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SPORTS:

Sunday, June 9, 2019 | 8 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 131

Bloodhound baseball buzzing this summer

See page 5

Pen City Current

Connection Bank to deed Keokuk properties to city

BY COLIN MAGNESUN RADIO KEOKUK NEWS DIRECTOR

KEOKUK- It's never a positive thing when a structure in a downtown municipal area has a fire, especially when that fire results in a near total loss.

It's also devastating when that building happens to be the town's city hall and city offices. That is what happened in Keokuk back in February when the former city hall building on Blondeau Street was destroyed by a blaze of unknown origins.



MORRIS

Nonetheless, things could not have gone better for the City of Keokuk this spring in its pursuit of a new building to call home.

That trend came full circle at Thursday's Keokuk City Council meeting at Torrance Preschool. During the workshop session that preceded the regular

council meeting, Connection Bank and Insurance President and CEO Matt Morris made the council an offer that seemed too good to be true. Morris told the council the bank wanted to donate its two Keokuk Main Street properties that currently house its insurance and banking divisions to the city – totally free of charge. The two buildings sit at 501 and 515 Main Street and last week a Keokuk City Hall committee unanimously voted to move forward with negotiations regarding the transfer of the building to city ownership.

Morris explained the goal of Connection Bank is to

See BANK, page 8

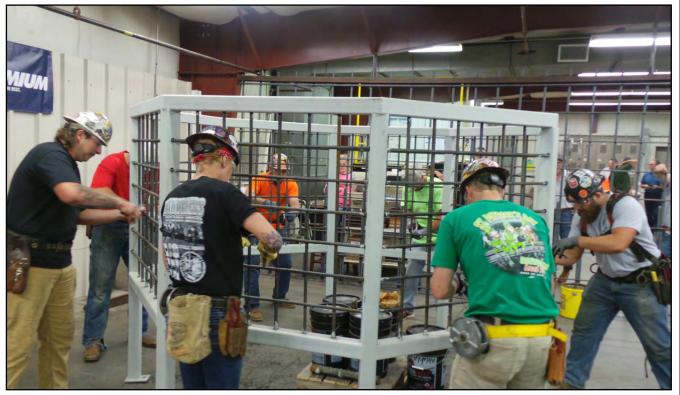


Photo courtesy of Lee County Economic Development Group

Seven apprentice ironworkers work on a rod tying competition at Keokuk's Kindustry Park Thursday afternoon as part of the district apprentice competition hosted by Ironworkers Local 577.

Apprentices take part in Keokuk competition

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK – More than 90 apprentice ironworkers descended on Keokuk's Kindustry Park on Thursday as part of an annual district apprenticeship competition.

Apprentices from seven states came to Keokuk to compete in welding, cutting, rigging, rod tying, architectural ornamental, layout instruments, and a 35-foot column climb as well as a written test.

A video of the column is available by clicking on the following link provided by the Lee County Economic Development Group: https://db.tt/EdUki1ifPs.

The event was hosted by the Ironworkers Local 577

The overall winner of the competition, Jacob Fordice from Kansas City, now goes on to the

international competition. Second place went to Justin Byrd from East St. Louis and Steve Weekley from St. Louis received third

"It was an exciting day," said Dana Millard with Lee County Economic Development. "It's great to see the trades being celebrated like this and you can tell these

See **COMPETITION**, page 8

FSA looking for county nominees

Candidate nomination forms due by Aug. 1

WASHINGTON D.C. – USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will begin accepting nominations for county committee members on Friday, June 14, 2019.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate.

"I encourage America's farmers, ranchers, and forest stewards to nominate candidates to lead, serve, and represent their community on their county committee," FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce said.

"There's an increasing need for diverse representation including underserved producers, which includes beginning, women and minority farmers and ranchers."

Committees make important decisions about how federal farm programs are administered locally. Their input is vital on how FSA carries out disaster programs, as well as conservation, commodity and price support programs, county office employment and other agricultural issues.

