

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

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Union officials say state can do more to help fill jobs

OLD FORT PLAYERS Sisters find mayhem in OFP's "Drinking Habits"

BY DOROTHY SCHULTE
OLD FORT PLAYERS

FORT MADISON – Old Fort Players announces the cast for its February 2020 production of "Drinking Habits" written by Tom Smith. Actors were chosen from among some 500 locals who showed up for auditions in November. Oh, wait. That may have just been folks attending the Wine and Beer Walk. Either way, the word got out and we have a superb cast!

Director Ty Clute has found a talented group of five women and three men. Sister Philamena, will be portrayed by OFP veteran Sherry Stice ('What To Expect' & 'If The Shoe Fits.') Karen Schumaker (from the Opal plays and most recently in 'Harvey') will fill the role of Sister Augusta. Former Board Member and veteran Director Shelley Dowling has been cast as Mother

Superior. An alumnus of The Young Fort Players, Colby Moore ('Bleacher Bums') will portray Paul. The role of George has been filled by James Salisbury ('Bleacher Bums.') Rosie Strickland, most recently in '12 Days of Christmas' and other YFP shows will perform the part of Sally. Sister Mary Catherine will be portrayed by Tedra Edwards ('It's A Wonderful

Life.') Filling the role of Father Chenille is veteran OFP actor Jim French ('Harvey' & '12 Days of Christmas.')

(OMG Caption) Colby Moore (Paul) and Rosie Strickland (Sally) share an OMG moment on stage while rehearsing for Old Fort Players February Production of "Drinking Habits." Photo courtesy of Old Fort Players

At the first night of rehearsal, the cast reads the play straight through for the first time in what's called a table read. They call it that because actors quite

See OFF, page 6



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Rodger Robertson, Jr., talks with students from Keokuk, Central Lee, and Wapello, about sheet metal welding and service Thursday at the National Guard Armory in Middletown.

APPRENTICESHIPS: Union reps say state officials should incentivize contracts

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MIDDLETOWN – Students from around the area spent two days learning about apprenticeships from trades experts at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant in Middletown this week.

More than 230 students hung out at the IAAP grounds armory Wednesday and Thursday morning to listen to the benefits of learning a craft, building a life, and staying in Iowa.

The event was organized by the Iowa Army National Guard and included union trade representatives of electrical, welding, engineering, and HVAC industries.

Sydney Howren, a Keokuk High School sophomore, listened to sheet metal workers Local 91 instructor Rodger Robertson Jr., talk about his industry and work on a welding simulator.

Howren said she's got a plan mapped out, but isn't sure just what trade she's leaning toward.

"I already got it all figure out. I want to do something with welding and then I want to do something raising cattle," she said. "But I want to be able to do both."

Howren said she isn't intimidated looking into work that is traditionally dominated by men. As a matter of fact, she thinks it's kinda cool.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Keokuk High School sophomore Sydney Howren, takes a turn on a welding simulator Thursday morning at Trades Show event at the Iowa Army National Guard Armory in Middletown.

"I've been doing what the guys do since I was little. I hunted when I was little and still hunt, and I just fit in with the guys," she said.

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WEATHER

FRI 24 Jan Snow, 31.8° F/ 28.1° F
SAT 25 Jan Overcast, 29.5° F/ 23.3° F
SUN 26 Jan Overcast, 31.3° F/ 29.2° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 01/08..... 4 6 11 21 23, Star Ball: 6, All Star Bonus: 3
PICK 3 01/06 MIDDAY..... 6 9 2
PICK 3 01/06 EVENING..... 5 9 8
PICK 4 01/06 MIDDAY..... 8 1 0 7
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Lee County News/Area News

Extension plans spring ag classes

Swine ventilation and fruit planning session set for March

LEE COUNTY - Iowa State University Extension and Outreach of Lee County will host a Swine Ventilation Workshop on Tuesday, March 3 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Central Lee Community School District FFA Building. This workshop combines classroom instruction with hands-on trials and applications of knowledge gained in the real world setting to help people understand issues and consequences of decisions.

Session includes the basics of ventilation systems, effective temperature requirements, troubleshooting tools and techniques. Attendees will be able to see and feel the impacts that design, maintenance and management can have on various ventilation practices with Iowa State's 24-foot mobile Swine Ventilation Trailer.

