

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's **Black & White** and **Read** all over

Monday, January 18, 2020 | 9 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 20



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District looking for input

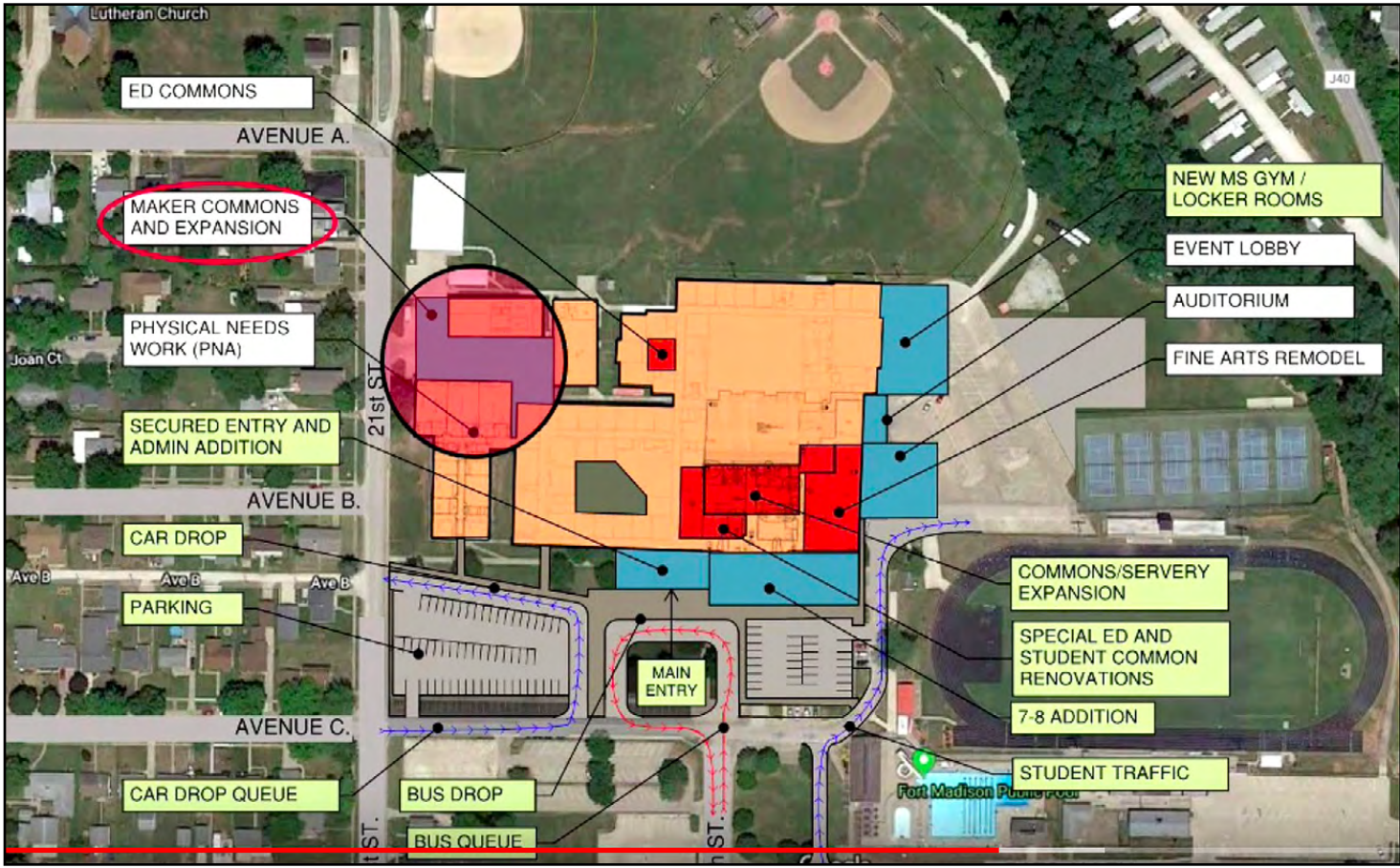


Image courtesy of FMSCD

The Fort Madison School District is looking at a plan to combine PreK-6th grade at the middle school and 7th-12th at the high school.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS: Two meetings set for Wednesday at 7 p.m., Thursday at noon

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Two more community meetings are being set for this week to discuss the latest recommendations for facility upgrades in the Fort Madison Community School District.

The district has already completed a facilities assessment with the help of Estes Construction, a nationally recognized school construction consultant. With those recommenda-

tions, an Ad-Hoc group was formed at the direction of the Fort Madison Board of Education.

That group is comprised of 22 people made up of two board members, Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater, two students, several members of the district staff, and community and business members.

That group whittled down six scenarios to improve facil-

See **UPGRADES**, page 2



IDPH actions need closer scrutiny

The biggest story we think you may not be paying attention to quietly got swept up in the news cycle last week.

The Iowa Department of Public Health's interim director Kelly Garcia added to the Jan. 11 recommendations from the Infectious Disease Advisory Council on continued rollouts of the two available COVID vaccines.

Now you need to be paying attention to this move. You really do.

Not only did the Centers for Disease Control recommend to states that they open up vaccines to everyone 65 and older, but they said data on vaccines supplies indicated there would be sufficient supply in the coming three to four weeks to handle the boosters as well.

Initially 50% of the supplies had been being held back for boosters for those who already had the vaccine. Pfizer's vaccines requires a booster at 21 days and Moderna's requires another shot at 28 days.

Garcia said in her release about the recommendations that Iowa was taking a wait-and-see approach to the supply and demand, regardless of what the CDC was recommending.

But wait, even though Garcia, by way of taking the wait-and-see approach, said the state wasn't totally confident in CDC's supply outlook, she moved the staff and officials conducting business at the Iowa Capitol building into the Phase 1B rollout, ahead of many other Iowans at greater risk of severe illness.

"Once we have reasonable confidence that supply meets the demands

See **IDPH**, page 9

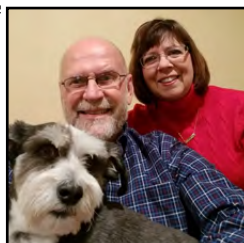
CURT SWARM

Former Danville cross country coach - born to run

A lot of runners, myself included, are happy if they place in their age group. Not Mike Nelson, of Danville, formerly of Bonaparte. He's out to win the race. He cares little for the medallions given to age-group winners. For lack of space, these medallions are piled in a corner of one of his trophy cases. He likes the First Place Trophy. If he gets a first-place trophy and an age-

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



group medallion at a race, he will often give the medallion away.

