

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Friday, February 17, 2023 | 6 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 41



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UN-lucky 7



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Junior Teague Smith tries to find some momentum in his match with Spencer's Jace Fullhart. Smith would lose his second 2-1 decision in as many days ending his first-ever tournament run. Below left, Logan Pennock tries to get a grip on Cedar Rapids Prairie's Alex Bumba.

STATE TOURNAMENT

Bloodhounds go 0-7 on second day of state wrestling

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR



DES MOINES - Blechhhh.

The second day of wrestling at the ISHAA Class 3A state wrestling meet wasn't even close to what Head Coach Ryan Smith had expected.

The Hounds went 0-6 in second round consolation wrestling Thursday in Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines night, kicking six Bloodhounds out of the tournament, and then Ike Thacher fell in the quarterfinals to make it an 0-7 day.

"I woulda bet a million dollars that we wouldn't have lost every match today," a dejected Smith said after the Thacher loss.

"I think we were the better man in a lot of those matches. We just, for whatever reason, didn't get the job done."

Smith, who had little words for the day, said it might have been the first time ever that he lost seven matches in one day at the state tournament.

Thacher lost to No. 3-seed DreShaun Ross, who Smith said

See **WRESTLING**, page 6

POLLMILLER TRAIL

LCCCB awards work to Jones

Trail rehabilitation to be completed in the fall

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - The Lee County Conservation board is moving forward with a project to repave the trail through Pollmiller Park.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the LCC board meeting, the board unanimously approved a bid from Jones Contracting of West Point for approximately \$329,000, which is under the engineer's estimates by almost \$100,000.

The Pollmiller Trail Phase 1 will put a new 10-foot concrete path on the trail through Pollmiller Park. The trail will have earthen shoulders and will require pulling up the current asphalt surface, milling it, and then laying it back down as a subsurface with concrete to be poured over the top.

The project was originally slated to just entail repaving the trail, but at the current width of eight feet, it wasn't ADA compliant.

Funds for the project are coming from conservation funds and the county.

West Point officials are currently working on a connector on city property where the trail comes out on Eighth Street. The city has committed REAP funds to that project and is applying for a Wellmark Large MATCH Grant as part of the Wellmark Foundation's grant program.

The County is also applying for a \$50,000 grant from the Wellmark Foundation in collaboration with the City of West Point. The county did not get awarded a grant for Phase 1, but would use the Wellmark funding as a 1-to-1 match to relocate the end of the trail west to the parking lot so people using the trail would not have to walk down the two-lane road on a blind curve.

The new trail head on the east side would add about 600 feet to the trail and bring the trail out at the parking lot, across from a path on the north side of the lot.

That additional trail length would cost

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WEATHER

FRI 17 Feb	Sunny and cold, 28° F/ 21° F
SAT 18 Feb	Cloudy and windy, 45° F/ 33° F
SUN 19 Feb	Mostly sunny, 50° F/ 28° F

IOWA LOTTERY

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LUCKY FOR LIFE 02/15	9 16 28 35 44, Lucky Ball: 1
PICK 3 02/15 MIDDAY	7 0 3
PICK 3 02/15 EVENING	3 0 8
PICK 4 02/15 MIDDAY	3 4 4 0
PICK 4 02/15 EVENING	2 9 7 3
POWERBALL 02/15	31 32 54 60 63, Powerball: 12 Power Play: 4

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Fort Madison among 96 cities to get flouride designation

(DES MOINES, Iowa) The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announces today that 96 community water systems in Iowa, including Fort Madison, have been awarded a Water Fluoridation Quality Award from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Fluoridation is the adjustment of fluoride in drinking water to a level that is effective for preventing tooth decay.

The award recognizes those communities that achieved excellence in community water fluoridation by maintaining a consistent level of fluoride in drinking water throughout 2021.

Fluoridation is one of the best investments a community can make in maintaining the oral health of its citizens. It is estimated that for every dollar a community invests in water fluoridation, more than \$20 are saved in dental treatment costs.

"Fluoridation can assist in the prevention of cavities regardless of access to a dental provider," said Erin Drinnin, Director of the Community Access Division of HHS. "Fluoridation helps all ages and

income levels, especially children and families who cannot get regular preventive care or dental treatment."

Community water fluoridation has been recognized by CDC as one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th Century. CDC recommends water fluoridation as one of the most practical, cost-effective, equitable, and safe measures a community can take to prevent tooth decay and improve oral health.

Iowa HHS supports CDC-approved fluoridation programs. HHS's Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery Systems provides information and assistance to community water systems, healthcare professionals, and the public. To see the fluoridation status of Iowa counties and towns, visit the My Water's Fluoride website at https://nccd.cdc.gov/DOH_MWF.

"I want to congratulate all 96 Iowa water systems for maintaining optimal fluoridation in their community in 2021," said Drinnin. "You truly are public health servants in your community."

