



Pen City Current

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 | 8 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 107

IDOT wants IFC all in on road closure

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - An official with the Iowa Department of Transportation says closing the Hwy. 61 crossing at the entrance to the Iowa Fertilizer Company is probably the safest thing to do, but the IFC must agree to all safety measures before IDOT will issue a permit.

Jim Armstrong, District Engineer with IDOT's District 5 Highway Division, told the Lee County Board of Supervisors at Tuesday's workshop ultimately the decision to close the crossover is in the hands of the state, but he said it would make sense

for the Lee County Board of Supervisors to adopt an all-or-nothing approach with the fertilizer plant regarding additional traffic improvements.

The Iowa Fertilizer plant has sent notice to the county and state that they would like to have the crossover closed for safety purposes in helping trucks get off facility property and make the turn north as smoothly as possible. The move would eliminate access to the southbound lane.

Another IFC request is to build a 2,600-foot acceleration lane including a 900-foot taper at the end of the lane to merge onto Hwy 61 northbound. But Armstrong said improvements to 180th Street should also be made part of the agreement, all at the facility's expense.

"We've been approached with that letter in March and then I received a letter in April requesting an immediate closure of the crossover. We've been meeting monthly, talking about safety issues, and the most recent two have focused on that crossover, as well as an improvement to 180th Street where it ended. We hav-



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Iowa Fertilizer officials want to close the crossover at this intersection at Hwy. 61 & 180th Street, which is the main entry way for the fertilizer plant. Iowa Department of Transportation officials are wanting other safety measures as part of the closure agreement.

en't made a decision on this yet," Armstrong said.

Fedler said now people are asking why the Rise Road or J50, was built if they were going to close the crossover.

"They said that was put in there for safety so trucks had access to the interstate. So now they're asking 'what did we build that for if they're going to do this?' It's a pretty good question," Fedler said.

Armstrong said at the beginning of discussions, the fertilizer company indicated most of their business would go south. So what's changed in the discussions is that 70% is going to go north. Their operational expense and safety could be at risk due to that change," Armstrong said.

"Now they said what I call the Rise Road (J50) will be used for 30% of business that is going south. What the IDOT is discussing is lawful. No one can stop this. So what is the right combination to address safety and business concerns and to me..this is an issue of all or nothing.

See IFC, page 2

ISP plans old prison tours for May 7

Public invited to tours from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Warden Patti Wachtendorf is pleased to announce that there will be a public tour of the Historic Iowa State Penitentiary that has been closed since August, 1st 2015.

This public event will take place on Sunday, May 7th beginning at 9:00 a.m. Parking is restricted to the South Lot.

Anyone touring is being asked to bring a nonperishable item to be donated to the local Food Pantry.

Each tour will be guided by either a retired or current staff member who will be able to provide details regarding the operation of the 176-year-old facility.

There will not be an elevator available that day so participants should be able to use stairs and do a considerable amount of walking.

The last tour will be offered beginning at 4:30 pm, so it is recommended to be early.



WACHTENDORF



ARMSTRONG

IFC announces more testing

BY PCC STAFF

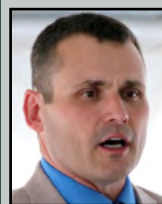
WEVER - With production starting at the Iowa Fertilizer plant in southeast Iowa, the facility will reach additional milestones over the next week as new start up activities are initiated.

As the plant begins the process of producing urea ammonium nitrate, venting from sections of the plant will have an orange color for one or two days. This is an expected and planned part of the company's start-up process. The emissions are not harmful and the company continues to work closely with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to meet all permit requirements.

Additionally, Iowa Fertilizer Company plans to test its primary alarm systems on Wednesdays at 10:00 am moving forward. The facility also uses internal alerts to help monitor production. While those may sometimes be audible in the community, the company is working to reduce the frequency and volume of these alerts.

"At Iowa Fertilizer Company, safety is the foundation of our operations," said Darrell Allman, Site Director and Operations Manager at Iowa Fertilizer Company. "We are proud to be part of the southeast Iowa community and want to be sure our neighbors and other partners are aware of the startup activities taking place now that production is underway at the facility."

