

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

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Four-year high fives



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

FMHS students put hand prints on the walls of the Multi-Purpose room Thursday morning.

SCHOOL CHOICES: Artwork was part of National School Choice Week

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison High School students gave about four years worth of low and high fives to future students Thursday morning.

As an activity celebrating National School Choice Week, freshmen through seniors had their hands painted with a roller and then went to the west wall of the school's multi-purpose room and pressed a hand print on the freshly painted walls.

Students climbed ladders and some laid on the ground to fully cover the wall with the prints.

FMHS Principal Greg Smith said the prints will stay on the wall for four years and then the wall will probably be repainted and the activity could be repeated.

"The freshman will get to see this for the next four years, which is pretty cool," he said.

The celebration is a way to honor the nation's system of choosing what schools its youth attend.

"It just means there is a choice for students legally. So this week every year in January they do this. They had contacted me every year and I wondered if was really a high school

See **HANDS**, page 11

HOLY TRINITY DELIVERS BASKETS

Students share goodies, more during Catholic Schools Week

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Being a part of any educational system in a community requires forging relationships that help foster beneficial partnerships throughout the year.

As part of National Catholic Schools Week, students at Holy Trinity Catholic High School trekked across north Lee County Monday morning taking "Thank You" baskets to public and private groups

who help build a healthy and vibrant community.

The students took the opportunity to thank groups at the Fort Madison Police Department and Fire Department

See **STUDENTS**, page 6

COUNCIL MEETINGS

FM man hurt in mishap

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A 68-year old Fort Madison man suffered possible injuries after being struck by a car in the 4900 block of Avenue O Wednesday.

Fort Madison and Lee County rescue personnel responded to the scene just before 7 p.m. and found Larry Messerschmitt had crossed the street at an uncontrolled location, and was struck by a vehicle driven by Richard Gary Scott, 55, of Fort Madison.

According to police reports, Scott was headed eastbound in the left lane on Avenue O when Messerschmitt headed northbound across the street. Scott veered to the left to try and avoid the pedestrian, but police said Messerschmitt struck the passenger front side of the Scott's 2003 Chevrolet Cavalier.

Messerschmitt bounced off the vehicle but was not run over. He was transported to Fort Madison Community Hospital complaining of hip pain and scrapes to his hands. No condition report on Messerschmitt is available per state privacy rules.

Scott's vehicle came to rest in the westbound left-hand lane.

The report also indicated that no marking were left on the dirt covering Scotts vehicle, nor was any damage reported to the vehicle. No citations were issued at the scene.

IOWA BRIEFS

C.O. injured in Anamosa assault

ANAMOSA – A correctional officer was assaulted at the Anamosa State Penitentiary in Anamosa, IA at approximately 2:17 p.m. this afternoon.

The officer was working at his post when an inmate unexpectedly struck him in the face with a closed-fist strike. The officer placed a call for assistance, and additional staff were able to quickly take the inmate under control without further incident.

See **BRIEFS**, page 11

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WEATHER

FRI 31 Jan.....Overcast 33.9° F/ 32.5° F
SAT 01 Feb.....Overcast, 36.2° F/ 33.1° F
SUN 02 Feb.....Scattered Clouds, 46.8° F/ 35.8° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 01/29.....9 11 12 25 43, Star Ball: 8, All Star Bonus: 5
PICK 3 01/29 MIDDAY.....895
PICK 3 01/29 EVENING.....064
PICK 4 01/29 MIDDAY.....6611
PICK 4 01/29 EVENING.....0497
POWERBALL 01/29.....9 12 15 31 60, Powerball: 2, Power Play: 2

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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

01/24/20 – 5:13 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 400 block of Avenue C. 01/24/20 – 10:32 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 800 block of Avenue E. 01/24/20 – 2:57 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 6000 block of Avenue O. 01/24/20 – 3:04 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2000 block of Avenue D. 01/24/20 – 8:27 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident on Cindy Drive. 01/24/20 – 9:30 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Christopher Lee Chandler, 39, of Fort Madison at the intersection of 6th Street and Avenue H, on a charge of driving under suspension. He was released after citation. 01/24/20 – 11:14 p.m. – Fort

Madison Police arrested Scott Edward Miller, 40, of Fort Madison, in the 3900 block of Bluff Road, on charges of domestic abuse assault, interference with official acts and possession of a controlled substance. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/25/20 – 4:29 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1800 block of Avenue H. 01/25/20 – 5:28 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 6000 block of Reve Court. 01/25/20 – 12:58 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Adrian Lopez Diez, 33, of Springfield, Ill., in the 2300 block of Avenue E, on a charge of OWI. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/25/20 – 6:45 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Jeremy Scott Terrell, 43, of Fort Madison, in the 2700 block of Avenue M, on a charge of driving under suspension and a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the