No (this really dates me), he is not the Mike Nelson of "Sea Hunt" - Lloyd

Bridges or father to Jeff and Beau Bridges. This is the Mike Nelson who was formerly a cross country high school coach at Danville, has worked at ABB (formerly GE) in West Burlington for going on 30 years, and has been known to run two races in one day: an early morning race locally, then the Mid Night Madness Run in Ames. "Mad-

See **SWARM**, page 8

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WEATHER

MON 18 Jan.....Overcast, 32° F / 24° F
TUE 19 Jan.....Scattered Clouds, 33° F / 18° F
WED 20 Jan.....Scattered Clouds, 40° F / 23° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 01/16.....6 16 21 30 36, Star Ball: 3, All Star Bonus: 3
LUCKY FOR LIFE 01/14.....3 16 20 21 47, Lucky Ball: 10
MEGA MILLIONS 01/15.....3 11 12 38 43, Mega Ball: 15 Megaplier: 4
PICK 3 01/14, 01/15, 01/16 MIDDAY.....9 39, 6 29, 6 56
PICK 3 01/14, 01/15, 01/16 EVENING.....0 6 4, 5 0 4, 2 4 3
PICK 4 01/14, 01/15, 01/16 MIDDAY.....9 6 16, 0 6 8 7, 8 1 4 9
PICK 4 01/14, 01/15, 01/16 EVENING.....7 4 6 3, 4 7 8 0, 3 2 3 5
POWERBALL 01/16.....14 20 39 65 67, Powerball: 2, Power Play: 3

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Local News/From the Front

New plan would carry \$51.5 million price tag

UPGRADES - Continued from Page 1

ities to just one – combining Pre-K through 6th grade programs at the 10-year-old Fort Madison Middle School, and 7th-12th grades at Fort Madison High School.

That scenario would result in the retirement of Richardson and Lincoln elementary buildings in the fall of 2023.

The above plans are part of facility upgrades being considered as part of a recommended scenario for the Fort Madison Middle School to include PreK-3rd grade students. The move is part of a \$51.5 million overall plan that would put 7th-12th grade at Fort Madison High School. Image courtesy of Fort Madison School District.

The district has already held two community panel sessions on Jan. 13 and 14th to discuss the decision.

To participate in the virtual panels go the district's website at <https://www.fmcsd.org/> and click on the "Find Out More" button at the top of the home page, or click here for the upcoming Wednesday, Jan. 20th meeting beginning at 7

p.m.: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86328209888>, or here for the Thursday noon panel discussion: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83943057728>.

Additional information on the options, costs, processes and timelines can be found on the district's website.

The scenario being recommended comes with a total project cost of \$51.5 million. \$24.9 million would be for Phase 1, which would pay for upgrades and construction at Fort Madison Middle School totaling \$14.7 million and initial improvements at Fort Madison High School of \$10.2 million.

High School improvements would include a commons expansion for tech programs on the building's northwest corner, and construction upgrades for a secure entry and administration addition right in front of the main entrance; an additional 7th and 8th grade addition to be built on the southeast corner of the building just north small parking lot; and three additional add-ons to the building's east side

for a new Middle School gym/locker area, an event lobby, and an auditorium.

A new parking lot with drop off zone lane would be constructed on the southwest lawn to allow for additional efficiencies using the new drop off, the existing main entry drop off, which would be for buses only, and the east side driveway to the east parking lot for student traffic.

Internal renovations would include a fine arts remodel and educational commons expansions in several locations.

At the Middle School new construction would include a PreK-1st grade addition connected to the northeast corner of the property and expanded commons area. A new roadway would be constructed off the northern Bluff Road entrance that would run south and then west around the south part of the property and connect with the current road coming in from 48th Street.

A new multi-purpose addition would also be built on the building's southeast corner north of the south parking lot.

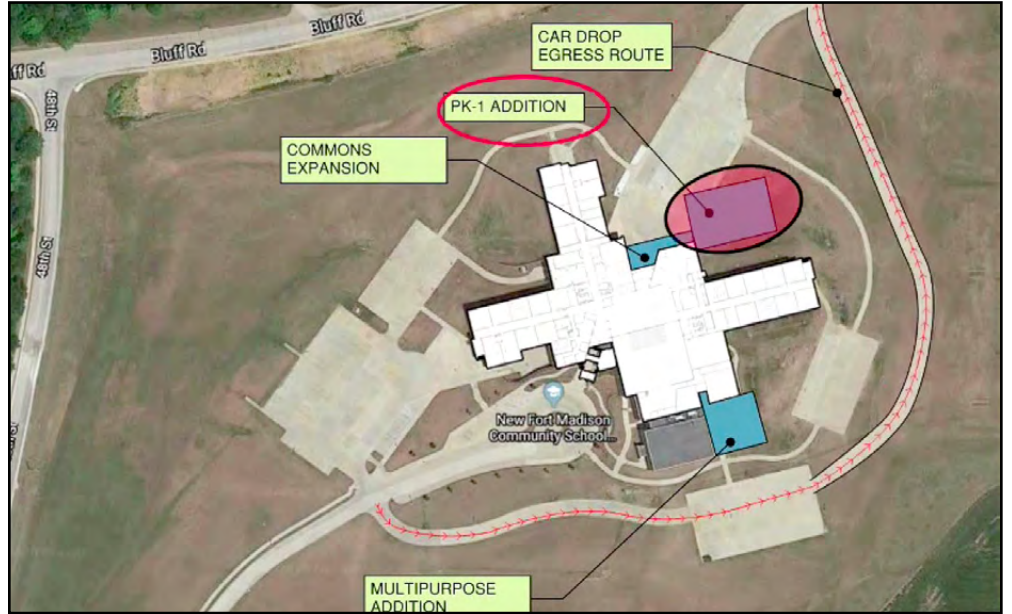


Image courtesy of FMCS

The above plans are part of facility upgrades being considered as part of a recommended scenario for the Fort Madison Middle School to include PreK-3rd grade students. The move is part of a \$51.5 million overall plan that would put 7th-12th grade at Fort Madison High School.

Complete descriptions of upgrades at both schools are outlined in detail on the district's website.

The second phase of construction would focus on the remainder of the high school property upgrades and would cost an additional \$26.5 million.

In February of 2020 district voters approved a \$10 million/10-year voted increase in the district Physical Plant and Equipment levy. The district will also be able to capitalize on some of the

current SAVE 1-cent sales tax revenues to help pay for the about half of the project.

The other half, most of Phase 11 work, would come from the approval of a Revenue Purpose Statement on March 2, which would give the district access to borrow against the SAVE funds through 2051. That measure would require a 50%+1 simple majority and would allow the district to borrow against those funds without additional voter approval.

The Ad-Hoc committee plans to make a recommendation to the school board on Feb. 15 after all the community panels have been held and the information compiled out of those meetings.

The board is set to make a decision at it's March 15 meeting, 13 days following the Revenue Purpose Statement ballot.

