



Pen City Current

Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019 | 8 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 234

Cyberhounds pitch next Robot to area leaders



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Cyberhound member Nathaniel Harter, center, talks to about 30 leaders at the Elliott Test Kitchen Tuesday night about the Fort Madison club's plans for 2020. The group is building a robot to compete in regional competitions and is looking for financial and industrial support. The 2019 version "Gemini" is in front of Harter.

Group looking for help with funds, mentorships, supplies

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Gemini made an encore appearance at the Elliott Test Kitchen Tuesday night.

The robotic team member of the Fort Madison Cyberhounds helped the team to a strong finish at last year's FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics regional competition in Sedalia, Missouri.

Despite the broken arm, the unit took a defensive posture at the direction of its high school programmers and reigned havoc on the competition as the five-year old club missed the semifinals at the competition by one point. But the team was also awarded the Team Spirit award at the competition.

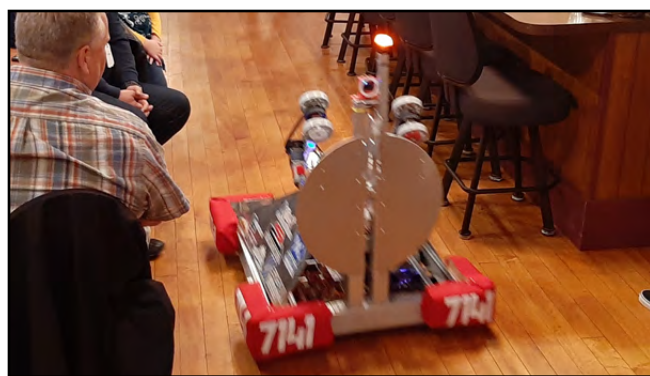
But it's back to the proverbial drawing board for the

2019-2020 CyberHounds as they start a campaign to build on last year's success. The club began five years ago, but had their first competition in 2018 in Cedar Falls where they finished 61st of 61 teams.

To do that, the group needs funding and professional support.

Led by spokesperson Shyannah Hoenig, the group pitched about 30 people in attendance on how much the Cyberhounds rely on community support for their

See **ROBOTICS**, page 8



Thanksgiving committee needs helping hands

Plans underway to feed 1,000 on Nov. 28 from 11:30 to 2 p.m.

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – With the Thanksgiving holiday just around the corner, the Fort Madison Community Thanksgiving Dinner Committee is busy finalizing last minute details. With over 900 meals served to the community last year, we are ramping up production in 2019!

The 2019 Fort Madison Community Thanksgiving Dinner will take place on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28, 2019 in the FORT MADISON HIGH SCHOOL MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM, 2001 Avenue B – Fort Madison, from 11:30 AM-2:00PM. Volunteers will be available to assist with trays, beverages and of course bringing a choice of homemade pies to your table. Deliveries are available to shut-ins and those with transportation issues; deliveries will be made on Thanksgiving Day from 11 am – 2 pm. To arrange for a delivery please call the Thanksgiving Hotline Phone at 319-371-5706 beginning November 18th. We encourage people to dine with us that day, but carry outs will be available after 12:30 pm.

The committee appreciates the efforts of the greater Fort Madison business community and Fort Madison Community School District who partner with them to help make this free event happen. It is the goal of the group to see that no one is overlooked this Thanksgiving so getting the word out to community members in need and to those who may not have a family to share a holiday meal with this is of utmost importance!

Volunteers are needed to chop, mix, bake, count, greet, serve, deliver, setup and cleanup in various shifts on Tuesday (4-8pm), Wednesday (8am-4pm) and Thursday (8am – 3pm). Volunteer slots are limited so please contact the Community Thanksgiving Hotline to secure your spot, 319-371-5706. We are in need of pie donations as well. Financial donations continue to allow us to bring the free meals to those in the community who otherwise may not have one. All monetary donations go to the Community Thanksgiving Fund and are used for Community Thanksgiving expenses. As always, your suggestions, questions and concerns are welcome. Please feel free to contact Savanna at chamber@fort-madison.com or contact a volunteer on the hotline phone, 319-371-5706.

