



Pen City Current

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SPORTS
FMHS rolls out mat for Saturday event
BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The FMHS wrestling team will take to the mat again this week starting tomorrow with a three-team primer before 11 teams roll into town for Saturday's Fort Madison Invitational.

Head coach Ryan Smith said Thursday's meet in Mt. Pleasant will be a good test for the Hounds prior to Saturday and will have implications on the team's state aspirations.

Mount Pleasant is a conference opponent and a district opponent and we'll have to see them to get to state," Smith said. "It will be an important test for our guys. Hopefully, we'll be ready to go."

The Hounds have had trouble filling a full lineup be it due to smaller tournaments, illnesses or other factors, but he said Mt. Pleasant has been

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This group a cut above the rest



Kobelt said event was good for high school, students

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Measure twice, cut once. It's what your dad and grandpa always taught you in the garage.

But for a group of Fort Madison High School students, this isn't your grandpa's garage.

Five Fort Madison carpentry students Elijah Barnes, Tyler Wellman, Dakota Leonard, Victor Gonzales and Trent Kruse competed in the Iowa High School Carpentry State Competition Friday in Des Moines at the state fairgrounds.

FMHS Carpentry instructor Clint Kobelt said this is only the fourth year of the program at the high school and only the third year the school competed at the state level.

"We went up the first year to just observe. We really didn't know what it was," Kobelt said Wednesday. "But we went last year and that was our first year to compete. It was the same format but a different build and we ended up 2nd. The team that beat us was Sioux Center, a western Iowa school. It was actually kinda neat, we were No. 1 and 2 last year so they set us up next to each

Project "State Champs"

Senior FMHS carpentry student Dakota Leonard shows what project won the high school first place at the Iowa Carpentry state competition this past weekend.

"It was really kind of neat, we were Nos. 1 and 2 last year, so they set us up next to each other and everyone was aware of the other."

- Clint Kobelt, FMHS Instructor

other and everyone was aware of the other."

The format of the competition is a very structured 6-hour build and Kobelt said the Fort Madison team planned the right strategy and executed based on a team strategy with a focus on quality.

"You walk in and they give you a packet that contains blueprints and all the specs you need to do the project and a stack of lumber," he said. "They give you just enough lumber to build the project and they engineer some flaws into the specifications. They have you build things the way that you wouldn't normally build it. So you can't just go up there in auto pilot and just build. They push you out of our comfort zone

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PB & Generosity benefits food pantry

PEN CITY CURRENT

FORT MADISON - Peanut butter. That crazy comfort food that sticks to the roof of your mouth and can realistically be worked into any recipe is now a sense of pride for local high school students.

Students at Fort Madison High School, with an assist from the PreK-3rd grade students at Lincoln Elementary School, decided to collect peanut butter for the local food pantry as part of a service project.

Apparently, the project was born when George Gaudette of the food pantry had mentioned to high school principal Greg Smith that the pantry needed 300 jars of peanut butter for the pantries annual Christmas baskets.

So the local high school went to work. As of 11 a.m. this morning, the

See TREE, page 3

Tuesday night accident sends one to Iowa City

Children passengers treated and released locally

PEN CITY CURRENT

DENMARK - A late two-vehicle Tuesday accident resulted in one person being airlifted to University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics with serious injuries.

At 10:16 p.m Tuesday Lee County Sheriff's officers and emergency crews were dispatched to

the intersection of 280th Avenue and State Route 16 just west of Denmark.

According to Lee County Sheriff's reports, Scott Benjamin Blanchard, 36, of West Point was transported by AirEvac to Iowa City with serious injuries after his vehicle was struck by a car driven by Kammy Jo Booten, 16, of

West Point.

According the report, Blanchard was traveling eastbound on Hwy. 16 and Booten was traveling southbound on 280th Avenue. Deputies indicated that Booten stopped at intersection stop sign but failed to yield to cross traffic. Booten advised officers she looked but didn't see any cross traffic. Blanchard's white 2011 Chevy Silverado struck

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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

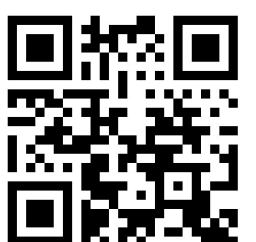
Rollover accident

Scott Blanchard was driving this vehicle with his three sons when the truck struck a car driven by Kammy Jo Booten. Booten was ticketed for failure to yield.