The previous community panels can still be viewed at the district website along with all other pertinent information detail about the proposal.

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2021

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City trying to fill commission posts

BY PCC STAFF


FORT MADISON - The City of Fort Madison has the following openings on commissions and boards as of Friday, Jan. 15, 2021.

Airport Commission – 1 vacancy

Board of Adjustment – 1 vacancy
Construction Board of Appeals – 1 vacancy
Old Fort Commission – 3 vacancies
Planning & Zoning Commission – 1 vacancy
Housing Authority – 2 vacancies
Regional Revolving Loan Fund Committee – 1 vacancy

There are several vacancies on Tourism Commission but that board may be in transition.


For more information on how to apply for the positions call city offices at 319-372-7700.



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PEN CITY CURRENT

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

EDITH M. HUTSON

Edith Marie "Polly" Hutson, 91, of Dallas City, Illinois formerly of Niota, Illinois passed away at 11:14 p.m. Friday, January 15, 2021 at the Great River Medical Center, West Burlington.



HUTSON

Polly was born the daughter Joseph and Rose Kelly Lewis on November 14, 1929 near Powellton, Illinois. Polly was united in marriage to Donald James Hutson on November 13, 1948 at Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Nauvoo, Illinois. Polly attended high school at Our Lady's Academy in Peoria, Illinois. Following high school she attended Mary Crest College in Davenport, Iowa.

Polly was a lady of many talents and worked at many occupations during her life. She took photographs for Birch Studios, worked at Flora Thums in Niota, Riverview Supperclub, and IAAP for 18 years until the flood of 1993.

She was an avid reader until her eye sight would no longer allow. She was a die hard Cubs fan and attended as many games as possible. One of her highlights of being a Cubs fan was meeting owner, Tom Ricketts. In earlier years she enjoyed bowling in several different leagues. She also enjoyed attending all of the sporting events that her grandchildren participated in.

Polly is survived by three daughters: Jan Tripp of Niota, Jean (Lee Roy) Neuweg of West Point, Iowa and Joyce Gigac of Roselle, Illinois; three sons: John (Sandy) Hutson of Dallas City, Jay (Robert) Hutson of Quincy, Illinois and Jeff (Brenda) Hutson of Avon, Illinois. Also surviving are fifteen grandchildren: Jim, Josh and Damon Tripp, Sarah McDaniel, Dylan and Derek Neuweg, Jaime and Johnna Lattin, Ross and Rob Hutson, Adam, Allison and David Hutson, Katie and Jake Hutson and all of their families and eight great-grandchildren.

Polly was preceded in death by her husband, parents, one brother, four sisters and one daughter in infancy.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, January 21, 2021 at Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Nauvoo with Fr. Tony Trosley as Celebrant. Burial will follow in the Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Cemetery, Nauvoo.

There will be no formal visitation, but friends call from noon until 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 20th at Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo.

LEON SIEREN

Leon "Nick" Sieren, 72, of Ft. Madison, formerly of the Hedrick-Ottumwa area, died at 9:05 p.m. January 12, 2021 at his home.

He was born January 24, 1948 in Ottumwa to Harvey and Martha Douglas Sieren. He married Dana Peters October 4, 1969.



SIEREN

A 1966 graduate of Hedrick High School, Nick had been a safety monitor at Excel in Ottumwa, retiring in 2010.

Surviving is his wife, Dana; their children, Brian Allen (Mindi) Sieren of Schleswig, and Janelle (Bill) Cresswell of Ft. Madison; 4 grandchildren, Brenden and Avery Sieren and Hunter and Kaleb Cresswell; 3 brothers, Rodney, Russell and Chris Sieren, all of Hedrick; and 2 sisters, Connie Estle of Fairfield and Roxanne Denner of Oskaloosa.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and a nephew and a niece.

His body has been cremated and no services are planned at this time. Private in-urnment will take place in Brooks Cemetery in Hedrick.

MICHAEL L. DAVIDSON

Michael LeRoy Davidson, 72, of Farmington, Iowa, passed away at 1:11 p.m. Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at his home in Farmington.

He was born on January 15, 1948, in Anamosa, Iowa, the son of Walter S. and Grace (Worden) Davidson.

He is survived by one daughter: Michele (Kurt) Rasmussen; three grandchildren: Dane, Alex and Joriann; two sisters: Judy Albaugh and Bev (Bob) Sherlock and one sister-in-law: Patty Davidson. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son: Michael; brother: Pat and sister: Jeanne.

Michael was a graduate of DeVry University. He retired from Hon as a tool and die maker. He enjoyed golfing, fishing and was an avid Iowa Hawkeye, Chicago White Sox and sports fan. Most of all, Michael loved life.

His body has been entrusted to Schmitz Funeral Home for cremation.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

A memorial has been established in his memory and can be mailed to the family at: Schmitz Funeral Home, P.O. Box 56, Donnellson, Iowa 52625.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com. Schmitz Funeral Home of Farmington is assisting the family with arrangements.

Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

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Bloodhound boys win another close one at buzzer

Last three Fort Madison games have been decided by four points total

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Close games in a cross-town rivalry give the entry fees substantially more value.

Aside from the \$7,000 some fans at Saturday's Holy Trinity Catholic/Fort Madison boys basketball gave to the HTC boosters in exchange for cake, the true value was in a 19-foot jumper that fell short as the buzzer sounded.

HTC's Jason Thurman took a pass with four seconds left and meandered the left perimeter before pulling up with the jumper that came up short leaving the Crusaders with a 58-56 loss to Fort Madison.

Click here to see the video of the final play:

The two teams aren't strangers to close games. Two years ago Holy Trinity won a 50-49 instant classic at Shottenkirk Gymnasium.

But Saturday's annual knock-around started with a bang for the Crusaders and bust for Fort Madison.

HTC hit on seven of its eight first shots from the field including seven points from Vasin Thurman in the paint en route to 19-7 lead before Fort Madison Head Coach Ryan Wilson called his first time out to try and regain control.

The Hounds were down 11-2 before junior Miles Dear banked in a 3-ball from the left wing to cut it to 11-5. The Crusaders' Kaden Medland answered with a three from the right baseline.

Neither team would score in the next two possessions until Dayton Davis scored inside to cut the lead to seven. Then HTC would go on a 13-2 run for a 24-7 lead forcing another Hound time out and a scolding from Wilson at the bench.

"I just told them one possession at a time. There's nothing we can do in that situation to erase that deficit but one defensive stop at a time, and we ended that half with eight consecutive stops," Wilson said.

The scolding took effect and Fort Madison came out of the time out and went on a 17-3 run of their own switching from a match-up zone to man-to-man defense and moving to a zone press off made baskets.