Lee County Jail and held. 01/25/20 – 7:36 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Devlon Scott Lenz, listed as homeless, in the 2700 block of Avenue M, on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/26/20 – 12:47 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2700 block of Avenue N. 01/27/20 – 8:21 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue G. 01/27/20 – 1:24 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a gas drive off in the 2200 block of Avenue L. 01/27/20 – 10:06 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Kelsey Jane Bunker, 28, of Fort Madison in the 4900 block of River Valley Road on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/27/20 – 5:31 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Jaylen Keith Kutcher, 19, of Fort

Madison, in the 1100 block of Avenue F, on a charge of third-degree criminal mischief. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/27/20 – 7:46 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Matthew Scott Stephenson, 44, of Fort Madison in the 1400 block of 35th Street on a charge of driving while barred. He was released upon citation. 01/27/20 – 8:19 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Andrew Philip Boylan, 26, of Fort Madison, in the 1600 block of Avenue I, in a warrant for contempt. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/27/20 – 8:04 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Ashley Nicole Sturm, 36, of Fort Madison, in the 2400 block of Avenue G, on a warrant for domestic abuse assault, and assault. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/27/20 – 11:28 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Jayme Thomesa Jenkins, 33, of Fort Madison in the 1200 block of 24th Street on a warrants for contempt and driving under

suspension. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/28/20 – 9:43 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2000 block of Avenue B. 01/28/20 – 2:35 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 4600 block of Avenue J. 01/28/20 – 6:58 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1900 block of Avenue H.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

01/24/20 – 8:39 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 3500 block of Argyle Road. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Randy Lynn Wilkerson, 53, of Argyle lost control on snowy conditions and went into the ditch. Wilkerson complained of injuries, but was transported by private vehicle. No citations were reported. 01/24/20 – 12:08 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies

arrested Karen Marie Decker, 55, of Fort Madison at the North Lee County Courthouse on a court ordered hold. She was taken to the Lee County Sheriff's department and held. 01/24/20 – 12:42 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Susie Bell Whitaker, 56, of Argyle in the 400 block of Franklin Exchange in Franklin on warrants for 1st-degree theft and ongoing criminal conduct. She was released on bond. 01/24/20 – 12:45 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Brandy Lynn Sturm, 29, of Keokuk, in the 3500 block of Johnson Street on charges of interference with officials acts and 4th-degree criminal mischief. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on her recognizance. 01/24/20 – 5:03 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Danielle Lynn Smith, 32, of Farmington, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for a judgment. She was released on a weekend served. 01/25/20 – 12:57 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on the northbound on-ramp to Hwy. 61 from Hwy. 2. According to the report, the driver, Jeremy Robert Yaeger, 36, of West Burlington fled the scene but was late found at a nearby bar and was charged with OWI. He was also cited for failure to maintain control as his vehicle went into the ditch and struck a culvert. 01/25/20 – 1:35 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jeremy Robert Yaeger, 36, of West Burlington, in the 2300 block of Hwy. 61 in Montrose, on a charge of OWI. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and then released on his recognizance. 01/25/20 – 7:41 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Devlon Scott Lenz, 25, of Fort Madison in the 1500 block of 27th Street in Fort Madison, on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/26/20 – 2:30 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Daniel Robert Sutton, 32, of Cedar Lake, Ind., on charges of public intoxication, 3rd-degree criminal mischief, and 2nd-degree attempted burglary. He released after citation. 01/27/20 – 6:54 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jordan Danielle Good, 30, of West Des Moines, in the 1100 block of Hwy. 16 in Houghton on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and OWI-1st offense. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on her recognizance. 01/27/20 – 5:43 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Troy Francis Markham, 53, of Keokuk, in the 900 block of Bank Street on a warrant for 3rd-degree harassment and a charge of being a fugitive



Thank you to all our customers who worked to reduce their environmental footprint last year. We look forward to helping you continue your efforts and to educating our communities on more ways to help this year.