Tom Miller, ISU Extension and Outreach Swine Specialist states, Iowa State's ventilation trailer is valuable because it allows people to have one's hand at investigating ventilation and controller settings without



risk of on-farm biosecurity breaches.”

This workshop is sponsored by United Animal Health and is free to the public. To register please call the Lee County Extension Office at 319-835-5116 or email weisinge@iastate.edu.

ISU Extension and Outreach is part of an educational network supported by Iowa State University, local county governments, and the United States Department of Agriculture. ISU Extension and Outreach works to provide learning opportunities for citizens of Iowa by providing unbiased, research-based information that will improve quality of life.

Planting to Preserve Fruit and Vegetable Gardening Class

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach of Lee County will host a Planting

to Preserve Fruit and Vegetable Gardening class on Thursday, March 5 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Class will be held at the Lee County Extension Office, 414 North Main Street, Donnellson. This class is for anyone who is interested in learning more about gardening basics.

This session will discuss selecting crop varieties that are best for preservation or long-season harvests, garden planting schedules, and proper curing and handling of fall storage crops.

“Planning to preserve what you grow can help enhance your gardening experience,” states Whitney Weisinger, ISU Extension and Outreach Program Coordinator.

This class is \$15.00 per person. To register please contact the Lee County Extension office at 319-835-5116 or weisinge@iastate.edu. The registration deadline is Tuesday, March 3.

ISU Extension and Outreach is part of an educational network supported by Iowa State University, local county governments, and the United States Department of Agriculture. ISU Extension and Outreach works to provide learning opportunities for citizens of Iowa by providing unbiased, research-based information that will improve quality of life.

AROUND THE STATE

IEDs involved in Marion crash

DES MOINES - At 3:00 PM on January 12, 2020, the Marion County Sheriff's Office requested the assistance of the State Fire Marshal Division to investigate suspected improvised explosive devices (IEDs) recovered from a fatal single-truck crash which occurred east of Knoxville around 12:04 AM.

Following an autopsy, the State Medical Examiner and Division of Criminal Investigation Criminalistics Laboratory identified the driver in the crash as Del Sorey of Arnolds Park, Iowa. Sorey was the only person in the vehicle. The truck Sorey was driving caught fire, and much of it and its contents were destroyed.

Search warrants related to the IEDs were served on Wednesday January 15th at three addresses in Milford and Arnolds Park, Iowa, in Dickinson County.

The case remains under investigation.

Gov. applauds WOTUS move

DES MOINES - Today, Governor Kim Reynolds released the following statement in response to the Environmental Protection Agency's finalized Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule:

“Iowa farmers, families, and property owners will benefit substantially from the redefined ‘Waters of the United States’ (WOTUS) rule. This new rule provides clarity, predictability, and consistency while also balancing environmental protections with the rights and interests of states like ours.

“Under the Obama administration, Iowa suffered from uncertainty, excessive regulation and federal overreach. Those days are gone.

“I appreciate President Trump and his administration for fulfilling another promise made by taking the necessary steps to rewrite WOTUS”.



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.

Here are just a few ways you can help:

- Don't put plastic bags in recycling bins
- Rinse & clean all food jars & cans before recycling
- Flatten empty boxes for better storage & volume reduction
- Place all recyclables loose in bins
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- Properly dispose of all electronics and household hazardous waste



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For the Record/Current-Lee

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

01/22/20 – 12:11 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2300 block of Avenue L. 01/22/20 – 1:24 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of 36th Street. 01/22/20 – 4:08 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 3200 block of Avenue N. 01/22/20 – 5:35 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1400 block of Avenue E. 01/22/20 – 10:35 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Donald Lee Jennings, 31, of Fort Madison, at the police department on a charge of probation violation. He was taken to the Lee

County Jail and held. 01/22/20 – 9:40 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Anthony James Criswell, 58, of Fort Madison, in the 1100 block of 48th Street on charges of attempted burglary and going armed with intent. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/23/20 – 12:15 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Clayton Daniel Campbell, 18, of Donnellson, in the 700 block of 20th Street on a charge of driving under suspension. He was released upon citation. 01/23/20 – 5:27 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Nevada Lee Lyon, 32, of Fort Madison, in the 4700 block of Avenue O, on a charge of driving while barred. He was released upon citation. 01/23/20 – 8:01 a.m. – Fort Madison Police

responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2700 block of Avenue L

Lee County Sheriff's Report

01/22/20 – no time listed – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Joseph Lee Root, 19, Rushville, Ill., in the 800 block of Valley Street in Burlington, on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/22/20 – 2:11 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Chancey Lane Losey, 19, of Bonaparte, at the Des Moines County line on a warrant for contempt of court. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Local authorities ask for safe driving on day of big game

As the Big Game of Super Bowl approaches, many fans will take to the roads and highways to visit family and friends to take in the big game.

