



# Pen City Current

Monday, July 1, 2019 | 11 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 146

## Hound builders impress at nationals

*FMHS trades team places Iowa in top half of country*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – The best building trades students in the country lined up in the West Wing of the Kentucky Exposition Center this week, and four Bloodhounds hammered it out with them for a couple days.

After two days of intense preparation, planning, construction, and even demolition, Fort Madison stands tall as the 24th best prep building trades team in the country, after representing Iowa in the SkillsUSA TeamWorks competition in Louisville.

The competition was part of the 6,400-student, 103-program contest held annually with a combined price tag, including donations and investments, of more than \$36 million.

Fort Madison High School juniors Danen Settles and Parker Denning joined seniors Elton Kruse and AJ Nolting in the competition on the southwest side of Louisville. The contest went more than three days and included an oral presentation on how they would tackle the project, getting the tools and supplies for the project, construction and demolition.

The project was to build a scaled back version of a kitchen/bath structure including wiring switches, outlets, lights, and two ventilation fans, plumbing both



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

All four Fort Madison High School Bloodhounds competing at last week's SkillsUSA TeamWorks competition help install a kitchen exhaust fan as part of their construction project Thursday afternoon. From left to right on ladders, Elton Kruse and Danen Settles, while on the ground are AJ Nolting and Parker Denning.

See **NATIONALS**, page 4



### Beside The Point

Chuck Vandenberg,  
Pen City Current - Editor

### *Working vacation shines light on program*

Well, as you can probably gather from the pictures of your balding, aging, and, apparently, lost editor, I've been on a working vacation since Wednesday, and even though we literally grow every day here at the Pen City Current Funhouse, sometimes we can't do e-Editions.

Actually, we're contemplating an investment in more technology that will allow us to remotely put this bad boy together, but another story for another time.

At the end of the day, sometimes you just need a vacation. But when Fort Madison Activities Director Jeremy Swink asked me last Monday if I was going to Louisville to cover the FMHS Building Trades team in the national SkillsUSA event, I looked at him like he was weird. Louisville?? Uh...no.

I then sat through a three-hour school board meeting and thought to myself...why not? You travel to Fort Dodge which is four hours away to cover a 16-minute cross country run...and drive back home.

Why does this program deserve anything less...and this is a national competition. AND Louisville is home to the Cincinnati Reds' Triple A team and has Skyline Chili outlets.

Now I'm not a fan of Skyline Chili...it's a bit sweet

See **VACATION**, page 5

## IFC to power down for 4-week maintenance

BY PCC STAFF

WEVER – Nearly two years ago, Iowa Fertilizer Company (IFCo) officially began production at its manufacturing facility in southeast Iowa. In that time, the company has met and in many cases exceeded production expectations to provide U.S. farmers with a domestic and stable source of nitrogen fertilizer products. As part of IFCo's normal business practices, the plant will undergo a planned shut down in order to complete routine cleaning and maintenance. This shut down period will run from July 6, 2019 until early August.

This routine maintenance period, which is called a "Turnaround," allows for the inspection of the plant's equipment and necessary repairs as part of the company's longstanding commitment to the safety of the facility, employees, and the community at large, including the protection of the surrounding environment. Turnarounds also ensure reliable and efficient production at or above required capacities through the next several years of continuous operation.

"At Iowa Fertilizer Company, safety is the foundation of our business," said IFCO's Managing Director Darrell Allman. "As part of IFCO's normal business operations,

our planned shutdown in July through early August will allow us to continue meeting production goals and to do so safely and in an environmentally friendly manner. During this timeframe, the company will invest tens of millions of dollars locally that will continue to drive economic growth throughout our community."

The planned shutdown at IFCo will include up to 600 new temporary workers onsite and a total investment of approximately \$30 million, which will help support a wide range of local businesses throughout Lee and Des

See **SHUTDOWN**, page 10

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### ESTHER L. DROLLINGER

Esther L. Drollinger, 87, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, June 28, 2019 at The Kensington surrounded by her family. She was born on August 28, 1931 in Fort Madison, IA to Jay & Bernice Sharp Dalrymple. She married Billie L. Drollinger on March 5, 1950 in Fort Madison, IA. He preceded her in death on



DROLLINGER

October 16, 2016. She retired from Gleason's with 39 years of service, lastly as assistant to the manager. She was a master crocheter & enjoyed baking pies. She was a harness horse co-owner & groom with her husband for many years & did bookkeeping for the tracks.

Esther is survived by: 4-children: Robert (Jeanne) Drollinger of Denmark, IA, Thomas Drollinger of Fort Madison, IA, Linda (Mark) Conlee of Montrose, IA & Brenda (Mark) Marsden of Dallas City, IL; 8-grandchildren: Tara (Mark) Allard, Trent (Dani) Drollinger, Leith (Arpi) Drollinger, Brady (Stefanie) Drollinger, Jessie Huey, Cassie Huey, Ross (Kim) Menke & Jill (Matt) Wendland; 17-great grandchildren; 2-brothers: Howard & Wilbur Dalrymple of West Point, IA & 1-sister: Mary Alice Woods of Fort Madison, IA. She was preceded in death by: her parents, husband & 1-sister: Velda Mae.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The family will receive friends from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Friday, July 5, 2019 with the memorial service to immediately follow at 10:30 a.m. at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Dean Graber officiating. Burial will be held at Oakland Cemetery. A memorial has been established for Lee County Hospice. Online condolences & a video tribute of Esther's life may be viewed at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

#### Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

## OBITUARIES

### JAMES "JIM" SHELTON

James "Jim" Shelton, 88, of Ft. Madison passed away on Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at 1:42 PM at his home. He was born on July 17, 1930 at home in Kirksville, MO to Benjamin and Ritta Bills Shelton and was the seventh son of his parents. He graduated from American School in Chicago.