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For the Record/Obituaries

For the Record - Continued from page 2

from justice. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/28/20 – 6:25 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Dillan Joseph McCarty, 21, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on warrants for trespassing, 2nd-degree harassment and simple assault. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/28/20 – 6:47 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Sean Michael McCarty, 19, of Fort Madison at the sheriff's office on warrants for 2nd-degree harassment, simple assault and trespassing. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/28/20 – 2:15 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Delbert John Kellum, 45, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on a warrant for parole violation. He was released on bond. 01/28/20 – 7:09 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kenneth Lavern Soper, Jr., in the 3800 block of Avenue L in Fort Madison, on a warrant for 3rd-degree theft and a charge of driving while barred. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

01/22/20 – Brian J Slowick, age 48, of Nauvoo, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine. Slowick was released on his own recognizance and given a future court date. 01/22/20 – Nicholas R Queen, age 39, of Burlington, IA was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine. Queen was also arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Methamphetamine. Queen remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance. 01/22/20 – Devin W Schofield, age 26, of Carthage, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Criminal Trespass to Residence. Schofield

remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance. 01/22/20 – Holly A Gullberg, age 37, of Media, IL was arrested on a Henderson County Warrant charging her with Obstructing Justice and Possession of a Controlled Substance. Gullberg remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting her extradition to Henderson County. 01/22/20 – Christopher M Gollither, age 33, of Keokuk, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear I Failure to Pay on original charges of Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine. Gollither was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. 01/22/20 – Justin M Hemphill, age 26, of Keokuk, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Driving While License Suspended, Disobeying Stop Sign, Unlawful Display of Registration, and Operating Uninsured Vehicle. Hemphill remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance. 01/23/20 – Matthew M Tindall, age 49, of Plymouth, IL was arrested and charged with Bond Violation. Tindall remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance. 01/24/20 -Michael G Wixom, age 51, of Kahoka, MO was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine. Wixom was also arrested on a Clark County Missouri Warrant. Wixom remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail. 01/24/20 – Michael D Brooks, age 30, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Criminal Damage to Property. Brooks was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. 01/25/20 – Dawn M Harr, age 49, of Hamilton, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on original charges of Driving While License Suspended. Harr remains lodged

in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting her initial court appearance. 01/25/20 – Jeremy C Gillette, age 19, of Fort Madison, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Operating Uninsured Motor Vehicle and Speeding. Gillette was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. 01/26/20 – Kevin C Taylor, age 53, of Hamilton, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine. Taylor remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his initial court appearance. 01/26/20 – Leopaldo G Garza, age 36, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with No Valid Driver's License, Operating Uninsured Vehicle, and Improper Use of Registration. Garza was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. 01/26/20 – Michael D Jones, age 51, of Fort Madison, IA was arrested on a Henderson County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Driving On Suspended License. Jones was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. 01/26/20 – Shawn TA Nelson, age 22, of Warsaw, IL was arrested and charged with Aggravated Assault and Possession of Methamphetamine. Nelson remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance. 01/26/20 – Keaton M Howell, age 18, of Hamilton, IL was arrested and charged with No Valid Driver's License. Howell was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

01/27/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call, one burn complaint, and a mercury spill at the old Fort Madison Prison. 01/28/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to six medical calls.

OBITUARIES

GERALD S. MATTER

Gerald S. Matter, known to everyone as Jerry, age 85, passed away peacefully at his home in Nauvoo, Illinois on Saturday, January 25, 2020. Jerry was born on February 20, 1934 in Naperville, Illinois to Myron and Evelyn (Lasanska) Matter.



MATTER

He served in the United States Navy aboard the aircraft carrier USS Wasp. After completing his military service Jerry raced midget cars and was known as the "Whiz Kid." A crowd favorite on the track, he was eventually inducted into the Mazon Speed Bowl and Grundy County Speedway Hall of Fame. On November 7, 1962 he married Karen Asbell and they had three children: Troy, Julie and Nancy. They later divorced.

He was a union electrician with the IBEW, Local 13. Jerry's passions included world travel, shooting competitions, including 1000 yard matches, big band music, duck hunting and boating the major rivers in the world. He traveled the Mississippi River, beginning at Lake Itasca and finishing his journey at the mouth of the river in Pilottown, Louisiana. His travels saw him visit more than 50 countries. He was a member of the Mississippi Valley Vintage Racing Club (MVVRC), the NRA, and the Hancock County Gun Club. Jerry was an avid reader of nonfiction and loved racing his Offy vintage midget race car with his last race at age 83.



Jerry is survived by his son, Troy (Candy) Matter of Fort Madison, Iowa and his daughters, Julie (Pete) Mutuc of Boulder, Colorado and Nancy Matter of Boulder, Colorado. He has three grandchildren: Claudia, Finn, and Sloane. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Thomas C. Matter.

A celebration of Jerry's life is being planned for a later date. Cards and memorials can be sent to Barr Memorial Chapel, 1919 Ave F, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Matter family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

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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Sports

Bloodhounds split with Keokuk, Clark County

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison boys basketball team had just three wins against 10 losses going into Tuesday's night's game with Missouri's Clark County.

