

PEN CITY CURRENT

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Hounds put 2 on podium

CURTAIN CALL: Smith ushers Hounds to 4th, 8th place medals in final boys' state wrestling tournament

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DES MOINES – Fort Madison put two Bloodhound wrestlers on the podium in Class 3A wrestling at the IHSAA State Wrestling Tournament this weekend, but both felt they left a little bit on the mat.

The Hounds' Ike Thacher captured 8th place at 190 lbs after finishing fourth in 2023. And Nolan Riddle built on his 2023 appearance at Wells-Fargo Arena in Des Moines with a 4th-place finish at 157 lbs.

Both wrestlers wrapped up their senior season with solid post-season performances. Riddle went 5-2 at the tournament with losses to Grant Kress, the top-seeded wrestler at 157 and Cinsere Clark, the No. 2 seed. Kress would exit the tournament with injury that required him to be taken by ambulance to a nearby hospital Friday night. He suffered that in a match with Iowa City High's Kael Voinovich, who won the 157 division with a 12-3 decision of Jaxon Miller of Carlisle. Voinovich also pinned Riddle in the district title match last week.

Thacher went 3-3 in the tournament and wound up losing the 7th-place match to Johnston junior Kolby Gibbons.

Neither Thacher nor Riddle suffered a pin in the tournament.

Riddle's 3rd place match against West Des Moines Valley's Clark was about as evenly matched as possible with a lot of action. Clark would score first when he was able to throw Riddle from a tie-up at the edge of the circle and jump on his legs on the way out for 2-points before a reset for being out of bounds. Clark took the 2-0 lead into the second period, where Riddle this time was able to get the takedown, but Clark quickly spun back over for a reversal and a 4-2 lead.

The Bloodhound would get an escape and then lunged at Clark who was headed for the outer circle again. Riddle grabbed Clark's legs, but the hold was ruled off the mat and no points were awarded. Trailing 4-3 going into the final two minutes, Riddle started on

See **STATE**, page 9



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison Head Coach Ryan Smith shouts some instructions to Ike Thacher during his final match Saturday morning at Wells-Fargo Arena in Des Moines at the IHSAA boys State Wrestling Tournament. Below left, Ike Thacher works a throw on Wyatt Young of CR Washington and below right, Nolan Riddle gets a hand raise.



COMMENTARY



Wells-Fargo worth the trip once again

I woke up Saturday morning about 30 minutes late. On my phone alarm, you have to set the damn day when you set the time and I forgot to do that. I jumped out of bed as quickly as a man my age can do and realized I did it too fast.

My knees reminded me that some plyo in the morning is a really good thing. Along with this crazy rice and lemon tea I've been drinking, the morning routine must be followed. So I stretched a little and did some things that are supposed to keep the lower back cartilage healthier. It has to do with a wall and some hip thrusts and that's all I'm gonna write about that.

But coffee started flowing in the hotel room I was staying at in Des Moines. That always produces a deep exhale. I don't drink the "dessert" coffee. Just black, decaffeinated. I know, I know, what's the point? The point is I was in an ICU twice with atrial fib, and the doc put the kibosh on the caffeine. It's the smell that does it for me. I smell it brewing and it's go time.

A quick shower and regular morning maintenance, I down the coffee, and throw the white poofie sheet/comforter thing back up at the top of the bed. Housekeeping can get the pillows, and it helps me make sure I'm not leaving anything behind. I pack the much-too nice brown leather overnight bag my daughter bought me for Christmas with real metal gold zippers, and throw Skole in on top. His head sticks out of the bag so he can breathe, but I put a jacket over the top of him so no one can see him.

Out the door. I don't check out, I just leave.