In the rally Reiburn Turnbull hit a 3. HTC's Jason Thurman answered on the next possession with just over three minutes left in the half.

Davis converted a three-point play with 2:46 left for the Hounds and then Tate Johnson laced a 3-ball to cut the lead to eight at 30-22.

HTC would get another shot from the field in the half while Fort Madison's Phillip Goldie, who had a season-high 16 in the Hounds loss Friday to Burlington, converted a couple free throws and Miles Dear scored inside to complete the half trailing by just four 30-26.

Holy Trinity Head Coach John Hellige said the Crusaders don't have the physicality of the Hounds and need to



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Miles Dear tries to get a shot up over Holy Trinity's Connor Gehling (31) in first half action Friday night at Holy Trinity.

learn to play a little tougher when they have a lead.

"One thing we are working on is our toughness. We don't have a weight room or football here and it shows," he said.

"We need to embrace that physical play and we took a step in that direction tonight. It didn't end in a win, but it made us stronger for the stretch run and what we're really playing for is Feb. 15 when districts start."

Out of the break Chandler Rung set the tone for Holy Trinity. After Dear converted to open the scoring for Fort Madison, Rung scored five unanswered taking advantage of the man-to-man defense to score off dribble penetration.

Rung would score 15 of his game-high 22 in the second half including a sparkling 7-of-7 from the free throw line.

But Davis, who led Fort Madison with 20, was equal to the challenge and wreaked havoc at the front of the Hounds' press.

"It's just meant to slow them down a little and maybe get some turnovers and points off those," Davis said.

With HTC back up by seven at 35-28, Davis got a steal at half court and brought it back for a bucket to cut it to five. The two teams would go back and forth for a few minutes before Goldie scored inside off an inbounds pass to cut the lead to three at 41-38.

Rung would answer with a bucket at the other end. HTC's defense would hold, but Davis would get another

steal and score in transition to make it a three-point game again.

Vasin Thurman would back down Matt Hopper inside for another bucket, but Hopper would get a rebound off a Goldie miss at the other end and score on the putback to make it a two-point game at 45-43 at the end of the 3rd.

Fort Madison would get their first lead with 6:49 left in the game when Goldie, who finished with eight on the night, scored in the lane for a 46-45 Hounds lead – a lead they would never give up.

Jason Thurman would hit his fourth 3-ball of the night with 3:45 left to cut the lead to one at 51-50. Dear and Vasin Thurman would swap baskets before Turnbull hit a longball to make 56-52 with 2:12 remaining.

Rung would drive again drawing a foul on the Hounds' Johnson and convert the free throws. Vasin Thurman would then get whistled for a foul on Davis at the other end and Davis made his two freebies for a 58-54 game.

Rung again would drive and this time draw a foul from the left baseline on Goldie. After converting the two, Fort Madison was whistled for a travel. They would get a steal on the Crusaders' next possession with about 10 seconds left, but Dear was whistled for a double dribble in a trap turning the ball back over setting up the last final seconds.

Hellige said he and Rung had a good chat at the morning workout and told him the Crusaders were going to need him to take more a role in the coming weeks.

"We need Chandler to have games like that. He's a tremendous player and when he's in that attack mode, he's one of the best players around," Hellige said.

Hellige also said playing a high-caliber larger program like Fort Madison, doesn't allow much room for letting them back in the game.

"When you're a 1A school playing a great 3A program you can't allow them back in the game like that. But I told the kids I was super proud of them and the way they played."

Wilson said the Hounds were coming off a big game and a last-second loss to Burlington on Friday. Fort Madison spent a lot of energy and effort in that game, only to come back 24 hours later and face off in a cross-town rivalry.

"We just came out flat, made some mistakes, and had five turnovers in the first quarter. Give credit to Holy Trinity – they knocked some shots down early," Wilson said.

"My whole thing at that first quarter break was we gotta weather their storm, but we're not scoring either. So we switched up our defense, forced some turnovers, gave ourselves some opportunities, and the kids responded well."

Dear finished with 10 points on the night to go with Tate Johnson's nine and Goldie's eight. Turnbull had seven and Hopper had four to round the Hounds scoring.

Vasin Thurman finished with 17 on the night followed by Jason Thurman's 14. Medland had three in the loss.

Fort Madison is now 7-5 overall and 3-3 in the Southeast Conference and takes on Keokuk (6-5, 2-3) on Friday night in big conference matchup.

HTC takes on Van Buren (0-10, 0-8) Tuesday night in an SEISC South tilt.

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Sports

Wiseman wins 138 lb. title at J-Hawk Invitational

Henry Wiseman, Emmett Kruse bring home silvers

BY PCC STAFF

CEDAR RAPIDS – Fort Madison’s Gavin Wiseman brought home a 1st-place finish for the Bloodhounds at Saturday’s J-Hawk Invitational at Cedar Rapids Jefferson.

The top finish was part of 166 points the Bloodhounds earned, which was good enough for fourth in the 14-team field. Pleasant Valley won the event with 199.5 points. West Des Moines Valley was 2nd with 182.5 points and Alburnett was 3rd with 170.

Fort Madison’s Henry Wiseman (106) and Emmett Kruse (113) each took second place. Owen Kruse earned a 3rd-place finish at 126 lbs.

Wiseman is still unranked at 138 lbs since moving from 145 lbs after the Fort Madison Invitational. The junior Bloodhound was ranked No. 10 at 145 lbs. in Jan. 7 rankings.

Wiseman was given the No. 1 seed at 138 lbs. and was rewarded with three byes to start the bracket. He then found himself up against Class 3A No. 7 Logan Stotts (9-4).

Stotts scored the first two points on a take down with :27 left in the first period. Wiseman was unable to escape in the period and trailed 2-0 going into the second period.

The junior started on top in the second and Stotts was able to escape half way through for another point, and then capitalized with another 2-point take down just before the end of the second for a 5-0 lead.

But Wiseman decid-

ed to start down for the third and after about 45 seconds got a 1-point escape at 1:15. He then took a shot at Stotts that paid off with :19 left in the match. Wiseman was able to score the takedown and leverage it into a fall in just three seconds to move to the title match.

Wiseman (23-6) again had to fight from behind with Pleasant Valley’s Hunter Meyrer to get the top spot on the podium. Meyrer scored two points half way through the first period for a 2-0 lead and then scored a reversal eight seconds into the second period for a 4-0 lead.

After Meyrer was warned for stalling 19 seconds into the period, Wiseman was able to work a reversal that quickly turned into a fall in a matter of seconds for the championship.

In the title match at 106, freshman Henry Wiseman got a couple byes to start the five-wrestler bracket and then scored a close 11-10 decision over Muscatine’s Gavin McLeod. McLeod had beaten Wiseman by fall in the 2nd period just a week ago in Highland.