The Hounds dropped a 45-37 loss to Keokuk on the road Monday for the 10th loss, but rebounded to knock off the visiting Indians 60-49 behind 21 points from senior Jayden Fedler.

Fort Madison jumped out early against Clark County with a couple of 3-balls from Fedler and senior Parker Denning for a 10-4 first quarter lead.

Sophomore Reinburn Turnbull, who's seeing more and more action off the bench splitting time with the junior varsity squad, hit a three in the second quarter along with Michael Mosena. But the Indians would ramp up the defense and find some success inside to outscore Fort Madison 21-12 to take a 27-22 lead into the locker room.

Fort Madison would return the favor with some solid defense of their own and an 18-8 run in the 3rd keyed

by Fedler's seven points from inside the lane. Fedler finished with 21 to lead all scorers.

The Hounds would push the lead to ten at 47-37 in the fourth forcing Clark County to begin fouling. The Indians put Fort Madison at the free throw line 20 times in the final eight minutes and the Hounds converted on 14 of the 20, including Miles Dear's 4 of 4, to put the game away.

Denning finished with 14 on the night. Sophomore Dayton Davis and Mosena each had seven. Jace Burgher and Dear put in four, and Turnbull had three to round out the Hounds scoring.

Connor Mack had 15, 10 in the second half for the Indians. Brandan Kracht had a dozen.

At Monday's make up game with Keokuk, a slow start put the Hounds down by eight out of the gate, which proved to be the difference in the game.

With Keokuk collapsing on Fedler in the lane, holding him to no first half points. The Hounds made some adjustments and Denning was able to get some open looks on the perimeter putting up 10 points in the second

quarter as Fort Madison closed the gap to three down 22-19 at the break.

With the outside game warming up, Fedler and Davis were able to get some things going in a defensive third period combining for 10 points. Fort Madison cut into the Keokuk lead again trailing by just a bucket going into the fourth period.

But senior Eddie Lee, who's averaging just under four points per game, put up six in the quarter for the Chiefs, and Fort Madison was held to just four points, two free throws from Fedler and a bucket from Mosena to spoil the Hounds chances for a win.

Denning had 15 to lead Fort Madison. Davis finished with eight and Fedler had seven.

Anthony Potratz had 12 to lead Keokuk. Lee and Tyjai Mueller had eight a piece for the Chiefs. Keokuk (12-3) has now won 12 of their last 13 and has lost all three games by a combined nine points. They host Mt. Pleasant on Friday night.

Fort Madison (4-10) hosts Fairfield (1-11) on Friday night at the Hound Dome.

HTC boys roll to win over Van Buren Tuesday

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON – There was nothing wrong with the defense of the Holy Trinity boys basketball team — holding Van Buren to just four points in the first 14 minutes of Tuesday's game was a good sign of that.

Scoring points of their own was a problem for the Crusaders, but they solved it just enough to take a

39-32 win.

Holy Trinity nearly let a 13-point halftime lead get away, but found enough points in the closing minutes.

"It was just a grinder," Holy Trinity coach John Hellige said. "Hats off to the kids for staying with it. Our offense just didn't seem to flow for some reason. But I told the kids if you play hard defense, and rebound, you're going to be in games even if your offense isn't where you want it to be."

Van Buren (3-12) had just one point in the first 7:43 of the game — the Warriors' biggest offensive burst in that quarter was a 3-point play by Tony Davison with 17 seconds left.

The Crusaders (6-10) scored the first eight points of the second quarter, but didn't score over the final 2:24 of the half. Van Buren's Wyatt Mertens scored the final five points of the quarter, and the Warriors

See CRUSADERS, page 10

Merschman's 32 not enough in loss to WB

BY PCC STAFF

CENTRAL LEE – Mya Merschman put up 32 points and went 8-of-9 at the free throw line, but couldn't catch up to Class 3A No. 10 West Burlington in a 66-60 loss Tuesday night at Central Lee High School.

The Falcons led the entire game and held a 10-point lead at the half despite Merschman's 15 first half points. The Falcons matched Merschman inside with Samantha Dzawo who put up 12 in the half.

Dzawo and Merschman were going toe-to-toe inside with plenty of fouls being called. Dzawo would eventually foul out and Merschman ended up with three.

The Falcons Sydney Marlow was given the green light to drive in the first half and went to the free throw line nine times in the first half alone, but only converted four.

Merschman would continue to pound away at the Falcon's interior defense putting up 17 more in the second half included 5-of-5 from the free throw line to cut the gap to five with a minute left in the 3rd.

