



Pen City Current

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Trades students off to nationals

Kobelt's kids go head-to-head with nation's best this week in Louisville

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Three of the four Bloodhounds pictured here are in Louisville competing at the national Skills USA competition. The Hounds qualified for the competition after winning the Iowa competition in April. From left, Parker Denning, Elton Kruse, and AJ Nolting will be representing Iowa and Fort Madison High School in the 4-day event. At far right is Brandon Reichelt, who will be replaced by Danen Settles as Reichelt was unable to make the trip

LOUISVILLE, Ken. – Four of Fort Madison High School's finest are in Louisville right now getting ready to represent Fort Madison and the state of Iowa in US Skills competition against 51 other teams from around the country.

It's the first time a team from Fort Madison has qualified for the national competition. The Bloodhounds qualified after winning the state competition back in April. That team consisted of seniors Elton Kruse and AJ Nolting, and juniors Parker Denning and Brandon Reichelt. Reichelt was unable to make the trip to Louisville, so junior Danen Settles, who went to the state competition in April as an alternate will step in.

FMHS building trades instructor Clint Kobelt said after a walk-through Monday that the arena and competition set up has been pretty intimidating for the Bloodhounds.

"When we were

“*Simply from the size of the venue, this is nationals and it's a lot bigger than other venues we've competed at. It's the real deal and I'm excited to see what we can do.*”

-Elton Kruse,
FMHS senior

walking through the venue, you could see the scope of the national competition was a little overwhelming,” Kobelt said this afternoon. “The conversation we had was don't let the geography get to you. Carpentry is the same in this setting as it is in Iowa, as it is at our shop, and as it is on

the job site. The expectations are the same.”

Senior Elton Kruse said the venue is a little more than they expected, but he's welcoming the challenge.

“It is, but I'm excited to see where we stack up and I think it's a good thing and I'm glad to be competing with more

people,” Kruse said.

“Simply from the size of the venue, this is nationals and it's a lot bigger than other venues we've competed at. It's the real deal and I'm excited to see what we can do.”

Kobelt said he, too, was surprised at the size of the competition. Fort Madison will be competing against a team from every state including the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The Bloodhounds are competing in the TeamWorks competition, but Kobelt said there are more than 100 other competitions going on at the same venue.

The event called the

See **NATIONALS**, page 9

County board to move on solar project

Supervisor chair to ink deals for interconnectivity to start county's solar project

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE – The Lee County Board of Supervisors will be authorizing electronic signatures on various agreements Tuesday, to start the process of installing solar panels on county buildings.

Supervisors approved the contract with Mohrfeld Electric in May, after about eight weeks of debating the issue and allowing another company to come and pitch an offer for the same services.

Mohrfeld Electric of Fort Madison and Precision Energy Services out of Burlington were the two that offered to provide the services, which include a no costs out of pocket for the county. Precision Energy withdrew their proposal earlier this month and Mohrfeld was awarded the work.

Mohrfeld originally pitched the idea to supervisors back in April. Mohrfeld has done similar projects in the county with Southeastern Community College's Keokuk campus and Holy Trinity Catholic High School among others.

Under the proposal, Mohrfeld would essentially pay for the installation of the panels and hooking up the power and then the county would pay reduced electric rates per a purchase power agreement back to Mohrfeld's.

Precision, then came into the picture last month and made a pitch to the supervisors as well touting similar savings and union laborers. At the final meeting where the two companies were present, Mohrfeld President Michael Mohrfeld questioned Precision officials math on include the Lee County Jail for solar. Precision said it could be worked into the proposal, but Mohrfeld said the amount of power utilized at the jail wouldn't make the project workable.

Under the terms of the Power Purchase agreement

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Obituaries/Weather

OBITUARIES

CECILIA ROSE CATHERINE STOTTS

Cecelia Rose Catherine Stotts, 90, passed away on Saturday, June 15, 2019, at her home at Bloom, in Bluffton, SC. Her funeral service will be held in Iowa where she lived for most of her life.

Cecelia was born in Primrose, Iowa on January 13, 1929. She was the daughter of John and Catherine Groene. Cecelia graduated High School at St. John's in Houghton, Iowa in 1946.