And the wind whipping in from the north across I-80 through the wide open

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WEATHER

MON 19 Feb.....Sunny and chilly, 48° F/30° F
 TUE 20 Feb.....Sunny and cool, 51° F/35° F
 WED 21 Feb.....Mostly sunny and cool, 57° F/39° F

IOWA LOTTERY

DOUBLE PLAY 02/17.....23 26 30 35 39, Powerball: 13
 LOTTO AMERICA 02/17.....6 8 10 14 33, Star Ball: 3 All Star Bonus: 3
 LUCKY FOR LIFE 02/17.....21 31 36 37 44, Lucky Ball: 7
 MEGA MILLIONS 02/16.....19 23 39 42 67, Mega Ball: 18 Megaplier: 4
 PICK 3 MIDDAY 02/15, 02/16, 02/17.....6 6 8, 8 2 2, 8 8 1
 PICK 3 EVENING 02/15, 02/16, 02/17.....5 0 0, 8 0 2, 4 3 5
 PICK 4 MIDDAY 02/15, 02/16, 02/17.....6 6 5 7, 1 3 0 3, 0 4 5 3
 PICK 4 EVENING 02/15, 02/16, 02/17.....6 5 4 3, 0 5 5 6, 3 9 6 2
 POWERBALL 02/17.....6 28 59 62 69, Powerball: 21 Power Play: 3

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

WAYNE D. RIGGLE

Wayne D. Riggle, 87, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 9:10 p.m. on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at Lantern Park Specialty Care in Coralville, IA. He was born on July 4, 1936 in Monmouth, IL to Earl & Viola Meline Riggle. He married Marlene Lox and they later divorced. He then married Margaret E. Burke Bowen on March 13, 1983 in Memphis, MO. She preceded him in death on February 4, 2016. He was a farmer for 30+ years from 1966 to 1996. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War as a medic. He enjoyed fishing, duck & coyote hunting, playing cards and having coffee with his friends at Sub Arena.



RIGGLE

Wayne is survived by: daughters: Debby (Tom) Moss of Fort Madison, IA, Terri (Kirt) Mercer of Keosauqua, IA & Cindy (Jeff) Goodwin of Iowa City, IA; step daughter: Nancy (Dan) Ehrhardt of Fort Madison, IA; step son: Joe Bowen of Traverse, FL and several grandchildren, great grandchildren & great great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by: his parents, wife, step son: Mike Bowen sisters: Marilyn Alecock & Fern Lox.



Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. No services are planned at this time. Burial will be held at a later date at Soldiers' Circle in Oakland Cemetery. Online condolences to the Riggle family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City 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. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

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OBITUARIES

RANDY L. DAVIS

Randy Lee Davis, 72 of Keokuk, IA passed away Thursday, February 15, 2024 at his home.

He was born July 14, 1951 in Keokuk, IA the son of Melvin and Naomi Hawley Davis.



DAVIS

Randy graduated from Keokuk High School.

On October 20, 1978 Randy was united in marriage to Diana Malloy. She survives.

Other survivors include three sons, Jeremy Davis of Keokuk, Nathan Davis of Quincy, IL and Shaughnessy Davis (Desiree Greenslaugh) of Keokuk, eight grandchildren, Kegan Davis, Kaysen Davis, Kielea Davis, Jazzlyn Davis, Haylee Davis, Hayden Davis, Kallie Leisenring and Katelyn Leisenring. He is also survived by three brothers, Denny Davis of Keokuk, Craig Davis of Keokuk and John Davis (Heather) of Keokuk, four sisters, Vickie Plue of Columbia, MO, Melva Hardman of Keokuk, Diana Pennington of Keokuk and June Davis of Keokuk, mother-in-law, Joann Malloy (Charles Howes), three sisters-in-law, Jackie Rankin (Marty), Paula Hogan (Mike) and Jamie Wood (Shawn) and numerous nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Melvin and Naomi Davis, one sister, Cheryl Stice, one brother, Melvin Davis, Jr., grandparents, Ernest and Mable Davis and father-in-law, James Malloy.

Randy had been employed by Henniges for forty-five years, until his retirement.

He was an active member of First Christian Church, USW Local 444, where he had served as past union president, and SECU Credit Union and had been the past chair person. Randy was a dedicated member of the Elks Lodge #106 for twenty-nine years. During that time, he served as the Exalted Ruler, club secretary and was involved in organizing the Hoop Shoots contest, both locally, state-wide and regionally. His commitment and leadership within the lodge will be fondly remembered and deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Randy was generous with his time and talents and was known for his service to the community. He volunteered at sporting events at the Keokuk High School and at SCC girls' basketball games. He also coached basketball at Cardinal Stritch, refereed basketball games, umpired baseball and softball games and announced soccer games. In his free time, Randy was an amateur political analyst. He was known to his family as the remote control holder.