SHELTON

Jim married Helen Clark and together they had three children, Jackie, Connie and Jerry. He then married Mary Lawyer and she preceded him in death. He had five step children with Mary; Betty, Barbara, Beverly, Bonnie and Bonita. He then married Juanita Wells and he has a step son Richard "Jay" Wells. After working at IAAP for thirty nine years, he retired on July 17, 1992. At the plant he held the following positions:

line 1 as foreman and production worker in the area of atomic energy. Later he worked in the guard department as a lieutenant, captain and assistant chief. Jim was a member of St. John's UCC where he helped count money for twenty two years. His real joy was being a greeter for the "End of the Month Meals". His treasured pastimes were fishing, dancing, wood working, jewelry making, target shooting, traveling the USA in their 5th wheel, genealogy and coin collecting. He made over fifty afghans for family members and he gave out many cross necklaces to friends and family and was an avid reader.

Survivors include his wife, Juanita Shelton of Ft. Madison; two children, Jay Wells of Ft. Madison and Jack Shelton; three step grandchildren, Daniel, Matthew and Tiffany; four step children, Barbara Lindgren, Beverly McGuffey, Bonnie Lawyer and Bonita Smith; several grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren; one sister, Louise Winn of Lawrence, IN; his faithful companion, Chewy; special friends and neighbors, Bob and Gloria Dunn; numerous and nieces. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Mary; a son Jerry in infancy; a daughter, Connie; a step daughter, Betty; seven brothers, Francis, Jack, Lloyd, Paul, David, Donald and Gerald.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 29, 2019 at 11 AM at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory where the family will meet with friends an hour prior to the service beginning at 10 AM. Burial will take place at Sharon Cemetery at a later date.

A memorial has been established for St. Johns UCC or the Ft. Madison Food Pantry and online condolences may be left at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

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 Friday 9-10:30am – Beginners

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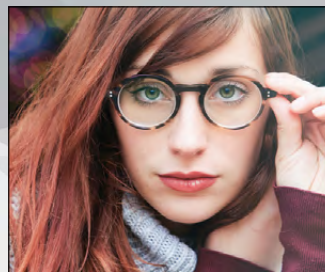
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# For the Record/Weather

## For the Record

### Fort Madison Police Report

06/24/19 – 4:27 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 300 block of Eighth Street.  
 06/24/19 – 5:56 p.m. -Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 300 block Street.  
 05/24/2019 – 6:01 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 600 block of Avenue F.  
 06/25/19 – 10:42 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a gas drive off in the 5000 block of Avenue O.  
 06/25/19 -3:37 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 5000 block of Avenue O.  
 06/25/19 – 4:12 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a personal injury accident at the intersection of 16th Street and Avenue D.  
 06/25/19 – 5:22 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Dakota Bryse Dunn, 25, of Fort Madison, in the 2300 block of Avenue L, on a warrant for failure to appear.

06/26/19 – 4:23 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of 20th Street.  
 06/26/19 – 5:14 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 800 block of Avenue C.  
 06/26/19 – 7:48 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Kimberly Jo Huss, 43, of Fort Madison, in the 4500 block of Avenue O, on a charge of driving under suspension. She was released upon citation.  
 06/26/19 – 9:31 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Adrian Raul Garcia, 41, of Fort Madison in the 2800 block of Avenue K, on a charge of serious domestic abuse assault. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 06/26/19 – 11:01 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Dustin Allan Beckman, 20, of Fort Madison in the 3000 block of Avenue J., on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 06/27/19 – 10:43 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1400 block of Avenue H.

06/27/19 – 11:50 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 3400 block of Avenue O.  
 06/27/19 – 1:51 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 2200 block of Avenue H.  
 06/27/19 – 8:45 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1500 block of Avenue B.  
 06/27/19 – 9:03 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a gas drive off in the 1400 block of 38th Street.  
 06/27/19 – 4:20 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested William LeRoy Frantz, III, 46 of Fort Madison in the 1500 block of Avenue E, on a charge of animal neglect. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 06/27/19 – 3:51 p.m. – Fort Madison police cited Gene Allan Green, 58, of Fort Madison in the 1200 block of 38th Street, on a charge of dog running at large. He was released upon citation.  
 06/27/19 – 8:45 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Douglas Eugene Hayes, 56, of Fort Madison, in

the 1500 block of Avenue G, on a charge of failure to maintain control and having an open container (accident related). He was released upon citation.  
 06/28/19 – 5:35 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Brett Lee Traman, 30, of Fort Madison in the 700 block of 24th Street, on charges of driving while barred, possession of controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to the Lee County Jail.