Cecelia is survived by children and her children's spouses: Christine Stotts, Jennifer (Rick) Boudrie, Julia Powell, Susan (David) Haverkamp, Bill (Darlene) Stotts, Marilyn (Pete Pietrolungo) Stotts, and Sarah Larkby. Cecelia's grandchildren are Matt and Mark Stotts, Chad and Chelsea Powell, Kayla and Quinn Haverkamp, Zachary and Max Larkby. She is also survived by siblings: Virginia Schulte, Mary Joan Beery, Lester Groene (Barb) and Delbert Groene (Marge); and sister in law: Alice Groene.

Cecelia was preceded in death by her husband: Wallace Dean Stotts; brothers: Robert Groene and Johnny (Betty) Groene; and in-laws: William Schulte and Keith Beery.

Cecelia was raised on a farm near Primrose, Iowa, third of seven children. She was a hard worker, could drive a team of horses and a tractor and enjoyed working outside with her "Pop". She went on to run a farm and household raising seven children. Cecelia gardened, canned and froze a lot of vegetables and fruits.

Cecelia enjoyed playing cards, reading, playing board games and watching Jeopardy. She also enjoyed talking on the phone to siblings and friends, checking her mail, reading books and the Van Buren County Newspapers. She loved geography and traveling with her children and grandchildren including cruises to Alaska and the Baltic Sea. Cecelia especially enjoyed gatherings with her siblings on Hilton Head Island, SC.

Family will meet with friends from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 29, 2019 at Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington, Iowa

A Funeral Service will be held Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington, Iowa with Father Dennis Hoffman officiating.

Burial will be at Maple Hill Cemetery in Birmingham, Iowa.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to Center Village in Keosauqua, Iowa where Christine resided for many years.

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

OBITUARIES

ROBERT W. FIELDS

Robert W. Fields, 61, of Donnellson, Iowa, passed away at 4:26 p.m. Friday, June 21, 2019, at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, Iowa.

Robert was born on February 25, 1958, in Quincy, Illinois, the son of Louis Warren "Bill" and Barb (Genk) Fields. Later he was adopted by Joan Fields. He married Angela Huff-Stotlar in Donnellson, Iowa.

Survivors include his wife: Angela Fields of Donnellson, Iowa; siblings: Tonya May-Burnett of New London, Iowa; Cheryl May-Brookhiser of New London, Iowa; Rebecca (Darrell) May-Bernhardt of Solon, Iowa; Judy (Kevin) May-Hohl of Farmington, Iowa; Phillip (Pattie) May of Ottumwa, Iowa; Terri (Steve) Fields-Bowman of Carmen, Illinois and Connie (Steve) Payne-Lemon of Boone, Iowa. Also surviving are several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother: Rodney Fields and one sister: Wanda Payne Schelby.

Robert was a member of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

A Graveside Service will be held at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 26, 2019, at Green-glade Cemetery in Farmington, Iowa with Brother Gary Billings officiating.

A memorial has been established in his memory. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com. Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements.

County to vote on changing employee funeral leave policy

COUNTY - Continued from Page 1

the majority of the county's electric bill would be paid to Mohrfeld under a 15-year agreement. Mohrfeld would also warranty the new equipment at a substantial savings to the county annually.

The proposal would put solar panels on top of Keokuk's Department of Human Services building, the North Lee County Office Building, and a battery of panels at the Lee County Conservation

Building.

In other action, the board will:

- consider a resolution for the CEO wage and benefit management for the Southeast Iowa Link Mental Health and Disability Services Region.

- consider an approval of a memorandum of understanding with administrative and secondary roads unions changing bereavement leave, and bereavement language in the county personnel policy

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

TUE 25 June

Light Rain
High— 78.7° F | Low — 71.0° F

WED 26 June

Light Rain
High— 83.8° F | Low — 71.6° F

THU 27 June

Moderate Rain
High— 86.2° F | Low — 74.9° F

FRI 28 June

Heavy Intensity Rain
High— 83.0° F | Low — 74.0° F

SAT 29 June

Clear Skies
High— 88.3° F | Low — 74.6° F

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Pen City current

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Local News/For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

06/21/19 – 7:00 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 2500 block of Hwy. 61.
 06/21/19 – 10:28 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a vandalism in the 2000 block of Avenue E.
 06/21/19 – 11:04 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1400 block of Avenue G.
 06/22/19 – 6:46 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of 36th Street.
 06/22/19 – 9:38 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1700 block of Avenue H.
 06/22/19 – 1:08 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the Fort Madison area.
 06/22/19 – 1:10 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a gas drive off in the

5000 block of Avenue O.
 06/22/19 – 11:03 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Kevin Drew Washburne, 49, of Fort Madison in the 3000 block of Avenue H, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 06/23/19 – 3:15 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Rebecca Kay Hurt, 52, of Fort Madison in the 2800 block of Avenue L, on a charge of public intoxication. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 06/23/19 – 4:18 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Katelyn Juni Leah Brogden, 26, of Fort Madison, in the 400 block of 22nd Street on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 06/23/19 – 9:49 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in progress in the 1400 block of Avenue I.
 06/23/19 – 10:56 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1400 block of Avenue C.