West Burlington would extend the lead back seven in the early going of the fourth. Dzawo would put up 10 more in the second half before fouling out and then Central Lee (9-7) cut the lead to two points with four minutes left in the game.

The Falcons would then put a 13-9 run together the rest of the way to seal the win, despite Central Lee outscoring the visitors 31-27 in the second half.

The Lady Hawks got 12 from Makayla Morrison and 10 from Daly Brisbee. Ella Sanders had three, Mayce Watkins had two and Kaylynn Summers had a point to round out the Central Lee scoring. The Falcons were led with 22 from Dzawo, and 18 from Marlow.

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2020 Catholic Schools Week

HTC's youth put on science skills showcase

Dostalek, Hellman win top awards for projects on drones and the effects of erosion

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – It's a year of more firsts for Holy Trinity Catholic elementary students.

Just five months into their new digs in West Point, fourth and fifth grade science students on Thursday participated in their first science fair in the building's new collaborative learning space on the second floor.

The projects were then opened to public viewing as part of National Catholic Schools Week.

The addition of the younger students was part of the school's enhanced science program which includes Science Wednesday.

Fourth grade teacher Paula Sholl said the Science Wednesday with retired teacher Ernie Schiller helps focus science with younger students. .

"We just decided why not include them as they start to learn it. When they get to high school it's promoted big time as well, so they would be ready and more experienced," Sholl said.

She said the fair was optional for fourth and fifth graders, but she said only a few didn't participate.

Some of the toughest hurdles were giving the presentation, but she said the students practiced and went over the presentations to get over the nerves..

Sixth grade teacher Linda Peitz said data collection and graphing are a components of STEM (Science Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) activities.

"That's science and math – compiling data and then finding averages whatever the case may be," Peitz said.

She said it was also a good opportunity to introduce the students to scientific procedure as part of the Science Wednesday.

"That was new to the fourth graders this year, so maybe it's a little more difficult for them to get into following the scientific procedure when they get into something like this. But I think they all did a wonderful job, truthfully."

Mason Roach did an experiment with how long a candle flame would last in a sealed jar with different