Nationwide, more than 7,700 dedicated members of the agricultural community serving on FSA county committees. The committees are made of three to 11 members and typically meet once a month. Members serve three-year terms. Producers serving on our FSA county committees play a critical role in the day-to-day operations of the agency.

Producers should visit their local FSA office today to find out how to get involved in their county's election. Check with your local USDA service center to see if your local administrative area is up for election

See **USDA**, page 8

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For the Record/Celebrations

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

06/05/19 - 2:14 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 5400 block of Avenue O. 06/06/19 – 12:13 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1700 block of Avenue H. 06/06/19 - 11:24 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2500 block of Hwy. 61. 06/06/19 - 12:45 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 2300 block of Avenue L. 06/06/19 – 2:30 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Cheyanne Nicole Davis, 18, of Fort Madison, at the police station, on a charge of 4th-degree theft possession of stolen property. She was released on a promise to appear. 06/07/19 - 2:10 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Michael Dean Hagmeier II, 27, of Fort Madison, in the 1200 block of Avenue E, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken

to the Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff's report

06/05/19 - 3:09 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Cody Scott Glasgow, 27, of Montrose, in the 2400 block of 340th Street on charges of driving while barred and speeding. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 06/05/19 - 8:35 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jeffrey Lee Rains, 42, of Fort Madison, in the 1000 block of Avenue G on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 06/06/19 - 12:57 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on 2000 block of 255th Street. A large tree fell in front of a vehicle driven by Christopher A. Herman, 53, of Macomb, III. Herman had to take evasive action and struck part of the and came to rest in the ditch. No injuries or citations were issued at the scene. 06/06/19 – 5:29 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle

accident in the 2600 block of Chalk Ridge Road. A vehicle driven by Courtney Ann Dalton, 24, of Fort Madison, lost control on a corner and left the roadway into the ditch striking a tree stump. No citations were issued at the scene. 06/07/19 - 12:15 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident on Mississippi River Road where a vehicle driven by Samuel Dane Gilbert, 35, of Keokuk had struck a deer and came to rest over the centerline on the highway. A vehicle driven by Megan Elizabeth Giesler, 17, of Keokuk, then side-swiped Gilbert's vehicle. No citations or injuries were reported at the scene. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law

Fort Madison Fire & **Rescue Report**

06/06/19 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to four medical calls. 06/07/19 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls, and an assist.

Birth Announcements

Schrader-Hagmeier

MONTROSE - Halle Abernathy and Deon Schrader-Hagmeier are proud to announce the birth of their son Jackson LeMoyne Schrader-Hagmeier on May 30, 2019 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Grandparents are Amy Calhoun of Macomb, Ill.; Josh Abernathy of Macomb, Ill.; and Michael and Samantha Hagmeier of Montrose.

Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news

Moore

FARMINGTON – Jessica and Austin Moore are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Lucy Margaret Moore on May 22, 2019 at Fort Madison Community

Grandparents are Jermi and Jennifer Wolken of Donnellson; and Douglas and Angela Moore of Primrose.

Great-grandparents are Michael (deceased) and Laura Wolken of Overland Park, Kan.; Marion (deceased) and Margaret (deceased) Piper of Brock, Neb.; Larry and Mary Ellen (deceased) Moore of Bonaparte; and Dutch and Tonda (deceased) Denly of Donnellson.

Great-great-grandparents are Ralph and Shirley Wolken of Stanton, Neb. Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.

Teeter

ALEXANDRIA, Mo. - Jessica and Jeremiah Teeter are proud to announce the birth of their son Lyzac Gene Teeter on March 22, 2019 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Lyzac is joined at home by siblings Lily, Lyla and Lena.

Grandparents are Nathan and Juanita Schreiber of Revere, Mo.; and Gary Whitaker and Glenda Marley of Revere, Mo.