Wiseman scored a two-point takedown with :45 left in the first period and rode that to a 2-0 lead into the second period. He would get two more takes downs in the second, but McLeod would escape both in short order for a 6-2 lead going into the final session.

McLeod started the period down and scored a reversal and was awarded a penalty point with :37



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison junior Gavin Wiseman, shown here in action earlier this month, won the 138 lb. bracket at the J-Hawk Invitational Saturday.

left in the match as Wiseman escaped for a point and a 7-5 lead going into a frantic final half minute. Wiseman would get a two-point take down seven seconds after escaping, but McLeod would score a reversal with just eight seconds left to make it 9-7, but couldn’t capitalize on the move before time expired.

The win put Wiseman up against Cedar Falls sophomore Carter Fadiga (13-6) who got the Hound freshman to the mat 30 seconds into the match and worked that to a nearfall for a 5-0 lead, and then the pin.

At 113 lbs, Emmett Kruse (15-11) got a bye in that six-wrestler bracket and scored a takedown against sophomore Reed Callahan (17-11) of Alburnett. Callahan scored a 1-point escape for his only point of the match.

Kruse would rack up points with a near fall in the second and a reversal and 2-point nearfall in the third for the 9-1 major decision to get to the title.

Class 3A No. 10 Nate Bierman (11-2) awaited in the title match and Bierma, of West Des Moines Valley, was all over Kruse in the first period with

12 points. Bierman then worked a take down 10 seconds into the 2nd period for the major decision.

Senior Owen Kruse earned the bronze in the nine-wrestler 126 lb bracket. After a first round bye, and second round win over Muscatine’s Garrett Head by fall in the first period, Kruse drew Class 2A 9th-ranked sophomore Kellen Moore of Forest City (26-4).

Moore scored six points including two near falls in the first period for a 6-0 lead. Kruse (23-6) got things together in the second

allowing just two more points on a take down at 1:22 in the period but trailed 8-0 at the end of two. Starting down in the third, Moore scored a quick escape and then piled up seven points for the technical fall at 16-0.

Kruse would come back for the 3rd-place win in a tight match with Cedar Rapids Kennedy’s Jonah Hallam. Kruse trailed 6-3 at the end of the first period. The senior would come back in the second period highlighted by a 3-point nearfall after a reversal with seven seconds left.

Kruse started the third period down and scored a 1-point escape, followed by a take down and a near fall with :40 left in the match. Hallam would escape with two seconds left, but the scoring would end there with Kruse up 15-13.

Fort Madison got a 4th place from freshman Teague Smith in the 12-man 152 lb. bracket. Smith lost to Class 2A 9th ranked Theron Castle in the 3rd round 12-2. Smith pinned Landon Schaul of Cedar Falls at 1:55 and then lost in the 3rd round match to Alburnett’s Gunnar Keeney in a 10-5 decision.



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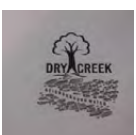
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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County Board of Supervisors Meeting
Tue, Jan 18, 2021
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
(CST)
AGENDA

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Pledge of Allegiance
 Approve Agenda
 Consider Approval of January 11, 2021 Board

HELP WANTED

CIVIL SERVICE HIRING NOTICE
Police Officer

The City of Fort Madison is seeking applicants to fill Police Officer positions. Starting- \$41,662. After 1 year - \$45,697. After 2 years - \$54,600. Benefits include, longevity pay scale; shift differential, paid training; Uniform allowance; paid vacations, holidays, personal & sick time; Education incentives & reimbursement, health, life, and supplemental insurance.

LE certified applicants are eligible for lateral entry and hiring bonus. DAQ.

Candidates must minimally be 20 years of age and have a high school diploma. Must also have an acceptable background history and valid driver's license. Will be required to successfully complete a POST exam and physical agility test in Fort Madison to enter the process. Testing standards can be found on the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy website. Non-certified applicants must attend the four-month academy paid for by the department.

TO APPLY: Contact jgray@fortmadisonpd.com or pick up an application packet at our lobby M-F 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM. Application deadline is February 5th, 2021 at 4:30 PM.



Minutes
 Consider Approval of Claims
 Public Input
 Consider Approval of Resolution Setting Public Hearing for Lease Purchase Agreement With North Central Emergency Vehicles for Ambulance Fleet
 Canvass the Green Bay Drainage District Board of Trustees Election
 Consider Approval of Tax Abatement Resolutions (3)
 Reports:
 A. Treasurer's Report of Fees Collected
 B. Recorder's Report of Fees Collected
 C. Sheriff's Monthly Report
 D. Semi-Annual Settlement of the Board of Supervisors
 Commission or Committee Reports
 Adjourn

Workshop to Follow
 PUBLIC MEETING
 CITIZENS WELCOME

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 319-372-3705 County Website:
www.leecounty.org

PUBLIC NOTICE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST POINT CITY COUNCIL
WEST POINT, IOWA
52656
JANUARY 11, 2021

Mayor Paul Walker called the properly noticed regular meeting of the City Council of the City of West Point to order in the American Legion, 309 Fifth Street, West Point, Iowa 52656 on January 11, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. In addition to Mayor Walker, the following indicated Council Members were present: Joe Loving; Brian Meierotto; Will Stuekerjuergen; Dan Waters; and, Bruce Wellman. Absent: None. Upon invitation, Chris Fullenkamp requested connecting with city sewer near his residence. The Public Works Department report was reviewed. The Police Department report was reviewed. Mayor reported the following: FYE22 budget committee workshops were completed; Fireman's Ball will be postponed; meeting date and time for meetings of Library Board; the upcoming Municipal Utility Board; and, next regular Council Meeting of February 8, 2021 will be held at the American Legion. Dennis McGregor presented City Administrator's report. On motion approved Resolution No. 801-21 amending an investment policy. On motions approved liquor license applications for J & M Korner Shop; Palm Bowl (with outdoor service); American Legion Club Post #668 (no outdoor service); and, Dollar General Store #20028. On motion set public hearing on approval of maximum tax levy

for February 8, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion. On motion approved urban revitalization tax exemption for Tony Ell & Joann Thomas at 602 Ave E; and, Kalvyn Bentler at 706 Avenue D. On motion minutes of prior regular Council Meeting of December 14, 2020 were approved as presented. On motion Treasurer's Report for December 2020 was approved as presented. On motion warrants payable for January 2021 were approved as presented. Officer James Shoup was recognized for 28 years of service with the police department and presented a plaque and certification of appreciation. On motion meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m., January 11, 2021.