### Lee County Sheriff's Report

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 released on her recognizance.  
 06/24/19 – 10:58 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Russell Lynn Hymes, 61, of Keokuk, in the 200 block of Concert Street on a warrant for possession of methamphetamine less than 5 grams.  
 06/24/19 – 11:32 a.m. – Lee

County Sheriff's deputies arrested Michele Marie Spindlow, 28, of Fort Madison, in the 2100 block 303rd Avenue in Fort Madison on charge of domestic abuse assault. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 06/24/19 – 12:06 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Steward Benton Spindlow, II, 32, of Fort Madison in the 2100 block of 303rd Avenue in Fort Madison on a charge of domestic abuse assault-3rd offense. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 06/24/19 – 1:16 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Dalton James Meyers, 25, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 06/24/19 – 3:39 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Ronald Edward Bollin, 37, of Keokuk, in the 100 block of Washington Street on a charge of violation of a no contact order. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 06/24/19 – 11:07 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of

a one-vehicle accident in the 2300 block of Hwy. 61 northbound. A vehicle driven by Chris Ann Turner, 35, of Fort Madison veered off the road into the west ditch and through a fence where she, according to reports, struck a cement barrier owned By Truck Repair, Inc. She was cited for failure to maintain control and was transported to Fort Madison Community Hospital after sustaining several injuries.  
 06/25/19 – 7:36. a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Brandon Beau Shane Franklin, 29, of Burlington at the Lee County Jail on a charge of contempt of court. He was held in custody.  
 06/27/19 – 3:35 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident on Hwy. 103. A vehicle driven by Michael Kent Arnold, 56, according to the report, had to brake hard to avoid hitting a car that stopped suddenly. A vehicle driven by Kristin Leigh Denning, 43, of West Point, allegedly couldn't stop in time and struck the back of Arnold's car. No injuries or citations were reported at the scene.

## 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

**MON 01 July** — Cloudy  
 High— 85.9° F | Low – 73.4° F

**TUE 02 July** — Light Rain  
 High— 86.1° F | Low – 73.4° F

**WED 03 July** — Light Rain  
 High— 86.3° F | Low – 71.0° F

**THU 04 July** — Rain  
 High— 86.5° F | Low – 72.8° F

**FRI 05 July** — Rain  
 High— 85.6° F | Low – 76.1° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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## 2019 SkillsUSA TeamWorks National Competition

# Kruse predicted top-25 finish despite not including plumbing

**NATIONALS** - Continued from Page 1

the rooms and framing the structure with a roofing panel over two overhangs. The project also required a brick facing about two feet high on the outside front corner and siding on the back side that included a window.

All of the contestants were provided the exact same clothing, tools, plans and drawings, supplies, and equipment so the contest was based on knowledge and teamwork alone and no advantages could be given to any one team.

FMHS Instructor and contest advisor Clint Kobelt said the four boys represented Fort Madison and the state of Iowa well, but the real win was in how they worked together over the three days.

"When you consider all four of these guys intend to go into the industry and their take away is we hold onto quality as opposed to quantity? Guys that can do that will write their own check in the long run," Kobelt said.

"If you end up 10th, end up 12th... if you win it all, or you end up last – the bigger victory has been won."

Kobelt, the building trades instructor at FMHS, said having to sit on the sidelines was a learning experience for him. In a similar sports event, players could call a timeout and get some coach time. Kobelt wasn't allowed to speak to the Bloodhounds at any point during the days' 7-hour sessions.

"It's nerve wracking to be honest with you. You spend three of four years with these guys – and they're not your students, they're your kids – you see them struggle and face adversity and your initial reaction is you just want to fix it," he said.

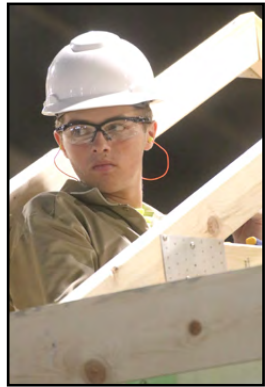
"But not being able to do that actually allows you to see that they don't need you to do that."

The 24th place finish is even more telling in what the boys were able to accomplish because with 30 minutes left in finalizing the project, the Hounds slipped into clean up mode knowing that they hadn't touched the plumbing task associated with the competition.

Denning said that was actually part of the plan going forward. He said the discussion amongst the team prior to the competition was to do quality work and get points on their strengths and if

there was time left, they all would jump in on the plumbing.

The group decided to not just throw something up that wasn't functional and suffer the quantity over making sure they got the other parts of the project right.



**DENNING**

"I think it came out pretty good," Denning said. "We just couldn't get to the plumbing. We focused more on getting everything done that we started, rather than go into something different and not get it done. We took our time and it was quality over quantity for sure," he said.

Kruse, who served as an adhoc foreman on the project, said he was very happy finishing in the top half. The senior actually said Thursday evening before the scores were announced Friday, that they would finish near the middle in the top 25.

"I was happy with our effort and we hit all our marks. We talked about leaving the plumbing to last because it was a maybe," he said.

"I think we're where we expected to be at the end of the day. Plumbing was a maybe and it didn't get done, but we did everything else the right way."

Kruse spent about five hours Thursday working on the masonry on the outside of the project, while Denning and Settles shored up the framing and started working on the back side, which was the only side that needed to be sided for judging. That side also included an 18x24" slide Pella window.

