



Pen City Current

Friday, February 3, 2017 | 3 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 39

New building will bring 'Harmony' to church

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The folks at Harmony Bible Church are close to opening a new place of worship in Fort Madison.

Pastor Andrew Wiese said construction is fully underway and they have set a grand opening for Feb. 12 at 1602 Avenue F.

The organization is part of the larger Harmony Bible campus in Danville and will now have their first physical footprint in Fort Madison.

The building is a former church and former satellite location for Southeastern Community College. Fort Madison High School leased the lower floor for its Creative Learning Center curriculum from the college.

Wiese said he's excited about the possibilities and the programming the new building will make possible.

"One of the things we have scheduled is a group meeting called 'Celebrate Recovery', where we help people deal with hurt, habits and hangups," Wiese said. "It's really a great program. We have one in Burlington on Mondays and we'll do ours on Tuesday. It's a good place for people to find some freedom from things like addiction, and non-addiction issues."

There will also be Sunday School classes on the lower level during worship but only through second grade. Wiese said he would like to see that program grow to fifth grade as attendance grows.

The deceptively large worship auditorium has been pulled back into shape from when the original church was functional. Natural wood ceilings arch up to a peak with decorative supports running across the span of the peaked ceiling. The church has put in an 8-foot

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New home for worship

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Pastor Andrew Wiese stands in his newly renovated worship auditorium at the new home of the Harmony Bible Church at 1602 Avenue F in Fort Madison. A grand opening has been set for Feb. 12 at 10:30 a.m.

Cast set for OFP's Feb. show

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The Old Fort Players are proud to announce the cast of their upcoming February production. The cast started rehearsals a few weeks ago and are settling into their respective roles very nicely. "If The Good Lord's Willing and the Creek Don't Rise" is a two act comedy written by renowned playwright Pat Cook.

Doc who is a retired judge and lives in a large home on the edge of town is quite a character. He has several rather strange people living with him. Doc is portrayed by OFP veteran Jim Cole. He surrounds himself with a lot of strange people which makes his daughter think she should step in a take

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Greenwald faces misdemeanor fraud charge

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A Fort Madison businessman and sitting city councilman has been charged with a misdemeanor aggravated fraud charge in connection with a title issue on a vehicle at his dealership in June.

According to the Iowa Department of Transportation's Motor Vehicle Enforcement Division, a complaint was filed in district court on Jan. 20 against Chris Greenwald, owner of River City Motors Plus Inc. in Fort Madison and first ward

councilman.

According to the complaint, on June 21, 2016, Greenwald, "did commit a fraudulent practice in the third degree by knowingly conceal a material fact concerning the ownership and transferability of a vehicle while obtaining a Iowa certificate of title representing a 2004 Chevrolet truck. The defendant having a financial exposure of \$7,000 but the truck having a security lien of \$11,500. Actual value of the truck to the dealership being \$7,000."

The affidavit on file at the North Lee County Courthouse also alleges the Greenwald was aware



GREENWALD

of an attempt to obtain an Iowa title via an employee making application

for the title. An application for the title of the Chevy Silverado was filed at the Lee County Treasurer's office. The document also alleges that, "Greenwald had knowingly and willingly accepted the truck as a trade in vehicle and was aware that the Chevrolet truck title had been "skipped" and the person trading the truck was not the title owner and the truck title

was not negotiable for transfer."

According to the investigation notes on the affidavit signed by Officer Chad White, an investigator with the Iowa Department of Transportation's Bureau of Investigation and Identification Protection, it was discovered that the vehicle had an active 1st security lien notation on the vehicle and the dealership wished to obtain a title for the truck to allow resale. "The defendant's business knowingly concealed the material facts of the title skip fraud and existing 1st security interest when Iowa title was issued and

immediately transferred to another party," White indicated in his notes on the affidavit.

Attempts to reach Greenwald for comment on Wednesday and Thursday at his home, his business and his City Council line were unreturned.

He is being represented by Elaine Fehseke Gray out of Fort Madison. Attempts to reach Gray for comment were also unreturned.