Iowa Fertilizer Company is a leader in the fertilizer industry. Utilizing its state-of-the-art production, industry-leading technology, and environmentally sustainable processes, Iowa Fertilizer Company will help provide farmers in Iowa and around the country with a stable, domestic supply of fertilizer. For more information, visit Iowa Fertilizer Company at iowafertilizer.com.



ALLMAN

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From the Front/Area News



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IDOT official urges all-or-none approach to IFC safety concerns

IFC - Continued from Page 1

Armstrong said the county has complete jurisdiction over 180th Street, up to, and including vacating the property.

"You have complete jurisdiction over 180 and I don't want to speak for you, but in my opinion it would be an all or nothing proposition.

Fedler also calculated that every load is 8.4 miles if they use J50 and that's 300 or 400 trucks a day so it's a cost-savings to them, but his interests are more of a safety concern than cost-savings.

He also said hauling nitrogen fertilizer could be devastating if there were to be an accident.

A conference call has been scheduled for Thursday between Armstrong and the fertilizer company to continue discussions on the matter, but Armstrong said he is not in favor of permitting the cost.

As part of the improvements to 180th Street at the Hwy 61 intersection, Armstrong said to help trucks get up to speed, the fertilizer plant may build a gradual turn into a yield, so additional property would need to be purchased for that and any other improvements to the roadway.

"From the inception of this Iowa fertilizer plant, the northbound traffic has always been 70 to 80% and there were never concerns about the southbound, but they assured us of those numbers from the beginning," said Supervisor Gary Folluo.

Armstrong said all three of the projects should be made part of any permitting agreements because the county could lose financially if they don't.

"I'm concerned if we go first and do the median crossover, you'll never see either of the other two done. I'm sure they'll want the other two at someone else's expense," Armstrong said.

After the workshop, Armstrong reiterated that he wouldn't favor permitting the crossover if the acceleration lane and 180th Street improvements weren't a part of the agreement and at Iowa Fertilizer Company's cost.

After the meeting, Supervisor Don Hunold said all the information needs to be gathered and the county will need to sit down and go over it all again, because he heard some things he wasn't aware of. However, he said closing is probably the safest route to take at this point.

"I think it's probably best thing going forward, there's going to be an accident there bigger than we're standing here, and I hate saying that because I don't want to see the crossover closed, but in all reality if we don't close it that's going to happen."

Hunold said it was an eyeopener to him that J50, which connects to 180th street and runs south on the east side of the plant and eventually connects with Hwy 61, isn't out of the flood plain, and that was the road originally planned to handle truck traffic in and out of the facility.

"Yes, that was the initial plan," Hunold said. "And then they just said, and I didn't realize it, that J50 isn't out of the flood plain. "So, if we have a flood, the only way out is 180th Street and that's a whole new ball game."

Task force arrests woman on misdemeanor drug charges

PCC STAFF

KEOKUK – The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Missouri woman on misdemeanor drug charges.

Carrie Ann Tate, 55, of Alexandria, Missouri, was arrested on April 24th, 2017 in the 1000 block of North 10th Street in Keokuk



TATE

on misdemeanor drug warrants. Tate is charged with Maintaining A Drug House, an aggravated misdemeanor, two counts of Possession Of A Controlled Substance (Methamphetamine and Marijuana), a serious misdemeanor, and Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Tate faces up to 4 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility.

The arrest of Tate stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics

Task Force into allegations that she was involved in the use of illegal drugs in the Lee County area. The charges stem from a search warrant which was served at 2624 Cramer Lane in Keokuk, which was her residence at the time. Items that support the charges were discovered during the service of the search warrant.

The Lee County Attorney's Office, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, Lee County Sheriff's Office, Iowa State Penitentiary K9 Unit, and the 8th Judicial District of Probation and Parole assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy.