State offers free tax service for certain Iowans

DES MOINES - The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announces free tax preparation assistance for Iowans with low-to-moderate income, Iowans who are elderly, and Iowans with disabilities. Assistance is available at tax assistance sites throughout Iowa.

Funding for this initiative comes from a two-year grant through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) grant program. VITA is an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) initiative designed to promote and support free tax preparation service for underserved populations.

DHS contracts with the Iowa Center for Economic Success to promote and deliver the tax preparation services through coalition partners across the state. You can find locations and times for tax preparation assistance at: <https://theiowacenter.org/services/tax-services/> or at <http://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/>.

HHS also wants to make sure every Iowa taxpayer is aware of the Earned Income Tax Credit and how to claim it, if eligible.

"The Earned Income Tax Credit can be extremely helpful for working Iowans, providing them more money to help them pay for groceries, housing costs and other bills. We want to spread the word and encourage Iowans eligible to file a tax return - even if they don't owe any taxes - to take full advantage of the EITC," said Director Kelly Garcia.

During the 2022 filing season, more than 256,000 Iowa families claimed \$493 million in Earned Income Tax Credit. EITC eligibility can be complex and varies by income, family size, and filing status. And, trained volunteers can help Iowans navigate these rules to ensure the largest tax refund possible.

"In 2022, we saw many EITC/VITA sites around the state go back to meeting with taxpayers in person, while using

what was learned during COVID to help people who were not able to access an in-person site," said Karla Evans, government compliance manager for The Iowa Center. "We were thrilled to see the number of clients rebound after a couple of very challenging years. With many new sites around the state in 2023, we are poised to see the number of Iowans assisted increase even more!"

By visiting a VITA site, Iowans can access IRS-trained and certified volunteers who can help them determine if they qualify for the EITC and other refundable tax credits, such as the Child Tax Credit or education credits. Volunteers at these sites also prepare and e-file (electronically file) tax returns at no cost. More than 350 volunteers prepared approximately 11,000 returns during last year's filing season.

More details on Free Tax Preparation: <https://theiowacenter.org/services/tax-services/>.

IOWA NEWS

Bird joins suit on WOTUS rules

DES MOINES— Today, Attorney General Bird helped lead a multistate lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over its interpretation of "Waters of the United States." The new rule modifies that definition to dramatically expand the power of the federal government.

Instead of just regulating major interstate waterways like Great Lakes or the Mississippi River, the federal government is trying to regulate as much of 97% of Iowa land, including even small lakes or ponds. By broadening the definition of "Waters of the United States," the EPA would put significantly more Iowa farmland, housing land, and retail development under federal control.

"We're taking the Biden Administration to court to protect the rights of farmers and other Iowans," said Attorney General Bird. "A farmer shouldn't have to hire a lawyer to farm their land. I trust Iowans, and I'll continue to fight back against the Biden Administration's unlawful power grab."

The final rule uses vague and unmanageable standards that will be difficult to comply with for both individuals and the state. Many Iowa regulations, and even some conservation efforts, will be impossible under the new rule. If left in place, farmers and other landowners will struggle with lengthy and expensive processes for their lands or face legal penalties. And that is if they are even aware they need to comply with the rule. The new standards create vast amounts of uncertainty by subjecting unexpected lands to regulation and significant permitting costs.

West Virginia, North Dakota, Georgia and Iowa are leading the lawsuit brought by a total of 24 states, also including Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, and Wyoming.

CRP sign-up underway

DES MOINES, Iowa, Feb. 16, 2023 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that agricultural producers and private landowners can begin applying for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General signup starting February 27 through April 7, 2023. CRP is a cornerstone voluntary conservation program offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and a key tool in the Biden-Harris administration's effort to address climate change and help agricultural communities invest in the long-term well-being of their land and natural resources.

Producers and landowners enrolled more than 5 million acres into CRP through signups in 2022, building on the acceptance of more than 3.1 million acres in the largest Grassland CRP signup in history. There are currently 23 million acres enrolled in CRP, with 1.9 million set to expire this year. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is aiming to reach the 27-million-acre cap statutorily set for fiscal year 2023.