A funeral service will be held at 6 p.m., Sunday, at First Christian Church in Keokuk with Pastor David Turner officiating. The service will be livestreamed on the First Christian Church Facebook page.

Visitation will be held prior to the service from 5-6 p.m., at the church with family meeting friends at that time. An Elks memorial service will be held just prior to the service.

Memorials may be made to the family.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

LONNIE W. KEELER

Lonnie W. Keeler, 89, of Ft. Madison, IA, passed away on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 3:05 AM at the Montrose Health Care Center, in Montrose, IA.

He was born on March 4, 1934, in Bonaparte, IA, to John Wayne and Lillian Grell Keeler. Lonnie was a broadcaster in television and radio in Iowa and Illinois for many years, and then worked for the Social Security Administration, retiring in 1999. He served in the Air Force ROTC and was a member of the Philadelphia Church of God. Lonnie was an avid animal lover and enjoyed gardening.

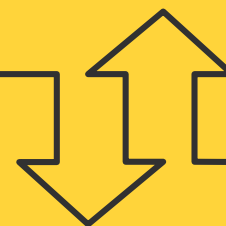


KEELER

Survivors include his sister, Yvonne Beem of Memphis, TN; one nephew, Craig (Rita) Beem of Memphis; TN; one great niece, Rachel; and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A graveside burial service will be held at 10 AM on Saturday, February 24, 2024, at Bonaparte Cemetery. Online condolences may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

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Obituaries/Health News

OBITUARIES

LAURA L. McCOLLISTER

Laura Lee Cooper McCollister, 62, of Naples, Florida, formerly of Ft. Madison, Iowa passed away at 6:02 p.m. on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, surrounded by her loving family, friends, and beloved dog "Moose".

She was born on July 17, 1961, in Ft. Madison, Iowa, daughter of Roger and Laura (Vincent) Cooper, she was a 1979 graduate of Ft. Madison High School.



McCOLLISTER

She began her career in the casino industry as a dealer on the Emerald Lady Riverboat in Ft. Madison, Iowa and later served as a pit boss at Casino Magic in Bossier, Louisiana that later was named Boomtown before being promoted to the position of table games manager at Seminole Casino in Immokalee, Florida. She was adored and respected by co-workers and patrons alike.

Laura Lee cherished rich relationships with family and friends. Her mantra in recent days was "my family was the love of my life," which was reflected in the way she lavished her love, support, and resources on her many family members. Not only was she exceedingly generous, but also fun-loving, loyal, affirming, and unforgettable. A beach lover at heart, Laura Lee loved nothing more than bringing together friends or family for lively celebrations at the beach or around the swimming pool of her Naples home.

Survivors include one sister: Rachella Dravis of Denmark; two brothers: Keating (Janet) Hissem of Montrose and Kenny (Kerry) Cooper of Ft. Madison; one sister-in-law: Julie Aubé of Tenerife, Spain; eight nieces and nephews: Heather (Matt) Fuger, Jeremy (Kelli) Hissem, Kelsey (Ben) Summers, Kole (Zak Victory) Cooper, Kameron (Makenzie) Cooper, Emma (Brady) Roth, Marie Esther Aubé-Cooper, Aranxta Aubé-Cooper; ten great-nieces and nephews: Lily (Brian) Hayes, Keating, Kinsey, Kaylin, Blake, Lorelai, Layne, Greyson, Cade, and Cael.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother: Jeffrey Cooper; and brother-in-law: Bradley Dravis.

Via organ donation, Laura Lee's final and lasting gift to the world was the gift of life and sight.

A visitation will be held from 1:00p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point, where the family will receive friends from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, February 22, 2024, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point with Dana Leahy and Heather Fuger officiating. Burial will be held at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Ft. Madison.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in her memory.

Immunization clinic set for Thursday in FM

FORT MADISON - Lee County Health Department will be holding a Children's Immunization Clinic Thursday, February 22nd, 2024 at Lee County Health Department, #3 John Bennett Drive in Fort Madison from 1:00 pm until 4:30pm.

The clinic is open to children who have no insurance, are insured by Iowa Medicaid (MCO) or those who have private health insurance that does not cover the cost of vaccines. Written parental consent is required for minors to receive vaccinations when in the care of another adult. (Please visit our website for a consent form.)