The Fort Madison Police Department, along with the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau, asks that all people drive in a safe and defensive manner. From our point of view, it is better to get to your destination, even if it may be a little late, than to not get there at all. Our motto for this year is "Super Bowl Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk".

Drinking alcohol and driving do NOT mix. If you plan on consuming alcohol, you should also plan on NOT getting behind the wheel of a

vehicle. When going out, always have a designated sober driver or alternative transportation, such as a cab, to get everyone home safely.

- Plan a safe way home BEFORE the festivities begin
- Designate a sober driver. Give them the keys
- Any question of sobriety, call a taxi, public transportation, or a sober friend to drive you or anyone who may be impaired, home.

• If you see a possible drink driver on the road, contact your local law enforcement officials

During the Super Bowl weekend, Law Enforcement Officers throughout the State of Iowa will be out enforcing Iowa's seat belt, drinking and texting laws, as well as all other traffic laws, in order to ensure a safe driving holiday.

The Fort Madison Police Department wishes everyone a safe and festive Super bowl weekend.

CURRENT-LEE

LEE COUNTY – The following is a listing of current events and happenings in and around Fort Madison and north Lee County as submitted to the Pen City Current

DreamBuilder

The Fort Madison and Keokuk chambers of commerce along with the Freeport-McMoRan foundation are holding a four-month class in entrepreneurship beginning Feb. 5th. Cost is \$120 per person, but refundable by Freeport-McMoRan for those who graduate.

Beekeeping course

The Lee County Extension Office in Donnellson will hold a beginning beekeeper course on Thursdays beginning Jan. 30 through Feb. 20. Class is \$25 each or \$35 for couples and pre-registration is required. Call the Extension office at 319-835-5116 to register.

Leadership Workshop

The Fort Madison Chamber is hosting a Leadership Workshop presented by Meagan Vogel and Michael Maher of Elite Solutions of Ankeny. The workshop runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 31. Email mvogel@elitesolutionsia.com to register. Cost of the workshop is \$50.

Lee County Health Department

LCHD will host Family Connections at Madison Baptist Church in Fort Madison from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Child care is provided.

Health Clinics

Senior Health Clinics will be held in Fort Madison at Sunnybrook from 10 to 11 a.m. on Jan. 23. An immunization clinic will be held on Jan. 23 from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Lee County Health Department's offices #3 John Bennett Drive.

Daffodil days

American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days is March 3-6. Orders can be made through Kim Jud at Lee County Bank by Feb. 7, 2020.

STEMFest

The Southeast Iowa STEMfest will be held at SCC's West Burlington campus from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 22. Dozens of exhibits and hands-on activities involving Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

Science Fair

The Holy Trinity Catholic Elementary Science Fair is set for Jan. 30th with public viewing from 11 a.m. to 11:45 at the Elementary School in West Point. The HTC high school event will be held Feb. 5th at the high school from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.. A spaghetti dinner fundraiser will be held beginning at 5 p.m. sponsored by the HTC Science Club Boosters.

Kensington events

The Kensington is offering Senior's Only Community Bingo on the second Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m. The event is free for seniors and cash prizes are awarded. Caregivers Connection is held the 4th Tuesday of every month at noon. Call 319-372-4233 to reserve your seat.

Green Team Fundraiser

The Green Team will be selling PuraVida bracelets for \$7 each through Jan. 22. Orders can be placed at Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce or by calling the Chamber at 319-372-5471. Funds will go to One Tree Planted, a non-profit focused on global restoration.

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Sports

HOUND BASKETBALL

Grayhounds keep FM without a win in loop play

BY PCC STAFF

BURLINGTON – The Fort Madison Bloodhounds lost their fifth game in the last six with a 72-47 drubbing at the hands of Burlington Thursday night in a make up game Saturday.

The Hounds, who had hopes of contending for the Southeast Iowa Conference title at the beginning of the year, are now 0-6 in loop play with four Southeast games to go.