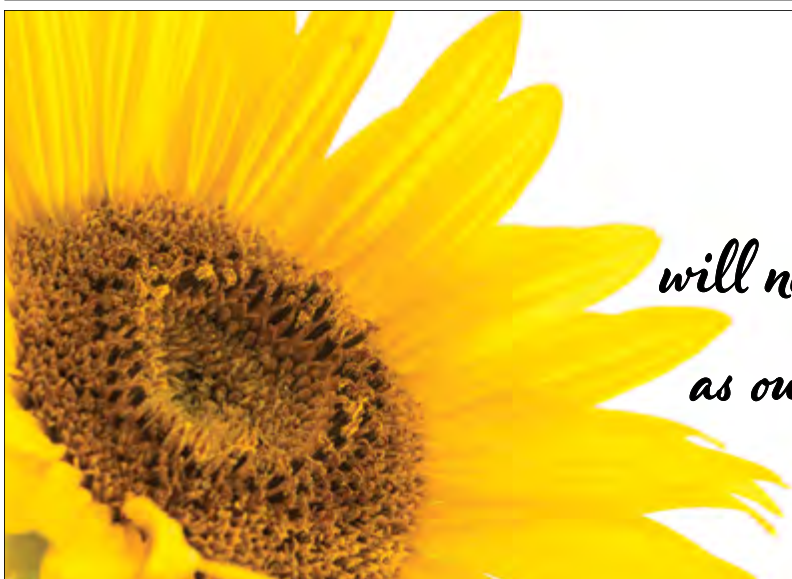
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Local News/From the Front

City gets dinged by OSHA over asbestos exposure

FINE: City pays \$2,500 for pipe that had insulation damage exposing asbestos at water facility

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A small fine has been levied against the City of Fort Madison for exposed asbestos at the city's water distribution facility.

According to city records, the city paid \$2,500 in January for a fine imposed after an Occupational Safety and Health Administration inspector discovered a pipe with deteriorating insulation at the city's facility on 20th Street.

According to City Manager David Varley the city has already scheduled repair of the pipe.

"We have somebody lined up to come in and take care of this short section of pipe so we will be in compliance with the associated regulations concerning insulated piping," Varley wrote in an email Wednesday.

According to a report, the pipe was wrapped, or insulated, with a material containing asbestos. A short section of the pipe had insulation that had fallen off and onto the floor.

"We got dinged because of this material being exposed even though that part of the building is not being used," Varley said.

According to the National Cancer Institute, people who become ill from asbestos are usually those who are exposed to it on a regular basis, most often in a job where they work directly with the material or through substantial environmental contact.

City Public Works Director Mark Boussetot said the inspection took place on Dec. 14 and the city had a remediation inspector on site that day.

The city has also had air testing done and on Dec. 21, those results showed no indication of asbestos in the air. The sample of the pipe insulation did test positive for asbestos, however.

The city was notified of the violation on Jan. 19.

"The pipe was in the cold storage portion of the shop that is only used for storage. The pipe appeared to be an old boiler line that had asbestos-wrapped insulation around it," Boussetot wrote in an email.

Remediation of the situation began Wednesday, he wrote.

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Phase 2 trail work could be done this year

TRAIL - Continued from Page 1

about \$102,000 and could be done in coordination with the current phase 1 project, since that project has been tentatively set for completion in September.

If West Point and the county were to use the same contractor for each project they could be done in conjunction with one another. County officials submitted the grant application on Wednesday.

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PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Member LION Publishers

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Pen City Current, www.PenCityCurrent.com, and Pen e-Saver are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Monday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

Founded in 2016
P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Photos from Day 2 in Des Moines



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison's Ike Thacher tries to move Fort Dodge's DreShaun Ross in Class 3A 195 lb. quarterfinal action Thursday night. Thacher would fall by decision 11-4. At right, FMHS sophomore Noah Swigart tries to get out of a leg grab by Ankeny's JJ Maihan in the first period of early action Thursday night at Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines.



Working hard in Des Moines

At right, FMHS cheerleaders cheer on Logan Pennock during the 126 lb. consolation match Thursday at the IHSA State Wrestling Tournament in Des Moines.



Below right, Junior Nolan Riddle had the upper hand, like this moment, for most of his consolation match Thursday, but would end up losing in another last-second turn of events. The Hounds went 0-7 in Thursday matches.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



The Pennock brothers Aidan, above, and Logan, below both suffered losses in Thursday wrestling action in Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines.



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Sports/From the Front

Hounds can't seem to find an edge Thursday

WRESTLING - Continued from Page 1

is good enough to win the whole thing.

Thacher battled through several takedowns and was able to lift Ross off the floor and bring him down, but it was after a restart when Thacher had the top spot and the lift and drop didn't result in any points.

"That Fort Dodge kid, he could win the whole thing, but Ike didn't roll over. Now he's gotta come back and do it. You can't talk about it, you gotta do it. I think he will and I'm confident in him."

The night started with Noah Swigart at 120 lbs. up against Ankeny's JJ Maihan. Maihan started early and often on Swigart getting a 10-1 first period lead. Swigart couldn't find an answer for the quick senior and succumbed to a fall halfway through the second period.

Logan Pennock was up next at 126 taking on Alex Bumba of Cedar Rapids Prairie.