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For the Record/Local News

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

11/06/19 – 12:36 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Michael Robert Scott, 40, of Fort Madison in the 1200 block of Avenue H, on a charge of possession of methamphetamine. Scott was released on his recognizance.
 11/05/19 – 4:05 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Lance Edward Meredith, 41, of Fort Madison, in the 1400 block of 38th Street on charge of driving under suspension. He was released upon citation.
 11/05/19 – 12:59 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Jessica Kim Bower, 29, of Fort Madison in the 300 block of 12th Street on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

11/05/19 – 4:17 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 200 block of Avenue E.
 11/05/19 – 5:25 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
 11/05/19 – 6:12 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage at the intersection of 35th Street and Bluff Road.
 11/05/19 – 9:53 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1100 block of Avenue E
 11/04/19 – 12:50 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1800 block of Avenue E.
 11/04/19 – 1:41 p.m.

– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2800 block of Avenue M.
 11/04/19 – 5:06 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft on Richards Drive.
 11/04/19 – 5:58 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1900 Avenue H.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

11/04/19 – 3:49 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Nathan James Kull, 40, of Keokuk, on warrants for probation violation and 4th-degree theft. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 11/04/19 – 9:03 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Lance Lee Da-

volt, 50, of Danville near Wever, on a warrant for driving under suspension.
 11/05/19 – no time listed – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Andrew Thomas Bowers, 29, of Keokuk, was arrested in the 600 block of Concert Street in Keokuk on a charge of contempt of court. He 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

11/04/19 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls.
 11/05/19 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls and two burning complaints.

LCHD's Tree of Love ornaments for sale

Submitted article

LEE COUNTY – LCHD-Hospice has been helping families honor and remember their loved ones with their Tree of Love since 1992.

The 2019 ornament is "Hummingbird, What is your message?" designed by Mystic Images and can be purchased for \$14.00 to be displayed on one of the area's two trees. When purchased the name of the person to be honored or remembered will be printed on a decorative tag and attached to the ornament.

The ornaments will be displayed on the Hospice Tree of Love located either in the Unity Point Health-Keokuk lobby or Lee County Health Department lobby from December 3 to January 3. Orders are due November 22nd to be placed on the trees for unveiling. However, ornaments can be purchased until December 20st.

The unveiling ceremony for Lee County Health Department tree is on Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. and in the Unity Point Health-Keokuk lobby at 11am on Dec. 3, 2019.

The public is invited to attend the ceremonies.

To purchase an ornament please call 319-372-5225 or 800-458-6672 or order online at www.leecountyhd.org.



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Lee County Health Department - 2019 FLU CLINIC SCHEDULE

10/10 Trinity United-Methodist-Keokuk
 1:00pm-4:30pm

10/17 Heritage Center-Keokuk
 10:00am-Noon

10/22 Parkview Apts. West Point
 11:00am-Noon

10/22 Rose Michael Gardens Ft. Madison
 1:00pm-2:00pm

10/24 LCHD (#3 John Bennett Drive) Ft. Madison
 1:00pm-4:30pm

****Date Change****
****10/29** West Point Public Library**
 1:30pm-3:00pm

11/4 Montrose Public Library
 9:00am-10:30am

11/5 Twin Oak Apts. Denmark
 9:00am-10:00am

11/7 Newberry Center Ft. Madison
 10:00am-Noon

11/12 Hillview Village Ft. Madison
 10:30am-Noon

11/14 River Terrace Keokuk
 9:00am-10:00am

11/14 Trinity United Methodist Church Keokuk
 1:00pm-4:30pm

11/19 Hoerner YMCA Keokuk
 8:30am-10:00am

11/20 Donnellson Public Library
 12:30pm-1:30pm

11/21 Eagle Bluff Apts. Ft. Madison
 9:00am-10:00am

Please bring Medicare card to clinic

Private Pay cost \$25

Any questions please call (319)372-5225
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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 07 Nov Partly Sunny
 High- 33.8° F | Low - 23.0° F

FRI 08 Nov Overcast
 High- 33.5° F | Low - 30.8° F

SAT 09 Nov Clear
 High- 48.0° F | Low - 42.8° F

SUN 10 Nov Partly Sunny
 High- 49.4° F | Low - 27.3° F

MON 11 Nov Scattered Clouds
 High- 29.4° F | Low - 17.7° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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Pen City Current
 Founded in 2016

Pen City current
 P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

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

Obituaries/Local News

OBITUARIES

PERCY FRANKLIN AMES, JR

Percy Franklin "Pooch" Ames Jr., 86 of Keokuk, IA died Tuesday, November 5, 2019 surrounded by his family.