Great-grandparents are Gary and Martha Whitaker of Wayland, Mo. The Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.



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Lotto America ^{s™}	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 3 - Midday Pick 3 - Evening	Daily Daily	Noon 9:40 pm	12:20 pm 10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday Pick 4 - Evening	Daily Daily	Noon 9:40 pm	12:20 pm 10:00 pm







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6/7 MID-DAY 3524 **6/7 EVENING** 7698

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Charles Vandenberg, Editor (319).371.1670

editor@pencitycurrent.com

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Scene Around the Area/Celebrations



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

A couple of youth participants start off on the Holy Trinity Catholic volleyball team's Pajama Run on Saturday evening in West Point. The run raises funds for the Crusader volleyball squad and started at City Hall on the square in West Point.



Birth Announcements

Traman

FORT MADISON – Sherri Donaldson and Bradley Traman are proud to announce the birth of their son, Daxton Glenn Traman on May 21, 2019 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

He is joined at home by siblings Draydan and Danika Traman.

Grandparents are Paula Donaldson (deceased) of Fort Madison; Richard Donaldson of Fort Madison, Lisa King-Hayes and Rick King of Fort Madison; and Roger Traman of Fort Madison.

Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.

Juarez

FORT MADISON – Jesse Juarez Jr., and Meagan Lawler, of Fort Madison, are proud to announce the birth of their son Stanlee Jensen Juarez on May 12, 2019 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Grandparents are Michelle Burnett of Fort Madison; Ben Lawler of Fort Madison; Jesse Juarez Sr., of Fort Madison; and Steve and Monica Carter of Fort Madison.

Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.



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



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Current-Lee/Health News

CURRENT-LEE

Jack Morris Memorial Golf Outing

The annual Fort Madison Partner's golf outing is set for June 14 and there is room for five more teams only. Sponsorships are available by contacting the Partner's office at 319-372-5471.

Youth Jam Workshop

Iowa State University's Lee County Extension and Outreach will be holding a food preservation workshop at the Lee County Fairgrounds Learning Center on Wednesday, June 12 from 3 to 7 p.m. Register by June 5 by calling Whitney Weisinger at 319-835-5116 or email weisinge@iastate.edu.

City Band in Central Park

June 9th will be sponsored by Connection Bank, Chalk Ridge Vineyard, Potowonok Circle of Kings Daughters, and Gene and Sheri Enke.

Family Connections "Stepping Stones"

Family Connections, a free parenting support group will be hosting two sessions of "Stepping Stones" the first on June 3 in Fort Madison at 4015 Avenue L and the second on June 11th at 2315 S. 7th Street in Keokuk. Children will be able to decorate a stepping stone to take home. RSVP to Missy at 319-372-5225.

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.

Downtown Summer Market

Fort Madison businesses will be hosting a Downtown Summer Market from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. June 13, July 11, and Aug. 15 along Avenue G. For more information contact Darla at 319-371-8385 or by email at darlarae71@yahoo.com.

Weekend at the Bees

Lee County Weekend at Community Field in Burlington will be held on Friday through Sunday June 21-23. Pre-ordered tickets are just \$4 each when buying 10-plus tickets. Pre-order must be done by June 14. Sponsors can become a fireworks sponsor for \$400 and get 50 tickets to the game and ad in the program.

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.

Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course

Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course will be offering junior and women's beginning clinics on Thursdays during the Month of June with the junior golf from 10 to 12 p.m. and the women's class from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. \$50 entry fee for both clinics. Contact Ryan at 319-528-6214 for additional details or email at rmcmillan@sheaffergolf.com.

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.

Riverfest 2019

Fort Madison's annual summer music festival and carnival hits the Fort Madison riverfront Aug. 1-4 with national rock music acts, family-friendly events and shows, carnivals, vendors, games, food and non-profit charitable events all weekend along.