CLAIMS REPORT FOR DECEMBER, 2020

ABC Fire Extinguisher, inspections..... 412.30
 Baker & Taylor, books 607.02
 Bates Sanitation, services 300.00
 Cessford Construction, rock..... 611.90
 City Clerk – Ft Madison, fees..... 320.00
 City of Donnellson, reimb camera..... 1358.16
 Daily Democrat, publications 122.22
 Delta Dental, premiums 101.02
 Ebert Supply, supplies 59.00
 Floyd's E-Z-Way, trash hauling 47.00
 GRRWA, fees 432.00
 Holtkamp Automotive, repair 70.00
 la Dept of Revenue, taxes 256.00
 Iowa Finance Authority, interest 15480.08
 Jet Gas, fuel 528.77
 John Rempe, services 2350.00
 LJ Neuweg Rental, fees 65.00
 Madison Turf & Timber, snowthrower 2200.00
 Mary Jane Pranger, cleaning 110.00
 Mastercard, supplies 58.92
 McFarland-Swan, supplies 42.17
 Mediacom, telephone 270.22
 Menke Professional Auto, parts..... 37.99
 Michael Todd & Co, supplies 808.95
 Micromarketing LLC, book..... 23.99
 MidAmerican Energy, utilities..... 11.58
 Mississippi Valley Pump, repair 430.00
 Petty Cash, supplies 21.24
 Pilot Grove Savings Bank, P&I..... 33830.43
 RICOH USA, copier 129.51
 Sonny's Supermarket, supplies 6.18
 Sun Life Financial, premi-

ums.....248.13
 SYNCB/Amazon, books 52.69
 US Cellular, telephone 70.79
 US Postal Service, postage..... 19.69
 Wellmark BC/BS, premiums.....2726.89
 West Point & St Paul Fire, allotment 8795.04
 West Point Lumber, supplies 5.29
 West Point Utilities, utilities 2388.57
 Wex Bank, fuel 429.27
 Windstream, telephone 184.48

RECAPITULATION

FUND: PREV BAL, RCPTS, DSBSD, CUR BAL: Gen. Govt.: 450525.60, 26174.43, 68896.74, 407803.29; Grants: 1045.26 ---, ---, 1045.26; Cap Equip: 4127.06, ---, ---, 4127.06; Lib County/St: 6558.65, 1982.73, 617.26, 7924.12; Lib Mem & Gift: 18354.00, 534.05, 11.00, 18877.05; Hoenig Estate: ---, 551616.64, ---, 551616.64; Road Use: 6072.81, 11846.92, 9106.58, 8813.15; LOS: ---, 9090.16, 9090.16, -; Debt Service: ---, 33830.43, 33830.43, ---; Sewer: 17916.98, 21761.75, 15416.08, 24262.65; Sewer Sinkings: 53605.95, 7809.86, 15480.08, 45935.73; Landfill: 259.53, ---, ---, 259.53

/s/ Paul Walker, Mayor
 Attest: Diane E. Smith, City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE WEST POINT UTILITY SYSTEM
WEST POINT, IOWA
January 12th, 2020

The West Point Municipal Utility System Board of Trustees met in regular session at, West Point City Hall, West Point, Iowa 52656 on January 12th, 2021. Board Chairman Randy Welding presided and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Board Member Ted Vonderhaar along with Board Member Brian Schmitz were present for this meeting. Tentative agenda was approved by consensus. Status of delinquent accounts was discussed and considered by Board Members in detail. Field operations report, as prepared by Utility Superintendent, was discussed by Board Members in detail. Board Chairman was reported on the following:
 The next regular Utility System Board Meeting is scheduled to be held on

Tuesday, February 9th, 2021 at West Point City Hall 5:30 p.m. and is open to the public.

On motion, minutes of prior regular meeting of December 15th, 2021 was approved. On motion, approved warrants payable for January 2021 as presented. On motion, meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m., January 12th, 2021.

ABC FIRE - ANNUAL INSPECTION..... 256.35
 DAILY DEMOCRAT - LEGAL PUBLICATION 104.76
 DELTA DENTAL - INSURANCE..... 119.74
 EFTPS- FED/FICA TAX TAXES 4,859.52
 FLOYDS- TRASH PICK UP..... 127.00
 HUFFMAN WELDING & MACHINE - SUPPLIES 64.65
 IOWA DEPT OF REVENUE- EXCISE, SALES, 3,257.02
 IOWA ONE CALL..... 65.70
 IOWA RURAL WATER ASSOC- DUES CY2021 225.00
 IPERS -RETIREMENT 2,815.95
 MCFARLAND SWAN - SUPPLIES 32.67
 MASTERCARD - TAX FORMS, ANNUAL FEE 106.91
 MEDIACOM - TELE / INTERNET..... 260.22
 MENKE PROFESIONAL - SUPPLIES 34.52
 MUNICIPAL SUPPLY INC. - TAPE 91.20
 RATHBUN REGIONAL WATER - WATER 5,256.00
 RESALE POWER GROUP OF IOWA - WHOLESALE ELEC 56,221.91
 RICOH - COPIER / COPIES..... 64.55
 SONNY'S SUPERMARKET - SUPPLIES..... 3.28
 STATE HYGIENIC LAB - LAB FEES 13.50
 SUN LIFE FINANCIAL - INSURANCE 108.57
 T&R ELECTRIC 6,995.00
 TASCO - PAGER SERVICE 142.45
 TREASURER STATE OF IOWA - STATE TAX 743.10
 USA BLUEBOOK - SAMPLE PACKS..... 112.23
 US POSTAL SERVICE - MAILING..... 177.25
 VAN METER-WIRE, CONDUIT 942.93
 WELLMARK BC/BS OF IOWA - INSURANCE 2,577.55
 WEST POINT LUMBER - SUPPLIES 45.96
 WEST POINT UTILITIES - UTILITY CHARGES 661.68
 WEX BANK - GASOLINE 298.83
 /s/ Randy Welding, Chairman
 Attest: Dawn M. Holtkamp, Billing & Collection

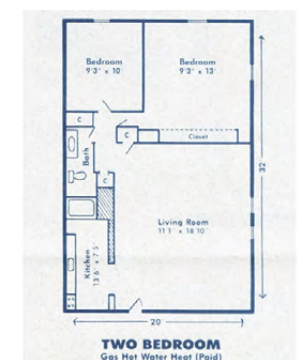
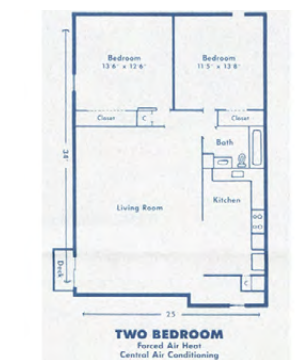
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106 lbs: Henry Wiseman (18-7) placed 2nd and scored 22.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 – Henry Wiseman (Fort Madison) 18-7 received a bye () (Bye). Quarterfinal – Henry Wiseman (Fort Madison) 18-7 received a bye () (Bye). Semifinal – Henry Wiseman (Fort Madison) 18-7 won by decision over Gavin McLeod (Muscatine) 11-10 (Dec 9-7). 1st Place Match – Carter Fadiga (Cedar Falls) 13-6 won by fall over Henry Wiseman (Fort Madison) 18-7 (Fall 1:45)