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

Please call 1-319-372-5225 with questions or visit our website at www.leecountyhd.org.

At this time, childhood immunizations are by appointment only. Please call 319-372-5225 to schedule an appointment.

Task force gets city man on felony charges

FORT MADISON - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Fort Madison man on felony and misdemeanor drug charges.



SCOTT

John Allen Scott Jr, age 46, of Fort Madison is charged with: Possession of more than 5 grams of methamphetamine with the intent to deliver while in possession of a firearm; a class B felony, Possession of a firearm by a felon, a class D felony; Iowa drug tax stamp violation; a class D felony, Maintaining a drug house; an aggravated misdemeanor, and Possession of drug paraphernalia, a

simple misdemeanor.

The charges came after a search warrant was executed at a residence in Fort Madison where the defendant, John Scott, was found to be in possession of illegal narcotics and a firearm.

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force were assisted by the Fort Madison Police Department and the Lee County Attorney's Office.

The defendant in this case is presumed innocent until proven guilty. The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy.

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Lady Hounds

Lady Chiefs complete season sweep of FM in regionals

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

KEOKUK — Landon Bentley showed the emotions from the end of his first season as Fort Madison's girls basketball coach.

Keokuk eliminated the Bloodhounds from the postseason, taking a 43-29 in Saturday's Class 4A regional semifinal.

Fort Madison finished the season at 14-8, a season that Bentley said was an education.

"I learned a tremendous amount," he said.

The Bloodhounds, though, ran into a Southeast Conference nemesis. Keokuk (19-3), which advances to Tuesday's regional final against Clear Creek-Amana, won all three games against Fort Madison this year on the way to an unbeaten season in conference play.

The Chiefs took control of this game early, and Fort Madison couldn't mount any offense to answer. The Bloodhounds were down 21-11 early, and the Chiefs kept the lead in double digits the rest of the way.

Bentley lamented the numerous misses of easy shots inside.

"It's been kind of our downfall all season, the bunnies we miss, the free throws," Bentley said. "When you miss three or four layups and you're down nine or 11, it could be a closer game if you make those. But at the end of the day, it wasn't."

The Bloodhounds couldn't mount a fourth-quarter comeback. They held the Chiefs to just four points, but scored only two.

"We fought tooth and nail," Bentley said. "That's all you can ask for. We made a couple of surges when we could have laid over and let it go. That's all you can ask for."

Dayonna Davis led Fort Madison with 14 points. Halle Menke had six points, and Hadley Wolfe had five points. All three are sophomores.

"This is a young group," Bentley said. "We've got freshmen, sophomores, who are ready to go for next year, and we'll work to get them ready."

Fort Madison loses senior captains Ajia Jenkins, Taylor Johnson and Irelynd Sargent, along with reserve Juanita Sportsman.

"It's a great group of seniors," Bentley said. "I'm proud I got to coach them, and I was glad they were part of this team."

Kendra Boatman led Keokuk with 11 points.

Bentley said he's ready to take what he learned into next season.

"Composure was a big thing," Bentley said. "(Assistant coach Kent Bailey) being around has helped me so, so much. People don't understand that experience is everything."

"We built a family in that locker room. We built a family, and I love that group."



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison's Halle Menke tries to work around Keokuk's Makayla Altgilbers Friday night in Keokuk. The Chiefs won to advance to the district finals against Clear Creek-Amana.

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Lady Crusaders

First half deficit too much for HTC girls to recover

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

MONTEZUMA — They had spent the first half seeing their opponent's 3-pointers fall from all sides of the arc, and tried but couldn't contain the post player getting free inside.

There wasn't much time left in their season, and so the players on Holy Trinity's girls basketball team took their coach's advice in Friday's Class 1A regional semifinal against ninth-ranked Montezuma.

"I told them at halftime, 'That wasn't us. Let's go be us,'" Tony Johnson said.

"Tony said, 'We have nothing to lose. Put it all out there, because this could be the last 16 minutes. If it is, let's go out with a bang,'" senior Mary Kate Bendlage said.

"We came out with nothing to lose," senior Natalie Randolph said. "It was just, 'Let's go play, have fun, play our game.'"