Sports

Rashids combine for three goals in Crusaders win

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WEST POINT - Holy Trinity Catholic's Maya and Elle Rashid combined for three goals Tuesday night at home as the Lady Crusaders rolled to a 5-0 shut out win over Columbus Junction in girls high school soccer action.

Elyse Pothitakis got the ball in the net first for HTC with a goal from left of center at the 18-minute mark. With Holy Trinity keeping the ball on their side of the field for about 70% of the game, senior Ali Randolph was able to find a shot on goal about four minutes later. Randolph's shot was blocked, but Elle Rashid was following again down the left side of the net area and

The HTC girls were all around the goal on Tuesday night as they shut out Columbus Junction. At right, Ali Randolph approaches the net for a shot.

was able to punch it in off the block to give HTC a 2-0 lead.

That lead would hold up until halftime, but the Crusaders took off in the second half much the same as they did in the first, dominating field position throughout the half, allowing only a smattering of Columbus Junction treks toward HTC goalie Avery Malinski. Malinski only needed two saves on the night to preserve the shutout.

With just under seven minutes gone in the second half, Randolph again took a shot and this one hit the crossbar above the net and dropped at the feet of Elle Rashid who, again, capitalized on following the play and found the net.

Randolph, who had

three assists on the night, then found Maya Rashid who scored with a left-footed strike to put the Crusaders up comfortably 4-0. Taylor Boeding then got in on the scoring action off an assist from Pothitakis at the 14-minute mark.

Maya Rashid finished the game with one goal and three shots on goal. Boeding finished with one goal and two shots on goal. Randolph finished with three assists and four shots on goal. Elyse Pothitakis had her one goal to go with one assist and one shot on goal.

The Crusaders move to 4-1 on the season and participate in the Tournament of Champions at the Burlington Rec Plex Friday through Sunday.



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

HTC's Taylor Boeding loads up for a shot on goal in Tuesday night's match with Columbus Junction. Boeding finished with one goal, five shots including two shots on goal, and an assist on the night in the Lady Crusaders 5-0 shutout. Below Elle Rashid reacts to her goal.



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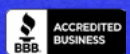
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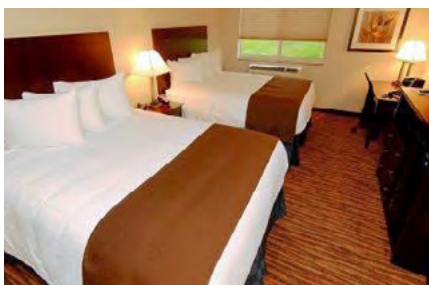


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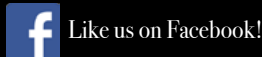
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The Fort Madison YMCA is now hiring part-time morning and daytime lifeguards. Must be a certified lifeguard or willing to get certified along with having CPR / AED certifications.

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Learn more about your local YMCA at www.fortmadisonymca.org



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3684 Argyle Road, Keokuk
Listing #20164982 • \$191,500



4BR • 2BA • 2 car garage
1,260 sq. ft. • 4.59 acres

Custom Designed, Energy Efficient home with an open floor plan, cathedral ceilings, on a hard surface road. Includes large deck extends the entire back length of the house, master bedroom that opens up to the back deck, jack and jill master bath and second bedroom. The property also includes an oversized 2 car garage with a heated workshop attached.

1703 Avenue L
Listing #20165151 • \$55,900



3BR • 1BA • 2 car garage
1,488 sq. ft. • 16,247 sq. ft. lot

Has been owned by this seller since 1960!!! Large eat-in kitchen with newly tiled floor includes stove, microwave, washer and dryer, main floor laundry (in bedroom), formal dining room with built-in hutch, and spacious living room. The house sits on a HUGE lot and has a nice 2 car garage in back. Home has Gas Heat and central air with maintenance-free siding on house and garage.

1712 Avenue E
Listing #20164725 • \$92,000



4BR • 1.50BA
1,706 sq. ft. • 7,250 sq. ft. lot

This spacious home has it all, the character of a turn of the century home; beautiful woodwork, beamed ceilings, window seat, columns, and large covered front porch, yet also includes MANY updates. Call today for your private viewing!