An initial court hearing was set for Thursday at the North Lee County Courthouse but was moved on a motion filed

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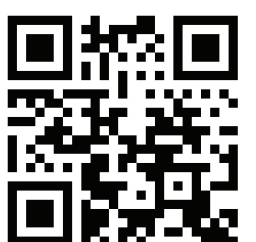
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From the Front/Local News

New church to allow for programming, growth

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large screen monitor in the front stage area and Wiese said pews will be put back in place that will accommodate 200 in the parish. The auditorium will have full audio and video capabilities.

“Our attendance right now with children and adults is right around 100 so we’ve got some room to grow,” Wiese said. “Our services typically average around 80..sometimes we get more and sometimes less, depending on the seasons and time of year.”

There is a fellowship area inside the front doors with full restrooms and in the basement is a kitchen area, a nursery and about 4 other classrooms and a modernized fire sprinkler system that SCC had installed.

All in all, Wiese said the

construction didn’t have any real hiccups because SCC had taken such good care of the property. Crews are putting in all new parquet wooden floors in the basement and most of the upper level.

Some blacktop has been brought in to provide for additional parking on the lower level. Wiese said volunteers will probably work on repainting and landscaping outdoors when the weather is more suitable.

“We purchased the building on Sept. 30. It got pretty cold quick and we didn’t have time to get that work done,” he said. “But we have been able to put up new gutters.”

The church paid SCC \$230,000 for the building and budgeted \$170,000



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Construction zone

The lower level at the newly renovated Harmony Bible Church will house a nursery, classrooms, future club and craft areas and a kitchen. Pastor Andrew Wiese says most of the construction will be wrapped up in the next 10 days.

for renovations. But Wiese said renovations to this point are at about \$80,000 with some stuff to still come in.

The church had been meeting in the Riverview Park pavilion, renting that space from the City

of Fort Madison. “We’ve been meeting at the pavilion for a year and a half. We’ve been looking for a building for the past year and a half,” he said. “We’ve looked at a lot of buildings, some weren’t available, some were avail-

able for the wrong price. This then came available and it used to be a church so we came in and took a look.”

The church will be holding a grand opening on its first day of service that will begin at 10:30.

Inspection reveals two title issues

TITLES - Continued from Pg. 1

by Gray.

Greenwald was originally charged with three counts, the first being the aggravated misdemeanor fraud, which has been consolidated by the court with one count of failure to maintain motor vehicle records and one count of failure to obtain a manufacturer’s or importer’s certificate.

White said as part of the investigation, the department reviewed the records for the vehicles on the lot at River City Motors and found another vehicle with a title issue but only one complaint was filed.

Next OFP show hits the stage Feb. 17

OFP - Continued from Page 1

control of him and his fortune. Her intention is to have him declared a danger to himself and society. The fact that he flies around in a hot air balloon and goes fishing in a dry creek bed has no bearing on her decision. She wants to sell the estate! Enter a young psychologist played by Stevie Bethurem who is sent to evaluate Doc. That proves to be a difficult assignment. Steve Renfro is an artist and teacher who comes and goes in the home. Maxine McAllister a regular in the home is played by Shelley Dowling. A wannabe Shakespearean actress, Doreen Furst is played by Xandra Abel. Her wannabe suitor Leo Jenkins is played by Carter Kennery. Doc’s daughter, Charlotte Dinsel is played by Richar Abel. Every good story has to have a shyster lawyer and this play has Gerald Firestone played by Matt Abel. The last character in this production is Elizabeth Clairbourne who is portrayed by Karen Schumaker who is a good friend of Doc. On the day of the hearing Doc shows up dressed as a magician and his daughter starts gloating over her apparent win. The action on stage is directed by OFP’s Carol Parson. The play will be presented on Feb 17 thru 19th and again on Feb 24 & 25, 2017. All times are 7:30 PM except for the 19th is 2 PM. Cost of admission is \$12 for adults and \$8 for students 17 and under. Tickets will be available at the door and by calling 372-9559. The production is being sponsored by Scotts Miracle Gro and is presented by permission of Eldridge Publishing, Lancaster, PA. Any one desiring more information may call 372-9559 or send us a message at oldfortplayers@hotmail.com.

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Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager
(319)371.4125
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Chuck Vandenberg, Editor
(319)371.1670
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Sports

Hound grapplers down BHS; districts next

Entire match lasts less than 30 minutes as teams forfeit seven matches

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR -

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Bloodhound wrestling team made quick work of BHS Thursday in a conference dual meet. The key word being quick.

