City may raise cemetery rates

Service rates could more than double on Sundays, holidays

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison City Council will be looking at bumping rates for cemetery services in 2019.

At Tuesday’s regular meeting, the council will consider a recommendation from city staff to increase the rates almost across the board.

In a memorandum prepared by City Clerk Melinda Blind, Blind said over the past twenty years staff for the parks/cemetery department has gone from six full-time and five part-time employees, including offender crews that are no longer available, to just three full-time and an average of four part-time employees throughout the year.

The proposal would move grave opening and closing services to $500 for adults from the current rate of $450. Child/infant services would also be bumped $50 and services in Babyland would be bumped $100.

The steeper rate increases will be for Saturday services and holiday/Sunday services. According to the proposal, in addition to the above, grave opening and closing services on Saturdays, holidays, and Sundays would go to $1,000.

City may raise cemetery rates

See COUNCIL, page 2

SPORTS

Hayes takes title at Keen Invite

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

INDEPENDENCE - Fort Madison senior Sam Hayes rolled through a high-octane Cliff Keen Independence Invitational on Friday and Saturday in Independence.

Hayes, rated 5th in the state at 195 in the most recent rankings by The Predicament and 6th at LAWrestle.com, received a bye in the first round and then scored a pin over Solon’s Hayes Diersen in just 1:05 and then scored a 21-6 tech-nical fall in the second round.

See WRESTLE, page 4

SPORTS:

Keokuk hands Lady Hounds 3rd loss on Friday at Keokuk.

See page 8

SPORTS:

Missouri coach has boys AND girls basketball teams

TIM SMITH, basketball coach of Sweet Springs High School in Missouri is a busy man. In addition to coaching both the girls and boys varsity basketball teams, he is also Athletic Director and Physical Education teacher for the junior high through high school grades.

In small schools with tight budgets, most teachers wear many hats. Coach Smith enjoys the challenge, the kids and, yes, even at times, the chaos.

Transitioning from a closely fought girls basketball game, which might include overtime, and shifting gears to coach the boys team 15 minutes later, well, you can imagine the sweaty armpits. The kids love Coach Smith, and he loves the kids.

You see, Coach Smith grew up in Sweet Springs, and was a star on the high school basketball team. At 6’5” he was, of course, the center, but was also well known as an outside shooter. In a game against Wellington, Missouri, Tim buried ten three pointers to set the state record at the time. During his high school career, Tim broke the school’s scoring record with 1,523 points.

His senior year, he averaged an unbelievable 31.7 points and 12 rebounds per game.

From Sweet Springs High, Tim went on to Missouri Valley College in Marshall, Missouri, very close to home. There he was captain of his freshman and sophomore JV teams and the leading scorer both years. His junior and senior years, Tim came off the bench to support the team, making him sympathetic to kids he would coach in the future who were in a similar role.

After earning a degree in Physical Education, Tim applied for a teaching position at Sweet Springs High and was hired. He has spent his entire teaching career of 21 years as a varsity coach at his old school—actually his whole life. He has coached just about everything—boys and girls basketball at the high school level, baseball, track-and-field at the high school and junior high

See SWARM, page 2

Ugly Sweater Run

The rain served only to dampen some really ugly Christmas sweaters on Sunday morning along the P.O.R.T. trail. About 40 runners came out to the Baxter Sports Complex to run a 5K on a chilly wet morning to help raise funds for the city’s recreational trail.

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Paid & Free Options Available!
Coaching boys, girls varsity requires game plan

How on earth does he juggle coaching both the girls and boys varsity basketball teams? He relies heavily on his assistant coaches, Zach Thomas and Brent Neimeyer. Like Tim, Zach was a former player at Sweet Springs. Practice is from 3:30 in the afternoon until 5:30. Tim transitions from an hour with the girls to an hour with the boys.

Fifty miles east of Kansas City on I-70, Sweet Springs was named for its warm sulfur baths which were believed to bring healing relief for a number of ailments. Maybe that’s what keeps people coming back, like the cotton tail rabbit that can live out its entire life on an acre of ground. Coach Smith doesn’t put much thought into it. He and his lovely wife, Debbie, have grandkids spending the night, his mother is getting out of the hospital, and he has a tournament coming up on the weekend. He’s looking for win 334.

Continued from Page 1

City could give final nod to fireworks ordinance

COUNCIL - Continued from Page 1

All, the rate increases are intended to reduce the amount of services provided on weekends to help keep city costs down.

Services for adults will go from $850 to $1,500 on Saturday’s, a 76% increase. On Sundays and holidays the rate will go from $950 to $2,000 an increase of 111%

Saturday services for children/infants will go from $400 to $600 on Saturday, city staff is recommending a $1,200 charge and a $1,700 charge of Sundays/holidays. Blind wrote an urn vault is more than four times the size of an urn and the new charges reflect that.