And so the Crusaders did, clawing in an attempt to get out of a deficit that proved to be just too large to overcome.

Holy Trinity's season ended with a 60-44 loss to the Bravettes, who play No. 8 CAM on Wednesday night in the regional final for a trip to the state tournament.

The Crusaders (20-3), who trailed 43-16 with seven minutes left in the third quarter, got to within 47-36 with 5:43 left. But Montezuma hit 11-of-14 free throws in the final 5:10 to extinguish the rally.

"The second half, I felt, we won," Johnson said. "We just dug too big of a hole. We tried to get it down to single digits there, and I thought if we could do that we had a really good chance."

"Throughout the whole season, we've come out against teams in the second half and really put it on them," said Bendlage, who led Holy Trinity with 16 points. "We did that tonight, we just had given up too many points in the first half."

"The second half, we had a lot more drive," said Randolph, who finished with 15 points. "It was an insane first half. We fought back, that's all we could have done."

Holy Trinity led late in the first quarter and only

trailed 13-11 at the end of the quarter. But Montezuma (19-4) outscored the Crusaders 27-5 in the second quarter. The Bravettes hit six of their eight first-half 3-pointers in the quarter, and when Holy Trinity went five minutes without a point, the deficit just kept growing.

And when the Crusaders had the arc guarded, Montezuma center Shiressa Wetering, who had 18 points on 7-of-7 shooting, closed the half with two layups within 37 seconds.

"I just wish we could go back and redo the first half," Bendlage said. "I think the first half, they came out hot and couldn't miss. We struggled to get a hand in their face — we've never played anyone who has four shooters on the outside and then a big who's also contributing."

"It definitely got a little frustrating, especially when we had played great defense."

"We didn't come out how we wanted, at all," Randolph said. "They were making absolutely everything. They're a good team, but if we would have had a better first half, we could have hung in there better, and there could have been a different outcome."

"We had a bad quarter," Johnson said. "They had five or six threes in the corner that just killed us. Some of them were long, they banked one in, and we struggled getting our rotations on defense."

Johnson made sure after the game to point out the accomplishments of the season to his team — a share of the Superconference South Division title, the Superconference Shootout championship, and a 20-win season.

"I told them we accomplished so much," he said. "We won the conference, we won 20 games, so don't hang your heads."

"It was a bad night in the wrong place."

"I'm really proud of this team," said Bendlage, who ends her career as the program's all-time leading scorer. "We accomplished almost everything we wanted, we just came up a little short."

"We accomplished so much with this team," said Randolph, who missed last season with a knee injury but

came back to be the team's second leading scorer. "I'm so proud of everyone. We've done great things. I love everyone on this team."

Johnson had one final message to his three seniors — Bendlage, Randolph and Raegan Holvoet.

"I told them, 'Thank you,'" he said. "Those girls have been with me for four years, played a lot of basketball for me, worked their tails off. I'm so proud of them."

"I can't ever express in words what those senior girls meant to me."



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Freshman Adalyn Kruse gets a shot up in the first quarter. The Crusaders had a one-point lead in the first quarter but that evaporated during a 25-7 run by Montezuma.

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Pen City Current will not publish
Tuesday & Wednesday, February 20 & 21
as our family remembers Kelsey Ray

From the Front

Battling the cold is nothing to the war on the mats

COLD - Continued from Page 1

hotel parking lot literally took my breath away. A quick inhale and I quickened my pace. I tend to park a little further out so I can get some steps in.

Idiot. I crossed the all-to-deep hotel drive-up lane to the main parking lot with my head down and my ears starting to burn. This is Iowa. 50s one day, -3 with the windchill the next. I was just to the truck about 100 yards from the entry way and realized the Duluth vest I used to cover

Skole's head was AWOL. I said some words I'm not supposed to write and turned around. There it was sitting in the middle of the road in front of the hotel, like a piece of discarded cloth that fell off a pickup on the Interstate. I thought about putting my stuff in the truck while I was so close and then driving back to get it.

But then someone could run over it. Now it's Duluth, so it's bad-ass, but I just couldn't take the chance of permanent zipper damage.