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From the Front

Competition also creates networking chances for students

WINNERS - Continued from Page 1

a little bit.”

What Kobelt, who was a former 20-year general contractor before coming to FMHS, saw as very valuable was the environment of the competition and how it was set up by the industry to showcase the students’ talents to the industry itself.

“Interesting thing is that if you have this high school division, but the same time in this building you also have the skilled trade apprentices that are testing and they have a competition. So you’ve got guys out of the industry working side-by-side with the high school competitors,” he said.

The event is sponsored by the Association of Builders and Contractors (ABC) and this is the third year they’ve sponsored the event.

“There is also industry that comes in - contractors, across the board, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, heavy and highway guys and they set up booths so there’s that interaction and you’re getting face time with potential employers,” Kobelt said standing in the FMHS Construction classroom.

“What is really neat, and the comparison I like to make, is that you have high school kids there showing off their talents and you have industry coming to watch. It levels out the balance of power. Instead of the 18-year-old going to the potential employer - that’s the little guy coming to see the big buy. We flip the script and they’re coming to watch. I liken it to the NFL combine. These (students) are in their wheelhouse showcasing their skills and the coaches, or employers, are coming to watch you and they’re scouting. It’s a comfortable environment.”

Senior Dakota Leonard said the event was fun and has him possibly looking at a career in carpentry or construction after high school.

“It was fun. Going through it and what not,” Leonard said. “We practiced before we went up there for about a week. But we’d already taken the class so we had the knowledge.”

Leonard said the time factor wasn’t that much of an issue, but sometimes time was moving fast and others it was moving slow.

“Not everyone was working at the same time, so that seemed to make things slow down a bit, but other than it went by pretty quickly,” he said.

Leonard said the team excelled because everyone looked at something different than someone else did and that helped the team analyze the project and overcome the obstacles built into the project.

For example, at one point someone cut the sheeting a little short for the project but after collaboration among the team, the error was corrected and didn’t penalize



BARNES



GONZALES



KRUSE

the team.

“Me and Wellman helped on the front wall and where the door was and we were handling the math, but most math was on the sidewalls where Victor was because he’s really good at the math,” Leonard said.

Principal Greg Smith said he was very impressed last year when they took second losing by just two points.

“Oh my gosh in just a two year span they are best in the state and there are no classes in that competition all levels of high schools, so I’m more than excited about that program.”

Kobelt said the key in the competition is to plan the work and work the plan.

“It’s a 6-hour build so you get to see who plans well, who executes well, who can hold that pace, who gets rattled by the ticking of the clock. When the group next to you seems to be advancing faster, does it rattle you, get you off your game plan? And that’s what happened to some teams. They were behind and got rattled and made some mistakes. They were going for quantity not quality. Out of the 12 only 6 completed the build. We finished with only a few minutes left on the clock.”

He said the community and support from industry in this area is what has made the program so successful in such a short time.

“We’re very fortunate in that the community and administration are very supportive of our program,” Kobelt said. “We’ve worked in the community and with Mike Mohrfeld at Green Oaks and we’ve framed up a house a year.”

“This program is only in its fourth year. That’s what made coming to FM attractive to me. I was a general contractor for 20 years and one of the things I struggled with was finding available workforce. Not a lot of young guys were getting into the business so I came here and had a frank conversation with the district and said this isn’t going to be the old school birdhouse and stepstool program. We were gonna try and help transition these kids into the industry. They were on board and very supportive.”

“We have these guys out there doing real world work. At the end of the day we don’t tear it down and restart. We start over with the next group. You drive down the road and see that home you helped build you don’t forget that. That’s a sense of pride for these kids.”

“What the five guys did to their credit was the division of labor. We went in and they put a guy on the saw, one guy cutting, a couple laying out, one building... just everyone was in constant motion. We had a pregame huddle and just rolled into the project. The cadence they established and being able to stay on point is what



LEONARD



WELLMAN



KOBELT



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Champions

Members of the Fort Madison Community High School carpentry team pose for a picture after capturing first place in the statewide high school competition. In the picture are Instructor Clint Kobelt, Tyler Wellman, Dakota Leonard, Trent Kruse, Victor Gonzales and Elijah Barnes.

put them over the top.”