Sunday/holiday services can only be performed with approval of the Public Works Director. Rate changes are also being recommended for marker installations and the reissuing of deeds.

In other action, the council will hear a final reading of a proposed change to the city fireworks ordinance. The proposal was put in front of the council in November to not allow any first or second class fireworks without a city permit. Low grade fireworks like sparklers, smoke bombs, and snakes would still be allowed within the city.

Also on the agenda for the 5:30 p.m. meeting, is the purchase of two Dodge Durango police vehicles at a cost of $57,786. The vehicles will replace two Dodge Durango vehicles at a cost of $57,786. The vehicles were approved as part of the police department budget this summer.

The meeting starts at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.
Old Fort Genealogical meeting
Father Mark Spring will be the featured speaker at the Old Fort Genealogical Society meeting on Monday, Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. at the Fort Madison Public Library. Father Spring will share his own life story. The meeting is open to the public. Anyone interested in learning more about family history research is welcome to attend and should speak to any member about joining the group.

Community Blood Drives
The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center will be holding a blood drive on Dec. 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic’s Shottenkirk Gymnasium; Dec. 7 at FMHS from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Dec. 8 at Cultural Hall 2193 Old Denmark Road from 8-10:30 a.m.

Tree of Love Gatherings
The Lee County Health Department is hosting a series of gatherings to help with holiday healing after a loss. The events are on Wednesday Dec. 5, 12, and 19th from 2 to 3 p.m. at 3 John Bennett Drive in Fort Madison.

You-Time Yuletide
The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce’s Business Women Connect will hold a You-Time, Yuletide at Harvestville Farm at 1977 Hwy. 2 near Donnellson. The event will be held on Dec. 6th from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. will feature hors d’oeuvres, drinks and fund. RSVP to the chamber at chamber@fortmadison.com.

Journaling Workshop
The Fort Madison Public Library will be hosting a journaling workshop on Dec. 6 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the library.

Downtown Enchanted Forest
The Fort Madison downtown Enchanted Forest will be open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lee County Bank Building at 803 Avenue G on Dec. 8, 15, and 22, with visits with Santa from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Senior Community BINGO at The Kensington
Each month on the second Wednesday of the month, The Kensington hosts Senior Community BINGO at 2 p.m. in their dining room at 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. All seniors are welcome and cash prizes are awarded. December’s BINGO games will be held Wednesday, December 12.

Caregivers Connection at The Kensington
The Kensington hosts this monthly gathering to help educate attendees about all dementia types. Held on noon the 4th Tuesday of every month in The Kensington’s private dining room, 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. Call 319-372-4233 to RSVP or for more information.

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.

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

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<th>Game</th>
<th>Draw Days</th>
<th>Sales Cutoff Time</th>
<th>Approx. Drawing Time</th>
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<td>Mon &amp; Thu</td>
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<td>9:38 pm</td>
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<td>Mega Millions</td>
<td>Tues &amp; Fri</td>
<td>8:59 pm</td>
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<td>Powerball</td>
<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
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<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
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MAKING A DIFFERENCE
Through the Journey of Life & Death
ONE PERSON AT A TIME
FMCH Home Health is now providing Hospice services. The same people you trust to keep you safely in your home after illness or surgery will now be there to provide support and care for you and your family during the end of life journey.

Grief & the Holidays
Tuesday, December 4, 2018 • 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. FMCH Business Center Conference Rooms
We understand the holidays are an especially difficult time after experiencing the loss of a loved one. We invite you to join us for a special session where we will provide tools to deal with your grief and create a special remembrance project for your loved one.
R.S.V.P. by calling 319-376-2166
Light refreshments will be provided.

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.
Senior David Cordray took 10th place overall recording four pins in six matches losing the 9th match place match where he lost to Lake Blaine for nine points.

"Danen struggled with the taller heavyweights, so we gotta come up with a game plan for him. When he's going up against the 6'2" and 6'3" heavyweights, we're gonna have to come up with something for those matchups. But that's why we go up there."

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FORT MADISON - Iowa City High outscored Fort Madison 18-4 in the second quarter to set the Bloodhounds back 34-14 at half, en route to a 76-32 loss Saturday night at the HoundDome.

Senior Logan Rashid led FMHS with 14 points, but only five players scored for the Hounds in the loss. Senior Jayden Fedler had just seven after scoring the game winning basket Friday night in Keokuk. Seniors Brandon Keester and Jordyn Gerdes each had four and freshman Dayton Davis had three.

Iowa City High held just a one point lead half way through the first quarter but then went on a 10-5 run as senior Antonio Turner heated up 19 points in the half. Turner led all scorers with 24 points on the night. DeAngelo McNeil had 19 for the Little Hawks.

Fort Madison would only manage four points in the third period as Iowa City High had the game in hand. Fort Madison is now 1-3 on the year and 1-0 in conference play and is off for a week until they travel to Centerville on Saturday night.