I like real zippers, they don't break like this plastic crap all the time. Zippers are important and ingenious. If a backpack or bag doesn't have real zippers in today's world, I don't buy it. Don't do it. Buy for price, you buy twice.

Anyway, I turned around in this sunny deep-freeze (talk about your oxymorons) to get my vest and had to walk back about 85 of the 100 yards. Mumbling and grumbling, I got to the vest and someone in a large, white SUV was

starting to head toward me. I just kept walking. If they hit me, I would just shatter in frozen pieces and lay there in colored ice chunks. I waved and smiled gently as not to split a lip and then realized I was going to have to bend over and pick it up. You know what I'm talking about, that moment when you have to curl down and all the cold denim or lycra or whatever you're wearing crinkles into your creases and makes the cold even worse, sending it deep into your bones.

I looked twice at the

vest and then at the nice lady smiling at me as she waited for me to pick it up. I looked down and then back up trying to summon the bravery to bend over. When I looked back up, she was not smiling. Now, I'm the class clown and I don't care if you know me or not, I'm just that guy. I looked down again and then told myself, "Yep, that's worth it". And I bent over to pick up the rust-orange-and-black vest. At this point, the driver of the SUV may have thought I was stealing the damn thing, but I curled back up,

straightened, slung it over my bag, waved, and headed back across the parking lot. A parking lot I might add, that I had clearly underestimated - this was at least 400 yards.

Wait, I have remote start! I fumbled to get my keys out of the jacket I was actually wearing and hit the combination to start the vehicle. At least it would be a little quicker to warm up when I got there.

Thirty-five minutes later I made it across the full 650 yards of frozen concrete with Jack Frost burning the tip of my nose and my ears. I threw my bag in the back and jumped in the front. Just being out of the wind made me feel like I was on Madeira Beach in St. Pete.

I drove the nine miles back to Wells-Fargo to watch Nolan Riddle beat up on what appeared to be his twin in the consolation semifinals at 157 lbs. This is a first for me, but I get to write 'it was a donnybrook with a doppelganger'. If it wasn't for the singlets, I'm not sure if I would've been able to tell the two apart.

Riddle dominated and got to wrestle to be the third-best wrestler in Class 3A at 157 lbs., arguably the 3rd best in any class at that weight.

I brave the ficticiously-wicked Iowa winters to follow these kids, who work all year round at staying fit and becoming tacticians on rubber mats, as well as their coaches who have to work just a little harder to roll around with them.

The freezing cold, the sleepless hotel nights, the junk food you profess to hate, but give yourself a pass on while you're working, all are worth it to chronicle that road taken.

Fort Madison Head Coach Ryan Smith coached his last state tournament this weekend. It had to be bittersweet for him but he didn't show it. The same even-handed approach we've seen for close to 30 years. Full of emotion and unspent adrenaline doing what he loves, and has loved, and will continue to love.

Skole and I can deal with the cold. We wouldn't be anywhere else - But that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is editor and co-owner of Pen City Current and can be reached at Charles.V@PenCityCurrent.com.

DIAGNOSED WITH NEUROPATHY?

GABAPENTIN OR LYRICA NOT WORKING? TOLD NOTHING COULD BE DONE?



- PAINFUL HANDS/FEET?
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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
Agenda
DATE: Tuesday,
February 20, 2024
MEETING
CONVENING TIME:

HELP WANTED



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 - Applications close March 29, 2024
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 - Interviews April 11-12, 2024
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 - Driver's License

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10:00 A.M. (CDT)
LOCATION:
933 Avenue H
Fort Madison, IA

---AGENDA---

Lee County Board of Supervisors
 Feb 20, 2024, 10:00 - 11:30 AM (America/Chicago)

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Pledge of Allegiance
 Approve Agenda
 Public Input
 Consider Approval of Contract with Schickedanz Construction for Keokuk EMS Building
 Consider Approval of Service Agreement with Stellar Services for Inmate Phones
 Consider Approval of Second Reading and Possible Waiver of Third Reading of Automated Traffic Enforcement Ordinance

Consider Approval of First Reading of Loose Cattle Ordinance

Consider Approval of Letter of Support for City of Fort Madison's RAISE Grant Application

Discussion and Possible Action on Raise

for Supervisors Consent Agenda

• Monday, February 12, 2024 Board Minutes

• Claims for Payment

• Special Class C Retail Alcohol License for Izaak Walton League

Personnel Actions

A. Step Increase - Auditor's Office

Reports:

A. Recorder's Report of fees Collected

B. Manure Management Annual Update for Pieper Pork Plantation

Commission or Committee Reports

Adjourn

PUBLIC MEETING

CITIZENS WELCOME

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PUBLIC NOTICE

TENTATIVE AGENDA

FORT MADISON

CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday,

February 20, 2024

5:30 P.M.