Old Settler's Concerts

The Old Settler's Park "Music in the Park" kicks off on June 21 with "Amarillo" and the Pen City Cruiser's Car Show. The Fort Madison Lion's Club will be serving dinner.

LCHD to hold immunization clinic

BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY – Lee County Health Department will be holding a Children's Immunization Clinic Thursday, June 13, 2019 at Trinity United Methodist Church, 2330 Plank Road in Keokuk from 12 noon until 4:30 p.m.

The clinic is open to children who have no insurance, are insured by Iowa Medicaid or those who have private health insurance that does not cover the cost of vaccines. No appointment is necessary. Written parental consent is required for minors to receive vaccinations when in the care of another adult.

Free lead testing is available for all children ages 6 months to 6 years who reside in Iowa.

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Sports

Shared program creates buzz on bases for Bloodhounds

BY ETHAN LILLARD PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON - As the numbers of students playing organized sports appears to be shrinking, open enrollment taking its toll on almost every school, and school budgets get squeezed, shared programs are almost a must at most high schools in Iowa.

Fort Madison and Holy Trinity Catholic used to share few programs, but fast forward to the present day where the two have many consolidated programs and so far it is paying dividends.

The schools currently have cooperative agreements in place in most sports with the exception of soccer, basketball, volleyball, and boys cross country.

All the other sports have both HTC and Fort Madison athletes playing under the Bloodhound mascot. The Bloodhound tennis team had three players go to state this spring... all three from HTC. A 4×100 boys track team that just missed going to state by less than a second was a mix of Crusaders and Bloodhounds.

And this year's Bloodhound baseball team is playing .500 ball after bringing HTC ball players after the Crusaders didn't have enough to field a squad this year.

Niether the Bloodhounds nor the Crusaders have had a winning season in a decade plus. But just eight games into the season the effects of the consolidation can

already be felt, as the Bloodhounds currently sit at 4-4. Last season Fort Madison won a total of five games, while Holy Trinity Catholic set a school record with seven wins.

While a 4-4 record may not appear to be anything special on the surface, to the players on the Bloodhounds' roster it is a measuring stick. A measuring stick that shows how far they have already come and just how much progress they have already made this season.

"I think it's really cool," Holy Trinity Catholic's Reed Fehseke said. "Neither team was good last year. The step we've taken from last year to this year is huge from what both programs were. I think it's cool to see how much better we are."

So far the transition has been relatively smooth. According to Fort Madison's Dayne Cordray, this can be contributed to the fact that many of the players on this season's team have played traveling baseball together when they were younger, placing at state every year.

"We played travel ball together from like 10 to 13 so we all kind of meshed well," Cordray said. "We all got the team back together and I think there's bigger things to come now that we're back together."

While the consolidation has brought about plenty of change, with first-year Head Coach Ron Walker at the helm and with this also being the first year for the con-



WALKER

vergence, many of the players feel they are start-

ing with a blank slate. "(It's a)

Brand new slate," Fort Madison junior Brandon Reichelt said. "We have a different approach coming to the plate. (Coach Walker) knows what he's talking about and he makes all of us trust him. Everything he says we can trust him and that obviously shows with our record."

Fort Madison senior captain Jordyn Gerdes agrees one of the biggest changes he has seen in the Hounds is the new found approach at the plate.

"The big part is our approach with hitting," Gerdes said. "Last year we didn't really practice an approach, we just practiced swinging ... Practice wise I think there's more passion, it's more intense, it makes you want to practice and get better."

In terms of the HTC's players view on how things have changed, a lot of it is how engaged the team is daily on polishing up the fundamentals and getting back to the basics.

"The rules are a little more strict this year," Vasin Thurman said. "A lot more working on the fundamentals to get those down so that we're not making the little mistakes."

Those little mistakes still lure their heads from time to time, but Gerdes says he has already noticed a marginal improvement on how well the team has cleaned up its fielding since last season.