Nolting spent the seven hours working all the wiring from a main panel to three outlets, two switches, a range fan in the kitchen and ventilation fan in the bathroom. When Kruse finished the masonry, he moved Denning to the ventilation fan installation and he took over siding work with Settles.

Judges would move around the 50 projects in the vast hall measuring,

checking for levelness, safety, and housekeeping. The students got two 10-minute breaks each day and a 30-minute lunch.



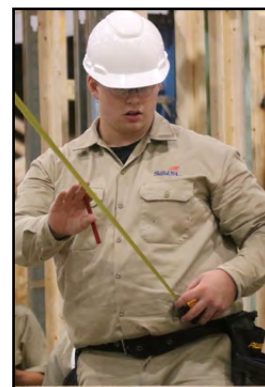
**NOLTING**

"Our expectations were we'd get close to finish with it and I'd say we met that goal," Nolting said "The only thing we didn't finish was plumbing and we don't really know much about plumbing. We did our best."

Nolting said he ran into a couple snags in the panel box on some things he hadn't seen, but he solved the problem by continuing to go back to the project drawings and rework the problems.

"Some things in the box I got a little confused with, but I kept going back to the prints and solved it. It was a goal of ours to get here. That's what we were aiming for and we were excited to be here and represent Iowa."

Settles said he enjoyed the competition. The junior all-state wrestler came with the group as an alternate when junior Brandon Reichelt, who was part of the team that won the state competition in April, had to back out for prior family plans.



**SETTLES**

"I enjoyed it. I came here knowing it was framing and electrical work and plumbing and we got most of that done. The metal studs that were part of the framing threw us for a little loop as we'd never dealt with that, but we figured it out in about five minutes."

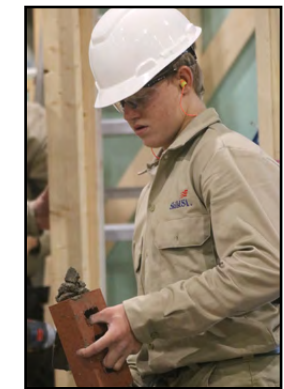
Denning said the competition certainly had a national feel to it.

"You can tell this was a national competition for sure," he said. "A lot of this we've never done before... the trusses, the brick work, and the siding – we've never tackled anything like that before,

so I think we did pretty good for all that."

Kruse said aside from the plumbing there was very little the crew didn't accomplish.

"It was cool to see where we stacked up against all these teams. We weren't sure if we'd finish dead last or what. I'd say in all honesty we're in the top 25 somewhere," he said Thursday after time expired on the build.



**KRUSE**

"We had some minor things with the framing and siding where we had to pull some nails but there really was nothing major. I had to shift to the siding after a little bit, but it all worked out." Kruse has already accepted a position with Carl A. Nelson, Co. and Nolting will be attending Kirkwood Community College's Building Trades program. A representative from the college was on hand to watch some of the program's incoming students.

Kobelt said looking back at the competition, two things stand out to him.

"These boys had several opportunities presented where they could have surrendered to the pressure or tried to keep pace with their neighbor. But they set a course and they did exactly what they set out to do," he said.

"They knew plumbing would be their Achilles heal. They played to their strengths and did what they do very well. But more important to me is I think they thoroughly enjoyed the experience."

"You're gonna have a job. You're going to work somewhere but they figured out your job doesn't have to be work. You're on the biggest stage you're ever going to be on competing against the best in the nation for the first time ever. They never got so wrapped up in it that it became work. If you can do that at 17, 18 years old, you have just figured out to make the next 50 years of your life so much better."

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# 2019 SkillsUSA TeamWorks National Competition

## Trip turned out to be a lesson in quality over quantity

**VACATION** - Continued from Page 1

for me, but I'm a huge fan of how my Reds (yeah...after 42 years they're MY Reds) are playing right now. Our sales and marketing coordinator Brian Wright raves about Skyline Chili. So I got him a case (four cans!) for \$15.99. I told the lady at the counter to put the second one back, sorry Brian. It's not THAT good!

We (I dragged my 19-year-old who's on summer leave from college off the couch to go with me) got into town Wednesday late afternoon after several setbacks in trying to hit the road. We rolled into town and hit our hotel which was seven miles outside of town, grabbed some dinner, and turned in for the night.

The trades competition ran Tuesday-Friday with an orientation, oral presentations, and pick-up of project specs.

Wednesday the teams framed up the project. Instructor Clint Kobelt had nothing to do but stand or sit near the black apron barrier for what had to be a 14 grueling hours where not one instance of contact was allowed during the sessions.

Kobelt said it looked like the Hounds

were behind in framing the project because everyone else framed up. The Hounds, who have done a lot of framing in their classwork, framed on the ground and then put everything up. Kobelt said they shot past most of the teams on the floor once they began putting everything in place.

Thursday I headed over to the Kentucky Expo Center, which is a monstrosity of a campus, picked up my press pass, and headed over to the west wing, where I quickly found Kobelt with arms crossed intently watching his troops from about 30 feet away.

My pass let me go wherever I wanted...I felt kinda bad about that because the FM parents and faithful that followed were stuck behind the barrier. Sometimes I just want to sneak a parent a pass and hand them my camera. I suppose if I gave them a dollar, it would be legit.