City Council Chambers, City Hall

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL

VISITORS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS:

At this time persons may address Council on any matters not on the Council agenda. After identifying yourself by name and address, please briefly state your issue. PLEASE NOTE: This is not an opportunity to discuss issues with Council or to get information. In accordance with Open Meetings law, Council may not deliberate upon, nor take action on any complaint or suggestion or respond to any allegations which are not part of the published agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. (Blank) MOVED

and (blank) SECONDED to approve the consent agenda:

• Minutes of February 6, 2024;

• Liquor License Renewal: Columbus Club Inc., 807-809 Avenue H, effective February 5, 2024 – Class C Retail

• Historic Preservation Commission Annual Report;

• Setting public hearing for 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, concerning updates to the Floodplain Management Zoning Code;

• Claims dated February 14, 2024, January Financial Report, Library Claims; and

• Payroll of February 9, 2024.

COMMUNITY REPORTS: Alliant Energy, Kay Sackville

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

2. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to approve the first reading amending Ordinance Title 9, Chapter 15: Operation of Golf Carts, ATVs and UTVs.

3. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to adopt a resolution approving the Mayor's signature on an agreement with Lee County for the City to acquire 13 County Held Tax Sale Certificates.

4. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to adopt a resolution appointing City Manager Laura Liegois as the primary contact and Finance Director Peggy Steffensmeier as the alternate contact to represent the City of Fort Madison with the Iowa Communities Assurance Pool (ICAP).

OTHER

5. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to approve Special Event Permit: Pen City Cruisers Car Show, Saturday, May 4th, 2024.

6. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to approve Special Event Permit: Riverside Pride Festival, Friday, June 7th, 2024.

7. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to approve Special Event Permit: Southeastern Iowa Spoonfest, Saturday, June 8th – Sunday, June 9th, 2024.

8. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to approve Special Event Permit: Ballgown Baseball, Saturday, June 15th – Sunday, June 16th, 2024.

9. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to approve Special Event Permit: Art on the Avenue, Sunday, September 15th, 2024.

10. Old Fort Madison Update: (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to approve recommended action.

UPDATES

CITY MANAGER/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS/MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT – A Special Meeting will be held at 4:00 P.M. on Tuesday, February 27, 2024.

PUBLIC NOTICE
MEETING NOTICE
CITY OF
WEST BURLINGTON
Regular City Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 21, 2024 - 6:00 PM
West Burlington City Hall
122 Broadway Street

TENTATIVE AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER
 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
 ROLL CALL
 PERFECTING & APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 CONSENT AGENDA
 All items on the Consent Agenda are Action items that will be considered by a single vote. Council members may request that an item be pulled for discussion and

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**maybe even faster than this car gets to 60, just sayin'!*



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PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

held for a separate vote. Items on the Consent Agenda may include claims over the City Administrator's authorized spending limit, payments related to previously approved contracts, and non-controversial or routine expenses as defined by the City's Purchasing Policy.

1. Minutes from the Regular City Council meeting on February 7,

2024

2. Clerk's Monthly Financial Report for January 2024

3. Payment of Claims as listed on the Expense Approval Report - \$173,751.04

COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS

• ADMINISTRATOR:
• PUBLIC WORKS:
• POLICE DEPARTMENT:

• FIRE/BUILDING DE-

PARTMENT:

• CLERK/FINANCE/IT:
• OTHER STAFF REPORTS:

• COUNCIL REPORTS:
• COMMUNITY REPORTS:

CITIZEN INQUIRIES
OLD BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider a Resolution setting a Public Hearing on the Proposed Tax Levy

2. Consider Pay

Request #1 from Jones Contracting for the Gear Ave. Extension Project

3. Consider authorizing City Administrator Mandrager to hire swimming pool staff for the 2024 Pool Season

4. Discuss Proposed Senior Housing Project
CITIZEN INQUIRIES
CLOSED SESSION

1. Council will hold a Closed Session in accordance with Iowa

Code Section 21.5.1.(j) to discuss the purchase of particular real estate only where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property.