06/23/19 – 6:53 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 1300 block of Avenue E.
 06/23/19 – 9:32 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1200 block of Avenue G.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

06/21/19 – 6:54 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle rollover on Hwy. 16. According to the report, James Lee Timothy, 47, of Fort Madison, overcorrected while driving and went into a ditch where the vehicle rolled. A female passenger suffered minor cuts to her shoulder, but she, along with four minors in the vehicle all declined medical treatment. Timothy was cited for failure to maintain control and failure to provide insurance.
 06/21/19 – 8:10 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Nicholas William Kamp, 26, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office, on

a warrant for violation of parole. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 06/22/19 – 3:48 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Robert Maurice Cummings, 43, of Argyle, at the intersection of Hwy. 27 and 300th Street on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance.
 06/22/19 – 5:15 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Karissa Breanne Coughenour, 26, of Burlington at the intersection of Hwy 2 and Golden Road in Donnellson, on a warrant for 2nd-degree theft. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 06/22/19 – 10:03 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Laurenn Elaine Beach, 26, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office, on a judgment hold. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 06/23/19 – 11:35 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies

responded to a two-vehicle accident at Hwy. 61 and 275th Avenue. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Gene Lynn Worshiek, 70, of Bayard, collided with a barge wagon towed by Shae Dwight Seils, 24, of New London. Siels was towing two barge wagons west bound on Hwy. 61 as was Worshiek. Worshiek struck the back of the second trailer which came to rest in the south ditch in front of Worshiek's semi-trailer. The first barge wagon collided with the Seils towing vehicle. Both wagons were destroyed and Worshiek's vehicle suffered major front end damage. No injuries were reported as a result of the accident.
 06/23/19 – 9:05 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Shawn Leroy Morris, 55, of Fort Madison, at the Lee County Jail on a charge of possession of methamphetamine less than 5 grams. He was held in custody.
 06/23/19 – 10:46 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies

arrested Dakota James Lynch, 19, of Kahoka, Mo., in the 110 block of S. Oak Street in Donnellson, on a charge of possession of alcohol under the legal age. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 06/24/19 – 2:51 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Andrea Louise Blint, 35, of Niota, Ill., at the sheriff's office, on a warrant for contempt of court. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

06/22/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls
 06/23/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to four medical calls, one false alarm and one downed power line.
 06/25/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to four medical calls, one fuel spill, and a mutual aid fuel spill in Denmark.

Test Kitchen to sponsor camp at city's historical sites

FORT MADISON - The Elliott Test Kitchen in Fort Madison is sponsoring a two day History Camp for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders this Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Elliott Test Kitchen will also be presenting a donation to the Old Fort Foundation that will help go toward the flood clean up of Old Fort. This will be a wonderful opportunity for students to learn more about the history of their community and help in preservation efforts.

On the first day, students will learn about Old Fort Madison, life of frontier soldiers during the War of 1812, and the battles that took place there. They will also learn about the weapons used there, and get to taste the kind of food they would have eaten. Costumed guides and Dr. Eugene Watkins, the director of Old Fort Madison, will be presenting much of the information.

On the second day, students will learn about the Sauk and Fox (also known

as Meskwaki) Tribes who lived here, including chiefs Blackhawk, Keokuk, and Quashquema. They will also learn about their daily lives, customs, and food!

These events were originally planned to happen at Old Fort Madison, but due to this spring's flooding, events will take place on the battle site (400 block of Ave H), Old Settler's Park (400 block of Ave E), and the Elliott Test Kitchen (807 Ave G, Fort Madison).