He was born September 6, 1933 in Dekoven, KY the son of Percy Franklin and Martha Kean Ames. On August 2, 1952 he was united in marriage to Mary Lou Hayden in Keokuk. She preceded him in death on November 26, 1981.

Percy was a veteran of the United States Army and proudly served in Germany during Peace Time.



AMES

At the age of sixteen, Percy began his carpentry career with his two brothers, Wendell and Kay Ames. He worked alongside his brothers as a laborer and carpenter for several years. He then worked for Leon Hutcherson for twenty-five years as a carpenter. After that, went to work at Gate City Glass Company as a glazier. He later opened up his own residential and commercial construction company where he had his two close friends, Lester Piersee and Robert "Bob" Neff alongside of him. He then worked in construction with his son Jamie Ames.

This took him to his retirement, but he still enjoyed working alongside his son, Wes at Ames Contracting for many years.

Percy enjoyed spending time outdoors mowing grass. He loved baseball and was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan but, his favorite player was Anthony Rizzo from the Chicago Cubs. Most of all, Percy enjoyed the time he spent with his family. He was a faithful fan of all his grandchildren's activities and sporting events, especially baseball and softball games.



He is survived by two sons, Milton (Tricia) Ames of Keosauqua, IA and Wesley (Tammy) Ames of Keokuk, nine grandchildren, Brandon (Rebecca) Ames, Nathan (Lacy) Ames, Jill (Bill) Seabold, Jake (Michelle) Ames, Matt (Ashley) Ames, Amy (Zack) Chase, Ashley Ames, Brandt Ames and Kaci Ames, twenty-four great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren, two sisters, Velda (Don) Ames Templeton of Sturgis, KY and Ethel "Ginny" Ames Barzilla of Kalamazoo, MI, many nieces and nephews and a special friend, who was considered a son, Barry Smith of CO.

Besides his wife Mary Lou, he was also preceded in death by one daughter, Christina Ames, two sons, Michael Ames and Jamie Ames, six brothers, Stanley Ames, Wendel Ames, Kenny Ames, Carroll Ames, Kay Ames and Wesley "Suz" Ames, five sisters, Ruby Ames Lulack, Gloria Ames Dennis, Emma Ames Holland, Bonnie "Jane" Ames Wilke and Wanda Ames Lombard and one great-grandchild, Gunther Ames and one great-great-grandchild, Kymberly MaKenna Howell and his special friend, Hazel Morehouse of seventeen years.

A memorial service will be held at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, at the New Testament Christian Church with Pastor Derek Olsen officiating. Burial with military rites will be in the Keokuk National Cemetery at a later date.

Visitation will be held prior to the service from 1:30-2:30 p.m., Sunday at the church with family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to the Keokuk High School Athletics Department.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

OBITUARIES

JAMES RAE NIXON

Mr. James Rae Nixon, 93, of rural Dallas City, Illinois passed away at 2:20 a.m. Tuesday, November 5, 2019 at his home.

Rae was born January 14, 1926 near Dallas City. He was the son of Edward and Rilla Haines Nixon. Rae married his wife of 75 years, Phyllis Whittemore, in La Crosse, Wisconsin. She survives.

He was a lifelong farmer and worked as a federal inspector for the Keokuk Grain Inspection Services. Rae enlisted into the U.S. Navy in 1943, serving during WWII. He was honorably discharged in 1946. He was a member of the Dallas City Lions Club, Carthage VFW and a 50+ year member of the LaHarpe Masonic Lodge. Rae enjoyed cooking for charity events and was a founding member of the Dallas City Fryers. He was an avid horseman.



NIXON

Survivors include his wife, Phyllis; two sons, Jim (Randy) Nixon and Timothy Nixon both of Dallas City; two grandsons, Rusty Nixon and Mike (Tammi) May and three great-grandchildren.