The Hounds won 54-30 as both teams combined for seven forfeits in the last dual meet prior to districts Feb. 11 in Mt. Pleasant.

Despite the quick win over the Greyhounds, Head Coach Ryan Smith said there's still some room for his wrestlers to improve before districts.

"I won't say we're where we want to be. But you know 99% of the physical work's done and now it's about the mental part," Smith said.

"
I won't say we're where we want to be. But, you know, 99% of the physical work is done and now it's about the mental part."

-Ryan Smith
FMHS Head Coach

The Hounds got three mat wins from a trio of Steffensmeiers. Ryan (113 lbs.) kicked off the mat wins for FMHS with a quick pin over Burlington's Ian Taylor at the 1:08 mark, followed by a forfeit win for Nathan at 120 lbs. Aaron Steffensmeier then pinned Bryce Angle at 132 pounds at the 3:39 mark in probably the most physical match of the night. Harlan Steffensmeier, wrestling at 145 lbs. instead of his usual 138 lbs. got a quick pin of Garlow Nash in 1:16. Dalton Woolever stepped into the 138 lb.

weight class and got a hard fought pin over BHS' Calvin Nguyen at 5:24.

Smith said he'll take the same wrestlers he had at the dual to districts, but as has been the case most of the year, he won't have wrestlers at each weight class because some classes he didn't have wrestlers for most of the year.

"We'll go hard Monday and Tuesday like we normally do and then Wednesday, Thursday and Friday we'll back it off."

Complete results:

Fort Madison (FOMA) 54.00 Burlington (BURL) 30.00
160: Isaiah Perez-Hall (BURL) over (FOMA) (For.) 170: Brody Johnson (BURL) over (FOMA) (For.) 182: Spencer Sherwood (BURL) over Diego Lozano (FOMA) (Fall 1:43) 195: Sam Hayes (FOMA) over (BURL) (For.) 220: Danen Settles (FOMA) over (BURL) (For.) 285: Broc Garlow (BURL) over Heath Hoerig (FOMA) (Fall 1:47) 106: Elton Kruse (FOMA) over (BURL) (For.) 113: Ryan Steffensmeier (FOMA) over Ian Taylor (BURL) (Fall 1:08) 120: Nathan Steffensmeier (FOMA) over (BURL) (For.) 126: Skylar Schau (FOMA) over (BURL) (For.) 132: Aaron Steffensmeier (FOMA) over Bryce Angle (BURL) (Fall 3:39) 138: Dalton Woolever (FOMA) over Calvin Nguyen (BURL) (Fall 5:24) 145: Harlan Steffensmeier (FOMA) over Garlow Nash (BURL) (Fall 1:16) 152: Brennan Creelman (BURL) over Jarrett Settles (FOMA) (Fall 0:44).

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Fort Madison Community School District and the Fort Madison Education Association will meet in open public meeting to receive the Association's initial proposal to the District for the purpose of negotiating the 2017-2018 contract at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday,

February 9, 2017.

They will then meet in open public meeting to receive the District's initial proposal to the Association at 4:15 p.m. on Thursday, February 9, 2017.

The meetings will be held at the Board of Directors Office, 1930 Avenue M, Fort Madison, Iowa.

The Pen City Current and www.pencitycurrent.com website are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. The Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings.

Lee Vandenberg, Sales manager
319-371-4125
sales@pencitycurrent.com

Charles Vandenberg, Editor
319-371-1670
editor@pencitycurrent.com



Pen City Current
P.O. Box 366
Fort Madison, IA



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Mat slap

FMHS' Dalton Woolever worked through a period and a half on Burlington's Calvin Nguyen at 138 lbs. and the reward is seen here as the referee slaps the mat for the pin. The Hounds won 50-34 to end the regular season. District action starts at noon on Feb. 11 at Mt. Pleasant.



Steffensmeiers rock and roll

The Hounds Ryan Steffensmeier (113 lbs.) left and Aaron Steffensmeier (132) roll, literally in the case of Ryan, to wins Thursday against Burlington. Ryan pinned Ian Taylor at 1:08 and Aaron is seconds away from a pin here at 3:39.

Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



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