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IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS



6/23 MID-DAY
0 4 8
6/23 EVENING
0 7 6



6/23 MID-DAY
2 9 7 0
6/23 EVENING
4 1 4 1

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Dinner includes 2 sides and a roll

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8 oz. Steak	Columbus Club Combo <small>(Cauliflower, Mushrooms & Onion Rings)</small>
Pork Chop	Brew House Combo <small>(Cream Cheese Jalapeno Poppers, Chicken Strips, Mushrooms, Shrimp, Mozzarella Sticks & Onion Rings)</small>
Marinated Chicken Breast	Reuben Bites
Chicken Strips	Macaroni & Cheese Bites
Jumbo Shrimp	
Tenderloins	
Burgers	

Open to the Public for Wednesday & Friday Dinners

Sports

HTC girls go 1-2 on diamond last week

BY PCC STAFF

WEST POINT – The Holy Trinity girls junior high softball team went 1-1 last week highlighted by a 13-0 win over New London at South Park Tuesday.

Mary Hellige was the winning pitcher going four innings with eight strikeouts. Hellige also went 2 for 2 with a double and three runs scored. Halie Cain pitched an inning striking out two. Cain also singled and scored twice. Teagan Snaadt went 2 for 2 with two steals, and a run scored. Jenna Hellman, Rachel Menke, Jenna DiPrima, Kayla Box, & Brooke Mueller all had one hit each.

The girls lost 5-6 to Central Lee Monday at home. Menke was the losing pitcher going six innings striking out 2 batters. Box had a single, double, run scored and an RBI. Hellige had two hits, 2 RBI, and two runs scored. Paige Wasielewski had two singles. Laura Mehmert had a double, stolen base and run scored. Mueller, DiPrima, Breanna Peterson, Menke and Snaadt all had a hit.

The Crusaders junior high team is now 10-5 on the year.

HTC junior varsity team lost 3-8 to Central Lee. Hellige was the losing pitcher going six innings striking out two batters. Anna Sobczak had a double, single and two runs scored. Kayla Box had two singles. Brooke Mueller had a single and RBI. Hannah Torgler had a single.

The junior varsity squad is now 10-2 on the year.

Lady Hounds in 8-game skid

Fairfield's Simpson homers twice in 7-1 Game 1 win; Hounds drop nightcap 4-0

BY PCC STAFF

FAIRFIELD – A four-run third inning in the opener and three-run first inning in the night cap led to a sweep on the road for the Fort Madison girls softball team Monday night.

A one-out rally in the top of the third inning off starter Cassie Powers plated four runs as Fairfield ran away with the opener 7-1. Freshman Katie Dennis spotted the Lady Demons three runs in the bottom of the first of the night cap enroute to a 4-0 shutout.

With one out in the bottom of the third inning in the opener, Fairfield's Shalyn Drish reached on an error and

then Fairfield put together back-to-back doubles from Allison Rebling and Coty Engle for the game's first two RBI. Then freshman Hannah Simpson lived up to her role as clean-up hitter sending a ball out of the yard for the next two RBI.

Olivia Williams scored the only run for the Hounds on the night when she reached on a single in the top of the fourth. She stole second and then advanced to third on an Ivy Geerdes groundout to second. Williams would come around to score on a wild pitch.

But Rebling would get Fort Madison's Maycee Featheringill on strikes to end the inning.

Fairfield would put up two more up in the bottom of the fifth and Simpson would add her

second home run of the night in the bottom of the sixth. The Bloodhound's Vanessa Golowach would double in the top of the seventh to left field for Fort Madison's only other hit of the game.

Powers took the loss for Fort Madison giving up seven hits and seven runs, six earned while striking out six and walking three. Rebling struck out 15 Lady Hounds in getting the win. Allyson Helmick, Williams and Golowach had the only hits for Fort Madison.

In the nightcap, the Demons threw up three in the top of the first playing some small ball. Drish opened the game with single and moved to second on a sacrifice bunt. Coty Engle would move her to third on an infield single, and then Drish would score on a sacrifice.

Engle would come around to score on a ground out to short and Simpson would score the

third run on a throwing error, after reaching on an error. Dennis would get Jenna Norris to fly out to Jasmine Bass in right to end the threat.

Fairfield's Danielle Breen would open the bottom of the second with a single and would swipe second before moving to third on a Drish one-bagger. Breen would score on another Fort Madison error to put the Demons up 4-0, a score that would hold up.

The Lady Hounds had five hits in the second game led by Williams who had a single and double, but never could put any offense together being relegated to just one base runner in five different innings.

Dennis went the distance in the circle for Fort Madison giving up seven hits and four runs, none earned, while striking out one and not allowing a walk.