He was preceded in death by one daughter, Diana Lyn May and two sisters.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. A memorial fund has been established for the Hancock County Honor Flight. Contributions may be mailed to Banks & Beals Funeral Home, P.O. Box 70, Dallas City, Illinois 62330. To leave a condolence please visit Rae's obituary at banksandbeals.com.

Auxiliary's Nutman sale Thursday

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Community Hospital Auxiliary will hosting a fundraiser featuring The Nutman Company. The Nutman Company will be onsite Thursday, November 7th from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, November 8th from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Main Lobby at FMCH.

The Nutman Company will be selling 150 fine quality nuts, chocolates, snack mixes and candies. The FMCH Auxiliary will receive a percentage of the sales. Cash and credit cards accepted.

The FMCH Auxiliary is a volunteer organization that raises funds for projects around the hospital and for scholarships awarded to area students pursuing a career in health care. They also run the FMCH Auxiliary Gift Shop located in the Main Lobby at FMCH.

For more information about the FMCH Auxiliary or this fundraiser, contact Dianne Hope, FMCH Auxiliary Event Coordinator, at 319-372-3487.



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



11/5
2 9 24 49 54
Mega Ball: 19
Megaplier: 3



11/5 MID-DAY
4 3 4
11/5 EVENING
9 6 2



11/5 MID-DAY
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11/5 EVENING
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Business News/Health News

Schmitt named September EOM

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Community Hospital recognized Cory Schmitt as their September Employee of the Month. Schmitt works in the FMCH Laboratory. She has been with FMCH for 2 years. Cory was recognized with the following nomination.

I had a patient in the ER that came in by ambulance for generalized weakness and fatigue. Patient's baseline is jumbled speech and having a hard time with words. I came back to my computer to chart and this employee went in to do a blood draw. Next thing I know they were calling in the doctor so I ran in as well. Patient's demeanor had significantly changed from the time they arrived and they were suddenly nonverbal and had a flat affect. I would like to nominate this employee for being so observant and reporting this patient change immediately! They



Courtesy photo

Pictured: Becky Hunter, Director of Laboratory Services, September FMCH Employee of the Month Cory Schmitt, Shelby Burchett, COO and Tim Torgler, Vice-President of Ancillary Services.

could have shrugged it off as confusion or anything else but they were so on the ball and we were able to take immediate action and get the patient the care they needed. Cory exemplifies these Standards of Behavior- Personal Accountability, Commitment to Co-workers, and Guest Relations.

“The entire lab crew has made a difference in my career, especially Becky Hunter, Carrie Kruse, Maggie Silva and Ben Alchier. I love being able to make a difference in patients’ lives, and doing it alongside the best coworkers,” expressed Schmitt on working at FMCH.

Cory enjoys working part

time a flower shop, reading and spending time with her family.

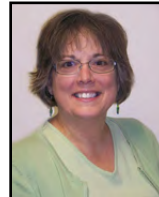
The Employee of the Month is an initiative developed by the Reward & Recognition team. Each month a FMCH employee is honored for going above and beyond for the good of the patient, their co-workers and the organization.

FMCH’s Green hosts November series

Topic includes “Navigating End of Life Decisions”

Submitted article

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Community Hospital (FMCH) will host the next session in their monthly community health education series on Tuesday, November 19, 2019. This session entitled “Navigating End of Life Decisions” will take place from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at FMCH in the Business Center Conference Rooms.



GREEN

Debbie Green, Director of FMCH Home Care & Hospice, will lead the discussion on how to navigate end of life discussions with your loved ones and your health care providers.

Planning for end of life care while you are still in good health will provide peace of mind for you and those close to you. Honest open communication with family, friends and medical providers regarding your choices for end of life care creates a smoother road in this part of life’s journey. In this session, we will review some of the documents available to share your wishes. We will also discuss how to talk to your health care provider and loved ones regarding your choices to ensure a meaningful discussion. It is hard to talk about- we will leave you with some tools to help. You are never too young to start this discussion.

Debbie has been a nurse since 1983, receiving her Associates Degree in Nursing from Southeastern Community College and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Nursing from Western Illinois University. She has been with FMCH since 2003, and Director of Home Health since 2005. She was instrumental in the development of the Hospice program at FMCH.

This educational session is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. For more information call, 319-376-2244.