Despite getting 11 points from sophomore Dayton Davis in the first half, Fort Madison trailed by 14 going into halftime. Burlington had built an eight point first quarter lead and stretched it to 38-24.

It was the third period that buried the

Hounds with Burlington putting up 23, behind Anakin Kelly's eight points.

Fort Madison's Miles Dear would heat in the fourth period connecting on three 3-pointers, but it was too little too late. Dear would finish will 11 on the night

Davis would lead the Bloodhounds with 15 points on the night followed by Jayden Fedler, who scored 14. Parker Denning had four, Michael Mosena scored a bucket and Romeo Maestro had one to round out Fort Madison's scorers.

Michael Alexander led the Grayhounds (5-5, 3-2) with 17 points while Trenton Murray had 11 and Amarion Davis had 10.

Fort Madison (3-9, 0-6) travels to Fairfield on Friday night for another Southeast Conference matchup.



Fort Madison's Molly Knipe (12) looks for someone under the basket in Thursday night's 49-25 win over Burlington. The Grayhounds Angel Baylark (5) plays defense on Knipe at the right baseline.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg



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Fort Madison
COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
Foundation

Sports

HOUND WRESTLING

Settles takes title at J-Hawk Invitational

Lozano, Settles ranked 9th in latest Class 3A polls

BY PCC STAFF

CEDAR RAPIDS – Fort Madison's Danen Settles captured the heavy-weight title at the J-Hawk Invitational on Saturday at Cedar Rapids Jefferson High School to highlight the Hounds 5th place finish.

Fort Madison finished with 148.5 points. Pleasant Valley won the team scoring with 194.5.

Settles, currently ranked 9th in the state at 285 according to IA Wrestle and The Predicament, won three of his four matches by decisions taking down Muscatine junior Togh Deseh 3-1.

The match was even through one, but Settles chose to start the second period down and was able to escape 13 seconds into the period for the only point of the period. Deseh returned the favor in the third recording an escape from the down start 20 seconds into the third period. But with less than 15 seconds remaining in the third, tied at 1-1, Settles was able to get a take down for the 3-1 lead and the championship.

Settles is now 28-3 on the year.

Diego Lozano, who broke back into the latest rankings at No. 9 in the IA Wrestle publication at 195 lbs, but isn't ranked in the latest Predicament listings, took third place after stumbling in third round wrestling at 220 lbs.

Up against Dubuque Hempstead's Alex Hudson, Lozano who's been quick off the whistle all year, scored a takedown at the 1:38 mark of period one. But Hudson quickly reversed position and almost scored a pin in the frenetic first minutes.

After all was said in period 1, Hudson led 8-2. Hudson would score another take down just :10 seconds into period 2 before getting Lozano's shoulders to the mat 5 seconds later.

Lozano would go on to win his next two matches including a 17-2 technical fall over Mason Olmstead of Alburnett for 3rd place. Lozano scored three 3-point near falls, two in the first period, to take early control of the match.

Other place winners for the Bloodhounds included Emmett Kruse (106) 4th, Matthew Steffensmeier (113) 4th, Owen Kruse (120) 4th, Gavin Wiseman (132) 4th, Mason Schau (152) 6th, Will Larson (138) 7th, and Nathan Steffensmeier (160) 8th place.

Complete results from the meet are below

106 lbs – Emmett Kruse (14-11) placed 4th and scored 14.0 team points. Champ. Round 1 – Emmett Kruse (Fort Madison) 14-11 received a bye: Quarterfinal – Emmett Kruse (Fort Madison) 14-11 received a bye: Semifinal – Henry Koehn (Cedar Falls) 18-7 won by major decision over Emmett Kruse (Fort Madison) 14-11 (MD 12-1): Cons. Round 3 – Emmett Kruse (Fort Madison) 14-11 won by fall over Mason Fox (Pleasant Valley) 8-16 (Fall 5:07): 3rd Place Match – Landon Reisen (Dubuque Hempstead) 12-10 won by fall over Emmett Kruse (Fort Madison) 14-11 (Fall 1:19)

113 lbs Matthew Steffensmeier (16-9) placed 4th and scored 16.0 team points. Champ. Round 1 – Matthew Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 16-9 won by fall over Max Lathrop (Cedar Rapids Jefferson) 2-3 (Fall 1:20): Quarterfinal – Matthew Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 16-9 won by fall over Siddharth Sharma (Pleasant Valley) 18-15 (Fall 0:35): Semifinal – Blaine Frazier (Notre Dame, Burlington) 35-1 won by fall over Matthew Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 16-9 (Fall 1:03): Cons. Round 3 – Matthew Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 16-9 won by decision over Gage Smith (Boone) 6-12 (Dec 4-2): 3rd Place Match – Logan Vallejo (Cedar Falls) 18-6 won by medical forfeit over Matthew Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 16-9 (M. For.)