The Lady Hounds fall to 8-14 on the year and have lost their last eight games.



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Current-Lee/Lee County News

CURRENT-LEE

FREE Movie

The Fox Theater in Fort Madison will host a free showing of North by Northwest Monday June 24th at 1 p.m. sponsored by Kensington-Evergreen.

Immunization Clinic

Lee County Health Department will hold a Children's Immunization Clinic on Thursday, June 27, at #3 John Bennett Drive in Fort Madison from noon to 5:30 p.m. The clinic is open to children with no insurance, insured by Iowa Medicaid/MCO or those who have private health insurance that does not cover the cost of vaccination when in the care of another adult. Lead testing is also available. Call 1-319-372-5225 for more information.

Special Needs Prom

A Special Needs Prom has been set for June 28th from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at First Christian Church 3476 Main Street in Keokuk. The evening will include a promenade, dinner and dancing with events sponsored by area businesses. Prom attendees must be at least 17 years of age.

Harvestville Farm-to-Table Dinners

The next Harvestville Farm's Farm-to-Table dinner is set for June 29 at 6 p.m. at the farm. "Downtown Dinner on 7th Street" is set for July 13th at 6 p.m. Seating is still also available for the farms July 27th and Aug. 10 dinners. Visit the Harvestville website at <https://www.harvestville-farm.com/farmtotable>.

Downtown Summer Market

Fort Madison businesses will be hosting a Downtown Summer Market from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. July 11, and Aug. 15 along Avenue G. For more information contact Darla at 319-371-8385 or by email at darlarae71@yahoo.com.

SCC Alumni golf outing

The annual fundraiser outing is set for July 19th beginning at 11 a.m. with a box lunch and 12:30 shotgun start at Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course. Rates are \$90 per person and \$600 for a team. Sponsorships are available. Contact Val Giannettino for more information at 319-208-5056 or vgianettino@scciowa.edu.

Farmer's Market

Farmer's Markets at the Fort Madison Depot will start Monday June 3 and run every Monday through Sept. 30 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Old Santa Fe Depot. Every second Monday is Kid's Day at the Market.

Party on the Patio

Dr. Mark Pothitakis Family Dentistry is the premiere sponsor the Friday, June 28th, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Baxter Sports Complex with free live music provided by Power-Cords sponsored by ConAgra Foods. Food and drink specials, and all proceeds go to community beautification efforts.

Picnic in the Park

The Fort Madison Rotary Club has rescheduled their annual Picnic in the Park, as well as the final day of their 100K capital campaign until Sunday July 7 from 5 to 7 p.m. in Central Park. Food, local entertainment and a raffle are all on tap.

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.

Keokuk YMCA looking for program volunteers

Submitted article

KEOKUK – Could you volunteer a couple hours a week this fall to help make the difference in the life of a young boy?

The Hoerner YMCA is looking for three coaches for its new STRIDE program, which combines life lessons with physical activity to promote healthy living and bolster youth development in boys in grades 3-5.

The program is similar to the Girls on the Run program, which will enter its third season at the Hoerner YMCA this fall.

STRIDE is a nationwide YMCA program for boys that promotes character building along with training for the successful completion of a 5k run. The YMCA provides a fully developed curriculum for the program.

The program runs from Aug. 27 until the 5k run on Nov. 2. The three coaches will work with 10-15 boys for a little over an hour, twice a week during that 10-week time period.

If you have more questions or could volunteer your time to make a difference in the life of a group of boys, contact Mark Smidt, Hoerner YMCA CEO, at 524-6724, or email him at hoernerymceo@gmail.com.

Registration is now being taken for this fall's Girls on the Run program for third through fifth grade girls. Registration will soon open for boys in the STRIDE program. Stop by the Hoerner YMCA for more information on either program.

Follow Us
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Clean Home. Clean Planet.

Do your part during this year's Spring Cleaning activities by making sure you're choosing products safe for our planet.

Here are just a few of the ways you can help:

- Properly dispose of your household hazardous waste materials, construction debris, & electronic waste
- Use environmentally-safe cleaning products
- Reduce • Reuse • Recycle
- Check our website for proper disposal methods, acceptable materials, & more

This year, do your part to keep our environment clean, too!



