday, February 16, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. A rosary will be recited at 9 AM and the family will receive friends from 9:30-10:30 AM all at Sacred Heart Church. Burial will be at a later date in Oakland Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in her memory. King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory is in charge of the arrangements.

JEFFERDY G. MEISTER

Jeffrey G. Meister, 68 of Keokuk, IA died Wednesday, January 31, 2018 at Lexington Square in Keokuk, surrounded by his loving family and friends.

He was born December 20, 1949 in Keokuk, the son of Jack H. and Mae Lu Basye Meister. Jeff graduated from Keokuk High School with the Class of 1968. He attended Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS.

He was a member and an Elder of St. Paul United Church of Christ in Keokuk, having served on the Consistory and contributing his talents in the church band. He was also a member of the Hoerner YMCA.

Jeff loved to write poetry and was a published poet. He enjoyed swimming and exercising with his Hoerner YMCA friends.

In his teen years he was a founding member of the garage band “The Other Side” as their drummer.

Having never met a stranger, Jeff will be remembered for his kindness and un-daunting willingness to help others.

He is survived by one daughter, Lindsey Meister of Topeka, KS, his parents, Jack and Mae Lu Meister of Keokuk, two brothers, Larry B. Meister (Nancy) of Evergreen, CO and John J. Meister (Christie) of Newport, OR, two sisters, Minda L. VanAusdall (John) of Keokuk and Mary E. Thomas of Keokuk and several nephews, great-nieces and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, aunts and uncles.

Services will be held at a later date in the spring.

Memorials may be made to St. Paul United Church of Christ or the Hoerner YMCA.

Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.
Good 4th quarter D preserves win

WIN - Continued from Page 4

final period, but senior Taylor Shannon hit a couple of free throws with 6:18 left to push the lead back to eight. Bernhart missed underneath on the next possession but grabbed the board and scored. Mustang senior Kennedy Cymoon hit inside to make it eight again 38-30 but the Hounds would limit Davis County to just four more points the rest of the way. Bernhart put in six in the final three minutes to seal the deal for the Hounds.

“These girls work so hard and they deserved a win. It’s huge for these underclassmen,” Knipe said. “They have heart and continue to practice hard and they want to learn. We are very young, but we’re slowly getting it.”

Shannon and Bailey each finished with eight points on the night. Kester had five, Braxtyn McGhygy had one to round out the scoring for Fort Madison.

In the junior varsity matchup, FMHS won 37-34. Nadia Boeding led the Hounds with 14 points including a sterling 8-of-8 shooting from the free throw line. Elesha Estrada had 10, including a critical 3-ball in the final period. Dalyn Wondra had seven and Kylee Cashman put in four. Kayln Guzman added a bucket to round out the scoring.

Sophomore Sara Bernhart goes up for a shot in Wednesday’s win over Davis County. Bernhart finished with 15 to lead the Hounds.
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.

Please contact Stefanie Drollinger at Stefanie.drollinger@holytrinityschools.org or 319-372-6428 for application information.

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Now Hiring

The Buffalo61 Bar & Grille is now hiring for all positions:
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- Hosts

Experience is a must.

Must be able to work in a fast-paced environment where outstanding customer service reigns and must be available beginning mid-to-late February for training.

Fill out an application or turn in your resume at The Buffalo61 Bar & Grille, 2016 South Main Street, Burlington, IA 52601.

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Join an Industry Leader

Job Opportunity

At our Fort Madison Manufacturing Plant

- Production Supervisor - 2484

Are you seeking a career with an industry leader in its field, one that has a solid track record of performance, and strong roots in its local community? Are you looking for an opportunity to grow and develop in a high-speed environment? Are you a leader that thinks outside the box, enjoys challenges, engages people and can positively influence a culture of teamwork?

If so come join our team! Our next production supervisor will be responsible for directing production associates to execute tasks, emphasizing safe behaviors and quality measures to meet the production needs required to package liquid consumer products. This is a salaried leadership role that leads a team of approximately 50 people.

Qualifications: B.S Degree in a relevant discipline required.