2. Council will hold a Closed Session in accordance with Iowa Code Section 21.5.1.(j) to discuss the purchase of particular real estate only

where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property.

3. Consider taking formal action on issues discussed in the closed session.

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PEN CITY CURRENT
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State Wrestling

FM puts two more on state podium

STATE - Continued from Page 1

top and Clark escaped. Riddle took a shot that Clark was able to counter and ride the move to the 7-3 win.

“We kept on tying up and we ended up on the end of the mat every time. It came late in the match where I needed to score and I just tried something,” Riddle said.

Despite the loss, he was happy with his four-day performance.

“I’d say so, yeah. I pinned my way through the whole tournament besides Kress, so I’d like to say so. I wish I could’ve ended my last match better. That’s my last match I’ll have in high school. But it is what it is - you gotta keep going,” he said.

“I came in here this time a lot more comfortable, less nerves. I knew the surroundings and the noises and it was more comforting this year.”

Riddle said he would like to wrestle in college or possibly attend a two-year college and join a police department.

Thacher, the 7th seed at 190 wound up just missing standing on the podium where he was seeded. Johnston’s Kolby Gibbons earned a 3-1 decision over Thacher in the 7th place match so the two flipped steps in the award ceremony Saturday night. Gibbons was seeded 8th coming into the tournament with a 16-2 record on Wednesday.

Thacher said he was upset that he couldn’t do more for Head Coach Ryan Smith in his last season.

“He means a lot to me... I love Coach Smith. He’s been there a lot for me and it really sucks that I couldn’t do more for him in his last season,” Thacher said.

The Hound senior said losing to Denarii Michel of Ames 2-1 in the quarters hit him mentally, a problem he’s been dealing with all season.

“I’ve had a problem with that the whole season. When I lose in a tournament, my mentality to go out there and wrestle isn’t as strong from that point.”

Thacher also said it was tough this time around wrestling without two of his classmates, Teague Smith and Henry Wiseman, who suffered injuries and weren’t able to compete at state when they deserved to be there.

“It’s unfortunate that friends I’ve grown up with and



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

FM Head Coach Ryan Smith and assistant Luke Rickleman watch ongoing matches from the tunnel as they wait for Ike Thacher’s final bout Saturday morning in Des Moines. This is Smith’s final season as head coach of the Bloodhounds.

wrestled with and watched build their skills with me didn’t get the opportunity that I did. And I don’t know, it kinds of sucks that I wasn’t able to perform as well as I wanted,” he said.

In the match with Gibbons, Thacher scored an escape after a scoreless first period. Gibbons deferred on the flip and Thacher started down to get the escape, but after some time in a tie-up the two ended up pulling each other to the mat, where Gibbons was able to get control when Thacher lost hold of a leg and trailed 2-1 at the end of the second period. In the final two minutes, Both Thacher and Gibbons got a stalling warning with 35 seconds left, and in moving off the caution, Gibbons was able to escape for the 3-1 win.

Smith, who was coaching in his last tournament as a head coach said the emotion of the last matches probably hasn’t set in yet.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Senior Ike Thacher gets his hand raised after defeating CR Washington’s Wyatt Young Friday night to advance to Saturday consolation finals.

“Probably not totally, but I’ll still be around. It’s not like I’m never going to come back here. Whether as a spectator or some assistance some day. Yeah, my head coaching career is over, but I’ll be around wrestling til I die,” he said with a chuckle.

Smith was proud of the way the four wrestlers competed. Joe Hartman (165) and Cory Arnett (285) both were eliminated prior to the consolation finals.

“They’re tough kids up here, and this isn’t an easy thing to do. They represented themselves well,” he said.

“To be on the podium is a damn good accomplishment and we’re happy for them for that. There’s a lot of top-eight seeded kids that don’t make the podium. In the grand scheme of things, you always want a little more, but you’re happy, and you know it could’ve been worse.”

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Registration Deadline: March 13th, 2024

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