3098 County Road 103
Listing #20164991 • \$129,900



2BR • 2BA • 3 car garage
1,404 sq. ft. • 1.42 acres

Upgrades, improvements, updates...call it what you like, this home has had MANY in the last 2 plus years. This seller has completely refurbished the hill to the north of the home with new landscaping finishes. This is a must see property!!! It has enough room for your family and then some!!!

4911 Bluff Road
Listing #20164861 • \$157,500



3BR • 1.75BA • 2 car garage
1,772 sq. ft. • 0.57 acres

Great family home with LOTS OF NEW! New kitchen, bathroom, windows, most flooring, wrap around deck, ceiling fans, light fixtures, furnace and central air! Beautiful neutral decor and window treatments make this a must see! All this and a 2 car heated garage.

1708 Avenue G
Listing #20165237 • \$92,500



3BR • 1BA
1,432 sq. ft. • 5,500 sq. ft. lot

This UPDATED, MOVE-IN READY, CHARMING 3 bedroom home will make an awesome family home!!! This gem has all new windows throughout, exterior doors, deck, plumbing, & NEW roof on house & garage. So come check it out! This is a MUST SEE!!!





**3 BR • 2 BA • 2 car garage
1,168 sq. ft. • 0.54 acres**

Quality and beauty! Many updates and upgrades including a new concrete patio/carport with surround sound and mood lighting, new kitchen, bath and lighting throughout. This is an AMAZING house that you MUST see to appreciate!!!

Listing #20164622 • \$88,000



**3 BR • 2 BA • 2 car garage
1,168 sq. ft. • 0.54 acres**

Lovely family home comfortably situated at the end of a cul de sac, where you can enjoy the woods and the privacy! There is an inviting deck off the back of the home overlooking the woods and beautiful vinyl fencing. There are newer mechanicals and a newer roof, 2 fireplaces and lots of storage!! Don't miss out on this beauty.

Listing #20163951 • \$129,000



**5BR • 2.50BA • 2 car garage
2,834 sq. ft.**

14,868 sq. ft. lot

Amazing family home on a large corner lot in Farmington, IA. 2 fireplaces, beautiful woodwork, a beautiful open front porch, a large yard and an oversized garage!!

Listing #20164117 • \$127,500



**2BR • 1BA • 1 car garage
1,224 sq. ft.**

7,250 sq. ft. lot

A house with character! Wrap-around porch, original hardwood in formal dining room/living room combo, main floor laundry, nice size eat-in kitchen including appliances, dining room has original fireplace, basement and 1 car garage.

Listing #20162543 • \$53,000



**5BR • 1.75BA • 1 car garage
1,904 sq. ft. • 1,903 sq. ft. lot**

Great family home on large corner lot in the middle of Ft. Madison. Large living / dining area with original craftsman woodwork and built-ins, 14 x 22 garage on the alley with 2 additional storage sheds. Nice front porch, rear deck, and a great sunroom on the East.

**Listing #20162346
\$86,950**



**3BR • 1BA • 1 car garage
928 sq. ft. • 1,087 sq. ft. lot**

Very nice maintenancefree home by Lincoln School with a 75 X 145 fenced yard, nice patio, fire pit and child's play set! Some very nice built-ins, some original hardwood flooring, full basement including laundry area. Also find extra parking, garage and carport area on the paved alley.

Listing #20164148 • \$72,500



**5BR • 3BA
3,119 sq. ft.**

14,500 sq. ft. lot

From the period wrought iron fencing to the amazing stained oak staircase...from the impressive arches to the large wrap porch, this beautiful turn of the century (20th) home offers all the beauty and elegance of that era. This is a beautifully appointed home with all the modern conveniences. There is an extra large lot for your family to enjoy!!

Listing #20162159 • \$164,000



**3 BR • 2 BA • 1 car garage
2,260 sq. ft.
6,784 sq. ft. lot**

Lots of new! Semi open floor plan, new flooring, great open basement family space, and many updates including heat/air units, kitchen back splash, counters and more! Fenced in back yard with stamped concrete patio and awning. Call today to see this great home in a quiet neighborhood.