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At our Fort Madison Manufacturing Plant

- Production Supervisor - 2484

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BUDGET - Continued from Page 1

Varley handed the preliminary budget book to the Fort Madison City Council following Tuesday’s regular meeting.

As part of the book, Varley outlined that revenues for the city were projected to be up this year, despite the reduced levy. Property valuations in the city have gone up in some areas, but Varley said the major reason for the increased revenues is that some TIF financing projects have timed out and some of those revenues are coming back into city coffers.

A Tax Increment Financing project, is basically the city rebating increased property tax revenues on improvements back to the private entity making the improvements. The city can also offer up incentives, such as cash payments, infrastructure improvements, or land. The property tax rebates occur over a specified period of time. According to a TIF worksheet included in the budget, $34,900 in incentives paid to Independant Can in the current fiscal year won't have to be paid in FY 2019.

The city also made a one-time $250,000 payment to Boulders Inn and Suites for their expansion project, however the city does have $50,910 to the company in TIF rebates in the proposed budget. Siemens will still be getting a $110,750 rebate in the budget. A one-time payment to Fareway Grocery for land preparation and legal expenses of $91,930 was also paid in the current budget, but will not be in future budgets.

The General Fund is expected to carry just $5,641 at the end of FY 2019. The Road Use fund is projected to carry $122,378. Sales Tax fund will carry $1, but those funds are disbursed 80% to the general fund and 20% to Capital Improvements when they are received. The budget, but will not be in future budgets.

The Highway 61 and Hwy 2 improvement Fund will carry $2,198 balance. The Water fund will carry a balance of $542,900. Wastewater will carry $2,930, and Solid Waste will carry $55,425. It should be noted however, that many of these funds have expenses exceeding revenues and they are supplemented with money from the general fund, which is why the general fund balance is at $5,600.

Varley also indicated in the budget that the new platform for the relocated Amtrak Depot, will probably not be built until toward the end of FY 19 because of construction plan snags with Burlington Northern Santa Fe. He’s only including money in the budget for a few months of operations.

Next FMAAAA Early Out program for students set for Feb. 28

has a love of cartooning and caricature. He is a member of the International Society of Caricature Artists and has been doing them since 1993. He has been rendering this skill for the last 20 years at wedding receptions, company picnics, and the like. He is an avid member of the Quincy Art Society’s life drawing sessions. He has created a 3D sculptural element in his show with multiple 2D life drawings. Well worth a gander, as when first met him he was installing the piece in the middle of the gallery and it is quite impressive as a sculptural unit.

The majority of this feature showcases his plein air painting excursions. He is a founding member of Sandpiper Plein Air Resistance Painters. He works the plein air circuit that has erupted over the last few years to entice landscape painters of a certain skill level to hit the road, in quest of awards, sales, and fun times. But this guy is serious. He has purchased an RV for his pursuits and has a “weekend wife” in his buddy Larry Siwek, whom he travels with to painting outlets. This talented duo is hitting the road for 12 days this year to cover landscapes from Indiana back to Missouri and will be vying for some nice payout awards for the winners. They may pump out 3-4 paintings on a competition day, which is fairly impressive must say.

For your budding artists, that aspire to be the next Jamie Green, the next FMAAAA Early Out is scheduled for Feb. 28th with painter Aninta Lee. Students will paint acrylic on canvas with a veteran instructor, who has added to this program for the last several years, so get your slot early. Look for details on Facebook at Fort Madison Area Arts Association. Whenever you see us, like our post to scoot us along. Also Save the Date for FMAAAA’s major event, Expressions Art Auction, occurring March 24th at Comfort Inn & Suites. Always a stellar night out.

Bank makes donation to equip students

FINANCE - Continued from Page 1

10,000 schools and educational institutions.

“Pilot Grove Savings Bank is known as a leading financial institution in southeast Iowa,” said Marketing Director Melissa Flowers, “The bank wanted to ensure students are taught the fundamentals of personal finance at a young age. The bank made this donation to equip students with the skills needed to make smart financial decisions in the future.”

Pilot Grove Savings Bank is proud to be a supporter of Ft. Madison schools. From athletic boosters to the music department and from yearbook sales to heart rate monitors for a high school class, Pilot Grove Savings Bank continues to give back to the schools.