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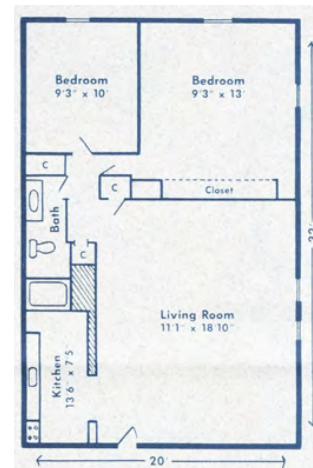
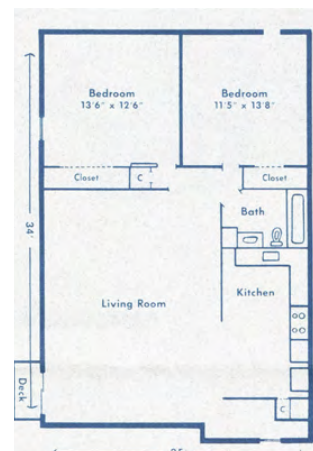
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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Sixth grader McKayla Schinstock, junior Maria Rauenbuehler, and senior Málle Sheerin handle boxes for HTC's participation in Operation Christmas Child. Holy Trinity Catholic sixth grade students were given the task to help the kindergarten - third grade students in the annual event on Monday. The sixth graders led students around to different stations stocked with toys, books, clothing, and toiletries. A few high school students and even a few Walmart volunteers joined in this year to help with this large project. The students have been collecting donations for the past few months with the understanding that these boxes will be shipped around the world to children and teenagers who are in need. Holy Trinity Catholic successfully packed 345 boxes that will bring smiles to 345 children throughout the world.

Group looking for 18K to compete twice in 2020

ROBOTICS - Continued from Page 1

success. Test Kitchen founder Kumar Wickramasingha provides facility support and mentorship, along with a smorgasbord of appetizers for the pitch.

Hoenig put up a tongue-in-cheek chart that showed the support the football program gets from the schools, but how the Cyberhounds face uphill battles when it comes to fundraising, travel, and awareness.

The team of 24 is made up of programmers, builders, fundraisers, and public relations.

Teacher Shalisse Johnstun, who sponsors the group, said there are some on the team that don't know a thing about programming but are on the team to help learn, and gain experience in, other functions including the fundraising and community outreach.

Hoenig said a lot of the programs competing at the regional and national level are sponsored by larger school budgets and boast sponsors from national and international companies.

The competition involves a reveal where teams go to Cedar Falls to hear what tasks their robots this year will have to accomplish. After that, which takes place the first Saturday in January, the group sets out getting their kit, constructing their entry, and the battling it out at competitions around the Midwest.

In 2019 the Cyberhounds competed in just one event at a cost of about \$11,000, but this year they are hoping to compete in two and build on last year's success. The cost is estimated at more than \$18,000.

"It's a very expensive sport we're involved in so we just need more money to be able to do that," Hoenig said.

"Other teams are sponsored by NASA and Boeing and these huge things and our first year we walked around with Phil's Pub on our shirt and we were grateful of it. The point is we walked into this competition and expected to have a level playing field and this guy has NASA down his sleeve."

She said the group buys things at garage sales and relies on donations of supplies, tools, knowledge, and expertise.

She said the one plus is that the Booster Club provides meals for the football team but the Cyberhounds get food from Kumar.

She said the group needs \$5,000 turned in by Nov. 18 to be registered as a team for the competition.

The Central Missouri First competition will be held April 2-5 in Sedalia.

Sponsorships are available for the Club and on the robot from \$100 all the way to \$5,000.

Nathaniel Harter said the club relies on getting the community and industries involved to help Cyberhounds grow.

"First, we need your expertise, we're still babies compared to everyone else in experience. Secondly, material help. Huffman's gave us a lot of materials last year and that was extremely helpful. Without them we wouldn't be where we are at."

He said after-school mentoring is also needed with programming expertise, and any old or new tools. He said transportation is also an issue and students can't ride in a vehicle pulling a trailer, but a trailer would be helpful in getting equipment and supplies to the competition site.

Harter said robot materials can cost up to \$4,000 and that doesn't include parts they get with registration. He said lodging costs were about \$2,500. He said a second competition will have a registration of \$4,000, but the lodging could be more expensive.