Listing #20164544 • \$139,900



**3BR • 3BA
2,754 sq. ft.**

3,550 sq. ft. lot

Gorgeous, turn-key home with large patio minimum maintenance. UPDATES GALORE!!! Practically perfect in every way, this 1841 home includes the latest improvements while keeping its Victorian charm.

Listing #23006122 • \$99,999



**2BR • 1BA • 2 car garage
930 sq. ft. • 7,280 sq. ft. lot**

This 2 bedroom home in Montrose has been a rental property and sells as is. Priced way below assessed value to sell quickly!

Listing #20164279 • \$38,500





2BR • 1BA
1,144 sq. ft.
3,625 sq. ft. lot

Move-in ready with many updates including kitchen WITH appliances, fresh paint, newer electrical (100 AMP breaker), new water lines at street and more! The home is clean as a whistle and ready to move in!

Listing #20161431 • \$42,500



2BR • 1.75BA • 2 car garage
679 sq. ft. • 6,500 sq. ft. lot
 Nice, small home. Seller has purchased and remodeled. Excellent condition.
Listing #20164161 • \$62,500



2 BR • 1 BA • 1 car garage
528 sq. ft. • 5,600 sq. ft. lot
 Super deal on this cream puff home, offering 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, new roof, newer windows, siding and REALLY nice garage!
Listing #20164597 • \$29,900



4 BR • 1.75 BA
3 car garage • 2,052 sq. ft.
8,700 sq. ft. lot
 Beautiful 4 bedroom home with large rooms, recently redecorated and ready to move into. This home features stainless steel appliances, main floor laundry, eat in kitchen and formal dining room, main floor office or bedroom, open staircase, large living room and big bedrooms. Newer roof, siding and gutters on house. 24' X 36' insulated garage and workshop, plus carport. Large wrap porch great location near Old Settlers Park.
Listing #20163776 • \$129,500



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3 BR • 1 BA • 1 car garage
1,248 sq. ft. • 0.37 acres

Well-kept ranch on a beautiful, large corner lot in West Point, IA. New wooden privacy fence surrounding the entire back yard. There is also an attached garage and storage shed. A large wooden deck leads to the front door where you can sit and enjoy those beautiful Iowa summer sunsets! PLUS a covered deck in the back for those rainy days. This house is a rare find.

Listing #20164234 • \$119,900



2 car garage • 2,527 sq. ft.
 UNIQUELY beautiful 9.38 river bluff acreage. This home boasts many updates including complete master suite, heat and A/C, Septic system, deck, roof & gutters, flooring, and the list goes on. This private property includes fenced in barn area for animal lovers, mature fruit trees plus trees have been dropped for a beautiful panoramic river view that will last for years! Owner also plans to leave a John Deere mower and new snow blower!!
Listing #20162733 • \$269,000



3 BR • 2.50 BA
2 car garage • 1,194 sq. ft.
10,400 sq. ft. lot

Great family home is move-in ready. Nice-sized kitchen with all appliances, dining area, and nice living room all on the upper level. Completely re-modeled family room with a wood burning fireplace on lower level. Many updates include newer flooring, roof and HVAC system.

Listing #20164531 \$114,900



Land

14.65 acres • 638,514 sq. ft.
 Just outside city limits, perfect for housing development or small farm for horses or small livestock, over half tillable. City water is available. 30' X 60' building is totally insulated, heated and air conditioned with 200 amp service.
Listing #20162574 • \$249,000



3BR • 1.75BA • 1 car garage
888 sq. ft. • 9,450 sq. ft. lot
 RARE RANCH with large fenced back yard and attached garage! Updated windows and kitchen, newer HVAC and water heater. Family Room in the basement. Just waiting for your own personal touch!
Listing #20163423 • \$74,900



Land

50.82 acres
2,213,719 sq. ft.
 Ideal 50 acre m/l parcel to develop. Close to new 4-8 Middle School and Baxter Rec Plex. TREMENDOUS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY.
Listing #20162779 • \$559,020

Sports/Local News

School officials warn of harmful games among students

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison school officials are warning parents about possible harmful games being played by students in the district including knockout and choke out. Patrick Lamb, Fort Madison Community School District Security Officer, made a district-wide announcement this evening via the school's voice and text messaging systems.