I went behind the barrier and down the aisle to the site where our Hounds were literally, hammering away. I took about 20 minutes worth of pictures before this old guy with an American



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Finally, FMHS Building Trades instructor Clint Kobelt looks over the final work of the trades team's project Thursday afternoon. Kobelt examines the masonry work done by Elton Kruse, who's standing to Kobelt's left.

flag dew rag came up with a camera on a unipod and asked where I was from. I told him and then he pointed to his head and said, "you need a hard hat, just to be safe". I tilted my head a little and said, "Where would I get one of those?"

"Down there at the end. there's a bunch on wooden box," he said with a smile.

"Well, why don't you go down there and grab two." I said. His smile fell and he turned the other way with a glance back that met my eyes. I don't like egotists... and I went and got a hard hat.

I chatted up Kobelt on several occasions. That helped me avoid the \$8 Nathan's Hot Dog vendor strategically positioned right outside the west wing doors.

Kobelt talked about how proud he was of this group of kids who were experiencing in real-time, what he called the "Joy of the Journey".

"No matter how they finish...they're winning right now as we watch them," he said.

I left him to his thoughts after a while and I wandered about this uber-plex and watched what I could only imagine was a senior in high school build this fantabulous brick monument from scratch. He even had the words USA and a trowel in gold and white brick worked into the project. I watched him for probably 20 minutes. Very impressive.

Then I went over to the electrical wiring contests where money and equipment was on the line for the top wiring

students. In other buildings everything vocational from auto mechanics, to photography, cabinet-building, forensic science, cosmetology, and many, many more were all in full tilt.

This event hosts 6,400 students and has investments, donations, and hard costs totaling \$36 million and has a \$27 million impact on the Louisville economy.

I continue to advocate that the education debt bubble is going to pop very soon. The cost of education is too high and wages are too low. Simple economics dictates that can't stand up to the weight much longer.

But these kids, I think, are the ones who've figured it out. Upwards of 6,400 students who may not even have to go to college, but undoubtedly will shrink the government's grasp on the financial futures of those who do.

Anywho... I left Thursday with all my pictures and interviews and headed back to the hotel for a dip in the pool and dinner at Bravo! I went back to the expo Friday morning at about 10 a.m., but everything was torn down. The tear downs, which were also scored on how much of the product can be reused, were completed in less than two hours.

My daughter and I petered around the tight streets of Louisville until she got nauseous from all the driving. Dad's kind of a "Squirrel!" type of motorist. "Oooh...What's thaaat?! We called it

See TRIP, page 11



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

From left to right, AJ Nolting, Elton Kruse, Clint Kobelt, Danen Settles, and Parker Denning.

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## Sports

# Harris, Marolfs get first wins at Speedway

By BRIAN NEAL

Pepsi Lee County County Speedway

DONNELLSON – After having two weeks off, one for a scheduled night off and one lost to mother nature, the Pepsi Lee County Speedway in Donnellson, Iowa got back to racing action on Friday, June 28th.

But mother nature tried her best to put a damper on the night, as showers moved thru the area early afternoon. After the rains stopped the track crew went to work to see if the grounds could be ready in time for some racing. A late decision to race paid off with some very fast racing on a nice smooth racing surface.

At the end of Pilot Grove Savings Bank and Donnellson Tire & Service Veterans Night two driver's earned their first wins of the season at the track, while three others won for multiple times.

The 18-lap Roberts Tire Center IMCA SportMods took to the track first, with Derek Goble and Josh Holtman leading the field to green. But it was fourth-place starter Brandon Lambert who grabbed the lead on lap 1 over Holtman and Austen Becerra, who started 8th. Lambert then held the top spot until lap 3, when Becerra slipped past him for the top spot. Then just after the lap was scored complete the action was slowed for a spin in turn 4 by Brian Bergheger.

On the restart Becerra jumped back out front, with Daniel Fellows, who started 10th, and Ron Kibbe, who started 6th, following close behind. While Becerra worked the top of the track, Fellows would work the low line, as the two raced the next 4 laps side-by-side. With Becerra holding off Fellows at the line each lap, that was until lap 9 when Fellows finally edged out front.

The action was slowed for the second time of the race on lap 12 when a cone in turn 4 brought out the yellow. On the restart Steven Berry got into the wall down the front stretch to bring the yellow light back on. The following restart saw Fellows move back out front, with



Becerra and Kibbe close behind.

Fellows would pull away over the final laps to claim his fifth win of the season at the Pepsi Lee County Speedway. Becerra was 2nd, Adam Birck started 7th and finished 3rd, Kibbe was 4th, with Brandon Dale coming from 9th to finish in 5th.

A nice field of fifteen I-Smile Silver IMCA Late Models took to the track next for their 20-lap feature, with Stacy Griffis and Brian Harris making up the front row. Harris would take advantage of his starting spot by jumping out into the lead on lap 1 over Jay Johnson and Matt Strassheim, who started 6th. Just after lap 1 was scored complete the first caution appeared for a cone in turn four.

On the restart Harris moved back out front, with Johnson and Nick Marolf, who started fifth, close behind. The caution would appear after the completion of the lap, as Tommy Elston and Sam Halstead spun in turn four to bring out the yellow. Once again Harris jumped back out front on the restart, with Marolf over taking Johnson for second. Marolf would try to work under Harris over the next six laps, with Harris holding him off each lap at the line.