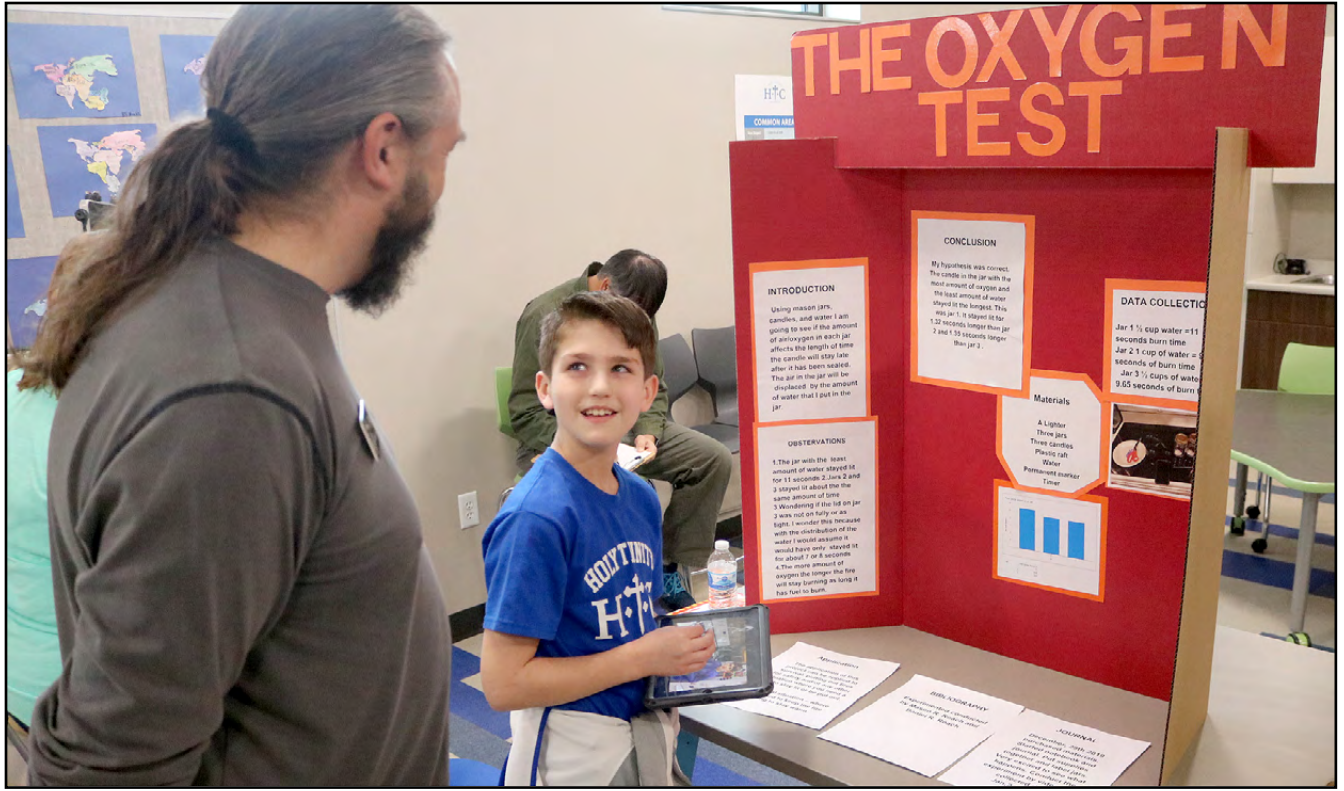


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Mason Roach, an HTC 4th grader, tells Judge Clay Steele from the Lee County Conservation District, about the difference in flame life of candles in mason jars with different levels of water at Thursday's HTC Elementary Science Fair.

levels of water in it. He said applications could be used in fire suppression, or even survival training when fire is needed.

He told judge Clay Steele, of the Lee County Conservation District, that he really wanted to do something with magnets and graphing, but settled for a project a little easier to swallow.

Other projects looked at what popcorn popped the best, training mice in mazes, "fruit mummification" and the ever-popular Mentos and Coke experiment.

Schiller said this is the third year for the elementary fair for sixth graders and some fifth graders.

"This year we opened up to have a fair not for just sixth graders, but fourth, fifth and sixth, so when the

“

Entry level of science, doing their own thing, and trying to figure out what scientists do. That's the concept."

-Ernie Schiller,
HTC Science advisor

kids get into high school they should have a good background of what it takes to do a good project" Schiller said.

See FAIR, page 7

GRRWA
Great River Regional Waste Authority

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2020 Catholic Schools Week

Tolerance part of curriculum at Holy Trinity

STUDENTS - Continued from Page 1

ments, the Lee County Sheriff's Office, Fort Madison Community Hospital, P.A.W. Animal Shelter, and the Fort Madison Food Pantry.

While presenting at Fort Madison Police Department a group of students stopped to talk about the value they place in a Catholic education.

Nick Fullenkamp, a freshman who transferred back to the Holy Trinity system after leaving for a year to experience 8th grade at Fort Madison High School, said HTC is a better fit for him.

"I think the HTC schools have a really good community there and since it's such a small school you get to know each other more than big public schools so that's a big pro for me," he said.

"It's a whole bunch of different people and I wasn't really comfortable with that, and I think it's worked out very well."

Kayla Box, also a freshman, said public school wasn't an option in her family, but she never wanted to go anywhere else.

"I've always thought of Holy Trinity as like a little family almost. It's small, we have small classes, we know everyone, we like everyone. We all get together and have fun," Box said.

She said integrating church and education works for her and her family because it provides a well-rounded approach to learning inside and outside of religion.

"We're always with the church because we are a Catholic School and the church is awesome," she said.

"I go every Sunday. We do things with the church and the school and we're compatible with each other. I like that family we have," Box said.

Brooke Mueller said the integration of the church is more of a choice for her, but also a commitment.

"I feel like you can choose, but I feel obligated because they do so much for us as a whole school and individually."

Mueller, who's plays multiple sports at HTC, said the opportunities are there but the close knit group makes the competition for playing time fun.

Laura Mehmert is another freshman who's been in the Holy Trinity System

since she started school.

"I feel like its easier to become part of this family. When you play sports here it's a smaller group and you can get to meet upper classman and get to know them, and get close to them," she said.

"You get to know more people in your school and that's so much nicer.

Nicole Pothitakis, a senior who isn't Catholic but practices Christianity said even if your not Catholic you are still able to discuss God and faith.

"Everybody accepts me. We go to mass and I do get to worship God in those areas and learn more about God and religion, but it's just a different side of things, which allows me to broaden my view," Pothitakis said.

She said neither staff nor students have ever made her feel uncomfortable with the religious teachings, and said tolerance is part of the day-do-day discussions and teachings.

"Miss Taylor and other religion teachers have been really nice about incorporating me and other non-Catholics into the mix and making us feel comfortable."

HTC High School principal Jason Woodley said this week is a chance for students to not only thank the community for its support, but also share their faith and experiences.

Woodley is in his first full year at Holy Trinity after transferring in from Central Lee. Woodley doesn't practice Catholicism either, but said the administration and the Diocese make the integration easy and tolerant.