Lamb's message said, "It has been brought to the attention of the district that students are discussing, attempting, or playing a game involving choking other students. It is not clear when and where students are playing these games. The games, sometimes referred to as "knockout," "choke out," or "rocket rides," involve children choking each other until a student passes out. There is also a game in which a student attempts to force themselves to pass out by making oneself light-headed until faintness occurs. These are obviously dangerous games and we wanted to take the opportunity to inform you so you can talk with your child if he or she is hearing about these games, and of the dangers involved. If you are concerned that your child is playing one of these games and would like assistance, please call your school's main office and ask to speak to a counselor or nurse."

To contact the high school, call (319)372.1862; the middle school, call (319)372.4687; Lincoln Elementary, call (319)372.2896; and Richardson Elementary, call (319)372.2765. The district office number is (319)372.7252.

Hounds win at home in close match

Multiple set tiebreakers make for plenty of tennis Tuesday

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - It was just a dual meet, but there was a whole bunch of tennis played Tuesday as the Fort Madison Bloodhounds nipped Fairfield 5-4.

For the first time in a while, the wind wasn't blowing the ball all over and Fort Madison found itself in a bunch of tiebreakers as the match came down to doubles play to determine the winner.

At No. 1 singles, Dante Seaney found himself in a battle with Fairfield's Nabin Martin with both sets going to seven games. Seaney won the first set 7-5, but fell in the 2nd set 6-7 with a 3-7 loss in the second set tiebreaker.

Johnny Hernandez got the Hounds on the board at No. 2 singles when he had to go into the tiebreak against the Trojans' Gannon Courtwright. Hernandez won the first set



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

FMHS' Johnny Hernandez returns a backhand Tuesday night as the Hounds nipped Fairfield 5-4 splitting the singles action 3-3 and winning the doubles contests 2-1.

going away 6-3, but got wrapped up in a 5-7 loss in the second set. Hernandez got up a couple serves in the set tiebreaker and came away with a 10-7 win in the first-to-ten-by-two tiebreaker.

The Hounds had a much easier time at No. 3 singles when Sam Avery dispatched of Elijah Parr 6-2, 6-0. At No. 4 singles, FM's Austin Krueger suffered a quick setback losing 1-6, 1-6 to Logan Williams. FMHS was able to split the singles competition when Conrad Hellman downed Brandon Winkelman 6-4, 6-3 at No. 5 singles. Tim Shin dropped the No. 6 singles match to Jarod Willmon

4-6, 2-6 to enable the Trojans to split the one-on-ones.

In doubles action, Seaney and Hernandez worked the tandem play at No. 1 doubles to drop Martin and Courtwright with great play in the second set and tie breaker. The two Hounds lost the first set 4-6, but blanked their opponents in the second set 6-0 and went on to win the tiebreaker 10-4.

Fairfield was set on making it an exciting evening when they took the No. 2 doubles match that pitted Avery and Krueger against Williams and Parr. The Fort Madison duo took the first set

7-6, but Fairfield returned the favor and blanked the Hounds 6-0 in the second set and went on to win the set tiebreaker 10-8.

A win at No. 3 doubles put FM over the top when Shin and Hellman had to also go to a set tiebreaker to get the win. The two won the first set 7-5, and lost the second set 6-1 before winning the tiebreaker 10-6.

The Hounds are 4-1 in dual meets on the season and travel to Keokuk on Thursday.

In junior varsity action, Blake Feuerhammer defeated Gabe Dezzee 7-5. Collin Meierotto lost to Dezzee 6-1 and Gage Hind lost to Dezzee 6-1.

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ROSS BRADEN
Lee County Attorney
May 2nd, 2017

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