Harris then tried to pull away from Marolf over the next five laps, when heavy lapped traffic on lap 15 allowed Marolf to close back in on Harris. Coming off turn four for the checkered flag Marolf tried to use lapped traffic to get under Harris for the win. But Harris would hold him off at the line to score his first win of the season

at the track. Marolf finished second, Johnson was third, Strassheim was fourth, with Ron Boyse who started eighth rounding out the top five.

The Donnellson Tire & Service IMCA Stock Cars struggled to get their 18 lap feature going, as three cautions in the first three laps would slow the action. Once the action went green it would stay green for the final 15 laps, as Blakley held the lead on the restart of lap 3, with Abe Huls and Todd Reitzler, who started 8th, following him.

While Blakley worked to hold those two off, David Brandies was working his way into the mix. On lap 7 Brandies would slip past Blakley to grab the top spot, leaving Blakley to battle Reitzler for the runner up spot. While the battles went on behind Brandies, he would pull away to earn his second win of the season at the track. Reitzler won the battle for second, Blakley had a great run in third, Jeremy Pundt was fourth, with Dean Kratzer making his debut with a fifth-place finish after starting in ninth.

Nick Marolf and Levi Smith led the field to green in the 18-lap Budweiser IMCA Modified feature, with Marolf grabbing the lead on lap 1 over Smith and Bill Roberts Jr. Just after lap 1 was scored the first and only caution of the race appeared, as Craig Spegal lost a left front wheel in turn four to bring out the yellow. On the restart Marolf moved back out front, with Roberts Jr. and Dennis LaVeine, who started ninth, close behind. On this night Marolf was fast, as he cruised to his first win of the season at the Pepsi Lee County Speedway. Roberts Jr. was second, Jeff Waterman was third, John Oliver Jr. was fourth, with LaVeine finishing in fifth.

The final feature to take to the track on the night was the 15-lap Discount Tire & Service IMCA Sport Compacts, with Ricky Miller Jr. and David Prim making up the front row. Prim would take advantage of his starting

See RACING, page 10



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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 [pencitycurrent.com](http://pencitycurrent.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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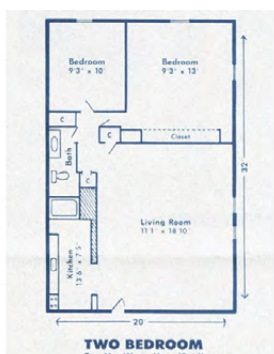
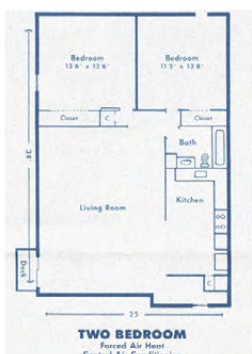
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## From the Front/Lottery Numbers

# Speedway action returns Thursday for Lee County Fair

**RACING** - Continued from Page 6

spot to grab the lead on lap 1 over Dylan Schantz and Miller Jr. Schantz would slip past Prim to take over the top spot on lap 2, and then held it until lap 7.

When Trent Orwig, who started fifth, got past him for the lead. The action was slowed for the first time on lap 8, as Cody Bowman slowed to a stop in turn 1 to bring out the yellow. On the restart Orwig jumped back out front, with Jason Ash, who started eighth, and Schantz close behind.

Debris in turn 3 would slow the action for the

final time of the event on lap 8. Orwig once again grabbed the lead on the restart, with Schantz and Barry Taft, who started 7th, following. While Orwig paced the field out front Taft, Chuck Fullenkamp, who started 10th, Schantz, Ash, and Brandon Reu, who started 9th, battled for positions two thru sixth. As the battles went two and three wide behind him, Orwig was able to pull away to claim his second win in a row at the track. Fullenkamp won the battle for second, Taft was third, Schantz was fourth,

with Ash completing the top five.

The Pepsi Lee County Speedway will be off on Friday, July 5th. But will return to action on Thursday, July 11th during the Lee County Fair, the longest running county fair in the state of Iowa.

In action on the night will be the Sprint Invaders, as this will be their second scheduled event at the track this year. The first event was scheduled back in late May, but fell to mother nature. Also in action will be the Budweiser IMCA Modifieds, Donnellson Tire & Service IMCA Stock Cars, Roberts

Tire Center IMCA Sport-Mods, and Discount Tire & Service IMCA Sport Compacts. All classes will be racing for points, and will be draw / redraw.

On Thursday, July 11th Gates will open at 5:30 PM, Hot laps at 7 PM, and Racing at 7:30 PM. Grandstand admission will be Adults \$15, Ages (4-12) \$5, and ages (3 & under) FREE. Pit passes will be \$30.