"I just feel like we're making the routine plays," Gerdes said. "Jason Thurman has been doing a great job at shortstop. We have Vasin at first since Brandon has been sick. We just have people to fill those roles when somebody is injured or sick. We actually have people that we can trust to go out there and make the routine plays."

With so many first and so many new changes with the program, one thing still remains the same, everyone on the Bloodhound roster plays for the Fort Madison community as a whole. That's something Walker hopes his players keep in mind.

"At the end of the day, we're still a Fort Madison community, we're all from the same public area, the kids have grown up

together, they go to the swimming pool together, they grow up playing backyard baseball," Walker said.

"I think it's a great fit all of us. Numbers have been down in both programs. It's kind of a kick start for all of us to put a shot in the arm and put a boost in the program."

So far the stats have't lied, the Bloodhounds are on the rise. Fort Madison is just one win away from matching last season's win total. Along with the wins, what may have been one of the most eye opening experiences in the early stages of the season was how well the Hounds played when they split a doubleheader on the road against Mount Pleasant.

"That was something really huge for the kids," Walker said. "On the bus ride home we talked about in the four games combined last year I think Mount Pleasant outscored

them 53-1. To come out and take a 3-2 loss and then a 5-2 win, it just says, 'Hey, we're here. This is legit and we're going to keep getting better and win some ball games this vear."

Wins are nice and should continue to come as the year comes along, but the main goal at the end of the season for Walker in year one is for his guys to believe in themselves.

"By the end of the season I hope the kids believe in themselves," Walker said. "We talk every day about us as coaches and them as players, we have the same job. My job is to get the players to trust in me and their job is to get me to trust in them and if we trust in each other, by the end of the year my goal is when we take the field, no matter who we're playing, I want us to be competitive."



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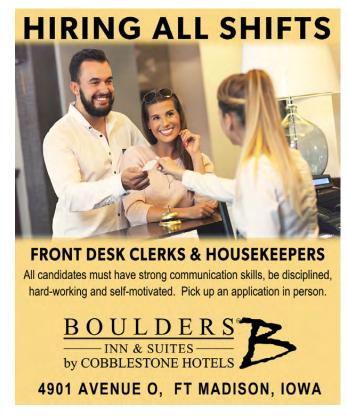
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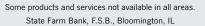
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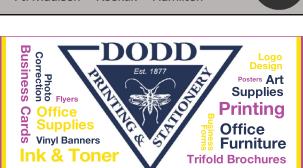
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Got a news tip? Call Chuck (319)371.1670

From the Front/Weather

Connection to build new Keokuk facility

BANK - Continued from Page 1

consolidate the insurance and banking divisions under one roof in Keokuk.

"The plan is to build a two-story facility with a three-lane drive up. We're looking to take a piece of ground right now that is totally bare, with nothing on it. And it's right on Main Street with the project including a sizable investment."

In previous conversations with the City Hall committee, Morris had notified officials that Connection is looking to acquire property in the 2100 block of Main Street that sits between Auto Zone and American Eye Care. That piece of land is currently undeveloped with the only potential hiccup being that there is a city sewer line running through it.

Morris also addressed any concerns citizens or city officials may have with the potential loss of downtown taxable property that Connection would be gifting to Keokuk.

"Right now between our two buildings downtown, we've been valued at about 1.1 million dollars assessed. We anticipate the new facility will be probably 2.5 to 3 times that. So the increase in tax base will be beneficial to the city as well."

Council member Roger Bryant said another benefit the commission identified with the Connections

BURLINGTON YOUTH

Sunday, June 23, 2019

9am Race Start • Dankwardt Park Pool

Register as an individual or a team!

RIATHLON

buildings is that the structures have not sat vacant like many of the other properties the city has looked at.

Finally, Morris laid out the timeline for how long it should take for the company to depart the two buildings so the city can begin the move in to their new prospective city hall.