120lbs Owen Kruse (17-10) placed 4th and scored 17.0 team points. Champ. Round 1 – Owen Kruse (Fort Madison) 17-10 received a bye: Quarterfinal – Owen Kruse (Fort Madison) 17-10 won by fall over Luke Jennings (Clinton) 11-10 (Fall 1:53): Semifinal – Adler Kramer (Dubuque Hempstead) 18-5 won by fall over Owen Kruse (Fort Madison) 17-10 (Fall 5:05): Cons. Round 3 – Owen Kruse (Fort Madison) 17-10 won by major decision over Reese Dietz (Cedar Falls) 4-3 (MD 13-0): 3rd Place Match – Jackson Miller (Pleasant Valley) 24-11 won by

fall over Owen Kruse (Fort Madison) 17-10 (Fall 5:27)

126 lbs – Gage Roberts (9-9) place is unknown and scored 2.0 team points. Champ. Round 1 – Izaak Swanson (Pleasant Valley) 17-12 won by major decision over Gage Roberts (Fort Madison) 9-9 (MD 15-6): Cons. Round 1 – Gage Roberts (Fort Madison) 9-9 received a bye: Cons. Round 2 – Gage Roberts (Fort Madison) 9-9 received a bye: Cons. Round 3 – Ian Taylor (Burlington) 9-8 won by major decision over Gage Roberts (Fort Madison) 9-9 (MD 14-6)

132 lbs – Gavin Wiseman (18-10) placed 4th and scored 16.0 team points. Champ. Round 1 – Gavin Wiseman (Fort Madison) 18-10 received a bye: Quarterfinal – Gavin Wiseman (Fort Madison) 18-10 won by decision over Joe Foreman (Cedar Rapids Washington) 14-4 (Dec 5-4): Semifinal – Hunter Meyrer (Pleasant Valley) 27-6 won by fall over Gavin Wiseman (Fort Madison) 18-10 (Fall 2:51): Cons. Round 3 – Gavin Wiseman (Fort Madison) 18-10 won by fall over Johnny Hoyle (Solon) 6-3 (Fall 0:51): 3rd Place Match – Joe Foreman (Cedar Rapids Washington) 14-4 won by major decision over Gavin Wiseman (Fort Madison) 18-10 (MD 12-2)

138 lbs – Will Larson (21-8) placed 7th and scored 9.0 team points. Champ. Round 1 – Will Larson (Fort Madison) 21-8 won by tech fall over Brooke Peters (Clinton) 10-10 (TF-1.5 4:54 (17-0)): Quarterfinal – Kyle Sharp (Boone) 20-11 won by decision over Will Larson (Fort Madison) 21-8 (Dec 9-4): Cons. Round 2 – River Belger (Burlington) 12-6 won by decision over Will Larson (Fort Madison) 21-8 (Dec 10-7): Cons. Round 3 – Will Larson (Fort Madison) 21-8 won by tech fall over Lukas Engledow (Cedar Rapids Washington) 8-11 (TF-1.5 5:40 (19-3)): 7th Place Match – Will Larson (Fort Madison) 21-8 won by major decision over Brooke Peters (Clinton) 10-10 (MD 10-1)

145 lbs – Aidan Pennock (7-7) place is unknown and scored 2.0 team points. Champ. Round 1 – Aidan Pennock (Fort Madison) 7-7 received a bye: Quarterfinal – Brody Hawtrey (North Cedar, Stanwood) 26-3 won by fall over Aidan Pennock (Fort Madison) 7-7 (Fall 1:09): Cons. Round 2 – Caden McDermott (Pleasant Valley) 20-9 won by fall over Aidan Pennock (Fort Madison) 7-7 (Fall 1:35): Cons. Round 3 – Perry Lindeman (Cedar Rapids Washington) 8-9 won by injury default over Aidan Pennock (Fort Madison) 7-7 (Inj. 0:41)