About 40 run to help fund more trails
BY PCC STAFF
FORT MADISON - With skies dripping and bells ringing, about 40 supporters of the P.O.R.T. recreational trail program in Fort Madison braved a chilly Sunday morning to run a 5K around Phase I and II of the trail.

The Baxter Sports Complex hosted the event and provided a chili and sandwich lunch for the runners after the event.

Funds are still being generated to complete the final phases of the project which will connect 48th Street to Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Other possible projects associated with the trail may include a running path along the west side of 48th Street, other amenities for the trail and additional possible expansions.

Iowa City High runs over Bloodhounds
BY PCC STAFF
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The Fort Madison City Council met in adjourned session at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, November 20, 2018, at City Hall, 811 Avenue E. Mayor Pro Tem Greenwald presided with Council Members Morwitz, Rink, Andrews, Mohrfeld, Lair and Cangas present. Mayor Randolph was absent.

On motion, Council approved the agenda as written. On motion, Council approved the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of 11/5/2018; Resolution No. 2018-56 granting property tax exemption for Asay Properties, LLC, 609 – 12th Street; Resolution No. 2018-57 granting property tax exemption for Neal Gathers, 1222-33rd Street; Resolution No. 2018-58 granting property tax exemption for Steven L/Mary A Griffiths, 3923 Bluff Road; Resolution No. 2018-60, authorizing the filing of an ordinance amending Title 7, Police, by adding a section of 48th Street and the vacated portion of 48th Street and the vacated

On motion, Council approved the second reading of an ordinance amending Title 7, Police, by adding a new Chapter 12, Fireworks.


On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2018-61, authorizing the filing of an application for an Iowa Department of Transportation TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) Grant to construct 2,022 feet of trail beginning at the intersection of 48th Street and the vacated Avenue L to the intersection of River Valley Road and 48th Street.

At 6:22 P.M. on motion, Council adjourned until December 4, 2018, at 5:30 P.M.

/s/ Bradley A. Randolph, Mayor

ATTTEST:  /s/ Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk

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Click here for our listings.

Chateau Apartments Extra Clean & Quiet Apartments for Rent

Sluggish start dooms Lady Hounds to 0-3

By Chuck Vandenberg
PCC Editor

Keokuk - Despite 12 points from junior Anna Kester, the Fort Madison girls basketball team couldn’t recover from a dismal start and lost on the road Friday to Keokuk 51-28.

The loss sends Fort Madison to 0-4 for the second year in a row.

Keokuk’s MacKenzie Northup, who transferred to Keokuk High School from Central Lee over the summer, led all scorers with 20 points on the night.

Kester would convert buckets down the stretch to ice the game. "Where were at right now is that we have a lot of stuff we are and we have to find creative ways to get the ball inside," he said. "I would say I think we had three or four shots that were questionable so our shot selection is fine and the girls know they have the green light. It’s just where we’re at right now."

He said it’s something the coaching staff will continue to work on, but solid defense is where the girls will get the most reward.

"We’ll continue to work on our stuff, but you get very little return during the season on shooting drills. We’ll continue to work at it and get better and we’ll knock a few more down."

McGhghy said the progress of the girls game is about "where were at right now is that we have a lot of stuff body got it?" right now it’s just play ball, "he said. "I would never really say I’m happy, but I’ll take it."

The Lady Hounds are off until Dec. 7, when they travel to Davis County.

The Lady Chiefs raced to a 19-3 first quarter lead behind 11 points from Northup. The Hounds would get a free-throw from senior Jassmine Bass and a bucket inside after Sara Bernhardt put her own miss back in for an 8-3 Chiefs lead.

Northup and Keleigh Hall would take turns banging in long shots against the Hounds through the rest of the period as the Hounds just shot 10% in the period going 1 of 10.

Fort Madison would start to get a little more scoring consistency in the second period as Bernhardt got a couple of buckets working inside and Kester would score off a layup in transition, but not until Keokuk had stretched the lead to 32-9. Bernhardt’s first bucket in the period ended a scoring drought that lasted almost 10 minutes.

The Hounds responded with a tighter defense on Northup out of the break and held her scoreless in the third period as the Lady Hounds outscored Keokuk 12-6.

Head Coach Todd McGhghy put his girls in a full-court press to pressure the ball coming up the floor and was "barely geometrically possible." The 3-ball pulled the Hounds to within 16 with about 3:15 left in the game. Junior Jillian Wiseman would convert buckets down the stretch to ice the game. McGhghy said the offense is still coming along.

"The shooting is what it is. We know that’s not who we are," he said. "We know that’s not who we are, and we have to find creative ways to get the ball inside," he said. "I would say I think we had three or four shots that were questionable so our shot selection is fine and the girls know they have the green light. It’s just where we’re at right now."

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