"The way I look at Catholic Schools Week is that it's giving our students the opportunity to share their faith with other community members and their friends, not only here inside the walls but outside as well," he said.

"This is an opportunity where we can also come together and really become one. So many times we come to events and then have private separate lives outside, but here we can integrate both.

"This week, gives us the chance to go and not only thank our community, but also welcome them into our schools and share that faith, is kind of how I look at it."

National Catholic Schools Week wraps up on Friday with a fun, dress down day. High School students will be attending a movie and elementary will go bowling.



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2020 Catholic Schools Week



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Judges move around the projects at the Holy Trinity Elementary School Science Fair Thursday morning in West Point.

Science Fair brings confidence to younger HTC students

FAIR - Continued from Page 5

“Entry level science, doing their own thing, and trying to figure out what scientists do. That’s the concept.”

On Feb. 5, the system will have a Holy Trinity Science night and the elementary students will be invited. After that, the sixth graders and above can have their projects graded at next level competitions.

Schiller said the fourth graders have really adapted to the concepts and put the presentation boards together at the school. He said parents helped with the projects at home, but it was important for the students to put the boards together on their own at school.

“I think what they’ve done here will instill confidence in them going forward, even in other classes... and when the run for President,” Schiller said.

A total of 36 projects were judged with 13 from 6th grade, 11 from 5th grade and 12 from 4th grade. The top two projects were awarded to Aiden Dostalek, who had a project looking at the efficiency of drones, and Ellie Hellman’s project on soil erosion.



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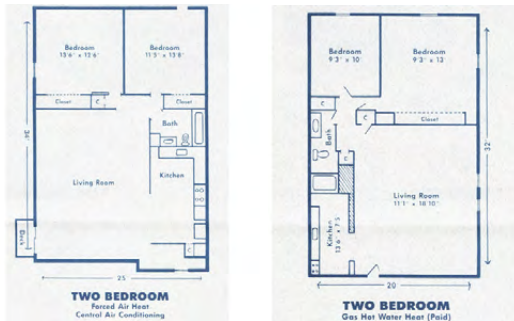
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Sports

Crusaders can't hang with No. 7 Van Buren

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADION – There was no easy choice for the Holy Trinity girls basketball team. Playing No. 7 (Class 2A) Van Buren on Tuesday night meant the Crusaders would have to find a way to slow the combination of Isabel Manning and Taryn Scheuermann.

They couldn't in a 63-34 loss.

Manning had 24 points, 18 in the first half. Scheuermann, a Northern Iowa signee, had 21, 14 in the second half.

"We were kind of doing a modified defense of a triangle-and-two," Holy Trinity coach Tony Johnson said. "We were trying to stay with the Manning girl — obviously it didn't work. We were trying to clog the lane. Any time (Manning) got the ball, we were trying to get it out of her hands."

Manning had four 3-pointers in the first half — three in the first quarter — as the Warriors (15-2) built a 35-16 halftime lead.

"The girls were there (defensively), we just couldn't close out on the shooters quick enough," Johnson said.

The defense worked early — Holy Trinity was down just 11-7 in the first five minutes before Van Buren closed the half with a 24-9 run.

Scheuermann took over in the second half. She had eight of Van Buren's first 10 points, and 14 of the Warriors' 21 in the third quarter.

Manning and Scheuermann combined for 16 rebounds. Scheuermann also had four blocked shots.

Ashlyn Haas led Holy Trinity (8-9) with nine points. Kassi Randolph had six, as did Bailey Hellweg.

Holy Trinity boys grind out win at VB

CRUSADERS - Continued from Page 4

trailed just 17-9 at halftime.

Holy Trinity led 26-18 in the third quarter before Mertens hit a 3-pointer to start a 9-2 run.

The Crusaders didn't have a field goal over the final 4 1/2 minutes, but made 9-of-13 free throws to hold off the Warriors.

"We missed some easy bunnies that we typically make," Hellige said. "Some nights it's just hard to explain."

Van Buren had a chance to tie the game with less than a minute to go, but Davison missed a jumper. The War-

riors would score just one point the rest of the game.

Jason Thurman led Holy Trinity with 12 points. Matt Hellige had seven points, all in the second half. Vasin Thurman also had seven points.

"It was just an hour and a half of sheer will and determination," Coach Hellige said. "I think the boys showed that tonight. Would I have liked to come out and score 65 or 70 points? Yeah. But at the end of the day, a win's a win. We won five games all of last season, we've won six games to this point this year. We just need to keep grinding."