113 lbs: Emmett Kruse (14-11) placed 2nd and scored 23.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 – Emmett Kruse (Fort Madison) 14-11 received a bye () (Bye). Quarterfinal – Emmett Kruse (Fort Madison) 14-11 received a bye () (Bye). Semifinal – Emmett Kruse (Fort Madison) 14-11 won by major decision over Reed Callahan (Alburnett) 16-11 (MD 9-1). 1st Place Match – Nate Bierma (Valley, West Des Moines) 11-2 won by fall over Emmett Kruse (Fort Madison) 14-11 (Fall 2:11)

120 lbs: Matthew Steffensmeier (13-13) placed 6th and scored 9.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 – Matthew Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 13-13 won by fall over Max Lathrop (Cedar Rapids Jefferson) 1-9 (Fall 0:31). Quarterfinal – Matthew Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 13-13 won by decision over Owen Welvaert (Pleasant Valley) 9-6 (Dec 9-7). Semifinal – Dylan Fallacaro (Valley, West Des Moines) 3-2 won by fall over Matthew Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 13-13 (Fall 1:15). Cons. Round 3 – Blaine McGraw (Alburnett) 25-6 won by fall over Matthew Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 13-13 (Fall 5:07). 5th Place Match – Owen Welvaert (Pleasant Valley) 9-6 won by fall over Matthew Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 13-13 (Fall 1:21)

126 lbs: Owen Kruse (21-6) placed 3rd and scored 20.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 – Owen Kruse (Fort Madison) 21-6 received a bye () (Bye). Quarterfinal – Owen Kruse (Fort Madison) 21-6 won by fall over Garrett Head (Muscatine) 8-12 (Fall 1:46). Semifinal – Kellen Moore (Forest City) 26-4 won by tech fall over Owen Kruse (Fort Madison) 21-6 (TF-1.5 5:54 (16-0)). Cons. Round 3 – Owen Kruse (Fort Madison) 21-6 won by fall over Ryan Strong (Waterloo East) 4-5 (Fall 0:47). 3rd Place Match – Owen Kruse (Fort Madison) 21-6 won by decision over Jonah Hallam (Cedar Rapids Kennedy) 10-8 (Dec 15-13). 132 lbs: Brock Califf (14-11) placed 8th and scored 4.0 team points. Champ. Round 1 – Brock Califf (Fort Madison) 14-11 received a bye () (Bye). Quarterfinal – Luke Jennings (Clinton) 7-8 won by decision over Brock Califf (Fort Madison) 14-11 (Dec 3-1). Cons. Round 2 – Carter Fry (Boone) 3-12 won by fall over Brock Califf (Fort Madison) 14-11 (Fall 4:43). Cons. Round 3 – Brock Califf (Fort Madison) 14-11 received a bye () (Bye). 7th Place Match – Kole Sonnenburg (Valley, West Des Moines) 4-7 won by fall over Brock Califf (Fort Madison) 14-11 (Fall 3:42)

138 lbs: Gavin Wiseman (20-6) placed 1st and scored 30.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 – Gavin Wiseman (Fort Madison) 20-6 received a bye () (Bye). Quarterfinal – Gavin Wiseman (Fort Madison) 20-6 received a bye William Clark (Waterloo East) 5-7 (Bye).

Semifinal – Gavin Wiseman (Fort Madison) 20-6 won by fall over Logan Stotts (Valley, West Des Moines) 9-4 (Fall 5:46). 1st Place Match – Gavin Wiseman (Fort Madison) 20-6 won by fall over Hunter Meyrer (Pleasant Valley) 10-5 (Fall 3:23)

145 lbs: Aidan Pennock (4-1) placed 7th and scored 13.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 – Carson Klostermann (Alburnett) 24-3 won by decision over Aidan Pennock (Fort Madison) 4-1 (Dec 8-4). Cons. Round 1 – Aidan Pennock (Fort Madison) 4-1 received a bye () (Bye). Cons. Round 2 – Aidan Pennock (Fort Madison) 4-1 received a bye Frank Budederi (Cedar Rapids Jefferson) 5-7 (Bye). Cons. Round 3 – Aidan Pennock (Fort Madison) 4-1 won by fall over A.J. Burrell (Valley, West Des Moines) 4-9 (Fall 2:18). 7th Place Match – Aidan Pennock (Fort Madison) 4-1 won by fall over Adrian Doyle (Waterloo East) 5-3 (Fall 1:02)

152 lbs: Teague Smith (20-8) placed 4th and scored 18.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 – Teague Smith (Fort Madison) 20-8 received a bye () (Bye). Quarterfinal – Teague Smith (Fort Madison) 20-8 won by fall over Hayden Hoffmeyer (Forest City) 19-8 (Fall 3:34). Semifinal – Theron Castle (Valley, West Des Moines) 12-2 won by fall over Teague Smith (Fort Madison) 20-8 (Fall 3:43). Cons. Round 3 – Teague Smith (Fort Madison) 20-8 won by fall over Landon Schaul (Cedar Falls) 14-10 (Fall 1:55). 3rd Place Match – Gunnar Keeney (Alburnett) 24-7 won by decision over Teague Smith (Fort Madison) 20-8 (Dec 10-5)

160 lbs: Mason Schau (17-10) placed 6th and scored 10.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 – Mason Schau (Fort Madison) 17-10 won by fall over Dalton Wright (Davenport North) 2-5 (Fall 0:59). Quarterfinal – Mason Schau (Fort Madison) 17-10 won by major decision over Connor Beck (Muscatine) 11-12 (MD 13-1). Semifinal – Ashton Corbin (Clinton) 10-8 won by decision over Mason Schau (Fort Madison) 17-10 (Dec 10-7). Cons. Round 3 – Kyle Campbell (Cedar Falls) 13-11 won by fall over Mason Schau (Fort Madison) 17-10 (Fall 3:43). 5th Place Match – Cadin Fleener (Forest City) 25-8 won by medical forfeit over Mason Schau (Fort Madison) 17-10 (M. For.)