152 lbs – Mason Schau (19-10) placed 6th and scored 11.0 team points. Champ. Round 1 – Mason Schau (Fort Madison) 19-10 received a bye: Quarterfinal – Mason Schau (Fort Madison) 19-10 won by fall over Connor Beck (Muscatine) 14-8 (Fall 2:36): Semifinal – Zeb Gnida (Solon) 29-4 won by fall over Mason Schau (Fort Madison) 19-10 (Fall 3:06): Cons. Round 3 – Gable Mitchell (Iowa City, City High) 10-5 won by decision over Mason Schau (Fort Madison) 19-10 (Dec 5-2): 5th Place Match – Connor Beck (Muscatine) 14-8 won by decision over Mason Schau (Fort Madison) 19-10 (Dec 11-6)

160 lbs – Nathan Steffensmeier (13-15) placed 8th and

scored 9.0 team points. Champ. Round 1 – Jack Smith (Dubuque Hempstead) 11-12 won by decision over Nathan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 13-15 (Dec 9-4): Cons. Round 1 – Nathan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 13-15 received a bye: Cons. Round 2 – Nathan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 13-15 won by major decision over Seth Konen (Cedar Rapids Jefferson) 0-4 (MD 11-3): Cons. Round 3 – Nathan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 13-15 won by fall over Lee Sloan (Alburnett) 6-16 (Fall 0:58): 7th Place Match – Trevor Fisher (Cedar Falls) 13-14 won by fall over Nathan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 13-15 (Fall 2:45)

170 lbs – Mason Rohdy (1-7) place is unknown and scored 0.0 team points. Champ. Round 1 – Romen Young (Cedar Rapids Washington) 7-12 won by fall over Mason Rohdy (Fort Madison) 1-7 (Fall 1:10): Cons. Round 1 – Nick Bruinsma (Pleasant Valley) 8-23 won by fall over Mason Rohdy (Fort Madison) 1-7 (Fall 1:38)

182 lbs – Levi Lowney (13-8) place is unknown and scored 4.0 team points. Champ. Round 1 – Levi Lowney (Fort Madison) 13-8 won by fall over Nash Garlow (Burlington) 1-2 (Fall 4:14): Quarterfinal – Aidan Dunne (Dubuque Hempstead) 13-9 won by decision over Levi Lowney (Fort Madison) 13-8 (Dec 11-9): Cons. Round 2 – Callum Swanson (Davenport Central) 12-12 won by fall over Levi Lowney (Fort Madison) 13-8 (Fall 0:55): Cons. Round 3 – Ben Bowman (Cedar Falls) 13-12 won by decision over Levi Lowney (Fort Madison) 13-8 (Dec 8-4)

195 lbs – Bryce Britton (1-3) place is unknown and scored 3.0 team points. Champ. Round 1 – McGuire Bryant (Boone) 17-13 won by fall over Bryce Britton (Fort Madison) 1-3 (Fall 3:05): Cons. Round 1 – Bryce Britton (Fort Madison) 1-3 won by fall over Fritz Spencer (Iowa City, City High) 8-11 (Fall 1:39): Cons. Round 2 – Alonzo Duarte (Davenport Central) 10-21 won by fall over Bryce Britton (Fort Madison) 1-3 (Fall 3:41)

220 lbs – Diego Lozano (13-6) placed 3rd and scored 21.5 team points. Champ. Round 1 – Diego Lozano (Fort Madison) 13-6 won by fall over Zain Wilson (Cedar Rapids Jefferson) 1-8 (Fall 0:37): Quarterfinal – Diego Lozano (Fort Madison) 13-6 won by fall over Mason Olmstead (Alburnett) 16-13 (Fall 1:38): Semifinal – Alex Hudson (Dubuque Hempstead) 15-7 won by fall over Diego Lozano (Fort Madison) 13-6 (Fall 2:15): Cons. Round 3 – Diego Lozano (Fort Madison) 13-6 won by fall over Aiden Kilstrom (Pleasant Valley) 20-13 (Fall 0:42): 3rd Place Match – Diego Lozano (Fort Madison) 13-6 won by tech fall over Mason Olmstead (Alburnett) 16-13 (TF-1.5 3:48 (17-2))