Ft. Madison Main Office:
2092 303rd Ave
Fort Madison, IA
1-319-372-6140

Keokuk Transfer Station:
111 Carbide Lane
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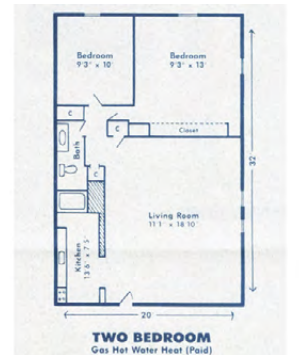
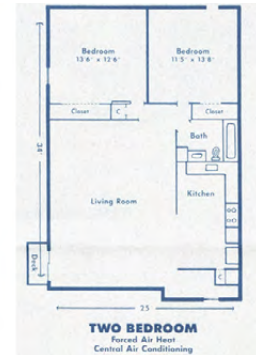
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Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Wed., July 3rd through Sat., July 6th in observation of the Fourth of July

News will continue to be published to pencycitycurrent.com as it happens and the e-Edition will return Sun., July 7th



We wish you all a very happy holiday and remind you to celebrate safely and responsibly!

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From the Front

FMHS students making first trip to nationals

NATIONALS - Continued from Page 1

Skills USA Team Leadership and Skills Conference takes place at the Kentucky Exposition Center in downtown Louisville.

"I didn't understand the true scope of this competition. There are 103 different competitions going on here this week," Kobelt said. "Everything from welding to collision repair, to electrical to HVAC. Everything you can imagine on the skills side all the way to forensics, crime scene investigation... firefighting. This is a huge event."

The Hounds qualified by beating 11 other Iowa high school teams at the state qualifier at Des Moines Area Community College in April. The state competition and nationals are different formats, according to Kobelt.

"This is a 3-day build and tomorrow morning they will receive their blueprints. There's a lot more layers at the national level than at state," he said.

"They are required to take those blue prints and they're given a limited amount of time to come up with action plans and then are required to give a presentation on how they intend to execute and complete that build over the allotted time."

Kobelt said at the state level the students got their information, huddled up, and picked a foreman on the team that sort of ran in a supervisor capacity. He said this competition requires all four team members to participate in the presentation and show how they individually will be an asset and what their contribution is.

"One guy is more comfortable with public speaking, but now everybody is accountable in a team setting. So everybody is under the microscope," Kobelt said.

He said his focus was for the students to represent the state and Fort Madison well and in a positive

fashion.

"I want the guys to come out of this with a true understanding, no matter how it falls, that they are one of the top 50 teams in the nation. I understand the nerves and the trepidation about where you fall. But as far as them wondering if they really belong here... they've already punched that ticket."

"I think it's kind of like the testing year and then we'll see what we do next year. We've got two juniors on the team so it's good for them to be here," Kruse said.

Nolting said the pressure will seem greater than the state competition, but he said the state competition was greater than regional competitions.

"I'm a little nervous because the pressure's going to be on a little more than state. We haven't been here yet and it's really new to us and if we got in the top 15 I would think that would be a win for us," he said.

Denning said the presentation is a different facet than the squad is used to.

"I can see it being different because we have to create a PowerPoint presentation on how we're going to tackle everything and not just keep to ourselves and go about the work," he said. "But I just think it's something that we have to map out. We can handle it."

Settles, who wrestled at the Iowa State Wrestling Tournament this winter as a heavyweight, said he really doesn't get nervous about these types of things. Despite not participating in the state qualifier, he's still ready to go.

“

I want the guys to come out of this with a true understanding, no matter how it falls, that they are one of the top 50 teams in the nation...as far as them wondering if they belong here, they've already punched that ticket."

-Clint Kobelt
FMHS Trades Instructor

"I'm just ready to go. I don't really get nervous. I kinda don't really think much about that kind of thing. I'm not really sure how to explain it, I just don't," he said.

"But it's been awesome being down here so far. Everyone we've talked to and encountered have asked where we're from and most people have heard of us."

The contest features more than 6,400 students in 130 events including 103 hands-on skills competitions. The event has a \$36 million budget annually.

The Bloodhounds will have orientation sessions on Tuesday with an opening ceremony set for 7 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday are the Skills USA Championship competitions running from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and an award ceremony is Friday beginning at 5 p.m.

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PRIZES: The winner will receive a crown, sash, and the free ride tickets. They are also invited to ride on the float with the Queen in the parade on Sunday of the festival. Please include child's name, West Point Sweet Corn Festival Princess Contest, and any other information you are comfortable with on their decorated jar.

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