170 lbs: Isaac Thacher (17-9) placed is unknown and scored 4.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 – Isaac Thacher (Fort Madison) 17-9 won by fall over Mason Luckritz (Clinton) 2-11 (Fall 1:01). Quarterfinal – Ryley Barnett (Cedar Falls) 18-3 won by fall over Isaac Thacher (Fort Madison) 17-9 (Fall 3:14). Cons. Round 2 – Chase Hutchinson (Valley, West Des Moines) 5-7 won by decision over Isaac Thacher (Fort Madison) 17-9 (Dec 6-1). Cons. Round 3 – Blake Skjeie (Forest City) 13-16 won by fall over Isaac Thacher (Fort Madison) 17-9 (Fall 2:42)

182 lbs: Austin Ensminger (13-12) placed 4th and scored 13.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 – Austin Ensminger (Fort Madison) 13-12 received a bye () (Bye). Quarterfinal – Rusty VanWetzinga (Pleasant Valley) 9-1 won by fall over Austin Ensminger (Fort Madison) 13-12 (Fall 2:45). Cons. Round 2 – Austin Ensminger (Fort Madison) 13-12 won by fall over Tyler Olmstead (Alburnett) 11-13 (Fall 2:42). Cons. Round 3 – Austin Ensminger (Fort Madison) 13-12 won by decision over Alonzo Duarte (Davenport Central) 9-8 (Dec 10-9). 3rd Place Match – Rusty VanWetzinga (Pleasant Valley) 9-1 won by fall over Austin Ensminger (Fort Madison) 13-12 (Fall 2:30)

Nelson: Running extraordinaire

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

ness” is right.

To say that Mike Nelson at 5’11”, 165 pounds, is a talented runner, is an understatement. In his running career he has won 159 out of 700 races, logged 60,000 miles running, with 2,800 miles being the most in a year. He has run seven marathons, all under three hours—his best being 2:43:12, which is an average of 6 minutes, 13 seconds per mile. His fastest mile is 4:44; fastest 5K is 15:55; and 10K is 32:22. He keeps meticulous records, logs and scrap books. He can tell you how many miles he has on a pair of running shoes, which he has multiple pairs of, and makes his own orthotics.

Number three out of nine children growing up on a farm north of Bonaparte in Van Buren County, Mike wasn’t always an athlete. He played no high school sports until his junior year at Harmony when a friend talked him into going out for track—there was no cross country. Sort of by accident he found out he was good at distance—so good in fact that he set the record at Harmony for two miles that was unbeaten for 12 years. He made a vow that he was always going to stay in shape.

Mike didn’t run much for a few years after high school. He worked at Jack’s Discount Store (that changed to Shopko) in Ft. Madison. In 1978 at the age of 22 he subscribed to Runner’s World magazine and became interested in running again. His first race was a 10 mile run on Memorial Day in Ft. Madison. He came in 10th overall and was hooked. He entered more races, but in the next three years never placed in an age group. So he picked up his mileage.

In the parking lot at Jack’s he found the results of a race in Shimek Forest. He didn’t even know there were races in Shimek Forest. It turns out that they had races every other Sunday. He won the next three races. It was 1982 and Mike was 26 years old. He won five races that year.

Finally Mike’s two mile record at Harmony was broken. At the Strawberry Festival Run in Farmington in 1986, Mike met the high school boy who had beaten his record. Mike won the race and beat the young man by a minute. But they started training together. The high school coach noticed and asked Mike to run with some of the other students.

Mike was now working at General Electric in West Burlington. He moved to Danville to be closer to work. A cross country coaching position opened there, and Mike took it. His hope was to take a cross country team to state. One of the boys and two of the girls did go to state, but not the whole team.

Mike qualified for and ran the Boston Marathon on its 100th Anniversary in 1996. He also met and competed against some world class runners such as Frank Shorter, Jim Ryun, Bill Rogers and Phil Coppess, who had been on the cover of Runner’s World magazine. Mike ran against Phil Coppess at Columbus Junction, beat him and won the race. Coppess then invited Mike to run with him on a Masters’ Team. Mike was shocked to think that Coppess knew him.

Mike will be turning 65 in February. He still runs, but not near the mileage. COVID has drastically reduced the number of races. Without internet, computer or smart phone, he occupies himself on his 10-acre farm north of Danville with his antique tractors, Harley-Davidson motorcycle, horses and an orange Dodge Challenger RT—it matches his AC tractors. Retirement is looming. His running has come full circle. Mike still has a competitive side, but he now runs for physical fitness, and even appreciates the age-group medallions.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com or visit his website at www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com.



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From the Front

It appears state officials are ready to take vaccines from elders

IDPH - Continued from Page 1

of this broader eligibility criteria, we will activate the broader distribution criteria. From the very beginning from this distribution effort, it has been our goal to reach all Iowans," Garcia wrote in a Jan 12. letter to IDAC Chair Ken Sharp.

So that can only mean one thing. Despite their lack of confidence in the state being able to get enough vaccines to those 65 to 75 years of age, who would arguably be more vulnerable to a severe illness than, say, a 20-year-old intern making copies at the Capitol with no underlying illness, she's gonna vaccinate the Capitol.

That intern now gets moved to the front of the line for a vaccine, bumping, in theory (or not) a 72-year-old woman with Type 2 diabetes living at home alone helping care for her 10-year-old granddaughter who attends public school.

We choose to read this as – we're gonna take care of all of us, and then we're gonna take care of some of you.

This, and I'm stealing from Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld who's used this line on other topics and not in this context, – is why people don't like government.

The same Garcia letter to Sharp said, she was adding "back in" the recommendation to include "Government officials, including staff, to ensure continuity of government, engaged in state business at the Iowa Capitol during the legislative session."

We couldn't find the context of "back in" but it's safe to assume at some point it was pulled out of a recommendation. Here's an excerpt.

"In addition to accepting the recommendations from IDAC, I am adding the following additional narrowly defined, eligible populations for Phase 1B:

- Inspectors responsible for health, life and safety, including those in hospital and long-term care settings, child, and food production safety
- Government officials, including staff, to ensure continuity of government, engaged in state business at the Iowa Capitol during the legislative session.

I have added both of these categories back in, given the national news of expected additional supply and factors that jeopardize the ability of the Iowa Legislature's important work as well as those

who support that work."

Here is a link to Garcia's letter from Jan. 12: https://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/61/IDAC/Response%20to%20IDAC%20Recommendations_01_12_20201_FIN.pdf.

Here's Garcia's phone number 515-281-7689.

It can be interpreted, that the added recommendations are open-ended to any government official who conducts business at the capitol, whether their office is actually located in the Capitol or not.

Oh, and according to a Sunday Des Moines Register report, 2021 Iowa legislative protocols do not require anyone doing business at the Iowa Capitol building to wear a mask.

Geesh. If you were so concerned about the continuity of government, and are willing to elbow past our parents and grandparents – shouldn't you be at least wearing a mask?

We are so...so... lost right now. But I guess that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is the editor and co-owner of the Pen City Current and can be reached by email at editor@pencitycurrent.com.

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