Pennock came out aggressively with several attempts to get the junior to the mat. The first attempt was a successful lateral throw, but the move carried the wrestlers out of the circle and Pennock couldn't get momentum again following the restart. Bumba scored a couple of 2-point control moves and Pennock would escape, but Bumba would keep a one- to two-point advantage until the final whistle with Bumba getting his arm raised with an 8-6 decision.

Nolan Riddle will probably have the toughest time sleeping after the tournament. Riddle lost in the Round of 16 to Dom Rubino of Waukee Northwest 12-9, but had Rubino down on the mat on his back and just couldn't get the mat slap from the referee after the 3-point nearfall.

On Thursday, Riddle was leading 7-6 with about 20 seconds left in the match against Dallas Center-Grimes' Luke Benson. Benson was able to get an escape point with Riddle trying to reset and then locked up with the Bloodhound junior and pulled him to the mat with one second left to get a 2-point takedown and a 9-7 win, ending Riddle's tournament.

At 152, Aidan Pennock was surprised by No. 20 Ethan Riesselman of Dallas Center-Grimes in the second period. Pennock suffered a similar fate as his younger brother Logan in that he couldn't seem to get over the edge with his offense, frequently getting blocked just before getting control.

Riesselman was able to get a 2-point takedown in the second period, just over halfway through, that turned into Pennock's shoulders being on the mat for the pin at the 3:13 mark.

Junior Teague Smith lost his second match of the tournament by 2-1 scores. In the wrestleback Thursday night, Smith locked up with Spencer's Jace Fullhart. Fullhart scored two-points in the second period. Smith was awarded a penalty point in the third period. Smith started up on a restart so no control points were awarded and, with time expiring on the match, Smith had Fullhart on his side and was trying to roll him over for some points on a nearfall but couldn't execute the move before the whistle.

Senior Daniel Sokolik was the final consolation match of the 2nd round for Fort Madison. Sokolik was up against No. 19 seed Jacob Mohler of West Des Moines Valley.

Mohler scored control points in the first period and third period and scored an escape on a restart to win by a 5-0 decision.

Smith said it's an issue of being better when it's time to be better.

"We gotta be sharper. Like I said yesterday, there's small room for error at the state tournament and you can't make silly mistakes," Smith said.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Central Lee's junior high boys basketball teams are undefeated this season. Front row left to right are: Caden Weber, Jovan Rule, Austin Fogarty, Carter Jones, Caden Crozier, Korben Moeller, Ethan Capps Back Row (L-R) - Coach Andy Crozier, Carver Hayes, Parker Ellis, Blake Davis, Kaden Swan, Evan Fogarty, Brett Cook, Gage Van Ausdall, Baylor Ferraria, Chad Barnhardt, Carson Morrison, Coach Lane Weirather.

Central Lee's junior high squads remain undefeated

PCC Staff

DONNELLSON - The Central Lee 8th-grade boys basketball team had their biggest challenge of the year at Notre Dame on Monday night.

The Hawks have led by 20+ points in every game this year at halftime, but found themselves tied 21-21 at the half. The Hawks cranked up the defense and scoring in the 2nd half and ran away with a 50-28 victory.

Kaden Swan had 13 points to lead the Hawks in scoring. Evan Fogarty contributed nine points. Brett Cook finished with eight points. Gage Van Ausdall and Blake Davis each pitched in six points. Korben Moeller and Carver Hayes each had four points on the evening.

Van Ausdall led the team in rebounds with eight. Cook and Fogarty each grabbed five boards. Swan, Cook, and Moeller each had four steals.

The Hawks committed just five turnovers and made 10 out of 10 free throws down the stretch.

The junior high Hawks completed their undefeated season by beating Van Buren 47-29 on Wednesday evening.

Carter Jones led all scorers with 11 points while knocking down three 3-pointers. Cook had eight points for the Hawks. Fogarty and Swan each scored seven points on the evening.

Davis had four points. Van Ausdall and Korben Moeller each had three points. Caden Crozier and Fogarty rounded out the scoring with two points apiece.

Davis led the team in rebounding with eight boards. Cook grabbed five boards. Moeller and Van Ausdall each had four boards to help the Hawks.

Swan led the Hawks by dishing out five assists and collecting three steals. Van Ausdall had four assists with four steals.

The 8th-grade boys did not have one game all season in which they were not leading by 20 points at one point. The 8th-grade boys also went undefeated as 7th-graders last year.

The Hawks were coached by Andy Crozier and Lane Weirather this year.

The 7th grade Central Lee boys pushed their record to 11-0 after a physical game last night.

Zach Nemecek led the way with 11 points, a rebound and an assist. Keagan Westfall added in nine points, two assists and a rebound. Caedon Newton was the team's leading rebounder with 11 rebounds. He also added in six points and an assist.

Coby Johnson got his first start and made the best of it with six points and four rebounds. The Hawks will try to end their season with an undefeated record on Thursday night with Van Buren.

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