285 lbs – Danen Settles (24-3) placed 1st and scored 24.0 team points. Champ. Round 1 – Danen Settles (Fort Madison) 24-3 won by decision over Hector Garcia (Boone) 16-15 (Dec 5-1): Quarterfinal – Danen Settles (Fort Madison) 24-3 won by fall over Jakob Weichers (Cedar Falls) 6-16 (Fall 5:25): Semifinal – Danen Settles (Fort Madison) 24-3 won by decision over Cayden Lovett (Dubuque Hempstead) 17-6 (Dec 9-4): 1st Place Match – Danen Settles (Fort Madison) 24-3 won by decision over Togh Deseh (Muscatine) 12-2 (Dec 3-1)

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Iowa News/From the Front

Old Fort Players next production starts Feb. 14

OFP - Continued from Page 1

literally sit around a table and read. It is perhaps the only theatrical term that isn't cloaked in code, superstition and an inside joke.

It was a real treat to watch the actors discover their characters' true identity in the last pages of the script. Many shouted their surprise or laughed out loud. Director Ty Clute had been in on the secret since choosing the play and thoroughly enjoyed watching his actors' reaction to this farcical comedy that could give Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night' a run for its money.

Accusations, mistaken identities, and romances run wild in this traditional, laugh-out-loud production. Two nuns at the Sisters of Perpetual Sewing have been secretly making wine to keep the convent's doors open, (while also making and selling grape juice to cover their tracks) but reporters Paul and Sally, are hot on their trail. They go undercover as a nun and priest, but their presence, combined with the addition of a new nun, spurs paranoia throughout the convent that spies have been sent from Rome to shut them down. Wine and secrets are inevitably spilled as everyone tries to preserve the convent and reconnect with lost loves.

Without revealing too many of the best jokes, the audience will get a real kick



Photo by courtesy of OFP

Tedra Edwards as Sister Mary Catherine swears she hears voices telling her to confess. Her fellow nuns (Karen Schumaker and Shelley Dowling) keep an eye on her from offstage.

out of all the ways the nuns refer to their homemade wine. Devil's Drink, Lucifer Libation, Devil's Hair Tonic and Satan's Toilet Water. There are even a few tangled conversations about "My brother the Father" and "My sister the Sister" that could rival Abbott & Costello's "Who's On First?"

And it all gets really silly when the characters get into the punch made with ... well it isn't grape juice.

"Drinking Habits," sponsored by Scotts, will be presented by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. (www.playscripts.com). Performances run February 14-16 & 21-23, 2020. Evening shows begin at 7:30 p.m. and the curtain rises on Sundays at 2:00 pm. (Adult \$15; Senior, Military, Vet \$12; Student \$10.) Tickets will be available online at www.oldfortplayers.com just by clicking the 'Book Now' button.

Next season Old Fort Players will celebrate their 40th anniversary. The theater is located in downtown Fort Madison at 725 Avenue G. Send a Facebook message, send an email to oldfortplayersfm@gmail.com or call 319-372-9559 for more information. Like them on Facebook (Fb@oldfortplayers) or visit the website to keep up with everything that's going on at the theater.



Photo courtesy of OFP

Colby Moore (Paul) and Rosie Strickland (Sally) share an OMG moment on stage while rehearsing for Old Fort Players February Production of "Drinking Habits."

IDPH to work with state libraries

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has received a \$50,000 grant from Telligen Community

Initiative (TCI) to fund an innovative program that offers public health tools, resources and programs through targeted public libraries.

The "Harnessing the Power of Iowa's Libraries" project is being piloted in Perry and Cedar Rapids. Because public libraries and local public health agencies are at the heart of Iowa's communities, they are well positioned to be partners in addressing health equity – helping all people to have the opportunity to attain their highest possible level of health. For the pilot, the Cedar Rapids Public Library is working with Linn County

Public Health, and the Perry Public Library with Dallas County Public Health.

Each library will tailor its public health offerings based on the local public health agency's Community Health Needs Assessment & Health Improvement Planning (CHNA & HIP). Many libraries already understand the importance of healthy lifestyles. For instance, the Cedar Rapids Public Library has installed walking treadmill desks. The TCI funding will allow libraries to build off existing health promotion efforts, in addition to expanding their offerings in partnership with their local public health agency.