"We've begun the preliminary process. We would like to think we could be in our new facility next spring sometime. We're probably on a nine to ten month design-to-construction time frame because we have recent experience in building a structure like this with our new Burlington location."

City Administrator Cole O'Donnell said once the current Connection occupants depart, the city could be up and running at the facility in three to six months.

Multiple council members thanked Morris and he was given a round of applause after his ten-minute presentation. Once the regular council meeting started, the council unanimously approved of a resolution to begin negotiations with Connection to receive the property as well as to issue a request for proposals from architectural and engineering firms to produce a report on the two structures.

Ballots to come out in Nov.

USDA- Continued from Page 1

this year. Organizations, including those representing beginning, women and minority producers, also may nominate candidates. To be considered, a producer must sign an FSA-669A nomination form.

The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at <u>fsa.usda.gov/elec-</u> tions. All nomination forms for the 2019 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by

Election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 4, 2019. Read more to learn about important election dates.

Baseball Card Shows

June 10 - Keokuk

Vintage Sports Card Show Hampton Inn 3201 Main street Show Hours 3 pm - 8 pm



June 11 - Burlington

Vintage Sports Card Show Comfort Suites 1780 Stonegate Center Dr. Show Hours 3 pm - 8 pm

June 12 - Ft. Madison

Vintage Sports Card Show Quality Inn & Suites 6169 Reve Court Show Hours 3 pm - 8 pm



BURLINGTON YOUTH TRIATHLON

Distances based on age group

Age 7-8 Age 9-11 Age 12-14 Swim 50 yd. Swim 100 yd. Swim 200 yd. Bike 3.3 mi. Bike 4.9 mi. Bike 1.7 mi. Run 1/4 mi. Run 1/2 mi. Run 1 mi.

Click this ad to register online!





Online registration at www.getmeregistered.com

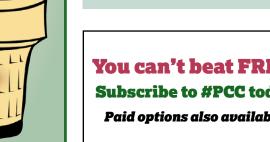
Farmington's 37th Annual Strawberry Festival!

June 7th, 8th, & 9th!

Come enjoy free strawberries and ice cream in downtown Farmington!

Thanks to the Farmington Arts Council, **FREE** strawberries and ice cream will be served Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m!

Visit our website at: http://www.farmingtonstrawberryfestival.org/ Or call us at (941) 323-6183



Contestants go through battery of tests

COMPETITION - Continued from Page 1

apprentices take the competition seriously."

The written test consisted of 100 questions taken directly from the ironworkers training manuals.

The instrument test required competitors to set up an instrument. Establish the height of instrument and figure the elevation of benchmarks above and below the height of instrument.

The burning competition involved correctly laying out and burning a circle and square, making a bevel cut and a straight cut. Contestants were judged on accuracy of layout and cut, as well as quality of cuts.

As part of the welding skills test, apprentices had to complete three passes in all four positions: flat, horizontal, vertical and overhead. The welds were graded based upon quality.

For the knot tying competition, the competitors are required to correctly tie six knots which are chosen at random from the rigging manual the day of the test. They also must correctly reeve two sets of blocks.

For rod tying skill tests, competitors had one minute to tie as many of each different type of tie as they could, including snap tie, snap and a wrap, saddle tie, saddle and a wrap, and the Figure 8 tie. The scores on each tie were tallied to give an overall score.

In the time-based ornamental test, contestants race against the clock to see who can put together a 2' x 2' glazed window.

Got a news tip? Call Chuck (319)371.1670

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

SUN 09 June

Light rain High- 75.8° F | Low - 58.4° F

MON 10 June



Clear skies High- 70.1° F | Low - 58.2° F



🖡 Light Rain High- 74.4° F | Low - 61.1° F

WED 12 June -



High- 63.1° F | Low - 50.4° F

THU 13 June -



Light Rain High- 66.2° F | Low - 52.8° F

<u>OpenWeatherMap</u>