**OFFICIAL RESULTS** - Pepsi Lee County Speedway, Donnellson, Friday, June 28, 2019 - Pilot Grove Savings Bank and Donnellson Tire & Service Night: I-Smile Silver IMCA Late Models A-Feature: 1. Brian Harris, Davenport, IA; 2. Nick Marolf, Moscow, IA; 3. Jay Johnson, West Burlington, IA; 4. Matt Strassheim, Morning Sun, IA; 5. Ron Boyse, Kalona, IA; 6. Tommy Elston, Keokuk, IA; 7. Dalton Simonsen, Fairfax, IA; 8. Brandon Queen, Keokuk, IA; 9. Ray Raker, Burlington, IA; 10. Jared Miller, Iowa City, IA; 11. Laine Vanzandt, Camp Point, IL; 12. Stacy Griffis, Solon, IA; 13. Darin Weisinger Jr., Mendon, IL; 14. Sam Halstead, New London, IA; 15. Tegan Evans, Clinton, IA

Heat 1: 1. Brian Harris; 2. Tommy Elston; 3. Dalton Simonsen; 4. Jay Johnson; 5. Stacy Griffis; 6. Brandon Queen; 7. Jared Miller; 8. Tegan Evans; Heat 2: 1. Matt Strassheim; 2. Ron Boyse; 3. Nick Marolf; 4. Sam Halstead; 5. Ray Raker; 6. Laine Vanzandt; 7. Darin Weisinger Jr. Budweiser IMCA Modifieds A-Feature: 1. Nick Marolf, Moscow, IA; 2. Bill Roberts Jr., Burlington, IA; 3. Jeff Waterman, Quincy, IL; 4. John Oliver Jr., Danville, IA; 5. Dennis LaVeine, West Burlington, IA; 6. Levi Smith, Donnellson, IA; 7. Dustin Smith, Taylor Ridge, IL; 8. Craig Spegal, New London, MO; 9. Chad Giberson, Richland, IA (DNS) Heat: 1. Nick Marolf; 2. John Oliver Jr.; 3. Bill Roberts Jr.; 4. Levi Smith; 5. Jeff Waterman; 6. Craig Spegal; 7. Dustin Smith; 8. Chad Giberson; 9. Dennis LaVeine

Donnellson Tire & Service IMCA Stock Cars A-Feature: 1. David Brandies, Wilton, IA; 2. Todd Reitzler, Grinnell, IA; 3. Les Blakley, Fairfield, IA; 4. Jeremy Pundt, Donnellson, IA; 5. Dean Kratzer, Ft. Madison, IA; 6. Abe Huls, Carthage, IL; 7. Craig Bangert, Golden, IL; 8. Cody McClure, Bloomfield, IA; 9. Brandon Savage, Canton, MO; 10. Peter Stodgel, Fowler, IL; 11. Chad Krogmeier, Burlington, IA; 12. Kevin Koontz, Memphis, MO Heat 1: 1. Abe Huls; 2. Les Blakley; 3. Dean Kratzer; 4. Jeremy Pundt; 5. Cody McClure; 6. Kevin Koontz; Heat 2: 1. Chad Krogmeier; 2. Todd Reitzler; 3. David Brandies; 4. Craig Bangert; 5. Peter Stodgel; 6. Brandon Savage

Roberts Tire Center IMCA Sport-Mods A-Feature: 1. Daniel Fellows, Keokuk, IA; 2. Austen Becerra, Bowen, IL; 3. Adam Birc, Canton, MO; 4. Ron Kibbe, Danville, IA; 5. Brandon Dale, Arbela, MO; 6. Jim Walker, Mystic, IA; 7. Josh Holtman, Quincy, IL; 8. Brandon Symmonds, Keokuk, IA; 9. Jim Powell, Hannibal, MO; 10. Brandon Lambert, Carthage, IL; 11. Michael Benjamin, Montrose, IA; 12. Brian Bergheger, Keokuk, IA; 13. Steven Berry, Ottumwa, IA; 14. Derek Goble, Burlington, IA; 15. Kyle Hamelton, Keokuk, IA Heat 1: 1. Jim Walker; 2. Adam Birc; 3. Brandon Dale; 4. Derek Goble; 5. Steven Berry; 6. Brandon Symmonds; 7. Jim Powell; 8. Brian Bergheger; Heat 2: 1. Daniel Fellows; 2. Ron Kibbe; 3. Brandon Lambert; 4. Josh Holtman; 5. Austen Becerra; 6. Michael Benjamin; 7. Kyle Hamelton

Discount Tire & Service IMCA Sport Compacts A-Feature: 1. Trent Orwig, Ottumwa, IA; 2. Chuck Fullenkamp, West Point, IA; 3. Barry Taft, Argyle, IA; 4. Dylan Schantz, Luray, MO; 5. Jason Ash, Burlington, IA; 6. Brandon Reu, Donnellson, IA; 7. Kimberly Abbott, Camp Point, IL; 8. David Prim, Elvaston, IL; 9. Jerrod Nichols, Stronghurst, IL; 10. Aaron Berry, Salem, IA; 11. Wesley Talley, Monmouth, IL; 12. Adam Christy, Ft. Madison, IA; 13. Cody Bowman, Mt. Pleasant, IA; 14. Ricky Miller Jr., Gorin, MO Heat 1: 1. Chuck Fullenkamp; 2. Jason Ash; 3. Kimberly Abbott; 4. Ricky Miller Jr.; 5. Cody Bowman; 6. Jerrod Nichols; 7. Wesley Talley; Heat 2: 1. Barry Taft; 2. Dylan Schantz; 3. David Prim; 4. Brandon Reu; 5. Trent Orwig; 6. Aaron Berry; 7. Adam Christy

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## “Turnarounds” planned every 2 to 4 years

**SHUTDOWN** - Continued from Page 1

Moines counties. During the Turnaround, the community will likely see increased activity at the plant and additional traffic in the area.