One of the things that put FM in front is that teams had to be able to pull the structure in two parts without compromising the structural integrity and the FMHS team was the only one that was able to be separated, which Kobelt said is the main reason the the Fort Madison team won.

The competition is scored on a 200-point grading scale based on safety, accuracy to blueprint, doors and windows being dimensionally correct, structural integrity and the ability to separate it and not compromise the structure,” Kobelt said.

Schools participating in the competition were Norwalk, Southeast Polk, Union, Knoxville, Williamsburg, Keokuk, Sioux Center (defending champion), Pella, AHSTW, Central, Union and Missouri Valley.

“*Oh my gosh, in just a two-year span they are the best in the state and there are no classes in that competition. That’s all levels of high schools. So I’m more than pleased with that program.*”

-Greg Smith
FMHS Principal

All three children in truck treated for minor injuries

ACCIDENT - Continued from Page 1

the front end of Booten’s 2003 Volkswagon Passat causing her vehicle to come to rest facing westbound on Hwy 16.

Blanchard’s truck entered the south ditch where it rolled coming to rest on the passenger side of the vehicle. Three other passengers in the vehicle - Cale, 9, Colt, 7, and Cash Blanchard, 6, were taken to Fort Madison Community Hospital where they were treated and released. Cale was ejected from the vehicle in the roll-over.

Booten was cited for failure to yield upon entering through highway.

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For the Record/Local News

Food pantry to use donations to help fill holiday food baskets

TREE - Continued from Page 1

FMHS students had collected, along with donations, 385 jars of peanut butter. When shooting

for the goal of 300 they decided to start building a Christmas tree and now they have one that stands

about four feet high all lit up with decorations provided by the students at Lincoln.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Somebody get a spoon...

FMHS students Emily Kelly, left, and Jack Marek, right, stand next to a 4-foot tree made from jars of peanut butter for the North Lee County Food Pantry. The school collected more than 385 jars of peanut butter as of 11 a.m.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Reports

12/13/2016 - 9:37 a.m. - FM Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 6100 block of Ortho Way.
 12/13/2016 - 12:12 p.m. - FM Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1200 block of Avenue C.
 12/13/2016 - 11:01 a.m. - FM police arrested Joshua Charles Corcoran, 35, of 1615 Avenue H, FM, at his residence on two charges of 5th degree theft and one charge of 4th degree theft. He was held at the Lee County Correctional Center.
 12/13/2016 - 1:33 p.m. - FM Police responded to a report of a burglary at Hawkeye Village.
 12/13/2016 - 2:13 p.m. - FM Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1300 block of Avenue H.
 12/13/2016 - 7:16 p.m. - FM Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2600 block of Avenue I
 12/13/2016 - 8:34 p.m. - FM Police responded to a re-

port of larceny/theft in the 1100 block of Avenue I

Lee County Sheriff's Reports

12/12/2016 - 4:18 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at Hwy 16 and Academy Avenue. Larry Eugene Pomberg, 65, of West Point was driving a 2012 Honda CRV and collided with a semi-tractor trailer driven by Jared Scott Conrad, 31, of Salem. No citations were issued. Pomberg sustained injuries and was transported to the Fort Madison Community Hospital.
 12/13/2016 - 2:51 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hwy 27. Heath Daniel Boone, 33, of Wayland reported striking a vehicle that was diagonal to the direction of travel. The other vehicle left the scene prior to deputies arrival. Deputies were unsuccessful in recovering the other driver/vehicle. No injuries were sustained.