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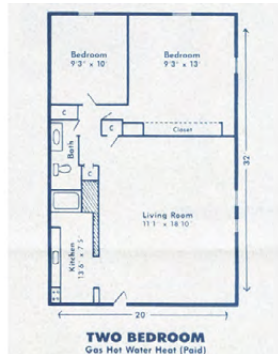
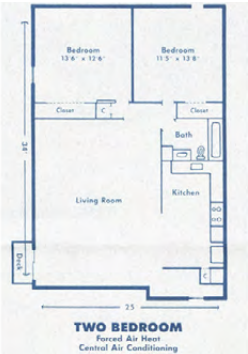
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
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From the Front

Students after apprenticeships need to bone up on math

TRADES - Continued from Page 1

"It's different because you don't see so many girls, but you create a bond with these guys and that's pretty cool to have that interaction with them. If I were to get stuck on the road or something, I know they would come help me."

Howren said she's usually goes to most shop shows offered by the school because she sees new opportunities and meets new people.

She said she's leaning more towards welding and pipefitting.

But despite the uptick in activity focusing on high school students to see trades as a viable option to the college path, several organizers and presenters at the event said there's more that can be done.

Ryan Drew, president of the Southeast Iowa Building and Trades and a member of the Local 150 International Union of Operating Engineers, said the state is misfiring on apprenticeship programs.

"We see two missing pieces. No. 1, we get them into these programs but then when say the city of Fort Madison builds a new library, we send it out to contractors to bid on, but we put no preference or any kind of language in there that we want our youth as apprentices to be involved in building these projects," Drew said.

"Instead we just say we want the person that can build it the cheapest."

He said unions are trying to drive that message to legislators and the Governor's office.

"We say these careers are great, but if we want to keep these kids here in our community we have to support those jobs when we are building a new gym or a new plant," he said.

"That's what we see as a flaw in the state of Iowa.

Other state's have taken that initiative to either incentivize contracts at bidding time or they require them at

bidding time," Drew said.

Drew also said people aren't talking enough about

safety. He said construction work is routinely in the top 10 as far dangerous occupations and said students need to hear that and make sure they are being trained according to safety standards.

"We can't be misleading these kids. These are dangerous jobs and you want to make sure the company you working for has the proper protections in place," he said.

Robertson said he's been a little surprised that money isn't typically the first things students have been asking about. But he said the subject almost always comes up.

"They usually ask what kind of work we do and where we do it," Robertson said.

"Most of the time I have to ask them how much they think it pays. And when we get into that and the benefits and retirement annuities, then they get pretty interested."

Drew said a 2018 Burlington High School graduate who went to work on a state highway project north of Burlington as a first-year apprentice made \$32,000 in five and half months.

"That's a pretty good return on the investment for the state of Iowa," Drew said.

Jacob Nye, with the electrical workers Local 113, said the shows are helping with the message that college isn't for everyone.

"The push over the years to go to college, that pushed a lot of our kids out of the area. We want our kids to stay here, and do well and earn a good living and that's what these opportunities provide."

Nye said there isn't near enough of the trade shows going on.

"Absolutely not," Nye said. 'I don't know... it's a focus we have to encourage students to look at their options.

Where do they want to live, what jobs are available and then you select the training you need to do that job. Instead of that college mentality."

Jesse Howard, of New London is a 1st Sgt. of Recruiting for Southeast Iowa with the National Guard said southeast Iowa is begging for events like this to help fill skills gaps all over the area.

"There is more and more investment in trade programs now. New London is rebuilding their trades programs. Burlington and Fort Madison continue to grow their's because they see the importance of it," Howard said.

"Folks in the field are saying we need qualified people to come and work here. We'll teach and train 'em but we need them to want to work here."

Robertson said math and attendance are two of the biggest things potential apprentice candidates need to be concerned with.

"It's the math, the algebra, geometry, trigonometry is so important."

But he said applications are also weighted heavily on attendance at high school.

"They rely on them showing up every day on time because they have a crew that is designed with four guys who have to get a job done," he said. "If the fourth guy doesn't show up... now they're waiting on someone which isn't good."

Independent contractors and development groups are also putting resources toward trade and state STEM efforts. The Fort Madison Economic Development Group just donated \$1,000 to the Fort Madison High School welding program for equipment.

Other local industries partner regularly with Lee County Economic Development Group to put on classes and events that focus on jobs that are available in the area that may require a certification, but don't necessarily require a college degree.



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