“We continue to thank the surrounding community for their understanding and support through this planned outage and look forward to our continued partnership with Wever and the surrounding communities,” said Robb Aultman, Plant Manager. “Iowa Fertilizer is deeply committed to communicating with all stakeholders and residents throughout the community to ensure everyone is aware of activities that may impact or be noticed in the area.”

Planned outages will take place at Iowa Fertilizer Company every two to four years.

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**IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS**

**Lotto Drawings**

Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life®	Mon & Thu	8:30 pm	9:38 pm
Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America™	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
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

**LOTTO AMERICA** ALL STAR BONUS

**11/18**  
4 25 26 41 47  
Star Ball: 6  
All Star Bonus: 2

**POWERBALL** POWERPLAY

**6/29**  
13 17 24 59 62  
Powerball: 8  
Power Play: 3

**PICK 3** iowa

**6/29 MID-DAY**  
9 7 4  
**6/29 EVENING**  
1 0 7

**PICK 4** iowa

**6/29 MID-DAY**  
1 3 1 3  
**6/29 EVENING**  
5 0 8 1

**Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.**



**From the Front/Lee County News**

**Churchill Downs is a must stop through Kentucky**

**TRIP**- Continued from Page 5

quits for a while and I caught up on some work while she rested. Off to Dave and Busters so she could school me at air hockey – which she did, and we got enough tickets from \$40 for some Sour Patch candy that I could have gotten for \$3. But it’s all about the memories, right?

Well, our favorite memories were a trip to Churchill Downs where we played the ponies for the first time ever. I got her the \$40 Millionaire Row tickets that come with lunch so we could be in a cooler climate and get a bite. We missed the first race, but we dropped \$20 on the second race and won nothing.

But then this 19-year-old who may go into Family Law started reading a little. On the next race (20 minutes later) she picked a 6-1 horse named Exemplar. The horse slipped to 14-1 before post. Apparently it ate a little too much alfalfa this week and was acting up and the betting level was low. Dad put \$5 on this horse to win and two others to place and show. This Exemplar

shook off the weight and won by a head over my horse I picked to place and we won \$98.

We won a couple more times and stayed for lunch and about seven races. We ended up wagering \$122 and winning \$210. Not bad! Paid for the tickets and the tip, but what a great time we had.

This girl had never gambled in her life and was pounding her table with the best of them as I watched her and laughed. What a beautiful little girl of 19 all revved up. She felt underdressed in a tank top and jean shorts. I, in my Reds jersey and hat, felt right at home. She looked gorgeous to me, I was steeped in watching her digest these racing books like college homework.

This girl hampered by Type 1 Diabetes, and then pulmonary hypertension that was diagnosed later than it should have been had dad, teachers, and doctors been watching a bit more carefully than we did. We take nothing for granted, not even an unanswered phone call.

We had a great ride home after that vixen of a GPS lady on my phone sent us on an unplanned trip

through southern metro Indianapolis after she missed a closed exit.

We got back on the road and the Reds game had gotten out of hand when Javier Baez hit a grand slam. I cussed out the damned radio and said she could have control. About an hour later she started headbanging to a Michelle Branch song... (not sure that’s even do-able), but I thought her head was going to snap clean off and bounce down the dashboard like a coconut and she’d be looking at me with drawn “X”s over her closed eyes.

I explained that very fear as she reeled from the ensuring dizziness and she laughed so hard she nearly hyperventilated. I can be a little dramatic. I think that’s where she gets it.

From the trades boys finishing in the top half of the best teams in the nation, to winning some cash on the ponies, to envisioning my daughter’s head falling clean off...it was a great working vacation.

Now it’s back to work before we take a small break for the holiday...but that’s Beside the Point.

**RAGBRAI sets Biggest Dam Dip on the Mississipp for Victory Park**

Submitted article

KEOKUK – When RAGBRAI, the world famous bicycle ride ends in Keokuk on July 27, riders will experience the Biggest Dam Dip on the Mississipp at Victory Park, according to the Keokuk RAGBRAI organizing committees. With recent floodwaters overwhelming the riverfront, the final decision about the location of the dip site was delayed as long as possible. After consulting with local officials and contractors, the group agreed the park could be readied in time for the event.

The route to the dip site will bring riders underneath the bridge and across a temporary rail crossing BNSF

will construct over the next few weeks. Local residents may remember the crossing there received some damage from a train derailment this past spring. Riders will continue on to the riverfront passed the George M. Verity Riverboat Museum, where local band, Glitter Salad, will stage their upbeat performance from 10:00 am -2:00 pm and Radio Keokuk will conduct its live remote broadcast throughout the day.

The actual dip site, where the ride culminates with riders dipping their front bicycle tire into the Mississippi River, will be located just south of Howard’s Boat Dock where the Hospitality committee will welcome riders with their own version of the Keokuk dam’s

famous spillways. The Mierotto Shelter house will be the site of Main Street Keokuk, Inc.’s beverage garden with vendors setting up in the parking lot between the shelter house and the riverfront.

There will be a need for volunteers at the dip site as well as other locations throughout the community. Anyone interested in getting involved as a volunteer can fill out the online volunteer form at [keokukragbrai.com](http://keokukragbrai.com).

**Got a news tip?  
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