Falcons hold off Central Lee boys

BY PCC STAFF

DONNELLSON – Bronson Sargent and Dylan Stuecker combined for 33 points, but Central Lee couldn't hold on in a 67-58 boys Southeast Superconference loss Tuesday night.

Stuecker scored all 15 of his points on 3-pointers in the first half as the Hawks led for a good portion of the half. West Burlington's Colten Sherwood led all scorers with 22 on the night, and helped the Falcons keep pace in the first with 11.

Junior Marvion Jackson also had 11 points in the paint for the Falcons in the first half.

Central Lee opened up an 18-13 first quarter lead behind three 3-balls from Stuecker, but the Falcons would throw up 21 points, eight by Jackson, in the 2nd to sneak into the locker room up by one, 34-33.

The momentum would stay with the Falcons in the third as they went on a 22-6 run for a comfortable lead going into the final period up by 15.

But the Hawks would work up a 4th quarter rally cutting the lead to eight at 58-50 with three minutes left, and then again at 61-53 with one minute left.

The Falcons (8-4) converted 9 of 14 free throws as Central Lee went into foul mode trying to catch up, but West Burlington would miss the front end of two bonuses in between the 7th and 10th personal fouls to allow the Hawks, who were successful in converting off the misses, to try and get back in the game.

TJ Stutes and Sargent would hit back-to-back threes to get the Hawks to 58, but West Burlington (9-4) got hot at the right time from the free throw line converting their final nine points at the stripe to put the game away.

Central was led by Sargent with 18 and Stuecker with 15. Stutes had seven points, while Kade Myhre, Alex Sandoval and Derrick Denning each had six for the Hawks.

Central Lee falls to 2-14 on the year with the only wins coming against Van Buren. The Hawks play at Cardinal on Thursday night.



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From the Front

Hounds hands now adorn Multi Purpose Room

HANDS - Continued from Page 1



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison freshman Emily Steffensmeier gets purple paint applied to her hand before she makes a print on the Multi-Purpose Room's west wall Thursday morning.

thing," Smith said. "Then I started seeing

some high schools around the country coming up

with some neat ideas." Smith said a staffer suggested getting "butcher" paper and having the kids put their hand prints on that.

"I'm like, ahh no, we can do a little better than that. So I had the guys repaint the walls, we put a brand new sign up and the kids were just like, "Oh, we want to do that."

Smith said every day this week, the school has had a celebration as to why the students are glad to be there.

"It's just kind of a celebration of the high school," he said.

National School Choice Week was founded in 2011 to promote the concept of all forms of school choice: district schools, district magnet schools, charter schools, private schools, and home schooling.

The week of events is scheduled the last week of January each year.

IOWA BRIEFS - Continued from page 1

The officer was taken to the Jones Regional Medical Center and found to have suffered bruising from the incident. The inmate was uninjured. This incident remains under investigation.

Gov. Reynolds applauds USMCA deal

Today, Gov. Reynolds released the following statement following President Trump signing the United States Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA) at the White House:

"President Trump successfully negotiated a strong, balanced and reciprocal trade agreement that will benefit Iowa and the entire nation. Years from now, USMCA will prove to be a major boost to Iowa's economy, especially for families, farmers, manufacturers and small businesses.

"Mexico and Canada are Iowa's top two trading partners, serving as a key market for our products. This agreement, along with phase 1 deals reached with China and Japan, will expand markets for Iowa producers.

"I want to thank President Trump, Ambassador Lighthizer, and the entire administration for securing this critical trade agreement."

Gov. appoints Oxley to top court

DES MOINES- Gov. Kim Reynolds today announced her appointment of Dana Oxley as a justice of the Iowa Supreme Court Tuesday afternoon at the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines.

Oxley, of Swisher, currently practices law with Shuttleworth & Ingersoll, P.L.C. in Cedar Rapids, and serves as an adjunct law professor at the University of Iowa College of Law. Previously, she served as a career judicial law clerk for Judge David R. Hansen on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. Oxley received her law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law and her undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Iowa.

Oxley is the governor's third appointment to the Iowa Supreme Court. She fills the vacancy that arose because of the death of Chief Justice Mark Cady.

DNR to host Starr's Cave meet

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is hosting a series of town hall-style meetings where local staff will provide updates on recently completed hunting seasons, discuss possible changes to hunting rules and regulations, and address other topics as requested.

The meeting is set for Burlington, Feb. 26, 7 p.m., Starr's Cave Nature Center, 11627 Starr's Cave Road

The meetings are open to the public. Comments collected from these public meetings will be considered along with other related comments received by the Iowa DNR prior to proposing changes to hunting rules and regulations. Proposed rules will be presented to the Natural Resource Commission during a regular public meeting for consideration and additional public comment.



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