12/13/2016 9:59 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to one vehicle accident involving a deer northbound on Hwy 27. Rachel Marie Mathews reported striking a deer that had been previously been hit by the vehicle in front of her. The other vehicle was not recovered. No injuries were sustained.
 12/13/2016 - 10:16 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Hwy 16 and 280th Avenue. Kammy Jo Booten, 16, of West Point and Scott Benjamin Blanchard, 36, collided. Blanchard's vehicle rolled into the south ditch. Blanchard suffered serious injuries and was transported to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics by AirEvac. Booten was cited for failure to yield upon entering through highway. Three children ages 9, 7 and 6 were treated for minor injuries and released. No injuries were reported in Booten's vehicle. All persons in these listings are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Veterans assembly planned

PEN CITY CURRENT

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison High School will be holding an assembly at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 22 to honor local veterans. High School officials are welcoming and encouraging all local veterans of U.S. armed forces to attend. For more information contact the High School at 372-1862.

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SPORTS

Lady Hounds looking for spark from guards

Knipe relying on front court to help with guard shooting woes

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Strong first half performances and subsequently lackluster third quarters are hindering the Fort Madison Bloodhound varsity girls basketball team as they dropped another close game 49-40 Tuesday night against West Hancock County.

Amber Dilsaver had a game-high and career high 16 points to lead the Lady Hounds. Followed by seniors Emily Mitchell and Mercedes Trimble with 6 apiece, and seniors Mariah Trimble and Brittiney Harris and junior Taylor Shannon with 4 each.

Head Coach Charlie Knipe said this morning the Lady Hounds just got away from what they have been successful at, a trend that has been more of a 2nd half characteristic.

"Our problem was we went away from our offense. We got a little congested and they went to a 1-2-2 and our girls didn't adjust well," Knipe said "It wasn't that we turned the ball over, we just gave up a lot of driving layups and plus 1s. They had four of those in the third quarter. They drove the lane, we fouled them and they went to the line and hit them all. We got lazy moving our feet on the defense and cutting off the drive."

The Lady Hounds were tied with the Lady Titans at 22 each to end the first half. But again the 3rd quarter proved difficult for Fort Madison. On Saturday against Burlington Notre Dame, Fort Madison managed only two points in the third and they were on a couple of free throws in the final minute of the quarter.

The Lady Titans outscored the Hounds 16-6 Tuesday in the third period and then the Hounds had to play catchup, but the 12-11 advantage in the fourth quarter wasn't enough to win the game. Knipe said without



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Looking for room

Mariah Trimbley looks for room under the basket earlier this season surrounded by a trio of Holy Trinity Lady Crusaders. The Lady Hounds are 3-4 on the season after falling to West Hancock Tuesday night.

true regular guard scoring it will be tough to get wins.

"We have struggled at the guard position getting some shooting," Knipe said. "We've had to move Mercedes out to a guard. It's not a natural position for her. She's done great. She worked hard all summer with ball handling and I think part of that is preparing for the next step playing college. She's going to have move to a 2 or 3 position. (The Trimbles) have been a great addition for us. Taylor Shannon probably had her best game for us last night. She's starting to realize what she can do."

"It's hard to play the game without true guards. We have Taylor and then we have a freshman Anne Kester who but might be point guard in the future, but stepping from 8th grade to varsity is difficult. It's been a hard adjustment, but she's doing well."

Knipe said although his team typically will dominate inside play, teams are beating them by running and getting penetration off the dribble. But he wouldn't recommend underestimating the size and physical play of his front court.

"We're very fortunate. Every team I talk to is envious of our big girls. They've worked hard. Emily Mitchell has been coming along fantastic. Amber Dilsaver probably has the softest hands in the conference by far for a

big girl.

Knipe also said junior Kamryn Bailey has been a great morale booster and is always full of energy off the bench.

Mercedes Trimble and Dilsaver are leading the Hounds in scoring this year at 10 points each with Dilsaver shooting 56% from the comfort of the lane. Trimble leads the team in rebounds with 44 with Dilsaver right behind at 41. The Hounds are leading the Southeast conference with 34 rebounds per game.

Kailee Pfeiferling led the scoring for West Hancock with a dozen followed by Abi Shaw with 10, Brittany Douglas with nine and Emma Knipe with 8.

The Hounds fall to 3-4 on the season and host Mt. Pleasant Friday night starting with junior varsity at 6:15 p.m.

“
We had to move Mercedes (Trimble) out to a guard. It's not a natural position for her, but she's done a great job.

-Charles Knipe,
FMHS Head coach

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